

ORAL

NO. 750 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS ON THE 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. 751 to 753 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 751 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS ON THE 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. 750, 752 and 753 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 752 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 443 of 2009, 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. 750, 751 and 753 of 2009.

NO. 753 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 444 of 2009, 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 now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 753 of 2009

Answer to Question 750 of 2009

There are 63 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended, as follows:

A+	-	5
A	-	17
B	-	18
C	-	23

Answer to Question 751 of 2009

There are 196 applicants, to date, who are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List, as follows:

A+	-	26
A	-	69
B	-	41
C	-	60

Answer to Question 752 of 2009

Since the answer given to Question 443 of 2009, a total of 22 applicants have been placed on the various medical lists, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
June 2009 (since 5.6.09)	-	-	-	-
July 2009	-	2	1	-
August 2009	4	1	-	-
September 2009	1	8	2	3
October 2009 (up to 6.10.09)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 753 of 2009

Since the answer given to Question 444 of 2009, a total of seven applicants have been removed from the various medical lists because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
June 2009 (since 5.6.09)	-	1	-	-
July 2009	-	1	-	-
August 2009	1	1	-	-
September 2009	3	-	-	-
October 2009 (up to 6.10.09)	-	-	-	-

ORAL

NO. 754 OF 2009

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. 755 to 757 of 2009.

NO. 755 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PERSONS REMOVED FROM SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 447 of 2009, 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. 754, 756 and 757 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 756 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON THE SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 448 of 2009, 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. 754, 755 and 757 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 757 OF 2009

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

Answer to Question 757 of 2009

Answer to Question 754 of 2009

There are currently 71 persons on the Housing Social Category "A" List.

Answer to Question 755 of 2009

Since the answer given to Question 447 of 2009, a total of 14 applicants have been removed from the Housing Social Category "A" List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

June 2009 (since 5.6.09)	6
July 2009	2
August 2009	3
September 2009	3
October 2009 (up to 6.10.09)	-

Answer to Question 756 of 2009

Since the answer given to Question 448 of 2009, a total of nine applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category "A" List, as follows:

June 2009 (since 5.6.09)	2
July 2009	2
August 2009	1
September 2009	3
October 2009 (up to 6.10.09)	1

Answer to Question 757 of 2009

Forty applications for housing from homeless persons are currently being dealt with by the Housing Department.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 754 TO 757 OF 2009

HON C A BRUZON:

I notice that in answer to Question No. 757 of 2009 regarding homeless persons, the answer is 40. Does the Minister have a breakdown of men and women? Are they mainly men?

HON F J VINET:

No, I do not have a breakdown. What I know is that the fact that there are 40 homeless persons that are having their applications currently dealt with, does not necessarily mean to say that there are 40 homeless applicants on the social list. In fact there are 34 of these who are already on the Social Category "A" List, whilst a further six are pending categorisation. They may or may not join the social list depending on the outcome of decisions by the Housing Allocation Committee.

ORAL

NO. 758 OF 2009

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

Answered together with Question No. 759 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 759 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS ON 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 now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 759 of 2009

Answer to Question 758 of 2009

There are currently 1112 applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists as follows:

1RKB -	613
2RKB -	69
3RKB -	257
4RKB -	155
5RKB -	17
6RKB -	1

Answer to Question 759 of 2009

There are currently 330 applicants on the pre-list for Housing as follows:

1RKB -	250
2RKB -	14
3RKB -	45
4RKB -	17
5RKB -	4
6RKB -	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 758 AND 759 OF 2009

HON C A BRUZON:

Yes, I notice that there are 1112 applicants on the Housing Waiting List proper and 330 on the pre-list making a total of 1442. Does the Minister have an explanation as to why the figures keep rising every time I ask the question?

HON F J VINET:

Well, first of all I will explain to the hon Member that if he happens to look at the figures of the housing waiting lists which are of course divided into different group compositions. In fact the only RKB list that has increased from last time is the 1RKB list. If he looks at the 2RKB, 3RKB, 4RKB, they have all gone down and the 5RKB is identical with 17 applicants. The increase has been mainly on the pre-list and there is a very clear reason for that. As the hon Member will know, on the 1st June this year the eligibility criteria was amended and now where as before you had to be 21 years of age in order to be able to apply for housing, that age has now been reduced to 18. When a similar question was asked just a week or two after the 1st June, the information had not really trickled through to potential applicants and there has been a very slight increase, but since then of course, word has got around that now 18 to 21 year olds can apply to Government housing and that is why there has been an increase in the pre-list. The hon Member will, in fact, notice that the biggest increase by far has been on the 1RKB list and that is precisely because we are talking about young applicants who may not be married, who have no children and so on.

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Government not anticipate, as they knew they were going to introduce the new policy, that there would be this demand and therefore should they not have catered in a more timely way in connection with adequate housing for our people, people on the waiting list.

HON F J VINET:

Yes, the Government did in fact anticipate that there would be an increase in the number of people joining the waiting list and that is precisely why we are at an advanced stage on the construction works of the brand new magnificent rental estate. Not to mention the fact that there will be a very significant number of flats that are released for onward allocation to people on the housing waiting list. By those people who are either purchasing in the new co-ownership estate or who are moving to the again magnificent Albert Risso House.

ORAL

NO. 760 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DWELLINGS FOR REFURBISHMENT

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. 761 and 762 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 761 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY 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. 760 and 762 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 762 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS REQUIRING WORK IN THEIR 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 now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 762 of 2009

Answer to Question 760 of 2009

The number of flats currently with Buildings and Works requiring refurbishment is 30.

Answer to Question 761 of 2009

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of Buildings and Works, as at 6th October 2009, was 4075.

Answer to Question 762 of 2009

The number of tenants awaiting works/repairs by the Housing Department was 1493 as at 6th October 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 760 TO 762 OF 2009.

HON C A BRUZON:

The 30 flats that are currently being refurbished, does the Minister have any information as to the dates when they will be ready? Are there two or three just nearing completion or will they all take a long time to be ready for the housing waiting list applicants?

HON F J VINET:

No, I do not have the exact dates but I would not agree with the sentiments expressed that they may take a long time. The figure of the number of flats currently with Buildings and Works fluctuates greatly. This time last year there were 22, it went down to 14 and 15, but it does not mean that they are the same flats that are being addressed by the answer. In fact we now have 30 which is, I think, good news in the sense that it demonstrates a higher turnover of flats coming into the housing stock but I do not have specific dates for specific flats, no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say, is it that every flat that comes back necessarily requires refurbishment or...? It is not?

HON F J VINET:

No. In fact, what we usually try and do in order to expedite that turnover is that if the flat is in a fairly good condition, rather than sending it to Buildings and Works for refurbishment, we offer the applicant some vouchers to enable him or herself to carry out the works themselves. This is actually something that the tenants themselves often request because they know that the work will be carried out sooner than if they have to wait for Buildings and Works to carry out the refurbishment works. So usually, the only time when we involve Buildings and Works directly, is either if the flat is in such a state that really requires professional repair and refurbishment work or if the applicant happens to be an elderly person who would not really be able to undertake the works himself or herself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the third is not therefore necessarily an indication that more flats are being returned which is the reason why I asked him the question?

HON F J VINET:

It is not a scientific answer, but the fact is that usually, more or less, the ratio of flats that either have to go to Buildings and Works or do not have to go to Buildings and Works is more or less similar. So the fact that there are double the number of flats having to go to Buildings and Works will....., although I take the point that it is not

a scientific answer, but I would argue that it does demonstrate that there is a higher turnover and in fact it is not just my opinion. The answers to the hon Member in terms of allocation of social cases and to those on the waiting list and to medical cases demonstrates that, for whatever reason, the turnover of flats has been greater in recent times.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member have the information on how long, out of the 30, the one that has been pending refurbishment has been there? How long has it been empty as it were?

HON F J VINET:

No. It is not a question that I have ever been asked in a supplementary. I am more than happy to seek the information next time round. But I do not have the figures.

ORAL

NO. 763 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – INSTALLATION OF NEW LIFTS AT TOWER BLOCKS

Can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion in connection with the installation of the new lifts at Constitution and Referendum House, Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 766 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 764 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TOWER BLOCKS

With reference to some of the supporting pillars of the two Tower Blocks at Glacis Estate, is Government aware of the major cracks and missing masonry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 763, 765 and 766 of 2009.

NO. 765 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TOWER BLOCKS

With reference to the Tower Blocks at Glacis Estate, can Government state why the fire fighting equipment which was originally fitted on every floor is now missing or inaccessible?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 763, 764 and 766 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 766 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REFERENDUM HOUSE

Can Government state if they are aware that the staircase emergency lights in Referendum House are not working and some have loose fittings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 766 of 2009

Answer to Question 763 of 2009

The current estimated date of completion of works in connection with the lifts at Constitution and Referendum House is December 2009.

Answer to Question 764 of 2009

Yes, Sir. The Government is fully aware of some superficial cracks to pillars but these are not major in nature.

Answer to Question 765 of 2009

The fire-fighting equipment comprises original dry risers fitted within the buildings, of which there are two in each block with two access points on each floor. These are not missing or inaccessible.

Answer to Question 766 of 2009

I am advised that there is no emergency lighting system fitted in the staircase of Referendum House and there never has been.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 763 TO 766 OF 2009

HON C A BRUZON:

Obviously we beg to differ on whether there have been or have not been emergency lights not working. However, in connection with the cracks in the pillars, what may not be major to an architect could be worrying to the tenants, so would not the Minister agree that some repair work should be done on them, at least.

HON F J VINET:

Yes. Had the original question asked will repair work be done, the answer would have been yes, repair work will be carried out. But I am certainly not an expert on these issues. I am told by the structural engineers who periodically look at these matters that the cracks are simply surface and superficial in nature. They do not affect the structural integrity of the building in any shape or form. I am told that there may be, in fact, due to the cleansing and flushing using salt water, slight damage to the pillars but there is nothing to be concerned about at all. But the hon Member may recall that in answer to a question in the last session relating to the painting of the entrances to both Blocks, I explained that notwithstanding the fact that we had in fact painted the entrances fairly recently, we would actually once again paint those entrances once the works to the new lifts were completed and in fact we had already planned to also repair these pillars. If I can just very briefly comment on the question of the so called emergency lighting. We can and will beg to differ because I am told that there have been and are light fittings in all communal areas in the Tower Blocks

including the stair case lifts but that they are just not defined as emergency lighting. I am told that usually what happens is if it is a bulb that has fused a report is made to the Reporting Office who in turn make a report to Master Services and the bulbs are replaced usually within a day or two. If it is something more serious, and there is a fault in a system which requires the whole fitting to be repaired or replaced that is carried out by Gibelec. But I am told that there have been no reports of faulty or loose light fittings. But in any case they do not refer to emergency lighting.

HON C A BRUZON:

Is the Minister quite sure that tenants have not actually written to him concerning these problems?

HON F J VINET:

Well I am sure as I can be in accordance with the information that has been provided to me which I assume would have taken that into account. I certainly have not had sight of such correspondence and I am told by the Principal Housing Officer that there have been no such reports. I stand to be corrected.

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the completion date for the new lifts. Did the Minister say December 2009?

HON F J VINET:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 767 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – COST OF SCAFFOLDING AT MAIDSTONE HOUSE

Can Government state what is the cost, to date, of the scaffolding at Maidstone House, Laguna Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The total cost to date of the scaffolding at Maidstone House is £25,194.75.

NO. 768 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have applied for rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 454 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 769 to 772 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 769 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have received rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 455 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 768 and 770 to 772 of 2009.

NO. 770 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 456 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 768, 769, 771 and 772 of 2009.

NO. 771 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households on rent relief have had this benefit terminated, to date, since the answer to Question No. 457 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 768 to 770 and 772 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 772 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have had the level of rent relief reduced, to date, since the answer to Question No. 458 of 2009, 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 772 of 2009

Answer to Question 768 of 2009

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

June 2009	-	9 (7 active)
July 2009	-	4 active
August 2009	-	5 active
September 2009	-	4 (2 active)
October (up to 06/10/09)	-	3 active

Answer to Question 769 of 2009

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

June 2009	-	943
July 2009	-	911
August 2009	-	880
September 2009	-	859
October (up to 06/10/09)	-	814

Answer to Question 770 of 2009

The number of households that were on full Rent Relief, to date, is as follows:

June 2009	-	101
July 2009	-	98
August 2009	-	99
September 2009	-	98
October (up to 06/10/09)	-	91

Answer to Question 771 of 2009

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

June 2009	-	3
July 2009	-	7
August 2009	-	4
September 2009	-	1
October (up to 06/10/09)	-	2

Answer to Question 772 of 2009

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

June 2009	-	15
July 2009	-	19
August 2009	-	14
September 2009	-	16
October (up to 06/10/09)	-	11

ORAL

NO. 773 OF 2009

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, since the answer to Question No. 459 of 2009, 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 773 of 2009

The total number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent since the answer given to Question No. 459 of 2009, is 33.

The monthly breakdown and total of arrears covered by such agreements is as follows:

	Total agreements	Amount
June 2009 (as from 4/06/09)	17	£56,112.55
July 2009	6	£25,710.22
August 2009	4	£13,078.35
September 2009	4	£10,677.61
October 2009 (up to 6.10.09)	2	<u>£ 4,036.19</u>
		<u>£109,614.92</u>

NO. 774 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR UNITS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 460 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 775 and 776 of 2009.

NO. 775 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – POST-WAR UNITS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases since the answer given to Question No. 461 of 2009, providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 774 and 776 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 776 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government homes have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Allocation Committee since the answer to Question No. 462 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 776 of 2009

Answer to Question 774 of 2009

A total of five pre-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 460 of 2009.

Answer to Question 775 of 2009

A total of 11 post-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 461 of 2009.

June 2009 (since 5.6.09)	5
July 2009	1
August 2009	3
September 2009	2
October 2009 (up to 6.10.09)	Nil

Answer to Question 776 of 2009

Under the Housing Act, all Government homes are allocated by the Ministry of Housing and not by the Housing Allocation Committee. The Housing Allocation Committee is advisory only. Six homes were allocated without the advice of the Committee to do so since Question 462/2009.

NO. 777 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REINSTATEMENTS INTO THE HOUSING WAITING LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 463 of 2009, 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 eight persons have been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists since the answer to Question No. 463 of 2009.

NO. 778 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 464 of 2009, 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 18 applicants have been offered an existing Government flat since the answer to Question No. 464 of 2009 and 12 of these have accepted. Perhaps I might point out that although 12 of the 18 have accepted, it does not necessarily mean that all six have declined because in fact there are three who continue to be under offer and have not yet come back to us.

NO. 779 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – OVERCROWDING POINTS DISALLOWED

Can Government state, in respect of applicants already on the Housing List, for each category of list and for each month since Question No. 465 of 2009, 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 Nos. 780 to 782 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 780 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – OVERCROWDING POINTS ALLOWED

Can Government state, in respect of applicants already on the Housing List, for each category of list and for each month since Question No. 466 of 2009, 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 779, 781 and 782 of 2009.

NO. 781 OF 2009

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. 467 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 779, 780 and 782 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 782 OF 2009

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. 468 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 782 of 2009

Answer to Question 779 of 2009

None.

Answer to Question 780 of 2009

None.

Answer to Question 781 of 2009

Two applicants were rejected; one in June 2009 and the other one in September 2009.

Answer to Question 782 of 2009

A total of four applicants were accepted as follows:

June 2009 (since 5.6.09)	-	1
July 2009	-	Nil
August 2009	-	1
September 2009	-	2
October (up to 6.10.09)	-	Nil

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 779 TO 782 OF 2009

HON C A BRUZON:

With reference to the method used to decide and make these decisions, is this basically on documentary evidence or do members of the Housing Allocation Committee have a chance to discuss on a one to one basis. See the body language of the person with the problem or otherwise. How does it work?

HON F J VINET:

Well the answer is no to the latter part of the question. There has never been any right of audience as it were by any member on any reason to the Housing Allocation Committee and what they do..... The criteria is they have to satisfy themselves that the reason for the sale of the private property was genuine whether for financial or other reasons. So applicants are invited to provide as much documentation as possible including bank statements, mortgage details and so on. But it is entirely based on the correspondence provided.

ORAL

NO. 783 OF 2009

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. 469 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

One flat has been repossessed.

NO. 784 OF 2009

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 since the answer to Question No. 470 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 784 of 2009

- A. 178 phone calls have been received.
B. 91 cases were found to be correct.

The breakdown as from 5th June 2009 is as follows:

Month	Calls	Correct	Incorrect	Pending further Investigation
June 2009 (as from 5.6.09)	2	-	2	-
July 2009	4	2	2	-
August 2009	3	1	1	1
September 2009	3	-	2	1
October (up to 6.10.09)	-	-	-	-

ORAL

NO. 785 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the Housing Allocation Committee has met since the answer to Question No. 471 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Allocation Committee has met on five occasions and in fact they will be doing so again on Wednesday of this week.

NO. 786 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING TRIBUNAL

Can Government state how many cases the Housing Tribunal:

- (a) has dealt with and completed;
- (b) is currently dealing with,

since the answer to Question No. 472 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I am informed by the Secretary of the Housing Tribunal that since the answer given to Question No. 472 of 2009, the Tribunal has not dealt with and completed any new cases and are currently dealing with 34 cases compared to, I believe, 32 last time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 786 OF 2009

HON C A BRUZON:

I would like to ask a question if I may. I am not sure to what extent the Minister has knowledge of the goings on within the Tribunal. I imagine that the Minister does not get involved there because it is an independent body. However, information is reaching me which is rather disturbing and it is the length of time that it takes for, not only for the Housing..... The reason sometimes why people go to the Tribunal is because the Housing Department takes ages to answer letters from constituents. Once a form is filled in by the constituent who has a complaint and is presented to the Housing Tribunal, as happened in November last year in one case, the constituent received an answer from the Tribunal in March and was told that the Housing Department would be writing to them soon giving reasons. Now, to date, nothing has been received by this particular constituent and this is not very good. I was just wondering whether the Minister would like to make a note of this or whether he has anything to say on the matter.

HON F J VINET:

What I can say is that the hon Member is absolutely right. I have no direct or indirect involvement with the Tribunal for obvious reasons. In fact I was not involved even or consulted upon with regards to the composition of the Tribunal and I do not have any

involvement with them. I am aware that certain cases that have been appealed against are taking perhaps longer than they should and what I can say is that those concerns are shared by myself and by the Housing Department and there has been an element of communication with the Tribunal on that front and in fact I think the matter is very close to being resolved and cases will be heard much more quickly than they have been up to now.

ORAL

NO. 787 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Since the answer given to Question No. 473 of 2009, how many more Government flats have become available because Waterport Terraces purchasers have moved into their new homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of seven more flats have since become available.

ORAL

NO. 788 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE

Can Government state how many flats will become available for applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists when senior citizens who had a flat allocated to them at Albert Risso House move into their new homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Ninety-two flats will become available.

NO. 789 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

How many flats at Bishop Canilla House are empty?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There are five empty flats at Bishop Canilla House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 789 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these flats empty because they require work done on them since they were last occupied?

HON F J VINET:

That is correct. I understand that out of those five, one is currently under offer. An offer has been made but we are awaiting confirmation of acceptance or otherwise, and the remaining four are, I am assured, very close to being refurbished. But yes, they had refurbishment works being carried out to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in the light of the previous answer that the hon Member gave me which was in relation to the number of flats coming back and requiring refurbishment, he gave the impression that they have to be in a very poor state to require refurbishment. That otherwise, if they can ... Is it because these are senior citizens, is it not the case?

HON F J VINET:

Exactly! We do try to be considerably more flexible with regards to applicants of pensionable age. That is right. Usually the major difference between these flats and flats elsewhere in other estates is that very often or sometimes they require bath to shower conversions. That is one example of works that would not ordinarily be carried out elsewhere but are carried out there.

NO. 790 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

Can Government give details of any offences which have been the subject of a prosecution under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Act between June and September 2009?

ANSWER

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

Between June and September 2009 there were four offences under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Act subject to prosecution. These were under:

- Section 4, Schedule 1 – Regulation 13 of the Employment Regulations 1994, whereby an employer failed to notify the Director of Employment of a termination.
- Section 4, Schedule 1 – Regulation 8 (2A) of the Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 1989, whereby an employer failed to register a person.
- Section 4, Schedule 1 – Regulation 4 of the Employment Regulations 1994, whereby an employer failed to notify the Director of Employment of a vacancy.
- Section 4, Schedule 1 – Regulation 6 of the Employment Regulations 1994, whereby an employer failed to notify the Director of Employment of his intention.
- to engage an entitled worker.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 790 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member state what the state of play is in relation to these prosecutions? Are these prosecutions which have concluded or are they simply charges which are pending in court?

HON L MONTIEL:

I understand that these have already been concluded.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member have details of any penalties which may have been imposed?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. I do not have the information with regards to penalties. But I can tell you that they are three employers involved.

HON G H LICUDI:

Three employers in respect of four offences or, for example, when the hon Member talks about failing to notify of a termination, is that one termination, one single incident in respect of one employer?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes. One employer was charged under Regulation 13. Another employer... Two employers actually under Regulation 13 and a third employer was charged under Regulation 4, 6 and 8. Three offences. Three prosecutions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a particular reason in this instance? Are these employers that have got a very bad record of notifying termination? From the answers the Minister has given us in the past, he has told us that when he gives us the numbers who have got open contracts in the ETB we should not take that as meaning that the people are still employed because very, very frequently employers take a very long time to notify terminations.

HON L MONTIEL:

These were people that had been caught out by the Labour Inspectors under different circumstances and they have so been prosecuted by ... So I do not know what the hon Member wants to know about these. These are non regular registrations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has said that three employers have been taken to court for not notifying termination of employment of their employees. Now, are there some exceptional reasons in the case of these three employers, given that he has clearly indicated to us that there are hundreds of employers doing this all the time and that in fact in the last meeting of the House, he gave information to my hon Colleague of the

many hundreds of Government employees that were in breach of the law because their employment had not been terminated.

HON L MONTIEL:

These prosecutions for offences pertain to June and September.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any significance in those two months?

HON L MONTIEL:

The significance is that that is what we have found out and so prosecuted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am afraid the hon Member is failing to explain to the House why it is, since the department is well aware, because he has given answers to this effect in this House, that there are probably at the moment two thousand people registered in the department who are no longer working and where the employer has not notified their termination and nothing is happening. What is special about these three? This is not something the department does all the time.

HON L MONTIEL:

All I can say is that the policy of the department is to prosecute when no notifications... The fact is that in some circumstances it is not easy to prosecute all employers because there are various reasons as to why the employer has failed to notify a termination. Sometimes you may get an employer that just disappears and does not notify the termination. It is difficult afterwards to prosecute that employer. But certainly these are specific cases that have come about and, given the nature of their record, presumably the Inspectors have decided, or the Director, has decided to prosecute accordingly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is what my first supplementary was. The hon Member says given the nature of their record. I would understand it if, in fact, what the hon Member is saying that these are people who have perhaps got a track record of being warned or having their attention brought to this requirement and not doing it because... Unless the hon Member is saying that as from this year they are actually going to start doing something about making people notify terminations as the law requires them to do which they have not been doing in the last fourteen years.

HON L MONTIEL:

The answer is as I have just given. For one reason or another, it was decided to prosecute these employers and so it was done. I believe that if employers refuse to do it and it comes to our notice that they persistently do this, they will be prosecuted as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the hon Member does not know whether these are people who have been persistently doing it and that is why they are being picked on?

HON L MONTIEL:

I presume that in the case of these particular employers, the Director may have found sufficient cause to prosecute given the record of these employers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the hon Member not agree that given the answer that he gave in the last meeting of the House about the numbers that appeared on the unemployment list which, my hon Colleague asked an explanation about, and the explanation given was that this was a backlog of terminations in Government departments that had not been notified. That is hardly consistent for the Government to be such a bad complier of this requirement and then for the Government to take people to court for doing what the Government is doing.

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I suppose there is a lot of truth in what he is saying that some employers take a long time to bring back the terminations and it does create a problem afterwards of identifying where there are employers who are deliberately trying not to give the information. Some employers including the Gibraltar Government are not very good in terms of being very forceful in bringing terminations up to date as they should.

NO. 791 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE – NVQ LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION

Can Government confirm that the NVQ Level 2 Qualification obtained by following the course in the Construction Training Centre, qualifies the person holding it as a Craftsman for employment in the Construction Industry?

ANSWER

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

The Government can confirm that the NVQ Level 2 qualification obtained by following the course in the Construction Training Centre does qualify the person holding it as a Craftsman.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 791 of 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then, would the Government not agree that the people who come out with this qualification should not have too much difficulty in obtaining in employment in the industry given the fact that we regularly import construction workers every single month, according to the statistics he produces.

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, generally speaking, one would assume that given that we have skilled workers they would find a job in industry. However, let me remind the hon Gentleman that some of these courses, some of these apprenticeships are done on the basis of qualification for a specific field. Say for example, brick laying or tiling and so forth. Now, employers may not want to employ people whose only qualification is to be a craftsman simply doing brick laying. They may decide that they are not competent enough to do the full range of duties that are required. But certainly, if an employer in the construction industry has a lot of work in brick laying and a brick layer craftsman is required to work, I would assume that it would be very useful for the employer to employ given that a brick layer craftsman would be quite capable of undertaking that particular task.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking the hon Member to assume anything on the part of the employer. The point is that since the Government are investing in producing these skills, is his department doing anything to make sure that once the people come out with those skills, they get employment to fill the vacancies that his department has.

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, may I let the hon Member know that we have very few construction craftsmen in the unemployment list. As far as I know, most craftsmen in the unemployment list get employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, what is the policy that the ETB follows given that the craftsman that come out with an NVQ qualification are apparently having great difficulty in getting jobs directly from employers, all of whom bring their employees from across the border. Is it the policy of the department to press for those people that they have trained at public expense to be given those jobs, or not?

HON L MONTIEL:

The answer is yes. We do press the employers to take on craftsmen and they do.

NO. 792 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 357 of 2009, how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 792/2009

Detached Workers in employment providing a breakdown by industry and Nationality

June 2009

Industry	Gib	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non- EEC	Total
Electricity Supply							0
Water Supply							0
Shipbuilding etc.					5	68	73
Other Manufacture							0
Construction		25	193	5	19	17	259
Wholesale Trade			4				4
Retail Trade		1	9	1			11
Hotel Trade							0
Restaurants, Bars etc							0
Repairs of Consumer Goods							0
Sea Transport and Related Services							0
Air Transport and Related Services							0
Road Transport and Related Services							0
Post and Communications							0
Banking, Finance and Insurance		8	4		3		15
Public Administration and National Defence							0
Police and Fire Service							0
Sanitary Services							0
Education							0
Medical and Health Services							0
Other Services			5		1	2	8
Total	0	34	215	6	28	87	370

Cont...

.../Contd. Answer to Question 792/2009

Detached Workers in employment providing a breakdown by industry and Nationality

July 2009

Industry	Gib	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply							0
Water Supply							0
Shipbuilding etc.					5	118	123
Other Manufacture							0
Construction		25	208	5	18	27	283
Wholesale Trade			4				4
Retail Trade			9	1			10
Hotel Trade							0
Restaurants, Bars etc.							0
Repairs of Consumer Goods							0
Sea Transport and Related Services							0
Air Transport and Related Services							0
Road Transport and Related Services							0
Post and Communications							0
Banking, Finance and Insurance		9	4		3		16
Public Administration and National Defence							0
Police and Fire Service							0
Sanitary Services							0
Education							0
Medical and Health Services							0
Other Services		8	5		1	1	15
Total	0	42	230	6	27	146	451

Cont...

.../Contd. Answer to Question 792/2009

Detached Workers in employment providing a breakdown by industry and Nationality

August 2009

Industry	Gib	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply							0
Water Supply							0
Shipbuilding etc.					5	82	87
Other Manufacture							0
Construction		26	182	5	17	27	257
Wholesale Trade			4				4
Retail Trade		1	12				13
Hotel Trade							0
Restaurants, Bars etc							0
Repairs of Consumer Goods							0
Sea Transport and Related Services							0
Air Transport and Related Services							0
Road Transport and Related Services							0
Post and Communications							0
Banking, Finance and Insurance		6	2		2		10
Public Administration and National Defence							0
Police and Fire Service							0
Sanitary Services							0
Education							0
Medical and Health Services							0
Other Services		8			1	2	11
Total	0	41	200	5	25	111	382

Cont...

.../Contd. Answer to Question 792/2009

Detached Workers in employment providing a breakdown by industry and Nationality

September 2009

Industry	Gib	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply							0
Water Supply							0
Shipbuilding etc.					3	65	68
Other Manufacture							0
Construction		27	159	5	16	27	234
Wholesale Trade			4				4
Retail Trade		1	12				13
Hotel Trade							0
Restaurants, Bars etc							0
Repairs of Consumer Goods							0
Sea Transport and Related Services							0
Air Transport and Related Services							0
Road Transport and Related Services							0
Post and Communications							0
Banking, Finance and Insurance		6	2		1		9
Public Administration and National Defence							0
Police and Fire Service							0
Sanitary Services							0
Education							0
Medical and Health Services							0
Other Services		7				2	9
Total	0	41	177	5	20	94	337

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 792 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps the hon Member will confirm that the way that the detached worker regime functions is that the person, as he has told me in previous meetings of the House, comes in with an employer who is not a local employer and therefore they are not recruited in Gibraltar and they are not in fact on a Gibraltar contract. And that presumably is how the 259 in the construction industry in June were, and the 283 in July, and so forth. So this will be people that would be working presumably for some sub-contractors that come in to do a job with their own workers. But I have difficulty in understanding what is happening in the retail trade. How can there be ... What is the nature of the relationship there, in the retail trade? I know the numbers are much lower, but where it is self-evident in the case of construction, I am not quite sure how it functions in the retail trade. Perhaps the hon Member can explain.

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I have asked this question myself in the past and sometimes a particular retailer may wish to have a job done and it could be that he brings the labour from over the frontier and that person will work here in Gibraltar under detached worker terms. Other than that, I would have to get more specific information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Is the thrust of the answer that he has given me then, that it is not that the employer is a retail trader but that it could be somebody doing work on a retail shop? Should that not come under the construction then?

HON L MONTIEL:

Not necessarily, because these are registered by the employer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see. So that the customer is the one that registers as the worker with the ETB as a detached worker! Not the employer of the detached worker, the customer of the employer?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes of course.

NO. 793 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – MOD DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

Can Government state the number of persons in direct employment in the MOD as at the end of September 2009?

ANSWER

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

The number of persons in direct employment in the Ministry of Defence, in accordance with Employment Service records as at the end of September 2009 is 927.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 793 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has said that this is the figure provided by the MOD in the Employment Survey in October, is that correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

I believe the answer relates to the Employment Service records.

NO. 794 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – MOD EMPLOYEES

Can Government state whether the figure of 940 directly employed persons registered by the MOD in March this year, is the figure anticipated by the labour reduction in MOD jobs, as a result of the contracting out of services to Serco?

ANSWER

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

The figure of 940 persons in direct employment with the MOD as provided at the time in answer to Question No. 356 of 2009 is as per the employment registration records with the Employment Service.

The October 2008 Employment Survey, tabled during the Budget session in Parliament, shows the MOD to have then 773 jobs.

This figure of 773 is closer to the figure anticipated by the labour reduction in MOD jobs as a result of the contracting out of services to Serco, than the 940 figure previously quoted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 794 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member suggesting that, in fact, there were 773 persons in October 2008 and that employment increased to 940 by March?

HON L MONTIEL:

The figure of 940 is the Employment Service, the MOD figures of employment are very similar to that of the Employment Service. Seven hundred and seventy three, are figures related to the way that the MOD answered the Employment Survey, meaning that they quote the jobs, the posts, as opposed to people who open contracts.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I must say that is a very peculiar answer because if the Minister is saying that in October they were quoting the posts and not the people in jobs, which by definition implies that there might be some empty posts, I do not see how there could be 773 posts and 940 people working, and it might be that some of the jobs were not filled, which is what he has just told me.

HON L MONTIEL:

I think it is the opposite.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The opposite of what he has told me? He has just told me that the 773 figure is the way the MOD identifies the number of posts in the establishment, not necessarily the number of people working.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So my question to him is, if there are 773 posts in the establishment how can there be 940 people working?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I have not said that there are 943 posts, I said employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister has told me today that there were 927 people working in the MOD at the end of September. Now, were those 927 people sharing the 773 posts?

HON L MONTIEL:

Oh yes, I now understand where you are coming from. There are 773 posts, right, those are full-time posts. If you have people doing job sharing, part-time working and so forth, or even casuals, that can bring the number of bodies to the 900 mark.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the figures in the Employment Survey Report which he is quoting are quite specific and the explanation in that Report is precisely the opposite of the one the Minister is giving in the House. In the Report, which he tables, it says that these are

the number of employee jobs, and in the explanatory introduction to the Report, it explains that it does not necessarily mean that there are 773 people, there are 773 jobs, which means that there could be one person doing two jobs and they appear as twice in the report, according to him. Now he is telling me that it is the opposite.

HON L MONTIEL:

Those are open vacancies. The Employment Service receives open vacancies, open contracts. Now the contracts can be part-timers or can be casuals as well. So what I am saying is that the MOD has so many posts available but that does not necessarily mean that the number of bodies that are opened up in the Employment Service are the same as the posts that they have. There are, in fact, more posts, more jobs, because they are open contracts for various reasons, part-time, job sharing, whatever.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am afraid the Minister does not seem to understand very well how his own department works. The reality is that the Survey does precisely all the things he says. The Survey Report, in fact, shows the number who are part-time and the numbers who are full-time, and there is nothing to say that the full-timers are permanent and pensionable and not casuals. When he talks about open contracts, the open contract in the Employment Service simply means that it has not been terminated.

HON L MONTIEL:

Not necessarily.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What does it mean then?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, it means that there are so many vacancies opened by the Ministry of Defence. I can tell him that the number of jobs in the MOD as per the Employment Survey statistics in the last few years are, October 2005 1,030; October 2006 1,014 and so on. They are jobs that they have opened up with the Employment Service.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He is not saying that. There are 927 vacancies in the MOD. It is that there are 927 people working at the end of September, even though there are only 773 jobs in October of last year.

HON L MONTIEL:

Posts.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the terminology of the Employment Survey that he tables in this House, describes this as employee jobs not as posts, and it goes on to explain that an employee job can be full-time or part-time and that one individual may appear twice because he may have a full-time job in the MOD and a private part-time job, and he will appear twice in these Employment Surveys that he tables. So, in fact, his explanation that the MOD is reflecting the posts that it had is not consonant with the explanation of the Statistics Department that produces these reports, which he tables. Could it be that, in fact, the MOD may be in breach of the law by failing to notify termination, but unlike those three unfortunate employers in the private sector, nothing is done to prosecute them?

HON L MONTIEL:

That is not the information that I have.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so presumably, if, in fact, the Inspectors in his department were to check whether there are 927 people working, or there are 773 people working and 150 people whose termination they have failed, the Minister will come back and inform the House, will he?

HON L MONTIEL:

Certainly.

NO. 795 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HAYMILLS EMPLOYEES WITH OPEN CONTRACTS AT ETB

Can Government state at the time it ceased operations, how many employees of Haymills had open contracts registered with the ETB giving a breakdown by trade and nationality, and indicate whether these registered employees were all still in the company's employment at the time?

ANSWER

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

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

All employees listed in the schedule were still in the company's employment when it ceased operations.

Answer to Question 795 of 2009

Number of employees with open contracts in Haymills registered with the Employment Service by major job occupation and nationality.

	Gibraltar	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EU	Non EU	Total
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	7	4					11
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	5	5					10
Elementary Occupations	9	5	5	8			27
Managers and Senior Officials	2	16					18
Personal Service Occupations							0
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	2	14		2			18
Professional Occupations							
Sales and Customer Service Occupations							
Skilled Trades Occupations	6	10	20	12	4	1	53
TOTAL	31	54	25	22	4	1	137

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 795 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister has told me that all 137 employees were registered at the time. Does this in fact confirm that there was nobody registered at the time so that when they went in they found that he had left already but had not had his contract terminated, which is in fact the way the question was phrased?

HON L MONTIEL:

The answer that I have given is the information that I have been given. These were the people that were registered at the time when the company ceased operations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister, when he passed over the list, said that all the people on this list were registered. Now, I am not sure that that is the same as the answer to the question which is that before anybody knew the company was going to go down, it might have had people on the register that they had not yet got round to notifying had been terminated since this is normal practice, particularly in the construction industry. Is he saying that there were none in Haymills case?

HON L MONTIEL:

Not that I know of.

NO. 796 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2008, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 797 to 807 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 797 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2008, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 and 798 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 798 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2008, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796, 797 and 799 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 799 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2008, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 798 and 800 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 800 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2007, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 799 and 801 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 801 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2007, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 800 and 802 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 802 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2007, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 801 and 803 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 803 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2007, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 802 and 804 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 804 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2006, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 803 and 805 to 807 of 2009.

NO. 805 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2006, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 804, 806 and 807 of 2009.

NO. 806 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2006, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 796 to 805 and 807 of 2009.

NO. 807 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2006, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 796/2009

Full-Time Spanish Male Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2008

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	57	£483.02	6	£2,180.34		
Other Manufacture	12	£279.86	23	£1,206.60		
Electricity and Water Supply	5	£702.56	0	£0.00		
Construction	396	£307.54	468	£1,145.27		
Wholesale and Retail Trade	166	£248.64	175	£1,652.66		
Hotels and Restaurants	95	£224.30	33	£1,345.36		
Transport and Communication	75	£390.28	26	£1,541.05		
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	26	£3,678.09		
Real Estate and Business Activities	103	£336.21	26	£1,699.51		
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	0	£0.00		
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00		
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00	19	£2,319.82		
Other Services	16	£226.45	58	£2,188.57		
TOTAL	925	£309.51	860	£1,466.66		

Cont...

.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 797/2009

Part-Time Spanish Male Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2008

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID		MONTHLY-PAID	
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	1	*	1	*
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	1	*	0	£0.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade	14	£111.44	10	£448.96
Hotels and Restaurants	16	£98.25	2	£535.57
Transport and Communication	5	£100.21	8	£418.77
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Real Estate and Business Activities	3	£70.33	4	£748.79
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Services	0	£0.00	2	£826.59
TOTAL	40	£104.38	27	£513.08

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 798/2009

Full-Time Spanish Female Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2008

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	6	£208.89	1	*	1	*
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	17	£237.45	24	£1,300.80	24	£1,300.80
Wholesale and Retail Trade	157	£209.95	78	£895.19	78	£895.19
Hotels and Restaurants	131	£189.90	43	£1,020.39	43	£1,020.39
Transport and Communication	8	£206.40	20	£1,355.19	20	£1,355.19
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	36	£1,595.83	36	£1,595.83
Real Estate and Business Activities	134	£190.18	23	£1,286.52	23	£1,286.52
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00	126	£1,662.99	126	£1,662.99
Other Services	26	£167.02	63	£1,366.46	63	£1,366.46
TOTAL	479	£197.51	414	£1,343.53	414	£1,343.53

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

Cont...

...Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 799/2009

Part-Time Spanish Female Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2008

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	2	£65.63	3	£636.57	3	£636.57
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade	56	£89.83	28	£460.94	28	£460.94
Hotels and Restaurants	44	£86.76	27	£426.39	27	£426.39
Transport and Communication	3	£60.94	9	£841.65	9	£841.65
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	6	£1,043.16	6	£1,043.16
Real Estate and Business Activities	25	£102.17	9	£515.04	9	£515.04
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	1	*	1	*
Education	2	£150.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	1	*	11	£754.40	11	£754.40
Other Services	25	£80.71	38	£665.69	38	£665.69
TOTAL	158	£89.56	132	£596.40	132	£596.40

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 800/2009

Full-Time Spanish Male Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2007

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	41	£538.51	7	£2,068.22		
Other Manufacture	46	£254.72	9	£1,399.99		
Electricity and Water Supply	5	£768.14	1	*		
Construction	447	£308.25	189	£1,358.92		
Wholesale and Retail Trade	167	£243.68	158	£1,522.68		
Hotels and Restaurants	85	£226.77	28	£1,355.81		
Transport and Communication	78	£371.97	26	£1,517.12		
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	26	£3,418.63		
Real Estate and Business Activities	98	£366.80	25	£1,520.02		
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	1	*		
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00		
Health and Social Work	3	£478.23	19	£2,113.20		
Other Services	17	£242.67	67	£1,973.24		
TOTAL	987	£309.94	556	£1,628.22		

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 801/2009

Part-Time Spanish Male Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2007

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	
Shipbuilding	1	*		0	£0.00	
Other Manufacture	0	£0.00		1	*	
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00		0	£0.00	
Construction	5	£160.86		2	£456.98	
Wholesale and Retail Trade	11	£105.68		8	£321.70	
Hotels and Restaurants	16	£132.65		3	£439.89	
Transport and Communication	8	£201.82		2	£715.49	
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00		0	£0.00	
Real Estate and Business Activities	4	£136.95		3	£620.33	
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00		0	£0.00	
Education	0	£0.00		0	£0.00	
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00		1	*	
Other Services	0	£0.00		2	£762.94	
TOTAL	45	£154.94		22	£456.91	

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 802/2009

Full-Time Spanish Female Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2007

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	3	£246.63	1	*	1	*
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	10	£220.89	21	£1,060.03	21	£1,060.03
Wholesale and Retail Trade	139	£191.85	89	£1,002.39	89	£1,002.39
Hotels and Restaurants	107	£182.27	33	£860.91	33	£860.91
Transport and Communication	5	£186.42	13	£1,353.67	13	£1,353.67
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	35	£1,402.94	35	£1,402.94
Real Estate and Business Activities	111	£189.31	18	£1,219.69	18	£1,219.69
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Education	1	*	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	15	£298.60	126	£1,515.96	126	£1,515.96
Other Services	21	£226.73	54	£1,328.36	54	£1,328.36
TOTAL	412	£195.34	390	£1,263.63	390	£1,263.63

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 803/2009

Part-Time Spanish Female Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2007

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	6	£104.33	4	£604.87	4	£604.87
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	1	*	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade	65	£103.56	24	£484.93	24	£484.93
Hotels and Restaurants	81	£107.28	19	£554.05	19	£554.05
Transport and Communication	5	£69.47	15	£816.85	15	£816.85
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	5	£967.38	5	£967.38
Real Estate and Business Activities	28	£95.88	7	£354.71	7	£354.71
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	1	*	1	*
Education	1	*	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	6	£176.00	4	£657.98	4	£657.98
Other Services	32	£82.96	33	£838.85	33	£838.85
TOTAL	225	£102.18	112	£669.80	112	£669.80

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 804/2009

Full-Time Spanish Male Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2006

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID			MONTHLY-PAID		
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	59	£464.63	17	£1,723.71		
Other Manufacture	12	£256.13	27	£1,161.06		
Electricity and Water Supply	4	£795.74	3	£2,420.12		
Construction	384	£341.01	134	£1,326.99		
Wholesale and Retail Trade	163	£234.05	126	£1,544.01		
Hotels and Restaurants	90	£215.87	30	£1,258.56		
Transport and Communication	63	£353.76	17	£1,483.85		
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	34	£2,387.55		
Real Estate and Business Activities	53	£261.86	14	£1,361.13		
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	1	*		
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00		
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00	21	£2,316.95		
Other Services	17	£270.30	61	£1,681.37		
TOTAL	845	£311.19	485	£1,561.00		

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 805/2009

Part-Time Spanish Male Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2006

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID		MONTHLY-PAID	
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	2	£560.52	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	2	£57.55	2	£316.21
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	7	£116.57	0	£0.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade	18	£119.33	4	£713.30
Hotels and Restaurants	19	£90.24	5	£493.39
Transport and Communication	8	£170.97	1	*
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	1	*
Real Estate and Business Activities	3	£86.00	3	£578.44
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00	1	*
Other Services	2	£95.00	1	*
TOTAL	61	£126.73	18	£673.35

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 806/2009

Full-Time Spanish Female Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2006

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID		MONTHLY-PAID	
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	1	*	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	3	£230.46	2	£1,329.00
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	0	£0.00	28	£1,126.07
Wholesale and Retail Trade	154	£195.04	80	£927.76
Hotels and Restaurants	115	£179.92	33	£848.01
Transport and Communication	4	£211.21	14	£1,254.50
Financial Intermediation	1	*	36	£1,458.90
Real Estate and Business Activities	86	£178.75	14	£1,210.98
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	1	*
Education	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	1	*	113	£1,475.34
Other Services	17	£195.53	45	£1,260.57
TOTAL	382	£187.67	366	£1,225.24

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 807/2009

Answer to Question 807/2009

Part-Time Spanish Female Frontier Workers Employee Jobs by Industry, October 2006

INDUSTRY	WEEKLY-PAID		MONTHLY-PAID	
	Numbers	Average Weekly Earnings	Numbers	Average Monthly Earnings
Shipbuilding	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Other Manufacture	5	£92.00	4	£651.11
Electricity and Water Supply	0	£0.00	0	£0.00
Construction	5	£142.88	0	£0.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade	51	£92.86	18	£396.72
Hotels and Restaurants	68	£77.44	19	£434.70
Transport and Communication	2	£66.18	3	£683.99
Financial Intermediation	0	£0.00	6	£865.20
Real Estate and Business Activities	37	£88.09	6	£529.90
Public Administration and Defence	0	£0.00	1	*
Education	4	£65.13	0	£0.00
Health and Social Work	0	£0.00	8	£515.73
Other Services	30	£76.57	28	£628.53
TOTAL	202	£84.78	93	£545.15

* Publication not allowed under Statistics Act

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NO. 808 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10A of the Employment Survey Report October 1996, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 809 to 811 of 2009.

NO. 809 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10A of the Employment Survey Report October 1996, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 808, 810 and 811 of 2009.

NO. 810 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10A of the Employment Survey Report October 1996, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 808, 809 and 811 of 2009.

NO. 811 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10A of the Employment Survey Report October 1996, can Government provide the number of part-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

This information is not available. As the hon Member may recall, between October 1992 and April 1998 inclusive, the Employment Surveys were conducted from the information provided by employers in the Income Tax Office PAYE deduction cards in respect of their employees. The Income Tax Office computerised records were revised in 2000 and as a result of which information not required specifically for income tax purposes has not been maintained within the system.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 808 TO 811 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there no information whatsoever? I appreciate that some of the information may have been lost in this process but is it that there is nothing at all?

HON L MONTIEL:

This is the answer that I have been advised to give.

ORAL

NO. 812 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

NATIONAL FAIR WEEK 2009

Can Government give a breakdown of accounts in relation to income and expenditure of the National Fair Week 2009?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 813 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 813 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

NATIONAL DAY 2009

Can Government state how much was spent on National Day 2009 giving a breakdown by event and items?

ANSWER

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

All invoices pertaining to the National Fair Week 2009 as well as National Day 2009 have not yet been received. Therefore, I am unable at this stage to provide the hon Member with any accurate details.

NO. 814 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010 CELEBRATIONS

Can Government say how many entities submitted a tender for 'The Organisation, Production and Staging of the 2010 New Year's Eve Celebrations'?

ANSWER

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

Two entities have submitted tenders.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 814 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether the tender has now been awarded and, if so, to whom and in what amount?

HON E J REYES:

I am advised that the tender process is on-going. The Treasury Tender Board still has to approve recommendations that have been made either today or at the very tail end of last week after the initial meeting of the Procurement Board. So the process is on-going. The Procurement Board, I am informed, without having being privileged to any details, has made recommendations which have now been passed on to the Treasury Tender Board and I, like the hon Member, eagerly await to hear its outcome. All that both he and I know at this stage is that the Board entertained proposals by two entities.

NO. 815 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

JUDGES OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Can Government say whether there was any input by Government Ministers or officials which resulted in the photograph "Equality" being removed from third place in the recent photographic exhibition and also say how many judges were present at the first preliminary judgement and how many judges were present at the second final judgement?

ANSWER

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

No Government Minister had any input towards the judging of the National Week Photographic Competitive Exhibition organised by the Gibraltar Photographic Society. However, the Director of Culture accepted an invitation from the Photographic Society to form part of the panel of judges, which was composed of three persons.

From the information I have received, I do not agree, strictly speaking, that any photograph had a prize awarded and subsequently removed. The sequence of events indicates that a preliminary judging, by all three judges, was carried out during the morning of Friday 4th September 2009. A final decision was not taken at that stage but, however, it seems that after the first round of judging temporary classification labels were affixed to those photographs being considered at the time as potential winners.

The Judges reconvened during the course of that same afternoon in order to make their final selections but, unfortunately, only two of the three judges were available to complete the judging process.

No entry was withdrawn from the competitive Exhibition and, indeed, all photographic entries were exhibited throughout the Exhibition period open to the general public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 815 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member say whether there was any communication with him or with any other Government official by members of the panel between the first and second judging sessions?

HON E J REYES:

In respect of the judging process?

HON G H LICUDI:

Was there any communication at all between members of the panel that were judging the photographs between their first session and their second session?

HON E J REYES:

There was no communication to me in respect of the task being undertaken by the judges so none of those judges spoke to me during that period of time in respect of the process. I am being extra finicky. If one of the judges happens to be Director of Culture, it could well be that during that lunch hour, I did have a conversation in respect of twenty other thousand million things that my department does. In respect of the subject matter, no.

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Member tell us who was the third judge that was missing when they confirmed the decision?

HON E J REYES:

The judges were selected by the Gibraltar Photographic Society. I am aware that the Director for Culture was invited to form part of the panel of judges. I think it was rather courteous of the lady to mention it to me and the go-ahead was given. I am not aware of the names of the other two, although I think, I can reasonably assume because since I went to the prize giving someone introduced themselves to me, I can assume who they are but I am not connected with the selection of judges or the process and I just turned up on the day, presented prizes and know as much as anybody else does.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the hon Member for that information but my question was, if I understood the hon Member correctly, he said that after the preliminary judging there was a second meeting of the judges to confirm that preliminary assessment and that

there was a third judge that was missing. The question is which judge was missing? Which of the three? Was it the Director or was it the other two?

HON E J REYES:

No, the Director of Culture was present at both the preliminary and the final judging stages. So, one of the other two judges is the one that was missing.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful.

NO. 816 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many people were employed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority as at the end of September 2009 giving a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO.816/2009

PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY
AS AT END OF SEPTEMBER 2009

NO	TITLE	GRADE	DEPT	SEX	NATIONALITY
1	Chief Executive Officer	1	Admin	Male	British
1	Finance Manager	3	Admin	Male	British
1	Admin and Resources Manager	3	Admin	Female	British
1	Facilities Manager	3	Facilities	Male	British
1	Sports Development and Training Officer	3	Sports Dev. Unit	Female	British
1	Asst Sports Development and Training Officer	4	Sports Dev. Unit	Male	British
1	Asst Facilities Manager	4	Facilities	Male	British
6	Centre Managers	5	Facilities	5 Male 1 Female	British British
2	Administrative / Clerk	6	Admin	Female	British
2	Supervisory Groundsman	7	Facilities	Male	1 British 1 Moroccan
23	Sports and Leisure Officers	8	Facilities	21 Male 2 Female	British
1	Secretarial / Typist	9	Admin	Female	British
1	Support	11	Admin & Facilities	Female	British

TOTAL – 42 Employees

.....

MR SPEAKER:

The Hon the Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sport and Leisure has sought leave to clarify an answer he gave to Question No. 816 of 2009.

HON E J REYES:

Thank you very much. I distributed a schedule as part of my answer to Question No. 816 of 2009, it has later on come to all of our notices that the breakdown issued in respect of the two Supervisory Groundsmen and then the breakdown for the 23 Sports and Leisure Officers contained erroneous information. The real information should be, both Supervisory Groundsmen are males and then the 23 Sports and Leisure Officers are composed of 21 males and two females. Therefore, I have asked the Clerk that if the hon Members do kindly return the schedule I gave, which is erroneous, a new schedule will be given and likewise for the records of this Parliament. It is a swap shop. In exchange for one sheet of paper which contains the typographical errors on my part, we will swap it for another one with the correct information. Thank you Mr Speaker.

NO. 817 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE – ICE-SKATING RINK

Can Government state how many people used the ice-skating rink at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre during the months of June to September 2009?

ANSWER

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

A grand total of 6,887 users availed themselves of the ice-skating rink at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre during the months of June to September 2009.

Although not specifically requested, I can inform the hon Member that this total is made of the following monthly breakdown:

June 2009	-	1,039
July 2009	-	1,811
August 2009	-	1,860
September 2009	-	2,177
Total Users		6,887

ORAL

NO. 818 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CALPE CONFERENCE 2009

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the Calpe Conference 2009 on the theme "Human Evolution-150 years after Darwin"?

ANSWER

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

All invoices pertaining to the highly successful Calpe Conference 2009 on the theme "Human Evolution-150 years after Darwin" have not yet been received. Therefore once again, I am unable to provide the hon Members with any accurate information at this particular given moment in time.

NO. 819 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR CAVES PROJECT

What was the cost to Government of funding the hiring of a boat to provide access to the caves for those involved in the Gibraltar Caves Project with a breakdown showing the dates that the boat was hired, the payments that were made, the amount and the entity the payments were made to?

ANSWER

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

The costs to Government were as follows:-

15 August to 15 September 2007	£2,500	Gibraltar Sub Aqua Club
4 August to 27 September 2008	£2,000	Gibraltar Sub Aqua Club

NO. 820 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY BOOKS

Can Government say whether they have an inventory of the books and other documents currently held in the Garrison Library?

ANSWER

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

No, Sir. Government is not responsible for maintaining an inventory of books and other documents currently held in the Gibraltar Garrison Library. These assets are under the sole control of the Trustees of the Gibraltar Garrison Library.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 820 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Government still hopeful of coming to arrangements with the owners of the library in terms of what happens to the books and what happens to the building?

HON E J REYES:

Yes. Government are rather optimistic and hopeful that we are going to come to very good amicable understandings/agreements in respect of both the building and its assets which includes the books and so on. I think the hon Member did not have the chance of perhaps reading something that has happened after he had prepared the question here, but I did answer in a question session at the Gibraltar Heritage Annual General meeting that the Gibraltar Heritage Trust have also come on board, because we all have this vested interest of preserving our heritage. In case anyone needed reminding, perhaps because the hon Member and myself are a bit more up to date on matters, the Gibraltar Heritage Act does actually cover how assets that are over a certain period of time may be disposed of. So certainly, licences will be required if anyone wishes to remove, what is classified as an antiquity, it is over fifty years old, and I can anticipate perhaps a very, very laudable supplementary that the Shadow Member may wish to ask. We have had no requests for such licences and so on. So we are hopeful that the assets will end up in very good hands and like I said, following an amicable agreement, which we would still enjoy for the benefit of Gibraltar.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the meantime, has there been any change to the way in which the library is being administered?

HON E J REYES:

All I can say is that it is still administered by the Trust. If they have had some internal changes amongst themselves, I am not aware. From my dealings, I do not think there has been. I deal directly with the President of the library. Now, whether they have had changes in their own Committee Members and so on, I do not know. I am conscious that the present President is due to retire from military service and therefore will be leaving Gibraltar some time in December. The hon Member may or may not be aware, that I think, even His Excellency the Governor has been having words with them and has been more on Government side than anybody's side in wishing to have a good solution to the Garrison Library and its assets. HE would have liked it to have all been concluded by the time he left but seeing his departure is very imminent what he has been heard to say publicly is if it is not 100% completed, it is at that sort of final drafting stage where only the 'i's' needed to be dotted and the 't's' crossed and so on. So things seem to be going well and the end seems to be near by the time we come to an agreement.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If anybody wants to organise a function or an event at the Garrison Library, does it require permission of the Minister to do so or not?

