

ORAL

NO. 1 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

Can Government state what was the result of the four prosecutions under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Act which were identified in the answer to Question No. 790 of 2009?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 2 of 2010.

NO. 2 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

FIXED PENALTIES ISSUED TO EMPLOYERS

Can Government provide, in respect of the 20 fixed penalties issued to employers in November 2009, a breakdown of the industries concerned and details of the offences committed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As was explained in my answer to Question No. 790 of 2009, there were four prosecutions in respect of three businesses.

Of the two businesses being prosecuted under section 4, Schedule 1 – Regulation 13 of the Employment Regulations 1994, for failing to notify the Director of Employment of a termination one of them is to be set down for a hearing while the other was returned as unable to serve, given that the business had closed and there is now no one answerable for it.

As regards the third business, a warrant of arrest has been issued in respect of the director of the company that was charged with failing to register a person for Income Tax (Pay As You Earn), failing to register a vacancy and failing to notify the Director of Employment of the intention to engage an entitled worker.

As to the 20 fixed penalties issued to employers in November 2009, 17 of the Fixed Penalties Notices issued were in respect of the Building and Construction Industry while the remaining three were in respect of the Retail Industry.

The offences under which the Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued relate to failing to register an employee for Income Tax (Pay As You Earn), failing to register under the Social Security (Contributions), failing to notify the Director of Employment of a vacancy, failing to notify of the intention to engage an entitled worker and of not notifying the Director of Employment in respect of Detached workers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1 AND 2 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

in relation to the first part of the answer, the four offences identified in Question No. 790 of 2009, the reason for the question is that in a supplementary I asked the hon

Member whether the prosecutions had been concluded and the answer was, “I understand that these have been concluded”, but the hon Member did not know the result of that. Now we are told that one has been returned as not served and the other one is pending a hearing date. Can the hon Member explain the answer that he gave on the last occasion whereby he understood that these had been concluded. On what basis did he understand on the last occasion that these prosecutions had been concluded?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, one of them had been concluded but the other question as I understood it at the time I thought that sending the matter to the Attorney General’s Chambers for consideration was concluded from our point of view. That was in supplementary.

HON G H LICUDI:

The supplementary was, “what is the state of play in respect of these prosecutions, are these prosecutions which have concluded or are they simply charges which are pending in court?” The answer was that he understood that they had been concluded. Now the hon Member tells us that he understands conclusion means sending it to the Attorney General’s Chambers. Will the hon Member undertake to give this Parliament clear answers on the next occasions because if the hon Member understands there has been a conclusion and that means sending it to the Attorney General’s Chambers, that certainly was not the question that has been asked and it is unfortunate that we have to come back and ask these questions when they can be given from the very start.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. No Member on this House will give any such undertaking because it is in the rules of the House that Members have got to give the most accurate information of which they are available and, if they do give inaccurate information, to account to the House for it. It is not for the hon Member, with respect, to give any undertakings in that respect. Nor can it possibly be true, as the hon Member is now saying, that he thought that the hon Member’s answers were clear last time. If he thought that the hon Member had said last time that these prosecutions had been concluded, why has he asked these questions today, which are implicitly based on the fact that he was not clear in his mind that they were concluded because if he thought last time that they were concluded, why is he asking now what the outcomes were?

HON G H LICUDI:

The Hon the Chief Minister is clearly wrong in the supposition and the basis for his answer. Once I was told on the last occasion, as an answer to the supplementary, “I understand that these have been concluded”, the next supplementary was, “does the hon Member have details of the penalties which have been imposed?” The answer was that the hon Member did not have those details. So the question today is “what is the result of the four prosecutions?” In other words, the answer I am seeking today is the answer to the supplementary which the hon Member could not answer on the last occasion. What he did answer on the last occasion was that he thought that the

prosecutions had been concluded and that turns out to be incorrect which is unfortunate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, in that case, the Government is not accountable in this House for the outcome of prosecutions and should not be asked in this House to explain what the result is of a judicial process following a prosecution. It is simply not business, public affairs of Gibraltar for which this Government or any Government indeed, is accountable.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not a question of being accountable. It is a question of being factually accurate. If I ask a question about offences and details... the last question asked what were the offences and details of those offences were given. So naturally, the next question was, well what was the result of the prosecution? That was a natural supplementary and perfectly understandable and all I was seeking at the time was a factual answer to the previous answer which had been given, which was, "these were the offences which were being prosecuted". The question was what was the result? It is surprising that the Government are now saying that it is not accountable to give factual information to this House which arises from a perfectly normal and legitimate question which is, "what were the offences for which prosecutions were carried out in these matters?"

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think I am wrong on this question. The Government..... No, of course the hon Member thinks that he, who is notorious for rising to his feet before engaging his brain, is necessarily right and that when somebody says that we are not right, that that is a subject for humour. The rules of this House are clear. The Government are accountable in this House for the public affairs of Gibraltar for which it is responsible. The Government through the Employment Survey are responsible for proffering the charges. As the Government are responsible for proffering the charges, it is perfectly appropriate for the hon Member to hold the Government to account for the charges that a department, over which it presides, decides to proffer. Once the charges have been proffered, the Government do not adjudicate on a prosecution and therefore the result of the prosecution, contrary to the proffering of the charge, is not a public affair of Gibraltar for which the Government are responsible but for which the Judiciary is responsible and it is not appropriate for the hon Member to hold the Government to account in this House for the outcome of judicial process.

HON G H LICUDI:

With respect, the hon Member is incorrect in our view. This is not a question of holding Government to account. This is a question of asking matters in this House for the purpose of getting factual information which is available to the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He is not allowed to do so.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, we certainly disagree. In this particular case, what we are asking is in respect of cases in which the Government is a complainant and the Government have a legitimate interest in finding out what the result of that complaint is. Because if all that the Government does, and it appears from the answer given by the Minister, that the extent of his responsibility, his department's responsibility, is to identify offences and then pass the file to the Attorney General's Chambers and then say, that is it, nothing to do with us mate. That is simply wrong and if that is the policy of the Government, that is a policy that should be reviewed. Because if the complainant, the employment service, has a legitimate interest in ensuring that employers comply with the Employment Regulations and have a legitimate interest in making sure that those that transgress those regulations get prosecuted, they also have a legitimate interest in finding out the result of that prosecution and coming to this House with accurate and factual answers and that is all we were seeking.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I must say that the hon Member is completely wrong and I am astonished to hear a member of the legal fraternity arguing that. That some other Member of the Opposition, less versed in this concept of the separation of powers, less versed in the concept of checks and counterbalances of the various steps, should have expressed the view that the hon Member has just expressed, would be equally wrong but at least explainable by reference to a lack of familiarity with constitutional architecture. That a practising lawyer should fail, as the hon Member has just done, to draw even the most basic distinction that are drawn in democratic states, governed by the rule of law, based on a separation of powers between the Executive and the Judiciary as he has just done, is frankly, inexplicable. The Government are not obliged to answer questions in this House, either on the basis of what it knows, in the basis of information available to it or information in which it might be interested, which are all the phrases that he has used. If he cares to check in Standing Orders, he will see that the Government are only obliged to answer questions in this House about the public affairs of Gibraltar for which it is responsible and the Government are not responsible for all the public affairs of Gibraltar. The Government, for example, are not responsible for those public affairs of Gibraltar which fit into the category of the results of prosecutions conducted by the independent Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General, and adjudicated on by the independent Judiciary. We may have an interest in the outcome. We may know the outcome. We may hope for a particular outcome. A particular outcome may be helpful to Government policy. That does not mean we are responsible for it and if we are not responsible for it, we are not obliged to answer questions in this House. The Government are not an information service for the Members of the Opposition. The Government's obligation to answer questions in this House is to provide information about the Government's conduct of the public affairs of Gibraltar. The hon Member might wish to disregard..... the hon Member appears to be labouring under the misapprehension that everything that is known to the Government, that everything that the Government are interested in, is somehow things that he is entitled to cross-examine the Government about and that is not the basis upon which this Parliament, at least..... I have been a Member of it for some years now and no one has ever suggested that that is the basis, and nor is it what it says in Standing Orders. The hon Member who is one of the more recent Members of the House, presumably, has read Standing Orders and is aware of what they contain about the obligations of the Government and by analogy, by parallel, the rights of the hon Member opposite. Because our rights and our obligations are flip sides, have to be flip sides of the same

coin. He cannot have greater rights than I have obligations and I cannot have obligations less than his rights.

HON G H LICUDI:

What we have just had from the hon Member is really quite extraordinary. To suggest that this xxxxxx question somehow seeks to impinge or interfere with, powers or even the last statement, or anything I have said at all on this matter in this House suggests anything to do with separation of powers is simply a red herring. We cannot get away from the fact that we are simply asking, not for the Government's hope of a prosecution, not for the Government's desire but for the factual outcome in respect of a question which has already been answered. The hon Member suggests the Government are not responsible for the Judiciary and that is absolutely right and that is the way it should be. But what the Government are responsible for, and does the Government not accept that it is responsible for policing these matters. The hon Member's department has a responsibility, a statutory responsibility, for policing matters which come under the Employment Regulations Offences Act and given that it is their responsibility to police that matter, is it sufficient in the Government's view to say, "our responsibility ends the moment we pass the file to the Attorney General, that is the end of the matter. After that we have no responsibility, no accountability, no question of any interest and therefore no responsibility for answering what the outcome was after passing that file to the Attorney General's Chambers." That is an extraordinary statement. It is factually wrong. It suggests and it is certainly not for me to lecture the hon Member on procedure of this House but it suggests a lack of familiarity, a lack of understanding of what really should go on in Gibraltar which is that the Government should be transparent and should be able to answer properly and should answer clearly to this House. When the hon Member says, as he previously said, "these prosecutions I understand have been concluded" and he is found to be incorrect, I am not suggesting that he made it up or that he was not responsible, but is factually incorrect, so the very least we can expect, is to say well, "I am sorry the last answer I gave was incorrect for these reasons and this is the correct answer". That is the very least we can expect when an answer is given to this House which turns out to be incorrect.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

About a minute ago there was a question there and it went something like, I hope you will forgive me if I have not got him precisely right, but the question was something like, "is the Government saying that once they hand a prosecution to the Attorney General they should somehow no longer be responsible or accountable" and then he went on to answer his own question in effect by saying, "that would be extraordinary". Well, we disagree. Not only is that what the Government do, but it is what the Government have to do. It would be quite wrong for the Government to do anything else. But of course, he has got to be precise with his choice of language. If he says, "can the Government just hand the prosecution to the Attorney General and then afterwards not be accountable?" No, no. The Government remain accountable for ever, for what it did up to that point. So if afterwards means a point in time, the answer is, of course the Government do not cease to be accountable. The Government remain accountable even after it has passed the prosecution to the Attorney General in respect of what the Government did before that. How did it handle it? Did it police it properly? Did it prepare the case properly? Did it catch.....? But in respect of what occurs to the prosecution, after the matter is in the independent judicial process, absolutely the Government cease to participate in the

matter. Absolutely, the Government cease to be accountable for it. That is what the separation of powers means. Or does the hon Member hanker after the position being that the Executive, the elected Government in Gibraltar, should involve itself, concern itself and politically debate in this House the outcome of judicial processes and judicial prosecutions. Well, he is saying no. But if he is saying no, then that is what I am saying. That once the Executive plays whatever role it has to play in initiating a prosecution in the first place and once the matter is in the courts, in the hands of an independent prosecuting authority, the executive branch of Government then steps back and allows the independent prosecuting authority and the independent judiciary to do its work and then does not come to this House to explain what the judiciary has done, or the prosecutor, to agree with it, to disagree with it, to criticise it, to praise it, because that is politicising the judicial process which in our system of governance is separate and independent of both this House as a Legislature and the Executive. So the answer to his question which he thought any answer other than the one that he was proposing, would be ridiculous is the opposite of what he is saying. As far as this Government are concerned, although presumably people now need to take stock of the fact that with a change of Government it might be different in the future, but with this Government in office the Executive does not concern itself with the work of the independent prosecutor and with the work of the judiciary. So the answer to his question is, absolutely, once the Government passes a prosecution to the Attorney General, except to the extent that officials might be witnesses in that case, the Government, in terms of the ministerial side of it cease to participate in and cease to be accountable in this House through questions or any other debate for what happens to that dossier after that fact. That is the view of the Government. Clearly we have different views. I have heard his. He has heard mine. I think he is wrong. He thinks I am wrong. People will have to form their own views.

MR SPEAKER:

Is there a question? We are having a very interesting debate on the constitutional aspects of executive responsibility. There has to be a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. There is a question. Let me preface my question by saying, there has been nothing in any word I have uttered this morning which can be, in any way, taken to suggest that the Government should interfere, or participate, or get involved in any of the judicial aspects. So to that extent, we agree. We do not disagree on everything. We disagree that that is what I am asking but we agree that the Government should not and must not get involved in any way in the prosecution itself, other than the preparation of the case and passing it on and then it is turned to the judiciary. But perhaps the Government can answer this. In the Employment Statistical Reports which are provided to us on a periodical basis, we do get questions asked about the number of Fixed Penalty Notices, which was the basis of Question No. 2 of 2010, "what were the 20 Fixed Penalty Notices", and we also asked about the prosecutions, which again, is what prompted Question No. 790 of 2009. So we are given information about these prosecutions which have taken place and there may be information subsequently which is not in the public domain. For example, the information that has been given is that one of these prosecutions has not proceeded because it has not even been served. Well that matter has not come to court. That matter... there is no public information that we have access to and the only public information in respect of the policing of this matter, in respect of the prosecutions which have been initiated by the hon Member's department, must come from the hon

Member himself in this House. How else is the Opposition or the public at large expected to know how the Government are policing this and what is the state of play. How else? Only by asking this question in the House. So, do the Government accept that that is a legitimate exercise at least to find out what stage has been reached in respect of these prosecutions because if information is given readily to this House about prosecutions, then it is legitimate for us to ask, in respect at least of information which is not in the public domain, what is the state of play in respect of those prosecutions? If the Government say, well the prosecutions have been concluded, well that is fine. But if the prosecutions have not been concluded then at least we are entitled ... because if there is a prosecution going on and nothing has happened for three years, we are entitled to know, well, what has happened. Is it that there is a problem with service or whatever? That is a separate matter. But at least the factual information should be given to us.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Actually, I do not agree even with that narrower point that hon Member is now making. I do not think that the hon Members are entitled to ask the Government even how the prosecution is going. In other words..... prosecution in progress, is it going, is it not going, how is it going, is it delayed, has it stopped. In this society, as in modern democratic societies, justice is administered in public and the public is deemed to be aware of how prosecutions are going, to quote his words. But it should not be necessary for two lawyers to be having this discussion. The way that the public is informed about how prosecutions are going, despite the fact that he says "how else could the public find out" is because they are conducted in public. It is as if the days when the Attorney General was a member of this House....., if the hon Member had stood up and said, "well so and so is under prosecution for murder, how is that going? Is it going well? Is it going badly? Is it stopped? Has it started? When is the hearing? What is the outcome?" The Government do not agree that this House is a proper forum in which the Executive should account to the Parliament, because here we speak about the Government and the Opposition, but in most Parliaments you should speak about the House, because there will be MPs behind the Government benches who are not the Government. It is just here we have got used to talking about Government and Opposition. It is not Government and Opposition. It is Executive and Legislature. That is the real divide and we do not think that Parliament is the appropriate venue for the Executive to account to the Legislature about the conduct of, or progress in, or lack of progress in, prosecutions. That is to say, the administration of the law against particular citizens. I do not think so. Now, the hon Member is entitled to a different view. I happen to believe he is wrong but of course I do not condemn him for having a different view to mine just as I hope he does not condemn me for having a different view to his. But I do honestly believe that he is wrong. This is not about exchange of information. It is about whether Parliament is an appropriate place and there are other sorts of questions on this Order Paper which raise similar issues. I venture to suggest that this is not the only... no, not necessarily from him, that this is not the only area in the next two or three days where we will be touching on issues of this sort.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we must.....

HON C A BRUZON:

Mr Speaker, with your permission! I am one of the..... I think there are seven lawyers in this House including your good self, I am a layman in these matters, but why was the question allowed to be on the Order Paper in the first place?

MR SPEAKER:

Well, in that case well, that is a question put to me, which is not permitted, but I will answer if I may. I think it is perfectly legitimate for a Member of this House or Opposition or any back bencher indeed, to ask what was the outcome of proceedings initiated by a Department for which a Minister is present in this House and answerable for. Just ask the outcome. The Minister has possibly one of three responses he can give which are, I do not know or I know and this was the outcome or I know and I will not tell you. I think those are three possible answers. But then having given one of those three answers, the Minister may not then be pressed to explain or justify the outcome because that is not something he is answerable for. That is a matter for the courts. But if the Minister says, "yes I know the answer" and gives the answer, I think it is incumbent of the Minister to answer as accurately as possible. I think that is where the Hon Mr Gilbert Licudi's line of supplementaries comes in. That he contends that the answers are not quite accurate on the last occasion.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Except Mr Speaker that that is not what the Hon Minister said according to what I heard the hon Member himself read from Hansard. The Hon Minister did not say, I may have misunderstood him, I do not have Hansard in front of me, from what I heard him say, and I was not here on the day, but I think I understood him to attribute to the Minister the statement that he was not sure but that he thought or that he understood.

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer was, "I understand that these have been concluded".

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Fine! So what is wrong is not that he gave inaccurate information to this House but that he gave information to this House about his understanding and that his understanding was wrong. Well, that is very different. That is very different to giving inaccurate information in this House which is what both you and now the Speaker had insinuated in the last few minutes. The phrase has been used, "the Minister needs to be more careful." Well, why should he be more careful?

HON G H LICUDI:

In his understanding! Because if a question is asked about prosecutions and then he gives an understanding as to the state of play, he needs to be more careful in his understanding and in his preparation for the answers to the questions asked.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But this arose in supplementaries. It arose..... he cannot prepare for a supplementary. He does not know.....

HON G H LICUDI:

Which flows from the answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. It does not matter whether it flows from the answer or not. If at the time that you ask somebody what the state is of a prosecution and that is not a question of which he has notice, he stands up and he says, "I understand that the prosecutions have ended". It then turns out that the prosecutions have not ended. That is not giving false information to this House. It is giving a correct statement in this House of his understanding at the time, which understanding happened to be wrong. But that is not the nature of the use of the word "understanding", otherwise why in the English language would you use the phrase "I understand that". You would say, "I know that" or you would assert it as a fact, Mr Speaker.

HON XXXXXX

Absolutely!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In other words, well of course, Mr Speaker. Now, the hon Member..... as I have often done, there have been many occasions when I have been conducting exchanges in this House and I have said to the Members opposite, "well, I am not certain, do not hold me to it, I think that this or that" and then there is an acknowledgement that one is not asserting a fact, certainly known. No, because the hon Members have already generously conceded that they are not attributing to the hon Member any desire to mislead the House.