HON E J REYES:

That is a slightly different question, but, with Mr Speaker's leave, I will handle it. Someone who wishes to hold an event at the Garrison Library, if the event requires entertainment, needs to seek the authority of the Entertainment Licensing Authority which happens to be someone who wears another hat and is the Minister for Culture such as provided in the Entertainments Act.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So Mr Speaker.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer is yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The answer to the question is, obviously, yes. Now, is it..... Can the hon Member say how many times he has exercised the powers and whether these are quite recent powers or they have been there since before he came into office?

HON E J REYES:

Exercise the powers..... Sorry Mr Speaker. I want to answer the question.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of licensing or giving permission for events to take place?

HON E J REYES:

Please bear in mind that I do not have any notes on that but from recollection. The Gibraltar Garrison Library Act says that the building and its usage, requires the consent and approbation of the Minister responsible for Heritage. So, part one of the question is, "was consent sought from the Minister for Heritage to use the premises at the Garrison Library for a specific purpose?" Some requests may have recently come our way, some of which have been denied because we felt that it was not in-keeping with what the real purpose of the Library is; and others may have been granted. I will give you one example that was granted, in that I was told that traditionally, the Governors who are patrons of the Garrison Library are dined out at a luncheon at the Garrison Library and they wished that to happen. Permission was granted for that with strict rules. A very strict 'No Smoking' policy within the building and so on. The main concern being, we did not wish to see its use as adding to the degradation of the building. There was some confusion on the part of the Garrison Library Committee in that they thought that they had a licence for things including its hiring out as a club. We have an obligation towards the community that clubs may operate for members under very strict conditions and so on, and here what came to my notice was that anybody could sort of make a request to the Garrison Library and say, in exchange for such a hire fee they were given a set of keys and there was not even a Garrison Library committee member there or a caretaker, someone to oversee. So we told them that that had to cease immediately. What did happen was we had at least one case that I know of, it could have been two; it could even have been stretched to three. There were certain weddings, the contracting of civil marriages were booked to take place within the library. So we honoured those because it was a bit upsetting and indeed we had one case of a bride calling me saying that, with less than twenty four hours notice, she had been told by the Garrison Library that I had withdrawn permission for the civil marriage to take place. No Sir, I would not spoil anybody's wedding day with such short notice having been given. So, I believe, it was a very, honourable thing for me to do for that. What the Garrison Library were informed was that they should update themselves in respect of all the rules and regulations and that no further bookings for weddings were to be entertained. The Civil Status and Registration Officer confirmed to me that beyond a particular date, although there may have been one or two enquiries, no-one had even paid any fees or whatever towards holding the marriage ceremony there. So we said, right, that is now going to cease. So that is the case. Certainly what has transpired is a bit of an inconvenience to those who were able to hire a place on the cheap to have a self-catering type of holiday but what has happened is we have ensured that the law will be adhered to in respect of the use of the Library and the entertainments licence.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say when did this policy come into effect of actually taking decisions in terms of the events that are going to take place at the library? When did it start?

HON E J REYES:

Again from memory, I think this goes back to April this year, when I had a meeting with the President of the Garrison Library where I first expressed Government's concerns about the use of the library. It so transpired and I have to accept that he had not quite fully understood what I said. It has been applied a bit more rigorously whenever we have been informed about it. I shall use one example that some members might find amusing. It came to my notice, more by accident than by anything else, that the past Worshipful Mayor intended to have a Mayor's Ball in the Garrison Library and, after he had printed invitations and sent those out, it came to our notice and Mr Levy received a phone call saying, are you aware that by attending the Ball you will be contributing towards the breaking of the law and therefore Mr Levy immediately changed venues. So, since then, I know it affected an event planned for early July. I believe one or two events may have taken place unknown to me, but certainly if it came to my attention, prior to the event or on the day itself, the RGP have even turned up on location the day itself requesting the entertainment licence. May I add, not just in respect of the Garrison Library. I was also present, for example, on the Rock on the Rock Club which is in Town Range during Fair Week and having been there as one of the guests, I actually witnessed the RGP turning up there on the day and asking for the licence. So the RGP seems to be using its resources in trying to monitor that entertainment events are properly licensed in accordance with the Entertainments Act. Not just specifically with the Garrison Library but I believe it is happening in respect to other locations as well.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government aware of the financial effect on the funds of the Library or the Trust of the Government's policy decision in April to actually give permission to events or refuse permission to events?

HON E J REYES:

It is not a policy decision. It is the law. What the financial consequences are towards the Library, are exactly the same consequences as they apply to me given that I am not allowed to hire my house out for a party for which rent is charged or for a hire fee. The Entertainments Act requires people to have a licence. It was not a question of taking a policy decision. It was a question of the law enforcement agencies enforcing a law that have been in existence for quite some time.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There are two things. One is the Entertainments Act and permission under that law. The other one is the Garrison Library Act and the Minister giving permission not under the Garrison Library Act which is, if I have understood him correctly, the new policy that started in April. Is that correct?

HON E J REYES:

It was not a new policy. No Sir. I said, I remember having spoken with the President in April whereby I was trying to bring him up to speed with what his obligations were under the Garrison Library Act; and his obligations are that the building is used for purposes deemed by the Committee with the consent and approbation of the Minister for Heritage. So having reviewed that, he has contacted me after that sort of saying, can I use it for this? I have given one example of a case where I said he could use it. There are cases when I have said, no, it may not be used for that purpose. The reason I have behind not allowing it is because we felt that the event might contribute towards the degradation of the building, something that we are concerned about. We want to preserve its heritage value.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The point which I am trying to make is very simple. Can the hon Member say whether the fact that the Government is to an extent now controlling the purse-strings of the library through the functions and income that the Committee receives, have a bearing or not, on the willingness of the Committee to negotiate the transfer of the Library and the books.

HON E J REYES:

No Sir, I am not trying at all to control the purse-strings or to do things in such a manner that would sort of indirectly force someone to do one thing or another, no. What I am doing as Minister for Heritage is; one, bringing directly to the President's attention which is what I did in April, the Government's concerns about the manner in which the building was being used. The biggest concern was that it was being used without supervision. Look at what has happened here. There was that huge concern. Just before that I had actually approved the Garrison Library being a listed building. There was also a request by the Committee to carry out the repairs to the roof and so on, in keeping with the Heritage Act, and I consulted the Heritage Trust as required and so on. We approved the particular material and so on. They must have had their own business plan as to how they wished to fund raise towards that. That is a responsibility for the Committee but certainly our actions were not meant to, somehow or other, force the Committee into having to take some decisions or not. It was more a question of as custodian of the law, making sure that the Library was aware of its obligations.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If the law in question was commenced in June 2007, why did the Minister realise in April 2009 that he needed to remind the Library of its functions and obligations?

HON E J REYES:

Sorry. What was the question?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The law in question was commenced in June of 2007. Why did it take the Minister until April of 2009 to remind the Garrison Library of its obligations?

HON E J REYES:

Because in April 2009 is when I had an opportunity to sit down with the President and I brought it to his notice. Rather than mumbling under breath, I am willing to entertain questions from any hon Member.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the structure of the building, has the Garrison Library been given notice to keep the premises in good repair, and if so, when?

HON E J REYES:

I would need notice to be able to check if they have been given notice and when.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of the arrangement with the present owners we spoke about earlier, which would lead to a transfer of the books or of the Library or both, can the Minister say what timescale is envisaged for this arrangement to materialise?

HON E J REYES:

The Government of Gibraltar and the Garrison Library Committee are working together to see if we can come to the best possible arrangement whereby the Library building and its assets will be transferred to the Government of Gibraltar. We would like this to happen as soon as possible. I did hint before that since the present President is due to retire and leave Gibraltar in December, I would ideally like it to conclude before then. It may or may not be possible. One or both of the parties may wish to seek advice, in respect of the library, from the general membership, and they may be tied up to having to give notice of an annual general meeting. They may wish to propose something our way under certain terms and conditions that we may, as Government wish to seek legal advice. All that could delay things by a week or two, a month or so. But certainly I would like it to happen as soon as possible.

ORAL

NO. 821 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 19th May 2009?

ANSWER

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

The Heritage Action Committee has met once and that was on 29th September 2009.

NO. 822 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GORHAM'S CAVE

Can Government say whether and if so on what dates they have made representations to the Ministry of Defence in respect of the steps which provide the land access to Gorham's Cave and if so can they say what the nature of the representations has been?

ANSWER

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

The Government's Heritage Division first wrote to Commander British Forces on 15th July 2004 expressing concerns that, for the first time ever, land access to Gorham's Cave via the steps would no longer be granted to the Gibraltar Museum and our Caves Project archaeological teams. The reply from Commander British Forces dated 22nd July 2004 states that, due to regulations beyond his control, land access will continue to be denied until the rock face above has been stabilised by the Ministry of Defence. Further correspondence and representations, through which Government continually requests a solution to the access problem be found, have ensued to date. Among the correspondence is a request, dated 19th October 2004, from the then Minister for Heritage asking that Gorham's Cave site be transferred to the Government of Gibraltar and that access concessions via the land steps be agreed upon. As Minister for Heritage, I have personally reminded the present Commander British Forces of Government's pending request, and that I did on 21st April 2009. On 30th September 2009, the MOD's Defence Land Agent made contact with Land Property Services in order to exchange views leading towards producing an agreement through which Gorham's Cave, and its land access route, could be transferred to Government. This recent development now needs to be carefully looked into and Government waits to be advised by Land Property Services and our Caves Project archaeological team.

NO. 823 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – ALLOWANCES

Can Government explain why the cost of allowances in the Sports and Leisure Authority was budgeted at £65,000 in 2008/2009 and £160,000 in the current financial year, giving a breakdown of the allowances and the numbers and grades of employees affected in each year?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 824 of 2009.

NO. 824 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – ALLOWANCES

Can Government provide a breakdown of the allowances payable in the Sports and Leisure Authority which were estimated to cost £65,000 in 2008/2009 and which according to the forecast outturn have cost £118,000 instead?

ANSWER

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

The Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority staff are paid three types of allowances:-

- a) Shift Disturbance – that is based upon 12½ % of basic salary and is payable to 6 Centre Managers and 23 Sports and Leisure Officers.
- b) Substitution/Acting allowance – payable to cover absences.
- c) Attendance Related Bonus – works upon a maximum of £1,060 per annum payable to each employee and is payable across the board, depending on established and agreed criteria.

The reason for the increase from £65,000 to £118,000 in 2008/2009 and to an estimated budget now of £160,000 for 2009/2010 is due to the employment of extra staff required for the provision of services at the Kings Bastion Leisure Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 823 AND 824 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Estimates Book not show that the complement is 45 in 2008/2009 and 45 in 2009/2010 and in fact does the figure that the hon Member has produced today not show that there are three vacancies which have not been filled. There are 42 in employment, that is in Grade 8, there are 23 employed instead of the 26 for which there is provision in the budget. So how does he reconcile the explanation for the increase to £160,000 with the fact that there are less bodies than there were in the budget and that the total complement has not changed.

HON E J REYES:

It is correct to say that the Estimates Book provides for a total number of 45 employees and yet moreso if we look at the schedule provided to the other hon Member earlier on. The official approved establishment of employees under the Gibraltar Sports Leisure Authority is three short of the figure contained in the schedule. Part of the reason is there are still three employees who were once employed by the Ministry for Sport, in other words, under general Government employee terms who exercised their right and opted, not to be transferred to Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority. So the number of people working within the whole area does equal 45. What the Estimate does is it makes provision for these gentlemen, should they every leave their current position. The provision is there so that the Sports and Leisure Authority can then recruit people so that overall manning levels are maintained. What should also be shown, if we look at past returns, is that in 2007 the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority had a total of 26 employees and then from 2008, later on it increases to 25. The reason for this increase in numbers is that when King's Bastion Leisure Centre opened towards the end of the financial year that ended in 2008, certain services within would be provided by employees of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority, hence the need to have an increase in the number of employees within the Authority. By having a greater number of employees you have greater salary cost but also greater cost in respect of allowances, which is what the hon Gentleman was justifiably trying to ask. So those allowances went into the Shift Disturbance and there are now 6 Centre Managers and 23 Sports and Leisure Officers not only to run the Bayside Sports complex facilities but also the King's Bastion Leisure Centre which is open seven days a week. And these allowances kick in whenever a person has to work certain hours or certain days of the week. That is further explained later on in another question that the hon Member asks and he will get greater details in how those allowances are paid.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well the fact that the hon Member has said that it is related to the salaries but in fact the salaries do not show an equal increase. The original estimate for salaries was £970,000. The outturn was £985,000 and in the column where there was £970,000 for salaries there was £65,000 for allowances. So the salaries went up by £15,000 in almost a million and the allowances were almost double, from £65,000 to £118,000. That does not suggest the relationship the hon Member has just given in terms of explaining that the allowances are 12½% of the salaries and more people were employed therefore the wages bill went up. The wages bill did not go up. Because I am not referring to any figure from 2007. I am talking about the estimate made in the budget of 2008 and the outturn reported at the end of that financial year in 2009; and the estimate for this year. Now, in that period is not when the increases took place. The increases took place between 2007 and 2008; and 2008 and 2009 when the salaries went up from £738,000 to £985,000, that is, by something like a quarter of a million pounds. Now, if that had been triggered at that time I could understand the explanation because that would fit. Wages go up by a quarter of a million pounds therefore 12½% of that quarter of a million will be reflected in the allowances. But this is the budget he asked the House to approve in April of 2008 and at the end of the year, the wages had not gone up by anything like the ratio that the allowances have. I just wondered if it was that some of these allowances were introduced during the course of the year or were they there from the beginning?

HON E J REYES:

In the budget for 2008/2009, we were taking into account that there would probably have to be an increase in the number of employees. Therefore an increase in the amount of salary that was to be payable. What in effect had happened is when we fine tuned and came to an agreement of how our services were going to be provided within the King's Bastion Leisure Centre, it so happened, the services were required over a seven-day week period and the shift disturbance allowance criteria kicks in whenever the employees are required to work within the Saturday and/or Sunday. Therefore there was more conditioned overtime hours required and that gave rise to a greater need to cover for that respect.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not asked about the overtime. This is about the allowances and in the breakdown that he gave me of the allowances, overtime is not included. The sums that I am talking about do not include overtime. The overtime is shown in the appendix as a separate amount where there is a discretionary overtime which has gone up from £200,000 to £269,000 and I think there is a separate question on that. So this has nothing to do with the overtime.

HON E J REYES:

We go back to the answer as it was. The allowances payable were in respect of shift disturbance, substitutions and attendance related bonuses. Because we took on more employees, therefore you end up having more attendance related... By taking in more employees amongst which are managers and so on you have more substitution payable, and greater number of employees were subject to the entitlement of the 12½% of basic salary and all that adds up to the increase.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The explanations that the hon Member is providing the House with are not consistent with the information that is put before the House when we come to vote this money. Because it is not the case that the complement was one thing at the beginning of the year and another thing at the end of the year. It is the case that at the beginning of the year they voted to increase wages at the beginning of the year. On the 1st April 2008 they voted to increase wages from £738,000 to £970,000. Now, is it that they did not know that the number of employees they would employ for £970,000 could not be paid with allowances of £65,000. All the allowances. Or is it that the allowances were introduced later on after the budget during the course of the year? Because if they were there at the beginning of the year then the wage level at the beginning of the year is not consistent with the explanations the hon Member is giving. Otherwise we would have seen a much lower level of pay voted at the beginning and then people being employed during the year and at the end of the year the wage bill is higher and the allowance is higher because it is 12½% of the wage bill for people who do shift work. I know that people who do shift work should be paid shift allowance quite rightly. I am the person who negotiated most of them.

HON E J REYES:

We predicted we were going to need more employees. Therefore for the salaries, the amount of money required to cover salaries, that was taken into account and from an estimate of £970,000 what the forecast outturn was £985,000. So there, the figure that was out was not too much.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right.

HON E J REYES:

At the time that we presented the budget it was not known, because it came into effect much later on, that these employees would also have to work at weekends and therefore we were not aware of the amount of shift disturbance allowance that was going to kick in. I think that is what the hon Member is asking and therefore I am able to confirm to him that we were not aware of the extent that the shift allowance would be required. So we had only catered for salaries.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the original figure provided for a lower incidence of shift work, is that correct?

HON E J REYES:

That is correct. We had not predicted what transpired at the end and that was that we were going to offer services to cover both Saturday and the Sunday to that extent. We had underestimated that because perhaps at the time it was still pie in the sky and it was not included.

NO. 825 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – SWIMMING POOL EXPENSES

Can Government explain why it provided £172,000 in the current financial year for swimming-pool expenses by the Sports and Leisure Authority given that these expenses amounted to £208,000 in 2008/2009 and £217,000 in 2007/2008?

ANSWER

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

Government has estimated the annual costs of running the swimming pools for the year 2009/2010 at £172,000, which is the same as that provided for the year 2008/2009. The increased expenditure that arose in the years 2007/2008 and then in 2008/2009 was in respect of works and other capital expenses for which separate provision had not been made. These works were required in order to bring the older facilities up to adequate standards and then we also wanted to further improve both facilities. These works were carried out, and we decided to carry them out, as a result of direct assessments that were made by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority once it had taken over the pools under its management. So they were not known beforehand, only after they came under management that then the assessments were made, then the works were carried out, hence why no provision had been made for them previously.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 825 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So, now that we are over six months into the financial year, the hon Member is still of the view that £172,000 is going to be enough for this year. Is it?

HON E J REYES:

Yes Sir, because the financial provision for the works and equipment being required during the 2009/2010 year have been made through separate funding that we have catered for under the Improvement and Development Fund. That will be found in Head 101 Departmental, Subhead 1(d) Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer is that these maintenance works have been moved from the recurrent budget to the capital account? That is the answer why the figure is lower?

HON E J REYES:

The answer is that these works are now under the Improvement and Development Fund and when we look at Head 101, Subhead 1(d), we will find there that there is an estimated provision of £400,000 with a footnote that says that that also includes provision for other things.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it means that it is no longer considered to be annually recurrent?

HON E J REYES:

That is right. It is now considered to be Improvement and Development Fund and not necessarily annually recurrent.

NO. 826 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – GENERAL EXPENSES

Can Government explain why general expenses of the Sports and Leisure Authority in 2008/2009 were £50,000 higher than the estimated budgeted amount of £110,000 and give a breakdown of this £50,000 additional expenditure?

ANSWER

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

The general expenses of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority increased by £50,000 in 2008/2009 in order to meet the cost of the general expenses of running the new Ice Rink, the Fitness Gym and the Youth Lounge at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre. The Authority was made responsible for these after the 2008/2009 Estimates had been approved by Parliament. The Authority has recovered these extra expenses by invoicing King's Bastion Leisure Centre Ltd for the full amount. This is reflected in the increase receipts of the authority for that financial year. As from 1 April 2009, King's Bastion Leisure Centre Ltd has been directly meeting these costs.

NO. 827 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – DISCRETIONARY OVERTIME

Can Government explain the requirement for an extra £69,000 to meet discretionary overtime in 2008/2009, in excess of the estimated amount originally provided for the Sports and Leisure Authority?

ANSWER

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

The extra £69,000 for discretionary overtime in 2008/2009 was required to meet the cost of new additional staff engaged to provide services at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre and for which the Authority became responsible after the 2008/2009 Estimates had been approved by Parliament.

NO. 828 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – CONDITIONED OVERTIME

Can Government explain the nature of the conditioned overtime in the Sports and Leisure Authority, by grade and number of employees engaged in performing conditioned overtime, and the average number of hours each employee has to do during the week when the conditioned overtime applies?

ANSWER

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

The payments made to the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority staff charged as conditioned overtime are solely in respect of weekend work premia to which shift workers, that is the 6 Centre Managers and 23 Sports and Leisure Officers, are entitled to receive. This entitlement comes into effect whenever they are rostered to work on a Saturday and/or Sunday which forms part of their basic 40 hours / 5 days a week condition.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 828 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the position then is that it is not overtime in the sense that they worked over the 40 hours, but that they get paid premium rates for working their eight hours on a Saturday or a Sunday. Is that correct?

HON E J REYES:

That is correct. Under the agreements that the Authority had reached with the representatives of the workforce there, although they are working within their forty hours in a five day week, if those five days means that they have to work on a Saturday or a Sunday, then they are entitled to receive an extra remuneration reflected as conditioned overtime.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is a definition of conditioned overtime which is peculiar to the conditions that apply in the Sports and Leisure Authority. Is it?

HON E J REYES:

In xxxxxx to the Sports and Leisure Authority this is how it is accounted for by the Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the people who are on Government terms also have these conditions or are they paid in a different way?

HON E J REYES:

Is the question referring to the three employees who are not part of the.....?

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is right.

HON E J REYES:

I do not have prior notice of that question so I have not been able to check it up. But from my recollection, if they have to work at weekends or whatever, they are still being paid as they were before the Authority came into existence. That I know of, their previous terms and conditions have not been altered.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But when the hon Member says that there are 23 Sports and Leisure Officers, the three that are employed in the Authority but shown in the Estimates because they are civil servants, are still doing the same kind of work as these 23? Or is it that there is a separate kind of job for the three that remain as Government employees?

HON E J REYES:

The three that remain as Government employees do not carry out exactly the same duties. For example, from what I can recall, they do not form part of the posting, shall we call it that, to work within King's Bastion Leisure Centre. Their work is exclusive within Bayside Sports Centre and even within that Centre there are some areas of work that they do not touch upon. So their workload is mainly contained to work in the older part of the facilities which are the ones that were in existence prior to the establishment of the Authority; the Victoria Stadium part of the premises which is the main football pitch and the Victoria Sports Hall facilities that have been built and therefore operational only after the existence of the Authority. Work in those areas do not apply to these three gentlemen since they chose not to join the workforce. They just keep to the old part. Exactly the same conditions as they were before.

NO. 829 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EMPLOYEES ON BASIC CONDITIONED HOURS

Can Government confirm whether there are any employees in the Sports and Leisure Authority employed on basic conditioned hours of more than 39 hrs per week?

ANSWER

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

Yes, I can confirm that there are. I will give you details. The employees of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority employed on basic conditioned hours of more than 39 hours per week are the following. A total of 6 Centre Managers and 23 Sports and Leisure Officers. They are employed on 40 hours per 5-day working week. What in effect they do there is that they work five days in shifts of eight hours. Eight times five is forty and that is how they came to that magical figure. In addition to that, there are 2 Supervisory Groundsmen who work 62 hours per 6-day working week. It is intended that as retirement comes along and therefore, through natural wastage, we will phase out these two 62 hour per 6-day working week posts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 829 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I am not mistaken, I seem to recall that when the hon Member produced the breakdown of the Supervisory Groundsmen, it shows these two to be females and one is a Moroccan. Is that correct? Maybe it should be called Groundspersons as opposed to Groundsmen. Or maybe the information is incorrect.

HON E J REYES:

Can I apologise on behalf of the typist. There are two Supervisory Groundsmen, Grade 7. They come under the Facilities Department and it should read there, two male, I am sorry. The one male and two female is definitely a typing error.

HON G H LICUDI:

The 21 male and two female are probably the 23 Sports and Leisure Officers.

HON E J REYES:

Yes. That is what I think has happened there. Can I, make sure that this is corrected and sent over in a few minutes time to pass on. But the hon Member has a legitimate question. One is British and one is Moroccan, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

These are the two.

HON E J REYES:

Those are the two and I think they are well known to us. We can work out exactly who they are by walking round the Stadium.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these positions now included in the Sports and Leisure Authority or are these the ones that remained in the Government? The ones with the 62 hours.

HON E J REYES:

No, they are. It says down here at the very bottom total 42 employees, so including those two Supervisory Groundsmen form part of the approved established of the Sports and Leisure Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of the complement?

HON E J REYES:

They do form part of that. I think I am deducing from there, that what will eventually happen, is that the Sports and Leisure Officers number there of 23, the day will come when the actual number of post holders of that Grade 8 will rise to 26. That is how I read the Estimates which were approved. I will just recap, that it is 26 at Grade 8 and from my table it shows that there is only 23 employed. The reason why the three vacancies are not being advertised is we are waiting to see what happens with the other three gentlemen.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My other question was the 62 hours was what they were doing in the Government and that has been transferred to the Leisure Authority. Is that right?

HON E J REYES:

That is right. I am informed that in the negotiations for the transfer and so on these two gentlemen were happy at the time with those terms and conditions and therefore they transferred across the board on that basis.

NO. 830 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VESSELS ARRESTED IN PORT OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government state how many vessels have recently been arrested in the port of Gibraltar, and in respect of each, what costs have been incurred on a weekly or monthly basis, during the period of their arrests?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

This year there have been 14 vessels arrested in the port of Gibraltar. The arresting parties on requesting the warrant of arrest for the ship also give an undertaking through their lawyers, in the form of an indemnity, to pay all of the costs of the arrest. In addition, the Admiralty Marshall seeks in advance of arrest, monies on account to pay any expenses beforehand. Therefore, costs are effectively paid by the arresting party even if the Admiralty Marshall has incurred an underlying liability. The costs incurred to-date per ship on a monthly basis is detailed in the table I now hand to the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO 830 OF 2009

EXPENSES INCURRED TO DATE FOR EACH SHIP (2009)									
Name of Ship	June		July		August		September		
	£	\$	£	\$	£	\$	£	\$	
MV Astoria	-	-	3,223.29	-	81,250.37	-	214,971.68	-	
MV K-Spirit	-	-	121.19	-	2,572.00	-	1,815.77	-	
MV Catalina Del Mar	-	-	409.77	-		-	49,204.00	-	
MV Arafura Wind	-	-		-	7,103.98	52,006.90	2,888.31	99,316.33	
MV Lister	351.02	-	6,158.13	-	146,363.43	89,339.09	9,069.00	17,051.13	
MV Skif	15,724.92		127.93	-	2,850.01	-	2,082.40	-	
MV EW Jackson	-	-	-	-	751.51	-	1,682.52	-	

Contd.....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION NO 830 OF 2009

EXPENSES INCURRED TO DATE FOR EACH SHIP (2009)									
Name of Ship	June		July		August		September		
	£	\$	£	\$	£	\$	£	\$	
MV Kyria	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.00	-	-
MV Antisana Jorf	-	-	-	-	-	-	300.01	-	-
MV Calypso III	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,022.59	-	-
MV Logan	-	-	-	-	713.48	-	1,815.77	-	-
MV Cape Mor	-	-	1,194.11	-	4,748.75	-	14,057.14	-	-
MV Sibuyan Wind	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MY Lady	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 830 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

In respect of all these vessels, have all these been the subject of private arrest or has there been any Government involvement or Port Authority involvement, for example because a port due has not been paid or anything like that, for all these private matters?

HON D A FEETHAM:

My understanding is that they are all private arrests but I could not be one hundred per cent certain about this.

NO. 831 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund since the answer given to Question No. 385 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question No. 832 of 2009.

NO. 832 OF 2009

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, since the answer to Question No. 386 of 2009, 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 HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

I now hand the hon Member the lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 832 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 831

The monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund as from June 2009 to September 2009 is as per the following tentative statement:

(*The approved Contribution from the Consolidated Fund is £8.5M 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-Jun-09</u>	<u>31-Jul-09</u>	<u>31-Aug-09</u>	<u>30-Sep-09</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>				
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£20,579,923.32	£20,434,024.10	£20,545,315.63	£20,460,745.38
<u>Add</u>				
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	£708,333.33	£708,333.33	£708,333.33	£708,333.33
Contributions collected in cash (Insurance contr.)	£1,261,237.42	£1,481,095.84	£1,160,704.24	£1,293,734.73
Misc Receipts	£16,824.67	£20,377.54	£13,159.28	
	£22,566,318.74	£22,643,830.81	£22,427,512.48	£22,462,813.44
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	(£2,132,294.64)	(£2,098,515.18)	(£1,966,767.10)	(£2,072,059.17)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£20,434,024.10</u>	<u>£20,545,315.63</u>	<u>£20,460,745.38</u>	<u>£20,390,754.27</u>

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 832 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 832

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the months of June to September 2009.

	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09
<i>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</i>	282	281	280	275
<i>British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)</i>	5442	5465	5499	5507
<i>Moroccan Pensioners</i>	1990	1997	2003	2006
<i>Other Nationalities</i>	620	628	642	665
Total	8334	8371	8424	8453

NO. 833 OF 2009

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 to date, since the answer given to Question No. 387 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 834 and 835 of 2009.

NO. 834 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving Social Assistance, to date, since the answer to Question No. 389 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth and Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 833 and 835 of 2009.

NO. 835 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving Social Assistance, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 390 of 2009, 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 HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

I now hand the hon Member lists giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 835 of 2009

Answer to Question 833 of 2009

Persons receiving Disability Allowance under the Social Assistance arrangements as from June to September 2009 giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex.

2009	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Males	Females
June	24	30	25	21	16	16	3	135	94	41
July	24	30	25	21	16	16	3	135	94	41
August	24	30	26	21	16	16	3	136	95	41
September	24	30	26	22	16	16	3	137	96	41

Answer to Question 834 of 2009

Persons receiving Social Assistance for the months of June to September 2009 by month, sex and age.

2009	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
June	181	320	501	81	144	126	150
July	181	324	505	81	148	124	152
August	193	320	513	85	156	122	150
September	189	324	513	86	156	125	146

Answer to Question 835 of 2009

Persons in receipt of Social Assistance for the months of June to September 2009.

2009	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
June	181	320	501	81	144	126	150
July	181	324	505	81	148	124	152
August	193	320	513	85	156	122	150
September	189	324	513	86	156	125	146
As at 6 October	187	318	505	85	152	124	144

Persons employed during the months of June to September 2009

2009	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
June	1	3	4	0	3	1	0
July	2	2	4	1	1	2	0
August	1	4	5	3	1	1	0
September	1	4	5	2	2	0	1

NO. 836 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS NOT PAID BY EMPLOYER

Can Government state what procedure is followed when a person reaches pensionable age and the relevant social insurance contributions have not been paid in by his/her former employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

When a person reaches pensionable age and the relevant social insurance contributions have not been paid by their former employer the matter is immediately referred for investigation to the Contributions Section of the Income Tax Department. Once the actual periods of employment have been established, prompt action is taken to recover the unpaid contributions from the employer concerned. If any delay in recovering the contributions is envisaged or the employer no longer exists, the relevant periods of contribution will be treated as if paid, if the Director is satisfied that the failure in making the contributions was not with the consent or connivance of, or attributable to any negligence on the part of the insured person. The application for benefit would then be processed immediately and the case referred to the Arrears Unit of the Income Tax Department for the recovery of the unpaid contributions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 836 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say what order of timescale we are talking about before the department decides, in trying to recover this money, that the person should not have to wait any longer for the assessment of his entitlement to be made. Is this something that can take up to a month or several months? What are we talking about?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not be able to say. I assume that it depends on the complexity of each individual case, the ability of the relevant department in chasing up the employer. But I would think that everything is done as expeditiously as is humanly possible in order not to cause any, sort of, grievance to the employee concerned.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that the civil servants will be conscious of the need to expedite this and will do things as quickly as possible but presumably if something is taking a very long time there must be a policy to trigger some mechanism. There may be the run of the mill cases and the bulk of them are resolved in a couple of months but if you come to a protracted situation where it is difficult to get to grips with it, is it a policy that after a certain time the calculations should proceed even if the avenues have not all been exhausted? Surely there must be..... People cannot be made to wait indefinitely presumably?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot give him a precise answer to that question of whether there is a deadline by which all these transactions have to be completed. What I can say is that if an employee is not satisfied, once the decision is taken there is an appeals process that you can go to. I am sure that the hon Member is aware of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know of the right of appeal against a decision not to grant, or to grant less than anticipated. But if there is no answer you cannot appeal. You cannot appeal until you get rejected. If people are told you have to wait until we make the investigation, surely if the thing is taking longer than..... If the average is it normally takes a month or six weeks or whatever, surely there must be, within the department, some kind of guideline that if this is going to drag on for a very long time, the person cannot be made to wait indefinitely. Will the Minister look into this and see if such a mechanism exists?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Certainly. I will ask my colleague who is absent from the House to provide that information to the hon Member.

NO. 837 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – EMPLOYMENT INJURIES

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from June to September 2009 in respect of Employment Injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Minister for Family, Youth and Community Affairs

Answered together with Question No. 838 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 838 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – INSOLVENCY PAYMENTS

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from June to September 2009 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 838 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 837 of 2009

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund from June 2009 to September 2009 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows:-

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sept 09
Payments:				
Employment Injuries	£52,465.94	£49,606.16	£43,553.70	£67,299.67

Answer to Question No. 838 of 2009

The following payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Funds from June to September 2009 from the employers' insolvency:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
June 2009	nil
July 2009	nil
August 2009	nil
September 2009	£17,023.50

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 837 AND 838 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to the answer to question No. 838 of 2009 where there is an amount of £17,000 paid out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for September 2009 arising from the employers insolvency, does the hon Member know whether this is in connection with one employer or more than one employer?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The payment is in respect of two employees from one employer.

NO. 839 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PENSIONERS

Can Government state in respect of the pensioners with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund as at the 1st April 2008, how many had ceased to have such an entitlement during the course of the financial year, giving a breakdown by each of the four categories of pensioners?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 840 to 844 of 2009.

NO. 840 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PENSIONERS

Can Government state as regards the pensioners with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month March 2009, how many in respect of each of the four identified categories became entitled to such payment for the first time during the financial year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 839 and 841 to 844 of 2009.

NO. 841 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PRE-1969 SPANISH PENSIONERS

In respect of the 290 pre-1969 Spanish pensioners with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month of March 2009, can Government state how many were resident in a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 839, 840 and 842 to 844 of 2009.

NO. 842 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – BRITISH PENSIONERS

In respect of the 5,377 British pensioners with entitlement to payment a from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month of March 2009, can Government state how many were resident in a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 839 to 841, 843 and 844 of 2009.

NO. 843 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – MOROCCAN PENSIONERS

In respect of the 1,969 Moroccan pensioners with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month of March 2009, can Government state how many were resident in a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 839 to 842 and 844 of 2009.

NO. 844 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PENSIONERS OTHER NATIONALITIES

In respect of the 577 pensioners of other nationalities with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month of March 2009, can Government state how many were resident in a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

The Department of Social Security is still not fully computerised and consequently, the information requested cannot be provided. I should explain that the information previously provided regarding British, Spanish, Moroccans and pensioners from other nationalities with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month of March 2009, was compiled from an excel spreadsheet. As this is constantly updated for example, when there is a change of residence, the historic information for the month of March 2009 cannot be retrieved as it has already been replaced by more current information. However, I can provide the hon Member with the same information requested but as at the end of September 2009. I now hand the hon Member lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 844 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 839 of 2009

Pensioners who ceased to have an entitlement from the Statutory Benefits Fund during the course of the financial year 2008/2009:

Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	10
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	203
Moroccan Pensioners	57
Other Nationalities	<u>23</u>
Total	<u>293</u>

Answer to Question No. 840 of 2009

Pensioners who were entitled to a first time payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund during the financial year 2008/2009:

Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	17
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	305
Moroccan Pensioners	179
Other Nationalities	<u>70</u>
Total	<u>571</u>

Answer to Question No. 841 of 2009

Pre-1969 Spanish pensioners with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund as at end September 2009 who were resident a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere:

a) Resident in Gibraltar	1
b) Resident in Spain	232
c) Resident in UK	6
d) Resident elsewhere	<u>36</u>
	<u>275</u>

Answer to Question No. 842 of 2009

British pensioners with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund as at end September 2009 who were resident a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere:

a) Resident in Gibraltar	4838
b) Resident in Spain	186
c) Resident in UK	435
d) Resident elsewhere	<u>48</u>
	<u>5507</u>

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 844 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 843 of 2009

Moroccan pensioners with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund as at end September 2009 who were resident a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere:

a)	Resident in Gibraltar	284
b)	Resident in Spain	26
c)	Resident in UK	3
d)	Resident elsewhere	<u>1693</u>
		<u>2006</u>

Answer to Question No. 844 of 2009

Pensioners from other nationalities with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund as at end September 2009 who were resident a) Gibraltar; b) Spain; c) UK; d) elsewhere:

a)	Resident in Gibraltar	71
b)	Resident in Spain	488
c)	Resident in UK	11
d)	Resident elsewhere	<u>95</u>
		<u>655</u>

NO. 845 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – CLINICAL WASTE

Can Government state to whom the sum of £330,000 in respect of clinical waste is payable by the Elderly Care Agency or its successor in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question No. 846 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 846 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – CLINICAL WASTE

Can Government state what has been the amount spent by the Elderly Care Agency in each previous financial year on clinical waste and under what item of expenditure was the sum included in each financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

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

Answer to Question No. 845 of 2009.

The sum of £330,000, which is the estimated expenditure for 2009/10, is payable to Environment and Waste Management Services Ltd (EWMS).

Answer to Question No. 846 of 2009.

The expenditure by the Elderly Care Agency on clinical waste in previous years was as follows:

2006/07	£142,395
2007/08	£153,991
2008/09	£241,917

This expenditure has been charged as follows:

<u>Elderly Care Agency</u> <u>(Appendix D)</u>	<u>2006/07</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2007/08</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2008/09</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2009/10</u> <u>Estimated</u>
(13) Hardware, Uniforms & Linen (Purchase of bins only)	£42,310.00	£50,076.00	£59,241.00	-
(14) Clinical Waste	-	-	-	£330,000
Head 4A – Environment – 5(b)(i) Disposal of Refuse (Disposal fee)	£100,085.09	£103,915.12	£182,676.18	-
	£142,395.08	£153,991.12	£241,917.18	£330,00.00

NO. 847 OF 2009

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 on 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

As at the 30th September 2009 there are 402 elderly citizens who have applied for a place at Mount Alvernia. On the 30th September 2009 there are 41 of these applicants who are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital.

NO. 848 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state how many children in care are staying in Merlot House, what is the total occupancy, including carers, and what is the size of the flat?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

There are currently seven children living in Merlot House, two of whom are having overnight stay at weekends with their family. The flat is a three bedroom, kitchen, two bathroom and sitting room, terrace/balcony. In terms of staff there is one unit manager, three care workers on shift during the day and two care workers at night.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 848 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact at night there could be nine people sleeping in the flat. The two carers and seven children, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The carers do not actually sleep.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, on duty anyway.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They do not use a bedroom, put it that way.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They do not use a bedroom. Is the size of the flat intended for this level of occupation or is it that they have had to put in people there because there is no other place available? Is that the intended level of occupancy?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not the ideal situation. But that would happen in any household. A family who has six children and lives in a three bedroom flat, they have to share bedrooms. It is not the ideal situation but I presume that the situation we have at the moment is because there was no other immediate accommodation to place these children and this was the only thing available at the time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any problem in terms of..... I know what the hon Member says about any family with large..... but normally in terms of housing, for example, account is taken of whether they are all the same sex or not the same sex and the ages and that kind of thing. Is there any difficulty in the composition of the seven children of that order?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think they are accommodated as best as possible. But what I can tell the hon Member is that, if I am not mistaken, they are all siblings of the same family. So sharing is not so much a problem as if they did not know each other.

NO. 849 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CARE AGENCY CLINICAL MANAGER

Can Government state the duties of the Care Agency Clinical Manager and what qualifications, if any, and experience, applicants for the post are required to have?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

The Care Agency does not employ a Clinical Manager. I assume the hon Member is referring to the Clinical and Standard Compliance Director.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 849 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

And in that case, the qualification required is the First Level Nurse and evidence of training in the following is also required: Management Skills; Mentorship in Training; Experience in Teaching and Assessing; Experience in Implementation of Policies and Procedures; Experience in Elderly Care; Young Disabled Disability Homes and Children in Care; Evidence of Proven Track Record.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the evidence of proven track record be something that would be required from outside Gibraltar or would the record of people from within the Agency be considered to be relevant to this job?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not have the answer to that but I assume that it would be irrespective of whether from the UK or from Gibraltar or elsewhere as long as they can prove that they have

a track record in the field and that they meet the requirements. It does not really matter. But I am only presuming. I am not 100% certain, but I can find out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The reason for the question is that if it is too specific in terms of what is the track record required then presumably it would be difficult for a lot of persons within the Agency in what is a new set up to be able, however competent they may be, to produce a record if it is made too specific to the new job. Whereas they may have a record in the other positions they may have held before in the Agency and whether that is something that counts as the equivalent.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If I had a list in front of me of people who had applied, and been short listed, and looked at their nationalities, I would be in a better position to reply. But I am afraid I have not.

ORAL

NO. 850 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL WORKERS

Can Government state what is the job description of out of hours Social Workers and on what basis they are paid and how much?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 851 and 852 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 851 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL WORKERS

Can Government state whether there have been any instances of out of hours Social Workers declining to attend call out requests from a) Care Workers and/or b) the Police?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question Nos. 850 and 852 of 2009.

NO. 852 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL WORKERS

Can Government confirm whether there is a requirement for out of hours Social Workers to be resident in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

In answer to Question No. 850 of 2009, I now hand the hon Member a Social Worker – Out of Hours Job Description.

The Out of Hours Social Workers work on alternate weeks. Their salary as at April 2009 is £18,280 per annum. They are on-call after office hours i.e. 5.30pm to 9.00am in winter and 2.30pm to 9.00am in summer and 24 hours during Saturdays and Sundays. Their salary has been calculated as working 3.5 days per week.

In answer to Question No. 851 of 2009, yes, at times they have declined as it was considered to be inappropriate referrals and they have been referred to the established protocol.

In answer to Question No. 852 of 2009, there is a requirement that they should reside within a radius of 20 minutes travelling time.

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 852 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 850 of 2009

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Social Worker – Out of Hours

SECTION: Emergency Team

DEPARTMENT: The Care Agency

REPORTS TO: Team Leader Responsible for Out of Hours Service

JOB PURPOSE:

1. To provide an emergency social work service at expert level outside of daily operating hours.
2. To provide a seamless service to people in the residential settings for accommodated children and young people or people with learning disabilities.
3. To provide a link between daytime services and emergency services.

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To undertake complex case arrangements for assessment and care planning which involve risk, complexity and the safety of service users and others. This to include all service user groups that are the responsibility of the Care Agency.
2. To complete risk assessments and make independent decisions around the actions required in line with the agreed written policies set down in the different residential settings for children and young people and people with learning disabilities.
3. To provide an emergency service to be accessed via the Police for people living in the community at risk of significant harm.
4. To represent the Care Agency in inter-agency networks, working jointly with the different agencies in assessing, planning and implementing care to promote independence.
5. Prepare regular reports and make recordings, within the areas of responsibilities covered in the post, in line with the Care Agency policy and the Data Protection Act.
6. Taking joint responsibility in the development of information systems.
7. Ensuring lines of communication between the out of hours team and the different daytime team are effective.

8. To maintain knowledge regarding social policy and social work practice and to be fully informed of the Care Agency policy and procedures and relevant legislation.
9. To attend regular team meetings, reviews and case conferences and play an active role, as required.
10. Undertake training and supervision as identified and set down.
11. Ensure the rota is covered and in the event of this not being feasible as a result of unforeseen circumstances, notifying the relevant team leader.
12. To ensure that the Team Leader is advised of shortcomings in the out of hours service.
13. Undertake any other responsibilities delegated by the Team Leader, commensurate with the level of the post, in order to ensure the smooth operation of the out hours service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 850 TO 852 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Twenty minutes on the other side of the frontier on the days that there are no queues. Is that the criteria?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Twenty minutes from wherever. They could take..... if we have traffic jams in Gibraltar they could take twenty minutes from Europa Point as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept they would. But my question was are they required to be resident in Gibraltar? So the answer is that if it takes them longer because of the traffic chaos of the Government to get from the South than it does to get from Estepona, then they could meet the criteria in Estepona and not in the South. Is that the supplementary answer?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If that were a real scenario, which I doubt very much, it would be yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the preferred option is that they should be resident in Gibraltar and then presumably that means that if there are equally well qualified or experienced people applying for these jobs it is made clear to them that on a level playing field the Gibraltar resident gets preferential treatment because obviously it is better for the department to have people here, more readily available.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is obvious that these..... I assume that these things are monitored and a log of social worker call outs, when they are required, is kept. I would presume that if they do not meet the criteria of being where they need to be in 20 minutes, and live outside Gibraltar, the requirement would need to be changed to ensure that they are resident in Gibraltar. But I am only assuming. I cannot vouch that that is the case. At least that was the case when I was Minister for Social Services.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The instances that there were where people have not in fact attended to the calls. Are these instances after the hon Member changed to her new responsibilities or are they from the time that she was there?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe this is historical, since this post was established. It was during my time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was also the case then?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 853 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CARE AGENCY – CASES OF ABUSE

Can Government confirm whether there have been any cases of alleged abuse referred to the Care Agency by the CID in September, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question No. 854 of 2009.

NO. 854 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state how many children were in care in September 2008 and September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

The answer to Question No. 853 of 2009 is no.

In answer to Question No. 854 of 2009, in September 2008 there were 23 children being looked after. In September 2009 there were 29 children being looked after, out of which three are being looked after in the UK and one in St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 853 TO 854 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the hon Member consider, on the basis of the increase in numbers, that there is any indication that this kind of problem is getting worse? That there are more instances that there have been or is this just a blip as it were?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think this is the latter because these numbers fluctuate. This is not the first time that we have had 29 children in care. So numbers fluctuate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it is not an indication of a trend?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not think so.

ORAL

NO. 855 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of pensioners who have been granted the Minimum Income Guarantee showing the number receiving the single and married rates in bands of £5 to the full amount since the answer to Question No. 401 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Answered together with Question No. 856 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 856 OF 2009

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 to the full amount as at the end of September?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

I now hand the hon Member the lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 856 of 2009

Answer to Question No. 855

NUMBER OF PENSIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED THE MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE, RECEIVING THE SINGLE AND MARRIED COUPLE RATES IN BANDS OF £5 UP TO THE FULL AMOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2009.

				SINGLES		COUPLES		TOTAL
				No		No		No
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0		0		0
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	3		0		3
FROM	£106.00	TO	£110.00	0		0		0
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		0		0
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	0		0		0
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	0		0		0
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	0		0		0
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	0		0		0
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	0		0		0
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	2		0		2
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	0		0		0
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	0		0		0
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	0		0		0
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	0		0		0
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	0		0		0
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	0		0		0
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	6		0		6
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	0		0		0
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	1		0		1
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	0		1		1
TOTAL				12		1		13

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 856 of 2009

Answer to Question No. 856

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 SEPTEMBER 2009.

				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	32		0		32
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		0		1
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	15		0		15
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	1		0		1
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	2		0		2
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	2		5		7
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	19		1		20
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	10		2		12
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	13		1		14
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	18		0		18
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	11		2		13
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	19		1		20
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	19		1		20
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	236		2		238
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	19		6		25
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	21		7		28
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	8		1		9
TOTAL				449		33		482

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 855 AND 856 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer to Question No. 855, do the 13 people become entitled to this between June and September. Does the hon Member know whether in fact the numbers shown here, the 13, are all the applicants or whether there are some applicants xxxxxx that applied that do not xxxxxx?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid I do not know the answer to that question. If he really wants the information I shall ask my colleague to forward it to him.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

For the record, my colleague the Minister for Health has been answering questions on behalf of the Minister for Family, Youth and Community Affairs who is not able to be here in the House for medical reasons and not for any other reason. That is why he has not been present and why my colleague has been answering. And done a very good job too if I may say so.

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Thank you.

NO. 857 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VISITING HOURS CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Can Government provide the list of questions that were asked in the consultation exercise that preceded the change of visiting hours at the hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Questions were divided into 3 sections.

Section A centred on the adequacy of visiting times as follows:

Are changes to the visiting times required?
How are the present visiting hours rated?
What types of visiting patterns are preferred?
Weekday and weekend visiting preferences?
Are patients/visitors tired after visiting?
Do visitors feel obliged to lengthen their visits?

Section B centred on visitor numbers as follows:

What is the preferred number of visitors?
Should visiting occur during mealtimes?
What should the children's age limit be for visiting?
Do patients feel obliged to entertain their visitors?

Section C centred on visiting policy compliance and enforcement as follows:

How do you rate compliance with policy?
How do you rate policy enforcement?
Are patients inconvenienced after visiting?
Do visitors affect nursing care?

ORAL

NO. 858 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MRSA INFECTION

Can Government say whether any cases of MRSA infection were detected at St Bernard's Hospital, on a monthly basis, since June 2009 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 858 of 2009

	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	Total
Patients	2	3	2	7
Staff	0	0	0	0
Total	2	3	2	7

There were no deaths in this period.

ORAL

NO. 859 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ELECTIVE SURGERY

Can Government state the average waiting time for persons undergoing elective surgery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 860 of 2009.

NO. 860 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING TIME FOR SURGICAL INTERVENTION FOR CANCER

Can Government state the average waiting time for patients needing to undergo surgical intervention for cancer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As explained in an identical question 4 months ago, Question 407 of 2009, the average waiting times for patients undergoing elective surgery are influenced by a number of factors. This can vary from day to day and for a number of reasons namely urgent cases, cancellations by patients, medical reasons, bed availability, Bank Holidays, surgeons' sickness and annual leave, etc. Therefore any average would not portray a true figure.

Again, as explained in answer to an identical question 4 months ago, Question 409 of 2009, once a cancer diagnosis is made, and a surgical intervention is required, the first determination is whether the procedure will be carried out in Gibraltar or elsewhere. If the procedure is to be carried out in Gibraltar the procedure is carried out without delay. If patients require the procedure carried out elsewhere then they are referred to the UK's NHS system or the Spanish SAS system.

ORAL

NO. 861 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

Can Government state how many keyhole surgery operations have been cancelled between June 2009 to date on a monthly basis and the reasons for the cancellations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 862 of 2009.

NO. 862 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between June 2009 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

Two keyhole surgery procedures were cancelled in June due to non-availability of beds.

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 862 of 2009

Cancellations June 2009

Reason for Cancellation	Otorhinolaryngology	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Total
Medical	1							1	2
Bed Availability				3	5				8
Per Patient		1	3		1				5
No longer required			2	2					4
Total	1	1	5	5	6			1	19

() minor ops

Contd ...

Continued Answer to Question No. 862 of 2009

Cancellations July 2009

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynae	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Total
Medical			1	7	2				10
Bed availability				1	2				3
Per patient			2		1 (1)		1		4 (1)
No show			2		(1)	3	1		6 (1)
No longer required			1	1	1 (1)				3 (1)
Anaesthetist sick/unavailable				1		5			6
Surgeon sick/unavailable		2							2
No records								1	1
Total	-	2	6	10	6 (3)	8	2	1	38

() Minor ops

Contd ...

Continued Answer to Question No. 862 of 2009

Cancellations August 2009

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynae	Ophthal mology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Total
Medical	1		1						2
Bed availability					2				2
Per patient			3	5	(2)		3		11 (2)
No show			1				1		2
No longer required		3	2		(1)		1		6 (1)
Require instruments Not delivered			1						1
Due to emergency								1	1
Patient transfer problem								2	2
Anaesthetist Sick/Unavailable	2								2
Total	3	3	8	5	2 (3)	-	5	3	32

() Minor ops

NO. 863 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE

Can the Government tell Parliament at what stage is the establishment of a routine mammography service by the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The contract for the mammography equipment has been signed. The equipment is in the process of commissioning.

The contract for the new RICS/PACS system has been awarded.

The mammographer and the clerical support have been recruited.

The breast care nurse has been recruited.

The recruitment of the radiologist is continuing.

The commencement date is contingent on the successful recruitment of the 3rd radiologist.

NO. 864 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMMES

Can Government say what is the waiting time at present for a patient who has had an x-ray or a scan with the radiology department of the GHA to receive their results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Current average waiting time for results is 4 weeks for x-rays and 2 weeks for scans.

NO. 865 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

Can Government say whether the GHA has now recruited a third radiologist and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA is currently in negotiations with a Consultant Radiologist in finalising the terms and conditions pertaining to his offer of appointment. If the offer is accepted the proposed commencement date is January 2010.

NO. 866 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMMES

Can the Government say whether the GHA team review panel has now reported its recommendations to the Government in relation to new cancer screening programmes and if so what were the recommendations made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No recommendations have yet been made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 866 OF 2009

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Member give us an estimate of when recommendations may be made to the Government?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

An estimate of when they will be made?

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. The state of play of when the recommendations will be made to Government?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid I cannot give a definite timescale. What I can say is that the logistics because this requires a lot of planning, administrative work and seeing where the necessary equipment is going to be placed. The logistics of screening will be fully tested once the breast screening programme is implemented and we see how that goes.

ORAL

NO. 867 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOUSE CALLS LOGGED BY GP'S

Can Government say the actual number of house calls logged by GPs in respect of June 2009 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 867 OF 2009

	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	September 2009
House Calls	155	193	233	225

ORAL

NO. 868 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ANAESTHETISTS

Can Government confirm whether the terms and conditions of employment of all six anaesthetists employed by the GHA are the same?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Yes.

NO. 869 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

Can Government say whether the two posts of Clinical Nurse Specialists for Adults and Children (Diabetic Nurse Specialist) have now been filled and how many persons applied for the posts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The two posts have been recruited to. Three persons applied.

NO. 870 OF 2009**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SUPPLIERS OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

Can Government say how many of the 1046 suppliers of surgical and medical equipment listed on the GHA's central database are based in Gibraltar, how many are based in Spain, how many in the United Kingdom, how many in the rest of the EU and how many outside the EU?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION**

Country	Total
Gibraltar	356
Spain	125
UK	535
The rest of the EU	21
Outside the EU	9
Total	1046

NO. 871 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLAINTS LOGGED

Can the Minister for Health say what is the number of formal and informal complaints logged against the GHA since June 2009 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Month	Formal	Informal
June	6	11
July	6	7
August	4	15
September	5	12

NO. 872 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Can the Government say whether the GHA has now come to a conclusion as to what are the changes which will be made to the system for the issue of repeat prescriptions in the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Not yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 872 OF 2009

HON N F COSTA:

May the hon Member tell us how much more work is required in order for the system to be implemented?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not a question of the system being implemented. There are several strands to this. I think I explained the last time that I personally believe that the final solution for Gibraltar..... because when the hon Member asked these questions originally, he kept on referring to the UK systems. I believe that the final solution for Gibraltar will include an enhanced roll in clinical pharmacy. As the hon Member knows we have a manifesto commitment to recruit a Clinical Pharmacist. So obviously that is one strand. Until we recruit the Clinical Pharmacist, we cannot get on with this and other things and linking the current role of the PPAU with the recruitment of the pharmacist and indeed we need legislative changes to allow nurse practitioners to prescribe. So there are several strands that need to be implemented either simultaneously or in stages, and we are not there yet.

NO. 873 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS

Can the Government say what is the earliest date available for someone who telephones asking for an advance appointment with each of the GPs at the Primary Care Centre?

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 that he will see on the lists, GP's each have five slots a day for patients who attend the Centre for an appointment on the day, which totals an additional 80 slots per day in addition to what he will see on the lists.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 873 OF 2009

Dr Bentata	3 days
Dr Poyatos	2 weeks
Dr Risso	2 weeks
Dr Penrice	3 weeks
Dr Pinto	3 weeks
Dr Thoppill	3 weeks
Dr Pincho	3 weeks
Dr Robles	3 weeks
Dr Fitzpatrick	4 weeks
Dr Negrette	6 weeks
Dr Jones	7 weeks
Dr Gupta	8 weeks
Dr Nerney	9 weeks
Dr Galloway	12 weeks
Dr Chichon	13 weeks
Dr Ferrera	13 weeks
Dr Mena	14 weeks

NO. 874 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

Can Government confirm to Parliament the procedure which is currently in place for the administration of the vaccination against cervical cancer in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 875 of 2009.

NO. 875 OF 2009**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER**

Can Government say how many females were administered the vaccination against cervical cancer in 2008 and in 2009 to date, with a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION**

The GHA HPV vaccination programme which commenced in September 2008, is aimed at vaccinating all girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years. This includes school years 8 to 13 and college students.