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Then by doing that they are acknowledging that he honestly had a wrong understanding of the position. Well, that is not a question of being more careful then or of being more careful to give accurate answers because he has not given an inaccurate answer. He has given an accurate statement of his inaccurate understanding at the time.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is precisely what I was complaining about!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely it was.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order! I really think we must bring this line of debate to a conclusion. May I first of all hasten to assure the Hon Minister that I was certainly not insinuating any inaccuracy on his part. What I was reflecting was the point which the hon Member was making on this side that if an answer is given at least give an accurate answer. I think that was the point I was trying to reflect. That was the point I was reflecting but not myself insinuating anything of the sort. But I think we are now fairly..... the Hon Mr Bossano.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am beginning to get some idea of understanding why the prosecutions take so long. I think there is an important point of principle that needs clearing up because given that the hon Member has described a long way back in his analysis that the question was interfering with the independence of the Judiciary, I would like him to clarify for me whether it is the question that constitutes interference with the Judiciary or providing the answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that the question interferes with the Judiciary. I have not said..... I have said that the Government are not accountable in this House, in a country where there are separations of power between the Executive and the Judiciary, that the Executive branch is not accountable in the Legislature for the actions, inactions, delays or lack of delays or conduct of either the Attorney General as an independent director of public prosecutions or of the tribunal in which the prosecution has been conducted. The hon Members can ask and if the Speaker allows the question on the Order Paper, then the question is on the Order Paper. All I am saying is that when the Government say, "I am not accountable for that and therefore I am not answering", the Government are not, in those circumstances, refusing to account for something for which the Government are responsible in terms of being those areas of public affairs. But the question, asking the question, does not interfere, itself does not interfere with the Judiciary. Look a newspaper man can ask a question. The asking of the question is not an interference. What would be an interference with the Judiciary was if the Government made itself the spokesman for the prosecution or the spokesman for the court in explaining, justifying, criticising, accepting or not accepting. So it would be..... not the answer, I do not think it is either the

question or the answer, it is the principle of the Executive being looked to as a source of xxxxxx for the prosecutions and the.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, as the hon Mr Speaker himself explained, if we put the question, the Minister has got three choices, either saying, I do not know, telling us what the result has been or saying I know it but I will not tell you. Is the hon Member saying that in his interpretation of the architecture of the Constitution he is prevented by that architecture from saying, I know and the fine was 'x'. Is that what he is telling us?

CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The point is that I do not agree with the simplicity of the three options described by the Speaker. "I know but I will not tell you" is capable of sounding churlish and almost impertinent. It is not "I know but I will not tell you", it is "I know, and it is not appropriate for me to be held to account in this House for that subject matter and, so as not to stray in that, I decline to tell you". It is not as simple, "although I know and I will not tell you, find out for yourself and blow a raspberry", which is how it sounds if you reduce it to three over simplistic options.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What about the other two options? Is he is saying that there is something wrong with telling us if the Minister chooses to tell us.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, he is inviting the start of the whole debate again. The answer is the Government are not accountable for it in this House. Of course, the Government can choose to express views in this House, in answer to questions or otherwise, in relation to a matter for which it is not accountable. It is not obligable. It is not criticizable for not doing it but of course the Government are free to do so. In my view, the preferable practice would be that the Government did not do so but there is no prohibition or impossibility of doing so. I think it would lead eventually to a process of the slippery slope principles of life. It would lead eventually to the wholesale scrutiny in this Parliament of matters which fall into the purview of an independent prosecutor and an independent judiciary and I think that that would be very bad. Now, is a great deal of harm done by asking one question about one prosecution and a Minister slipping out what he knows about the answer to the question. Well look, if you take one isolated case, it does not do a huge amount of harm. If it becomes the standard practice in this House for this to be done and for this to be thought of as proper and legitimate business of this House, particularly when it relates to particular individuals, particular defendants, I think it would be hugely damaging, hugely damaging for the administration of justice, for this House to get into the habit of debating the progress of situation reports of individual prosecutions. But look, it is a view. If the hon Member has a different one, that is fine. But that is our view.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it is a view that is being enunciated for the first time today because surely the hon Member may or may not know that the question, the information has indeed been volunteered about similar prosecutions by the same Minister on previous occasions.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, might it not help..... I do not know whether this is a xxxxxx, if we look at Standing Orders and what questions must relate to.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, I think have ruled that the question is perfectly valid. There is no dispute about that.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, but in relation to the debate we have had this morning as to the extent to which the Government are accountable to give an answer to that particular question. Certainly the question is a proper question but it falls fairly and squarely within the rules which says, "Rule 15. Any question addressed to the Chief Minister or a Minister shall relate to the public affairs for which he is officially connected or to a matter of administration for which the Government is responsible." Now the employment service is a matter of administration for which the Government is responsible. The policing of this Act and these regulations, through the employment service, is a matter of administration for which the Government is responsible and presumably once the file is handed over and the case is concluded, the hon Member's department administratively enter into that their own file what the result has been. So asking for the result of that is an administrative matter for which the Minister is responsible because, administratively, they must follow what happens and they must make a record in their own files, in their own department. So it is a matter which, not only falls fairly and squarely within the line of questions which can be asked, but it is a proper question which ought to be answered properly and accurately. I am not suggesting that the last answer was inaccurate but simply that the understanding, as I have already said, was inaccurate and that is what has prompted this debate this morning.

CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, let the record show that we do not agree with what the hon Member has just said. The conduct of a prosecution of a citizen for breaching the law of the land, by a constitutionally independent prosecutor, in an independent judicial tribunal, is not an administrative matter for which the Government is responsible.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we should move to Question No. 3 of 2010.

NO. 3 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES – VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government confirm that the list of “vacancies filled” in the employment figures for October to December 2009 does not include the engagement of any casual workers and, if so, how does Government monitor the correct number of new entrants to the job market in any particular period?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The term casual worker, for which I am advised there is no legal definition, can be interpreted differently by different employers. Casual workers might be defined as persons who are temporarily engaged on an ad-hoc basis or hourly basis to satisfy demand for additional labour resources arising from specific one-off events and who do not service the routine, day to day requirements of the business. Some employers opt to register vacancies for casual workers that would also be taken to be temporary workers, to be engaged for a short period of time on a full-time or part-time basis.

Having provided this explanation I can confirm that, accordingly, the list of “vacancies filled” in the statistics provided for October to December 2009 would include the engagement of any casual workers. I can confirm that the number of new entrants into the job market in any particular period is determined by reference to whether a registered notice of terms of engagement is the first such notice so registered for the person. If so, this would be a new entrant.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 3 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

For clarification, the hon Member has said that a definition of casual worker is the temporary engagement of a worker on an ad-hoc or an hourly basis and then he went on to say that some employers choose to register. Is there not an obligation to register every single vacancy that exists regardless of whether you are going to engage a casual, a temporary, a permanent worker or any other type of worker?

HON L MONTIEL:

I want to understand very well the question this time in case we spend three hours on the question. Some employers opt to register vacancies for casual workers that could also be taken to be temporary workers to be engaged for a short period of time on a full-time basis. Yes, they do tend to register for casual workers.

HON G H LICUDI:

Maybe it is because I understood the answer..... I had understood that the hon Member said some employers choose to register. Is that what the hon Member said in the original answer. That some employers choose to register these vacancies?

HON L MONTIEL:

Some employers opt to register vacancies.

HON G H LICUDI:

Ought to register!

HON L MONTIEL:

Opt to register!

HON G H LICUDI:

Opt! Well, opt and choose is the same thing and my question is, is there not an obligation? It is not a question of employers opting or choosing to register vacancies. They have to register vacancies and how can the Employment Service tolerate a situation where employers simply opt or not opt to register vacancies and therefore engage or not engage.....

MR SPEAKER:

I think the hon Member is making a mistake. He is stopping at "choosing or opting to register", at that point, but if he listens to the whole sentence he will find it reads somewhat different.

HON G H LICUDI:

If the hon Member could repeat it then perhaps we could.....

MR SPEAKER:

The whole sentence!

HON L MONTIEL:

Some employers opt to register vacancies for casual workers that could also be taken to be temporary workers to be engaged for a short period of time on a full-time or part-time basis.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question of the opting and the choosing to register, and the supplementary is does the hon Member not agree that there is an obligation to register and how do we have a situation where the opting or choosing to register a vacancy is tolerated.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The option is about full time or part-time. Not registering.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes. That is the point. It is in the whole sentence. The category.....

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member saying that his understanding is, as ours, that whenever there is any vacancy, whether it is for temporary, casual or permanent, then there is an obligation to register?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The xxxxx of the word "casual" has no legalistic meaning. What is a casual worker? It is a lay word in the sense that in some employers minds the word casual is somebody for whom they do not have a permanent need. Somebody for whom they have only a temporary need, a bar on a Friday night, because they are busier on a Friday than on a Tuesday and they think of that as casual. But the law does not make that distinction. The law distinguishes between more than 15 hours or less than 15 hours and therefore something that a non-lawyer describes as casual could actually be a temporary full-time worker. In other words, a worker that you contract for a month or two or for a week and then the employment law decides whether you can remove him or not remove him under circumstances..... But the phrase "casual worker" does not describe the category.

NO. 4 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE COMMERCIAL SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY

Can Government state how many apprentices, who have been kept on by operators involved in the commercial ship-repair industry in Gibraltar after finishing their apprenticeships, have subsequently been kept on at the end of the three month probationary period and how many have been dismissed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I am aware of a number of apprentices that upon completion of their training in the ship-repair industry were taken on by the operators involved. These apprentices, now qualified artisans, maintain that they were employed on a three month probationary period.

In this connection, five apprentices were initially taken on and were subsequently dismissed.