During 2008 and 2009 there is a catch up phase for all girls aged between 13 and 18 at the start of the programme in September.

In answer to Question No. 875 of 2009:

September	2008	636
November	2008	629
May	2009	583
September	2009	506

ORAL

NO. 876 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU HOTLINE

How many calls have been received by the Swine Flu hotline since it was set up with a breakdown per month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 877 to 884 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 877 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU HOTLINE SUPPLY OF TAMIFLU

What is the procedure in place to supply Tamiflu to a patient who telephones the Swine Flu hotline with flu-like symptoms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876 and 878 to 884 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 878 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU CLINIC COURSES OF TAMIFLU

Can Government say how many courses of Tamiflu have been prescribed by the Swine Flu clinic to patients who telephoned with symptoms since the clinic was set up with a breakdown per month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876, 877 and 879 to 884 of 2009.

NO. 879 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REQUISITIONING OF TAMIFLU COURSES

Can Government say how many courses of Tamiflu were requisitioned from local pharmacies and how much the Government paid for these courses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876 to 878 and 880 to 884 of 2009.

NO. 880 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU SUSPECTED CASES

How many suspected cases of Swine Flu which were not laboratory tested have there been in Gibraltar as on 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876 to 879 and 881 to 884 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 881 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU CASES CONFIRMED

How many laboratory cases of Swine Flu have been confirmed in Gibraltar as on 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876 to 880 and 882 to 884 of 2009.

NO. 882 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS

Can Government say from what supplier they ordered vaccinations against Swine Flu and give the total cost of the order, the number of vaccinations ordered and the cost per vaccination?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876 to 881, 883 and 884 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 883 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS

What delivery date has the Government been given for the arrival in Gibraltar of their order for vaccinations against Swine Flu?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 876 to 882 and 884 of 2009.

NO. 884 OF 2009**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATION PRIORITY GROUPS**

Can the Government say whether and if so when they intend to publish their list of priority groups for vaccination against Swine Flu?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION**

Total calls to the Swine Flu Hotline since 1st May: 1139

May	87
June	10
July	344
August	393
September	267

Patients who phone the flu line with symptoms are medically assessed, swabbed and tested for Influenza A. If positive, they and their contacts are treated with Tamiflu.

No Tamiflu has been prescribed to those who have telephoned with symptoms.

The following number of patients have been medically assessed, have tested positive for Influenza A and have been prescribed Tamiflu by the Flu Clinic:

	Influenza A	Contacts
July	3	9
August	14	40
September	4	14
Total	24	72

One hundred and sixty six packs of Tamiflu were requisitioned from local pharmacies at a cost of £3,890.17.

All suspected cases have been subjected to laboratory testing.

In answer to Question No. 881 of 2009, 17.

Government have a contract with Glaxo Smith Kline for the supply of 60,000 doses of pandemic (Swine influenza A) vaccine. The cost per dose is 7 Euros. The total cost therefore is 420,000 Euros.

The first batch of vaccines should be received in Gibraltar before the end of this month. Initially averaging around 2000 doses per week, then picking up in the new year and expecting completion by the end of March.

Should Government consider it necessary to publish such a list, the Government will do so when it considers it appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 876 to 884 OF 2009

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of Question No. 884 of 2009, given that there have been various EU countries who have published such a priority list, can the Government explain why it does not consider it appropriate in the case of Gibraltar.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Gibraltar does not always have to follow practices in other places in Europe especially when it has been shown that such practices are not working as they should. Gibraltar is unique in the sense that the Swine Flu has not hit as it has hit Spain, for example, and the UK. We only have, out of 875 I believe cases tested, 17 confirmed cases. We have an excellent containment strategy which I believe is the reason why there are only 17 cases and we have taken a totally different approach to that taken elsewhere, very successfully may I add. For example, in the UK, they are in treatment mode. They have abandoned containment mode altogether. We are still in containment mode. Vaccines are round the corner and I think the strategy we have adopted is second to none, if I may say so.

HON N F COSTA:

Taking into account what the Minister has said, in the event that we were unfortunate enough to have this sort of increase in numbers like has been experienced in the UK or in Spain and we move from a containment strategy to a treatment strategy, do the Government have, at least, in its own mind the priority groups that it would administer in the event that say the outbreak would take place at the end of the month and has only 2000 vaccinations.

HON Y DEL AGUA:

Absolutely, but the hon Member is wrong in the premise of his question because if we were to move from containment to treatment mode, the treatment mode would not be the Tamiflu.

HON N F COSTA:

I was asking about the vaccinations.

HON Y DEL AGUA:

Yes we do have priority lists. We have a proper pandemic response plan within the GHA itself and everything has been very carefully planned should the need arise as, I assume it will be, to vaccinate the whole population, or rather those who want to be vaccinated.

HON N F COSTA:

The question that springs to mind is that if the Government do have their priority list and has been carefully planned. It has an excellent strategy. What is the harm in publishing the list?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not that it will cause harm. It is just that there is no benefit to the general public in knowing what those, if any, priority lists will be. In my opinion and in the opinion of the experts who advise me, it will only cause confusion. It will cause alarm. There will be ... I can give you an example. Taxi drivers, for example, are already calling the Swine Flu hotline asking whether they will be first in receiving the ... I do not see any benefit in informing the general public what the priority list will be. If Government decide that it needs to prioritise it will issue and give information when it considers it appropriate to do so.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it possible to conceive that if the list had been published, the taxi drivers would not have been cornered into asking whether they were first in the list?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well I suppose so. They would be very disappointed because they are certainly not the first on the list. But of course that situation would not have arisen. If anybody needs to be prioritised it would be children and those who need it, not taxi drivers I can assure you.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the Minister, at what point would the Government consider, in view of the incidents last week with the school, closing the school in terms of the strategy which she has outlined?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am advised by the Director of Public Health that there would need to be evidence of a sustained transmission within schools. What has happened recently in the case of Governor's Meadow is nowhere near that. Well in fact it turned out not to be Swine Flu at all. The three children tested positive for Influenza A and negative for Swine Flu. They would have to be a sustained transmission, there is a criteria to follow, and we are nowhere near that and in fact I know of a school in the UK where they have had 100 cases of Swine Flu and there has been no need to close the school down. So we are nowhere near that situation.

HON N F COSTA:

Surely, as the Minister herself said, it is not necessarily the case that Gibraltar should follow the practice of the UK following her own admission to me, so at what point would that strategy kick into place. At what point would the Government consider it necessary to close our schools in Gibraltar.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

When we are advised by the Director of Public Health that it is necessary.

ORAL

NO. 885 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how often and on what dates the Development Appeals Tribunal has met since this question was asked at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Development Appeals Tribunal has not met since this question was last asked.

ORAL

NO. 886 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT REPORT

Can Government state how many of the 16 recommendations from the health and safety audit into the City Fire Brigade carried out by management which were still to be implemented when Question 86 of 2009 was asked, have now been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 887 to 889 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 887 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT REPORT

Can Government state how many of the 16 recommendations from the health and safety audit into the Fire Brigade carried out by management that were not implemented when this question was last posed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 886, 888 and 889 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 888 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf o the Hon S E Linares

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – INDUCTION TRAINING

Can Government state how many new recruits entering the City Fire Brigade have been sent abroad to conduct induction training since the year 2000 to date and how much has this cost giving a breakdown by year and cost per year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 886, 887 and 889 of 2009.

NO. 889 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – TRAINING OF NEW RECRUITS BUDGET

Can Government state whether the cost of sending new recruits to UK has been paid from the existing training budget of the City Fire Brigade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Ten further recommendations have been implemented since Question No. 86 of 2009 was asked.

As I informed the hon Member, or his colleague, in answer to Question No. 86 of 2009, Government does not consider it appropriate to make public the contents of internal departmental reports that have been commissioned by Management.

The information requested in Question No.888 of 2009 is contained in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Yes. In answer to Question No. 889 of 2009, this has been the case since the Brigade began sending its recruits to the UK in 2001.

Answer to Question No. 889 of 2009

Answer to Question 888 of 2009

Year	Recruits	Total Cost Including Course/flights/subsistence etc
2000-01	0	UK courses started 2001
2001-02	4	£22,935.15
2002-03	1	£ 5,797.15
2003-04	3	£19,524.90
2004-05	2	£12,885.60
2005-06	3	£21,188.40
2006-07	1	£ 8,468.00
2007-08	2	£18,322.55
2008-09	5	£38,459.00
2009-10	3	£36,464.14

NO. 890 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FIRE SIMULATOR

Can Government state the area required for the operation of the fire simulator?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 891 to 895 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 891 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FIRE SIMULATOR

Can Government identify the location of the site originally identified as suitable for the operation of the fire simulator, when it was so identified and by whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 890 and 892 to 895 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 892 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FIRE SIMULATOR

Can Government state when the fire simulator was ordered and when it arrived in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 890, 891 and 893 to 895 of 2009.

NO. 893 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FIRE SIMULATOR

Can Government state when it was discovered that the site originally identified for the operation of the fire simulator was no longer available?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 890 to 892, 894 and 895 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 894 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FIRE SIMULATOR

Can Government state what was the alternative use to which the site originally identified for the operation of the fire simulator was put, who took the decision that it should be put to this other use, and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 890 to 893 and 895 of 2009.

NO. 895 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FIRE SIMULATOR

Can Government state what the cost of the fire simulator has been and in which financial year the cost was charged to the Government accounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The actual minimum area required for the installation of the simulator is 18 x 9 metres (162 M²). Additionally an area around the unit for appliances etc would be required.

The Windmill Hill Lathbury Parade Ground area was the site originally identified in September 2006 as suitable by the then Chief Fire Officer for the operation of the fire simulator.

The simulator was ordered on 3rd October 2006. As already confirmed in answer to Question No. 433 of 2009, it arrived in Gibraltar on 30th January 2007.

On arrival of the fire simulator to Gibraltar.

The site originally identified was subsequently allocated for another Government priority project around the time that the fire simulator arrived in Gibraltar.

As confirmed in answer to Question No. 433 of 2009, the cost of the simulator was £139,600. The cost was charged in the financial year 2006-2007 to the Improvement and Development Fund, Subhead 102 – Central Public Administration, Fire Department Equipment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 890 TO 895 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

In answer to Question No. 894 of 2009, the Minister has said that it was put to an alternative use which is already implicit in the question but has not said what that use was.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well I just basically answered..... no the Opposition Member is right. I said it was sort of identified for another Government priority project without identifying what that was. The truth is that I am not aware of what it was at the time. I can tell him that it was later earmarked for the new Generating Station. I do not know whether at the time that was being mooted as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in 2006 it was earmarked for the fire simulator and ordered and then just when it was about to arrive, the Government decided that instead of the fire simulator, they would put something else, which may or may not be the Generating Station and subsequently it was thought that the Generating Station should be there. Well given the fact that the Government has known it needed to put the Generating Station there somewhere for a long time, is it that they had another site for the Generating Station in 2006.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not know. I am assuming that the site, when it was sort of removed from, or no longer offered to the City Fire Brigade for the fire simulator, had already been earmarked for the Generating Station. But the information that I have with me at the moment is that it was subsequently known to the City Fire Brigade. The use to which the site had been put subsequently, that information was passed on to the City Fire Brigade later. Not at the time that it happened which means that it could have been the case that it was identified or earmarked for the Generating Station at the time but it was not known to the City Fire Brigade until a few months later. But I am speculating.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Question No. 894 of 2009 also asked who took the decision to remove it from the planned use of putting the fire..... Presumably, once the decision was taken to order the simulator because the site had been found, that goes into the system so that people know that that site is no longer free because it is already, sort of, earmarked for something that has been ordered, involves public spending and is on its way. So, the decision that was taken subsequently not to put the simulator there even though it was already on its way there, who was it that took that decision? That is part of Question No. 894 of 2009.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I assume that by the answer that has been provided to me, it is implicit in the answer, when we say that it was allocated for another Government priority project. It is implicit that it was a Government decision. I am not aware of the person within Government who took the decision.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If I may, Government were engaged at that time, in the period of a year or two years leading up to this stage, in consultancies and studies of what to do with the Generating Stations at Waterport and the MOD Station at OESCO and the Opposition Member asked before whether the Europa Parade Ground was the only site that had been identified and therefore should have been known. This is not the case. The consultancy that took place actually studied over a period of time, if I remember, something like five different locations around Gibraltar and eventually came up with this particular site of the Europa Parade Ground as the only viable location. So the decision cannot be pin pointing one individual or group of individuals. It de facto became the case that the Generating Station had to go there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And that coincided with the arrival of the simulator? Or was it later?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That I do not know. I do not have that information in front of me. I am speaking from memory of the events leading up to the decision where to put the new Generating Station.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But I think from the original answer from his colleague, the thing that we have been told in the House is that the intended use of the site now is the Generating Station but that it was not necessarily the intended site when it was, as it were, removed from being available for the Fire Service. So, there could have been another use that preceded the use of the Generating Station.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. I did not say that it was not necessarily the case. I said that I was not aware. That I was speculating that it was also earmarked at the time but that I did not have a definite answer for the hon Member. I do not know the answer to his question. I was only speculating and I qualified my answer by saying that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the information that I am seeking is contained in the original question of which I have given notice. I accept that the Minister may not have the answer but it is not something that I am asking in a supplementary on the basis that I am reacting to information she has given me. The question is very clear. What was the alternative use to which the site originally identified for the simulator was put? I was assuming that it had been put to something else. It appears that in fact no use has been made of that site since 2007 from what we are being told. So that it is not that something else ... I could understand it if between the ordering of the equipment and the arrival of the equipment, a need for something had arisen and you had to make use of it. But it would appear from the information provided to date that, so far nothing has

happened on that site and that in 2007 the Fire Service was informed that it was no longer available but we do not know why because the Minister is not able to confirm clearly that the reason was the Generating Station or whether there was a different reason in 2007 and that reason was then changed to the Generating Station at a later stage. We do not know the answer to that. But in fact the original question was drafted in a way which I do not think is capable of more than one interpretation. It was to what alternative use. I do not think it is sufficient to say, to another use by the Government. I would hope it would be for another use by the Government given that the Government owns the place.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have a supplementary that was prepared for me by the City Fire Brigade. I do not know whether it will be useful or not, if it is not I will be more than happy to go back and ask for more specific information. It says here that the City Fire Brigade was informed by Technical Services that Lathbury Parade Ground site was to be used for another project and in a paragraph I have got here, later informed that this was for the Generating Station. Now another site was offered somewhere by the Guard House, wherever that may be, which the City Fire Brigade found unsuitable due to the gradient of the ground. Subsequently two other locations were offered to site the fire simulator but proved not suitable for different reasons. One was in British Lines and another in Coaling Island; and finally the site where it is now housed was allocated. Whether that is useful to the Opposition Member or not, or he wants more specific information?

NO. 896 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Can Government say whether the repairs at St Bernard's School have now been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The hon Member's question may be referring to the question asked during the last Question and Answer session by the Hon Steven Linares and that one then sought information on repairs to shutters, I believe. If that is the case, yes. Those works have been completed.

ORAL

NO. 897 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state what criteria are being used to offer supply teachers long-term work to cover for absent teachers in the event of illness, maternity or anything else?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 898 of 2009.

NO. 898 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can the Minister state how many teachers are currently covering as supply for six months, one year, two years or three years respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In respect of Question No. 897 of 2009, the criteria can be one or more of the following: subject specialism; the age group being covered; availability of the teacher for the period in question or any specific needs identified by the school.

In answer to Question No. 898 of 2009, five teachers are providing supply cover for periods ranging from 6 to 10 months as from this September. Nine are covering for a one-year period. Ten are starting their second year on supply. Four are starting their third year on supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 897 AND 898 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister give the reasons why, for example, in the case of the third year supply, why a teacher is required to be kept on supply work for a period of up to three years?

HON C G BELTRAN:

It does not mean that a teacher because he has been on the list..... What we call a list. There is not an official list. Just a number of teachers who are qualified out there who put their names down as being available for supply work and the fact that somebody may have been doing supply work for us for three years is what I say that four are starting their third year on supply. It does not necessarily mean that they have been doing it for three full years.

ORAL

NO. 899 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – MANDATORY GRANTS

Can Government state how many mandatory grants have been awarded this past academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 900 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 900 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Can Government state how many discretionary grants have been awarded this past academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

This past academic year, one hundred and seventy three mandatory grants were awarded.

Sixty discretionary grants have been awarded this past academic year.

NO. 901 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – LOAN SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FOR STUDENTS

Can Government state whether they have had representations from students as to any delays in obtaining the monies in relation to the loan system of payment which is in place in the UK?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Government have received no such representations from our students. Delays recently experienced by UK students in obtaining monies in the UK from the loans company and recently reported in the media relates to their maintenance grants in the UK for UK students which in the case of Gibraltar students are paid directly to students by the Department of Education and Training at the start of the academic year. There have been no delays in the payment of maintenance grants to Gibraltar students.

NO. 902 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – TRANSFERS

Can Government state how many transfers of children to schools outside their designated catchment area have been entertained from 2003/2004 to date giving a breakdown by school where child is designated, to schools where child was transferred to and by academic year respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Information on requests for transfers is kept in the Department of Education for a period of four years which is the time a student spends in any one school in the Primary sector. The relevant statistical information is set out in the schedule for the period 2006 to 2009 which I now hand to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 902 of 2009

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

First Schools 09/10								
DESIGNATED SCHOOL	ST.JOSEPH'S	ST.MARY'S	G.MEADOW	ST.PAUL'S	N.DAME	ST.BERNARD'S	HEBREW	TOTAL
G.MEADOW	3	1		17	2	1	2	26
ST.JOSEPH'S		1	3	5	1			10
ST.MARY'S	10		2	1	2		14	29
ST.PAUL'S	3	1	10		5	1	2	22
N.DAME	2	6	7	6		1	2	24
ST.BERNARD'S	3	11	2	3	8		1	28
TOTAL	21	20	24	32	18	3	21	139

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

First Schools 08/09								
DESIGNATED SCHOOL	ST.JOSEPH'S	ST.MARY'S	G.MEADOW	ST.PAUL'S	N.DAME	ST.BERNARD'S	HEBREW	TOTAL
G.MEADOW	5	2		22	3		1	33
ST.JOSEPH'S		3	1	5	2			11
ST.MARY'S	12		2	3			14	31
ST.PAUL'S	2	2	6		2			12
N.DAME	3	4	5	7			2	21
ST.BERNARD'S	6	13	1	6	3		1	30
TOTAL	28	24	15	43	10		18	138

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

First Schools 07/08								
DESIGNATED SCHOOL	ST.JOSEPH'S	ST.MARY'S	G.MEADOW	ST.PAUL'S	N.DAME	ST.BERNARD'S	HEBREW	TOTAL
G.MEADOW	5	1		12	3		2	23
ST.JOSEPH'S		2		3		1	3	9
ST.MARY'S	7		2		1	2	9	21
ST.PAUL'S	9		8		4			21
N.DAME	2	4	2	4				12
ST.BERNARD'S	3	12	5	5	1		3	29
TOTAL	26	19	17	24	8	3	17	115

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

First Schools 06/07								
DESIGNATED SCHOOL	ST.JOSEPH'S	ST.MARY'S	G.MEADOW	ST.PAUL'S	N.DAME	ST.BERNARD'S	HEBREW	TOTAL
G.MEADOW	3	1		26	6			36
ST.JOSEPH'S		4		2			1	7
ST.MARY'S	5		4		1	1		11
ST.PAUL'S	2	1	6		3		1	13
N.DAME		1	5	4			1	11
ST.BERNARD'S	6	11	1		2			20
TOTAL	16	18	16	32	12	1	3	98

Continued Answer to Question 902 of 2009

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSFERS 09/10

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

DESIGNATED SCHOOL	HEBREW	SACRED HEART	BISHOP FITZ	ST JOSEPH'S	ST ANNE'S	TOTAL
ST ANNE'S			21	2		23
ST JOSEPH'S		1	1	4	2	8
BISHOP FITZGERALD	1			9	6	16
SACRED HEART			7	8	3	16
TOTAL	1	1	29	21	11	63

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSFERS 08/09

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

DESIGNATED SCHOOL	HEBREW	SACRED HEART	BISHOP FITZ	ST JOSEPH'S	ST ANNE'S	TOTAL
ST ANNE'S			13	2		15
ST JOSEPH'S			1		2	3
BISHOP FITZGERALD	1	6		11	6	24
SACRED HEART	5		7	7	13	32
TOTAL	6	6	21	20	21	74

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSFERS 07/08

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

DESIGNATED SCHOOL	HEBREW	SACRED HEART	BISHOP FITZ	ST JOSEPH'S	ST ANNE'S	TOTAL
ST ANNE'S			9	6		15
ST JOSEPH'S			1			1
BISHOP FITZGERALD		1		2	4	7
SACRED HEART			5	10	4	19
TOTAL		1	15	18	8	42

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSFERS 06/07

SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO

DESIGNATED SCHOOL	HEBREW	SACRED HEART	BISHOP FITZ	ST JOSEPH'S	ST ANNE'S	TOTAL
ST ANNE'S	2	3	7	8		20
ST JOSEPH'S	1	1		1		3
BISHOP FITZGERALD	6	1		11	12	30
SACRED HEART	7		2	2	13	24
TOTAL	16	5	9	22	25	77

ORAL

NO. 903 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – SUSPENSIONS

Can Government state what criteria are used by schools before they decide to suspend a child and whether these criteria are set by the school or directed by the Department of Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 904 of 2009.

NO. 904 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – SUSPENSIONS

Can Government state how many children were suspended in the last academic year giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The criteria used by schools when suspending a pupil are set by the school and monitored closely by the Department of Education. The criteria will vary somewhat from sector to sector but in general terms they include actions such as a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy, for example, or when it is felt that allowing the pupil to remain in school could seriously harm the education and/or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which I now hand to the hon Member. I am happy to report an overall decrease over the last five years.

Answer to Question No. 904 of 2009

SCHOOL		NUMBER OF CHILDREN SUSPENDED
		ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/09
SECONDARY	Westside	6
	Bayside	33
MIDDLE	St Joseph's	0
	Bishop Fitzgerald	2
	Sacred Heart	2
	St Anne's	1
FIRST	St Mary's	0
	St Bernard's	0
	Notre Dame	0
	St Paul's	0
	St Joseph's	0
	Governor's Meadow	0
Hebrew School		0
TOTAL		44

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 903 AND 904 OF 2009

HON N F COSTA:

When the Minister talks about that the criteria used varies according to sectors, does he mean by sector, the type of school, primary or secondary?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 905 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – TEACHER POST VACANCIES

Can Government state at the start of the academic year how many teacher posts were vacant and in which subjects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

At the start of this academic year there were 11 teacher posts vacant. Ten were posts for general Primary subject teachers and one was for mathematics at Secondary level.

NO. 906 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – QUALIFIED TEACHERS SEEKING POSTS

Can Government state at the start of the academic year how many qualified teachers were seeking a post in teaching and in which subjects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Ninety three qualified teachers applied for posts this year. Of these, 43 were Primary qualified which means that they are trained to offer general subjects across the Primary Curriculum. Fifty were Secondary qualified offering between them the full range of Secondary subjects covered by the National Curriculum and at GCSE and A-level. So between those 50 Secondary qualified teachers, some had mathematics, others were offering the, sort of, full range of subjects at secondary level, which is English, Maths, Science, Design and Technology, ICT, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Art and Design, Music, PE & RE, PSHC which is Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education. It is not a statutory subject but it is also a recommendation to be taught. So those who apply for secondary....., there were 50 qualified teachers in the secondary sector who between them had a combination of all these subjects.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 906 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So effectively there were 43 applicants for eleven vacancies and 50 for one vacancy which had to be in Maths at the Secondary level?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. 43 were for Primary. Yes. That is right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Taking the answer to the preceding question this is the..... I am trying to establish the supply and the demand.

HON C G BELTRAN:

The supply far exceeds the demand.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these people that have been sent by the Government to train as teachers and have come back and want to be here or does that include people who would simply like to come to Gibraltar and are applying from outside?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I would say that 99.99 of them are Gibraltarians who have gone off to study and they return.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister confirm that of the posts that were available in answer to the previous question, all those posts were actually filled by some of the applicants.

HON C G BELTRAN:

All 11 posts were filled. Yes.

NO. 907 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

What progress has been made on the epidemiological study commissioned by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 908 of 2009.

NO. 908 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Has the “optional item” in respect of the epidemiological study that, according to the answer given in supplementaries to Question Nos. 484 to 487, was still being negotiated, now been finalised and what was that “optional item”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The consultants appointed by the Government to carry out an epidemiological study are continuing with their work. The consultants are still at the data gathering stage of the assessment and are working closely with Government technical representatives to ensure that the various data needs for this project are met.

The consultants have advised that there will be a delay in the delivery of the study because the data sets are large and complex and their preparation have taken longer than envisaged. Delays in studies such as these are not uncommon given the volumes of data that needs to be gathered and analysed.

The optional item being considered was the possible GIS mapping of the results of the study. In discussions with the consultants, it was established that it would not affect the delivery of quality of the study so it was decided not to proceed with this option.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 907 AND 908 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

What is GIS. Does the Minister have anything more than the initial for that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Geographical Information System.

HON F R PICARDO:

Obliged. Now, the Minister has said there is likely to be a delay, and I think I will agree across the floor of the House that a study like this is better done properly than quickly. Does he have an indication of when the delivery of the final study will be?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not at this stage. All that has been signalled is that there is likely to be a delay.

HON F R PICARDO:

In terms of xxxxxx is this a study that takes a year. Is it a study that takes months just so that we have an idea and I will not be holding him to it because I know that this is something which is not empirical if we want the results to be empirical?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I think I have said publicly that the original estimate of the delivery date was early next year and early meaning January or February. So we are looking to a study that would take six/seven months. Now likely to take more but I have not yet been told how much more.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it likely to be double the time or is it likely to be slippage of months. Any idea of that at all?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No idea at this stage.

HON F R PICARDO:

Obliged.

NO. 909 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

ZEBRA CROSSING AT LINE WALL ROAD

When will the audible alarm on the zebra crossing at Line Wall Road, by the American War memorial, be fixed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The audible alarm at Line Wall Road by the American War memorial is operational. It was last reported broken on 11 August 2009 and repaired the next day. It was again checked on 4 October 2009 at 15.30 hrs and was found to be working satisfactorily.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 909 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister know whether the audible alarm is the same level of volume there as it is in all the other pelican crossings in Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This is not really my field of expertise but I understand that these are standard units and therefore the answer should be, yes. I have not been aware of any indications that it should be different. However, there are frequent complaints throughout Gibraltar because I see it from the looks on peoples faces. I can guess what they are thinking and I wonder if they are going to voice it or not voice it. But I can tell them that there have been complaints throughout Gibraltar about people who are disturbed by these audible signals which go on through the night as the hon Member is aware and there are particular persons who are identified as complaining periodically. Not necessarily who live in a particular area but who happen to pass through the particular area.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman has not survived in politics for twenty years in this House without being able to give an answer like that.

NO. 910 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

Has any progress been made in respect of the possibility of exporting 60 to 70 apes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Our contractor, who established the initial contact with technical sources close to the African Government concerned, has still not managed to obtain an official confirmation from that African Government of acceptance of such import of Barbary Macaques. The issue is still on-going at technical level, but until the African Government's agreement to importation is confirmed to the Gibraltar Government, it is impossible for the matter to progress.

I would remind the hon Member that Government have previously stated, and this continues to be the position today, that Government will fund the costs to be incurred in the transfer of these monkeys.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 910 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

I just want to understand a little bit more about that. The hon Gentleman has said, our contractor, can I take it that is the local contractor for the management of the apes which is GONHS.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON F R PICARDO:

And that contact has been established with, or at a technical level, with the African Government involved. Is that what the hon Gentleman said, I did not quite hear that part of his answer.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

What I said was with technical sources close to the Government. In other words, the equivalent of GONHS in the African country have been talking to each other. The people in the African country are keen to import Macaques. Are keen to set up an area for them to breed and to live, they are the ones lobbying the African Government. But as one who has just returned from Africa, I can tell you that things in Africa take longer than in Europe.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman should not set himself up as the Minister for Government that does things quickly. Is there any reason why we will not be told why or what the African Government in question is?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. There is no particular difference. I am quite happy to tell the hon Member on a direct personal basis. It is just that I do not think it is appropriate to mention a country by name until such time as there has been contact Government to Government. But there is no hidden agenda.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that that is another sign of diplomacy that he has displayed this afternoon. Can I take it then that there has been absolutely no request from that Government? That this comes from a source outside the Government in the relevant country?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the hon Gentleman of the view that it is likely that this is going to happen or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am hopeful, but I would not put it any more strongly than that. There have been no official indications as yet.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would imagine, not as hopeful as the monkeys because my next question is, absent to the exportation does the existing strategy, if I can call it that, continue?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Despite the buttering up that the hon Member has been doing in the lead up to this part of the question, I will remind him of what I said in the past. I have answered questions on exporting the apes. I do not intend to stray into other matters with regard to the Barbary Macaques.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well straying is what it is about. Is it not? The hon Gentleman has told us before, although he has not wanted to give us the numbers, that the management strategy, if I can loosely call it that, which is in place at the moment, absent exportation is ... We have called it killing. I do not know whether he preferred it to be called extermination or not. Can we take it as a given that absent exportation, the killing extermination of, however he wants to clothe the word for shooting, is the strategy that is continuing?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member can carry on with his line of questioning for as long as he likes. The hon Member has said at the beginning, as a preamble to his question, that he already knows the answer, and he does because I have given it before. I have detailed what the Government policy is and the Government policy puts things in an order of priority and that has been given in answer to questions in the past. He knows what the Government policy is. So if he admits he knows it, there is no need to answer the question. It is in the public domain.

HON F R PICARDO:

No. That is not the position. What I am asking the hon Gentleman is that he has now told the House that there is an attempt to export Barbary Macaques and what I am asking him is and is a question which alludes to what he has told us previously but does not rely on that as the answer. What I am asking him is, absent of that exportation, or progress in respect of that exportation, is the strategy what it was before, namely killing the apes, or a number of apes, a number which he will not disclose? Now, he has never been shy of saying that that is what he has done before. I am simply asking him if one does not manage to export these numbers of apes, or if one does not manage to export them before a particular time, does one revert to the strategy of killing them? Is the strategy of killing them perhaps even on-going as we speak? Or do you have another alternative which does not involve the loss of life?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Once again the hon Member knows the answer to that. The policy of the Government clearly is not to kill the apes in the absence of the exportation being available. Clearly not! That is not the policy. He knows what the policy is. He knows it has four priorities or five priorities. It has been explained in this House many times and I have no intention of explaining it again.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that reticence because the hon Gentleman is now starting to realise that the strategy is wrong?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing further to add except to say that the strategy that the Government are carrying out is to the satisfaction of the Government.

HON F R PICARDO:

I see, with that being said we will leave it at that.

NO. 911 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

SEAGULLS

What was the cost to the Government of each and any contract granted for the killing of seagulls?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government has an on-going contract with GONHS for the culling of Yellow Legged Gulls for which it currently pays £74,062.26 per annum.

Apart from this annual agreement with GONHS, Government also contracted the services of the Central Science Laboratory for a period of six weeks during 2009 to carry out a concentrated population management exercise for a fee of £99,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 911 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

Is either of those contracts on a cost plus basis or were they for a particular amount?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not on a cost plus basis. The GONHS one has been on-going for quite some time and the other one was negotiated.

HON F R PICARDO:

That figure that the hon Gentleman has given us includes all the disbursements involved?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the make up of those figures calculated in any way. Are they calculated as to time? For example, is the GONHS one something paid per month? Is the Central Science one something paid per week? How are the figures calculated? Or are they just round figures negotiated in respect of an agreement.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure how the GONHS one is paid. It is a figure per annum and it appears in the estimates and the administration of it is by the Department of the Environment. At this particular moment, I do not know whether it is paid on a monthly basis or on a six-monthly basis. The other contract, as I said was negotiated, and I heard only today, to my surprise, that the payment had not yet been made claimed. An invoice had not yet been presented. So it will be a one-off payment but the invoice has not yet been claimed, presumably because the final report has not yet been submitted.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is the intention of doing this on an annual basis. To have this ad-hoc agreement become an annual agreement for the period in March/April?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No decision has been made on that. It is not even under active consideration until such time as the final report is presented and then we will make an assessment of whether we should or we should not. The initial recommendations are that, predictably it may be, it should carry on for a period of two or three years. You know, all consultants tend to work that way.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will ask the hon Gentleman whether he thinks it is value for money to pay that amount for that period once we have got the report. I do not think it is fair to ask him before then. But can I ask him, though, whether he knows the costs of the alternative strategy in respect of the apes, mainly the killing of them, of the top of his head as well or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In respect of value for money for the seagulls, the figures are interesting. The figures that GONHS has given us over the years are 2003 – 5025, 2004 – 4003 odd, 2005 – 4300. So we are talking in that area although it came down to 2006 – 3047 over a period of a year. The figure for the contractor was 3723 in a period of six weeks. Obviously a much more..... I am not trying to make comparisons one with the other, I am just trying to give you the information. The contractors from UK put in much more resources and try a number of different methods and had more people on the ground for a concentrated period than GONHS who work with fewer resources over an extended period. So in terms of the numbers removed, time will tell. I did not notice any letters in the media saying, oh my goodness there are four thousand

fewer gulls. I am told it takes a three year cycle for the effects to come through. We will have to wait and see. I am not really qualified on my feet to make a judgement whether it is value for money. We shall have to decide that, I think in conjunction with the people of Gibraltar over the next couple of years.

HON F R PICARDO:

Very well! What about the cost of the extermination of apes is that also something which is included in the contracts with GONHS or is it dealt with otherwise.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Nothing further to add.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept that the hon Gentleman might not want to tell me the numbers of apes that are exterminated etc, etc, but he cannot hide from a question that tries to address the issue of cost; and that is what we are here for to hold the Government to account for tax payers and is a fairly straight forward question. If he tells me he does not have notice of the question and he wants me to ask him next time round, I will do that but I do not think he can tell me he simply has nothing to add.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I can, I have nothing to add.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, let me put it to him this way. Is the policy of extermination of apes now even in the hon Gentleman's mind so discredited that he does not even want to account for how much it costs?

MR SPEAKER:

I think before the hon Minister is given the opportunity to reply, the hon Member will appreciate this is now straying from the question of seagulls. We are going back to the apes. Right! I will allow this question to be put but you will have to accept the Minister's answer rather than go backwards.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

May be he would like to repeat the question. I cannot remember what he said. So I will give him another chance to use the magic words he is so fond of throwing out to the airwaves thinking that it will have a political effect on his electoral chances.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman must obviously judge me by his standards, if he believes that everything we do in this place is just for electoral effect. But, you never know, somebody might be tuning in right now. The question was this. Is the policy of extermination of apes now so discredited, even in the hon Minister's own mind, that he does not even want to account to the House for what it has cost?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing further to add other than to say that I do not accept that the policy is either discredited or wrong or different to what it ought to be.

NO. 912 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

RUBBISH DUMPS AT TANKERVILLE, TANK RAMP AND CASTLE STEPS

Why has nothing happened “on site” about the relocation of the rubbish dumps at Tankerville and Tank Ramp and at the foot of Castle Steps, opposite the entrance to St Bernard’s School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Nothing has happened on site at Tankerville and Tank Ramp in respect of the facilities which the hon Member mentions because nothing has been planned to happen at this stage.

As explained in reply to previous questions the facilities to which the hon Member refers to and describes as “rubbish dumps” were in fact designed and provided by hon Members Opposite when they were in administration, when the GSLP was in administration.

As I have also said in answer to previous questions, the new facility of which the construction is about to start, next to the Plater Youth Club, is intended to replace the existing facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 912 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

The thrust of the debate last time was that the hon Gentleman would not tell us when works would start and he would tell us that they were at the planning stage. It has now been a long summer and some extra months since then. The hon Gentleman has cast aspersions, I think, unfairly on the Governments of another continent because things are not happening quickly there. Is it not fair to visit at his door also a criticism of moving slowly, at least in relation to this project?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, it is question at this moment in time of whether we trigger the existing quotation that we have, whether we trigger the existing contractor who has quoted and spend more money than in the judgement of the people who advise me, we should be spending, and the work would start tomorrow. Or whether we do what we are going

to do which is to seek more competitive quotes in order to get value for money for the tax payer. So, the short answer to his question is I cannot tell him it is going to start tomorrow, it could, but it will not because I agree with the policy of the department that we get good value for money. But apart from that everything is ready to go. The plans are ready. Everything is ready other than the appointment of the contractor. So it could end up with having to go back to the tender process.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the hon Gentleman telling us that it is going to the tender process or that you are presently negotiating with the existing party, the existing contractor that has quoted trying to get that amount down with the threat, rightly, that if it is not value for money it will be going to the tender process?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is absolutely correct. That is exactly what is happening. If the negotiations do not produce a reduction in price then we will revisit the process.

HON F R PICARDO:

How did the contractor obtain the contract? Through the tender process was it not?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No contractor has obtained the contract. The quote is from the Government's own company GJBS and despite my personal intervention, the quote that has been given is, in the judgement of those technical people who advise me, too high. So, we are now in the process of deciding whether to accept it or not to accept it. My feeling is that we ought not to accept it and try and find whether a lower price can be sought.

HON F R PICARDO:

If the matter does go to tender, as the hon Gentleman seems to be indicating may inevitably have to go to tender, when does he think that the construction work will actually start on site? I know I reminded him of this in his first incarnation as Minister for the Environment and now again. It is very, very unsightly and very unwieldy now. The hon Gentleman says it was there since 1996 at least, and it might have been but I assure him that it is now well past its sell by date.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would be the first to be very happy to be able to say start tomorrow and finish by next week. It is not going to happen. If we go down the route of the full tender process, we are talking about months. Not about days or weeks. It depends on how quickly the tender process happens. So again, I cannot predict a date. I have learnt not to predict dates that are outside my control because invariably you get the predictions wrong. But this is the process that is being triggered at the moment if the negotiations do not work.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I ask the hon Gentleman what these plans entail? I know that in other areas where I pressed the Government to take action, all that has happened and it has been very effective, is that walls have been rebuilt where they have not been rebuilt for the past twelve or thirteen years. Wire has been added in a sort of very basic rudimentary cage and a door with a human operable lock or sliding bolt has been fixed. It is not exactly rocket science and when it starts being done it is done in a matter of a couple of days or a week. Is that the sort of facility that is being envisaged down in the area of the small car park by the Plater Youth Club?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think the hon Member casts his mind to the facility that was provided at Catalan Bay, at the entrance to Williams Way Tunnel. It would be a smaller version of that as opposed to the more rudimentary, just making the walls higher and putting some wire netting round the sides of an existing site. We are starting with a flat piece of ground and we would have to build the whole structure as opposed to enhancing something that is already there.

HON F R PICARDO:

I really do not mean to labour the point but, if I may say so, for any company, especially one as experienced and able as the Government contractor GJBS, we are talking literally about building four man height level walls and the cage. Surely, can the hon Gentleman give us an indication of what the proposed cost for that is and of what he thinks the proposed cost should have been because I cannot imagine it is going to bankrupt the Government to pay for this to be done as soon as possible? I must tell him it is in a very, very precarious state and it is dangerous to children in particular and let alone any resident of the area who might fall and this is at the exit of the Tankerville Estate.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member will understand that for us to exchange figures over the floor of the House would not be conducive to a good tender process. If one gives an indication of figures. But I am surprised at the levels that have been quoted and that were quoted for Catalan Bay for that matter when I took over this job again and I found out what that had cost. But it would not be appropriate to give figures or advise him.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that and actually I am sorry I put the question because I should have focussed on that. The hon Member is right. Can I ask him whether at Catalan Bay it was built for that quote?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sorry, for what quote?

HON F R PICARDO:

For the quote that the hon Gentleman thought was higher or whether it was then built for a considerably lower quote.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know. When I took over as Minister for the Environment after the last election, Catalan Bay was either already finished or about to be finished. I think already finished. So, I have no idea what happened in the... or how. I do not even know who built it, never mind ... I have got a figure at the back of my mind of what it cost and ten years, fifteen years back you could have built a three bedroom flat for that price.

HON F R PICARDO:

Finally, can I just urge the hon Gentleman to agree with me that this is something that is becoming increasingly urgent and whether it goes to tender or not, is something that should be at the top of what, I am sure is a large pile, that it should be fairly near or at the top of that pile because of the hygiene issues that arise?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I agree with him one hundred per cent. It is at the top of the pile. It is urgent in my book and I just wish I had the ability to make it happen quicker.

NO. 913 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN CONVENT PLACE AND REFERENDUM GATE

Can Government give details of all the bidders and of the successful bidder for the road works in the area between Convent Place and Referendum Gate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 914 to 916 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 914 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN AREA BETWEEN CONVENT PLACE AND REFERENDUM GATE

Can Government state the cost of the road works in the area between Convent Place and Referendum Gate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 913, 915 and 916 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 915 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN CONVENT PLACE AND REFERENDUM GATE

Can Government state when the road works in the area between Convent Place and Referendum Gate will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 913, 914 and 916 of 2009.

NO. 916 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN CONVENT PLACE AND REFERENDUM GATE

Can Government state the date when works on the road works in the area between Convent Place and Referendum Gate started?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The tender for the works in the area between Convent Place and Referendum Gate was awarded to AMCO (Gibraltar) Ltd in the sum of £1,932,116.23

No other bids were received.

The anticipated final cost for the project encompassing the section of Main Street from the junction with Secretary's Lane up to Referendum Gate inclusive of the section of Line Wall Road adjacent to Ince's Hall and of Convent Ramp is £2,100,000.

Work on the road works between Convent Place and Referendum Gate started on the 6 May 2008 and are programmed for completion on the 6 November 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 913 TO 916 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member say how the extra, around £200,000, from the award of the tender to the final cost, is accountable?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am told that a number of variations have arisen due to unforeseen works and to changes in the design arising from unforeseen site conditions. In other words we did not cater for all the eventualities at a technical level.

HON G H LICUDI:

The works started on 6th May 2008 and is the 6th November 2009 the date when the works were originally planned to finish or is that the date that is now seen as the completion date?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government put out a press release on 6th March 2009 which said that the completion date was mid October 2009 and so it is only marginally later than that. Whether that is the original date that was predicted or not I do not have here before me. I thought I had. At the beginning of this year we were predicting October. It is now November.

HON G H LICUDI:

The upshot is that it will take around 18 months to complete a rather small stretch of road, barely what 200 metres, 250 metres. Does Government consider it satisfactory that a stretch of road in Gibraltar of barely 250 metres should take 18 months to complete with all the traffic disruption that that brings over that 18 months period?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Firstly to correct what I have said before, I do have the information here. The original completion date was mid October 2009. So it is not..... although it was published in March..... but that was the original..... so the delay has only been a month. I have asked the same question of the technical people that the hon Member is asking and I am assured that it is not, although I would have shared his view from a personal point of view, but I am assured that from a technical point of view because of the restriction, because of the number of services, because we have taken the opportunity to relay the sewers both in Lovers Lane or what used to be Lovers Lane, Line Wall Road and along that stretch of road, because of the difficulties in doing the work and keeping the traffic flowing, because of the difficulties of having businesses and commerce and residents in the area living and working and selling in the middle of all the work, I am told that it is not an undue length of time for this work to have taken place; and more so if the original date was October and the final date is November, the technical people, again not a political decision, but the technical people on the Government side must have agreed with the contractor when the bids were made.

HON G H LICUDI:

The perception certainly is that this is a very small stretch of road. It is taking unduly long. It may have been the date that was originally planned. Does the hon Member not agree that having regard also to the fact that works are going on for 18 months, causing traffic disruption in the area, and at the same time we have works starting on the other side of Referendum Gates also causing disruption, and this is a double whammy which the Gibraltar motorist is having to put up with at an unfortunate time. Does the hon Member have any explanation for the coincidence of the works and why was it not planned properly?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, there are two ways of looking at it. Alternatively, one could say that it has been very well planned so that you have the inconvenience in a double whammy coinciding with each other. If we had one set of roads done this year and the Trafalgar interchange done next year one would have the inconvenience in two separate years. Whereas if one has it as is happening now coinciding and..... well concurrent and subsequent to each other, one is in fact minimising the inconvenience to the public. But the question of the Trafalgar interchange is the subject of another question.

NO. 917 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN REFERENDUM GATE AND BOYD STREET

Can Government give details of all the bidders and of the successful bidder for the road works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 918 to 920 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 918 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN REFERENDUM GATE AND BOYD STREET

Can Government state the total cost of the road works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 917, 919 and 920 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 919 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN REFERENDUM GATE AND BOYD STREET

Can Government state when the road works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street started?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 917, 918 and 920 of 2009.

NO. 920 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN REFERENDUM GATE AND BOYD STREET

Can Government state when the road works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The tender for the works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street was awarded to Haymills (Gibraltar) Ltd in the sum of £2,867,618.64.

One other bid was received in the sum of £3,133,273.75.

The anticipated final account for the road works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street is £2,950,000.

The works in the area between Referendum Gate and Boyd Street started on the 6th May 2009 and are programmed for completion in July 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 917 to 920 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

The tender, as I understand it, was awarded to Haymills. Can the Government state what has happened with those works after the collapse of Haymills?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, I can say that there have been no substantial delays to the project arising from the demise of Haymills. The decision taken by Government on all the ex-Haymills projects have served to mitigate that disruption that would normally be expected in these situations. Continuity of work has been maintained to a large extent on this project. Although minor delays have arisen, it should be possible to eliminate these between now and the end of the project. So basically it has been a question of one contractor taking over from the other. Some minor delay and hopefully we will pick up between now and the end of July if we do not strike oil in the meantime or find an unexploded bomb.

HON F R PICARDO:

So, who is actually doing the works now?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot remember what the name of the company is but it is a subsidiary of GJBS who has taken over the work from the.....

HON G H LICUDI:

The Gibraltar construction company that has taken..... A Government owned company?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well indirectly I suppose it is. It is a subsidiary of GJBS.

HON G H LICUDI:

Again with regard to the time, it is, will the hon Member not agree, a relatively short stretch of road that is being re-laid and with minor changes as I see them to the traffic layout. Why does that take over a year? Anywhere else it takes a couple of weeks.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I empathise with the question but I do not think that I am technically qualified to answer it in the way it is being put. Again, like we said in answer to the previous question, this is what the tender process has produced. This is what the Government technical advisers have agreed to, so presumably it is an adequate period of time, but, I say again, I realise what the hon Member is saying.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question of whether it is an adequate amount of time is relative and perhaps objective. Does the hon Member not agree that the greater the resources that are put in, in terms of manpower, towards completing the resurfacing programme and traffic interchange programme in a relatively short, small short stretch of road, that is what makes a difference between something that takes maybe a month, two months, to taking ten months or twelve months. Is the hon Member satisfied with the level of resources that are put into these two projects? This one and the one in the previous question such as to account for; on the one side of Referendum Gate eighteen months for about 250 to 300 yards and on the other side of Referendum Gate another year or thirteen or fourteen months for again a stretch of 250 or 300. So for over half a kilometre, we have got a combined time of over two years in terms of the works. That surely cannot be justified. How long will it take to resurface the whole of Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The question from the hon Member reminds me of mathematics in school at the age of ten or twelve when the typical question used to be something like, if it costs x number of pounds for 10 men to build a house in 20 days, how much would it cost for the same house to be built in double the time or half the time? At the end of the day, you pay for what you ask for and you pay for what you get. Yes, it is correct to say that if the Government in its tender specifications had said, we want it done in five weeks, that the successful tenderer would have had to bid at a price level to put in the resources to do it in five weeks. But that would have meant a much higher cost to the Government and a much higher cost to the tax payer. So, like in all these projects, and that is why Government has a very capable department like Technical Services working for it who are extremely conscientious and extremely well qualified and they are the ones who advise the Government on how to weigh up the speed of the project, the consequent inconvenience to the public and the desirability of doing it quicker and eliminating that inconvenience but at the same time inconveniencing the tax payer by making it pay ten million instead of five million. So it is a question of swings and roundabouts and trying to find an equitable balance between the cost and the speed. Now, how long is a piece of string? One could argue that you should spend a million more and take six weeks less or six months less. All I can say is that these things are judged by the technical people, not by the politicians. They are then accepted by the politicians based on the technical advice and it is that question of balance.

HON G H LICUDI:

It may be a question of balance, but clearly there is political input here having regard to a number of factors. Firstly, we have two small stretches of road and I would emphasise that again, that are costing the tax payer over £5 million. A relatively small stretch of road, barely half a kilometre for 600 metres long, costing £5 million, essentially to redo. So we are not talking here of the Government trying to save money because substantial amounts of tax payers money are being spent on these two small, short resurfacing programmes. Secondly, as a matter of political priority, does the Government not agree that one of the most serious problems that there is in Gibraltar at the moment is the traffic problem. Is it not the case that even the Chief Minister announced at the beginning of the year in his New Year message that the Government was taking unprecedented measures of historic nature. Well, where is the priority given when the resources are not put in to make sure the disruption is kept to a minimum; and when a small stretch of road takes 18 months to complete it means that the political priority is simply not there. We have words from the Government but not actions. When will we get the actions?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member can be forgiven for doing what he usually does, it is to make, at some stage in the questions, a party political broadcast. He is wrong in a number of assumptions. I am certainly not going to go down the road of traffic which is not reflected, that word is not reflected in any of the questions and therefore it is not to my mind and it is up to you to judge as legitimate.....

HON G H LICUDI:

If the hon Member will give way. The question specifically relates to road works. If road works have nothing to do with that.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No no no. I am not giving way. I am not giving way.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order. The Minister is answering the question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is not as if he does not have a chance to get up again. If he did not have a chance, I would gladly give way. But he has asked me a question and I am trying to answer it. Firstly, there seemed to be, although he did not develop it, an implication at the beginning of his question that there was political influence in matters technical which there is not. These matters are judged and assessed and decided by the technical people who then advise the Government of what the decision is. And secondly, as I said before, I do not want to repeat again at this time of the evening. At the end of the day, it is a balance of whether it takes 18 months at a certain cost or whether it takes nine months at double the cost, and that is a political judgement. I agree.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. As is the political judgement of this Government in spending £50 million in an airport at full speed ahead to have it ready for the next General Election in two year's time. That is the political judgement that this Government makes and usually turns out to be wrong. I was not suggesting that there was political influence in the technical side. What I was suggesting, and what I do maintain, will the hon Member not agree that there is a lack of political priority being given to projects such as this about traffic flow in Gibraltar, and I do mention traffic flow, despite the reluctance of the hon Member to get into a debate or discussion on traffic matters. The question is addressed to the Government. Not to the hon Member as Minister for the Environment or in any other capacity and is a question concerning road works. It is a question concerning clearly the effect of those road works on the circulation of traffic in Gibraltar which is dismal as a result of the lack of priority given by this Government. Will the Government recognise that that priority is simply not there and when will this Government wake up to the reality that Gibraltarians live day in day out. Not just Gibraltarians, but anybody that comes into Gibraltar, whether it is tourists, or whether it is workers across the frontier, everybody has to live with this problem, day in day out. The hon Members may go straight to their offices and may not encounter this problem but they seem to be oblivious to what the reality is in Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I drive past that inconvenience twice a day or three times a day. The Government does not agree that it does not give priority to these matters. On the contrary, if I were to go down the party political broadcast which I am very tempted to do, but I will not, other than to say, that only in these two projects the Government is spending more money than the GSLP spent on roads in the whole of their term of office, only.....

HON C G BELTRAN:

Here, here. That is the point. That is the point.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

.....Only in those two roads. But I retract that, so as not to be accused of making a political broadcast. We are where we are. This is the cost of the project. This is the length of time it has taken to do. Projects like this, as I have said before, can be done faster at greater cost to the tax payer. It can be done on a 24 hour a day basis at a cost of sleep to the people living in the area. That is the political judgement that is made and the Government stands by its judgements. Like the one of building a new air terminal which will be superb and will take Gibraltar into.....

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member not agree that the Government not just stands but the Government may fall as a result of its lack of political judgement in this case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member agrees that the Government stands and it is up to the people of Gibraltar to decide if and when it falls.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member said that Gibraltar General Construction Company, whose name he could not remember, is the one that has taken over delivery of this work from Haymills and this is a wholly owned Government company. So in fact has not the Government now got a situation where they can no longer blame the contractor, because in fact they are running this company? Is that no the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

For a start, let me qualify what I have said before. I am not a hundred per cent certain that it is the Gibraltar construction company and not AMCO. I would need to check that information. But on the assumption that it is the General Construction Company, I am not sure I understand the point the hon Member is trying to make. The company is a company. It has taken over the contract that was there in the hands of Haymills. It has been asked to meet the conditions of the contract that

Haymills had. So other than it being indirectly a Government company and working like GJBS does for a number of other projects, like for example, the multi storey garage in Devil's Tower Road. Yes, it is a Government company indirectly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but it is not just a question of indirectly. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of GJBS because the Government chose to structure it that way. When it was originally created, almost overnight, it was created with civil servants as Directors and it offered eight weeks of employment to the people who had been made redundant by the closure of Haymills. Now, is the situation now, the hon Member says he does not know, well then in fact that company which originally only offered eight weeks employment is now in fact contracted to complete the work that Haymills was doing with the same people who were there but now with an input where the Government is no longer dependent on somebody outside its control to deliver the product because they actually are in a position to put in as Manager whomever they want in charge of that project.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government have agreed to a term which ends in July next year for this project to be done. The Government reacted very swiftly, as the hon Member has said, practically overnight in fixing the big black hole created by the disappearance of Haymills and the work not only there but on other projects has, not only continued unimpeded and uninterrupted, almost, but the jobs of a large number of people have been safeguarded. Now, to ask me at this stage, without notice who is going to be the Manager or how the Government is going to deal with the contract, whether it is eight weeks, I would need notice for all those questions. I agree that it is a Government-owned company through GJBS but the Government has not seen fit to announce a speeding up of the process because the same thing would happen, whether it is a Government company or whether it is an outside contractor the cost to the tax payer will still rise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the hon Member cannot argue that because he knows full well that he has given explanations that when one comes along to a contractor who gets a tender and then one starts having deviations from the original, one is totally at the mercy of what they charge for the deviation. Presumably, the Government would not be doing that to itself in its one hundred per cent owned contractor. So it is not the same situation. The situation surely gives the Government an opportunity of doing something about it directly in a way that would not be possible with a third party that had a contract. Now, since he actually mentioned in his supplementary that the Government-owned company had taken over the contract and I accept that the original action made sense in the sense of stepping in rather than allowing a vacuum when some of the workers might have disappeared. Some of the plant might have got damaged because things like that can happen when people suddenly find themselves overnight dumped. They stepped in with the offer of an eight week contract in Gibraltar General Construction simply so as to act quickly. But now, presumably, whoever is there is there not just for those eight weeks since Haymills went bust but for the completion of that contract. Now the hon Member is not a hundred per cent

sure whether it is a construction company or not. I thought his original answer had indicated that he knew that they were the ones who were doing it.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think I qualified it. But if I did not I should have qualified it or maybe I assumed it was and then realised that it might not be. I say that purely because GJBS, to my knowledge, has not a lot of expertise in road construction and that is why I thought maybe it was not. But let us just say what I said, again. I am not sure who the contractor who has taken over is but at the end of the day I do not know here on my feet today what will happen after the eight weeks. That is part of the overall situation with the post Haymills situation and we shall have to discuss this at a later stage. I cannot forecast what will happen. But what I do say again is what I said before, if the Government was satisfied with an end of July target date for this project I do not see that there will be a lot of encouragement for the Government to suddenly say, let us finish by Christmas. But I may be wrong.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. But I mean they have got a possibility now, that would not exist if they were tied into a contractor with a fixed contract with a fixed date.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

At a cost!