Whilst it is to be noted that taking an apprenticeship and successfully completing an apprenticeship does not constitute a guarantee of employment, it is still the Government's expectation, let alone that of the successful apprentice, that an employment position be offered. To this effect, the Government is working intensely with the ship-repair industry in order to maximise its uptake from this new craft skills pool.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 4 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Can Government state of those five who were taken on and then subsequently dismissed, given that they are now qualified, does the Government know whether they have simply gone on to the unemployment figures?

HON L MONTIEL:

I want to be helpful but I have got to be very careful these days. I will stick to the answer that I have given. Five apprentices were initially taken on and were then subsequently dismissed.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, but does the hon Member know whether that is the end of the story. These people were trained, taken on a probationary period. All of them dismissed. Are they all now in the dole queue?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Obviously, the Government's wish, hope and desire... I do not want him to say that there is no difference between hope and desire, that may or may not be true, is that not only the element of resident labour employed in the yard should be maximised but that when the Government participate in a training opportunities for people that those people should as soon as possible and as permanently as possible obtain those vacancies. But on the other hand the Government do not...this is not an area in which the Government have legal powers to oblige people. So it is all a question of discussion, attempts at persuasion, making representations to in the hope that employers make decisions that to a greatest possible extent coincides with the Government's objective or desire. If you mean by, is it the end of the matter or words to that effect, I do not recall the exact words on this occasion, if by that he means are the Government now looking the other way and considering this a closed matter. The answer is no. If he means but can the Government do anything about it tomorrow morning. The answer is also no. But can the Government engage with the employers and making sure, not that they employ more people than they need, because at the end of the day it would be wrong for the Government to do that, but that at least that they satisfy their needs as much as possible from easily accessible labour without having recourse to labour from a very, very, very long way away and I choose those words carefully to make it clear that I am not discussing labour even from the region. That is certainly what the Government do and there is engagement on this question. So it is not closed as far as the Government are concerned but that cannot be a guarantee in respect of any one or more of these particular individuals.

NO. 5 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD

Can Government state on how many occasions since October 2007 has the Labour Advisory Board met and on what dates were meetings held and who attended?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Since October 2007, the Labour Advisory Board has met once, on 29th October of last year.

A further meeting with the Board to have taken place on 29th of last month was postponed to then take place today and for which for obvious reasons we are now rescheduling.

As regards who attended, it would not be appropriate for Government to provide details of attendance by other entities, which is a matter for them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 5 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Are the Government satisfied and do they consider it acceptable that during a period of two years from October 2007 to October 2009 there was not a single meeting of the Labour Advisory Board?

HON L MONTIEL:

In normal circumstances, if a Minister did not have the responsibility for industrial relations one would say that this would be unacceptable but given that I am the Minister for Industrial Relations I have been in very close contact throughout the time with employers and employees, I do not consider that unacceptable.

NO. 6 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – BRUESA WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government provide a breakdown of the workers of Bruesa registered with the Employment Service as at October 2009, giving a breakdown by occupation and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As has been explained previously, it is not appropriate to provide details in respect of an individual company.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 6 OF 2010

There is nothing to prevent the hon Member providing this information if he wants to because he thinks it is appropriate to do it in respect of other employers. We have had information of this nature before and, in this case, the employer has been sacked by the Government and is no longer in Gibraltar. So I think it is relevant to know what was the position in terms of the breakdown of their workforce officially registered with the Department.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer remains the same. Of course the Government have the information. Of course the Government therefore physically can give it. It is not appropriate and it is becoming increasingly problematic and therefore there is lines going to be drawn during this session of Parliament. It is not appropriate to, across the floor of this House, provide details about a particular citizen's or about a particular company's individual personal affairs. This is not appropriate. That is the Government's judgement and therefore the Government are not providing..... The hon Member will see later that we draw a distinction when there is a call on public funds. So if there is an implication to public funds about, for example, in the context of the Insolvency Fund, then the Government will provide the information because this House has a legitimate interest in knowing how many, why, is covered public funds, but simply to ask for a list of the employees of a particular employer is not something that the Government consider it is appropriate to do and the hon Member will recall..... There are questions here about..... There is only one ship-repair company in Gibraltar..... There are questions here about that and it does not

choose the name, it speaks about the ship-repairing industry. We have been over this ground many years ago. This is not a new position where the Government provide information about the industry in an aggregated form and there is one in which the industry is in effect one so they can deduce who it belongs to but the principle is the same here. We do not believe that it is right for the Government to publish, which is what saying it in this House means, the list of employees of a particular employer. We just do not think it is good governance.

NO. 7 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government state the number of frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of October 2009 and give a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 8 and 9 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 8 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government state the total number of frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at end of January 2010?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 7 and 9 of 2010.

NO. 9 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – SPANISH FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government state the number of Spanish frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at end of January 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The total number of frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of October 2009 broken down by nationality is, British 2,165, Moroccan 5, Spanish 3,499, Other EU 1,012 and Other Non-EU 127.

The total number of frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of January 2010 is 6,654.

The total number of Spanish frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of January 2010 is 3,286.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 7, 8 AND 9 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can he repeat the..... He has not given me the total for October but it looks as if the figure shows..... If the figure for British is 2,600 it seems to me that the 6,600 figure is less in January than in October, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The total figure!

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question was what was the number and a breakdown. But he has given me the breakdown but not the total.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I make the total 6,858. Subject to my arithmetic being.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point is then..... There has been then a decline in the number of frontier workers between October and January given that figure. Is that.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is implicit from the fall in number of Spanish frontier workers. The Spanish figure shows xxxxxx.

NO. 10 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS EMPLOYED

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 792 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 AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 11 to 13 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 11 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by occupation of the 11 detached workers employed in the retail industry in the month of June 2009?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 10, 12 and 13 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 12 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by occupation of the ten detached workers employed in the retail industry in the month of July 2009?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 10, 11 and 13 of 2010.

NO. 13 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by occupation of the 13 detached workers employed in the retail industry in the month of August 2009?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 13/2010

Answer to Question 10/2010

September 2009

Industry	British	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	41	177	5	20	94	337

Answer to Question 13/2010

Answer to Question 10/2010

October 2009

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				9	107	116
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	26	116	5	7	30	184
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		10				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	2		1		12
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services	6				1	7
Total	41	128	5	17	138	329

Answer to Question 13/2010

Answer to Question 10/2010

November 2009

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				9	110	119
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	20	118	4	7	28	177
Wholesale Trade		2				2
Retail Trade		15			7	22
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	7	2		1		10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services	6				1	7
Total	33	137	4	17	146	337

Answer to Question 13/2010

Answer to Question 10/2010

December 2009

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				9	120	129
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	23	125	4	5	23	180
Wholesale Trade		2				2
Retail Trade		10			2	12
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	7	2		1		10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services	2				1	3
Total	32	139	4	15	146	336

Answer to Question 13/2010

Answer to Question 10/2010

January 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				8	113	121
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	22	132	2	6	20	182
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		11				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	5	2		1		8
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	27	145	2	15	134	323

Answer to Question 13/2010
Answer to Questions 11 to 13/2010

2009	June	July	August
Managerial			
Professional	1		
Associate Professional			
Administrative			
Skilled Trades			
Personal Services			
Sales & Customer Svcs.			3
Plant Operators	10	10	10
Elementary Occupations			
Totals	11	10	13

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 10 TO 13 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The breakdown for example provides sales and customer services workers. There were three in the retail industry in August. Given that the position of detached workers is that they are coming to Gibraltar to provide a service in an employer where they were already doing that same job in their country of origin, I have difficulty in understanding what it is in the retail trade that they can be doing and is it that, for example, where we have got ten plant operators, the same people are there almost on a permanent basis.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have had the same question asked as you are asking at this very moment. The reason is because these were promotional assistants. They only came to do a promotion.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see.

HON L MONTIEL:

So they were not really working in any retail..... But you are quite right in asking the question because it is confusing. It is confusing and gives the impression that it can actually get frontier.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would also, if I could just add to that, in case he wants to modify the way he asks questions in the future. The fact that you are an employee of the retail industry does not mean that you are employed in retail functions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is why I have asked this question this time because the information of the retail industry is what is provided in answer to Question No. 10 which gives me the breakdown by month.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, if for example, it says that in January this year there were in the retail industry 11 people, then in the absence of any further information as has been provided today, it gives the impression that there are people who are working.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but not necessarily as shop assistants.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not necessarily as shop assistants! I see.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For example, if employed by a shop to refit the shop. Do you see what I mean? I was not challenging. I was just mentioning to him that the industry classification is not necessarily a description of the activity. So when we talk about retail industries, we tend to think shop assistants and shop managers. That is not necessarily the case. You could be employed by a company that is categorised under the retail industry but actually your job could be maintenance or you could be brought in for a month to refit the shop or to change the logo..... You are still categorised as a retail industry employee.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right! The ten plant operators that were there in June, July and August and if the hon Member looks at the retail trade figures that he gives me, there has been in excess of ten every month suggesting that the ten had been there all the time. Is this the case? I understood that the detached worker was on the basis that they have got the permit precisely to come in, provide a service and then go. Is that the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

The service can be as long as it takes for the work to be carried out and it can be.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think it is intended to be a permanent employment method.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Absolutely! Right.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It may last for the day. It may last for a month, two months or three months. I do not know how long each term, which I can see here in June, July and August have been there. But certainly..... I do not know what the law says about it but certainly as a policy matter it would be undesirable for people to in effect be in occupation of a permanent post in Gibraltar through the mechanism of a detached worker which is an employee in another country of another employer who is deployed to provide his work in that other country..... I had always assumed temporarily for somebody in another country. If it were being used as a permanent situation then I do not know whether the law permits it or not, it would have to be looked into but certainly it would be an undesirable use of the detached worker regime.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right, that is precisely the point that I am raising with the hon Member because in fact it strikes me that given that in the breakdown that he has given me to Question Nos. 11, 12 and 13 there are ten plant operators in June, July and August and then if we look at the answer to Question No. 10 there are in the retail trade..... For example, in September 12 Spanish detached workers, in October ten, in November 15, in December ten and in January 11. It gives the impression that the ten are almost a permanent feature throughout the year and that what fluctuates is the one in June or the three in August that came in to do a particular presentation. So would the hon Member look into the situation whether we are talking about ten plant operators being here almost on a permanent basis in which case perhaps the detached worker regime should not be the appropriate way in which they should be registered.