HON J J BOSSANO:

Surely, not at the kind of cost that the contractor puts to the Government. If the hon Member is telling us that it may well be the case that the thing is almost being done by direct labour, because at the end of the day what you have done is take the people who have been made redundant and offered them a contract to complete the work there, they are now able, surely, if they choose to, do things that would not be possible even if they were persuaded without the contractor that had originally been engaged being able to extract a penalty or a price. So, would the hon Member be able to confirm, one way or the other, whether it is the Government company that is still there or whether it has gone out to somebody else? Would he be able to do that when we come back tomorrow and tell us which way it is?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I can try to do that.

.....

MR SPEAKER:

The Hon the Minister for the Environment and Tourism.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Mr Speaker with your permission, I would like to go back to questions, the last questions that were answered 913 to 920 of 2009 where I undertook to give further information to the Leader of the Opposition in respect of the Trafalgar interchange and the contractor involved. I have been able to establish the actual situation and it is as follows. On the demise or disappearance of Haymills, the contract has been subsumed or taken over by GJBS as a whole. GJBS has passed it on to its subsidiary company, fully owned subsidiary company, the Gibraltar Construction Company. The Gibraltar Construction Company has in fact carried on the same situation for all practical purposes that existed under Haymills in that Haymills had subcontracted the work to Topgem. So effectively, the Gibraltar Construction Company have taken the same workforce or the same subcontractor Topgem with them with the same workforce to carry out the work. With the added, not changed, but the added factor that the senior management people from Haymills who were directly involved with the project have been re-deployed, extracted, are now working on the Trafalgar Interchange as they were under Haymills. So effectively you have no or very little change. The same workforce, the same management team on site. The only thing that changes is the headline of the contract name of the contractor undertaking the work.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful to the hon Member for coming back with that information. Can I ask him is it then the case that the senior management is working for the Gibraltar General Construction Company but there was no workforce of Haymills on that project and therefore all the workforce is in fact in Topgem. That is how I have understood it. Is that the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct, as far as the workforce of Topgem is concerned in respect of the management team, previously with Haymills, whether it is employed by GJBS or by the construction company, I am not sure, but effectively it is the same thing. I presume the construction company.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member able to confirm and I understand he indicated as much yesterday, I am not sure whether he was absolutely certain, that as a result of these changes it would not affect the cost price to the Government. In terms of the tender that was awarded to Haymills initially and that when the contract was subsumed by GJBS or the subsidiary, I assume that that will include for the same cost. Can the hon Member confirm that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I can confirm that. As I say, there was an existing contract with Haymills. That contract, without any change, has been passed over to GJBS. So nothing changes.

HON G H LICUDI:

We assume also that completion dates are also the same?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. I also did a little bit of investigation into that so as to make sure the information I had given yesterday was absolutely correct, and I can add to what I said yesterday..... First of all let me say yes to the question of the hon Member that the final date June, or whatever it is, remains unchanged. When such a date is arrived at, I am not sure whether I made this absolutely clear yesterday, this date is arrived at before the tender is published and before a contractor is appointed and it is arrived at by the Government's advisers, in this case the Technical Services Department, and in this particular case with the advice to the Technical Services Department of external consultants. They look at the work involved and they are the ones who make the estimates of how long the period should be, how long it should take and all the other technical specifications of the project. This goes into the tender documentation and the contractor bidders for the tenders work towards those specifications. So you do not have one contractor saying, I can do it for 'x' pounds in 'y' months and another one doing it for 'a' pounds in 'b' months. They are all working to the same time period, in other words, on a level playing field. So that contract period is established before one starts. Secondly, in terms of trying to shorten it, as was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, the top priority in this project, like in the south end of Main Street, has been to maintain traffic flows and that has been a key factor in determining the period concerned. There is no doubt that if the traffic flow could be stopped then the period of the contract could be shortened. But if the hon Member will stop a moment and think he will realise that Gibraltar's traffic flow system is such that if you are travelling north to south or south to north for long enough there are two points in Gibraltar that you have to go through. One of them is the sundial roundabout and the other one is the Trafalgar, what I would call the Trafalgar roundabout as it used to be, using the whole of the Trafalgar, the cinema and the Trafalgar bar and the hotel as a roundabout. So, all traffic has to go through those two points. So stopping traffic at any given point at Trafalgar would be unthinkable. So that has had to be maintained and that has been a key factor in the length of the contract. Finally, a smaller factor but one that is always important is that I am told that in working out the contract period, attention is paid and a factor that is taken into account is the number of people that can work in the space available. So if we are planting a flower bed the size of that table, obviously you can have one, two or three people but you cannot have twenty five. So there is..... Well you can, but 20 would be sitting and watching the other five, work. So just adding human resources does not necessarily speed up the..... There is a law of diminishing return. Once you get to a certain point, adding extra human resources does not improve the situation and in arriving at the tender specifications that is one of the things taken into account on what the limiting numbers should be.

HON G H LICUDI:

In arriving at those tender specifications, is it correct that the technical side of the Government also advises as to, before any tenders are received, what the estimated cost should be so that the Government has an idea as to what it should pay. What would be value for money in these projects?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed. That is part of the process. The Quantity Surveyors, on behalf of the Government, do provide estimates of what the costs should be but market forces at the end of the day, dominate. In a situation where the QS's, be they Government or be they independent, decide the cost of the project is 'x', if one goes to tender and the tender produces 'x plus' and there are five tenders and they are all 'x plus' whatever the QS's have said, one then has the decision whether to accept 'x plus' or whether not to agree on the project. Fortunately, sometimes it is 'x plus' and other times it is 'x minus', but you are in the hand of market forces when it comes to a tender process.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is it not correct that it is certainly true but only to a certain extent. Yesterday we had the example of, I understand it was in connection with the relocation of the bin area in Tankerville where a tender had been received which was considered by the hon Member to be too high and therefore there was a renegotiation process. In this particular case where we do not have a multitude, apparently of tenderers for these works, for example in the works to the north of Referendum Gates towards Convent Place. The information given yesterday by the hon Member was that there was one tender of around £2 million and for the Trafalgar interchange there were two tenders; one for almost £3 million which was the Haymills one that was awarded and the other one for over £3 million. Is the hon Member able to say whether these amounts, given the limitations in the amounts of tender that were received, constitute value for money, having regard to the Government's own estimates?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will answer that question in two parts. The short answer is no I do not know. Ministers do not get involved in the tender process so I do not know what the QS's estimates were and how they bear relationship to what the tender figures have been. But as I did yesterday, let me say that, even if I knew, even if I had advance notice of the question and I had been told that, even if I knew, I would not give those figures publicly because all that that does is give information to, would be, tenderers for future projects of the thinking and the calculations of the Government. So if the Government's QS's come to a figure of so much and the tenderers are going below it, it will influence their thinking the next time they prepare a tender. So I would not release those figures.

HON G H LICUDI:

I laugh because the question was based on the assumption that these figures appear to be quite high for a limited amount of road stretch in Gibraltar, barely a few hundred metres, and one would have thought that the Government's estimates would have been less than the amounts tendered and therefore the question was aimed, primarily at ascertaining, whether in fact these were value for money or whether the Government had the opportunity of renegotiating, but negotiating it down. Not because the Government's estimates would have been £4 million or £5 million for works of £2 million but on the assumption that the Government's estimates would have been much less. In that case, certainly, the information to future bidders would be, hang on a second, the Government considers that these works have been

overpriced so do not do the same for future projects. So there is a public interest in publishing that information.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Be that as it may. For the reasons I said before, we do not publish that information but the hon Member can rest assured that the process as he has described it, is actually what takes place. When the tenders come in, the tender board has sitting on it, as advisers, technical people who evaluate..... The evaluation has happened before but who then advise the board on whether it is value for money or whether it is not. On the assumption that it is value for money, then fine. Obviously no problem, the lowest tender is chosen. On the assumption that it is not value for money, then there are two, more than two possibly. But there are a number of courses open to the Government: (1) Not to award the tender and not to carry on with the project; and (2) To make the award, in principle, to usually the lowest tenderer and then undertake a process of negotiation with the lowest tenderer to try and lower the price. Having awarded to the lowest tenderer that is then legally correct and you can then say to the..... and it happens quite often that you then say to the successful tenderer, you bid for so much, Government is prepared to do it and then a negotiation process starts to bring the price down to a level acceptable to the Government. So if it is not considered value for money it is not done, unless it is essential; and if it is considered value for money it is done; and if it is not value for money an attempt is made to reduce it anyway.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand and I agree entirely that that is the theory. My main interest is in the practice. In practice, does that actually happen and in this particular case, given the limited numbers of tenders received, did the Government consider that there was a need to negotiate the prices down?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware whether there was a negotiation down in this particular case. As I say, there usually is and there probably would have been in this case but I do not know whether there was.

NO. 921 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether Dudley Ward Tunnel will reopen to vehicular traffic before the eighth anniversary of its closure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 922 to 926 of 2009.

NO. 922 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether the tender or tenders for all the works necessary to reopen Dudley Ward Tunnel have now been awarded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 921, 923 to 926 of 2009.

NO. 923 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government give details of all the bidders and of the successful bidder for the removal of the rubble from the area near Dudley Ward Tunnel and depositing of the same in the area between Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 921, 922 and 924 to 926 of 2009.

NO. 924 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government give details of all bidders and of the successful bidder for the works necessary to reopen Dudley Ward Tunnel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 921 to 923, 925 and 926 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 925 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state the cost of moving all the rubble from the area near Dudley Ward Tunnel and depositing the same in the area between Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 921 to 924 and 926 of 2009.

NO. 926 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state why it has been necessary to remove all the rubble from the area near Dudley Ward Tunnel and deposit the same in the area between Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The hon Member has been informed in answers to previous questions that Dudley Ward Tunnel would reopen within 18 months from the start of works. The tunnel is now expected to reopen in July 2010 which is only 14 months after the start of the works in June 2009 and therefore well ahead of the completion date originally predicted.

As stated in answer to Question No. 502 of 2009, the works necessary to re-open Dudley Ward Tunnel comprise three separate contracts.

The first contract for the construction of rockfall catch fences was awarded in May 2009 to CAN Geotechnical Ltd in the sum of £991,568.52.

Three other bids were received in the sums of £1,241,605.40, £1,333,010.40, and £1,703,162.93.

The second contract for the advance earthworks and demolitions, which includes the removal of rubble from the area near Dudley Ward Tunnel, was awarded in July 2009 to Sharrock Shand in the sum of £1,954,707.32.

One other bid was received in the sum of £2,322,699.24.

The third contract for the construction of the rockfall canopy and road was put out to tender in August 2009. It is currently under consideration as part of the tender process and hence no further details can be given at this stage.

As stated in my reply to Question No. 502 of 2009, the Dudley Ward Tunnel project as originally designed was reappraised due to technical issues, amongst which was a change in the physical characteristics of the site arising from the designation of the area as a facility to receive construction rubble. The new design incorporates the material deposited there into the project, using it as part of the rockfall protection strategy for the area. However, not all the rubble can be retained hence the need to deal with the surplus which has resulted in it being removed from site. The operation

is included in the advance earthworks and demolition contract and will cost £1,160,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 921 TO 926 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand, I hope I am not wrong with this, but this is the first time that we have a date for the reopening of the tunnel. Previously we have always been told 18 months from whenever the contracts are awarded. The last time this matter was raised in the House we were told that one of the contracts had been awarded but that other contracts were in the pipeline, therefore a definite date could not be given. So it certainly welcome that we have a definite date for opening. Unfortunately the answer to the question whether it will open before the eighth anniversary of its closure is no. The tunnel will have been closed for over eight years, and that is regrettable. It has caused a great deal of inconvenience to the motoring public in Gibraltar and that will continue. So, on the one hand, we welcome we have a date but we do not welcome the fact that it has taken so long and it is symptomatic of the way this Government have been doing things, particularly with regards to traffic matters and the lack of priority which has been given. The hon Member mentioned three contracts. One for £990,000; the other one £1,900,000; and the third one, where the tender process closed in August 2009 and is under consideration. Can the hon Member confirm, first of all, that the granting of that tender will have no effect on the time-scale in terms of the reopening of the tunnel?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. I can confirm that.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member just repeat, because I missed it, what that third tender is for?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The third contract is for the construction of the rockfall canopy and road, and although I said a moment ago that I can confirm that the date would not be affected, that is of course subject to all other..... The contract itself, assuming that everything moves at the way it is supposed to move, will not affect the final date but in a project of this size any factor can affect the final date. But the contract is..... The third contract is designed to take the final date into account.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member also mentioned a separate figure of £1,160,000 or £1,100,060. Is that an amount that is included in the other figures that were given? In contract number two awarded to Sharrock Shand of £1,954,000, I understood that that included the removal of rubble. So is the £1 million figure which was given

subsequently already included as part of the £1,900,000 or is it a separate amount that has to be paid?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed. The figure of £1,160,000 is included in the second contract the one for the advance earthworks and demolitions.

HON G H LICUDI:

So the situation, and the hon Member will confirm if this is correct, is that there has been rubble deposited there which is not to be used for this particular project and it is costing over £1 million pounds simply to move the rubble from one area to another. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Putting it in those terms, I suppose it is. The rubble has been deposited there in conjunction with the redesign of the road taking place and once the final design has been arrived at, part of that rubble is not necessary. It cannot be just tipped over the cliff and dumped into the sea as the hon Members used to do when they were in office. The EU regulations and laws have been tightened up considerably since then and therefore has to be moved and is being moved to a place where it does not contravene EU regulations.

HON G H LICUDI:

This is not a project that the Government have undertaken in any haste. It is a project that has been eight years in the planning and in its making and we do not still have the project finalised. Why is it that we have had systematic depositing of rubble in that area when it was not necessary for this project and there is now a huge burden to the tax payer of over £1 million in simply moving rubble from 'a' to 'b' when that rubble could have been put in place 'b' in the first place.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. That is the whole point. It would not have been put in place 'b' in the first place. Gibraltar is limited in the number of places where it can deposit rubble, firstly. Secondly, the amount of rubble necessary for the works was not established until a given point in time and, in parallel, negotiations were being carried out to put the rubble elsewhere and that is the combination of factors that came into play in the way things developed.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member says that there are limited number of places where rubble can be deposited. The hon Member will know that the place where the rubble is being deposited now has been available for the last twelve years. In fact ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is not correct.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well perhaps the hon Member will correct me if I am wrong. As I understand it, in the area between Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay there has been a mountain of rubble there for the last twelve years and all that is being done now is there is a bigger mountain of rubble in that area.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the hon Member is not correct in everything that he says. The area to which he is referring is the area of the East Side development. Am I correct?

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That area is the subject of a commercial deal for development between the Government and the East Side developers of which I am not directly involved. But at a given point in time that area was handed over or became part of the arrangements of the East Side development, and therefore it was no longer open to the Government as an area on which to deposit rubble. So at a given point in time, a date which I do not have in front of me, as from that point it was not possible for the Government to continue to deposit rubble in that area.

HON G H LICUDI

Why is it that that area was not available previously for depositing rubble and it is available now?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, if he had listened to the answer to the question instead of talking to his colleague next to him he would have heard the answer. I have just told him.

HON G H LICUDI:

No. I have heard the answer. The hon Member has said that there was a commercial deal being done or done. It was available to developers and is now available to the Government. The question is why was it not available to the Government before because there was a commercial development thing going on and why is it available now. The hon Member has not answered the question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes he has. So I will say again what I said before because obviously he did not hear me. The area was handed over to the East Side developer and therefore it was no longer available to the Government. Since then, recently, a renegotiation has taken place with the East Side developer which has allowed the Government to deposit more rubble there.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, this is new information that the hon Member is giving now and did not give previously.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I gave it two minutes ago.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does this mean..... is that area now firmly back in the Government's hands?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, that is not what I have said.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say when these three negotiations with the owners of the site took place and was anything paid to the owners for being allowed to use their side to deposit rubble?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, as I indicated in answer to a previous supplementary, I do not know the date, I do not have it here in front of me so I cannot tell him when. I can say recently but do not ask me what recently means. It does not mean yesterday and it does not mean five years ago. I am not aware, again, because I have not been involved in the details of whatever arrangements have been made.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member know how long the rubble has been deposited? That would give us an indication of when it was ... Have they been putting rubble there for six months or for a year, or.....?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Off the top of my head, for a couple of months.

NO. 927 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS AT DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD

Can Government give details of all the bidders and of the successful bidder for the road works at Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 928 to 931 of 2009.

NO. 928 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS AT DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state when the road works to the whole of Devil's Tower Road will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 927 and 929 to 931 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 929 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS AT DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state the total cost of the road works to the whole of Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 927, 928, 930 and 931 of 2009.

NO. 930 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS AT DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state the date when the road works at Devil's Tower Road in the area of the sundial roundabout started?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 927 to 929 and 931 of 2009.

NO. 931 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS AT DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state when the road works at Devil's Tower Road in the area of the sundial roundabout will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Work on the Devil's Tower Road project, which extends from the sundial roundabout up to the new roundabout to be constructed in the area of the Aerial Farm, started on the 16 June 2009. Completion of the full project is programmed for June 2011. This project is being undertaken by AMCO under the Government's Annual Highway Maintenance Term Contract. The total value of the work will be in the order of £7 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 927 TO 931 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Given the nature of the works and that smaller works which we discussed yesterday and then earlier this morning in the area of Referendum Gates have come out to tender, is there any reason why this particular project did not come out to tender?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Once again, I am not involved in those processes but my understanding is that it was thought that as part of the Highways Term Contract it could be that the contract could be negotiated in a better way than through the complete tender process.

HON G H LICUDI:

One of the questions 931 of 2009 was specific about the completion of the works in the area of the sundial roundabout. The reason for that is that works for this project started near the sundial roundabout and, as I understand it, they are working their way towards Eastern Beach along Devil's Tower Road. Is the hon Member aware of the serious traffic problems that there are. I assume that the hon Member is aware of the serious traffic problems that are being created, in particular because in the area of the roundabout the traffic now has to converge onto one lane creating a bottle neck and therefore creating a great deal of congestion as happened during the summer and as apparently will happen for the next two years. So the question was specific. Whether there was any completion date in respect of the works near the sundial roundabout to open up that bottle neck and therefore relieve congestion in the area.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. The work is divided into four main phases primarily for traffic management purposes. The Government does give a lot of thought to these matters before they come into play and what actually happens on the ground is the result of what the Government are advised by the technical people, is the best option to cause the minimum of inconvenience. The first phase to which the hon Member refers, the sundial roundabout up to the Lady Williams Centre is scheduled to be completed by May 2010. The length is such as the hon gentleman will see is that it was unavoidable that we would eat into a part of a summer, whether it be summer 2009 or summer 2010. In the interest of the project as much as anything else, it was decided to eat into this summer but most of the work will be done over the winter period where the traffic congestion in the area is likely to be less. But the Government is confident that the people of Gibraltar are aware of the magnitude of this project. They are aware of the purposes behind it and they are aware that when the project is finished it will be worth the relatively minor inconvenience that is being suffered now at the sundial when traffic flows through Devil's Tower Road and under the tunnel to and from the Spanish frontier will be immeasurably improved including traffic to the new magnificent air terminal that the Government is building.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, we will leave that latter debate about the air terminal for another day. The hon Member I am sure is not intending, although clearly he recognises that there is inconvenience, to describe it as, relatively minor inconvenience, is to belittle ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Relatively minor.

HON G H LICUDI:

Relatively minor. That is very subjective but it is certainly not, either relatively or otherwise, it is not minor inconvenience. It is a great deal of inconvenience. The hon Member says that the works are divided into four phases with a first being completed in 2010 and stretching up to the Lady Williams Centre. Can the hon Member give details of the other three phases?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, but not the completion dates. So I do not have that information. The second phase will proceed..... Sorry the other phases, not the second phase, the remaining three phases will be proceeding concurrently. The second phase will be extending from the aerial farm to the motor vehicle showroom in that area, the Bassadone showroom. The third phase is from the Lady Williams Centre to the hostel; and the fourth phase is from the hostel to the Bassadone showroom. I anticipate the question that the hon Member is going to ask me what happens beyond Bassadone's. I am afraid I do not have that information in front of me. I am not sure whether Bassadone's showroom includes all the way to the roundabout or whether it does not.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand the hon Member has given the information, the aerial farm is beyond Bassadone Motors. So as I understand it, first the area of the sundial has been dealt with and then the area of Eastern Beach and then the bits in between is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the way I understand the information that has been provided to me is that the first phase, the sundial phase, is proceeding on its own and that once that is finished the other phases will proceed concurrently. Then I have given him the details of the phases. From Bassadone's garage onwards is considered, I am told, part of the new road project. From there onto the frontier and that is why this..... In other words the Devil's Tower Road project as such by name ends at the Bassadone showroom. From there the roundabout is part of the next one.

HON G H LICUDI:

But is it not the case that the other part which is the link between that roundabout towards the airport, that will also take place concurrently with phases 2, 3 and 4?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the information I have given the hon Member is in relation to the project from the sundial as far as the new roundabout at the aerial farm but falling short of it. In other words up to the Bassadone showroom. From Bassadone showroom onwards, including the new roundabout, that is a different project altogether and I have been given no information on that and I do not have any information in front of me.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, I understand that and although the hon Member said that he does not have the information, maybe somebody else does. Given that this is a project that will continue until 2011 one assumes that we do not have to wait for the completion of Devil's Tower Road in order to start the next phase which is from the aerial farm parallel to Eastern Beach. Does the hon Member know whether that will take place concurrently with these works?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The questions specifically refer to the Devil's Tower Road and the answers have referred to the Devil's Tower Road project. In the way this is structured, the remaining road is a new project. As far as I am concerned, I need notice of questions relating to..... I am not saying it is not available but I do not have the information. My colleague was about to intervene, he may have further information but I certainly do not.

HON J J HOLLLIDAY:

No, all I just wanted to add to that was that the phase that is going on from the roundabout to the tunnel is all part of the tunnel project and is already on-going and will be constructed..... I do not have the actual phasing or the timetabling but I just wanted to clarify that it is not part of the Devil's Tower Road project but part of the road with the tunnel project.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes but, presumably, both projects are being co-ordinated rather than the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing and I am not suggesting that that is the case. I am just trying to find out that there is an element of co-ordination so that both projects are completed at the same time.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, if the hon Member takes a drive down Eastern Beach Road he will see that there is already preparatory work going on for the new road. So obviously there is an element of parallelism taking place. All we are saying to the hon Member is that it is a different project and we need notice of the question. That is all we are saying. Not that it is not happening.

NO. 932 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WORKS AT TRANSPORT ROAD

Can Government state whether and when it proposes to carry out road works to Transport Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The resurfacing of Transport Road has been included in the highway maintenance schedule for 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 932 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer again suggests a lack of urgency and lack of priority being given. Transport Road is a relatively very short stretch of road. The hon Member will recall that this is an issue which I raised some time ago in this Parliament and although I was mocked and derided by Members opposite because I described it as Transport Lane and therefore got my lanes and my roads wrong, the hon Member certainly got the gist at the time of the concerns that were being expressed in respect of that particular stretch of road and the dangerous nature of that road. Given that those concerns appear to have fallen on deaf ears, does the hon Member actually know what the state of the road is? Has he been there? Does he know that it is in a dangerous state? Does he know that only a couple of weeks ago a motor cycle fell over and that it is a particularly perilous area for mothers with buggies given the construction works and the pot holes that exist, and there is an urgent need of resurfacing of barely fifty metres.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

First of all let me say that I totally disagree, from the information made available to me, with the statements just made by the hon Member which are inaccurate, alarmist and not factual.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the Member give way because he has suggested that I have given information which is not factual? The information I have given is information which is given to us in respect of accidents which happened quite recently. That as far as I am concerned is factual information and suggests that there is a problem with the road.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order. The hon Minister should be allowed to conclude his answer. I am permitting supplementaries. So allow the Minister to complete.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed, the fact that there may have been an accident there is factual and not is that what I meant. What I meant was and I am quoting him. He has said the "dangerous state of that particular road".....

HON F R PICARDO:

Perilous!

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

He has said it is "particularly perilous" and he has said that it is in "urgent need of repair" and those are the statements that I have said are not factual that they are alarmist and that I am challenging. The hon Member did indeed raise the matter back in 2008 I think, Question No. 192 of 2008 and he was told then what I am about to tell him now, that it was considered necessary to await the completion of the construction works in that area before undertaking the resurfacing of the road otherwise you have a chicken and egg situation. You resurface the road before the construction works in the area are finished. The road gets damaged again and you have to put the expense to the tax payer again of resurfacing the road. Now, in the meantime, and again the hon Member asked that question and he was given the answer so he should not make the alarmist statement he has made. He was told that the condition of the road continues to be monitored and kept in a reasonably safe state until the resurfacing is undertaken and this was told to him in answer to Question No. 192..... well a number of questions culminating in Question No. 192 of 2009, I think Question Nos. 183 to 192 of 2009. He was told then and he asked how is the issue of safety determined and I told him then and I tell him now, because he asks me whether I have gone down, whether I have looked at the pot holes, whether I have looked at the road, the short answer is, yes I have been there because I have used the road as a road user. Yes, I am aware of the condition it is in but I do not go there to check the pot holes. That is up to what I said to him back in 2008. It is ascertained and certified by the technical people in the field. That is the Highways Section of the Department of Technical Services and they are the ones who do the monitoring and they are the ones who have not said, as the hon Member has said, that there is an urgent need. If there had been an urgent need from the technical point of view, then the Government would have repaired it even if it had needed to repair it twice due to the construction.

HON C G BELTRAN:

It is called scare mongering.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

So in a nutshell..... I know it is a pet subject for the hon Member but in a nutshell I refute the statement made in terms of danger as particularly perilous. The Government have this situation under control. It is being continuously monitored and the resurfacing will be undertaken as part of the 2010 works.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not in my nature to be alarmist or scare mongering. It is in my nature to try and give facts and to draw from those facts. It is a fact that we get constant reports and that is why I posed the question initially in 2008 which, at the time, the hon Member did not give the information that he is now purporting that he gave because.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is in Hansard. What do you mean I did not give the information?

HON G H LICUDI:

As I recall the debate on the first occasion when the name was given as something else. There was little or no information given at all and therefore it was a matter which, certainly we got the impression the Government was not taking seriously from a political point of view, and is this not a case. It is certainly not a case of being alarmist, it is a case of bringing to this Parliament concerns and reports which are given to us by the citizens and the residents of the area who use this road on a daily basis and they are concerned. They are concerned about the state of the road and although there is a development beside it, will the hon Member not agree that if there is a road that is in need of repair and there is a development beside it which is going to take maybe one, two, three, five years, one does not wait until everything is done in order to do the necessary works. If a resurfacing has to take place over a weekend and then repeated in two years time then that is what needs to happen and what the hon Member cannot do and he does constantly is shirk political responsibility, simply by hiding behind officials and technical officials in his department. What the hon Member should do, is take a grip of the situation, grasp that political responsibility and say that what needs to be done in Gibraltar is done and political decisions are taken. That is not what we get from this Government.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This hon Member does not shield behind technical officials. On the contrary, he does what the hon Member across the way does not do. He does not rely on statements made by those who are not qualified. He does not rely on his own impressions when he is not a technical expert.

HON G H LICUDI:

A hole is a hole.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We agree.....

HON G H LICUDI:

A hole is a hole and quite a big hole.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The issue here is not as it has been meted out to me. The issue here is not whether the road needs to be resurfaced. The Government accept that the road needs to be resurfaced and I have said so and I have said that it is going to be done. The issue here is that since the answer to Question No. 183 of 2008, the hon Member opposite has been saying that there is an “urgent need” to do it. The Government are telling them that it is monitoring the situation and that there is no urgency of the extent that the hon Member is saying. There is a need to do it. No one is disputing. So the bottom line is, and after that I will sit down, the Government accept there is a need for resurfacing, it is monitoring the situation. It does not accept that there is an urgent need for repairs as the hon Member has said. It does not accept that it is particularly perilous and therefore the resurfacing will be done once the works are completed to avoid further damage to the road and as part of the contract.

HON G H LICUDI:

It seems that urgency is a matter of perspective and there is a totally different perspective from the Government’s point of view towards everybody else Gibraltar might see as urgent and, certainly, if the hon Member had been the one who fell off his bike a couple of years ago after going through a hole, after all a hole is a hole in the road and you do not have to be a technical expert to see that there is a hole in the road and if the hon Member had fallen off his bike, then his perception of urgency might be slightly different. Will the hon Member confirm that that resurfacing will be done before the eighth anniversary of the time when I first raised it in this House?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not think it is worth insulting the intelligence of the listeners by answering the question.

NO. 933 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HOTEL STAYS

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 934 to 940 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 934 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR OFFICE IN MADRID

Can Government give the cost to date of the Gibraltar office in Madrid, with a breakdown by financial year since it opened?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 933 and 935 to 940 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 935 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CITY UNDER SIEGE EXHIBITION

Is Government now in a position to say what the estimated cost of repairing the City Under Siege exhibition is, give the date when the damage was caused and list what has been damaged and needs to be repaired?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 933, 934 and 936 to 940 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 936 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF THE UPPER ROCK

Has Government now taken a policy decision to involve the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 933 to 935 and 937 to 940 of 2009.

NO. 937 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR'S TOURISM ASSETS

Can Government say whether they are considering the matter or whether they have taken a decision to franchise the operation of Gibraltar's tourism assets to the private sector and if so which assets would be affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 933 to 936 and 938 to 940 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 938 OF 2009

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 933 to 937, 939 and 940 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 939 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM MINISTER’S TRAVEL AWAY FROM GIBRALTAR

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. 933 to 938 and 940 of 2009.

NO. 940 OF 2009

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

An estimate provided by the specialist company from the UK who originally manufactured the City Under Siege exhibits and who maintain them, shows that the cost of repairs will be just over £15,000.

The following items were damaged and are in need of repair:

- 1. The main door which was completely pulled off its hinges.
- 2. Wooden fences were broken in three separate areas.
- 3. Clay pots were broken.
- 4. Wooden information panels were kicked in and broken.
- 5. A wooden cart carrying some of the display figures was damaged, with the axle ripped off the main structure; and
- 6. And by far the most expensive item of repair is that eight of the static display figures have been extensively damaged.

The Government have not taken a policy decision to involve the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock, and the Government are not considering the matter of franchising the operation of Gibraltar's tourism assets to the private sector, and therefore, have not taken a decision to do so.

One meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council has been held on 7th July 2009.

I have been away from Gibraltar once between 29th June and 1st July, to attend a meeting of the UK GTA and meetings for the marketing budget for the GTA in London during the dates I have given. The remainder of the information requested by the hon Member is statistical and is contained in the schedules which I now hand over to him.

Answer to Question 936 and 937

The Government has not taken a policy decision to involve the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock.

The Government is not considering the matter of franchising the operation of Gibraltar's tourism assets to the private sector and therefore have not taken a decision to do so.

Answer to Question 938

One meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council has been held on 7th July 2009.

Answer to Question 933, 934, 939 and 940

The remainder of the information requested by the Hon Member is statistical and is contained in the schedules which I now hand over to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 940

Answer to Question 933 of 2009

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
May 2009	1413	2	2	2.0	-	-	-	-
June 2009	1810	29	28	5.3	1	4.0	-	-
July 2009	1252	3	-	-	3	3.0	-	-

b) Not stayed at Hotel

	Total Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
May 2009	1411	24	25	1319	-	-	43
June 2009	1781	248	80	1267	-	6	180
July 2009	1249	-	-	1249	-	-	-

Answer To Question 940

Answer to Question 934 of 2009

MADRID OFFICE COSTS

	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
OFFICE RENT	£15,695.47	£14,956.58	£15,609.72	£15,195.43	£17,945.45	£19,618.08	£21,843.04	£36,697.04	£39,652.86	£47,329.69	£32,695.14
REFURBISHMENT OF NEW OFFICE							£31,443.66	£56,394.87			
SALARIES	£39,560.50	£39,208.73	£35,298.15	£18,536.29	£32,437.98	£43,853.73	£26,710.34	£34,355.78	£33,007.37	£27,945.67	£4,804.35
CORPORATE TAXES						£4,750.39	£7,676.96	£4,433.84	£7,525.05	£11,731.73	£3,395.92
PAYE						£4,398.27	£5,232.64	£6,296.33	£6,703.44	£4,706.97	£982.14
SOCIAL INSURANCE (1)					£9,008.35	£18,571.47	£11,186.84	£14,587.07	£14,401.81	£11,921.13	£2,074.57
GENERAL EXPENSES (2)	£27,315.25	£19,410.05	£24,491.95	£21,895.41	£30,031.30	£15,310.20	£32,387.11	£21,918.95	£18,950.29	£18,731.11	£11,912.68
TOTAL	£82,571.22	£73,575.36	£75,399.82	£55,627.13	£89,423.08	£106,502.14	£136,480.59	£174,683.88	£120,240.82	£122,366.30	£55,864.80

(1) THIS INCLUDES BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

(2) THIS RANGES FROM UTILITIES TO TRAVEL, STATIONERY ETC.

NOTE: THERE MAY BE SOME OUTSTANDING EXPENDITURE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDING LEGAL FEES, TAXES ETC IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE OFFICE.

Answer To Question 940

Answer to Question 939 of 2009

DATES	EVENT/FUNCTION	VENUE	CITY	COUNTRY
29/06/09 TO 01/07/09	MEETING OF THE UKGTA & MARKETING BUDGET MEETING	GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT OFFICE	LONDON	UK

Answer to Question 940 of 2009

MONTH	UPPER ROCK	COACH PARK	MUSEUM
April 2009	£ 281,097.22	£ 5,580.00	£1329.85
May 2009	£277,154.60	£6,390.00	£1015.42
June 2009	£273,437.61	£5,580.00	£1972.82
July 2009	£339,162.80	£5426.00	£1317.68
August	Not yet available	£4,854.00	£1383.45
September	Not yet available	£7,717.00	Not yet available
TOTAL	£1,170,852.23	£35,547.00	£7,019.22

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 933 TO 940 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government considering any proposals from the private sector in relation to the running of the Upper Rock?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already answered the question. Government are not considering and has not made policy decisions in respect of involving the private sector in the Upper Rock.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I wish to correct him, the answer was given in relation to the second question to do with the franchising but not the first question to do with the policy. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

For the avoidance of doubt, I will read that particular part of the answer again, which is in answer to Question Nos. 936 and 937 of 2009. What I said before was, "the Government have not taken a policy decision to involve the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock". That was in answer to the question that asked "has the Government now taken a policy decision to involve the private sector in the Upper Rock". That was the answer. The second answer, in reply to Question No. 937 of 2009, which was "can Government say whether they are considering the matter or whether they have taken a decision to franchise the operation of Gibraltar's tourism assets to the private sector, and if so which assets would be affected", the answer that I gave and I repeat is, "the Government are not considering the matter of franchising the operation of Gibraltar's tourism assets to the private sector, and have therefore not taken a decision to do so".

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Government are not considering franchising the assets to the private sector and have not taken a policy decision on whether or not to involve the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock. My supplementary was, "are the Government considering or are there any proposals on the table from the private sector in relation to the running of the Upper Rock".

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have replied in answer to previous questions that the Government continuously receive proposals from the private sector, from outside Gibraltar and from inside Gibraltar, for many things including tourism matters like the Upper Rock. So, there are proposals that the Government have received, but in answer to his questions whether they are being considered and whether policy decisions have been made to do it, the answer is no. They are not under active consideration and no policy decisions have been made.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government then say whether they have held discussions with any interested parties who may be interested in getting involved in the running of the Upper Rock?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

When there are proposals made, sometimes they are accompanied with meetings to explain those proposals. Now, those are not negotiations, those may be informative meetings. I do not know how the hon Member defines "discussions". If he defines "discussions" in the sense of negotiations, then the answer is no. If he defines "discussions" in the sense of providing information, then the answer, not just in tourism, but throughout the whole of the proposals to the Government, is obviously yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

He is quoted as having told one of the magazines that there have been private sector proposals in the past which are still on the table. Now, when I asked him whether these proposals were on the table, are these the ones he is referring to or is it something which is happened in the past and which is not relatively recent? When did the Government receive the proposals that are still on the table and how many are there?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not responsible for whatever I am quoted to in the media, but in reply to the hon Member's particular question, if proposals are received by the Government, the Government deal with them in a variety of ways, either they may be rejected outright, or, as is more normal, the proposer is told it is not going forward at the moment but it will be kept on file in case we need to look at it at a later stage. So, I cannot speak for every single proposal over the years, some of which have happened before my time, but specifically to the question of whether there is any proposal under consideration, or whether any policy decision has been made, the answer is no Sir, as I have already said.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are there any proposals which are still on the table? That is the question, on the table. Are there any proposals on the table and how many? That is the question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I only have one table in my office and that is the board room table and there are no papers on it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am quoting the words used by the Minister.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, correction, the words used in the magazine not by the Minister.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If it is not what he said he will presumably be writing to the magazine and correcting what they have published. What he is quoted as having said is, and this is in inverted commas, "there have been private sector proposals in the past which are still on the table. We are looking at what we would like to see and then looking at how best to do it". Now, those proposals which are still on the table, this magazine is called "Gibraltar International", are those proposals still on the table? He said this a couple of months ago, are they still on the table? The second question was, how many proposals are there and from how many different entities? Is it only one set of proposals from one company or are there more than one set of proposals?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member seems determined not to listen to what he has been told, but he seems determined to listen to what he has been told outside this House. He should concentrate on the second half of the quote attributed to me and not on the first half. The second half of the quote which he has read, is that the Government are considering the whole issue of tourism and looking at how to take things forward. In relation to "on the table", his words not mine, I cannot remember the words I used in that interview, but I will put them in words here that I can defend. That is, that when proposals, as I said a moment ago, are received by the Government, unless they are rejected out of hand, which sometimes happens, they remain on file and, therefore, in theory open. But one thing is for them to be on file and in theory open, and the other is for them to be actively pursued and considered and policy decisions made. So, proposals that may have been made over the years are on file and theoretically can be revived. But none of those proposals are actively being considered as I stand on my feet, no policy decisions have been made on any of them, as I stand on my feet.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand that the Minister is saying that no policy decision has been made. I think the difficulty lies in understanding what he meant when he gave this interview and what he is telling the House now. I think that there is a slight contradiction. But can I ask, is it the view of the Minister that the private sector should be involved in the running of the Upper Rock?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not prepared to answer that question, in the sense that whatever my view may be or not be, it is not the basis on which political decisions are made by this Government. If the Government were at some stage to consider involving the private

sector, my opinion would be one amongst ten people and, therefore, what I think now is neither here nor there and I am not prepared to answer that question.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So, when he gets quoted again as saying, I will just read the paragraph so as not to leave anything out, this has Britto believes, then inverted commas, "the private sector can often market and do things a lot better than Government agencies can. Rather than prepare a five year plan with built-in costings, Britto aims first to establish policy, including whether to involve the private sector. He is warm on the idea of franchising operation of tourism assets, in much the same way as the Government did with King's Bastion". Now, there are two issues, one is franchising the assets and the other issue is whether the private sector should be involved or not. If the Minister makes a statement, he is obviously going to be questioned on them.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have said it before and I will say it again, I am not prepared to defend in this House the statements made in the press which may be accurate or not accurate. The hon Member, better than anybody else, should know that one should never believe what one reads in newspapers. So I am not here to defend what that article says, but in answer to specific questions, I am here to defend the answers that I have given, and the answers are quite simply that there are no proposals actively under consideration, and no decisions have been made, but the Government are looking at the whole of tourism in Gibraltar, not in relation to any particular proposals from the private sector at this stage, looking at the whole situation in Gibraltar before making decisions in principle, and then at that stage is when the private sector or the public sector comes into play. At this moment in time, we are not about to rush off, as the hon Member will have been told, to hand over the Upper Rock to Mr So and So.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The only person who can get this information from is from him as quoted in the newspaper.

MR SPEAKER:

I must put a stop to this. The Minister has answered his question, the same theme several times. With respect, there has to be a limited number of times when it is quizzing him on articles appearing in the press. Supplementaries must arise from answers given in this House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer we want is, is that his view or not? If he tells us that is not his view then we take his word for it and not the newspapers. But he does not seem to be given us an answer, yes or no.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As the hon Member knows, according to Standing Orders, I do not have to give views or opinions, so that is why I said I am not prepared to do it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask this, is it the view of the Minister that the private sector can often market and do things a lot better than Government agencies can?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am sorry, there is too much talking, can he ask the question again?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the view of the Minister that the private sector can often market and do things a lot better than Government agencies can?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Again, I am being asked for an opinion, under Standing Rules, I am asked to defend something that has been written in an article. But nevertheless, as far as that statement goes, and not speaking about any particular project, and not speaking about tourism but speaking as a general principle, there is no doubt that there are some things that the private sector can do better than the public sector. In my mind there is no doubt about that. Similarly, there are some things that the public sector can do better than the private sector.

ORAL

NO. 941 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CEMETERY KEEPER POST

Can Government state if the position of Cemetery Keeper has been filled temporarily since 2005, on an acting basis, from within the Cemetery workforce, and, if so, how has the cover been provided in the workforce as a whole?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 942 of 2009.

NO. 942 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CEMETERY KEEPER POST

Can Government state when in 2005 the post of Cemetery Keeper became vacant and how the duties of the post have been carried out since?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

As given in answer to Question No. 513 of 2009, the post of Cemetery Keeper became vacant in November 2005 and the post has not been filled since then. The Superintendent of the Cemetery has been carrying out the duties during this time. The matter is subject to a review currently in progress of all issues connected with the Cemetery.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 941 AND 942 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the Superintendent has been carrying out the job of the person that was previously Cemetery Keeper for four years as well as doing his own job in the same time and from the same salary. Is that the position?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

NO. 943 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STREET CLEANSING

Can Government confirm that street cleansing is carried out using portable water rather than brackish water, and if so, what was the quantity of water used and the cost incurred in the financial year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

All street cleansing is done with water that is portable i.e. carried or taken to the location where it is required by the Government's contractor.

However, on the assumption that the question is intended to apply to POTABLE water rather than to PORTABLE water, I can confirm that wherever high pressure washing equipment needs to be used for cleansing, these streets are cleaned using potable water rather than brackish water because such high pressure washing equipment can only use potable water to avoid damage.

The quantity of water used for 2008/2009 was 3 million litres approximately and the cost was £18,500 approximately.

NO. 944 OF 2009

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PARKING AT EUROPLAZA FOR HOSPITAL USERS

Can the Government explain what they meant when they told this Parliament in June that the provision of car parking for the hospital at Europlaza “will happen very, very shortly”, given that four months have now elapsed since the answer and the car park is still not available?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As stated in Question No. 518 of 2009, the Government will be making a statement on the car park at Europlaza at the time of the announcement of the new traffic and transport policy, which is expected to be made sometime during the next 14 days.

NO. 945 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

IMPORTATION OF QUAD BIKES

Can the Government confirm that it is aware that importation of quad bikes is occurring in breach of the Import and Export Act and has the Government approved this?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government are aware that there was one temporary importation of quadbikes on 24th August 2009 for the Gibraltar Fair 2009. Government approved the importation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 945 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just ask the Minister to clarify the tense of that; one temporary importation of quad bikes. So it is one importation of more than one bike?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. There was one importation for more than one bike for the fair ground attraction for small kiddies.

HON F R PICARDO:

How many bikes were imported?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not know, but there were probably a dozen or so.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it correct to say that that importation was contrary to the Imports and Exports Act, absent consent from the Government?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well strictly speaking it was, but seeing that the quad bikes were only to be used on the fair ground for small kids and not on the public highway the Customs Authority consulted me as acting Chief Minister and recommended that this should be allowed and I agreed to that.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister is saying that Customs themselves recommended that this be allowed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Customs Authority contacted my Department. I did not speak to them directly. They spoke to one of my Private Secretaries and they said that they had this issue and whether the Government were willing to approve this and I agreed to that. I am not really privy to the conversation so I do not know whether they actually asked or whether they suggested it or whatever. But I thought it made sense to allow a small attraction of quad bikes for kids to be allowed in.

HON F R PICARDO:

I see. Can the Minister tell us whether he believed he was exercising a power that he had available to him to allow an importation to occur in breach of an Act or whether it was simply a collective turning of an institutional blind eye?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I think the spirit of the law in this respect is to not allow quad bikes for use in the public highway. The fact that this was an attraction for young kids that was not going to be used on the public highway and was meant to be here for a week or ten days, I felt that the interpretation of the law was not that it could not be allowed in.

NO. 946 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Can Government state what steps it has taken from June 2009 to date to address the problem of abandoned vehicles?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Traffic Management Division of the Department of Transport is tasked with an annual programme of identifying and removing abandoned vehicles in accordance with the Abandoned Vehicles (Removal) Regulations 2004. These vehicles are either removed to a safe place of custody or alternatively a notice is affixed to the vehicle stating that the vehicle appears to have been abandoned and that the vehicle will be disposed of or removed to a safe place of custody after 14 days unless removed by the owner.

The Traffic Management Division has removed a total of 193 abandoned vehicles from June to September. In addition Government will, when it is ready to do so, announce changes to this legislation and programme to improve its effectiveness.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 946 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

I will not ask when that announcement will be made but clearly the Minister is saying or recognising that the legislation is not working perhaps as it should in order to address this particular problem. Can the Minister tell us what the Government's position is in respect of the shortcomings of the legislation and how in the Government's view it can be improved?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What the Government recognises is the fact that the present system is very cumbersome and is not effective enough to deal with the number of abandoned vehicles that are currently on our roads and become abandoned on a daily basis. So when the Government is in a position to do so, it will be making an announcement in respect of the legislation and practice that will be put into place in order to address

the issue and have a far more effective and proactive system in place which removes cars from the public highway at very short notice.

NO. 947 OF 2009**THE HON G H LICUDI****GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – 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 June to September 2009 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The number of passengers transported and the value of fares collected by the Gibraltar Bus Company in the months of June to September 2009, are as follows:

	<u>No of Passengers</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>
JUNE	189,093	£79,074
JULY	211,357	£91,510
AUGUST	212,316	£95,869
SEPTEMBER	185,736	£79,570

NO. 948 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS STOPS

Can Government give details of all works of repair or maintenance carried out to the bus stops between June and September 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No works have been carried out during the time in question.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 948 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Dealing specifically with the bus shelters which are on the bus stops. We have had this debate in the past and, as I understood it the Minister recognised that there was a need to do something. There was a programme which was going to be implemented in order to replace or and in the meantime possibly repair and maintain those which were in a pretty bad condition. Can the Government enlighten us as to where we are with regard to that programme?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the Government have now identified the bus shelters that it intends to purchase. As you know, this is not a product that you can actually go out to tender for and to come back with anything of substance because of the peculiarities of actually having bus stops, in different locations, requiring different xxxxxx, so we basically have gone through a wide range of bus shelters. We have identified the shelters that we feel meet the criteria that we want for Gibraltar and we are now in the process of engaging the manufacturer in order to completely refurbish all bus stops in Gibraltar.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister have an idea of the timescale involved? When can we see the new bus shelters in place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I cannot give him that information today because it is too early on in the negotiations but hopefully we will have something to be able to say shortly.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister confirm what happens in the meantime because it seems that every time I ask this question about repair and maintenance the answer is no repair and maintenance has been carried out. As we understand it this has been included in the Highway Maintenance contract which the Government has awarded to a private company and there are some bus shelters which are, as I said before, in a pretty bad state either rusty or with some loose canopies. Why is it, is there a policy decision not to carry out these works when there are clearly bus shelters which are in need of repair.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government has taken a view that it would not undertake any repairs because it was in the process of renovating and putting in new bus shelters all along. On the point made about the Highway Term contract, I will have to check that because I know at one time, I think it was, but I am not sure whether it is..... It is not something that my department actually deals with but it is the Technical Services Department but I will check on that and if it was I will tap into that. I will definitely do that. But I do not think that that is the case and it is basically a situation where everything, the whole development seems to be going to happen fairly soon and delays do occur and therefore I think that..... but hopefully we are now in the last lap of a long marathon.

HON G H LICUDI:

Just in relation to the contract, this has been the subject of questions in the past and I know in fact the Minister has actually written to me on this particular issue, so the Minister will have on record a letter which he sent me specifically to do with the contract. My understanding is that there was a contract in place which the Government could tap into and given that the answers have generally been, no works are done, I was simply wondering whether there was a quality issue rather than a contractual issue?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If I have understood his question..... I am not sure what the situation is. I would like to check on this Highway Term Contract. I know it existed at the time and I do not think that it no longer applies to bus shelters but I will be checking this to make sure that we can tap into it. We will, because there are some bus shelters which could do with some work more from a health and safety aspect than just for beautification purposes.

ORAL

NO. 949 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – NEW BUS FOR ROUTE NO. 2

Can Government state what the position is in connection with the purchase of new buses for route number 2?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No bus was found suitable from the tender received in September 2007. The tender was therefore cancelled. The Gibraltar Bus Company has again carried out an exhaustive evaluation of possible vehicles and has identified two suitable vehicles. As a result of this, a new tender will shortly be issued. This will be carried out using the selective tender procedure. In other words, rather than go out to tender, both parties that have been identified will be asked to submit quotes based on specifications that will be prepared by the Gibraltar Bus Company.

NO. 950 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – BUS ROUTES

Can Government state why bus routes 2, 3 and 4 did not operate along Line Wall Road during the weekend of 5th and 6th September 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Buses travelling North bound could not use Line Wall Road due to the scheduled closure of Main Street for programmed road works. These works are on-going.

This closure at weekends does not affect south bound buses on Line Wall Road.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 950 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister saying that this is an on-going programme which will affect buses at weekends on a regular basis and if so is there a public announcement which has been or will be made as to what the alternative arrangements are and whether the alternative bus stops can be found?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

These diversions and changes have occurred on a few weekends and a public notice was issued explaining the bus routes and not just on the weekend of the 5th and 6th September 2009. It has actually occurred and affected that area of Main Street while the road works that are being undertaken in the area between the Convent and the Referendum Gate for at least four or five weekends but the public has been informed and a press release has been issued.

NO. 951 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – SCHEDULES

Can Government give details of the extent to which buses operated by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited keep to their scheduled times at each bus stop?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There are no scheduled timings for specific bus stops.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 951 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

I simply cannot understand the answer. Do buses have schedules or do they not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Buses have schedules when they start their route but then there are no actual schedules. There is a frequency depending on the route but there are no scheduled timings at each bus stop because unfortunately it would be very very difficult to maintain due to traffic flow implications, especially on some of the bus routes.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that there is a frequency, do buses generally keep to their frequency?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Definitely on departure they do but not ... I am told for example that route 2 has sort of 90% success rate. Route 3 has 90%. Route 4, 80% and Route 9, 92%. These are rough figures based on monitoring of certain bus routes that have been undertaken of late.

HON G H LICUDI:

Why is it that the Minister says that specific schedules at each bus stop..... The problem is people go to a bus stop and really do not know when the next bus is coming. That is generally the position in Gibraltar because there is no information as to whether buses do arrive at that particular bus stop. The Minister says that that would be difficult to maintain because of traffic conditions or traffic congestion. Does the Minister not know that bus stops in other places in the world, in major cities, in London, in Oxford Street, in Regent Street, have specific times when each bus is scheduled to arrive at each specific bus stop with time of arrival, even displayed now electronically; one minute, two minutes, in the same way as the underground in London. If that can happen in a place as the centre of London where there is a great deal of traffic going through. Why can it not happen in a small place like Gibraltar?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think you should wait for our announcement on our traffic and transport policy with possibly the new bus shelters having that sort of information available but I mean you can have a bus saying that, for example, the No. 3 bus will go through Line Wall every fifteen minutes and that schedule is not necessarily kept. However, the information on the bus shelters themselves will anticipate when the next bus will come, whether in five minutes or six minutes or in seven minutes but not necessarily keeping to the schedule but that information is something that is part of the negotiations that we are doing with the new bus shelters.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is this the same announcement that the Chief Minister referred to in the New Year's Message this year and said that it would happen in the next few weeks, or words to that effect?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is the same announcement. It will be worth waiting for.

HON G H LICUDI:

If the announcement was made by the Chief Minister, is the Minister saying that the Chief Minister is not to be believed when he says that something will happen in the next few weeks and now the Minister says nine months, ten months down the line, we just have to wait.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, what I have said is that we will be making an announcement in the next fourteen days.

HON G H LICUDI:

Ah..... fourteen days now.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What you have not heard my answer? I have said it twice already. Obviously you do not listen to my answers.

NO. 952 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – BUS ROUTES

Can Government state whether any new bus routes are planned?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

In this answer you will get another confirmation of the fourteen day notice. The Government are planning new bus routes as part of its traffic and transport policy, to be announced, as has already been said, during the next 14 days.

ORAL

NO. 953 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were turned down during the months of June to September 2009 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 954 and 955 of 2009.

NO. 954 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many companies have been issued with monthly weight exemption certificates between the months of June to September 2009 giving a breakdown between heavy traffic roads and other roads?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 953 and 955 of 2009.

NO. 955 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were granted during the months of June to September 2009, giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

In respect of weight exemptions only one application was turned down in June 2009.

Eighteen companies have been issued with monthly weight exemption certificates between the months of June and September 2009. All these monthly weight exemptions certificates have only been granted for heavy traffic roads.

I am also handing over to the hon Member a schedule giving a breakdown of weight exemption certificates granted during the months of June to September 2009.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 955 of 2009

2009	Cranes	Goods Vehicle [Trucks]	Motor Vehicles designed for excavation or shovelling work	Total
June	7	22	3	32
July	9	6	4	19
August	5	9	1	15
September	5	12	3	20

NO. 956 OF 2009

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) Manchester;
- (e) Madrid;
- (f) Barcelona (since flights commenced),

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. 957 and 961 to 967 of 2009.

NO. 957 OF 2009

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 (British Airways);
- (b) London Gatwick (Easyjet);
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester;
- (e) Madrid;
- (f) Barcelona (since flights commenced),

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. 956 and 961 to 967 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 958 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

ORAL

NO. 959 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

ORAL

NO. 960 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

ORAL

NO. 961 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

Can Government say whether they have been approached by Andalus Airlines with a request for a subsidy, direct or indirect, apart from the joint marketing campaign, in respect of its routes from Gibraltar to Madrid and Barcelona before the latter was suspended?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 956, 957 and 962 to 967 of 2009.

NO. 962 OF 2009

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 information supplied during 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. 956, 957, 961 and 963 to 967 of 2009.

NO. 963 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TRANSIT PASSENGERS FROM BARCELONA

Can Government say of the passengers who arrived in Gibraltar by air from Barcelona since flights commenced, 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. 956, 957, 961, 962 and 964 to 967 of 2009.

NO. 964 OF 2009

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:

- (a) Gibraltar to Madrid;
- (b) Gibraltar to Barcelona,

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 this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 956, 957, 961 to 963 and 965 to 967 of 2009.

NO. 965 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO LA LINEA FOR ARRIVING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many arriving passengers on the flights from:

- (a) Madrid to Gibraltar;
- (b) Barcelona 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. 956, 957, 961 to 964, 966 and 967 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 966 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS ON GIBRALTAR/MADRID ROUTE

What was the total number of passengers carried on the Gibraltar/Madrid route, showing inward and outward bound 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. 956, 957, 961 to 965 and 967 of 2009.

NO. 967 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS ON GIBRALTAR/BARCELONA ROUTE

What was the total number of passengers carried on the Gibraltar/Barcelona route, showing inward and outward bound on a monthly basis since flights were commenced by Andalus?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Andalus Airlines approached the Government with a request for a subsidy before it began operating the Gibraltar-Madrid service. The Government did not entertain the request. No similar request was made by Andalus before the start of the Gibraltar-Barcelona service.

The statistical information requested by the hon Member in the rest of the questions, is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 967/2009**ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 956/2009**

	June		July		August		September	
	Time Tabled	Cancelled	Time Tabled	Cancelled	Time Tabled	Cancelled	Time Tabled	Cancelled
LGW (BA)	30	0	31	0	31	0	30	0
LGW (EZY)	52	0	52	0	52	0	52	0
LTN	25	0	26	0	27	0	25	0
MAN	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0
MAD	47	5	52	4	52	6	30	4
BCN	-	-	12	0	14	0	17	7

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 957/2009

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
LGW (BA)	3	5	3	1
LGW (EZY)	16	20	4	7
Luton	2	4	3	1
Manchester	0	0	1	0
Madrid	0	2	3	2
Barcelona	0	0	1	3

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 962/2009

	Staying in Gibraltar	In Transit	Total
June	82	743	825
July	113	1073	1186
August	71	851	922
September	102	514	616

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 963/2009

	Staying in Gibraltar	In Transit	Total
July	24	208	232
August	81	314	395
September	60	122	182

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 964/2009

	(a) GIB to MAD	(b) GIB to BCN
June	6	n/a *
July	11	2
August	8	3
September	0	0

* OPS started in July

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 965/2009

	(a) GIB to MAD	(b) GIB to BCN
June	3	n/a *
July	21	0
August	20	3
September	1	0

* OPS started in July

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 966/2009

	Arriving	Departing
June	825	880
July	1186	1086
August	922	1038
September	616	642

ANSWER TO QUESTION 967/2009

	Arriving	Departing
July	232	196
August	395	447
September	182	226

Note: Ops started in July

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION NOS. 956, 957 AND 961 TO 967 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say what the procedure is in terms of the £50,000 for joint marketing? Is that money paid to the airline in advance and how does it work? What is the procedure?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. This is a budget that is part of the general advertising and marketing budget of the Gibraltar Tourist Board. It is not handled by myself or the Ministry of Transport or... Basically, this is a joint advertising and marketing budget which the Government puts on the table to all the airlines. It is not exclusive to Air Andalus. It does to Monarch as it does to British Airways and Easyjet and they are expected to put pound for pound to this. So the budget in itself is £100,000 in total. The whole idea is that there is a pre agreed marketing budget or marketing campaign agreed with the marketing people in the airline between the Tourist Board and the airlines concerned and this includes press trips to Gibraltar. It includes workshops with tour operators. It includes workshops with travel agents. It involves above the line advertising and the whole purpose of this is not only for promoting the route but actually promoting Gibraltar itself in the advert. So every single advert or every single initiative that is used under this budget is jointly agreed between the Tourist Board and the airline concerned and once that is done the payment of that is done as the spending takes place. In other words, there is no advance of money put through to the airline or given as a gift at the beginning or anything like that. This is very much paid for retrospectively once the expenditure has been incurred and approved and the evidence is supplied by the airline which is in most cases the ones that lead on a lot of the advertising, above the line advertising, in this respect because they form part of a wider campaign like British Airways or Easyjet. They have a wide, say Pan European advertising campaign and we actually target and plug into the Gibraltar route only.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it paid per airline or is it paid per route?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I beg your pardon. No. Per airline. In the case of Monarch who operate from Manchester they actually get £50,000.

NO. 968 OF 2009**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OPERATIONAL COST OF GIBRALTAR/LA LINEA BUS SERVICE**

What was the operational cost, with a breakdown, on a monthly basis of the bus service that runs between Gibraltar airport and La Linea since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The cost of providing the bus service, including the requirement by a GibAir Service Agent on the inbound bus, equates to £65.50 per round trip – the La Linea Bus Terminal, to the Gibraltar Airport and back to the La Linea Bus Terminal.

The breakdown of cost is as follows:

June	£3,144.00
July	£4,126.00
August	£2,620.00
September	£2,500.00
October (up to 4 Oct)	£ 190.50

NO. 969 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – LANDING CHARGES

Can Government list the amounts outstanding in respect of landing charges due by each of the commercial airlines that use Gibraltar airport as on 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 970 and 971 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 970 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – LANDING FEES

Can Government list the landing fees charged to each of the commercial airlines that use Gibraltar airport, showing the payments in respect of a single landing by each airline, and a breakdown giving the total amounts that have been paid in 2009 to date, the date of payment and the amount paid?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 969 and 971 of 2009.

NO. 971 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – CHARGE FOR OVERNIGHT STAY OF ANDALUS AIRLINES AIRCRAFT

Can Government say how much Andalus Airlines is charged for the overnight stay of its aircraft in Gibraltar and can they give details of the payments that have been made to date with a breakdown showing the date of payment and the amount paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The information requested by the hon Member in Question Nos. 969 and 970 of 2009 is set out in this schedule that I now hand over to him.

However, on reviewing the question as prepared last night I have noticed that there must be a clerical error and they have omitted part of the question which is in respect of Question No. 971 of 2009 when it says, ‘how much Andalus Airlines has been charged for overnight stay?’. The answer is they are not being charged for the overnight stay. So that is not included in the schedule that has been supplied to him.

In addition to that, I would just like to add because looking at the schedule to Question No. 971 of 2009, if you look at Andalus Airline, you will realise that they have started, I think it is on the second page, their are landing fees and the amount paid and you will see that it shows that there has not been any amount paid.

Since the drafting of this question, they have paid the month of April and May and they now have agreed with Terminal Management the repayment in order to bring them up to date. That follows the meeting that I had with them in Gibraltar which was announced in the media quite extensively last week where I pointed this out that they had to keep up with their monthly payments and I do not think they are used to that in Spain. I think they get slightly more relaxed and flexible payments then and now they have started to bring it in line with the rest of the other airlines.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 971**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT - LANDING FEE CHARGES****ANDALUS AIRLINES**

MONTH	LANDING FEE	AMOUNT PAID	DATE
JAN	-	-	-
FEB	-	-	-
MAR	-	-	-
APR	£ 536.31	£ -	
MAY	£ 6,302.97	£ -	
JUN	£ 5,352.48	£ -	
JUL	£ 6,695.91	£ -	
AUG	£ 6,679.98	£ -	
SEP	£ 4,837.41		
TOTAL	£ 30,405.06	£ -	

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING £ 30,405.06**BRITISH AIRWAYS**

MONTH	LANDING FEE	AMOUNT PAID	DATE
JAN	£ 9,265.95	£ 9,265.95	30-Mar-09
FEB	£ 7,418.07	£ 7,418.07	30-Apr-09
MAR	£ 9,706.68	£ 9,706.68	29-May-09
APR	£ 10,620.00	£ 10,620.00	30-Jun-09
MAY	£ 10,981.08	£ 10,981.08	30-Jul-09
JUN	£ 10,832.40	£ 10,832.40	26-Aug-09
JUL	£ 11,193.48	£ 11,193.48	30-Sep-09
AUG	£ 11,166.93		
SEP	£ 10,444.77		
TOTAL	£ 91,629.36	£ 70,017.66	

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING £ 21,611.70

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT - LANDING FEE CHARGES

EASYJET

MONTH	LANDING FEE	AMOUNT PAID	DATE
JAN	£ 12,781.17	£ 12,781.17	06-Mar-09
FEB	£ 14,257.35	£ 14,257.35	17-Apr-09
MAR	£ 17,544.24	£ 17,544.24	01-May-09
APR	£ 17,873.46	£ 17,873.46	19-Jun-09
MAY	£ 18,335.43	£ 18,335.43	24-Jul-09
JUN	£ 18,505.35	£ 18,505.35	14-Aug-09
JUL	£ 18,648.72	£ 18,648.72	18-Sep-09
AUG	£ 18,181.44		
SEP	£ 17,268.12		
TOTAL	£ 153,395.28	£ 117,945.72	

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING £ 35,449.56

MONARCH

MONTH	LANDING FEE	AMOUNT PAID	DATE
JAN	£ 11,374.16	£ 11,374.16	06-May-09
FEB	£ 11,730.03	£ 11,730.03	06-May-09
MAR	£ 15,069.89	£ 15,069.89	25-Jun-09
APR	£ 16,296.50	£ 16,296.50	29-Jul-09
MAY	£ 15,850.53		
JUN	£ 15,266.36		
JUL	£ 15,861.13		
AUG	£ 15,462.86		
SEP	£ 14,634.52		
TOTAL	£ 131,545.98	£ 54,470.58	

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING £ 77,075.40

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 971

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT - LANDING FEE CHARGES

Aircraft are charged depending on their Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW). The following is a breakdown of the different types used by the operators since January 2009

ANDALUS AIRLINES

MTOW (kgs)	AMOUNT
20000	£ 106.20
21000	£ 111.51
22000	£ 116.82

BRITISH AIRWAYS

MTOW (kgs)	AMOUNT
58000	£ 307.98
63000	£ 334.53
68000	£ 361.08

EASYJET

MTOW (kgs)	AMOUNT
60500	£ 323.91
64000	£ 339.84
66000	£ 350.46
68000	£ 361.08
77000	£ 408.87

MONARCH

MTOW (kgs)	AMOUNT
75500	£ 403.57
77000	£ 408.87
114000	£ 605.34

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 969 TO 971 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The position is then or was that Andalus Airlines had £30,000 outstanding. So they had not paid at all since they started flight to Gibraltar but they have now paid £6,500 is that right?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes that is right. They have paid the landing fees for the month of April and May and passenger tax as well which is a separate..... I just wanted to avoid a headline in Panorama saying "Andalus has not paid any landing fees per passenger" because they have paid and I just wanted to avoid that because I do not think it would be fair on all of us to treat them in this way.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the landing charges, we know they have paid £6,500 out of the £30,000 that they owed. Now in relation to being charged, the Government said the airline is not being charged for the overnight stay of its aircraft. Is the MOD charging the Government for the overnight stay of the aircraft.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. That is revenue that is dictated and approved to the Government and in fact during the time..... I was doing some research on that, at the time when the decision was taken. We are talking of £12.33 for 24 hours. So we are not talking big money here. But even in the times when the MOD were responsible for that and GB Airways used to overnight in Gibraltar, the MOD exempted them because we wanted to encourage the airlines to actually overnight in Gibraltar because it has a knock-on effect in having personnel here, in having people staying overnight. There is a knock-on effect. If we could encourage more aircraft to overnight in Gibraltar, the £12.33 per 24 hours really is irrelevant. It is really something that has been there right from the beginning for many many years and really it is relevant today.

HON C A BRUZON:

Are the security measures in place in the airport and the terminal areas the same whether or not there is an aircraft on the actual territory?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

You mean overnight?

HON C A BRUZON:

Overnight? Yes.

HON J J HOLIDAY:

Yes I believe so. That is..... the security is constant whether there is an aircraft or not.

NO. 972 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OPERATIONAL LENGTH OF THE RUNWAY

Can Government confirm why the operational length of the runway has been shortened by painting a large “X” on the surface so that aircraft do not land beyond that point?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

In order to effect the construction of the new road tunnel under the eastern end of the runway, the operational length of the runway has been shortened by 51 metres.

The first stage of the construction requires that the current services which are routed under the tunnel construction area are diverted. Amongst the services which require to be diverted are the red runway end lights and these have now been moved to their new temporary position. As a result, both military and civil regulations require that signage is put in place to indicate to pilots that the portion of the runway short of the runway end lights is no longer useable. This has been achieved by the painting of a single cross on the ground and the promotion of the changes via the NOTAM (or Notice to Airmen) system, which warns any pilot using the airfield of the change in circumstances.

Once the diversion of services is complete, the construction of the tunnel will commence and the cross will disappear as that area of runway is removed in preparation for the construction of the tunnel. When the tunnel construction is complete, the runway will be reinstated to its full length and the runway end lights restored to their original position.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 972 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the decision to invest in those changes, has any thought been given to using that opportunity to produce some extension of the runway? Given that the length of the runway can sometimes be an obstacle to larger aircraft coming in.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. There has not been consideration given to this.

NO. 973 OF 2009**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SHIP CALLS AT GIBRALTAR**

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**

Ships that have called at Gibraltar for bunkering, cargo, repairs and the tonnes of bunker fuels sold on a monthly basis, since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament on a monthly basis is as follows:

	June	July	August	September
Bunkers	607	600	617	556
Cargo	20	18	14	16
Repairs	16	9	8	8
Bunker Fuel	404,330	417,967	404,045	372,712

NO. 974 OF 2009

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**

There has not been any new bunker licences issued or no applications for bunker licences made since the last Question Time in the House.

NO. 975 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VESSELS FROM SPANISH PORTS SUPPLYING BUNKERS IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

Can Government say what procedures are in place in respect of port, customs and immigration controls for vessels who come from Spanish ports to supply bunkers to ships:

- (a) in Gibraltar's territorial waters;
- (b) inside the waters of the Port?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Procedures are the same for all vessels entering the territorial waters on international voyages. The vessels must produce:

- International Ship & Port Security Code
- Declaration of Waste
- Declaration of Health

All vessels have to be cleared in and are subject to standard immigration and customs procedures for foreign going vessels.

They are also subject to inspections by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration under Port State Control and for inspections by the Gibraltar Port Authority for bunkering activities.

NO. 976 OF 2009

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**

I do not know why I always get to answer this question but anyway the successful Calpe 2009 Conference, with a record over 200 delegates, ended on the 20th September 2009. Even though a number of invoices remain pending, it is not expected that the cost of the Conference will be in excess of budget. The Conference was organised by my colleague, the Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sport and Leisure, Edwin Reyes.

NO. 977 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

How often and on 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**

Meetings have been held as follows:

- a) Port Advisory Council – 30th June.
- b) Business and Commerce Advisory Council – 22nd September.
- c) E-Business Advisory Council – 22nd September.

NO. 978 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT FEES – INCREASES

Can Government confirm, since the last meeting of Parliament whether they have received further representations from Port Operators following their decision to increase Port Fees in May 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Gibraltar Port Authority has not received further representations from Port Operators, since the last meeting of Parliament.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 978 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether all the representations received by the Department in relation to this subject have now been answered or addressed or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well no, because the representations that were made were not considered valid by the Port Authority. They were based on false premises and the information that was supplied was not accurate when it related to things like competitive rates in other ports etc. So we did reply saying that the information that had been made available was not correct but nobody has come back with any further representations.

NO. 979 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVENUE FROM VESSELS USING EAST SIDE ANCHORAGE

Can Government say how much revenue has been collected from vessels using the east side anchorage, 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 revenue that has been collected from vessels using the east side anchorage, on a monthly basis is as follows:

June	£22,866.98
July	£31,361.85
August	£29,151.76
September	£18,913.66

NO. 980 OF 2009

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 that are still pending?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Only one party has applied for EU funding, since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	PS	Purpose of Grant
12	Gache & Co Ltd	Pending	£29,945.20p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£69,872.14p (70%)	Building works, purchase of equipment & furniture & Import Duty

NO. 981 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FERRY LINK GIBRALTAR/ALGECIRAS

Can Government say whether the renewal and establishment of the ferry link between Gibraltar and Algeciras requires any further permits or licences from the Gibraltar side or the Spanish side and if so what are they?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

In Gibraltar, the ferry operation is required to be licensed by a Port Operators Licence and a craft is required to meet the safety requirements established by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 981 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

These two conditions have not been met as yet, or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the actual application for the Port Operator Licence was published in the Gazette on 1st October 2009 dated the 23rd and that has to go to a 21 day consultation of public participation. Then there is consideration given by the Port Authority, or Licensing Committee and the various safety criteria that have to be established by the Maritime Administrator. I know that they have already been in contact with the vessel and have carried out certain surveys and things and I am told that there is no issue really of significance at this stage. Remember that in this particular case, talking about the actual Transcoma proposal, it is a new vessel so therefore it should meet all the European safety requirements.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If I remember correctly the vessel was due to start operations on the 15th. Does that meet it will not meet that deadline?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, if you remember when they announced their project in Gibraltar, I was then subsequently interviewed by GBC and I said that the 15th October was something I considered very optimistic because I know that these procedures do take longer than that. I believe that they will be issuing a statement tomorrow to the effect that the process is slightly delayed by a few weeks but they are very much committed and on track to start. Even our local operator licence will not be able to be considered until 14th October and that will not happen until probably a few days after that. So, they have not really got a licence as we speak today. We do not anticipate any problems because I think that we do want the service to start and flourish.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether there are any formalities pending on the Spanish side? Is he aware whether there are any left pending or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. My understanding is that, as at last Friday, all issues had now been resolved on the Spanish side.

NO. 982 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FERRY LINK GIBRALTAR/ALGECIRAS

Can Government say whether they have had any further contact since the last meeting of Parliament with the two Spanish entities which were interested in establishing ferry links between Gibraltar and Algeciras, and on what date was the last contact and can they confirm that one of the two entities is the one starting a service on 15 October?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There has been further contact since the last meeting of Parliament with the two Spanish entities which are interested in establishing ferry links between Gibraltar and Algeciras. The last meeting with me was on 15th September with one entity and on the 24th September with the other even though they have been in contact with officials on an on-going basis. One of these entities is the one that will be launching a service on 15th October, even though this may experience some delay as I explained at the time of the announcement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 982 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the second entity, the one that is not as advanced, are they also interested in establishing the service even though they may have a competitor on the route?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not think I am in a position to make public a lot of the information but just to say that the second operation actually includes other ports apart from Algeciras and Gibraltar and therefore they are not targeting the same type of market as the Transcoma one is. So in Gibraltar it never rains but it pours. We do not have a xxxxxx, now we have got two.

ORAL

NO. 983 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT OF ALGECIRAS – NEW ANCHORAGE AREAS IN THE BAY

Can Government say whether it was formally notified by the Port of Algeciras of its decision to establish new anchorage areas in the Bay and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Port Authority of Algeciras formally notified the Gibraltar Port Authority of the new anchorage areas in the Bay of Gibraltar on the 24th July 2009.

NO. 984 OF 2009

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**

Since the last Question Time, the Development Aid Advisory Committee has not met. It last met on 9th June 2009.

NO. 985 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID LICENCES 1/2009, 2/2009, 3/2009

Can Government say in respect of which developments the following Development Aid Licences were granted on 9 June 2009, giving the address (or the location) where the developments will be constructed:

- (a) No 1/2009 – Marina Properties Ltd – 19 houses on reclaimed land;
- (b) No 2/2009 – Ocean Village Properties Ltd – 122 apartments plus 870m² of commercial space plus landscaped gardens;
- (c) No 3/2009 – Ocean Village Marinas Ltd – 60 apartments plus 755m² of commercial space plus landscaped gardens?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Development Aid Licence No. 1/2009 issued to Marina Properties Ltd has been issued for the construction of 19 houses on reclaimed land off Queensway Quay known as The Island.

Development Aid Licence No. 2/2009 issued to Ocean Village Properties Ltd has been issued for the construction of 122 apartments plus 870m² of commercial space plus landscaped areas on the site of the former BP Garage on Glacis Road.

Development Aid Licence No 3/2009 issued to Ocean Village Marina Ltd has been issued for the construction of 60 apartments plus 755m² of commercial space plus landscaped areas on the site adjacent to the Lucas Imossi Ford garage at Waterport.

NO. 986 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID LICENCE 2/2006

Can Government say on what date Peak Developments Ltd applied for an amendment to Development Aid Licence 2/2006 to extend the completion date of the project in question to 27 February 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Peak Developments Ltd applied for an amendment to Development Aid Licence 2/2006 to extend the completion date of the project on 8th October 2008.

The expiry date of the licence was 30th November 2008.

NO. 987 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID LICENCES 3/2008 AND 4/2006

Can Government explain the background to its decision to amend Development Aid Licences 3/2008 and 4/2006 issued to Monaco Ocean Village Ltd in order to allow the transfer of the capital costs of the commercial part of the project to Ocean Village Commercial Properties Ltd?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The decision to amend Development Aid Licences 3/2008 and 4/2006 issued to Monaco Ocean Village Ltd in order to allow the transfer of the capital costs of the commercial part of the project to Ocean Village Commercial Properties Ltd, follows a request received from Monaco Ocean Village Ltd, who were in the process of splitting up their assets on a commercial and residential basis. Their commercial assets were being assigned to Ocean Village Commercial Properties Ltd. The Development Aid Advisory Committee, after considering the request and establishing that this split would not cause an increase to the financial benefits derived from Development Aid, and after noting that both companies had common beneficial ownership and were part of the same group of companies, recommended approval which was duly granted by Government.

ORAL

NO. 988 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION FOR 26/28 GEORGE'S LANE

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to Rosmel Ltd to erect a 3-storey new build development at 26/28 George's Lane and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No decision has been taken in respect of this planning application. No representations have been received and the application is currently being considered by DPC.

NO. 989 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

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**

Answered together with Question No. 990 of 2009.

NO. 990 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DETACHED VILLAS IN AREA OF MARINA BAY

Can Government say whether the application for planning permission by the developers of Ocean Village for the construction of 36 detached villas in the area of Marina Bay, has been approved and if so on what date, what is the exact location of the project and what is its surface area in square metres?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Currently there is no application for the construction of 36 detached villas in the area of Marina Bay. An application for the construction of 72 villas dates back to 20 June 2007 when DPC requested further details from the applicants but to date this has not been forthcoming.

The information requested by the hon Member in Question No. 989 of 2009 is set out in the schedule that I now hand over to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. QUES 990/2009
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN:

04/06/09 AND 04/10/09

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11169	Roy R Walker	Extending roll out canopy over front of premises.	Approved	2/2 Watergate House Casemates Square
11170	Technical Services Department	Proposed demolition of structures.	Government Project	Pumping Station Building Sir Herbert Miles Road Both Worlds
11171	Vineyards (Management) Limited	Proposed change of use from shop to a residential store.	Approved	Vineyards Estate
11172	Tiberius Holdings Limited	Proposed new roof level office extension.	Approved	237 Main Street
11173	Mr M Alecio	Proposed alterations to flat.	Approved	29 Aspen Lodge Montagu Gardens
11174	Mr Stephen Valarino	Proposed conservatory and associated works.	Pending	25A Elliot's Battery
11175	Christian Sanchez	Internal alterations.	Approved	14 Evening Primrose House Waterport Waterport Terraces
11176	BSS Limited	Proposed new rear porch.	Approved	13 Town Range
11177	Ocean Village Investments	Proposed installation of floating pontoons.	Approved	Ocean Village
11178	Monalisa Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations and new external signage.	Approved	Watgardens
11179	Mr K Mackie	Proposed internal modifications and external west façade refurbishment.	Approved	Block F Naval Hospital Road
11180	Eurolinx Gibraltar Ltd	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	26 Victoria House Main Street
11181	Gibraltar Taxi Association	Proposed extension and internal alterations.	Pending	19 Waterport Wharf
11182	L Martinez for Camelot Holdings	Proposed use of vault for churreria/cafeateria (Class A3) and associated internal alterations.	Approved	Chatham Counterguard
11183	Tiberius Holdings Ltd.	Proposed redevelopment of building with additional storey.	Approved	6/8 Library Street
11184	Ms C Ramagge	Proposed alterations to unit.	Approved	ICC Main Street
11185	Shawn Ramos	Removal of partial wall separating living room/kitchen	Approved	15 Iris House

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11186	Ocean Village Investments	Proposed construction of storage facility and sales/HQ for yachting brand (Marine Centre).	Approved	boardwalk Ocean Village
11187	Space Interiors Ltd.	Proposed shop front renewal including new signage.	Approved	235A Main Street
11188	Ocean Village Commercial	Proposed change of use from leisure to offices for part of the 4th floor.	Withdrawn	Leisure Island Building Ocean Village
11189	Mr Gregory Butcher	Proposed installation of sun/wind shade structure with invisible glazing and pergola.	Approved	42 Royal Ocean Plaza Ocean Village Avenue Ocean Village
11190	Ocean Village Investments	Proposed temporary mobile kiosks for retail.	Refused	Ocean Village
11191	Ernest Felipes	Proposed re-positioning of pedestrian doorway leading onto Western Beach.	Approved	Ex-Safeway Building Winston Churchill Avenue
11192	Mr & Mrs R Matto	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	10 The Anchorage
11193	Pablo Rojas Ruiz	Proposed division of existing office in four little offices and one common area.	Approved	Waterport Place
11194	Mr Rosendo Lima Esq	Proposed new height of boundary wall.	Approved	1 South Pavillion Court South Pavillion Road
11195	Gibtelecom Ltd	Proposed cabinet to house telecommunications equipment/terminations.	Approved	45 North Mole Road
11196	J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of single storey load bearing masonry structures, concrete water tanks, bunker and boundary walls.	Approved	British Lines Road
11197	Mr & Mrs R Roberts	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Naval Hospital Road Admiral's Place
11198	G.JBS Ltd	Demolition of building.	Government Project	Gibraltar Pilots House North Mole Road
11199	AI International Couriers Ltd	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	11/13 Engineer Lane
11200	Mr D Podesta	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Rock Rose House Waterport Terraces
11201	J.J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed advanced demolition works.	Approved	Sir Herbert Miles Road
11202	Eaton Resources Ltd	Proposed internal fitout of coffee shop.	Approved	Leisure Island Business Centre Ocean Village
11203	Rosmel Ltd	Proposed three storey new build development.	Pending	26/28 George's Lane

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11204	Ocean Village Commercial	Proposed change of use from bar/restaurant to yachting centre for international companies.	Approved	Ocean Village
11205	William Serfaty & Co Ltd.	Proposed alterations to office.	Approved	66 Main Street
11206	Government of Gibraltar	Proposed relocation and construction of new sunrise view garages and workshop.	Approved	Eastern Beach Road
11207	Mr Victor Calderon	Proposed demolition of braced steel tower.	Approved	North Mole Road
11208	Queensway Quay Marina Limited	Proposed extension of existing Sub Station.	Approved	The Tower Queensway Quay
11209	Mrs J.C. Bossino	Proposed external spiral staircase linking upper & lower garden areas, with modification & beautification of the existing parapet wall along the upper floor terrace/pool area.	Pending	30 A Battery Close Rosia Road
11210	Mr B Gallagher	Proposed alteration to Media Room.	Approved	Caleia Hotel Sir Herbert Miles Road
11211	Nicholas Cruz Esq.	Proposed alterations and extension to existing property.	Pending	17/19 Scud Hill
11212	A.V. Stagnetto Q.C.	Proposed demolition of laundry building and store.	Approved	Loreto Convent School St Bernard's Road
11213	Music Corner Ltd (Music Corner)	Proposed new shop front and security shutters.	Approved	114/116 Main Street
11214	Calms Limited	Proposed extension to shop front and interior alterations.	Pending	1 Main Street
11215	Trustees of Loreto Convent	Proposed construction of annexe consisting of 12 classrooms of east side of existing building.	Pending	Loreto Convent School St Bernard's Road
11216	Marina Properties Limited	Proposed construction of new ground level car park.	Approved	Queensway Queensway Quay
11217	Mr Justin Broton	Proposed change of use from retail outlet to residential.	Approved	14 South Barracks Ramp
11218	Hillside (Gibraltar) Ltd.	Proposed office fit out.	Approved	Waterport Place North Mole Road
11219	Dawn McHard	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Crown Daisy House North Mole Road Waterport Terraces
11220	Gilman Holdings Limited	Proposed construction of commercial premises with retail units at ground floor.	Pending	12/22 Turnbull's Lane
11221	Mrs A M Alman	Proposed interior alterations to fit out unit as a sandwich bar cafeteria.	Approved	Chatham Counterguard

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11222	Mr Y & Mrs S Stein	Proposed additional storey.	Pending	12 Mount Road
11223	Gibtelecom Ltd	Proposed interior alterations.	Approved	Mount Pleasant South Barracks Road
11224	Ocean Village Investments Ltd	Proposed floating pontoon and gangway.	Pending	Ocean Village Avenue Ocean Village
11225	Gino Jimenez	Proposed alterations and re-decoration.	Approved	79 Corks Wine Bar Irish Town
11226	WM Morrison Supermarkets	Proposed personnel escape gate from existing service yard.	Approved	Europa Avenue Morrisons
11227	Deaver Holdings Ltd.	Proposed extension to building.	Approved	30 Cornwalls Lane
11228	101 Limited	Proposed refit of unit for general offices and boardroom.	Approved	New Harbours
11229	Mr G Sheriff	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Iris House North Mole Road Waterport Terraces
11230	Andrews Kent & Stone	Proposed phase 1 demolition.	Approved	Town Range
11231	J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of single storey boat sheds.	Government Project	Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club Queensway
11232	J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of garages.	Government Project	Eastern Beach Road
11233	Mr J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of single storey life guard/stores block building.	Government Project	Northern Life Guard/Stores Block Eastern Beach Road
11234	Andrews, Kent & Stone	Proposed demolition of four storey masonry building.	Pending	47 Line Wall Road
11235	Basewell Limited	Proposed installation of new mobile concrete plant.	Pending	65A Devils Tower Road
11236	Juan Luis Duarte	Proposed alterations to flat.	Approved	Honeysuckle House North Mole Road Waterport Terraces
11237	Mr Victor Figueras	Proposed conversion of office into a fast food outlet.	Pending	3 Market Lane
11238	Mr Charles Bear Esq	Construction of extra floor over existing single-storey property including taking over of extra land to provide 2hr residential units and two-car garage.	Pending	4 Scud Hill
11239	Cloud 9 Mobile (Gibraltar) Ltd.	Proposed office refurbishment.	Pending	Ground floor Regal House Queensway
11240	J J De La Paz Consulting	Demolition of Audibert warehouse and changing room block.	Government Project	Audibert Warehouse Queensway

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11241	Mr M.L. Camilleri	Proposed alterations to flat	Approved	16 Asphodel House Waterport Terraces
11243	Emma Peralta	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	25 Bell Lane
11244	J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of electrical room.	Pending	Devils Tower Road Aerial Farm Site
11245	J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of bunker.	Pending	Bunker and Toilet Block Coaling Island
11246	Gibtelecom Ltd	Proposed installation of GSM antennas (2) for the supply of mobile telecommunications.	Approved	30 Devils Tower Road Filomena House
11247	Bristol Holdings Ltd	Proposed flat roof over existing structure and essential repairs to existing arches. New window to one arch, infill second arch, independent lightweight structure to exist.	Pending	2 Cathedral Square
11248	Susan Mir	Proposed extension to existing building.	Pending	29A/2 Hospital Ramp
11249	Mark Betridge	Proposed restaurant/Bar.	Pending	The Boardwalk Trade Winds
11250	Mark Betridge (Bridge Contracts)	Proposed internal alterations and external refurbishment.	Pending	256 Main Street
11251	HHW Holdings Limited	Proposed extension at 3rd floor with internal and external alterations.	Pending	68 Irish Town
11252	Mr B Callaghan	Proposed demolition of roof structure to Media Room.	Pending	Caleta Hotel Sir Herbert Miles Road
11253	Swerford Holdings Limited	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Waterport Place North Mole Road
11254	Mr and Mrs D Thomas	New security wall, door and adjacent roof.	Pending	11 Catalan Gardens Sir Herbert Miles Road
11255	Gibraltar Homes	Proposed alterations and repairs to Phase 1 - Mimosa Lodge.	Pending	Montagu Gardens
11256	Crestfield Properties	Conversion and alteration of existing buildings to form 4 semi-detached houses.	Pending	45 Engineer Lane
11257	Unit 3A Hadfield House	Proposed change of use and new exterior signs.	Pending	Hadfield House Library Street
11258	Casemates Procurement Ltd	Proposed demolition of 3 storey structure.	Pending	177 Crutchett's Ramp

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11259	Admiral Bridge Investments	Demolition of the central part of the building facing casemates square and rebuilding a new retail office development and part residential comprising a new 5 storey structure and an additional floor on the buildings retained on the main street side and on the north side. The 4th floor will be set back from all the facades.	Pending	1,3,5 & 7 Crutchett's Ramp
11260	Francis Trading Ltd	Proposed replacement of sliding doors and windows.	Pending	Admirals Walk Marina Bay
11261	The Kop Limited	Proposed temporary bar canopy.	Pending	Trade Winds
11262	Brian M White ESQ	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Queensway Quay
11263	Alfred Benady & Co. Ltd	Proposed internal and external refurbishment to retail shop.	Pending	271 Main Street
11264	Flipten Ltd 57/63 Line Wall Road	Proposed office refurbishment at ground, first and second floors.	Pending	21/23 Engineer Road
11265	CTS (Gibraltar) Ltd	Installation of 3G antennas & equipment.	Pending	O'Hara's Battery Upper Rock
11266	Pipework Ltd	Proposed division of two units and a new access door.	Pending	New Harbours

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 989 AND 990 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government aware that this project for 36 villas is already being marketed by estate agents?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. Unfortunately this particular developer has a tendency to do this, but all I can say is that we have written, the Development Planning Commission, has written to him as it has done in the past warning him about the fact that this development has not even come near the Development and Planning Commission and so therefore what he cannot do is market it and then come to the Development and Planning Commission and say, yes but this you have got to allow me to do because I have already sold 90% and taken deposits. The Government or the Development and Planning Commission are not going to be put in that position and we have written to this particular developer putting him on notice again as to that effect.

NO. 991 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PREMIUM TO BE PAID BY DEVELOPERS OF OCEAN VILLAGE

Can Government say whether any premium has to be paid to the Government by the developers of Ocean Village, were the project for the construction of 36 villas in the areas of Marina Bay to materialise and if so how much?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

If a project to construct 36 villas in the area of Marina Bay were to materialize the Government would have to consider the premium to be paid for such development rights, but as we speak we only can go by an article, an advertorial, I think it was that appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle.

ORAL

NO. 992 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – 65a DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government say whether the application for planning permission by Basewell Ltd to install a new mobile concrete plant at 65a 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
AND TRANSPORT**

No decision has been taken. The application is pending a decision as it is going through the process of public participation. Two representations have been received from lawyers on behalf of members of the public.

ORAL

NO. 993 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – 22 MAIN STREET

Can Government say whether planning permission has now been granted to Breckland Trading Co Ltd for the construction of a two-storey extension over existing property at 22 Main Street?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Planning permission has been granted on the 29th September 2009.

NO. 994 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Can Government say whether the meeting with the two entities who made representations to the DPC in respect of the amendments to the draft development plan has now taken place and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The two entities who requested to appear before the DPC did so at a meeting held on 22nd June 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 994 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether any changes have been made to the plan as a result of that meeting?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

He cannot say or there were no changes?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There were no changes.

NO. 995 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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**

Since the 10th June 2009 there have been four meetings held on the following dates:

- 1) 16th June
- 2) 1st July
- 3) 13th August
- 4) 16th September

In addition to that, it is not in the question, but we did have a meeting on the 22nd June 2009 in order to deal with the Development Plan hearings etc. So it was not quite a formal Development and Planning Commission normal meeting but.....

NO. 996 OF 2009

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 April 2009 was as follows:

	Value of Computers (£ thousands)
April 2009	1,981
May 2009	830
June 2009	805

NO. 997 OF 2009

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. 998 of 2009.

NO. 998 OF 2009

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 998/2009

Answer to Question No. 997/2009

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since April 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Goods Vehicles</u> <u>Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles</u> <u>Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(£ thousands)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(£ thousands)</u>
April 2009	1	2	1	3
May 2009	-	-	8	65
June 2009	2	1	2	8

Answer to Question No. 998/2009

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since April 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles</u> <u>Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles</u> <u>Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(£ thousands)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(£ millions)</u>
April 2009	23	73	429	8.1
May 2009	23	70	203	4.7
June 2009	24	75	345	5.9

NO. 999 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SITE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HILTON MANAGED HOTEL

Can Government confirm whether the site that is currently being managed by the Hilton group for the establishment of a Hilton managed hotel in Gibraltar is currently Government-owned and say what site is it?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The site that is currently being considered for the establishment of a Hilton managed hotel in Gibraltar is currently Government-owned. The Government is unable to inform the House of the proposed site as this is commercially-sensitive information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 999 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister tell the House when was his last contact with the Hilton group?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

When was the last contact? Remember, as I explained in this House, this is a joint venture between investors and Hilton manage and there is an investment group that works closely with them and have done a number of projects together. Basically, the ones at the leading end of the negotiations are the investors side at the moment, although Hilton is very slowly but surely coming onto the stage of the negotiation when they need to participate but the last contact was, I think, in mid September some time and we have another meeting due next week.

ORAL

NO. 1000 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SEATRADE EUROPE CONFERENCE

How many persons made up the Gibraltar delegation to the Seatrade Europe Conference in Hamburg and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 1001 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1001 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SEATRADE EUROPE CONFERENCE

What was the cost, with a breakdown of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Seatrade Europe Conference which took place in Hamburg in September?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 1001 OF 2009

Three people attended Seatrade Hamburg.

They were: Captain Peter W Hall – Chief Executive GPA
Albert Poggio – Director London Office
Sarah McFayden – Personal Assistant

Seatrade Europe Conference – Hamburg, September 2009

-	Stand Construction Design and Artwork Freight Charges	£2,644.87
-	Stand Space Hire	£5,493.47
-	Airfares / Hotels	£3,518.75
-	Meals	£ 187.95
-	Conference Registration	£1,422.16
-	Reception on Stand	£ 287.32
-	Advertising	£ 879.62
	Total	£14,434.14

NO. 1002 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONTROLS ON REFUELLING VESSELS

Can Government say what security, immigration or customs controls are carried out on vessels and their occupants who come for refuelling at the petrol stations located near the rear of the Watergardens area?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The berths are an isolated area which prevents vessel occupants from access to the town. These arrangements have been approved by Transec which is the UK Security Authority.

Occupants requiring gaining access to Gibraltar must report to the approved point of entry in marinas, where clearance and security is provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1002 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister aware that people are coming off the yachts and going shopping and returning to the yachts with no kind of controls on them?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, if they are they should not be doing so.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government planning to do anything about this? The last time I raised this issue in the House was a few years ago now and the Chief Minister said he was going to look into the matter. I think there were even photographs at the time.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the only thing I can say is that in respect of the new CEPESA refuelling station there is no access from the seaside, if I can call it that. It is totally partitioned. I am not sure whether the other two comply 100% even though they should be doing so but I will have that checked but nobody has raised any alarms with me as a result of this but if anybody is coming into town and avoiding customs and immigration that should not be allowed and is something that should not be happening.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There is also a serious security issue as well apart from the Customs and checks on people or goods and this is a security issue as well but certainly our information is that this is happening on a regular basis. People are getting off the yachts, they are going shopping to nearby supermarkets and other establishments and coming back to the yachts and then going without any kind of checks being conducted on them.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I shall report the matter and have it looked into.

ORAL

NO. 1003 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – VTS SYSTEM

Has the tender for an upgraded Vessel Traffic Management and Information System (VTS) for the Port Department, now been awarded and if so on what date and to whom?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 1004 of 2009.

NO. 1004 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say how many entities submitted a tender for the supply, development, installation and commissioning of a vessel traffic system incorporating a database and an automated exchange of information system for the Port Authority which closed on 3rd July?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The tender for the upgrade of the Vessel Management and Information System (VTS) for the Port Authority was awarded on the 10th August 2009 to Transas.

Two companies submitted fully documented proposals for the supply, development, installation and commissioning of a vessel traffic system incorporating a database and an automated exchange of information system for the Port Authority which closed on 3rd July 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1003 AND 1004 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether Transas is a Gibraltar Company or where is it based?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. Both companies are UK based. Both specialise in the same.

NO. 1005 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS ALLOCATED

Can Government say whether the following tenders have been allocated, and if so to whom, in what amount and was the allocation made to the highest bidder in each case:

- (a) the commercial unit at Ironside House, Glacis Estate;
- (b) a garage, previously a shop at 15B Naval Hospital Road;
- (c) Unit F15 Europa Business Centre;
- (d) 3 garages at Vineyards?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand over to him and all bidders were the highest bidders.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 1005 of 2009

- a) Tender was allocated to Cotton Leisure Ltd in the sum of £4,000.00 plus a rent of £300.00 per month. Cotton Leisure Ltd were the highest bidders.
- b) Has yet not been allocated.
- c) Tender was allocated to Carwill Catering Services in the sum of £10,000.00. Carwill Catering Services were the highest bidders.
- d) Garage 96 – Tender allocated to Mr & Mrs Reyes of 2D Riesling in the sum of £25,000.00.
Garage 117 – Tender allocated to Mr & Mrs Clinton of 2F Riesling in the sum of £25,000.00.
Garage 132 – Tender allocated to Mr & Mrs Chichon of 6C Bellevue in the sum of £30,100.00.

All were the highest bidders.

ORAL

NO. 1006 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OCEAN VILLAGE – LEASE OVER AREA OF SEA

Can Government provide the precise coordinates of the lease over the area of sea which was assigned to Ocean Village, in front of the Marinas covering some 38,000m² of surface area at approximately £37 a square metre?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 1007 of 2009.

NO. 1007 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OCEAN VILLAGE – RIGHTS ACQUIRED OVER AREA OF SEA

Can Government provide details of the rights that Ocean Village acquired by purchasing a lease over the sea in front of the marinas covering some 38,000m² of surface area at approximately £37 a square metre:

- (a) how long is the lease for, and
- (b) is the area of sea private property as a result?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The lease boundary has not been identified by reference to precise coordinates. It was identified on plan by reference to existing lease boundaries, and to the physical constraints of the Commercial Mole and the Airport Runway.

The rights acquired by Ocean Village are for the construction of a permitted scheme as approved by the Development and Planning Commission including any variation or modification as may be approved by the Commission and by the Government as lessor.

The lease is for 150 years and, as the term lease implies, the area of water covered by it has become private property but for use only as the approved scheme so provides.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1006 AND 1007 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the area of sea which Ocean Village now owns inclusive of that part for which they had a temporary licence while the construction was going on and which at the time the Government said would revert back to the Government once the construction was finished.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not sure what area you mean? Could you give me an indication of what area within the marina you are referring to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, given that he cannot give us an indication of what area of sea he is talking about, it is difficult for me to give him..... There was an area where the small boat owners were and the approach to that area which during the time prior to the election that this matter was being publicly debated, the Government confirmed that what they had was a temporary licence while they were reclaiming land for the expansion of the Ocean Village complex and that temporary licence for that area did not give them any rights. Is it the area of the sea which the Minister is not able to give us the co-ordinates of so that we can work it out for ourselves. Is the area of the sea that he now says is private property include that area that previously was not.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If you are referring to the Watergardens small boat area, that is in Government's land and the sea belongs to the Government. It has not been xxxxxx to Ocean Village in any shape or form.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say where is the boundary of the sea that is part of the lease of Ocean Village because he told us he could not give us the co-ordinates.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have got a little map here. I do not know whether that.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

If that is possible!

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If you can do that then we may be able to refer to it but If I give you mine, I do not have one. So maybe if you could photocopy! Give him the coloured one and let us hope that I can work with the black and white one because I am probably more conversant than you are with the site itself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask, the area that is shown within the green boundary which is the sea area that.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No..... Not in myBelow you have the colours which I do not have anymore. But I do have the different..... and I know which area is which. So if you.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The area next to the runway.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

At the moment there is nothing there. Is it that they are able to berth boats just there next to the runway?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. That is right. There was a plan to be able to berth boats along that stretch of the runway so long as they kept the way clear, one can see just next to it, in order for boats to be able to have access into the Victoria Stadium sports facility because of sports area. What was acquired, the one that you refer to as the 38,000m².....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

.....Is actually that area, which I do not know in what colour it is, but it is the one that is actually adjacent to the runway and if it one goes round to the front of the Marina Bay and Shepherds Marina, if I can identify the three areas.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that is the additional area and the other bits were there ones that were there already. Is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is right. Marina Bay obviously was there and has been acquired as a result of the fact that Ocean Village purchased Marina Bay. The Shepherds Marina waters were the waters that were already there when they acquired Shepherds Marina and then the Ocean Village waters was the additional area that was acquired, which is, I think in green according to what you said, but as you can see there is a clear way in between and the Watergardens small boats are not included in any shape or form in any of this. It has always been Government waters.

ORAL

NO. 1008 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

STATIONING OF TUG IN GIBRALTAR BY STEELMAC

Can Government confirm whether it is in discussion with Steelmac over the provision of a subsidy to station a tug in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Steelmac has met the Government to inform them of their intention to operate a tug in Gibraltar. There has been no discussion on the provision of a subsidy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1008 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The fact that there has been no discussion does not mean that a request has been made and it has not been discussed or does it mean that.....?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There has not been any request. At least not to me or that I am aware of. But I have had a meeting because they had a business proposal to put forward on what they intended to do and although it included the intention to purchase a tug and operate in Gibraltar there was no asking for money as a result of it.

NO. 1009 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERRITORIAL AIRSPACE – APPLICATION OF CIVIL AVIATION ACT 2009

Can Government confirm that the Civil Aviation Act 2009 applies to the territorial air space of Gibraltar and provide a geographical description and the geographical coordinates of Gibraltar's territorial airspace?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I can confirm that the Civil Aviation Act 2009 applies to the territorial airspace of Gibraltar, which consists of the airspace above the land mass of Gibraltar and the territorial waters of Gibraltar.

The geographical coordinates of the territorial waters are contained in the schedule which is now being handed to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 1009/2009

Gibraltar 3M Territorial Sea Limit

Datum Information:

Datum Name: WGS84
Major Axis: 6378137.000
Minor Axis: 6356752.314
Shifts (x,y,z): 0.000 0.000 0.000
Rotation (x,y,z): 0.000 0.000 0.000
Scale factor: 1.000000

36-09-16.46222N	5-21-05.98195W
36-09-16.30487N	5-21-06.52363W
36-09-16.02293N	5-21-07.22701W
36-09-15.74100N	5-21-07.96273W
36-09-15.32793N	5-21-08.89249W
36-09-14.98043N	5-21-09.67672W
36-09-14.69849N	5-21-10.56605W
36-09-14.31820N	5-21-11.61708W
36-09-14.01004N	5-21-12.46599W
36-09-13.84613N	5-21-12.93491W
36-09-13.72155N	5-21-13.86466W
36-09-13.72155N	5-21-14.56804W
36-09-13.81990N	5-21-15.26334W
36-09-13.87891N	5-21-15.84545W
36-09-14.10184N	5-21-16.42756W
36-09-14.38377N	5-21-17.05009W
36-09-14.66571N	5-21-17.43816W
36-09-14.98043N	5-21-17.78581W
36-09-15.45250N	5-21-18.10112W
36-09-15.89180N	5-21-18.32749W
36-09-16.55402N	5-21-18.79641W
36-09-17.09166N	5-21-19.07130W
36-09-17.56373N	5-21-19.54022W
36-09-18.35052N	5-21-20.23552W
36-09-18.88816N	5-21-20.73678W
36-09-19.45202N	5-21-21.44016W
36-09-20.02244N	5-21-21.94142W
36-09-20.48795N	5-21-22.64480W
36-09-20.99280N	5-21-23.38052W
36-09-21.47143N	5-21-24.04347W
36-09-21.75336N	5-21-24.62558W
36-09-22.22542N	5-21-25.43407W
36-09-22.50735N	5-21-26.17787W
36-09-22.78928N	5-21-27.03486W
36-09-23.07776N	5-21-27.92420W
36-09-23.29413N	5-21-29.12884W
36-09-23.32691N	5-21-29.97775W
36-09-23.39247N	5-21-30.99643W
36-09-23.51705N	5-21-31.88577W
36-09-23.51705N	5-21-32.54064W
36-09-23.60884N	5-21-33.72911W
36-09-23.76619N	5-21-35.00651W

36-09-23.82520N	5-21-36.37285W
36-09-24.02189N	5-21-37.88472W
36-09-24.17269N	5-21-39.55019W
36-09-24.36283N	5-21-41.45821W
36-09-24.46117N	5-21-43.13178W
36-09-24.55296N	5-21-44.40918W
36-09-24.64475N	5-21-45.10448W
36-09-24.86767N	5-21-46.08274W
36-09-25.21516N	5-21-47.31972W
36-09-25.52987N	5-21-48.56479W
36-09-25.77901N	5-21-49.72900W
36-09-28.17208N	5-22-00.31206W
36-09-27.37877N	5-22-07.11140W
36-09-28.19831N	5-22-13.99969W
36-09-27.47055N	5-22-22.13303W
36-09-25.23483N	5-22-42.13492W
36-09-20.54041N	5-22-54.86854W
36-09-09.23675N	5-23-26.78748W
36-09-00.42430N	5-23-51.67261W
36-09-00.26693N	5-23-53.33808W
36-08-54.49672N	5-24-02.40119W
36-07-50.66896N	5-23-50.32244W
36-07-45.21214N	5-23-49.60289W
36-07-21.66525N	5-23-48.11528W
36-07-08.84153N	5-23-44.35583W
36-06-39.31523N	5-23-27.20789W
36-06-36.23187N	5-23-25.42114W
36-06-32.57773N	5-23-23.51312W
36-06-27.91977N	5-23-21.45149W
36-06-22.03489N	5-23-20.83704W
36-06-20.38815N	5-23-20.62683W
36-06-15.78248N	5-23-19.76175W
36-06-12.55453N	5-23-19.00178W
36-06-01.66976N	5-23-16.12358W
36-05-56.72260N	5-23-14.87851W
36-05-54.47863N	5-23-14.40959W
36-05-51.42759N	5-23-13.27771W
36-05-49.40667N	5-23-12.45306W
36-05-47.66131N	5-23-11.73351W
36-05-42.81233N	5-23-09.65571W
36-05-40.41733N	5-23-08.55617W
36-05-35.69289N	5-23-06.34092W
36-05-32.93693N	5-23-04.99884W
36-05-32.41854N	5-23-04.74013W
36-05-28.59952N	5-23-02.79977W
36-05-25.44977N	5-23-01.25556W
36-05-22.39841N	5-22-59.67093W
36-05-18.48082N	5-22-57.39101W
36-05-16.45966N	5-22-56.11360W
36-04-24.75767N	5-22-20.32203W
36-04-09.58915N	5-22-09.81982W
36-03-51.59066N	5-21-57.96745W
36-03-39.02648N	5-21-49.55114W

36-09-10.12191N	5-20-20.88472W
36-09-09.84653N	5-20-19.00096W
36-09-07.53198N	5-19-49.41854W
36-09-07.97129N	5-19-45.10932W
36-09-07.52542N	5-19-22.48794W
36-09-06.68615N	5-19-08.05651W
36-09-01.43407N	5-17-37.87823W
36-08-59.08667N	5-16-54.02607W
36-08-58.01132N	5-16-36.27177W

You should be aware that from Point 36° 03' 39".02648N 05° 21' 49".55114W to 36° 08' 58".01132N 05° 16' 36".27177W the 3M TW limit is liable to change if the low water line changes on the largest scale Admiralty chart of the area.

NO. 1010 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – DOCUMENTATION IN RESPECT OF PLANS

Can Government confirm whether the documentation in respect of the plans of Gibraltar Airport referred to in Section 25 of the Civil Aviation Act 2009 has now been signed?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Discussions continue with the Ministry of Defence regarding the remaining transfer of land at the Airport around the tunnel / road project. Once this final Lands Agreement is signed, a plan of the Airport will be published as required by Section 25 of the Civil Aviation Act 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1010 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister told me on the 3rd July 2009 that, in respect of this matter the documentation had been agreed and was now in the process of being prepared for signature. Is it that something new has come up?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I think it is a matter of summer holidays and people, I think change of personnel as well in the MOD which has led to administrative delays but nothing extraordinary. It is procedural, but I am told that this should now happen ... It is fairly imminent.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If I heard him correctly, the answer now was that there are discussions on some final land issues that are pending. Is that what he said?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. Yes, but that was always there in the actual demarcation of land and accuracy due to the tunnel project which needed to be assessed as to the extent to which it was going to impact on MOD land and transferability of land etc. But it is a matter of logistical procedures.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a timescale within which it is envisaged this is going to happen?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not directly dealing with this matter but I am told that it will be dealt with fairly shortly.

ORAL

NO. 1011 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT BUNKERING CHARGES

On what basis has Government estimated that the receipts from port bunkering charges will go up by £40,000 from £260,000 to £300,000 in the current financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1013 to 1015.

NO. 1012 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BUNKERING OUTSIDE GIBRALTAR'S TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government state whether bunkering that is provided offshore outside the territorial limits of 3 miles of Gibraltar waters from vessels that bring the fuel loaded to Gibraltar already for this purpose, have to pay bunkering fees to the Gibraltar Government and, if so, what is the rate and is this the same rate as that in respect of bunkers supplied from within Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is no bunkering carried out outside the 3 mile territorial limit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1012 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister saying that it is not the case that there are vessels that arrive in Gibraltar with fuel and then supply that fuel to other vessels outside the 3 mile limit and that they hire from Gibraltar the necessary equipment to do this?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, but I think we need to define, I am not trying to be pedantic, the word "bunkering". Bunkering is the supply of fuel for its own use, right. Whilst what you are describing is the supply of cargo, right. There is a difference between cargo fuel and cargo being fuelled. There is a difference between coming up to the petrol station and filling up the ship for your own supplies and actually coming in or doing the ship to ship transfer to which you are referring to, which is the transfer of cargo. When that happens, as you clearly have pointed out incorrectly, there are two operators in Gibraltar that actually have the ability to be able and are licensed to assist with things like fenders and hoses and things in order to make the transaction or transfer of cargo possible. Under the new fees, we are charging for the transfer of the fuel in the same way as we do when they come alongside. Previous to the 9th May 2009, that was not charged. We felt that Gibraltar needed to benefit financially from these transactions which, at the end of the day, always give a risk by actually happening near Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the introduction of that new fee for that operation included in the figures that the Minister has given me?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, but do not think that these are huge volumes, they are not. These transactions take..... there may be a handful a month, so the actual volumes as such, are not significant. What I am saying is, do not think that we are sort of charging these now and that is how we have managed to make our business plan work. It is a very insignificant part of the overall revenue generating measure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the fee shown in the element of the breakdown that he has given me under "bunkers" or somewhere else?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Under "bunkers".

HON J J BOSSANO:

Notwithstanding that it is not bunkering and he has just corrected my original question.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the hon Member is probably correct but we did not want to add more..... and I wanted to give comparative figures under the different headings.

ORAL

NO. 1013 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT BERTHING CHARGES

On what basis has Government estimated that the receipts from port berthing charges will go up by £60,000 from £340,000 to £400,000 in the current financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1014 and 1015 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1014 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TAX

On what basis has Government estimated that the receipts from port arrival and departure tax will go up by £50,000 from £350,000 to £400,000 in the current financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1013 and 1015 of 2009.

NO. 1015 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TONNAGE DUES

On what basis has Government estimated that the receipts from tonnage dues from ships calling at Gibraltar will go up by 278% from £850,000 to £2,366,000 in the current financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government estimates that receipts from tonnage due from ships calling at Gibraltar will go up by 278% from £850,000 to £2,366,000; from Port arrivals and departure tax will go up by £50,000 from £350,000 to £400,000; from Port berthing charges will go up by £60,000 from £340,000 to £400,000; and from Port bunkering charges will go up by £40,000 from £260,000 to £300,000, in the current financial year as a result of the new fees introduced on 9th May 2009 and/or increased business.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1011 AND 1013 to 1015 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So what is it that the 278 thousand assumes no increase in traffic and that means that fees went up by 278%?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Could he repeat that again?

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of Question No. 1015 of 2009, is it then that the tonnage dues went up by 278% as an increased fee and that the estimate is based on an assumption that the same number of ships will call as did the previous year and pay 278% more for so doing?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, as I have said in my original answer, part of this increase is due to the estimated increase in business as well. So part of this increase is actually the increase in the fees structure but we are also assuming that it would be an element of increase in business as well as has been the case in subsequent or previous years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well yes, but in previous years there has been an increase in business when there was no increase in prices.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Right!