HON L MONTIEL:

I will look into the matter.

NO. 14 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – MOD JOBS

Can the Minister for Employment confirm that the information provided in answer to supplementaries to Question No. 794 of 2009, namely that the jobs in the MOD as per the Employment Surveys in October 2005 being 1030, and in October 2006 being 1014, are the jobs open by the MOD with the Employment Service on those dates and that this is in fact correct?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The October 2005 and October 2006 figures of 1030 and 1014 respectively, were, as I said in supplementaries to Question No. 794, “as per the Employment Survey”. When I then went on to also say that they were “the jobs that they have opened up with the Employment Service”, that was an error. They are the figures as disclosed by the MOD in response to the Employment Survey.

However, I would like to go further on the debate that took place last time. Before I proceed to answer this question, I wish to explain that following the debate that ensued at the last Parliamentary Question Time, the answer sessions arising from supplementaries to Question No. 795 of 2009, officials from both the MOD and the Employment Service have since worked together to reconcile these differences in totals of employees and are now in agreement that the number of employees in MOD employment is 771 as at the 15th February 2010. The difference in the totals, that is, over 200, between the number of employees as reported by the MOD to the Statistics Office for the purpose of the Employment Survey and the number of employees as recorded through the registration process with the Employment Service can be traced back over a number of years. This almost historical discrepancy has been, for its greater part, an old accumulation of records in the Employment Service register that were dormant yet held as open contracts. It is best borne out by the fact that the number of employees in MOD employment as reflected in the Employment Survey Statistics is invariably similar to that registered with the Employment Service when the historical discrepancy is taken account of. It has been the Employment Service records that were wrong and not the Employment Survey records that rightly reflect the number of employees in the MOD as reported to the Statistics Office every year by the MOD.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 14 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

That obviously clears up the confusion that there was in the answers that I got the last time. Can I ask him now then if the records he says were dormant and that it was the fault of the Employment Service that they were dormant and not as it were removed from the active list, is it that the MOD had complied with the requirement to inform the Employment Service of the termination of the employees?

HON L MONTIEL:

The historical problem cannot be attributed to any..... to point a figure at any particular area of responsibility. It has been fundamentally an administrative cock-up and because it is not recent, it is historical, one can only say that the information which has been transmitted from one to the other is wrong. Basically, that has been the problem, not the fact that the MOD has not provided their information and that our people have not checked them over. It has been a historical problem that we can speculate on only. I do not particularly want to speculate on what was the real reason for the problem.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking the hon Member to speculate..... I can understand what he is saying about historical problems if we were going back ten years. The only reason why I have referred to the figures of 2005 and 2006 was because those were the ones he chose to volunteer in his answer the last time I put the question to him. The point is that if the figure is now being reconciled at 771 and he tells me that there were dormant records and this is on 15th February last week or this week, then is he saying that there were people registered with the ETB in January in the MOD who were no longer employed by the MOD, who had finished work in the last couple of months, I am not going back to ancient history, and which the MOD had failed to notify. Because he may remember that when I was querying whether the excess of figures on the books of the Employment Service could be a failure to notify terminations and I pointed out to him that perhaps he ought to go back and investigate that possibility and then the department in order to be consistent having just told us that they were prosecuting people for failure to notify terminations, whether the same law would be applied to the MOD, if the MOD was not doing it either. Perhaps he can remember those exchanges we had the last time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can only show the hon Member what I have been told which is that it is not clear how the discrepancy has arisen and the unravelling, so to speak, has not got to that point. Certainly, failure to notify terminations is one explanation of how, historically, these inaccuracies have crept into the Employment Service figures. Whether, if there were found to be....., failure to register terminations is one of the most frequent. Statistic distorting or some statistic distorting, the Service figures distorting non-compliances and the termination is important to be notified not because it protects anybody's job or..... but because it enables the Government to keep more accurate statistics. But it is one of the larger areas of non-compliance across the

board and I am not sure that any one has ever been prosecuted, although I do not know the answer to that. I am not aware of anybody having been prosecuted for non-termination as opposed to non-registration. So, if at the end of the unravelling process, such as it may continue, it were found that the MOD had failed to notify terminations, whether that would leave the Department to proffer prosecutions against the MOD is not a matter upon which the Government are willing to commit itself at this stage. I suppose it would depend on the circumstances on what was the intentionality behind the failure which I suppose is one of the criteria that they apply when making other prosecution decisions. So it does not necessarily follow that failure equals prosecution. There is widespread failure and it would have to be looked at. But if what the hon Member is saying, well does the law apply to the MOD as it does to everybody else, obviously the answer is yes. Is the decision to prosecute the MOD taken on the same or different criteria than it would be taken for anybody else, I think is a bridge that would have to be crossed if it were come to because I do not think there is any precedent or a file that one could look up. I am trying to be as analytical as possible without allowing the hon Member to back the Government into the corner of committing to prosecute the MOD if that is what..... It may or may not happen. I do not involve myself in these decisions but I suppose it would not be a simple decision to take although the law is clear and it applies to everybody in equal measure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am seeking information not advocating prosecutions, for the avoidance of doubt, and the reason why I am seeking.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxx

HON J J BOSSANO:

The reason why this supplementary arose the last time I put the question was because in fact there was an answer to one of the questions from my colleague on prosecutions and there we were told that the prosecution was for failing to register. We were told the result of the prosecution and what it cost the employer and the information was volunteered without being asked and the judiciary seems to be still in fine shape after that event. But.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Was it a prosecution or was that a notice?

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, it was not. The person went to court and it cost him £12,000. That is the answer that we were given.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is one of the things that I referred to as.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

And volunteered, for which we are grateful. So obviously, that is why I thought perhaps the lack of familiarity with the architecture might not be limited to this side of the House. But the point that I made then was in one of the supplementaries and it fits in with the analysis the hon Member has made. If these people have been taken to court for failing to register, which of course is technically right, but given that in fact as the hon Member has said it is a widespread thing and it is not really depriving anybody of the existence of a job because if you say the job is gone, what it does is it provides more accurate.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They need to register a termination.

HON J J BOSSANO:

A termination! Yes. People were prosecuted for failing to register a termination and I was surprised. It is well known. The answer that I was given was because they were found out. That is, when I asked how did it come about, I was told that it was because they had been found out and then I said, if we find out that somebody has failed to notify the Employment Service that two employees have had their jobs terminated and that is considered to be serious enough to take some small businessman's outfit to court, it seems peculiar that in the same House, in the same breath, the same Employment Service says there is a discrepancy of two hundred in the registered workers of the MOD and my supplementary then was, if you find that the explanation is the same, is the same criteria going to be applied. That is how all this is come about. It is not because I am advocating anybody being prosecuted.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is implicit. There would be nothing wrong with the hon Member advocating that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Only on the basis that we both agree in this Parliament.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That the law applies equally to everybody.

HON J J BOSSANO:

To everybody, that is all.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course, everything that the hon Member has said is theoretically correct and may even be correct in practice too. It remains to be seen. But of course I suppose that those make decisions..... For example, I, as the Finance Minister that does not want to see a leakage of public revenue, am very concerned that the Employment Office should use its powers to make sure that employers do not employ unregistered labour because that results in loss of PAYE and loss of social insurance contribution revenue. As Finance Minister, I am less concerned about the non-registration of terminations because that has no effect on public revenue, whether they have registered the termination or not. The termination itself might have a loss of revenue but not whether it has been registered or not. But of course others may say, fine, that is because you are the Finance Minister. I am interested in having accurate statistics and the only way to have accurate statistics is to force people to give us all the information that we want, including terminations. So, such a person might say, no you must prosecute terminations because if you do not prosecute, the word gets around, nobody notifies the terminations and you might as well stop asking for the statistics in that..... You might as well stop asking for the information at all and then I suppose there are circumstances in which the consequence and the animus of the doer, of the perpetrator of the breach, ought to be taken into account. The MOD does not fail to register a job in order to avoid paying PAYE or social insurance contributions and it does not fail to register a termination in order to try and get away with unlawfully sacking an employee because the MOD just does not operate in that dark tunnel. So, the chances of the MOD perpetrating a non-compliance for a reason that engages in any of the reasons why we all think that this administrative system of notification should exist, is really limited only to accuracy of statistics. They are unlikely to be abusing the rights of the employee because it is a highly unionised sector and because they are the MOD. They are unlikely to be depriving the Government of revenue because that is just not the way the MOD operate. So, in the MOD's case we are down to, do we prosecute them if they had committed an offence, should they be prosecuted in order to make sure that the statistics..... but frankly the non-registration of terminations is so widespread that these statistics are barely reliable. This is why the Government in effect relies only on the Employment Survey figures because according to the Employment Survey, I do not know, there are thirty or forty thousand people employed in the economy of Gibraltar, which is a nonsense. The reason for that is that there is insufficient compliance with the information at the beginning and at the end that would both have to be given for the statistics to be accurate going forward. So, all that he has said is absolutely correct but the MOD is unlikely to be trying to save tax and is unlikely to be dismissing employees or improperly terminating on terminating and not giving them their proper redundancy rights and the proper..... So I do not think the employee, or the Government as revenue collector, would be suffering if the MOD were failing, which it is not clear whether the fault lies in the MOD or on the Employment Service. Degradation of quality of statistics would be the real consequence there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

All that he has said is not in dispute but it is not in fact relevant. The only reason why I did the comparison with the MOD was because in the same meeting, in the same breath and within five minutes, we had been told "we are prosecuting somebody for failing to register and he refused to pay the fixed penalty, so we took him to court and it has cost him £12,000" and then there was no explanation for this discrepancy of several hundred jobs between one figure and the other and I used that as an

example of. If it had been of the MOD, Bruesa or Haymills or anybody else with a failure to notify termination of employment, the argument would still be the same. It is very unusual for an employer in Gibraltar to be taken to court. I ask is there something in particular about this case and the only answer that I got from the Government was no, no, it is just that we have happened to have discovered it, as if, except for this one person with his two employees, they were not aware that there are twenty thousand registered workers that are non-existent and there must be hundreds of employers that have broken the law and nobody has attempted to do anything about it.