HON J J BOSSANO:

The normal assumption, as a businessman I am sure he knows that, is that if one increases prices you are more likely to lose business than to gain it and you are lucky if you stay the same.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has the Minister an indication of what the impact of the increased fees is as opposed to the possibility of increased business which is speculative?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. The assumption that the hon Member had made that business would actually decrease as a result of an increase in fees is not necessarily correct. I think it also has to do with the competitiveness of your product in competition with other ports in the area. So when we actually did the analysis to consider whether business was going to be affected by these increases, in most cases we found that we were conservative in what we were expecting the increase to be but we were expecting an increase and I think the figures actually prove that. We have already done an assessment, which we do regularly, and the first half of this financial year from April to the end of September shows that our estimates are actually conservative. So there has been increased business and obviously increased income as a result of the fees that were increased on the 9th May 2009.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is that true of the tonnage dues which is the bulk of the increase?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not have the calculator here to..... but I can give the hon Member, if he wants, a comparative income assessment for the first six months of this financial year under the different categories compared to the first six months of the previous year which will give him... It is not quite scientific but will give the hon Member an indication at least of whether one is on the right track. In terms of tonnage dues, in 2008, 1st April to end of September 2009, the revenue collected was £396,551. In this year it is £1,113,087. In berths, last year's first six months for 2008 £143,969 and this year it is £389,541. Passenger tax, where there is no change and that is purely attributable to increased business the figure in 2008 was £209,977 and in 2009 it is £282,699. Harbour crafts and port operator licences, the figure in 2008 was £148,764 and this year it is £160,399. The bunkering levy in 2008 was £106,579 and in 2009, £152,092. Miscellaneous, in 2008 was £15,204 in 2009, £32,668. So the total of 2008 for the six months in 2008 was £1,021,024. In the six months of 2009, it was £2,130,486. Now if you compare the six months with the estimates that we put in for the whole year, one can see that the figures are very much on track and probably going to be underestimated. So our decision to increase the fees was obviously a good one and it also means that the port operators who complained at the time probably no longer complain because they have increased their business which is what I was telling them all the time. But anyway.....

ORAL

NO. 1016 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED BY MOD

Can Government state what was the amount of electricity supplied by MOD in 2008/2009 and how much of it was repaid by electricity supplied by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority and how much was paid for in cash and at what cost?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The amount of electricity supplied in 2008/2009 by the MOD was 5,612,733 units of which 1,548,595 units were repaid in kind and 4,064,138 units repaid in cash at a cost of £440,289.80.

NO. 1017 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – RECEIPTS FROM COMMERCIAL WORK

Can Government explain the increase in receipts from commercial work in the Gibraltar Electricity Authority from the estimated amount of £1.2 million to a forecast outturn of £2.3 million in 2008/2009 and identify the nature of the works covered by this £1.1 million extra payment and state when the work was carried out, and who were the payments from?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The £1.1 million extra payment refers to payments in the year of ongoing projects and new projects that were not included in the Estimates.

The nature and extent of the commercial work carried out varies with each project but can be classified as either minor or major works associated with the provision of electrical power. Details of the names of the project, revenue and expenditure for 2008/2009 are set out in this schedule which I now hand to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1017/2009
GEA COMMERCIAL WORKS 2008-2009

Project No.	Project Name	REVENUE		Estimated
		ACTUAL		
		2008-2009	Financial Yr	
		Total Amount	Received	
FY 2008/09				
PROJECT 14/04	LITTLE GENOA - CONSTRUCCIONES POERTA REYES LTD	£	3,246.96	
PROJECT 3-05/06	MONACO OCEAN VILLAGE - MARINA BAY	£	57,979.04	
PROJECT 19-05/06	TRADE WINDS - MARINA BAY	£	9,714.07	
PROJECT 31-05/06	GENISTA HOUSE - EUROPA ROAD	£	48,916.78	
PROJECT 56-05/06	MAJESTIC OCEAN PLAZA - GLACIS ROAD	£	277,809.49	£277,809.49
PROJECT 19-06/07	ANCHORAGE PROJECT - ROSIA ROAD	£	54,403.04	
PROJECT 20-06/07	TSD - WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK	£	71,098.65	
PROJECT 27-06/07	GOG-NELSON'S VIEW - ROSIA PARADE	£	450,237.17	£450,237.17
PROJECT 30-06/07	GOG-CUMBERLAND TERRACES	£	454,770.23	£454,770.23
PROJECT 37-06/07	TSD - METERING NEW HARBOURS	£	48,104.66	£48,104.66
PROJECT 39-06/07	TSD - PELICAN CROSSING QUEENSWAY	£	1,944.78	
PROJECT 45-06/07	GIBTELECOM - OFFICES JOHN MACKINTOSH SQUARE	£	60,850.97	
PROJECT 46-06/07	ST. PETER'S SCHOOL - CATALAN BAY	£	1,391.58	
PROJECT 47-06/07	THE ISLAND PROJECT - QUEENSWAY	£	3,553.08	
PROJECT 56-06/07	WATERPORT PLACE -	£	1,464.84	
PROJECT 14 07/08	GTB - FLOODLIGHTS AT CAMP BAY	£	8,703.55	
PROJECT 20 07/08	AQUAGIB - NEW R.O. PLANT - GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE	£	26,028.18	
PROJECT 28 07/08	FILOMENA HOUSE - 30 DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD	£	24,946.59	
PROJECT 46 07/08	GOG-BAYVIEW TERRACES - ROSIA ROAD (LV)	£	61,258.50	
PROJECT 49 07/08	ROWING CLUBS BOAT SHEDS	£	2,334.21	
PROJECT 50 07/08	TSD-TRAFFIC LIGHTS - PELICAN CROSSINGS	£	52,701.07	
PROJECT 52 07/08	SAPPHIRE NETWORKS - HARBOUR VIEWS	£	17,395.63	
PROJECT 53 07/08	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - RGR SHOW	£	353.30	
PROJECT 55 07/08	GIBTELECOM - MOUNT PLEASANT	£	82,164.83	
PROJECT 01 08/09	EDUCATION DEPT - BAYSIDE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL - DIVERSION OF EXISTING	£	2,005.18	
PROJECT 03 08/09	GJBS - GUNWHARF	£	5,500.57	
PROJECT 04 08/09	J. BALBAN ELEC. CO. LTD - 17 MAIN STREET	£	159.32	
PROJECT 05 08/09	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - POLICE DINNER	£	284.88	
PROJECT 06 08/09	BRUCES Y FERNANDEZ - OCEAN VILLAGE SITE SUPPLY	£	1,235.17	
PROJECT 08 08/09	CIVIL PRISON - LATHBURY BARRACKS	£	138,360.85	
PROJECT 09 08/09	SHARROCKSHAND LTD - THE CLIFFTOPS (PEAK HOUSE)	£	114,903.75	
PROJECT 10 08/09	CAFÉ ROJO - 54 IRISH TOWN	£	1,199.02	
PROJECT 11 08/09	INT. FRANCHISES LTD - SUITE 9/2 I.C.C.	£	270.19	

GEA COMMERCIAL WORKS 2008-2009

Project No.	Project Name	REVENUE		Estimated
		ACTUAL	2008-2009	
		Financial Yr	Total Amount	
		Received		
<u>FY 2008/09</u>				
PROJECT 13 08/09	BELISH BEACONS FOR ZEBRA CROSSINGS	£ 6,930.80		
PROJECT 14 08/09	BANG & OLUFSEN	£ 311.37		
PROJECT 15 08/09	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - GIB. PHIL. SOC. SHOW	£ 388.63		
PROJECT 16 08/09	EFG BANK - 1 CORRAL ROAD	£ 1,733.90		
PROJECT 17 08/09	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - JEWISH MALE CHOIR	£ 282.64		
PROJECT 18 08/09	C. GARCIA - 92 IRISH TOWN	£ 1,662.81		
PROJECT 19 08/09	OWEN SMITH - CALENTITA CASEMETES SQUARE	£ 16.80		
PROJECT 20 08/09	BARCLAYS BANK - MAIN STREET	£ 1,947.64		
PROJECT 21 08/09	MARINA SHEDS - MONACO OCEAN VILLAGE	£ 7,759.65		
PROJECT 22 08/09	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - DANISH BRASS BAND	£ 282.64		
PROJECT 23 08/09	FAIR, NATIONAL DAY & YOUTH PAVILION 2008 - MIN. OF CULTURE	£ 51,207.56		
PROJECT 24 08/09	GIBALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY - REGGAE CONCERT VICTORIA STADIUM	£ 575.89		
PROJECT 25 08/09	PISA INT. GROUP OF COMPANIES - 7/9 J.M. SQUARE	£ 304.05		
PROJECT 26 08/09	TP TOWAGE CO. LTD - BERTH 9 NORTH MOLE	£ 1,521.69		
PROJECT 27 08/09	MINISTRY OF CULTURE - GIB. PHIL. ORCHESTRA - NATIONAL WEEK	£ 397.50		
PROJECT 28 08/09	AMAR'S BAKERY - 7/9 BOMB HOUSE LANE	£ 15,995.00		
PROJECT 31 08/09	GTB - SONG FESTIVAL - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE	£ 848.00		
PROJECT 32 08/09	AQUAGIB LTD - NORTH MOLE EMERGENCY LIGHTING	£ 2,252.24		
PROJECT 35 08/09	FAIRHOMES (GIBALTAR) Ltd - leisure island	£ 884.50		
PROJECT 36 08/09	CTS MKL CONSULTING ENG - OCEAN VILLAGE POWER UPGRADE	£ 25,762.23		
PROJECT 37 08/09	MTI LTD - 12/2 tuckey's lane	£ 328.69		
PROJECT 39 08/09	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - RGR DINNER	£ 353.30		
PROJECT 40 08/09	GOG - RETRENCHMENT BLOCK - LATHBURY BARRACKS	£ 21,005.65		
PROJECT 41 08/09	GTB - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - RGR DINNER	£ 423.96		
PROJECT 42 08/09	GTB - SUMMER NIGHTS 2008	£ 491.82		
PROJECT 43 08/09	GIBALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY - VICTORIA STADIUM FLOODLIGHTS	£ 5,383.43		
PROJECT 44 08/09	LAW COURT - SERVICE CABLE	£ 401.52		
PROJECT 45 08/09	GTB - GIB. PHILARMONIC SOC. SHOW	£ 494.62		
PROJECT 46 08/09	MID HARBOUR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	£ 11,906.88		
PROJECT 48 08/09	MIN. OF EDUCATION - ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS SCHOOLS	£ 3,090.60		
PROJECT 49 08/09	ODETTE BENATAR - NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS 2008	£ 88.06		
PROJECT 50 08/09	GIBALTAR PORT AUTHORITY - STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS	£ 75,000.00		
PROJECT 51 08/09	E. ABUDARHAM - 24/28 PARLIAMENT LANE - NEW SERVICE FEEDER	£ 1,292.17		
PROJECT 53 08/09	DRAGADOS SA - NEW AIR TERMINAL	£ 8,942.63		
PROJECT 55 08/09	GHA - LAYING FIBRE OPTIC CABLE	£ 8,006.50		

Project No.	Project Name
FY 2008/09	
PROJECT 57 08/09	LOOK HAIR & BEAUTY SALON - 1.0.7 EUROTOWERS
PROJECT 58 08/09	GTB - CAVE SHOW - ROYAL MARINE BAND
PROJECT 59 08/09	HALE LTD - 267 & 269 MAIN STREET
PROJECT 60 08/09	MIN. OF EDUCATION - UPGRADE BAY'SIDE SCHOOL
PROJECT 61 08/09	CONNECT DIRECT - 4/4 CORNWALL'S LANE - 3 PHASE METER
PROJECT 62 08/09	HAYMILLS GIB LTD - CUMBERLAND TERRACES - 3 PHASE METER
PROJECT 63 08/09	MIN. OF CULTURE - INCE'S HALL SERVICING WORKS
PROJECT 65 08/09	MRS. A BROOKS - 75 GOVERNOR'S STREET
PROJECT 66 08/09	CEPSA (GIB) LTD - REFUELLING TERMINAL SERVICE WORKS
PROJECT 67 08/09	WILLIAM HILL GIB (INT) LTD - WATERPORT PLACE
PROJECT 69 08/09	JBS - DAMAGE TO SOUTH DISPERSAL SUBSTATION

Note Refund deducted from expenses project 30-06/07
True position as refund should have been debited from revenue

Total Income received in 2008-2009	£ 2,362,840.27
Total Income Estimated for 2008-2009	-£ 1,230,921.55
Extra Income received over and above of that Estimated	<u>£ 1,131,918.72</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1017 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

From looking at this schedule, is it in fact that more work was actually completed during the financial year than had originally been estimated when the figure was put at the £1.2 million?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that it is not quite correct because what happens is that there could be actual revenue coming in but the works are not being done because the Gibraltar Electrical Authority when it is supplying electrical power to a particular project or site that needs electrical power..... What happens is that there may be a costing done of the project, which could be £300,000 for the sake of argument, and there is a percentage of that which is paid up front by the developer and therefore there is an income but not necessarily an expenditure. The work may actually come subsequently and the balance may actually be much smaller in subsequent financial years. So you cannot really tally one thing with the other in as per what you have described earlier on.

NO. 1018 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – NATURE OF COMMERCIAL WORKS

Can Government state what was the nature of commercial works undertaken by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority in 2007/2008 to the value of £1,541,537, and to what extent were the receipts of £852,934 for works carried out in 2007/2008, and if it included work carried out in previous years, what was the value of such previous work included?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The nature and extent of the commercial work carried out varies with each project but can be classified as minor or major associated with the provision of electrical power. Details of the names of the projects, revenue and expenditure for 2008/2009 are set out in this schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member, and this is exactly the same position. The other way round with the revenue.

SCHEDULE TO 1018/2009
GEA COMMERCIAL WORKS 2007-2008

Project No. FY 2007/08	Project Name	EXPENDITURE		REVENUE	
		2007-2008 Financial Yr Total Amount Charged	2007-2008 Financial Yr Amount Received	ACTUAL	
PROJECT 10/03	EUROPLAZA	£ 1,676.24	£ -		
PROJECT 8/04	*NORTH FRONT - CARTERING UNIT GH	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 12/04	TAYLOR WOODROW LTD - ROCK GARDENS	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 13/04	SAND HOUSING PROJECT	£ 381,293.42	£ -		
PROJECT 14/04	LITTLE GENOA - CONSTRUCCIONES POERTA REYES LTD	£ 781.18	£ 1,167.06		
PROJECT 3-05/06	MONACO OCEAN VILLAGE - MARINA BAY	£ 123,089.52	£ 48,021.39		
PROJECT 19-05/06	TRADE WINDS - MARINA BAY	£ 68,655.96	£ 4,440.08		
PROJECT 22-05/06	EUROPORT - NEW SUBSTATION	£ 66,250.98	£ -		
PROJECT 31-05/06	GENISTA HOUSE - EUROPA ROAD	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 33-05/06	ENTRECANALES & TRAVORA - 55 LINE WALL ROAD	£ 7,023.33	£ 4,219.92		
PROJECT 43-05/06	SAPPHIRE NETWORK - SUITE 303 EUROTOWERS	£ 392.52	£ 322.98		
PROJECT 54-05/06	GIB. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LTD & MTI LTD - KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE	£ 67,493.61	£ 79,790.02		
PROJECT 12-06/07	STAN JAMES - MARINA BAY	£ 904.00	£ -		
PROJECT 19-06/07	ANCHORAGE PROJECT - ROSIA ROAD	£ 76,707.08	£ -		
PROJECT 20-06/07	TSD - WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK	£ 198,574.92	£ 153,726.29		
PROJECT 27-06/07	GOG-NELSON'S VIEW - ROSIA PARADE	£ 5,286.97	£ -		
PROJECT 30-06/07	GOG-CUMBERLAND TERRACES	£ 17,641.89	£ -		
PROJECT 37-06/07	TSD - METERING NEW HARBOURS	£ 12,919.15	£ -		
PROJECT 39-06/07	TSD - PELICAN CROSSING QUEENSWAY	£ 1,892.99	£ -		
PROJECT 41-06/07	No. 6 - BRITISH LINES NEW STREET LIGHTING LAMPS (FOR NEW TERMINAL)	£ 702.92	£ 7,473.71	£ -	2,123.10
PROJECT 44-06/07	THOMSON COTTAGE - NAVAL HOSPITAL HILL	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 45-06/07	GIBTELECOM - OFFICES JOHN MACKINTOSH SQUARE	£ 92,977.10	£ -		
PROJECT 46-06/07	ST. PETER'S SCHOOL - CATALAN BAY	£ 120.00	£ -		
PROJECT 47-06/07	THE ISLAND PROJECT - QUEENSWAY	£ 10,602.36	£ -		
PROJECT 48-06/07	GIBALTAR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LTD (c/o LPS) - CASEMATES CURTAIN & ROPE LIGHTS	£ -	£ 2,417.19	£	2,417.19
PROJECT 49-06/07	MORRISONS SUPERMARKET - WESTSIDE SUPERSTORE	£ 59,294.57	£ 29,204.88		
PROJECT 50-06/07	J BALBAN ELECTRICAL CO. LTD - CAR WASH SHELL PETROL STATION	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 51-06/07	MANSION (GIB) LTD - EUROPORT	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 52-06/07	A.A. SHERIFF & SONS LTD - CHILLERS EUROPORT	£ 612.90	£ -		
PROJECT 53-06/07	OCEAN VILLAGE - HERITAGE HOUSE - 235 MAIN STREET	£ 1,275.00	£ -		
PROJECT 54-06/07	BIANCAS RESTAURANT - 67 ADMIRAL'S WALK, MARINA BAY	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 55-06/07	GLEN PEARCE - 24 CRUTCHETT'S RAMP	£ -	£ -		
PROJECT 56-06/07	WATERPORT PLACE -	£ 179,482.18	£ 42,561.45		
PROJECT 57-06/07	PORT'S HIGH MASTS	£ 187.35	£ 187.35		
PROJECT 58-06/07	GIB TOURIST OFFICE -ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE 13/2/07	£ 168.16	£ 333.00		
PROJECT 59-06/07	GIB TOURIST OFFICE -ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE 16/3/07	£ 164.56	£ 333.00		
PROJECT 07/08	CALETA HOTEL	£ 72,496.05	£ 114,588.04		

SCHEDULE TO 1018/2009
GEA COMMERCIAL WORKS 2007-2008

Project No.	Project Name	EXPENDITURE		REVENUE	
		2007-2008		ACTUAL	
		Financial Yr	Total Amount Charged	Financial Yr	Amount Received
PROJECT 2 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - 2/4/07	£	134.52	£	266.40
PROJECT 3 07/08	VOLKER STEIN LTD - KING'S WHARF	£	3,531.63	£	7,406.97
PROJECT 4 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - 19/04/07	£	-	£	199.80
PROJECT 5 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - 23/04/07	£	224.82	£	399.60
PROJECT 6 07/08	SHARROCK SHAND - SANDPITS CARPARK	£	-	£	8,334.20
PROJECT 7 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S SCOUTS BAND - 12/5/07	£	199.84	£	199.84
PROJECT 8 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S SCOUTS BAND - 12/5/07	£	1,082.07	£	1,733.64
PROJECT 9 07/08	C & P GALLIANO - REFURBISHMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD'S ROAD	£	-	£	500.00
PROJECT 10 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S SCOUTS BAND - 12/5/07	£	1,271.28	£	2,054.40
PROJECT 11 07/08	ITALTEC (Antonio Frigutti) - UNIT 5, CASEMATES HOUSE	£	-	£	271.80
PROJECT 12 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - GIB. PHIL. SOC. - 22/5/07	£	168.16	£	333.00
PROJECT 13 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - FLOODLIGHTS AT ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE AREA	£	1,690.00	£	4,658.97
PROJECT 14 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - FLOODLIGHTS AT CAMP BAY	£	5,006.63	£	-
PROJECT 15 07/08	DESELEC LTD - UNIT G8 ICC BUILDING	£	-	£	840.62
PROJECT 16 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - GREAT SIEGE TUNNELS (POLISH FILM TEAM)	£	308.88	£	466.20
PROJECT 17 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE WEDDING 29.06.07	£	265.66	£	466.20
PROJECT 18 07/08	GIB RALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE JEWISH COMMUNITY PLAY	£	770.88	£	1,332.00
PROJECT 19 07/08	ESTELLA HOUSE - EUROPA ROAD	£	-	£	2,357.85
PROJECT 20 07/08	AQUAGIB - NEW R.O. PLANT - GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE	£	13,151.73	£	97,249.77
PROJECT 21 07/08	MINISTRY FOR HOUSING - 51 PRINCE EDWARD'S ROAD	£	-	£	3,855.29
PROJECT 22 07/08	DESELEC LTD - UNIT 16 WATERGARDENS	£	640.05	£	188.59
PROJECT 23 07/08	SHERIFF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LTD - WATERPORT PLACE	£	-	£	1,221.77
PROJECT 24 07/08	PRESCOTT LTD - IMOSHI HOUSE, IRISH TOWN	£	-	£	225.89
PROJECT 25 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE RECEPTION 29/9/07	£	-	£	282.64
PROJECT 26 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE RECEPTIONS 3/10/07 & 4/10/07	£	-	£	635.94
PROJECT 27 07/08	FAIR & NATIONAL DAY 2007 - No. 6 Convent Place	£	39,472.74	£	53,112.80
PROJECT 28 07/08	FILOMENA HOUSE - 30 DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD	£	-	£	2,986.31
PROJECT 29 07/08	TSD - BELISH BEACONS - AT LORETO CONVENT	£	596.14	£	794.86
PROJECT 30 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE-ST.MICHAEL'S ROOKE BAND CONCERT-27/10/07	£	190.24	£	282.64
PROJECT 31 07/08	TOPGEM LTD - 34 DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD	£	-	£	517.80
PROJECT 32 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE-ST.MICHAEL'S PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA-5/11/07	£	285.36	£	565.28
PROJECT 33 07/08	DESELEC LTD - 34 PARLIAMENT LANE	£	-	£	238.62
PROJECT 34 07/08	MINISTRY OF CULTURE - BREED 77 CONCERT 17/11/07	£	297.39	£	318.00
PROJECT 35 07/08	GIB TOURIST OFFICE - DINNER FUNCTION - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE 21/11/07	£	160.52	£	388.63
PROJECT 36 07/08	NORWICH & PETERBOROUGH - XMAS TREE	£	51.36	£	388.29
PROJECT 37 07/08	CREMATORIUM - GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE CAMP, EUROPA ADVANCE ROAD	£	8,984.83	£	15,083.70
PROJECT 38 07/08	SAPPHIRE NETWORKS - INFRASTRUCTURE - EUROPORT TO RAGGED STAFF GATES	£	616.13	£	46,890.89

SCHEDULE TO 1018/2009
GEA COMMERCIAL WORKS 2007-2008

Project No. FY 2007/08	Project Name	EXPENDITURE		REVENUE	
		2007-2008		ACTUAL	
		Financial Yr Total Amount Charged	Financial Yr Amount Received	2007-2008	2007-2008
PROJECT 39 07/08	SUNNYMEDE - 4 RED SANDS ROAD	£ -	£ 1,383.34	£ 1,383.34	£ 1,383.34
PROJECT 40 07/08	S & S COLD STORE - LANCASTER ROAD	£ 13,640.08	£ 17,757.44	£ 17,757.44	
PROJECT 41 07/08	LAND HOLDINGS LTD - 37/6 LINE WALL ROAD	£ -	£ 232.04	£ 232.04	£ 232.04
PROJECT 42 07/08	GIBFIRST MANAGEMENT LTD (RYHALL LTD) - LEANSE PLACE	£ -	£ 47,286.08	£ 47,286.08	£ 47,286.08
PROJECT 43 07/08	OWEN SMITH - NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS 2007, CASEMATES SQAURE	£ 128.78	£ 353.40	£ 353.40	
PROJECT 44 07/08	EXPRESS CATERING LTD - 33A CUMBERLAND ROAD	£ -	£ 318.03	£ 318.03	£ 318.03
PROJECT 45 07/08	MATCHBOX TAKEAWAY - 4B SOUTH BARRACK ROAD	£ -	£ 533.49	£ 533.49	£ 533.49
PROJECT 46 07/08	GOG-BAYVIEW TERRACES - ROSIA ROAD (LV)	£ -	£ -	£ -	
PROJECT 47 07/08	CALPE MARRIED QUARTERS - REFURBISHMENT & CONVERSION - No. 6 CONVENT PLACE	£ -	£ -	£ -	
PROJECT 48 07/08	LADBROKES - NEW POWER SUPPLY - EUROPORT	£ -	£ 1,234.80	£ 1,234.80	£ 1,234.80
PROJECT 49 07/08	ROWING CLUB BOAT SHED	£ -	£ 2,028.95	£ 2,028.95	£ 2,028.95
PROJECT 50 07/08	TSD-TRAFFIC LIGHTS - PELICAN CROSSINGS	£ -	£ 32,979.99	£ 32,979.99	£ 32,979.99
PROJECT 51 07/08	FISH MARKET ROAD - NEW ELECTRICAL ROOM	£ -	£ 2,800.90	£ 2,800.90	£ 2,800.90
PROJECT 52 07/08	SAPPHIRE NETWORKS - HARBOUR VIEWS	£ -	£ -	£ -	
PROJECT 53 07/08	GIBRALTAR TOURIST OFFICE - ST. MICHAEL'S CAVE - RGR SHOW	£ -	£ -	£ -	
PROJECT 54 07/08	NATWEST BANK - 55 LINE WALL ROAD	£ -	£ 189.72	£ 189.72	£ 189.72
		£1,541,536.63	£852,933.74	£ 110,716.78	2008-09
				£ 2,123.10	2006-07
				£ 740,093.86	2007-08
				£ 852,933.74	Total

NO. 1019 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SHIPPING REGISTRATION – SHORTFALL IN REVENUE

To what does Government attribute the shortfall in revenue from shipping registration of £60,000 as between the estimated amount of £850,000 and the forecast outturn of £790,000 for the last financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The estimated revenue for the Maritime Administration as a whole was a forecast which was submitted based on the number of ships on the registry and the number of staff in post.

The number of ships increased in 2007/2008 by over 8%, while the overall Gross Tonnage increased by 12%. Nevertheless, the sudden and unexpected resignation of two surveyors during the year resulted in an increase in the number of tasks which had to be delegated to the International Classification Societies, in accordance with the agreements with these Classification Societies. This resulted in a decrease in the fees charged by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration, affecting the proposed figures.

In other words, we had to delegate some of our surveys and things to the Classification Societies and therefore they accrued the income and not ourselves. They do it on our behalf and that is normal practice in the industry and it just happened to be that during that year two surveyors went off and before we recruited we found ourselves, for a number of months, having to delegate the work to the Classification Societies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the Minister is saying is that when that happens, the ship owners pay the Classification Society so the money does not come in and go out?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely! Basically, they act as our agent in that and they take the fees by actually undertaking the work. On production of their survey report, we then proceed with whatever needs to be done in terms of registration or whatever but the loss of

revenue has been lost as a result of that work on the surveys etc of ships have been undertaken on our behalf.

ORAL

NO. 1020 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS FROM PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

What is the policy of the Government as regards the acceptance of reports from private medical practitioners on the medical condition of their employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position is that reports from private medical practitioners on the medical condition of Government employees are accepted subject to the recommendations of the Government's Medical Adviser, the Director of Public Health. The Government have the right to have an individual examined by its own doctors.

ORAL

NO. 1021 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – REPORT BY UK CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Now that the negotiations with the staff side of the Customs Department have concluded without agreement, will Government be making public the two reports conducted by the experts from Customs and Excise in the UK?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, Sir.

ORAL

NO. 1022 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether they have had any formal or informal meetings with the owners of the site where the Theatre Royal was, with a view to purchase the said property and if so on what date and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1023 of 2009.

NO. 1023 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether any further monies have been spent on the site where the Theatre Royal was located, and if so how much and for what purpose, since this question was last answered in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The option to purchase the Theatre Royal has been exercised by the Government. Documentation has been drafted for the conveyance and completion of the purchase should follow shortly. It is in the hands of lawyers.

Approximately £2,500 has been additionally spent on the site of The Theatre Royal on its general maintenance and safety since this question was last answered.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1022 AND 1023 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say how much it has paid for the site?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not got that information with me but it is the figure produced by the original lease which contained the formula and the option strike price which I think increased every year by the index. I hesitate even from memory. I think it is somewhere in the order of over a million or something like that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the cost of this be charged to the Improvement and Development Fund or is it being done through a Government company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe it is being done through the Government but I cannot be certain how the transaction has been structured. Whether it may be purchased through a commercial property company, I do not know, but certainly the funding I will expect will come, whichever way it happens, through the Improvement and Development Fund because currently there are no company balances. So whichever way it is structured the hon Member will see it.

ORAL

NO. 1024 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

MOD – NEGOTIATIONS IN RELATION TO SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY/WATER

Can Government state whether they have conducted any further negotiation with the MOD in relation to the supply of electricity and water and if so on what date and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Negotiations remain on-going.

ORAL

NO. 1025 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

NEW POWER STATION

Can Government state whether they are now in a position to give a target date when the new power station will commence operations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1026 of 2009.

NO. 1026 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government give a target date when it is envisaged that the construction of the new sewage treatment plant will be completed and confirm where it will be located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The statutory consultation process in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment certificate application for the new power station project is still on-going, as is also the case with the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control certificate application. Until, and only if and when the necessary consents are granted, until then the Government will not be able to give a date for the commencement of this project and therefore its estimated completion date.

No date can yet be given for the commencement of the sewage treatment works project. The Brewery Crusher site remains the Government's preferred site for that project with this again being subject to the necessary consents being granted in the context of the consultation and EIA processes.

NO. 1027 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – REPAYMENT OF LOANS OWED BY STUDENTS

Can Government state what is the procedure for the Department of Education to actually re-pay the loans owed by the students to the company conducting the UK student loan system?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are at present considering the method to be used for the repayment of tuition fees as and when these become repayable by the students to the Student Loan Company in the UK and indeed the Government will at the same time review whether it wishes to carry on participating in the loan scheme or simply make provision. Government are conscious of the fact that what in effect used to be an annual charge in the Consolidated Fund, in effect has become a contingent accumulating liability. We may decide to eliminate that by just either, not participating in the loan scheme at all, which has potential disadvantages because there are circumstances in which the loan is not repayable and we will be forfeiting those and we have to put that in the balance against the fact that, theoretically, you have got three years worth of loans accumulating. After three or four years you would expect the first batch of students affected by it to come through the system. They will get their job. They will start earning the minimum threshold and then there should be a pretty even, thereafter, annual Government liability. So we are going to be considering both of these issues in parallel now that the matter is two or three years old.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1027 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it from that answer, that in fact so far none of the loans have had to be paid. That is to say, we have yet to come up with the first one. Is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I think we have not yet come across any which have become repayable by the Government through the student in the context that it was envisaged, but we have

had one or two cases where students or their parents have, without referring the matter to the Government, repaid the loan in England directly because they have given up the course or whatever and then come here asking to be and in fact there is such a case on the Minister's table as we speak. It will have to be dealt with but it is not the norm on this. It has happened a little bit off beat.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In cases like that, what the persons concerned are doing is approaching the Government to be refunded what they have repaid to their loan agents, is that the idea?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, which is not how it is envisaged should happen in the first place. The scheme envisages that when the student has to repay, the Government will provide the funding not that they should have to disburse it and then come and seek a refund but that is how it has happened in this first isolated case which has slightly unusual circumstances attached to it.

ORAL

NO. 1028 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Is Government now in a position to say when St Bernard's School will be relocated and whether it is still the intention to relocate it to the old site of St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No and yes. We are not yet in a position to say when the school will be relocated but it is still the intention, a firm intention, to relocate it to St Bernard's Hospital.

ORAL

NO. 1029 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of the Hon S E Linares

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – RELOCATION OF STATION

Can Government state whether it is their policy to move the existing City Fire Brigade Station to another location and if not will they be refurbishing the existing station?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is no existing project to these effects at this time.

ORAL

NO. 1030 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF GOVERNMENT 50% SHARE OF CO-OWNERSHIP HOMES

Can Government state if there has been any sale of the Government 50% share of co-ownership homes since the answer to Question No. 590 of 2009, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question of 1030 of 2009

Sales of Government- Co Ownership share of Properties

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Totals
Jun-09	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Jul-09	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£9,623.56	£0.00	£54,225.26
Aug-09	Monies Received	£10,304.78	£0.00	£52,755.84	£0.00	£63,060.62
Sep-09	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals		£10,304.78	£44,601.70	£62,379.40	£0.00	£117,285.88

ORAL

NO. 1031 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE COMPLETION

Can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion of Albert Risso House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1032 to 1035 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1032 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES COMPLETION

Can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion of the remaining flats at Waterport Terraces and give a breakdown by block name?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1031 and 1033 to 1035 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1033 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES COMPLETION

Can Government state how many flats, currently, are still awaiting completion at Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 1031, 1032, 1034 and 1035 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1034 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

In connection with Waterport Terraces, can Government state if any of the intending purchasers have withdrawn, and if so, state how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1031 to 1033 and 1035 of 2009.

NO. 1035 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state if there is a reserve list for the purchase of a flat at Waterport Terraces, and if so, how many are on the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

According to the contractor, he expects to complete Albert Risso House in early 2010.

Candytuft House, Rock Rosen House and Buttercup House are expected to be handed over to purchasers during the next 10 to 14 days. Amaryllis House, Sea Daffodil House and Freesia House are expected to be snagged by purchasers in November, with a view to completion notices being issued shortly thereafter.

Completion notices therefore have not yet been issued in respect of 168 properties.

Some prospective purchasers have withdrawn almost from the very first day of this process. Information regarding exactly how many have withdrawn since the original allocation is not easily obtained from the records kept by the GRP Sales Unit. However, it is estimated, that from the date of original allocation, around 120 properties have been surrendered and reallocated for a variety of different reasons affecting the purchasers.

There is no reserve list now for the purchase of a property at Waterport Terraces.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1031 TO 1035 OF 2009

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the answer given to Question No. 1031 of 2009 concerning Albert Risso House, does the Chief Minister not consider that it is quite disgraceful that having made a serious commitment before the elections in 2007 that Albert Risso House would be completed in early 2008?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it depends what the hon Member means by serious commitment. If he wants we can have the debate all over again, that we had last time about the difference between conveying information to people on the basis of best information available on the one hand and allegedly breaking promises made which is how he, suits him to see it presented and see it on the other. I have no intention of having that debate with him again. Otherwise we shall have it every time there is a question session in this House. Every time that we have been asked and all the information that we have been given, has been on the basis of the commitment at that time contractual of the contractor. It is true, as he knows, that the contractor has suffered significant delays. No doubt he will continue to hold us politically accountable for that and indeed physically responsible for that. Most people in Gibraltar, like the Government, regret the delays. Understand nevertheless that it is physically outside of the control of the Government and that there is no point in blaming the Government for things which it cannot do anything about. The most that the Government can do is contract a reputable building contractor to do work. Thereafter, when the finished product is handed to the Government, is not in the Government's control and I suppose that you will continue to make political capital out of this issue until the last house is given. If I were him I might try and do the same. But to do it every three months is perhaps squeezing the lemon just a little bit too much but as often as he asks me I will give him the same answers.

ORAL

NO. 1036 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW

With reference to Bayview Terraces, Cumberland Terraces and Nelson's View, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details for each, 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

Yes, it is a great pleasure for me to give the hon Member the information that he seeks.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1036

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

Development	50%		55%		60%		65%		70%		Purchaser share				88%		100%		Total
	21	3	16	1	22	4	1	5	1	1	75%	78%	80%	85%	88%	100%	100%	100%	
Nelson's View	21	3	16	1	22	4	1	5	1	1							49	123	
Bayview Terraces	7		8	3	24	2		3									30	77	
Cumberland Terraces	41		23		25	4		5	1	1							30	130	
Total	69	3	47	4	71	10	1	13	2	1	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	330	

ORAL

NO. 1037 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOUTH DISTRICT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES

Can Government give an update on the current state of play in connection with the construction of the three home ownership schemes in the South District?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1038 and 1039 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1038 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES, NELSON'S VIEW COMPLETION

With reference to Bayview Terraces, Cumberland Terraces and Nelson's View, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion for each of these home ownership schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1037 and 1039 of 2009.

NO. 1039 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – RESERVE LISTS FOR PURCHASE OF BAYVIEW TERRACES,
CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW**

Can Government state how many persons are currently listed as applicants on the reserve list for the purchase of a flat at each of Bayview Terraces, Cumberland Terraces and Nelson's View?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, since the second of those two questions asks specifically for the current estimated completion date, the first that asks for "the current state of play" must be asking for something other than the current date for completion and it is really not possible for me to guess what the hon Member might mean by "the current state of play" in connection with the construction of the three homes. I have therefore done my best to crawl around inside the hon Member's head and wonder what it is that he may have in mind.

Assuming that I have done so with some modest degree of success, and that he meant by "current state of play" what the situation is relating to the contracts following the termination of the Haymills' contracts after the going of that company into liquidation. Then and assuming that that is what he is aiming at, the position is that as I think is now well known, new contracts were entered into by the Government with Gibraltar Joinery and Building Services Limited for completion of these projects. Gibraltar Joinery and Building Services Ltd is an excellent construction company and the Government is very proud to be its shareholder and I wanted to take this opportunity to place on record the Government's admiration and appreciation to the management and staff of GJBS for the consummate professionalism with which they have stepped into the breach to complete these three complex projects in order to minimise the delay that purchasers might suffer as a result of the financial failure of the appointed contractors Haymills.

The Government's consultants believe that Cumberland Terraces are likely to be completed in November and Nelson's View and Bayview Terraces by Easter.

There are currently 119 applicants on the reserve list for a flat at these developments.

NO. 1040 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOUTH DISTRICT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES

Can Government state what is the criteria in order to qualify for the purchase of a flat within the Government's home ownership schemes in the South District?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The criteria are as published at the time by OEM with the approval of the Government in the published terms and conditions and if the hon Member has mislaid the copy of those that I have no doubt he has had, I am very happy to pass a copy of those to him now if he wants it. Would he like that? Again, I am delighted to be able to assist him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1040 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that the original OEM offer, was not related to people having to be eligible for Government housing. That it was open to any residents. Is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I believe that is not the case. I would have to check. The hon colleague has passed a document..... to that side..... pass it on to him. I believe that it was limited and there may have been provision, although I do not remember if we introduced this for the first time in Waterport Terraces or there was one estate where we introduced this long term resident but I do not think it was.....

HON C A BRUZON:

The reason why I ask that question is because there has been a case, I think more than one, where people were successfully balloted for the purchase of a home in the South District and were later told that they did not qualify because there was some technical problem with regards to their status and of course this constituent of ours came to explain the situation to me and of course I thought I would try to put a question, in general terms, to see exactly who the offer to purchase applied. I can

look through that document again which I have somewhere in my office. It is just that I wanted to make absolutely sure that the Government was aware, by way of asking supplementary questions, that there have been cases of people who were successfully balloted and then were told that they did not qualify. Yesterday, I got a phone call from one of them to say that they had been called and told that they could go and choose a flat so obviously something must have happened.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, unlikely though it is he should just console himself with the thought that it was his intervention in the House that had that result although I doubt it because these things are normally looked at objectively. There are many people who, I do not know what he means by successfully balloted in the context that it is usually what happens in an industrial dispute, apply for a house and they do not comply and those would not normally go into the draw. Those would normally be weeded out before they went into the draw and then there are some occasions, of which I have been made aware, when someone was eligible for a particular house by virtue of a particular circumstance, for example, that he was planning to get married and that they were a couple, and that circumstance might suddenly change thereby rendering them no longer compliant. There have been a number of cases like that including at Waterport Terraces. So, there may be an explanation why somebody is once eligible and then becomes ineligible in accordance with the criteria. When he looks at the criteria, I think the hon Member will see that there are some of them that one can sort of cease to be and that has happened quite a lot. I am surprised he has only had one or two people complaining about that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I appreciate the Chief Minister does not have the criteria because he has passed it over to this side of the House but in fact in the first clause of eligibility, paragraph 1(d), the fourth category is a person who has been residing in Gibraltar for at least ten years at the time of application. That would indicate that in fact it does not have to be..., never mind not being a Gibraltarian or being on the housing list, it can be anybody of any nationality that has been here for ten years according to this. So, it would seem ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If that is what it says. What I have said in my answer is that those are the conditions that currently prevail and they have not been changed. So whatever that says. I am not personally familiar with the intricacies of them. I was at the time, but whatever it says there, is the position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not think we have ever sort of discussed this but it does seem peculiar that when the Government approved this it says here that in order to buy you must be on the Government of Gibraltar housing list excluding the pre-list. So that means if you are on the pre-list you are excluded but if you are not on any list at all, you are included.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Even if it were capable of being read that way, that is not the intention and it would not work like that.

ORAL

NO. 1041 OF 2009

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW

Given the answer to Question No. 591 of 2009 showing a total sales of 331 flats, what is the position concerning the balance of 77 flats which is the figure required to bring the total being constructed in the South District to 408?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

These flats are in the process of being allocated to the successful applicants who took part in the final draw of the second round of allocation.

NO. 1042 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC REVIEW

What progress if any has been made in respect of the review of GBC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

When Government is in a position to make a public announcement about the future of GBC, it will do so. In the meantime the status quo will continue to prevail. We do not see this as a matter in which it is appropriate to give an account of work in progress. I do however, do not mind to telling the hon Member that at the moment our target date for having a Government position on how we would like GBC to go forward is the end of this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1042 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

It has been the end of this year for some time. The Chief Minister has been telling me that in answers to questions now, I think at least for the two sessions we have already had this year. Does the Chief Minister expect to make a public statement in relation to that or is it that he is going to progress the review internally at GBC before the end of the year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well no. Just to answer the last bit first. It is not the intention for the Government just to get on quietly with implementing whatever it decides. When the Government has a position it will share it first of all with stakeholders, the board and staff at GBC and then we will make a public statement with what it's preferred way forward is. We have had a discussion before about what he calls delays. The review of GBC is something that the Government has decided to do. In the meantime, the only thing different is that there is a triumvirate leadership, a rotating leadership instead of a single fixed leadership. That does not place the Government under the sense that it needs to get on quickly. I know that there are people who are critical of the rotating leadership. It is a management model which is applied elsewhere. We do not think it is that bad. We think that this is something that we would all like to put behind us but as I think I have also told him in the past, this is a file that sometimes slips down the priority list when other more urgent matters overtake it and we invest time in it as we

can. So whilst we would like to finish the review, as soon as possible, and announce what the Government's position will be, unlike the hon Member, as he shows through his persistent questioning on this, we are not here labouring under the view that this is something that is very urgent and all this delay and why is it not being done already and when is it going to be done and that sort of thing. Although we do understand that it is probably better that it should not linger indefinitely.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister knows that we take the view that the triumvirate at the top of GBC is an issue that needs to be resolved sooner rather than later and I acknowledge that he acknowledges that in the way that he has replied initially. Has he considered further at all the possibility of making available not just for the Opposition but to the community at large the provisions of the review document that was provided to the Government by its consultant Mr King which would inform the whole of the community on what it is that the Government is itself or is informing the Government's consideration of this review?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government would certainly not publish that document in advance of formulating its own position but certainly has not made any decision that it will not publish the report at the appropriate time, that is after it has formulated its own position, but there is no question of the Government publishing the report at this stage when the report is still informing the Government's internal decision-making process.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can he confirm to us now that the report is now in final form? It is no longer a draft report. It is now a final report which is therefore informing the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I have assumed that it is in final form. No one has suggested to me that it is still in draft or that there may be further versions coming. It is frankly... Time has passed. I assume it is final. I have not looked on it to see if it says final but I am proceeding on the assumption that it is final.

HON F R PICARDO:

Have the costs of that report now being paid to the consultant or are there still further payments to be made?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Again, I assume that it has all been paid. I think the invoices were submitted at the time. I cannot be certain of this so if he would please, gratefully not hold me to it but I assume that it has all been paid.

NO. 1043 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

COST OF SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED IN SPANISH NEWSPAPER “EXPANSION”

What was the cost to the Government of the Gibraltar supplement published in the Spanish newspaper ‘Expansion’ on 26th August 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government paid €16,500. Perhaps if I can just add to that! The way that that particular publication does its reports is that it either offers the principle sponsor the opportunity to advertise which we did not take up. We took the other alternative which is that one can pay instead for images of your country, of Gibraltar. So, in effect, this is the cost of one full colour page spread throughout. So I think the photograph on the front page and the five or six photographs on page three, I think, he will see makes up a whole page and we opted for photographs, images of Gibraltar, rather than advertorial text or things of that sort. We preferred to leave the text to their editorial assessments and to the interviewees of which there are many from the private sector.

ORAL

NO. 1044 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES – CONFERENCES

Can Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at all and any conferences which related or were considered to relate to financial services in the months from the last answer in this House to date, giving the name of the conference, the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the information the hon Member has requested is on the schedule that I now hand over to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1044 OF 2009

The Finance Centre Department attended the following conferences in the months from the last answer in this House to date.

14th – 19th June 2009

Global Alternative Investments Management (GAM) 2009 in Monaco.

Attended by: Francis Sanchez – Executive Officer

Flights and Hotel Accommodation	£ 1,834.00
Conference costs	£18,762.40
Expenses	<u>£ 876.08</u>
	£21,472.48

The private sector's contribution towards the costs of the exhibition is £8,000; the contribution consisting of £2,000 per attendee from local firms. The net cost to Government is therefore £13,472.48.

16th – 19th June 2009

Funds and Wealth Management and Insurance Seminars in London.

Attended by: Mrs Nyoka Catania – Administrative Officer
Miss Mireille Alsina – Administrative Officer

Flights	£ 440.00
Hotel Accommodation	£ 1,914.75
Subsistence	£ 307.32
Expenses	£ 138.79
Courier	£ 204.10
Conference Costs	<u>£17,857.62</u>
	£20,862.58

The private sector's contribution towards the costs of the seminars in London is £13,675; the contribution consisting of £250 per attendee from Gibraltar and £25 per guest. The net cost to Government is therefore £7,187.58.

28th September – 2nd October 2009

Funds and Wealth Management Seminars in Zurich and Geneva

Attended by: Mr James Tipping – Finance Centre Director
Mrs Sabrina Ramagge – Executive Officer

Flights	£ 1,354.00
Hotel Accommodation	£ 1,652.92
Subsistence	£ 103.88
Expenses	£ 460.47
Courier	£ 300.00
Conference costs	<u>£21,567.31</u>
	£25,438.58

We are in the process of billing the private sector for £16,300 being their contribution towards the costs of the seminars in Zurich and Geneva; the contribution consisting of £250 per attendee from Gibraltar and £25 per guest. The net cost to Government will be £9,138.58.

ORAL

NO. 1045 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of each of the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1046 to 1051 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1046 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

How many individuals have surrendered Category 2 status since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1045 and 1047 to 1051 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1047 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS – APPROVED PROPERTIES IN MAIN STREET

How many properties in Main Street have been approved for use by Category 2 individuals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1045, 1046 and 1048 to 1051 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1048 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 3 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 3 status in Gibraltar in each month since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1045 to 1047 and 1049 to 1051 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1049 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 3 STATUS

How many individuals have surrendered Category 3 status since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1045 to 1048, 1050 and 1051 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1050 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 4 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 4 status in each month since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1045 to 1049 and 1051 of 2009.

NO. 1051 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 4 STATUS

How many individuals have surrendered Category 4 status since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The monthly number of persons joining the Category 2 register are as follows:

June 09	5
July 09	3
Aug 09	1
Sept 09	0
Up to 6 Oct 09	0

A total of five individuals have surrendered their Category 2 Status since that date, since the question was last answered.

It is impossible, within the time-frame available, to give an accurate figure on how many properties in Main Street have been approved for use by Category 2 individuals since the status began in 1999.

However, as from 2006 records indicate that one property in Main Street has been approved for use by Category 2 individuals.

No individuals have joined the register of people with Category 3 or 4 status since the last answer was given since these no longer exist.

A total of 43 individuals surrendered Category 3 status and there are no remaining Category 4 status individuals in Gibraltar.

ORAL

NO. 1052 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

How many companies have been removed from the companies register in each of the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1053 and 1054 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1053 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in each of the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1052 and 1054 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1054 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government state how many companies have been re-domiciled out of Gibraltar in each of the months since the last answer in this House and how many of these asked for their registrations to be cancelled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the schedule that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1054 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 1052 of 2009

The companies removed from the companies register in each of the months since the last answer in this House are as follows:

June 09	111
July 09	130
August 09	176
September 09	133

Answer to Question No. 1053 of 2009

The companies formed in Gibraltar in each of the months since the last answer in this House are as follows:

June 09	123
July 09	179
Aug 09	108
Sept 09	141

Answer to Question No. 1054 of 2009

The companies re-domiciled out of Gibraltar in each of the months since the last answer in this House are as follows:

The register gives consent 30 days after the notice is issued and consent is given almost without exception.

June 09	1
July 09	1
Aug 09	1
Sept 09	2

ORAL

NO. 1055 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING SECTOR

Can Government state how many persons were employed in the banking sector in Gibraltar, giving a breakdown by bank and by nationality (showing how many are Gibraltarian) in the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1056 of 2009.

NO. 1056 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

INSURANCE INDUSTRY

What is the total number of persons employed in the insurance industry in Gibraltar giving a breakdown by company and by nationality (showing how many are Gibraltarian) in the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the schedule that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1056 OF 2009

Answer to Question 1055

Banking

Month	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Gib	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC
June 09	14	683	436	149	40	0	56	2
July 09	14	675	431	148	39	0	55	2
August 09	14	674	430	147	39	0	56	2
September 09	14	673	429	147	40	0	55	2

Answer to Question 1056

Insurance

Month	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Gib	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC
June 09	28	219	115	88	5	0	10	1
July 09	28	219	117	87	5	0	9	1
August 09	28	219	116	87	5	0	10	1
September 09	28	221	116	89	5	0	10	1

These figures have been provided by the ETB and might be slightly inflated as some employers do not always deregister employees once they leave the company. However, we have been informed by the ETB that the insurance industry and banking sector are generally compliant.

ORAL

NO. 1057 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Can Government state whether any new banking licences have been issued in the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1058 and 1059 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1058 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Has Government made any decision in exercise of its powers under section 23 (3) (i), (j) or 3A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, and if so how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1057 and 1059 of 2009.

NO. 1059 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Has the Government refused consent for any application made under section 74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, and if so how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No new banking licences have been issued since the last answer in this House.

As at today, I have not formally withheld consent in exercise of powers in Section 23 of the Financial Services (Banking) Act but there are two cases of the sort that would require my consent in the pipeline and are under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1057 TO 1059 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister answered in respect of Section 23. Is it the same answer for Section 74?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It had not been exercised. If he will refresh my memory, the other sections are about shareholders and names. So it is yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

When he says that there are two cases of the sort that would require or that might engage those sections in one way or the other, is it that those are already with him or that they are still with the regulator and he is just aware of them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well they would be with the licensor, not with the regulator but one is with me and in respect of the other, it is not clear whether it is with me, and I have asked for that clarification.

NO. 1060 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can the Government give a breakdown of the cost of all travel by the Chief Minister since the last answer in this House to date stating:

- (a) what the purpose of travel was;
- (b) who travelled with the Chief Minister
- (c) who the Chief Minister intended to meet on each of the journeys undertaken;
and
- (d) a breakdown of the travel expenses incurred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1064 and 1065 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1061 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

**CHIEF MINISTER – ACCOMMODATION AND SUBSISTENCE COSTS IN
RESPECT OF LONDON TRIP**

Can the Government provide a breakdown of the accommodation costs of £1,151.90 and the subsistence costs of £1,892.18 charged in respect of the 3 day trip to London by the Chief Minister between 30th March and 1st April 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1062 and 1063 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1062 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

**CHIEF MINISTER – ACCOMMODATION AND SUBSISTENCE COSTS IN
RESPECT OF LONDON TRIP**

Can the Government provide a breakdown of the accommodation costs of £1,164.40 and the subsistence costs of £2,083.13 charged in respect of the 3 day trip to London by the Chief Minister between 11th May and 13th May 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1061 and 1063 of 2009.

NO. 1063 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER – SUBSISTENCE COSTS FOR TRIP TO LONDON

Can the Government provide a breakdown of the subsistence costs of £1,552.50 charged in respect of the 1 day trip to London by the Chief Minister between 1st June and 2nd June 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The £1,151.90 comprised of £1,092.50 room charge; £0.80 in respect of newspapers; and £58.60 for room service.

The £1,892.18 comprised two uses of the Gatwick VIP Lounge at £776.25 a time; £248.88 for care hire; £41.00 for Gatwick Express tickets and £49.80 for dinner.

The £1,164.40 comprised £1,092.50 room charge; £0.90 newspapers; and £71.00 room service. The £2,083.13 comprised two uses of the Gatwick VIP Lounge at the aforementioned rate per go; £163.20 for the use of a car, and there was £367.43 which was included in the last answer from which he derived this question which was not subsistence costs relating to the Chief Minister's travel, and therefore should not have been included as such in the answer to Question No. 280 of 2009.

The £1,552.50 was two uses of the Gatwick VIP Lounge at the aforementioned rate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1061 to 1063 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Chief Minister have the information of what the £367.43 that should not have been charged actually was?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not have it here with me but I think it is an event that I hosted at the Gibraltar Office.

ORAL

NO. 1064 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

COST OF VIP LOUNGE AT GATWICK

What has been the exact cost charged to the Government in respect of the use by the Chief Minister of the VIP lounge at Gatwick on each occasion that the use of the lounge has been charged for since 2005, giving a breakdown by each occasion on which the said lounge has been used?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1060 and 1065 of 2009.

NO. 1065 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTERS' OFFICIAL AIR TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government list the cost to the taxpayer of air travel 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

Yes, the information requested by the hon Member is in the schedule which I now hand to him.

I should just point out to him that this week's use of the lounges are not included because they have not yet been invoiced.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1065

Answer to Question 1060

Date	Purpose	Persons Travelling With CM	Met With	Air Fares	Accommodation	Subsistence & Other Costs
5th - 7th July	Trilateral Forum of Dialogue - Madrid	Mr R Garcia. Mr R Armstrong Mr P Montegriffo Mr F Cantos Mr D Tilbury Mr E Lopez	Trilateral Forum	£367.00	£736.64	£526.53
2nd September	New Air Terminal Meeting Under Trilateral Process Madrid	Mr R Garcia. Mr R Armstrong Mr N Pardo Mr C Purkiss Mr D Tilbury Mr C Sanchez	Trilateral Forum	£443.00	N/A	N/A
27th - 28th September	Labour Party Conference	Mr J Reyes	GoG Reception	£1,197.50	Not Yet Invoiced	Not Yet Invoiced
30th September - 1st October	Finance Centre Seminar Geneva	Mr J Reyes	Senior Executives From Credit Suisse Lombard Odier	£2,067.00	£1,010.44	Not Yet Invoiced
5th - 6th October	Conservative Party Conference	Mr J Reyes	GoG Reception	£170.50	Not Yet Invoiced	Not Yet Invoiced
6th - 8th October	United Nations	Mr R Garcia	UN Address to the 4th Committee	Not Yet Invoiced	Not Yet Invoiced	Not Yet Invoiced

Contd.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1065

Answer to Question 1064

Use of VIP Facilities at Gatwick

No charge prior to June 2006

07.06.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
08.09.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
28.09.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
03.10.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
05.10.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
05.10.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
29.10.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
13.10.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
17.10.06	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
16.12.07	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
20.12.07	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
01.02.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
04.03.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
06.03.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	165.00
07.05.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
10.05.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
17.06.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
23.06.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
01.07.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
03.07.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
08.07.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
09.07.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
28.09.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
19.10.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
22.10.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
06.11.08	VIP Suite Gatwick	793.13
19.01.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
21.01.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
16.02.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
22.02.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
24.02.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
26.02.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
30.03.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
01.04.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
11.05.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
13.05.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
01.06.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25
02.06.09	VIP Suite Gatwick	776.25

£21142.56

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1065

Answer to Question 1065

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
Madrid	5th - 7th July	£367.00	Andalus	Economy	Bland
Madrid	2nd September	£443.00	Andalus	Economy	Bland
London/Brighton	27th - 28th September	£1,197.50	BA	Business	Bland
Geneva	30th September - 2nd October		Andalus Iberia Swissair	Economy Business Business	
Manchester	5th - 7th October	£2,067.00	Monarch	Economy	Bland
New York	6th - 8th October	£170.50	BA	Business	N/A Online Bland

MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
The Hon. E Britto	Guernsey	14th - 18th June	£1,243.20	BA	Business	Bland
The Hon. E Britto	London	29th June - 1st July	£1,502.20	FlyBe	Business	Bland
The Hon. E Britto	Tanzania	27th September - 7th October	£4,924.80	BA	Business	Bland
The Hon. J Netto	Tanzania	28th September - 7th October	£5,151.10	Precision Air KLM	Economy Business	Bland
The Hon. C Beltran	Guernsey	14th - 18th June	£1,012.40	Transavia BA	Economy	Bland
The Hon. E Reyes	Brussels	18th - 21st June	£1,543.10	FlyBe BA	Economy	Bland
The Hon. E Reyes	Aland	29th June - 4th July	£2,045.98	Brussels Air BA	Business Economy	Bland
				Air Aland		Bland
						and Charter through Gibraltar Island Games Association

ORAL

NO. 1066 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

Given that the Government has now missed its intended publication date of June (and its "slippage" date of September) for the text of the new proposed tax legislation, when does Government expect to publish the Bill or consultation document for the new tax reform legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Well, the telegraphic answer is as soon as we are ready to do so. The matter is under intense drafting work by lawyers as he may be aware with whom I meet regularly and it is just not yet ready. When it is, it will be detailed and comprehensive but there is nothing that I can do to speed up the completion of the legal drafting process but it is very advanced now.

NO. 1067 OF 2009

THE HON F R PICARDO

HAYMILLS – PAYMENTS BY GOVERNMENT

What is the total sum paid by Government to Haymills (or any associated company) in respect of each of the following projects, giving a breakdown by project and the dates when the payments were made:

- (a) Bayview;
- (b) Nelsons View;
- (c) Cumberland;
- (d) Trafalgar Interchange; and
- (e) any other project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand to the hon Member a schedule containing almost all of that information but because he has not given a date in the question, the “(e) any other project” theoretically goes back to the very first day that Haymills was established in Gibraltar which is not just doable. So I think there is information there going back to the last few financial years. Certainly all the payments made for the projects listed by name at (a) to (d).

Answer to Question 1067/2009:

Schedule of contract payments to Haymills by project in the financial years 2007/08 to 2009/10:

Summary:	Nelson's View	9,748,405	
	Cumberland Terraces	11,822,127	
	Bayview Terraces	6,513,712	
			£28,084,244
	Public Market		£30,102
	Trafalgar Interchange		£201,821
	Fish Market Road - Phase 3		£1,098,343

Project: Nelson's View

Date	Certificate No.	Certificate Amt.
		£
18/12/2007	44	1,010,899
18/02/2008	45	174,185
13/03/2008	46	221,373
18/03/2008	47	417,075
31/03/2008	48	152,699
15/04/2008	49	190,350
02/05/2008	50	453,985
15/05/2008	51	184,385
27/05/2008	52	139,212
09/06/2008	53	598,885
27/06/2008	54	41,260
10/07/2008	55	178,309
22/07/2008	56	76,858
01/08/2008	57	111,403
20/08/2008	58	424,435
09/09/2008	59	658,833
19/09/2008	60	327,586
29/09/2008	61	210,090
16/10/2008	62	43,794
31/10/2008	63	94,253
14/11/2008	64	242,801
26/11/2008	65	205,490
06/12/2008	66	188,235
09/12/2008	67	206,656
23/12/2008	68	355,582
19/01/2009	69	452,745
05/02/2009	70	560,185
12/02/2009	71	156,730
26/02/2009	72	367,241
10/03/2009	73	264,613
13/03/2009	74	264,613
03/04/2009	75	81,986
09/04/2009	76	76,544
17/04/2009	77	81,172
23/04/2009	78	47,402
01/05/2009	79	143,432
08/05/2009	80	76,569
15/05/2009	81	67,001
22/05/2009	82	66,569
28/05/2009	83	108,483
30/07/2009	84	2,489
30/07/2009	85	22,000
		£9,748,405

Project: Cumberland Terraces

Date	Certificate No.	Certificate Amt. £
18/12/2007	47	1,093,648
21/12/2007	48	232,917
06/02/2008	49	712,435
18/02/2008	50	723,130
13/03/2008	51	564,154
18/03/2008	52	171,808
31/03/2008	53	346,962
15/04/2008	54	289,265
02/05/2008	55	227,812
15/05/2008	56	227,954
27/05/2008	57	173,757
09/06/2008	58	561,295
27/06/2008	59	274,927
10/07/2008	60	237,497
22/07/2008	61	304,631
01/08/2008	62	213,822
20/08/2008	63	487,767
09/09/2008	64	458,912
09/09/2008	65	317,343
09/09/2008	66	286,973
09/09/2008	67	390,829
31/10/2008	68	51,428
14/11/2008	69	394,631
26/11/2008	70	359,665
06/12/2008	71	303,057
09/12/2008	72	180,689
23/12/2008	73	519,756
19/01/2009	74	359,729
05/02/2009	75	454,875
12/02/2009	76	148,216
26/02/2009	77	228,975
10/03/2009	78	9,100
13/03/2009	79	36,690
30/03/2009	80	73,380
03/04/2009	81	36,690
09/04/2009	82	14,676
17/04/2009	83	14,676
23/04/2009	84	14,676
01/05/2009	85	14,676
08/05/2009	86	14,676
15/05/2009	87	14,676
22/05/2009	88	14,676
28/05/2009	89	14,676
19/06/2009	90	50,000
25/06/2009	91	50,000
03/07/2009	92	50,000
13/07/2009	93	50,000
17/07/2009	94	50,000
		£11,822,127

Project: Bayview Terraces

Date	Certificate No.	Certificate Amt. £
18/12/2007	25	240,933
18/02/2008	26	78,341
13/03/2008	27	126,794
18/03/2008	28	124,616
31/03/2008	29	101,243
15/04/2008	30	106,664
02/05/2008	31	104,671
15/05/2008	32	149,132
27/05/2008	33	133,614
09/06/2008	34	233,308
26/06/2008	35	122,871
10/07/2008	36	264,579
22/07/2008	37	493,081
08/08/2008	38	345,358
20/08/2008	39	506,961
09/09/2008	40	104,005
16/10/2008	41	26,682
31/10/2008	42	291,227
14/11/2008	43	45,625
26/11/2008	44	147,879
06/12/2008	45	105,369
09/12/2008	46	359,556
19/01/2009	47	387,526
05/02/2009	48	326,839
12/02/2009	49	104,421
26/02/2009	50	240,031
10/03/2009	51	46,149
13/03/2009	52	79,737
30/03/2009	53	185,150
03/04/2009	54	60,464
09/04/2009	55	206,780
17/04/2009	56	99,284
23/04/2009	57	33,113
01/05/2009	58	116,232
08/05/2009	59	65,602
22/05/2009	60	7,083
28/05/2009	61	44,606
02/07/2009	62	57,221
13/07/2009	63	73,403
17/07/2009	64	43,043
30/07/2009	65	106,520
30/07/2009	66	18,000
		£6,513,712

Project: Public Market

Date	Certificate No.	Certificate Amt. £
29/07/2009	1	£30,102

Project: Trafalgar Interchange

Date	Certificate No.	Certificate Amt. £
28/05/2009	1	47,025
25/06/2009	2	73,102
23/07/2009	3	81,694
		£201,821

Project: Fish Market Road - Phase 3

Date	Certificate No.	Certificate Amt. £
27/02/2007	1	59,474
15/03/2007	2	122,780
26/04/2007	3	85,490
24/05/2007	4	12,832
26/06/2007	5	62,083
19/07/2007	6	34,873
30/08/2007	7	75,576
02/10/2007	8	76,710
30/10/2007	9	68,724
04/12/2007	10	159,387
15/01/2008	11	86,271
29/01/2008	12	11,629
26/02/2008	13	12,981
01/05/2008	14	32,996
08/05/2008	15	16,335
05/06/2008	16	31,020
26/06/2008	17	27,345
24/07/2008	18	41,033
02/09/2008	19	10,205
25/09/2008	20	5,165
29/10/2008	21	1,102
28/11/2008	22	2,035
22/01/2009	23	3,750
30/03/2009	24	10,772
05/05/2009	25	13,234
28/05/2009	26	32,517
25/06/2009	27	2,024
		£1,098,343

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1067 OF 2009

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister is right of course. In respect of the other projects, there was a date when OEM was no longer in the picture and the Government stepped in. So I am grateful for the information that has been provided which I will ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

[Inaudible]

HON F R PICARDO:

No that's right. Absolutely! But in respect of the first three there was that date which brought the Government into the equation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

xxxxxx Government project.

HON F R PICARDO:

And (d) is a Government project. That's right. I appreciate that. Grateful for the information.

ORAL

NO. 1068 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RUNWAY WORKS

Can Government say whether any tests have been carried out to ascertain whether any work needs to be done on both ends of the runway to allow for its continued use for commercial flights and if so when and with what results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government is not aware that there is a need for any works to be done. The Government is currently installing so called "simple approach lighting" at both ends of the runway.

NO. 1069 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS FOR ARENGO'S PALACE AND GEORGE'S LANE

Can Government say how many tenders have been received for the sale of:

- (a) 10 Arengo's Palace; and
- (b) 14-16 George's Lane and 18 George's Lane,

and whether these tenders have been allocated and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Fifteen bids have been received for No. 10 Arengo's Palace; 12 bids for 14-16 George's Lane and nine bids for 18 George's Lane. In addition, two bids were received for all of the George's Lane properties jointly. These tenders have not yet been allocated. They are under consideration and therefore it is not appropriate to provide any more information.

NO. 1070 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Are Government aware of the recommendation by the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) to have a nine digit serial number on identity documents and do Government think that any changes need to be made to the Gibraltar Identity Card as a result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government are aware of the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation regarding the technical specifications of identity documents accepted for travel purposes. These recommendations go well beyond the 9 character position limit in relation to the document number. Government are also mindful of applicable EU specifications which may also need to be incorporated.

These specifications are currently being studied in order to determine the extent to which the Gibraltar Identity Card may need to be changed.

ORAL

NO. 1071 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REPORTING OF VESSELS PASSING THROUGH THE STRAIT

Can Government say when they were made aware and by whom of the decision of the International Maritime Organisation to adopt a new system for the reporting of vessels passing through the Strait of Gibraltar which makes it compulsory for these to report to Spain and Morocco only?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1072 of 2009.

NO. 1072 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REPORTING OF VESSELS PASSING THROUGH THE STRAIT

Are Government aware of the basis of the objection by the United Kingdom to the adoption of a new system for the mandatory reporting of vessels passing through the Strait of Gibraltar by the International Maritime Organisation and if so can they give details to this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government was made aware of the proposal to amend the IMO traffic reporting system on the 14th July 2009 by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

The UK raised an objection at our instigation at the IMO to the adoption of a new system for the mandatory reporting scheme because Gibraltar had not been consulted and was not included in the parties relevant to the adoption of that scheme.

I think it is also worth, just pointing out to the hon Members in case they were not aware of it, that this agreement to which the question relates actually diminishes rather than increases Spain's role. In other words, until that agreement, only Spain was the reporting authority for traffic in both directions. As a result of this agreement the traffic going, I think, let me see if I get it right now, into the Mediterranean which goes along the coast now reports to a port near Tangier; and the other one, the outgoing traffic, reports to Spain. We thought it was an appropriate opportunity to acknowledge the fact that there were three maritime jurisdictions in the vicinity and regrettably our view did not prosper.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1071 AND 1072 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has the matter now been finished? Is it not possible for any amendments to be made at this stage?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The form that this takes is that Morocco and Spain do an agreement between them and then table it for approval or rejection at the IMO and the IMO has approved

it. Spain who had the lot offers to share half of it with Morocco. It is unlikely that anyone is going to reject it. We thought that it was an opportunity to say, well if there is going to be a re-sharing out, how about doing it on three. At the end of the day it is most unusual for a Strait to have more than one passage through reporting. This is ships that are passing in international waters. It does not raise any issue. It is just a logistical thing but still we thought we should at least have been consultees as being a maritime jurisdiction in the area.

NO. 1073 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARITIME RESOURCES CAPABILITY

Can Government say, following the details supplied at budget time, how many larger vessels it intends to purchase to increase the capability of its maritime resources, at what cost and indicate which department these vessels would come under?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

These matters are currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION NO. 1073 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I just ask the Chief Minister whether we actually voted any money specifically for this project in the budget or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

NO. 1074 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIR TERMINAL – STAFFING LEVELS

Can Government list the staffing levels by post in the existing air terminal and the projected staffing levels that are envisaged in the new terminal building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All staff working in the air terminal, except for the Royal Gibraltar Police and Customs Officers, are employed by private companies, who are contractors to the Government.

The staffing levels of these companies are:-

Terminal Management Limited 34.

Security and Immigration Limited 40 in two shifts of 20.

Blands Ltd trading as GibAir handling, who employ 52 people.

It is not possible at this stage to assess what the impact of the splendid new terminal will be on staffing levels.

ORAL

NO. 1075 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN SPAIN AND GIBRALTAR THROUGH UK

Can Government list the communications between Spain and Gibraltar, both incoming and outgoing, that were made through the UK post-box since the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the date of the communication, the issuing authority and the receiving authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1076 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1076 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN THROUGH UK

In respect of the communications between Gibraltar and Spain made through the UK post-box since the last Question Time in this Parliament, can Government say which were notifications between competent authorities and which were requests for information?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes Mr Speaker, the information the hon Member requests, is on the schedule that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1076

Answer to Questions 1075 & 1076

Year 2009 (Incoming)

Post Box ref & Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
(1)PB/30/09 29th June 2009	Ministerio de Justicia, Madrid	Attorney General	Request for Information
(1)PB/33/09 9th July 2009	Ministerio de Economia y Hacienda	Financial Services Commission	Notification
(1)PB/42/09 20th Aug 2009	Oficina Nacional de Investigacion del Fraude	Commissioner of Income Tax	Request for Information
(1)PB/43/09 20th Aug 2009	Oficina Nacional de Investigacion del Fraude	Commissioner of Income Tax	Request for Information
(1)PB/47/09 27th Aug 2009	Junta de Andalucia, Spain	Environmental Agency	Notification
(1)PB/62/09 18th Sept 2009	Servicio Ejecutivo de la Comision de Prevencion del Blanqueo de Capitales e Infracciones Monetarias	Gibraltar Financial Intelligence Unit	Request for Information

Year 2009 (Outgoing)

Post Box ref & Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
PB/97/09 22nd June 2009	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/100/09 8th July 2009	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/101/09 23rd July 2009	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/102/09 29th July 2009	Attorney General Chambers	Ministerio de Justicia	Request for Information
PB/104/09 18th Aug 2009	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/109/09 11th Sept 2009	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification

NO. 1077 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HOUSE IN LONDON

Can Government say on how many occasions the facilities at the Gibraltar Business Suites at Gibraltar House in London have been booked and used and what amounts have been paid for their use since the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The facilities at the Gibraltar House Business Suites have been used on six occasions by fee paying commercial members of the business community. The total amount received has been £3,045. It has of course been used on many more occasions by non-fee paying users, including charities, tourist bodies and Government departments and agencies.

ORAL

NO. 1078 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DIVING ACTIVITIES IN BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Has Government now taken a policy decision to licence and regulate diving activities in British Gibraltar territorial waters by individuals and/or commercial entities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It has indeed and it is decided that it is desirable to do so and will do so and is now currently considering the options for doing so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1078 OF 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This is for both commercial entities and for individuals or is it just for one or for both?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The answer and the question relates to diving activities. It is for both. The answer applies to both.

ORAL

NO. 1079 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR 19 SCUD HILL

Can Government say whether the tender for 19 Scud Hill has now been allocated, to whom and in what amount and whether this was the highest bidder and by how much?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. The tender for 19 Scud Hill was awarded to Nick Cruz and his wife Leigh Anne in the sum of £731,250 and this was indeed the highest bidder. Government is concluding the sale with Mr Cruz and therefore cannot at this stage disclose the difference between his bid and the next highest bids.

ORAL

NO. 1080 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ALLOCATION OF – 14 ROSIA COURT AND UNITS AT SANDPITS BLOCK

Can Government say whether the following have now been allocated, and if so to whom, in what amount, whether this was the highest bidder (where applicable), and by how much:

- (a) 14 Rosia Court;
- (b) 1, 2 and 8 Sandpits Block?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

14 Rosia Court was allocated but the bidder did not proceed with the purchase. The property will now be re-allocated by way of a draw.

Numbers 1, 2 and 8 Sandpits have been allocated and are due to be completed in November 2009.

Details of the purchasers in all of the above cases will be made available on completion.

ORAL

NO. 1081 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**NON-RECOGNITION BY SPAIN OF DOCUMENTATION ISSUED BY GIBRALTAR
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**

Can Government say how the problem with the non-recognition by Spain of documentation issued to ships registered in Gibraltar by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration was resolved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1082 of 2009.

NO. 1082 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NON-RECOGNITION BY SPAIN OF DOCUMENTATION ISSUED BY GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Can Government say whether the resolution of the problem created by Spain's non-recognition of documents issued by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration to vessels registered in Gibraltar was solved by changing any wording in these documents and if so what was the old wording and what is the new one?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The issue of the format of ships' certificates issued by all Red Ensign Group ships including Gibraltar, which was the subject of discussion within the Red Ensign Group, was resolved by agreeing that the following new text in the form of a factual statement would be carried at the footnote of certificates:

"This certificate is issued by (Name of the Overseas Territory/Crown Dependency, in our case Gibraltar), under the responsibility of the United Kingdom as flag-State under the Convention".

This statement sets out the position as it has always in fact been.

No wording on the ships' certificates has been changed.

NO. 1083 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – GIBRALTAR OFFICE IN MADRID

Can Government confirm that the Gibraltar Office in Madrid is no longer operational and has therefore been closed and state the reasons for the closure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I confirm that the Gibraltar Government Tourist Office in Madrid has now been closed. Its activities can now be carried out from Gibraltar given the developments at this end and the advent of electronic communications and contacts. The establishment of contacts now with journalists and it has been thought that the cost of running the office no longer justifies whatever advantage there may have been in having a physical presence there.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1083 of 2009

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Government tied to a lease or a rental contract which they have to see through?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There was a lease that could not be changed without a severe penalty until a certain number of years had passed. Thereafter, it could be stopped at relatively short notice and when that date came we exercised the power to do it.

NO. 1084 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

JOB LOSSES EXPECTED AT 888.COM

Can Government confirm whether they are aware of the number of job losses expected at 888.com following the state of collective redundancy declared at the company in May/June and if so what are the numbers involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government was notified at the time that around 40 jobs would be lost as a result of redundancies arising principally out of the international recession but also out of the business reorganisation by the company.

Casava has confirmed that in fact there were 39 voluntary redundancies and only one person was made compulsorily redundant. These redundancies affected its business to clients' side of the business. The business to business side of the business was not affected by the redundancies at the time and indeed further recruitment has taken place in that division.

Casava continues to be one of the major and therefore very welcome employers in the gaming industry in Gibraltar. In fact, the net loss, after redundancies in one division and additional recruitment in the other, is 27.

ORAL

NO. 1085 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BETTING INDUSTRY

Can Government say what is the total 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 dates when the figures apply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 1877 persons were employed by 20 remote gambling companies as at 30th September 2009. I am sure the hon Member will recognise that figure as the highest ever level of employment in the remote gaming industry in Gibraltar. One thousand, eight hundred and seventy seven as at the 30th September 2009.

I am now happy to give the hon Member a schedule setting out the breakdown of that information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1085

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2009

	Gibraltar	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (Gibraltar) Limited	30	60	4	6	100
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	56	162	21	42	281
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	17	195	14	38	264
bwin International Limited	24	42	18	104	186
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	6	14	1	2	23
Carmen Media Group Limited	7	2	2	3	14
32 Red Plc	1	25	0	3	29
St Minver Limited	24	38	15	51	128
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	10	11
888 Holdings Plc	45	91	24	102	262
Globet.com Group Limited	2	3	1	8	14
International Betting Association Limited	0	0	0	8	8
PartyGaming Plc	36	105	12	72	225
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	18	53	3	30	104
Prospreads Ltd (formerly Futuresbetting)	1	9	0	0	10
Partouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	2	3	1	6	12
William Hill (Gibraltar) Limited	1	78	0	12	91
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	2	52	3	8	65
Petfre (Gibraltar) Limited	7	29	0	2	38
Entertaining Play Ltd	3	6	1	0	10
Overall Total	282	968	120	507	1877

Source: Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1085 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Unlike the figures just provided for banking, this is from the employers themselves is it? This information, the source!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. This is a head count by the Licensing Authority, my staff in the gambling division of the Ministry of Finance on the basis of returns sought from the licensees directly.

NO. 1086 OF 2009

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GAMING INDUSTRY

Have Government received any indication from the gaming industry in Gibraltar about the effects of the ruling by the European Court in the case of Bwin against Lisbon's national gaming monopoly?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir. The effect of the ruling is self evident from a mere reading of it.

NO. 1087 OF 2009

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. 1088 of 2009.

NO. 1088 OF 2009

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

The amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since June 2009 is as follows:

June 09	£175,194.40
July 09	£165,282.81
August 09	£124,615.28
September 09	£125,528.01

The amount of import duty collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis since June 2009 is as follows:-

June 09	£13,100.88
July 09	£14,496.41
August 09	£11,013.82
September 09	£14,726.50

NO. 1089 OF 2009

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

Tenders for 1, 2 and 8 Sandpits and 19 Scud Hill have been awarded. These purchases have not yet been completed. Unit 2, F Block, was awarded to Mr K & Mrs L Mackie in the sum of £252,525.25. Ten per cent of which has been received by way of deposit on 23rd April 2009 and the balance was received on the 22nd May 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1090 OF 2009

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

I now hand the hon Member schedules containing the information that they have asked.

Answer to Question 1090

<u>Residential Property Sales From 1 June To 30 September 2009 (Improvement And Development Fund)</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jul-09	S & M Peliza	Sale of 10 North Pavilion Road	£81,070.00
Jul-09	N & L Cruz	10% Deposit iro Tender for 19 Scud Hill	£73,125.00
Aug-09	J Fa	Sale of 22 Flat Bastion Road	£20,730.00
			<u>£174,925.00</u>

Cont'd...

Cont'd Answer to Question 1090

Residential Property Sales From 1 June To 30 September 2009 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jun-09	M Sanchez & T Holmes	Reservation fee 100 share of Flat 1, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£500.00
Jul-09	Mr Vallejo & Ms Walker	10% Sale of GOG Share 100 24 Rotterdam Court, Harbour Views	£9,623.56
Jul-09	Mr & Mrs Bromfield	50% Sale of GOG Share 100 3 Ebony Lodge & CPS15, Montagu Gardens	£44,601.70
Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Thompson	10% Sale of GOG share 100 05:06:04 Apricot Court, Sir William Jackson Grove	£10,304.78
Aug-09	Mr Corbacho & Mrs Rodriguez	40% Sale of GOG Share 100 7 Plymouth Court, Harbour Views	£27,069.92
Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Langston	40% Sale of GOG Share 100 6 Vancouver Court, Harbour Views	£25,685.92
Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Rodriguez	5% Deposit 100 tender for Flat 8 & Garage 8 Sandpits	£13,000.00
Sep-09	E Smart	Sale of Poca Roca	£51,200.00
Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Reyes	10% Deposit 100 Garage 96 Vineyards	£2,500.00
Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Chichon	10% Deposit 100 Garage 132 Vineyards	£3,010.00
			<u>£187,495.88</u>

Cont'd...

Cont'd Answer to Question 1090

<u>Commercial Property Sales From 1 June To 30 September 2009 (Improvement And Development Fund)</u>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	
Jun-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00	
Jul-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00	
Aug-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00	
Aug-09	Cotton Leisure	Premium iro tender for premises at Ironside House, 5 Glacis Estate	£4,000.00	
Sep-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00	
			<u>£7,928.00</u>	

Cont'd...

Cont'd Answer to Question 1090

<u>Commercial Property Sales From 1 June To 30 September 2009 (Government Owned Companies)</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jun-09	A. Boulaich	Premium 10 Unit 13, Chatham Counterguard	£12,500.00
Jun-09	Camelot Holdings	Premium 10 Unit 7, Chatham Counterguard	£10,000.00
Sep-09	Techtrolec Ltd	Premium 10 Unit 44B, Harbours Deck	£22,296.48
Sep-09	Markson Ltd	Premium 10 Unit 38, Harbours Deck	£166,294.58
Sep-09	Patton Ltd	Premium 10 Vault 8, Chatham Counterguard	£10,600.00
Sep-09	Evensong Ltd	Premium 10 Vault 5, Chatham Counterguard	£8,000.00
			<u>£229,691.06</u>

ORAL

NO. 1091 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORATE

Can Government state when it will bring the health and safety inspectorate to full manning levels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1092 and 1093 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1092 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORATE

Can Government state whether it has now concluded the review of the health and safety inspectorate which it announced in April 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1091 and 1093 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1093 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORATE

Can Government state whether it has now decided to accept the recommendation of a jury following an inquest into the death of a worker at Waterport Terraces to the effect that the health and safety inspectorate should be strengthened?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As the hon Member is aware, the general review of all aspects of health and safety in Gibraltar which has been conducted is not limited to staffing levels of the Inspectorate. The Government will not increase staffing levels whilst the general review of options is on-going, which remains the case, as was the case indeed last time he asked that question.

ORAL

NO. 1094 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Can Government state when it will publish the traffic improvement plan which the Chief Minister promised in his New Year message of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I believe has already been indicated by one of my colleagues earlier today or yesterday, the Government plan to make a policy statement during the next 14 days.

NO. 1095 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

BERTHS FOR SMALL BOATS

Are Government now in a position to state when it will deliver the additional berths for small boats which it promised at the time of the 2007 elections?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government will make its policy deployment announcements when it is ready to do so. The GSD is the only Government in Gibraltar's recent political history to have cared for local boat owners. The Camber facility is testimony to that, following years of failure by the GSLP Government to heed boat owners' plea to be relocated from the "temporary" and unsuitable Western Beach facility and they had to await the arrival of the so called "Yacht Club Member loving GSD Government" for that to be remedied.

This Government will continue to invest heavily in the sport and leisure needs of our community and our citizens as no Government before it has done, and is as we have already done at the Coaling Island Boat Club, at the Bayside Sports Centre, at the Kings Bastion Leisure Centre, at the Sandpits Tennis Club, amongst others.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1095 OF 2009

HON G H LICUDI:

I was accused yesterday of making a party political broadcast and certainly the Chief Minister will welcome the opportunity I have given him with this particular question to do the same today.

Going back to the original question which is the additional berths which were promised at the time of the last elections, we have had a number of statements in this House over the last two years to the effect that the Government propose to carry out that promise within the next two years, in other words, during the life of this Parliament. Certainly we will hold the Government to that promise. What we are particularly interested is seeing what progress is being made and in particular whether additional sites or alternative sites have been identified because the Chief Minister will be aware of the plight of boat owners, particularly those who have their boats on land and have had their boats on land for many, many years. So quite apart from any political issues and differences which there might be of which we can both make capital on this matter, what we are interested in particular are the facts

and when boat owners were suffering as a result of this problem, will see their problem addressed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, he and his henchmen do indeed make political capital out of this matter and when I tell the Government's very good story on this he accuses me of making a party political broadcast. Well I cannot help it if the Government's performance on sport and leisure facilities is so good that whenever I simply answer the question that I am asked, it sounds like a party political broadcast. It simply reflects the fact, as I have said in my answer, that no Government have the record of this Government in providing first class leisure facilities, including boating facilities for local ... like this one. There is no escaping that fact and however many people choose to write letters to the Chronicle, clearly politically motivated, simply by the vitriol that they betray, however many individuals write such letters, it does not alter the fact and most people in Gibraltar know it. The Government are aware that there are more boat owners in Gibraltar that would like the Government, that is to say, the tax payer, to provide berths for them. As I have said before, there are lots of people in Gibraltar waiting for the tax payer to provide leisure facilities for their sport and leisure activity of choice. The Government does it fairly and in turn around all the various resources and amenities for which there is demand. The Government know that there are more people that would like the Government to produce better berthing facilities than they have enjoyed in the past or indeed that they enjoy at all today. That is why there is the manifesto commitment to provide more. That is what the answer referred to when we said that when we have got policy statements to make we will announce them. However, I should say the hon Member may not be aware, that a significant number of the people who now make the most noise are in the position that they are as a self-inflicted wound because they refused to move from Western Beach to Coaling Island when they had the opportunity to do so. The hon Member does not know that?

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister shows the great annoyance that he gets from these letters in the media and he should certainly not take it out on the boat owners. Whether or not they write in the media which is their free democratic right, they should not bear the brunt of this Government's annoyance by not being provided with facilities which have been promised. These are facilities, which is not just a question of waiting as other tax payers are waiting for improved facilities or for better facilities or for the Government to provide any facilities at all, that have actually been promised. Has the Government now identified a site on which those additional berths will now be located?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have already answered that question. We will make policy announcements in our own good time and when we are ready to do so and look, the Government, I thought I had made clear, far from being annoyed to be asked questions on this subject, welcomes the opportunity to tell, what he calls a party political broadcast which is actually a simple statement of the very good news story of this Government's performance on this matter. If he asks me the question, I will continue to answer him. Of course people have an opportunity, a democratic right to write letters in the

local press, even in a democracy, letters filled with untruths from beginning to end but that does not deprive the Government of its democratic right to comment on the content of those letters. What, does the hon Member think that democracy applies to everybody except to the Government?

HON G H LICUDI:

Certainly not, but the Government does not have a monopoly of the truth and certainly if the Government do not consider certain matters which are aired to be true, does not mean that people are not entitled to air those views notwithstanding that the Government might not agree with the comments which have been made by those..... The position then, simply for confirmation, that we are two years yesterday after the last election when this promise was made and we are no nearer to finding a solution to this problem.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is true that we are two years into our fourth term of office and that we have not yet provided our second excellent new facility for local boat owners. By my simple mathematical calculations, these two years about which he complains, is precisely one quarter of the time that they were in office and provided no facilities at all.

NO. 1096 OF 2009

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRAFFIC CHAOS AT EUROPA POINT

Can Government state why it failed to plan for and avoid the traffic chaos that occurred in the morning of and in connection with the Red Arrows display at Europa Point?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Traffic management on a day to day basis is the responsibility of the Royal Gibraltar Police. The Royal Gibraltar Police have informed the Government that their plan did not work on the day as well as they had hoped and expected. This was as a result of a number of factors that worked against it, including an under estimation on their part on the appeal of the Red Arrows to the general public, especially from Spain, which resulted in greater volumes of traffic than they had expected. Road works at Trafalgar Interchange and the closure of Main Street south meant that all north bound traffic had to be channelled down Queensway as the only north bound exit after the event. All of this was compounded by airport operations requiring the obligatory lowering of the barriers at the runway and the result was, as the hon Member has noted, a very significant traffic problem which spoiled for many, many people, this event.

NO. 1097 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WORKERS PAID IN EUROS

Can Government confirm that frontier workers other than detached workers, cannot be paid the Euro equivalent of their local wages in sterling, without their agreement and does this agreement have to be in writing, and furthermore what protection is available to any such worker that does not wish to be paid in Euros when asked to give this consent by the employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Well Mr Speaker, leaving to one side the fact that the hon Member should not be asking for me to express legal opinions across the floor, I shall attempt to give the fullest answer that I can to, what I think, is the point that he is getting to.

Frontier workers, in common with all other workers in Gibraltar, are paid in sterling, as far as the Government is aware I should add. The Notice of Terms of Engagement that an employer needs to register with the Employment and Training Board in accordance with the provisions of the Employment Regulations of 1994 require that an employer should specify the remuneration of the worker as a weekly or annual figure, indicating the method of calculation of that amount but the law does not specify currency.

If a Notice of Term of Engagement is presented by an employer to the Employment and Training Board with the remuneration of the worker set out in a currency other than sterling, the long-standing practice of the ETB is not to accept the form but to return it to the employer with a request that it be resubmitted with the remuneration shown in sterling. This is done on the basis that the pound Sterling, or the Gibraltar pound, is the only legal tender in Gibraltar.

All employers comply with this practice of the ETB. The Government are not aware of any complaints having been made by any employer in relation to this long-standing practice.

The fact that an employer registers with the ETB the remuneration expressed in pounds does not impede or prevent the employer from entering into a private arrangement with an employee for payment of his remuneration in a currency other than sterling. This would be a purely private arrangement between the employer and the employee, in which the ETB would not be involved and of which he would have no notice following this practice.

I do not believe that there is any legal impediment although I am not expressing an authoritative legal statement or position. I do not believe, having had the matter looked into, that there is any legal impediment to people not being paid in sterling.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1097 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just say, in view of the remark with which he prefaced the answer that I was not asking the Chief Minister to give me a legal opinion in his capacity as a lawyer. I am asking this question because I asked similar questions at the last meeting of the House and I did not get very satisfactory answers from the Minister for Labour who is supposed to know more about this than he does. The answer that I was given the last time, after a number of supplementaries, was that the payment in Euros was as a result of the workers requesting it or an agreement with the Union. Now, I am aware that there are people who have been told that either they accept payment in Euros or they do not get the job and therefore I am not sure what advice I can give these people as to what their rights are. This is why I thought the Government would be able to clarify. I think he has done that by saying that the contracts are turned down if they come in Euros and I think he has done that by saying that they have got a right to be paid in the legal tender of Gibraltar but clearly they are not in a very strong bargaining position. Really, what I was seeking was some kind of indication that whether people were protected by the Labour Inspectorate or whatever if they were not happy with the situation where they were being asked to accept payment in Euros. In some instances it appears that where the majority of the employees are from across the border, the minority that is from this side of the border is in difficulties.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I mean I have no doubt that there are lots of people being paid in Euros but the ETB because of the practice that it adopts of not approving contracts in Euros only ends up with pound contracts on its files. So officially, the Government have no visibility of the practice which I am sure is existent. Of course, this is a matter of swings and roundabouts because depending on currency fluctuations and provided the employers do not adjust the quantum of the salary with exchange rate fluctuations, it can actually operate hugely to the advantage of people who work in Gibraltar and live in Spain. So, for example, at a time when the pound is falling and therefore buys fewer Euros on the way home to the border on a Friday night, if you have got a fixed salary in Euros then those workers take home pay is improved. Commensurately, if the pound should strengthen in relation to the Euro they lose the opportunity to take even more Euros home. So, I am not sure, I am just trying to sort of play this ball back with a straight bat. I am not sure that there is anything particularly bad about people being paid in Euros provided that it is a genuine bargain. In other words, that that is what they have genuinely agreed. I believe that people should not be obliged in Gibraltar to accept a salary in currency other than the pound if they do not want to. I cannot really see any harm in them agreeing to be paid in some other currency. I think if people were being obliged to accept payment in another currency, I think that would be something that the Government would perhaps want to take a view about and consult about because one thing is freedom and another thing is obligation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That was the element of the question which relates to what protection they have if they refuse to give the consent for them to be paid in Euros instead of Gibraltar pounds, when requested by the employer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Subject to the bargaining point, they have registered a contract at the ETB which is in pounds. They therefore have a contractual right to be paid in pounds. If they are not paid in pounds, theoretically the employer is in breach of contract. Now, again we come back to the sort of the balance, the equality of arms or to the inequality of arms issue. Who is going to resign or allege constructive dismissal from an increasingly rare job for many of these people, particularly if they live in Spain, in order to take the nice legal point of suing your employer for breach of contract on what is presumably a relatively small amount of money in relation of the cost of xxxxxx? So, I think there is a huge difference here between the theoretical rights of the individual and the prospect and likelihood of them converting that into enforced rights because, as is so often the case, these things cost a lot of money.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it would not be then something that, for example somebody could complain to a Labour Inspector about, and a labour inspector has got any powers under the labour protection legislation to intervene?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a legal question and I think it requires careful study. I am not sufficiently familiar with the Act to be able to sort of think of that but I suppose that it must be some sort of offence against the regulations to be xxxxxx for an employer to be doing things differently to what his registered contract with the ETB dictates. So, I suppose one could get people for something technical of that sort as opposed to the substantive thing which may not be an offence of paying in Euros. So rather than paying in Euros, the offence would be I suppose, your registered contract says so many pounds a week. You are not doing it in accordance with what you filed. You are therefore in breach of something presumably that requires you to submit accurate filings in respect of ... I am thinking on my feet. That is the best I can come up with right now.

ORAL

NO. 1098 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL

Has Government now come to a decision as to whether the part of the Old Naval Hospital that it owns is suitable to house the KGV facility, and if so, has it contracted for the design work to be done?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government believes that the site is suitable.

Initial studies are being completed which will allow Government to consider how best to develop the site and establish order of costs and phasing of works. These studies have been contracted out to a project management team.

ORAL

NO. 1099 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the imputed rent element in the income from rent figure of £111.19 million in the 2007/2008 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1100 of 2009.

NO. 1100 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the imputed rent element in the income from rent figure of £106.63 million in the 2006/2007 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The value of imputed rent contained within the Rent component of £106.63 million of the National Income Accounts for 2006/2007 was £63.09 million. The rent estimate of £111.19 million for 2007/2008 has been revised to £111.38 million with the value of imputed rent remaining unchanged at £65.58 million.

ORAL

NO. 1101 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state how the figure of £127.74 million is respect of gross trading profits of companies in the 2007/2008 GDP was calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1102 to 1104 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1102 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state how the figure of £128.11 million is respect of gross trading profits of companies in the 2006/2007 GDP was calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1101, 1103 and 1104 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1103 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GNP CALCULATION

Can Government state how the figure of minus £79.95 million from net income from abroad in the GNP calculation of 2006/2007 is arrived at?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1101, 1102 and 1104 of 2009.

NO. 1104 OF 2009**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GNP CALCULATION**

Can Government state how the figure of minus £105.39 million from net income from abroad in the GNP calculation of 2007/2008 is arrived at?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Gross Trading Profits of Companies of £127.74 million for 2007/2008 was calculated by grossing up the corporation tax collected in that period. The grossing up rate was changed in 2006/2007 to 19 per cent from 22 per cent in 2005/2006 due to the results of the updated Input Output model which indicated that both corporate profits and income from self-employment were being underestimated by some £40 million. After further discussion with the consultants the underestimate was identified to be in the order of £20 million. The grossing up assumption on which these components are based was thus adjusted to accommodate the shortfall.

The Gross Trading Profits of Companies of £128.11 million for 2006/2007 was calculated by grossing up the corporation tax collected in that financial year by 19 per cent.

The Net Factor Income from Abroad figure of minus £79.95 million for 2006/2007 was estimated as follows:

Non-resident employees:	<u>£ Million</u>
UK-based	-1.95
Spanish	-33.91
UK British	-29.65
Other EU	-12.20
Other	-2.26

TOTAL NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD -79.95

The figure of minus £105.39 million for 2007/2008 has been revised and is now estimated at minus £104.84 million. This figure includes an estimate for earnings of detached workers and is estimated as follows:

Non-resident employees:	<u>£ Million</u>
UK-based	-1.37
Spanish	-39.45

UK British	-38.19
Other EU	-15.73
Other	-2.38
Detached workers	-7.72

TOTAL NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD -104.84

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1101 TO 1104 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figure for detached workers is being introduced then for the first time in 2007/2008. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the 19%, when the Chief Minister gave me the answer in fact the last time I asked in the House in June, he told me it was 22% and that was not changing. So is it that this has happened after June this year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not recall what I said to him last time. The grossing up rate was changed in 2006/2007. Presumably that means in respect of the period 2006/2007 to 19% from 22%. No. The grossing up rate was changed in 2006/2007 to 19% from 22%. Yes. Yes, as I first said in respect of the period 2006/2007, that is the period in respect of which..... What I cannot tell him is when those figures were calculated. Well, it must have been before June. I cannot recall what I said to him but if I had led him to believe that they would not change..... No one has consulted me. Mind you, I am not consulted about these things but I am not aware that there has been any change since June.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When I asked him in June and he gave me the figure of 22% I asked, does that mean that I can do the calculation myself now by using that formula and he said yes that is not going to change for the years that were not yet available. That is why when I saw the figure I was surprised that it was 19% and not 22%. The explanation that the Chief Minister gives mixes up the self-employed with the 22% which I do not quite follow because in fact the self-employed element in the GDP is a completely separate entry. It has nothing to do with the level of company tax. One has no relevance to the other. The Chief Minister has said the grossing up rate changed in 2006/2007 to 19% due to the results of the updated Input/Output model which indicated that both corporate profits and income from self-employed were underestimated by £40 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is part of the explanation for the change which xxxxxx apparently the two factors of being underestimated not..... I do not think the answer is intended to suggest that the self-employment is relevant to the corporate but rather that the update of the model indicated that both corporate profits and income from self-employment were both being underestimated and then £20 million was the underestimation attributed to this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But given the fact that..... When the Chief Minister explained to me in the meeting in June how this was being calculated, the explanation he provided was that the collection of tax in the year was assumed to be 22% of the profits and that therefore by grossing up the amount of tax collected I could arrive at the figure of profits. Right! It now appears that instead of 22%, the assumption is that the average corporate tax is 19%. It is not possible for the average to be 19% because the minimum is 20%.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are many things that reduce profit. There are many variables that reduce the effective rate of tax to below 20% of profit. There is capital allowances, all manner of things that have that effect. I do not think he can make that deduction. In other words, how can it be 19% if the minimum tax rate for small companies is 20%. That I think is the point the hon Member has just made.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The average that has been used in the past was always above the minimum. This is the first time, I think in the history of the GDP, that the multiplier that has been used is less than the minimum rate of tax.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think that is true. The small company tax rate has not existed for that many years and when there was only one company tax rate and it was 35%, they were still using 22%.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. Mr Speaker, he explained to me in June that it had come down to 22% precisely because the corporate rate of tax had come down. That is the explanation that he gave me in June.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes of course, but not in the sense of being higher or lower than the minimum. It was not coming down by the same amount. I do not know what the exact

extrapolation is. All I am saying is that his statement that it is not legitimate to use a figure which is lower than the minimum rate is not applicable because it assumes that companies..... The effective rate of tax is the profit times the tax rate and that is not the way tax calculations are done on a profit and loss account. There is profit and then there is taxable profit which is profit minus capital allowance rules etc. which reduce the tax computation to give an effective tax rate on the whole profit amount perhaps way below the 27% or the small company rate of 20%. That is the only point I am addressing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I appreciate that, but the Chief Minister is saying that what you cannot do is assume that the profit is just the amount of tax that as an average tax rate paid by the entire structure of companies in Gibraltar. Well that is precisely the formula that he explained to me in June. That it was assumed that on average and that by implication means including whatever deductible allowances they have before they arrive at taxable profit..... Is he saying.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is why the figure is lower.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but it is lower because somebody has said that they estimate based on no apparent identifiable criteria..... We are told that this is from the Input/Output study. Well what is it that.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member knows that the lions share of the corporate tax yield is not from small companies paying the small company rate but from companies paying the full rate which is still 27%. So why did he not ask me why was it 22% when the tax rate was 27%. How can it be less than the tax rate? He knows that 60% or 65% of the tax yield, or even a bit more, is collected from the top 40 or 45 tax payers in the companies sector. It further illustrates the point that there is no correlation between the multiplier attached for the purposes of the extrapolation and the minimum, as he calls it, tax rate. They have always used the figure which is lower than the company tax rate applicable to the vast majority of tax payers that produce the corporate tax yield. This has always been the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then can the Chief Minister explain why it is 19% and not 18% or ... What is the scientific basis for having concluded that it should be 19% because obviously the entire size of the gross domestic product of Gibraltar depends on whether one chooses to think that the rate to apply is 10% or 20%. One can double the company profit element in the GDP by simply using a different multiplier. The explanation that he gave the last time was that it had come down from 25% to 22% because it reflected the change in the rate of company taxation and when it came down to 25%

from an earlier figure, he had given the same explanation. This is the first time that I have come across an explanation which relates it to an estimate made in the Input and Output model frankly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course it is possible to fiddle the books by manipulating statistics. That is why the Government goes to recognised external consultants who are experts in small country accounts and seeks their view. This is their doing. This is not a political decision to change from 22% to 19%. I do not know whether it is 22% or 19%. Precisely because this is a very technical area, the Government have recourse to experts who have advised the Government Statistician to accommodate an alleged underestimation of profits in this way. What is certainly not legitimate is for the Government to be writing the formula to produce the results and the only fair way of doing it is to have external consultants, external experts saying to the Government what are the assumptions that the Government should be making when it is putting these figures together and that is what the Government Statistician does. It is not for me to explain them or justify them or even to understand them. There are some of these things that I understand and there are other things which are just simply too statistical and too mathematical for me to consider it to be worth my while to get stuck in. These are the way national accounts are measured. This is what Professor Fletcher has said the Government Statistician should do. The Government Statistician has chosen to take his advice and has done this and this is all that there is to it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Chief Minister is saying that Professor Fletcher suggested that the figure should be brought down to 19%. Is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member said what the hon Member has said. It is not for me to now deny the next 20 things that he chooses to allege I may or may not have imputed. The answer says, after discussion with the consultants, the underestimate was identified to be in the order of £20 million. The grossing up assumption on which these components are based was thus adjusted to accommodate the shortfall.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So what the Chief Minister is then saying, on the basis of his original answer and not his subsequent explanations, is that..... I do not ask the hon Member to understand or not to understand but I am entitled, in supplementaries, to seek further clarification of the original answer. I do not know why he should get so uptight about this.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is entitled to ask me questions and to produce information about the public affairs of Gibraltar which I have done. What he is not entitled to do is to

debate with me the basis upon which external experts and consultants have chosen to construct the formula for the detailed calculation of Gibraltar's national accounts. If he wants to have a debate with me on that subject, he needs to give me notice and I am not prepared to submit to cross examination by him of the sort.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is quite obvious the Chief Minister is not prepared to submit to cross examination on anything that he does not understand because he does not want to show ignorance. But if he volunteers information, as he did in June, and he then tells me at the end of the exercise, three months ago, when I ask him does this mean that now the 22% is what I can use to gross up and he says yes that is not going to change, I am entitled to think, in September, that it is something that has happened between June and September. This has nothing to do with anybody outside. It has to do with the answer he gave me in this House which is there in Hansard for him to look at. Four months ago. He now tells me that it is 19% instead of 22%. Having been told only three months ago that it was 22%, I am entitled to seek an explanation as to why it is now 19%. The answer is, as I understand his original answer, that if it had been kept at 22%, the income from company profits would have been £20 million less than at 19% and that therefore the move from 22% to 19% is supposed to increase the figure by £20 million. Is my understanding of his answer correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have given him the answer that I have given him. What he chooses to understand from it is a matter entirely for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, can the Chief Minister confirm that had the multiplier been retained at 22%, the figure from company tax would have been £20 million less in the calculation of the GDP?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to that supplementary is contained in my original answer which I have been good enough to give him in print so that he has it in front of him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful that he is being so good to me but now that I have got it he must let me use it. He gives it to me presumably.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well that is the whole point. I will not let the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. He wants me to take it home and read it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly!

ORAL

NO. 1105 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £3.28 million figure in respect of trading surplus of Government enterprises for the 2006/2007 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1106 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1106 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £4.36 million figure in respect of trading surplus of Government enterprises for the 2007/2008 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested in respect of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 is shown in the tables that I am now making available to the hon Member. The figure for 2007/2008 has been revised from £4.36 million to £4.68 million.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1106

Answer to Question 1105

Gross Trading Surplus of Government Enterprises 2006/07

	<u>£(m)</u>	<u>£(m)</u>	<u>£(m)</u>
	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Balance</u>
(a) Potable Water Dividend	£0.05	£0.00	£0.05
(b) Electricity	£24.24	£24.24	£0.00
(c) Savings Bank	£11.51	£9.89	£1.62
(d) Coinage	£0.49	£0.10	£0.39
(e) Lottery	£4.61	£4.58	£0.03
(f) Port/Ship Registry	£2.43	£2.86	-£0.43
(g) Giblecom Dividend	£2.90	£0.00	£2.90
(h) Post Office	£1.00	£2.28	-£1.28
TOTAL GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES			£3.28

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1106

Answer to Question 1106

Gross Trading Surplus of Government Enterprises 2007/08

	<u>£(m)</u>	<u>£(m)</u>	<u>£(m)</u>
	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Balance</u>
(a) Potable Water Dividend	£0.22	£0.00	£0.22
(b) Electricity	£27.45	£27.45	£0.00
(c) Savings Bank	£13.83	£12.34	£1.49
(d) Coinage	£0.47	£0.12	£0.35
(e) Lottery	£4.84	£3.86	£0.98
(f) Port/Ship Registry	£2.71	£3.01	-£0.30
(g) Giblecom Dividend	£3.15	£0.00	£3.15
(h) Post Office	£1.47	£2.68	-£1.21
GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES			£4.68

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1105 AND 1106 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Chief Minister aware whether there has been any change in the methodology in respect of the calculation of this element of the GDP?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I am not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is just that I do not recall the Post Office ever having been shown as having a deficit because of expenditure exceeding revenue. Is that something that..... I do not suppose the Chief Minister can throw any light on that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Certainly, I am not willing to have a debate on the basis of the introduction to his supplementary which is I do not seem to recall. Well if he does not recall it, why should I?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, because he accuses me of having amnesia. I think he is completely wrong because he seems to forget what he told me in June never mind 14 years ago which is why he expects me to remember. Is it not the case, in fact, that in the past that the element of the Post Office actually contributed a profit to the..... I am just wondering whether this is something to do with the change that the Government has brought about in the nature of the operation of the Post Office Savings Bank?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know. I doubt it because the Savings Bank is separately accommodated under Item (C) and does not form part of the Post Office figure.

NO. 1107 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – SALE VALUE OF THE POST-WAR ESTATE

Can Government state what is the total assumed sale price value of the entire post-war housing estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The entire post-war estate is made up of around 3,800 dwellings. The estimated 'hypothetical' market value of all these properties, based on the 100% sale price, in other words market price of similar properties in the market, is around £320 million.

The Government have offered sitting tenants the opportunity to purchase their properties at a discount of 55% of this 'hypothetical' market value.

This brings the sale price of the entire post-war housing estate, on the basis of the Government's discount scheme, to £144 million.

ORAL

NO. 1108 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WATERPORT DEVELOPMENT – PAYMENT TO CONTRACTORS

Can Government state what further payments, if any, have been made to the contractors or other parties in respect of the Waterport Developments since the answer to Question No. 696 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question 1108 of 2009

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Contractors</u>	<u>Quantity</u> <u>Surveyors</u>	<u>Engineers</u>	<u>Architects</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
03/06/2009					£2,803.20
04/06/2009					£26,806.50
09/06/2009		£9,000.00	£16,065.00	£35,549.52	
12/06/2009					£18,610.00
25/06/2009	£517,240.00				
07/07/2009		£9,000.00		£35,549.52	£29,873.00
09/07/2009			£18,105.23		£8,550.00
24/07/2009	£447,488.00				
28/07/2009		£9,000.00	£16,065.00		
30/07/2009			£7,500.00		
04/08/2009					£18,630.00
06/08/2009					£4,600.00
13/08/2009		£9,000.00	£16,065.00	£35,549.52	
18/08/2009	£208,652.00			£35,549.52	
17/09/2009					£13,200.00
23/09/2009	£149,710.00				
25/09/2009	£1,171,373.63				
	<u>£2,494,463.63</u>	<u>£36,000.00</u>	<u>£73,800.23</u>	<u>£142,198.08</u>	<u>£123,072.70</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1108 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the payment to architects is sort of in fixed instalments throughout the period of this contract because I notice that it is the same amount given in pennies on different dates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It must be so. I am not familiar with the detail of it but if there is a coincidence of figures as there appears to be also for Quantity Surveyors it must be that there is some monthly or quarterly, monthly plan, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There is a payment on the 9th June 2009 and a payment on 7th July 2009 so it appears to be a on a monthly basis. Then in August there is one on 13th and one on the 18th. The Chief Minister does not know what the nature of these payments to architects are because presumably the architects are at the front end of these contracts not towards the completion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry!

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would have thought the architects would be paid early on in the process not rather than at this stage.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Most members of the design team have an on-going monitoring and supervision function through the course of the contract. Whilst they probably do get the lions share at the front end, there is then a part which is reserved whilst they carry out their supervision and monitoring functions throughout.

NO. 1109 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS – PROPERTY CRITERIA

Given the answer to Question Nos. 709 and 710 of 2009, can Government confirm that no properties in any of the following estates which are intended for average income local residents, have been made available to or for higher executives with specialist skills as residents?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the question as we have had it is not as just read out by the hon Member.

The question refers to “the following estates” not “estates” but none are actually specified. It is therefore not possible to answer the question exactly. However, if the question was referring to Government estates or shared ownership housing then the answer is that, no properties in such developments have been made available to HEPSS individuals.

ORAL

NO. 1110 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK SITE

Can Government state with effect from what date did Gibraltar Land Holdings Limited grant a 50 year lease on the site at Devil's Tower Road for £9,088,000, what is the area of the site, how was the valuation done, is the lease restricted to using the site as a car park and does it revert to Gibraltar Land Holdings Limited on expiry of the term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1111 and 1112 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1111 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK SITE

Can Government state if under the terms of the lease for the Devil's Tower Road site on which RBS is responsible for building a car park for £15.4 million, the bank is also responsible for meeting any additional cost incurred in the construction of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1110 and 1112 of 2009.

NO. 1112 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK SITE

Can Government state what are the terms for the rental of the Devil's Tower Road car park whether the rental becomes payable on completion of the construction and handing over of the car park and whether the rental is related to the cost of construction and can be increased should the construction cost exceed the estimated £15.4 million?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Under the Lease and Leaseback arrangement with The Royal Bank of Scotland International Ltd, which was entered into on 3rd March 2009, Gibraltar Land (Holdings) Ltd will grant the 50-year lease to RBSI in respect of the 'Park and Ride' site at Devil's Tower Road once the construction of this car park has been completed. This will then be added to the Underlease already in place for the car parks at New Harbours, Willis's Road and Sandpits. There is a user clause restricting the use of the sites as car parks.

The lease premium of £9,088,000 is not in respect of the 'Park and Ride' site at Devil's Tower Road nor related to any sort of per square metre valuation of the land but rather on the cost of construction of the three car parks at New Harbours, Willis's Road and Sandpits which the Government had already built.

Under the terms of the leasing arrangements, the amount payable by RBSI to meet the cost of construction of the 'Park and Ride' car park is limited to £15.476 million. No cost overrun is expected.

The arrangement provides for bi-annual rental payments to be made by Gibraltar Car Parks Limited, in accordance with an agreed rent schedule over a 25-year period. The first bi-annual rent payment of £846,000 was paid on 2nd September 2009. The leasing arrangements provide for annual rent increases of 3%. This rental is payable in respect of all four car parks covered by the leasing arrangement.

At the end of the 25-year period, the company has the option to purchase RBSI's interest in all four car parks at a call option price of £1.

NO. 1113 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS

Can Government explain why it has not provided any increase in the cost of the Civil Service Pensions in this year's Estimates of Expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount provided in the Estimates for 2009/2010 in respect of Civil Service Pensions is £17million, which is £1million higher than the Approved Estimate for 2008/2009 and £2million higher than the actual expenditure in the year 2007/2008.

The provision for Gratuities under the Pensions Act for 2009/2010 is £4million, which is £1million lower than the Estimate for 2008/2009 but is in line with the forecast out-turn for 2008/2009.