HON L MONTIEL:

I think that the hon Member is making a very simplistic argument of a process that takes place where a judgement has to be made either by the Director or by the Inspectors. The intention of the Inspectors and the Director is to get the terminations. Many of the employers, that when they do not do it and are asked to do it they provide them, the terminations. They are not fined for it. They ask for them even though they have not handed over the terminations but they provide it. But if there are employers who persistently do it in a manner that is offensive, in the way that they disrupt the system, they have every right to what they have done, that is, taken to the Attorney General's Chambers for consideration. If they are fined, if they do not pay, then they will be taken over to the AG's. All for a simple reason and I believe that he resolved this problem last time himself by saying, "well, were these very, very bad employers? In the opinion of the Director, in the opinion of the Inspectors, they must have been very bad employers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see.

HON L MONTIEL:

If that is not a logical answer to a practical problem, I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The logic of the hon Member is one that I have difficulty in following. He is telling me that what ought to happen is that if somebody is a persistent breaker of the requirement then eventually the exasperated Employment Service administration proceeds to take action against him and since this particular person had action taken, that by definition must have been what happened. I am afraid that is a totally tautological explanation. That is to say, $a = b$, therefore b must equal a . It does not follow. What he has told me does not follow. If he tells me that he knows, because I asked him whether he knew whether there was a reason, and he said no, and I then suggested could it be that, and he said yes, it must be that, just like when you told him that the figures in the Employment Survey were different because maybe they were casual and he grasped that out of the air and said yes it is and then it turned out not to be. I think that it would be wrong if somebody was treated in a way where everybody else in the labour market gets away with it and I think that would be wrong and I am sure that he would agree with me. If he knows that there is a particular reason for this case, I am not even asking him to share it with me then that is fine but

I do not think that he does know. I do not think he has gone to find out why on this occasion this very unusual step was taken.

HON L MONTIEL:

Now, in hindsight, I know because I have been told by both the Directors and the Inspectors the reasons why they took the action that they did.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Okay. Fair enough.

HON G H LICUDI:

On the point made by the Hon the Chief Minister on the issue whether what was being looked at was purely statistical or whether the employee or anybody actually suffers there. I am talking about the termination forms. Can I just ask the Government, what actually happens if say, Joe Bloggs from 2 Castle Street takes a form of notice of terms and conditions of employment and he has been previously employed by somebody who has not filed a termination form and therefore that person is registered as employed by somebody else, does that not raise any bells or does that in any way affect the registration of the new employment given that he is already registered as being employed by somebody else.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not necessarily because people do work for more than one employer. The hon Member must know that people..... but of course if you are registered with two different employers full time then of course the more impossible it is to carry out the functions of both notifications, the more alarm bells if they exist should ring. To that extent the hon Member is..... but the Employment Service does not..... Every time a notification comes in, the Employment Service does not test it against its data, its records. It is registered and it is recorded. It is not subjected to scrutiny except for the lawfulness of the terms disclosed on its face. It is not, here is a form where Peter Caruana is going to be employed as a carpenter here but is not Peter Caruana also the Chief Minister. Is he not also registered..... well hang on, let me see, who else is Peter Caruana registered under. I suppose it would be possible to have such a system. It would have to be completely computerised. Obviously if it could not be done, you would have to..... It would be possible and then if the name comes up as already been open on the register you would have to then dig a little bit further to see if this was a genuine moonlighting. Whether the Chief Minister genuinely was working as a carpenter during the night or whether it was just that the Government had failed to deregister him in 2020 something when he eventually ceases to be Chief Minister. So, yes, the system could be improved with a lot of investment into one in which alarm bells could ring. But at the moment I think we have more or less the system that there has always been in place with the same processes and procedures and I do not think it lends itself to that sort of ideal situation that the hon Member is describing.

HON G H LICUDI:

My question was precisely that. If a name and address is entered in the computer, does the computer automatically show that that person is already registered and it appears that it does not. I was not suggesting that the individual should then go and start scrutinising. Do the Government consider that that would be a desirable system to have in place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxx

HON G H LICUDI:

I will repeat the question. The question was, does the system actually do that and alert the person who is entering the name and address in a system that that person is already employed and is it not desirable that that should happen because it would iron out these difficulties. It would also show which employers are not complying with the law.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding of the position, my entirely unresearched understanding of the matter, is that there is an element of computerisation but there is not that degree of cross fertilisation between the input that would allow the system to automatically report out inconsistencies of input. So, Gilbert Licudi registered with Hassans suddenly an application arises, Gilbert Licudi registered with somebody else and the system says alarm bell, know ye that Mr Licudi is already a registered employee of a registered employer, therefore go and find out whether he is doing two jobs or whether he has given up his job with the first one and it simply has not been closed, terminated, which is where we started from. My understanding is that the system does not do that. I do not know what it would take to do it. I suppose it would require an inputting of all the details on each form. I do not know what it would take. As to whether it would be desirable or not, it would be nice. As to whether it was desirable would require to be balanced with the amount of investment that would need to be made, with the amount of additional human resources that would need to be employed to administer the system. If it could be achieved with the existing resources, I think it would be a jolly good thing to try and achieve. I agree. It would be entirely desirable.

NO. 15 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – MOD EMPLOYEES REGISTERED

Can Government state the number of employees registered with the Employment Service employed by the MOD at the end of September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The number of employees registered with the Employment Service by the MOD as at the end of September 2009, in keeping with the old records, would be 928.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 15 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, in the light of the previous answer to the previous question, what the hon Member is saying is that that figure would not be accurate and that.....

HON L MONTIEL:

Obviously, it would be inaccurate.

NO. 16 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – HAYMILLS OPEN CONTRACTS REGISTERED

Further to the answer to Question No. 795 of 2009, can the Minister for Employment confirm that at the time that Haymills ceased operations it had no open contracts registered with the Employment Service in respect of the persons that already ceased employment with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I can confirm it, on the same basis as I stated in my answer to Question No. 795 of 2009, namely that this is what I am informed by the Employment Service.

Normally, it would not be possible for the Employment Service to work out how many “open contracts” relate to employees still in post. But in this case the Employment Service has seen the payroll records of the Company as at cessation date in the context of Insolvency Fund administration, and it appears that all “open contracts” appertained to persons still on the payroll as at that date. So it appears that, in this case, there were no unterminated contracts in respect of ex-employees.

ORAL

NO. 17 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL AGREEMENT

Can Government state whether the Construction Industry Joint Industrial Council Agreement is legally binding on construction companies?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 18 and 19 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 18 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – EMPLOYERS REGISTERED IN CONSTRUCTION
AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY**

Can Government state how many employers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 were classified as operating within the Construction and Allied Trades Industry?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 17 and 19 of 2010.

NO. 19 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – EMPLOYEES REGISTERED IN CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state the total number of employees registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the Construction and Allied Trades Industry and how many of these were frontier workers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Construction Industry Joint Industrial Council is recognised and registered under section 9 of the Employment Act.

The Joint Industrial Council itself is an agreement between employers and employees representatives, and is as binding on the parties as any agreement made between two parties. Indeed, the Construction Industry Joint Industrial Council agreement declares that it is binding on the construction industry.

The total number of employers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 classified as operating within the Construction and Allied Trades Industry was 484.

The total number of employees registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 classified as operating within the Construction and Allied Trades Industry was 2403 with 1495 being frontier workers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 17 TO 19 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the fact that the JIC agreement is registered under the Employment Act mean that the Employment Service has any role in ensuring that its terms are complied with or not?

HON L MONTIEL:

As I understand it, the onus on policing this agreement which is binding between the construction industry xxxxxx is between the parties concerned. What the Employment Service does, in recognition of the fact that there is agreement, is undertake to inform the employers of what the situation is and therefore tries to get the employers to comply with the terms of the industry agreement. That is as far as the Employment Service goes into.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But then what is the purpose of the registration under the Employment Act if it is not to make it legally enforceable as a matter of an employment requirement?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The purpose of registration is not to make it part of the law of the land. So, the use of the word "legal"..... The hon Member and I can make a contract. It is legally binding but between us as citizens. The fact that the hon Member and I make a contract does not give that contract status as law and therefore is not enforceable by those who are charged with enforcing the law of the land. Registration and recognition which are the two words used in section 9, I believe, is to give it official status. In other words, that both parties have elevated it to that status and indeed I believe, does it say it in the answer, I believe that this particular Joint Council agreement actually declares that it is binding on employers. But the effect of all of that..... So, the Government believe it is binding, in other words, the employers are not free just to ignore it but the consequences of them ignoring it, I suppose would be legal as between the two civil parties to it and not that there is some breach of the law of Gibraltar that the Employment Service is able to intervene to enforce through its enforcement powers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, given that there are 484 employers in the industry and I doubt whether there are as many as ten that are members of the employer side of the JIC, it is only binding on the ten that are members then, not on the other 470. Is that the position?

HON L MONTIEL:

We have been trying to get the parties to this agreement to take a test case to court. I think it is the only way to establish whether it pertains only to the ten who are presently under them or if it applies to others who may not be recognised as such as part of the CATA, then I suggest that the best possible way is to test this in court.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I hear what the hon Member has to say but surely it can only be tested as a breach of contract or a breach of the agreement by one party taking the other party if it is only binding on the two parties. I am saying it appears to me, certainly from my recollection, I am sure he has had the same experience, that the actual people who

are on the employer side of the JIC, you can count as many..... I do not think there are as many as a dozen in Gibraltar. The names that we know that are the main employers of the industry but if there is a total of 484, am I correct in deducing from that that there is nothing to stop any of those employers from opening contracts with the ETB on lower rates than are provided in the JIC as long as they are above the minimum wage? Is that the legal position then? If somebody comes to open a vacancy, is the position in the department that if the vacancy is for a carpenter in a construction industry the rate in the agreement is the one that has to be offered or is that not the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

The people working in the registration side do not determine what the employer can actually put in the registration form. They have an xxxxx paper and if any of those 400 employers come and want to register somebody, they would say, this is the industry agreement and this is the rate which we would expect you to pay. Almost 100% of the employers eventually do succumb to that position and they actually register under the terms of the agreement. If an employer wanted to say, "I do not want to be part of that, I just want to register under the minimum wage", he has every right to do so. In which case then we would have to test the policing element of this if the organisation of unions and employers would have to take this case and put it to the test.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It should be said that it goes a little bit beyond that because the hon Member formulated his original question, not the last question, by reference to the ten or twelve who are members of CATA. It is moot whether it xxxxx legally even all of those 12. The last question that he asked was slightly different. What would happen if somebody not amongst the CATA members were to come along? Well that is even more moot. I think it would be very hard to argue that somebody who is not a member of an organisation who is bound by an agreement signed by that organisation..... The main effect of this agreement is that an employer can come along and say JIC terms and the JIC terms are okay. The Employment Service does not look into them. If it is JIC terms it is okay but the corollary is not necessarily true. That does not mean that it is not okay as far as the law. This is why I made the distinction about it not being law of the land. Because it is not law of the land, the Employment Service cannot say you cannot do that because it is incompatible with the JIC.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I correct in thinking that the position is also that if even if they put CATA as the terms on the contract, that is still a private matter between the employee and the employer and the service..... If somebody goes and complains to the department that what is on his terms of employment registered with the ETB is not what he is getting, does the Service get involved in requiring the employer to meet those terms or even then it does not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not in that direct sense but indirectly the employer has an obligation to register accurate information. If the employer were to declare him on the employment form that he is paying x and then he is actually paying less, then the offence is making a false return or providing false information but it is not a policing issue in the terms of the substance. That is what trade unions are for. There is one sense I think, again from memory and therefore not to be held to it, and that is the one purpose for which I think there is a relevance in terms of law is that, I think the Insolvency Fund Rules say that where there is a JIC the redundancy terms are, or the terms are xxxxxx and not what the law would otherwise provide. That is the only area where I am aware that the existence of JIC terms for a particular employer override what other employees would be entitled to under the Insolvency Fund Rules.

NO. 20 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 1997, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings per industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 21 to 23 of 2010.

NO. 21 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 1997, 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 AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 20, 22 and 23 of 2010.

NO. 22 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 1997, 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 AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 20, 21 and 23 of 2010.

NO. 23 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 1997, 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 AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As I made clear in my answer to Question Nos. 808 to 811 of 2009, there is no further information available with respect to Employment Surveys carried out in the period October 1992 to April 1998 inclusive, to that shown in the published Reports.

As I explained at the time, the Employment Surveys conducted throughout this period were done so on the basis of information provided by employers in their Income Tax 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.

No further analysis of the published data is thus possible.

NO. 24 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, 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 AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 25 to 27, 30 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 25 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, 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 AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 24, 26, 27, 30 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 26 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, can Government provide the number of full-time Spanish female workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24, 25, 27, 30 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 27 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

In respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, 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 AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 26, 30 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 28 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in the MOD in respect of Table 11a of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 29 of 2010.

NO. 29 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in the MOD in respect of Table 11a of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 29/2010:

Answer to Question 28/2010:

Part-Time MOD Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

	ALL	GIBALTARIAN	UK BRITISH	MOROCCAN	SPANISH	OTHER EU	OTHER				
INDUSTRY	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Public Admin.	4	104	4	93	0	5	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	104	4	93	0	5	0	1	0	1	0

Answer to Question 29/2010:

Full-Time MOD Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

	ALL	GIBALTARIAN	UK BRITISH	MOROCCAN	SPANISH	OTHER EU	OTHER						
INDUSTRY	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female					
Public Admin.	486	179	440	167	8	5	31	4	6	3	0	1	0
TOTAL	486	179	440	167	8	5	31	4	6	3	0	1	0

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 28 AND 29 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask, given that we are jumping to Question No. 45, is the hon Member telling me that the division into part-time and full-time employment which is possible in respect of the MOD is not possible in respect of the Government statutory bodies or Government owned companies or..... is that the position, which is Question Nos. 30 and 31 of 2010?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Which question, sorry?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer that I have just been provided with in Question Nos. 28 and 29 of 2010 for the MOD, was possible because it did not bring the Statistics Office to a halt and created disproportionate amount of time and have them working for me, is giving me the similar information in respect of Table 11b, which is wholly owned Government companies, that does create a major workload?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Apparently so. Table 11b is the new one, so to speak.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And so is Table 11A.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Table 11b is what we produced for the first time last time. Apparently yes, because this information has been provided and asked for over many years, the system has now been tweaked to make it available quickly. Now I am going to see whether it can be tweaked for future. I am told that providing this analysis for the information that we provided for the first time in the 2009 survey is not like providing it for this but I do not know why. Certainly, he can be sure that any information that can be provided to him with, not with no difficulty, but with a reasonable amount of administrative effort will be provided to him. He can sort of cross-examine me as much as he likes about whether the answer is reasonable or unreasonable in relation to any particular Table. I cannot answer him because I do not know, personally, what the amount of effort involved is. I can do no better than rely on the advice provided by the Statisticians engaged in providing the information. But if he thinks that the answer that I have given should not apply to any of the questions that he has asked, I would ask him please to write to me saying, "this is what you told me in answer to Question No. x, but in respect of Question No. 38 or whatever, a question at random, I do not see why that should be so because they ought to be able to do this and this which gives me"..... and then I will get that letter and I will use it to cross-examine

the officials to make sure that what they are telling me remains an accurate, reasonable answer for me to give in this House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just point out to the Government that the question that I am asking on this occasion about 2008 is the same question that I asked about in 2007 and the only reason why it is phrased differently is not because it is seeking different information but because it is seeking information which is drafted in the way the report is now presented which is different from the last time. That is to say, if the hon Member has a situation where in one year the Sports and Leisure Authority is included as the public sector then the information that he gives me as to how many full-time and part-time is a breakdown of the public sector. If the following year he separates the Government from the Sports and Leisure Authority, I ask him for a breakdown of the Government and a breakdown of the Sports Authority because I cannot repeat the question that I asked the previous year because he has separated them. I cannot for the life of me understand why telling me how many part-timers there are in the Government creates the problem that he says and the question is very clear.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that should be the one that he writes to me about first then. The Government.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not as if the question was drafted in a complicated way that could not be understood. Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in Government departments and I am referring to the Table simply because the Table is the number in the booklet that has been published.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I removed it in respect of Table 11b and asked in October, I would have got the answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Possibly, because this is one of the questions to which the last sentence of the answer relates. In other words, we provided something new for the first time, in other words the breakdown between agencies..... In other words, we put all the public sector together so that the hon Members can see how many are civil servants, how many are in the companies, how many are in agencies, et cetera, and that was done for the first time in respect of 2009. Now the hon Member says, not in his last supplementary but in the earlier ones, in the original question, give me that breakdown in respect of two previous years and he has had the answer that he has

had from us. Now he says, yes, but the problem with restating the information in the new Table 11b, is that by virtue of the representation of the information, I no longer can compare it with the statistics in the place they were buried in the previous years. We understand that. I understand that that is the consequence of any restatement of any annual statistics. They suddenly cease to be comparable by simply putting them side by side with the equivalent document the previous year. If the hon Member wants to know how many, he probably has it, because others of the Members Opposite do ask for employees of all of these organisations. If the hon Member wants to know how many employees there were on any given date, one date please, in these Government companies, that he should write to me and I will get the information because that can only be a matter of the payroll, the head count within the various departments. The Government must have it, readily available. In other words, how many employees in the Gibraltar... well I think there is a question on the order paper by one of his honourable Colleagues. How many employees are there in the Health Authority? How many employees in the Sport and Leisure Authority? How many employees in the Electricity Authority..... well I am not sure whether in the Electricity Authority this time. So that information is available and of course the Government is required to tell the House how many public servants it employs with tax payers money. That is not the issue. The issue is... and he is right. His last analysis is right. The problems are because he asked for Table 11b to be provided in respect of years before 2009. If he had asked the question in the form of, how many employees were there in each of these organisations as at 2009, whatever date the question relates to, I am sure he would have had the information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking for the information in Table 11b to be provided for years when Table 11b did not exist. Table 11b appears in 2008. If Table 11b did not exist what it would say in Table 11 in 2007 was the employees in the Government are x and then I would then come to the House and say, can you tell me how many of x are full-time and how many of them are part-time and I would get an answer which is the answer that I have been given about the MOD.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What question does he have in front of him now?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Question No. 32 of 2010. "Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in Government departments in respect of Table 11B of the Employment Survey" and therefore there is a figure there which is the equivalent information of the MOD. The hon Member has given me the information of the MOD which is the figure in the published Table showing the numbers employed by the MOD but does not show how many of them are full-time and how many of them are part-time. He has told me that there were 179 female workers full-time and 104 part-time in the MOD. I have asked for exactly the same information about the Government.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Broken down.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