Overall, therefore as the question implies, the provision for Pensions and Gratuities, under Consolidated Fund Charges, Head 03, for 2009/2010, has been retained at around £21 million.

There are a number of factors that affect the cost of annual pensions, which are taken into account by the Treasury in arriving at the estimate.

Firstly, account is taken of the pension increases payable in line with the Index of Retail Prices. Secondly, account is taken of the estimated increase in the number of new pensioners, as civil servants retire. A third factor, is the estimated decrease in the cost of pensions as pensioners die and cease to receive their pension.

The cost of gratuities payable under the Pensions Act can also fluctuate from year to year, as this depends on the number of civil servants who retire during the year and the level of their gratuities which is related to their years of service and their final salary.

The reduction in the estimated level of gratuity payments has also been factored in by the Treasury in arriving at their estimate for pensions payments for 2009/2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1113 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that the gratuities are in line with the actual outturn. So I could understand that if in fact last year the estimate provided to the House at budget time included a provision of £5 million and £4 million was spent in gratuities, the fact that there is £4m again this year is not surprising because that is what the actual result was. If we look at the actual pensions themselves. In the budget in 2008, the amount provided was £16 million even though the preceding year the actual was just over £15 million and the result in fact at the end of the year has been £17.1 million and in the year we are now in, the provision is £100,000 less than the outcome. So in fact it does not follow the kind of pattern that we have had here where the Chief Minister has recognised and made reference to the fact that it grows every year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I agree. I would be surprised if it came in at the same amount as last year but they do these calculations. They get the numbers of pensioners that are going to come in. The number of pensioners that have died and they do this calculation and then it is I suppose whatever it is. I do not think there is a great precedent for the numbers coming in flat even over a one-year let alone over a two-year period. These are things that are calculated on a per head basis by the number of people that have given notice of their intention to retire. The grade of the person compared to last year. This is not something that one can monitor from a political height. These are a series of variables which are number crunched in the Treasury. I would be as surprised as he plainly would be if at the end of this financial year it comes out at more or less the same figure as the previous year which is what the estimate suggests. We shall see. My money would tend to be with him on this point rather than on the calculations.

NO. 1114 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

Can Government state whether the level of debentures issued in the last financial year, reached £100 million as shown in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at 31 March 2009 they stood at £184.5 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1114 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question is that the figure, not the actual figure reached, but the figure issued in the financial year which I think has gone up from £93 million to £193 million and therefore there was an increase of £100 million. So in the way the thing is drafted is.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The level of debentures issued in the financial year was expected to be £100 million. I take it that the £184 million is not the figure issued. It is the figure reached.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Understood! How much did you say it had been before then?

HON J J BOSSANO:

It had been £93 million before.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

So it is £93 million and it has gone up to £184 million is not quite £100 million is it? It is just under a £100 million.

NO. 1115 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC DEBT INTEREST ON BANK LOANS

Can Government explain why the public debt interest on bank loans for the current financial year, is estimated at £500,000, given that the amount of Government debt owed to the local banks in May rose to £150 million?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The estimate of £500,000 was based on a debt of £7 million. The drawdowns from banks on the revolving facilities occurred after the Estimates had been prepared. In fact, I can indicate to him that the revised estimated interest payable for the current financial year is £3.2 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1115 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it for the revolving loans from the two banks.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1116 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES – LOSSES

Can Government specify whether and if so when, prior to the financial year 2008/2009, losses in Government owned companies at the close of the financial year, were covered by advances from the Consolidated Fund and identify the companies involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There were none.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1116 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

None before this year! This is the first time.

NO. 1117 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – CONDITIONED OVERTIME

Can Government explain why there was no provision in the Estimates of Expenditure of the Sports and Leisure Authority for conditioned overtime in 2008/2009, yet the forecast expenditure for the year was £90,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The 2008/2009 forecast outturn relates specifically to the payment of weekend work premiums. These payments had until 2007/2008 been classified as discretionary overtime. The increase in the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority complement and weekend services provided namely at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre has resulted in a marked increase in weekend work premium payments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1117 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister said that it had been shown as discretionary overtime in 2007/2008. Is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what I said.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is what I thought you said.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is just that the figure for the discretionary overtime in 2008/2009 is no different from the figure in 2007/2008. So presumably the £90,000 or whatever would have been included then in the £200,000 which in fact has gone up to £269,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it has been an increase in both. I think the weekend premium for conditioned overtime is shown now as a £90,000 with effect from 2008/2009 in the forecast outturn and there is also an increase in overtime payments arising from the fact that there are more people providing more services and more venues over a..... I think both have gone up. Certainly, showing it separately was not at the time of the estimate for 2008/2009 but it was reported in that way at the forecast outturn at the end of the year. So, the decision was obviously made during the course of the year to break it up for more clarity. I think the hon Member will recall that this new formulation of breaking down the overtime payment into the four different kinds of overtime is now standard throughout the budget book.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In fact, I asked in relation to that when the Minister responsible was giving me answers to similar questions earlier on and I was informed that in fact this was, although it is called "conditioned overtime" it was not really conditioned overtime at all. In the sense that it was people working on a roster on Saturdays and Sundays within a forty-hour week.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is premium. It is a weekend premium.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is a premium payment for standard hours as opposed to conditioned hours.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is a premium..... Yes, that is what conditioned..... Yes, this is just jargon. The Saturday and Sunday premium is usually earned, well it is earned by all shift workers in respect of when they are rostered to work on a Saturday or a Sunday or a public holiday for that matter but those are conditioned hours for them, not hours over and above the conditioned number of hours. I suppose people also work normal extra hours overtime at weekends. I do not know and I do not know whether it is then called "conditioned" or whether it is then paid under "discretionary" in respect of the Saturday and Sunday premium element. I suspect the latter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I asked because in fact it appears on a number of instances in different authorities. I asked in fact whether there was a standard definition of "conditioned overtime" because my understanding.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The standard definition is Government wide not the Authorities. There are people in the Government who also get Saturday and Sunday conditioned overtime premium.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, my understanding of the terminology is that "conditioned overtime" is when people are required to work more than their basic week but they have no choice and therefore it is "conditioned overtime".

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct. Like shift workers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When people work shift work but do not do more than 40 hours then what they get is premium payment for working on Saturdays and Sundays even though they work eight hours. So if they work eight hours on a Sunday as part of the 40, they get paid 16.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is the same people. It is the same xxxxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is that treatment..... What I am trying to establish..... After the explanation that I was given that it was not overtime at all because overtime requires you to do more than 40 hours, can I then assume that wherever it says "conditioned overtime" in the book it means that people are not doing overtime but that they are working Saturdays and Sundays? That is the explanation that I was given earlier.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think on the whole he can make that assumption. I have only one doubt and that is whether there may be people out there who work overtime on a Saturday or Sunday without being shift work and without being on a roster who then presumably also become entitled to the Saturday and Sunday premium rate. I do not know whether for that category of people, not the rostered shift workers but for the casual overtime

worker that just happens to work overtime at the weekend, their premium is then put under “conditioned” or under “discretionary”. Logically it would go under “discretionary” which is where the bulk of the payment would go because it is discretionary overtime. Because it is discretionary overtime, it would be illogical to put the bulk of the payment under “discretionary” and just put the little bit that relates to the Saturday and Sunday premium under “conditioned”. So, I think that what the hon Member says is the case. I have only a partial doubt which I would resolve in the way that I have just said which is to think that it should not be that everybody in “conditioned” means that they are shift workers working on rosters over the weekend.

NO. 1118 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – ACCUMULATED DEFICIT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the Government companies that had accumulated a total deficit of £30 million as at the 31 March 2009, which was covered at the time by advances from the Consolidated Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All advances from the Consolidated Fund to the Government-wholly owned companies are made to one company the Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Ltd. This company then provides short-term loans to its subsidiaries, as and when necessary, in order to meet any temporary financing requirements. Advances to the Government owned companies are not made in order to cover any losses in Government owned companies. Advances are mainly to cover short-term financing of capital expenditure, some of which is recoverable by the companies from sale of assets in the future. For example, the construction costs of Cumberland, Nelson and Bayview will eventually provide capital revenues when those flats are finished and sold off. So it is not so much operating deficits as funding for the companies capital projects.

ORAL

NO. 1119 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 1B TRANSPORT – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £45,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 1B Transport for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1120 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1120 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 3A HOUSING ADMINISTRATION – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £18,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 3A Housing Administration for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 and 1121 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1121 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 4A ENVIRONMENT – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £7,000 and £4,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 4A Environment for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119, 1120 and 1122 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1122 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 4C TOURISM – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £70,000, £1,000, £90,000 and £21,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 4C Tourism for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1121 and 1123 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1123 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £11,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 5A, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1122 and 1124 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1124 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 6A ENTERPRISE – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £6,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 6A, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1123 and 1125 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1125 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 6B TRANSPORT - PORT AND SHIPPING – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £22,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 6B, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1124 and 1126 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1126 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**HEAD 6D TRANSPORT - VEHICLE, TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT –
EXPENDITURE**

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £75,000 and £3,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 6D, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1125 and 1127 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1127 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 8A NO 6 CONVENT PLACE – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £6,000, £5,000, £4,000, £18,000 and £7,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 8A, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1126 and 1128 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1128 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 9D INCOME TAX – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £3,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 9D, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1127 and 1129 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1129 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 9E FINANCE CENTRE – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £29,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 9E, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1128 and 1130 to 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1130 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**HEAD 10 EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS –
EXPENDITURE**

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £67,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 10, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1129, 1131 and 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1131 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 11A JUSTICE MINISTRY – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £1,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 11A, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1130, 1132 and 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1132 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PORT AUTHORITY – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £1,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure of Gibraltar Port Authority, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119 to 1131 and 1133 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1133 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR CAR PARKS LIMITED – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £20,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure of Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd, for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Employers' Contribution figure reflected in Appendix B of the Gibraltar Development Corporation are composed of the employers' element of the Pension contribution and Social Insurance contributions.

The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule which I now hand him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1133**ANSWER TO QUESTIONS 1119 TO 1133****Gibraltar Development Corporation - Projected Employer's Contributions 2009/2010**

	Employer's Contribution		
	Social Insurance	Pension Contribution	Total
Head 1B - Training	£16,000	£29,000	£45,000
Head 3A - Housing - Administration	£9,000	£9,000	£18,000
Head 4A - Environment			
Environmental Monitoring	£2,000	£5,000	£7,000
Apes Management	£3,000	£0	£3,000
Head 4C - Tourism			
Main Office	£36,000	£34,000	£70,000
Lifeguards	£1,000	£0	£1,000
Sites	£45,000	£45,000	£90,000
Industrial Staff	£11,000	£10,000	£21,000
Head 5A - Family and Community Affairs			
Community Advisory Service	£6,000	£5,000	£11,000
Head 6A - Enterprise	£4,000	£2,000	£6,000
Head 6B - Transport - Port and Shipping			
Terminals	£12,000	£10,000	£22,000
Head 6D - Transport - Vehicle, Traffic and Public Transport			
Traffic Management	£39,000	£36,000	£75,000
Transport Inspection	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000
Head 8A - No. 6 Convent Place			
Urban Renewal Development Project	£2,000	£4,000	£6,000
Personnel	£1,000	£4,000	£5,000
Staff Services - No 6	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000
EU Programmes Secretariat	£7,000	£11,000	£18,000
Office Security	£3,000	£4,000	£7,000
Head 9D - Income Tax	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000
Head 9E - Finance Centre	£6,000	£5,000	£11,000
Head 10 - Employment	£30,000	£37,000	£67,000
Head 11A - Justice Ministry	£1,000	£0	£1,000
	£238,000	£256,000	£494,000
Gibraltar Port Authority	£1,000	£0	£1,000
Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd	£10,000	£10,000	£20,000
	£249,000	£266,000	£515,000

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1119 TO 1133 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister confirm that these pension contributions are all to the No. 2 Pension Fund?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am almost certain that they are. The only reluctance that I have to confirm it, in the absence of a note to that effect, is whether there might be any employees here lurking which belong in the problem No. 1 Scheme which is closed. That was the one that related to people that moved some time ago, at the time of the xxxxxx, and they had a slightly different term. I believe the answer to that is no. There may be one or two in employment in Head 10 but I would not know. The answer is yes minus any of those that there might be there in the No. 1 Scheme in these closed arrangements.

ORAL

NO. 1134 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – GRATUITY SUB-FUND

Can Government state in respect of how many employees was the GHA Gratuity Sub-Fund credited with £277,098 in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1135 of 2009.

NO. 1135 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – GRATUITY SUB-FUND

Can Government state to how many GHA Gratuity Sub-Fund employees was the sum of £222,595 in miscellaneous payments paid in 2008/2009, and other than gratuities, what payments were involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The £277,098 was credited in respect of 10 employees. That was as the question acknowledges in 2007/2008.

The £551,947 in 2008/2009 was credited in respect of 21 employees.

The sum of £225,595 to the Gratuity Sub-Fund in 2007/2008 was in respect of five.

The figure of £127,321 in 2008/2009 to the same Gratuity Sub-Fund was in respect of three employees.

ORAL

NO. 1136 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**SOCIAL INSURANCE EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION FROM THE
CONSOLIDATED FUND**

Can Government state whether the sum of £3.5 million estimated for Social Insurance Employers' Contributions from the Consolidated Fund in the current financial year, includes the cost of increases in contribution rates introduced this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1137 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR DEFENCE ESTATES AND GENERAL SERVICES LTD PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state what is the nature of the pension entitlement which is secured by the accumulated fund of £151,098 as at the 31st March in the Gibraltar Defence Estates and General Services Ltd. Pension Scheme and for how many beneficiaries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 and 1139 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1138 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR DEFENCE ESTATES AND GENERAL SERVICES LTD PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state on behalf of how many employees was the sum of £156,654 paid to the Gibraltar Defence Estates and General Services Ltd. Pension Scheme Sub Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1137 and 1139 of 2009.

NO. 1139 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAFETY NET EMPLOYEES SUB FUND

Can Government state in respect of how many employees was the contribution to the Safety Net Employees Sub Fund of £121,471 made in 2008/2009 and by whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Defence Estates Pension Scheme is a final salary pension scheme that provides benefits that are broadly comparable, in fact, practically identical and is so certified by the UK Government Actuary, to the pension scheme that the members enjoyed in MOD prior to their transfer. These are the ISP people, that is prior to their secondment, to their transfer to Gibraltar Defence Estates and their secondment by this company on to Serco.

The Scheme currently covers 95 seconded employees.

The amount paid is in respect of 95 employees.

The contribution is in respect of one employee. This refers to a redundancy payment, which requires to be held by Gibraltar Defence Estates and General Services Ltd as a pre-condition of employment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1137 TO 1139 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is in answer to Question No. 1139.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is a redundancy payment to one employee based on the MOD redundancy terms. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Quite generous! The hon Member will recall that as a condition of going in to the safety net as opposed to walking away with the money and taking it home you had to deposit it and not get it until later.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So this is the money the employee got from the MOD and it is kept there.....?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because he opted to stay in employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

To stay on!

ORAL

NO. 1140 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state the balance of the Insolvency Fund transferred to the Statutory Benefits Fund on the 1st July 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1141 and 1142 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1141 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state how much was collected as contributions to the Statutory Benefits Fund, that is, since 1st July 2008, in the tax year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1140 and 1142 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1142 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state how much was credited to the Statutory Benefits Fund in the tax year 2008/2009 in respect of sums collected in contributions due prior to 1st July 2008 to a) Social Insurance Short-Term Benefits Fund b) Social Insurance (Open) Long-Term Benefits Fund c) Industrial Injuries Fund and d) Development Corporation Insolvency Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member two statements giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1142

Answer to Question 1140

The balance of the Insolvency Fund transferred to the Statutory Benefits Fund on the 1st July 2008 was £2,258,200.92.

Answer to Question 1141

The amounts collected as contributions to the Statutory Benefits Fund, since 1st July 2008, in the Tax Year 2008/09 is as follows :-

Month	Contribution
July 2008	£1,432,207.86
August 2008	£1,139,430.94
September 2008	£1,214,633.36
October 2008	£1,299,999.08
November 2008	£1,131,963.59
December 2008	£1,072,004.55
January 2009	£1,326,233.66
February 2009	£1,372,047.01
March 2009	£1,538,649.41
April 2009	£1,154,669.44
May 2009	£1,251,578.72
June 2009	£1,261,237.42
	<hr/>
	£15,194,655.04

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1142

Answer to Question 1142

The amount credited to the Statutory Benefits Fund in respect of contributions collected prior to 1st July 2008 by a) Social Insurance Short Term Benefits Fund, b) Social Insurance (Open) Long Term Benefits Fund c) Industrial Injuries Fund and d) Development Corporation Insolvency Fund is as follows:-

a) Social Insurance Short Term Benefits Fund

April 2008	£68,874.06
May 2008	£100,890.50
June 2008	£88,976.25

b) Social Insurance (Open) Long Term Benefits Fund

April 2008	£849,603.69
May 2008	£1,245,188.90
June 2008	£1,097,552.56

c) Industrial Injuries Fund

April 2008	£7,634.04
May 2008	£11,200.16
June 2008	£9,871.81

d) Development Corporation Insolvency Fund

April 2008	£1,218.26
May 2008	£11,200.28
June 2008	£9,871.43

ORAL

NO. 1143 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PCG GROUP (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

Can Government confirm that PCG Group (Overseas) Limited, currently in creditors voluntary winding up, rented its registered offices at Gun Wharf from the Government, and if so at what rent, since when has it rented the premises and is the rent currently in arrears?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1144 to 1147 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1144 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PCG GROUP (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

Did PCG Group (Overseas) Limited have arrears of PAYE in respect of its employees, and if so, what is the level of arrears, giving a breakdown by number of employees and tax years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1143 and 1145 to 1147 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1145 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PCG GROUP (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

Did PCG Group (Overseas) Limited have arrears of social insurance contributions in respect of its employees, and if so, what is the level of arrears, giving a breakdown by number of employees and tax years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1143, 1144, 1146 and 1147 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1146 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PCG GROUP (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

Can Government say how many employees have been made redundant by PCG Group (Overseas) Limited on account of it being placed in liquidation and are there any payments due to employees that could fall to be met by the Insolvency Fund, and if so, how much and in respect of how many employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1143 to 1145 and 1147 of 2009.

NO. 1147 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PCG GROUP (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

Can Government state whether PCG Group (Overseas) Limited was working on any Government contract, as main or sub contractor prior to its being put in liquidation, and if so, identify the contracts and state whether there were any sums due to PCG Group (Overseas) Limited in respect of work done on such contracts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gun Wharf is not owned by the Government of Gibraltar and therefore they are not a tenant of the Government. This is a site that we swapped with the MOD and this company came to Gibraltar and carried on business as an MOD term contractor. The MOD put them in there.

The Government do not, as a matter of policy, disclose, publicly, information in connection with any individual taxpayer although I do not mind indicating to the hon Member that there are substantial arrears and their status as an MOD contractor is something that is being pursued.

Thirty two employees were made redundant by PCG Group (Overseas) Limited on account of it being placed in liquidation. Employees have submitted claims against the Insolvency Fund. These are in the process of being considered for any payment to be met from this Fund.

PCG Group (Overseas) Limited was not working on any Government contract at the time when it was put into liquidation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1143 TO 1147 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

In relation to the point that the Government does not make public what it is owed. Presumably if this company goes to Court in insolvency proceedings that information will then become public and there will be no difficulty in...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It could emerge in that route but that is very different from me standing up in the House giving figures. There are lots of companies in arrears. One does not have to be in liquidation, as you know, to be in arrears and it would just be unfair to start brandishing the name but they are substantial six figure sums.

NO. 1148 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARMADURAS DEL SUR SL

Can Government explain which work Armaduras del Sur SL has been contracted to undertake in the construction of the tunnel and at the airport, in respect of which they applied for a trade licence on the 19 August?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The question appears to imply that this company may have been contracted by the Government and if that is the implication of the question, then of course, the answer is that this company has not been contracted by the Government. They are however, an intended sub-contractor of the main contractor that the Government has contracted for the tunnel works and we understand that they are the proposed sub-contractor for the supply and manufacture of reinforcement steel to be incorporated in reinforced concrete elements forming part of the tunnel.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1148 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the fact that they are applying for a trade licence mean that they will be doing more than supplying stuff. They will actually be working there and employing people.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think you need a trade licence to work in Gibraltar as a construction company whether you are a principal contractor or a sub-contractor. Now, whether it employs people in Gibraltar or whether it goes down the detached worker route, I have no knowledge of that and I would need notice of that question. As the hon Member knows, most of the detached workers are now to be found in the construction industry whether any of them are here..... I am not sure whether this company has actually started the work yet. I do not think they have actually started because the answer says proposed sub-contractor.

NO. 1149 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HAYMILLS – FORMER EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many former employees of Haymills were offered employment in Gibraltar General Construction Company Ltd, for 8 weeks, and how many took up the offer giving a breakdown by trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All of the former employees of Haymills were offered employment in Gibraltar Construction Company Limited. Of the 230 in total, 196 took up the offer. I now hand to the hon Member a breakdown of these by trade and nationality, but not by name of individual.

One employee who was in fact a Director of the company, the offer was made conditional on nothing transpiring that made the employment inappropriate. The original offer included the Director and in the light of events that subsequently emerged, in fact, that offer to the Director was withdrawn.

So when the answer to the question says that all of them were offered employment, that is technically correct because the offer letter went out but in respect of this one individual did not have the opportunity to accept it. In fact, he did accept it but it was withdrawn.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1149

Employees of Gibraltar General Construction Company Limited
Split by Occupation and Nationality

Occupation	Total	Nationality												
		British	Moroccan	Spanish	Estonian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish	Romanian	Russian	Slovakian	Slovenian	Czech	Portuguese
Apprentice Joiner/Carpenter	2	2												
B.C.E.	1		1											
Bricklayer	1	1												
Canteen Manager	1	1												
Carpenter	5	1	2	2										
Chargehand	1	1												
Concrete Finisher	2	1												
Crane Driver	1		1											
Driver/Labourer	3	2	1											
Dryliner	17	5			1	4	1	2	1	2	1			
Electrical Supervisor	1	1												
Electrician	11	5					5	1						
Electrician's Mate	3	2					1							
Fixer	7	2	1				3					1		
Foreman	2	2												
Foreman/Painter	1	1												
Forklift Driver	1	1												
Ganger	1	1										1		
General Operative	1													
Joiner	1		1											
Junior Labourer	1	1												
Labourer	22	10	7	4		1								
Logistics Manager	1	1												
Mason	5	1	3	1										
Monocuche Renderer	4			4										
Office Cleaner	1	1												
Painter	9	1	3	5										1
Plasterer	1													
Plumber	8	5	1	1			1							
Renderer	4	1						3						
Scaffolder	17	13	3	1										
Screder	6	1						5						
Screeder	0													
Semi-skilled operative	4	3	1											
Semi-skilled Labourer	2	1	1											
Site Security	2	1	1											
Site Supervisor	1									1				
Skilled Operative	1	1												
Steel Fixer/Labourer	1		1											
Storeman	2	2												
Supervisor/Mechanic	1	1												
Systems Erector	1	1												
Taper & Joiner	5	5												
	196	83	27	24	2	2	9	22	14	2	4	2	4	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1149 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask while I am waiting for that information? My impression, I think from the original announcement made by the Government, was that the offer was being made to all employees who were working on Government contracts. Is that the case or was it to the entire workforce of Haymills, irrespective of what project they were on?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For the initial eight week period because it was not possible for the Government to find out... A lot of them were office staff who were just working generally on the contract of the company. The company, I think, only had one non-Government contract and that was a building in Catalan Bay called "St Peters". All the other substantial contracts were Government. So I think, yes, it was in the event everybody and then during those eight weeks an attempt was made to work out which were actually working on the Government contracts and which were therefore necessary, with an element of support staff proportionately so to speak, and those are the people who have been kept on and the others have been let go now recently.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know it is not in the original question but are the Government then in a position to say how many they have kept of the 196?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do know that. It is somewhere at the back of my mind because I have been told over the last two or three days. I do not have a note but I think it is well over 100. I think it is all the industrial workforce, some of the technical workforce and some of the administrative workforce. So I think it is.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

About 100!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well no. I think it is substantially over 100. I am being told it is nearer to 130 or 140.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of those that were not retained. At the end of the eight week period what was the nature of ... They got paid those eight weeks at whatever pay they were getting but then if they have got any entitlement for the time they did in Haymills, do they have to claim that against the receiver in the Haymills liquidation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Their rights to the Insolvency Fund were preserved even though they transferred for these eight weeks to the Government's subsidiary company. So long as it was matters covered by the Insolvency Fund, the fund will continue to look after them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government aware, as they were in the case of PCG, whether claims have been put from former Haymills employees to the Insolvency Fund?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. They all have.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They all have!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. By "former" you do not mean people that had already ceased to be employees at the time of the collapse? You mean people who were employees at the time of the collapse and then lost their jobs. Yes, because the former is also possible. Former employees who were no longer employees but who had not been paid off for one reason or another can also come forward.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If they are owed money, yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1150 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HAYMILLS – ARREARS OF PAYE

Can Government state whether Haymills had any arrears of PAYE in respect of its employees at the time it ceased operations, and, if so, how much, in respect of which tax years and in respect of how many employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1151 and 1152 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1151 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT LIMITED – ARREARS OF PAYE/SOCIAL INSURANCE

Can Government state how many employees of Safety and Risk Management Ltd had when it ceased trading and whether there were any arrears of PAYE and/or social insurance contributions, and, if so, how much and in respect of which tax years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1150 and 1152 of 2009.

NO. 1152 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

M & E (GIBRALTAR) LIMITED – ARREARS OF PAYE/SOCIAL INSURANCE

Can Government state how many employees of M & E (Gibraltar) Ltd had when it ceased trading and whether there were any arrears of PAYE and/or social insurance contributions, and, if so, how much and in respect of which tax years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Same point about the individual tax payer. I believe the hon Member is referring to Warners M & E (Gibraltar) Limited in his question. This company, in fact, changed its name some time ago to EMserv M & E (Gibraltar) Limited. In fact, the change of name took place in May 2008.

EMserv had 28 employees when it ceased trading. EMserv was part of this group. I think the hon Member has just got the wrong name. The hon Member is referring to the company that was part of the Haymills group. That is called EMserv M & E (Gibraltar) Limited and they had 28 employees.

Safety Risk Management Limited had one employee when it ceased trading and although the company with the Haymills name did not owe a huge amount of money in PAYE, there is one subsidiary called Labour Hirer (Gibraltar) Limited which the hon Member has not mentioned in his question which owes a very, very substantial sum of money. Very, very substantial. Not a million miles from a seven figure sum.

ORAL

NO. 1153 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CURRENCY NOTE INCOME ACCOUNT

Can Government explain why there is no provision for management charges in connection with the operation of the Currency Note Income Account in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1154 and 1155 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1154 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NOTE SORTING MACHINE – REPLACEMENT

Can Government state whether it is now able to say what the cost of the replacement of the note sorting machine is and whether it is expected to be in use in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1153 and 1155 of 2009.

NO. 1155 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CURRENCY NOTES

Can Government state how much it expects the issue of currency notes to be in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It was decided to discontinue charging the Currency Note Income Account with the actual management charges because the net receipts of the Currency Note Income Account are, in any case, transferred to the Consolidated Fund. What is the point of making a credit simply to claw it back as a transfer of surplus! So it was eliminated for that reason.

The cost of the replacement of the Note Sorting Machine is £115,119. This has been purchased and is already in use.

It is not clear what the hon Member means by “how much it expects the issue of currency notes to be”. We could not work out whether he was asking what was the value of currency notes that will be issued or whether he was referring to the item in the estimates, issue of currency notes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It says, a token of £1.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A token of £1! The Financial Secretary's Office actually assumed that he meant the latter and the answer is, on that basis, that there is not expected to be any expenditure incurred during the current financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1153 TO 1155 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Government expects not to incur any expenditure in obtaining new currency notes in the current financial year even though it was previously running at £350,000?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That means that they have enough of a supply and they do not need to print any this year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Member knows, this is a question of release and redemptions which usually fluctuates. For example, last year the figure for issue was £43 million but that is almost entirely balanced by redemptions. The amount of currency in issue remains pretty static. Pretty stable.

ORAL

NO. 1156 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LEVEL OF AGGREGATE AND NET PUBLIC DEBT

Can Government state as at the end of each month since May 2009, what was the level of a) aggregate public debt and b) net public debt?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1157 and 1158 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1157 OF 2009

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. 731 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1156 and 1158 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1158 OF 2009

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 since the answer to Question No. 732 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The table, which I now hand to the hon Member, shows the tentative aggregate and net Public Debt at the end of each month since May 2009 and also the balances drawn down on the two revolving loan facilities.

Answer to Question No. 1158 of 2009

Answer to Question No. 1156 of 2009

	Aggregate Public Debt £'M	Cash Reserves £'M	Net Public Debt £'M
June 2009	348.3	256.4	91.9
July 2009	359.2	257.7	101.5
August 2009	364.5	252.2	112.3
September 2009	371.4	249.1	122.3

Answer to Question No. 1157 of 2009

The amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loans from local banks since May 2009 is as follows:-

Date	Barclays	Natwest	Total
June 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
July 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
August 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
September 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000

Answer to Question No. 1158 of 2009

Gibraltar Community Care Limited currently holds £4,961,900 in Government of Gibraltar Debentures.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1156 TO 1158 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

I seem to remember that in May it was £75 million from Barclays and £75 million from Natwest. Is there a particular reason why Natwest has gone down and Barclays has gone up?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I think on this occasion his memory must be failing him. The Natwest facility is £50 million. It could not have been £75 million.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know this. Now!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I think it has never been more than £50 million. I think that is the limit of the facility. The Barclays is for £100 million and the Natwest is for £50 million and they have both now been fully drawn down in order to lock in to a favourable ...

Does the table that he has say, at the bottom, the bit about Community Care?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does.

NO. 1159 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DEPOSITS WITH THE BANK OF ENGLAND

Can Government confirm whether it is now operating the facility with the Bank of England for holding deposits of excess borrowed funds and if so, as from what date and how much is currently on deposit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

That account by the Gibraltar Government at the Bank of England has been operational since November 2008. As at 30 September 2009, the balance held at the Bank of England by the Gibraltar Government in that account was £195 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1159 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think at the time that the Chief Minister explained how this would operate, he said that the proceeds of loans that the Government did not need from the bank would be re-deposited with the bank with a contract that would allow them to offset any difficulty that the bank might have in repaying that and that therefore it would be the money from the debentures that would go into the Bank of England account. Is that the case now? Is the £195 million the proceeds of the debenture?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Barclays money is still there because we have not yet obtained satisfactory confirmation from Barclays of the right to set off. That is currently under negotiation. So, of those £195 million some of it is what we drew down from Barclays the last time. I think it was £7.5 million or £5 million originally.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Originally it was £7.5 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well the balance up to £100 million is all in here. The original balance may have been spent.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The rest of it is money raised by the Government from sale of debentures locally. Is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

NO. 1160 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIRCULATING COINAGE

Can Government explain how the purchase of circulating coins in 2008/2009, relates to the issue of such coins to the value of £1,204,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount received from the issue of circulating coinage in any year represents the face value of such coins. The purchase of circulating coinage in any year represents the cost of production of such coins and may include coins required to replenish stock levels.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1160 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in terms of the value of the circulating coins of £1.204 million, the purchase of the coins is £113,000. Now, how come that at the start of the year the issue of coins was estimated as £750,000 and the cost at £120,000? It struck me as odd that the cost had come down and the actual purchase of coins had gone up by almost 80%.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On what page is that on?

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is in Appendix "M" on page 154.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Its working out..... What was the.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

If we look at what happened in 2007/2008, there was a cost of £122,833 and an issue of £740,685 so the estimate for 2008/2009 follows very closely what actually happened in the preceding financial year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The outturn shows a lower cost than estimated and a vastly higher issue than estimated which does not tie in with what I would have expected which is the answer that I got that it is related to the cost of producing coins.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can only assume... I do not think there has been any reduction in the cost of coin production. So I can only assume that it is the face value of the coins. In other words, that the cost of production is not a directly straight line extrapolation of the face value. For example, if you produce ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Pennies and pounds they cost the same. Yes. Except for the metal content.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and therefore it produces a much higher issue value for a relatively lower acquisition production cost. Purchase cost. If you buy 50p coins or 10p coins you can end up paying a proportionately higher purchase cost.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know the most profitable coin is the £1 which costs 20p and makes 80p profit. I know that. It loses money on the pennies actually but the point is that this forecast outturn for 2008/2009 actually stands out. If the Chief Minister looks at the successive years there are all more or less the same except for this year. There is a spike this year. On the basis of his explanation, the logic of that would be that we have produced many many more high value coins this year than in preceding or subsequent years. Is that what has happened?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know. I cannot think of any other explanation. Why the estimate of issue should rise from £750,000 estimated to £1.2 million forecast and the cost actually comes down from the estimated £120,000. They must have been estimating to issue

£750,000 worth of relatively low denomination coins and actually went on to purchase much higher denomination coins. There is no other logical explanation.

NO. 1161 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF ESTATE DUTY WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state whether it has given authorisation for the sum of £839,381 in arrears of estate duty as at the end of 2008 to be written-off?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. An application for the write-off of these arrears was made by the Commissioner of Income Tax during the current financial year 2009/2010 and the application is currently being processed and considered by the Financial Secretary.

I am told in fact that the original estate duty liability is about £50,000 and the rest of it is all these sort of penalties that chalk up like a speeding meter. Actually, the write off is of an original death duty bill of £50,000 only.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1161 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer is that it is expected to happen in the current financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1162 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £850,000 arrears of rates written-off in 2007/08, showing the amounts in respect of a) domestic and b) commercial premises and the years in which the rates were payable?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1163 of 2009.

NO. 1163 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state on what grounds arrears of rates amounting to £850,000 were deemed to be irrecoverable and written-off in 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Breakdown of Write-offs for Financial Year 2007/2008

Classification	No. of A/C's	Amount Written-off	Range of debt period	Remarks
a) Domestic	15	£25,059.76	1989 to 2005	This amount includes £19K in penalties out of the £25K. The debts were written-off on the grounds of the debt being statute-barred.
b) Commercial	44	£829,442.11	1989 to 2003	This amount includes £584K in penalties. The debts were written off on the grounds of either the companies being liquidated or the debt being statute-barred.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1162 AND 1163 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he have the information of how many of the 44 were liquidated and how many were statute-barred or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not but I would have thought that most of the ones that have become statute-barred have also been liquidated. I would be astonished if debts were allowed to

become statute-barred in respect of companies that continue to trade. Why would the administration have allowed those debts to become statute-barred, presumably.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I thought there was no choice. That if they were statute-barred, they were statute-barred by the statute not by choice.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Yes, but you have time to recover them. Normally, they sit on their hands because there is no point in trying to collect them. The idea that there is a debt that has been allowed to become statute-barred, in respect of a company that is not going to go into liquidation, or is not in liquidation, and is merrily trading along or continues to have assets, would be a serious dereliction of collection of public revenue.

ORAL

NO. 1164 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how much was received by way of pension contributions by the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1165 to 1170 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1165 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how much was received by way of interest by the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1164 and 1166 to 1170 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1166 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state the value of investments of the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund as at the 31 March 2009, and what was the capital gain or loss during 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1164, 1165 and 1167 to 1170 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1167 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how many persons were covered by the contributions made to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund during 2008/2009 and how much was the contributions by employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1164 to 1166 and 1168 to 1170 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1168 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how many persons were covered by the contributions made to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund during 2007/2008 and how much was the contributions by employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1164 to 1167, 1169 and 1170 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1169 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state what was the total amount paid to beneficiaries of the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund in 2008/2009, and how many persons received such payments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1164 to 1168 and 1170 of 2009.

NO. 1170 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state as at the end of March 2008, how many persons were receiving pension payments from the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.2 Pension Fund and what was the average monthly pension?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The questions tend to gloss over some important points that I think I need to make even though I imagine the hon Member knows.

The Gibraltar Provident Trust (No 2) Pension Scheme is a “defined contribution” scheme and that the contributions are not actually received by the fund.

The contributions are paid into the account of the individual scheme members. So it is not as if the fund receives the contribution as its revenue rather like the Government’s own fund does for social insurance contributions, for example.

The funds come in by employers or employees with an employee’s name on it and it goes and gets credited to that employees account. It is true that all those premiums are then put together and invested jointly and the investment proceeds are then allocated to the funds in proportion to their entitlement. On that basis, because for example, “can Government state how much was received by way of pension contribution by the Gibraltar Provident No 2 Pension Scheme?” The contributions are not actually received by the Trust for its own or for any collective account. They are paid by and received straight into the account of each individual member.

So on that basis, during the year 2008/2009, pension contributions by members totalled £2.817 million. Interest and other dividends received from the investment of the funds held on behalf of members amounted to £483,000. This was offset by a capital loss on investments of £177,000 during the year leaving net investment income at £306,000. This was apportioned accordingly to each member’s interests.

This aggregation of figures is terribly misleading because the members have four investment funds that they can choose; cash, bond, equity and they choose their risk profile. So, that £177,000 capital loss will not have been evenly spread. The brunt will fall on the investors that chose the risk profile fund that generated those losses. I am just trying to emphasise that there is relatively little forensic value in lumping up all these figures together because there is not one common fund producing one common rate of benefit. There is not a common rate of contribution and there is not a common rate of benefit unlike the Government’s own Old Age Pension Fund.

On 31st March 2009, the total value of investments held by the Trust on behalf of members stood at £13.471 million. On that date, there were 917 members in the scheme and the employee element of their contributions during the year amounted to £1.048 million. That £1.048 million was the employees' contribution during the year.

In the previous year on 31st March 2008, there had been 778 members in the scheme and the employee element of contributions during the year had amounted to £899,000.

As regards the question on the "beneficiaries" of the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No 2) Pension Scheme, the only payment due to members under the scheme is the return of their accumulated pension fund on a member's retirement. There were 37 members who retired during the year ended 31st March 2009 and the total of their accumulated fund paid out to them was £485,000.

No members are in receipt of a pension from the scheme.

The hon Member will recall that we abolished the obligation to purchase an annuity in the budget a couple of years. So although they can theoretically opt to get an annual payment they also have the right, like all other such schemes, to collect the whole capital and that is what most people choose to do. That is why there are none collecting a pension as such.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1164 TO 1170 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

These are all public sector employees, are they not? All in Government owned entities. Like the Gibraltar Development Corporation or the Electricity Authority, or the.....?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. The companies, yes! Electricity Authority new employees!

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Government not think there is an element of risk in this system that people will take their money and we will find that people are not making provision for their retirement which is the whole purpose of having put the Pension Scheme in place, concerned that if the scheme was not there, people would not do it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. There is a risk of that. The Government have thought about that but it is the same risk implicit in the abolition of the need to purchase an annuity scheme with all defined contribution schemes even in the private sector. There is just no getting away from the fact that annuities are not purchasable in Gibraltar. Service providers withdrew from this market and you cannot lock people into an obligation that they cannot consummate. They cannot deliver on. Yes, the danger does exist.

Theoretically, somebody could collect a large lump sum and blow it that night in the Casino. They have the option of doing it the other way. They are not obliged to take the capital so they do have the option to do it the other way but so far no one has chosen that. Perhaps, because necessarily, given that this has not been going on for so many years, the 37 people that have so far collected must have been people that have worked relatively few years. In other words, have joined the scheme late and probably the lump sum that they had accumulated was not, did not buy a pension. I suppose the youngsters that are going in now will be in a slightly different position. Their drawable pension value may be worth their while saying, I will leave it there for a rainy day and I will not help myself to it all in the first year. Some of them are, maybe sophisticated individuals who feel that they can improve the investment performance of the fund, manage themselves, than in this way. They will be different people with different profiles.

ORAL

NO. 1171 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether anyone in the Civil Service is currently on terms of employment that include membership of the No.2 Pension Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1172 of 2009.

NO. 1172 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

As at the end of March 2009, how many Public Servants were covered by the No.2 Pension Fund, giving a breakdown by the Agency or Statutory body in whose employment they are?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are currently no Civil Servants under the Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Scheme. Civil Servants in the strict sense of the word.

As regards the other Public Servants, Public Servants defined in the widest term, I now hand to the hon Member a statement giving him the information that he asks.

There are about 15 entities there. The one with the most members is the Care Agency with 244. The Gibraltar Development Corporation has 116. GJBS has 88. Community Projects has 84.

These are all the people to whom he promised permanent pensions at the last two elections.

Answer to Question No. 1172 of 2009

Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund No. 2 Pension Scheme

Breakdown of active members by Agency or Statutory Body

Agency Statutory/Body	Active Members as at 31st March 2009
Citizen Advice Bureau	4
Europa Incinerator Ltd.	4
Gib. Defence Estate & General Services Ltd.	1
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	12
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd.	37
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.	84
Gibraltar Development Corporation	116
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	67
Gibraltar Health Authority	67
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd.	15
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	88
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	15
GRP Investments Ltd.	3
Land Property Services Ltd.	9
The Office of the Ombudsman	4
The Care Agency	244
Sports & Leisure Authority	24
Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd.	18
Women In Need	2
	814

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1171 AND 1172 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Which are not pensions any more!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I beg your pardon.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Which are not pensions any more! Can I ask is the position in respect of these employees that it is an individual choice whether they join or not or that they are required to join the scheme as part of the conditions of employment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. They are required to join. What I am not 100% certain is whether their contribution is obligatory. In any case they are required to join because the employer always has to make a minimum contribution of..... I believe that in the majority of these, their contribution is obligatory too.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister is not telling me that he knows that. He thinks.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe it. I believe it but I do not know it for a fact.

ORAL

NO. 1173 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how many employers contributed to the Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund No.3 Pension Fund in 2007/2008, and in respect of how many employees in the case of each employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1174 to 1176 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1174 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how much was received by way of pension contributions by the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.3 Pension Fund in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1173, 1175 and 1176 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1175 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how much was received by way of interest by the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.3 Pension Fund in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1173, 1174 and 1176 of 2009.

NO. 1176 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state the value of investments of the Gibraltar Provident Trust No.3 Pension Fund as at 31 March 2009, and what was the capital gain or loss during 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As the hon Member knows this is a “defined contribution” scheme, similar to the (No 2) Scheme except that this one is only for employees of private sector companies as opposed to Government owned companies.

In 2007/2008, there were 15 employers participating in the scheme, that is employers who made contributions on behalf of their employees. On 31st August 2008, there was a total of 196 members, that is employees. Fifteen employers, 196 members, employees. The number of members by employer is as follows:

Does the hon Member want the names of the companies?

HON J J BOSSANO:

If he wants to give it to me, yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well. Yes. Give him a copy.

Answer to Question No. 1176 of 2009

Employer	Number of Members as at 31st March 2008
Companies House	3
Fidux Trust Co. Ltd.	2
Financial Services Commission	21
Gedime Motors Ltd.	2
Gibraltar Chronicle Ltd.	1
Grant Thornton	11
Helvetic Trust Co. Ltd.	2
Ladbroke's Int. Ltd.	17
Newcastle Building Society	2
Marine Industrial	1
Serco Ltd.	108
Xanthos Asset Management	1
Marr Co. Ltd. T/A The Paint Shop	6
Gibraltar Duty Free Shop	1
Sharrock Shand	18
196	

During the financial year 2008/2009, pension contributions by members totalled £557,000. Interest and other dividends received from the investment of the funds held on behalf of members amounted to £30,000. This was offset by a capital loss on investments of £65,000 during the year leaving a net reduction from the investments of £35,000. This was apportioned accordingly to each member's account.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1173 TO 1176 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

These are the good employers, are they not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

These are, yes, these are the employers who...

HON J J BOSSANO:

You can publish those.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry!

HON J J BOSSANO:

I said these are the goods ones so the Chief Minister can publish those. These are not the guys who keep the PAYE and the...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will pass him over a copy of the answer to save him having to make the list but there are 15.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure whether it is that the answer has got the wrong year by mistake or that in fact the figures are for 2008 but the question is about 2009 and the answer is about 2008. Some information is about 2007/2008 and some is about 2008/2009.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think he has asked in respect of 2007/2008, how many employees in the case of each employer and that is set out there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right!

HON CHIEF MINISTER

In the case of 2009, he has only asked how much was received by way of pension contribution by...

HON J J BOSSANO:

And interest.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Right!

HON J J BOSSANO:

And then the value of the investments!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

And then the value of the investments for 2009! For 2009, he has been taken literally. For 2009 he has not asked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Fair enough. Is the value of the investments in the answer? I cannot seem to ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It is at the bottom...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £557,000 is the contribution?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

During the financial year 2008/2009, pension contribution by members totalled £557,000. Interest and other dividends received from the investments of the fund

amounted to £30,000. So that last paragraph. The narrative paragraph at the bottom contains both the pension contribution and the revenue from investments.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not the value as at 31st March 2009?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of the fund! Can the Government state the value of investments as at 31st March 2009? The value of investments as at 31st March 2009 I can tell him was £1,087,186 million.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 1177 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether any further meetings have taken place with the Civil Service Union to discuss whether the Civil Service Pension Fund should continue to apply to new entrants or not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. Meetings are on going on this and other strategic issues on a monthly basis.

NO. 1178 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state what was the most recent date when a Civil Servant became permanent and pensionable under the existing Civil Service Pension Scheme and for how long prior to this date had the individuals concerned been employed on non-pensionable terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The most recent date when Civil Servants employed on non-pensionable terms have subsequently been made permanent and pensionable under the Pensions Act, dates back to 16 September 2008. Five officers concerned had been employed on non-pensionable terms for three years and two months, two years and four months, two years and five months and the remaining two officers, for one year and nine months, respectively. They were social workers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1178 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the on-going discussions that the Chief Minister is having which we both know is about what may or may not be applied for new entrants. Presumably it would be for new entrants after an agreement is reached. That is to say the people who are in the interregnum would fall under the old system. Is that the case or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Anybody recruited into the Civil Service, until there is a change, goes into the present system.

ORAL

NO. 1179 OF 2009

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. 733 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1180 and 1181 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1180 OF 2009

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. 734 of 2009 from the Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 and 1181 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1181 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government 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. 735 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information that the hon Member requests, is in the schedule that I am now having passed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1181 OF 2009

Answer to Question No. 1179 of 2009

Stamp Duty collected in each month since June 2009 is as follows:

June 2009	£344,925.17
July 2009	£259,257.49
August 2009	£365,219.14
September 2009	£300,893.04

Answer to Question No. 1180 of 2009

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues in each month since June 2009 is as follows:

June 2009	£1,440.00
July 2009	£1,760.00
August 2009	£1,535.00
September 2009	£1,380.00

Answer to Question No. 1181 of 2009

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sales since June 2009 is as follows:

June 2009	19
July 2009	27
August 2009	11
September 2009	67

ORAL

NO. 1182 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – PAYABLE BY AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Based on the 2008/2009 employers annual statement, declaration and certificate submitted to date, what was the PAYE payable by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned/JV companies; and
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information is contained on the statement I am now handing to him. A total of £88.39 million broken down as appears on the statement.

Answer to Question No. 1182 of 2009

Based on the 2008/09 Employers Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted to date, the PAYE tax payable by area of employment is as follows:

	£M
(a) MOD	4.01
(b) Gibraltar Government	26.43
(c) Government owned/JV companies	3.55
(d) Private sector employment	54.40
	<hr/>
	88.39
	<hr/>

ORAL

NO. 1183 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

Can Government state how much was collected in PAYE each month since the answer to Question No. 741 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 1183 of 2009

The PAYE tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No 741 of 2009 is:

	£M
June 2009	7.93
July 2009	9.70
August 2009	7.72
September 2009	7.96

NO. 1184 OF 2009**THE HON J J BOSSANO****TAX ASSESSMENTS**

Can Government state the most recent tax year in respect of which final assessments for personal taxation have now been completed, establishing tax payable and resulting in refunds of tax collected and what has been the total of refunds paid and tax collected for this particular year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Yes. The most recent year is 2004/2005 in respect of PAYE individuals and 2007/2008 in respect of self-employed individuals.

The figures are as follows:

	<u>PAYE</u>	<u>Self-employed</u>
	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
	£M	£M
Total tax payable	2.24	9.23
Tax collected	1.09	8.49
Tax refunds	3.37	0.45
Total refunds paid	3.29	0.44

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1184 OF 2009**HON J J BOSSANO:**

What was the figure that the Chief Minister said was the total for PAYE payable in 2004/2005?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, £2.24 million. No. Not total tax payable. That is not the total tax payable. That is in respect ... The question is ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The final assessment completed establishing in the tax payable and therefore resulting in either more tax having to be collected or refunds having to be paid.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because I think this is..... Sorry! I think the question has been misunderstood. I think the information given of total payable at £2.24 million I think is total payable.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

As a shortfall!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Over and above xxxxxx which may not be what the hon Member was getting at. The hon Member may have been getting at well what was the ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The final figure!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. The final gross figure! I have just not been given that. Obviously, we would be in difficulty if the total was £2.24 million.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well! I would think so. I see. Can the Chief Minister explain ... In fact, the £2.24 million then is the amount that individual PAYE payers had to pay in addition to what had already been deducted! Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £1.09 million is what then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is how much it has been collected of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of the amount that is due!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £3.37 million and £3.29 million are the same thing. The refunds!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Those are refunds. The £3.37 million is monies that these assessments show was due and payable in the other direction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of which the Government has paid £3.29 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. So we are slightly better payers than the tax payer.

ORAL

NO. 1185 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – COLLECTED/ARREARS

Can Government state what was the PAYE collected in 2008/2009 and the PAYE arrears as at 31 March 2009, showing how much of the arrears due from employers was for each of the following tax years: 2007/2008, 2006/2007, 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I propose to answer this with Question Nos. 1186 to 1191 of 2009 and the questions are all about PAYE figures and things.

ORAL

NO. 1186 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX ON INDIVIDUALS – COLLECTED/ARREARS

Can Government state what was the amount of tax, other than PAYE, collected in 2008/2009 from individuals and the tax arrears as at 31 March, showing how much of the arrears due from employers was for each of the following tax years: 2007/2008, 2006/2007, 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1185 and 1187 to 1191 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1187 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX PAYABLE

Can Government state what was the amount of tax payable by companies collected in 2008/2009 and the tax arrears as at 31 March, showing how much of the arrears due from employers was for each of the following tax years: 2007/2008, 2006/2007, 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1185, 1186 and 1188 to 1191 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1188 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSTRUCTION SUB CONTRACTORS TAX

Can Government state the amount of tax collected in respect of construction subcontractors in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1185 to 1187 and 1189 to 1191 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1189 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

REFUNDS OF PERSONAL TAXATION

Can Government state the amount of refunds of personal taxation in the financial year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1185 to 1188, 1190 and 1191 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1190 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX COLLECTED

What was the amount of company tax collected in each month since February 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1185 to 1189 and 1191 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1191 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE INDUSTRY SECTOR TAX

Can Government state what was the amount of a) PAYE and b) Company Tax, payable in the tax years 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008, by employers in the retail and wholesale industry sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 1191 of 2009

Answer to Question No. 1185 of 2009

The amount of PAYE tax collected in the financial year 2008/09 was £96.06M.

The level of PAYE tax arrears as at 31 March 2009 was £7.01M.

The analysis of the PAYE tax arrears position as at 31 March 2009, between the tax years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is as follows:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>PAYE tax arrears</u>
	£M
2005/06	0.65
2006/07	0.92
2007/08	1.93

Answer to Question No. 1186 of 2009

The total amount of tax collected from individuals in the financial year 2008/09 was £14.19M. Out of this total, £0.95M was in respect of individuals under PAYE and the balance of £13.24M was in respect of self-employed individuals.

The level of tax arrears as at 31 March 2009 in respect of individuals was £21.23M. Out of this total, £7.91M was in respect of individuals under PAYE and the balance of £13.32M was in respect of self-employed individuals.

The analysis of the tax arrears position as at 31 March 2009, between the tax years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is as follows:

	<u>2005/06</u>	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>
	£M	£M	£M
PAYE individuals	0.27	0.21	0.05
Self-employed individuals	1.20	1.49	3.83

Answer to Question No. 1187 of 2009

The amount of Corporation Tax collected in the financial year 2008/09 was £26.37M.

The level of Corporation Tax arrears as at 31 March 2009 was £13.64 million.

The analysis of Corporation Tax arrears position as at 31 March 2009, between the tax years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is as follows:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Corporation tax arrears</u>
	£M
2005/06	1.18
2006/07	1.82
2007/08	2.77

Answer to Question No. 1188 of 2009

The amount of tax collected in respect of construction sub-contractors in the financial year 2008/09 was £1.74M.

Answer to Question No. 1189 of 2009

The amount of refunds of personal taxation paid in the financial year 2008/09 was £2.70M.

Answer to Question No. 1190 of 2009

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in the months of March 2009 to September 2009 is:

	£M
March 2009	4.62
April 2009	2.80
May 2009	0.44
June 2009	2.00
July 2009	0.49
August 2009	4.65
September 2009	0.18

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1191 of 2009

Answer to Question No. 1191 of 2009.

The amount of PAYE and Corporation Tax payable in the tax years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 by employers in the retail and wholesale industry was as follows:

	PAYE Tax £M	Corporation Tax £M
2005/06	7.01	4.80
2006/07	7.25	5.24
2007/08	7.34	5.85

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1185 to 1191 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Chief Minister know of any reason why the figure for August 2009 is much higher than it normally is, given the fact that there is now a pattern established? That they tend to bunch the payments in February with the changes that were introduced. Would he know whether this is in fact that there has been a large payment of arrears or something like that in August?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am speculating but I am almost certain I am right. Most of that, or the unusual element of that I think is a payment, by one recent, one new Gaming Company that is not on an exempt basis. There is a Gaming Company that came in after the grandfather provisions ended and is paying tax at the full rate and this was the tax in respect of its first year. Not all of it, but the bulk of that, almost all of that.

NO. 1192 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRIEVANCES OF SPANISH FRONTIER WORKERS

Can Government confirm whether it has received, formally or informally, any representations regarding the grievances of Spanish frontier workers in relation to deductions from their wages and/or eligibility to payment, compared to residents, and if so by whom and when were the representations made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have received no such representation that I am aware of. Of course, I read some of the wilder cases put in the newspapers and things of that sort. I do not know whether that is how they communicate to the Government formally or informally. I have not had that I am aware of. I say, I am not aware of in case somebody has written to somebody and there is a letter lurking somewhere but no one has engaged with me or any of my ministerial colleagues on this. Except to the extent that I think I have said before that in the last trilateral meeting, I think there was a public statement about it, that a member of the Spanish delegation said that they want to put some ideas and proposals to us in relating to this area but not specifically in the terms of the question. Nothing has materialised yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1192 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

So there have been indications of a desire to put some ideas but this has not happened?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it has not happened.

NO. 1193 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCURSION INTO GIBRALTAR BRITISH WATERS BY SPANISH FISHERIES VESSEL

Can Government confirm that the information on the incursion of the Spanish fisheries vessel into Gibraltar British waters, which was provided on Monday 11th of May 2009, came from the Commissioner of Police?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been some confusion about the phrase which was provided on Monday 11th of May 2009 as to which incident that specifically related to provided by whom and where. So it is not possible to answer the question specifically but almost all the information that the Government receives, in almost every case, about incursions comes from the Royal Gibraltar Police.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1193 OF 2009

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is just that the last time, in supplementaries, the Chief Minister said he thought it was the Commissioner but he was not 100% sure. So I was just checking who it was. The last time he answered it was in relation to the incident on the 11th May 2009.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Whether it was the Commissioner personally or not, I do not know, but certainly it would have been the RGP. From time to time, individual members of the public ring in but usually we get a report from the RGP who now log all these incidents and keep a record of them.