.....for the Government Departments because it is now from Government Departments. In last year's figure I would have asked it from the Government because it was called Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but he has also asked for the companies and the agencies. The three questions together.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

.....because they are three different Tables.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, no. There are three questions about Table 11b. Question Nos. 32, 33 and 34 of 2010. One asks for Government Departments, the other for wholly owned Government companies and the other for statutory authorities and agencies and that is the breakdown, now it gives it. In previous years, there was not that breakdown.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And I am not asking for the information from previous years. I am saying for the year for which you have published it, you have given in the Table, instead of giving a figure for the Government you have given a figure for the agencies, a figure for the departments and a figure for the companies and you have given those figures as total.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He wants more breakdown and he now says.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, no.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, more breakdown! Now he wants.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question that I am asking is, can I have in respect of Government Departments, how many were full-time and how many were part-time which is what I have asked about the MOD. The hon Member provided the one about the MOD. The hon

Member says the reason why the one from the Government Departments cannot be provided is because it takes a lot of time for the Statistics Office to pluck out the information. It cannot take more time to do it out of the component, Government, than it does out of the component, MOD.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well apparently.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

And it does not make sense that because the hon Member had the information in a block of one Table and now it is divided it into three Tables, he can no longer do with the three Tables what he could do with one. It is exactly the same operation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it is not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not exactly the same operation! I have given him the explanation of why it is available for the MOD because apparently it is immediately available. I have also told him that of course the Government knows and should provide to the hon Member, however much effort it takes, details of how many people it employs at a given date. Before, all of these people in respect of 2007, all of these employers were included in the then Table 11, presumably, yes I think Table 11 has become Table 11a and Table 11b now and there was not a breakdown as between Government Departments, Government companies, and agencies broken down by full-time and part-time and by industry, sex and nationality. That information was buried in the statistics because of course all of these individuals, employees were accommodated in the Table. Now, what the hon Member is saying, well thank you very much for giving me the breakdown. In 2008 we chose to give the breakdown, the innovation was that the information was given by....., not only were some employers transferred from the private sector to the public sector but then they were shown separately on a new Table, Table 11b, public sector as Government departments, statutory authorities and agencies and Government companies but without any breakdown of the sort that he is now asking.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Now, he is asking for that breakdown.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. This is not correct. The breakdown that I am asking for is in the Table. The only bit that is not in the Table is whether the people are full-time or part-time. There is no other. The question is only about that and nothing else. It is exactly the same question as the MOD. There is nothing different.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I know it is the same question about the MOD. I am not comparing it to the MOD.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the hon Member is saying I am asking for it to be produced in a different way.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

To Table 11B!

HON J J BOSSANO:

The information is now in Table 11b. The information in 2007 was in the Table on the private sector.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not desegregated as between the different types of employer of these three.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, because I could then ask a question, how many of the people in the private sector are Government agencies and I would get the breakdown that I had asked for. Now, because he has moved it from private to public it is not possible to do it without the disproportionate time being spent on doing exactly what has been done in every previous year when it was in the private sector. Well, I wish he would put it back to the private sector and I would get the information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Even that is not the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is one of dozens of questions in which he asks for information to be reanalysed, restructured and provided.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is not true.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is all subject to the same answer that individually and in their aggregate they subject the system to disproportionate..... Last time there was no Table. In 2007 there was no Table that allowed him to work out the full-time or the part-time employees by industry, sex or nationality of the GHA, for example. Now, he knows the information about the GHA that is provided for in Table 11b and he says, thank you, now give me the breakdown in respect of this new Table that you have historically provided me with information about, about the way it used to be provided before, and fine there is a breakdown, there is no reason why Table 11b cannot continue to be developed so that it provides more and more and more information. It just so happens that on the first year that the Government chose to publish this additional information giving more breakdown detail, it stopped where it stopped and it did not go on to give the full-time and the part-time et cetera, et cetera. Well perhaps in future years it can do but it would be done at the time that the Tables are worked up.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. I am afraid he is wrong.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question about the MOD is different.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is identical.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The question of the issue about the MOD is different. The question is the same. The issue is different. The issue that he is raising about the Government and the MOD is "if you can provide me this information easily for the MOD, why cannot you provide it for me for the Government?" That is the issue that he has raised and I

have said to him I do not know. All I know is what I have been told. I have invited him to write to me on any of these questions where he doubts that it should be..... takes too much disproportionate, administrative effort to provide and when he raised this thing I said "well make that question the subject matter of your first letter". I said to him, when I get your letter I will call in the officials and I will say to them now why is it administratively disproportionately difficult to provide the Leader of the Opposition with this breakdown and whatever they tell me I am going to tell the hon Member because I am not a breaker down. I am not the Statistician. It is not my time that is employed and I do not know how much time it takes to produce the information.

MR SPEAKER:

I doubt whether we can go much further on this one..... I think.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

If he had said that and nothing else, but what I cannot accept is that he is saying that I am asking for information which is any different from the information in respect of the MOD, which has been provided.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I acknowledged it the first time that that was the information which was the same as you were asking for the MOD.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we can move to Question No. 45 of 2010 now.

NO. 30 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in wholly-owned Government companies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 31 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 31 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in statutory authorities and agencies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30, 32 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 32 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in the Government Departments in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30, 31, 33 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 33 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in wholly-owned Government companies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 32, 34 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 34 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in statutory authorities and agencies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 33, 35 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 35 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in the Government Departments in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 34, 36 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 36 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the comparable breakdown for October 2008 of all the full-time employee jobs by industry, sex and nationality as given in Table 12 of the Employment Survey Report in respect of the 836 employers or such lesser number as returned filled questionnaires for October 2007 having also done so for October 2002 and 2003?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 35, 37 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 37 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in respect of Table 12 of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 36, 38 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 38 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in respect of Table 12 of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 37, 39 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 39 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the information in Table 16 of the October 2007 Government owned joint venture companies included as part of the private sector?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 38, 40 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 40 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of Government Departments employment?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 39, 41 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 41 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of statutory authorities and agencies employment?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 40, 42 to 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 42 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of wholly-owned Government companies employment?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 41, 43, 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 43 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of MOD employment?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 42, 44 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 44 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the Employment Survey Report 2008 in respect of private sector employment excluding Government owned joint venture companies?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 43 and 55 to 57 of 2010.

NO. 45 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government list the public sector entities and Government owned companies and joint venture companies that are included in the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the industrial classification?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 45/2010

Breakdown of Wholly-Owned Government Companies and Statutory Authorities and Agencies by Name and Industry Group
Employment Survey Report October 2008

Wholly-Owned Government Companies

Name of Company	Industry Group
Europa Incinerator Co. Ltd.	Other Services
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd.	Transport and Communication
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.	Construction
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd.	Other Services
GJBS Ltd.	Construction
GRP Investments Company Ltd.	Real Estate and Business Activities

Statutory Authorities and Agencies

Name of Company	Industry Group
Elderly Care Agency	Health and Social Work
Gibraltar Development Corporation	Public Administration and Defence
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	Electricity and Water Supply
Gibraltar Health Authority	Health and Social Work
Gibraltar Police Authority	Public Administration and Defence
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	Public Administration and Defence
Office of Public Services Ombudsman	Public Administration and Defence
Port Authority	Transport and Communication
Social Services Agency	Health and Social Work
Sports and Leisure Authority	Other Services

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 45 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government confirm that this list are the areas of employment that are included in Table 11b as separated from the part that is shown as Government departments?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe so.

ORAL

NO. 46 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the total and a breakdown by industry of the questionnaires sent in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 47 to 54 of 2010.

NO. 47 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the total and a breakdown by industry of the questionnaires returned to date in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 and 48 to 54 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 48 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state how many of the questionnaires returned to date in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey showed a nil return?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46, 47 and 49 to 54 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 49 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown by industry of the employers, if any, included in the 2008 Employment Survey, who had not been sent questionnaires in October 2009?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 to 48 and 50 to 54 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 50 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown by industry of the employers, if any, included in the October 2009 Employment Survey, who were not included in the October 2008 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 to 49 and 51 to 54 of 2010.

NO. 51 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state whether there are any new employers who have been sent questionnaires for the October 2009 Employment Survey who were not included in October 2008, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 to 50 and 52 to 54 of 2010.

NO. 52 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether any of the employers included in the 2008 Employment Survey, have not been sent questionnaires in October 2009, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 to 51, 53 and 54 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 53 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say when they expect the returns from the 2009 Employment Survey to close?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 to 52 and 54 of 2010.

NO. 54 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say when it anticipates it will be able to Table the report of the 2009 Employment Survey in Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Government does not consider it appropriate to provide information relating to the 2009 Employment Survey questionnaires process until the 2009 Employment Survey Report is published. Government expects the Survey data collection process to close by the end of February. It is not possible to say at this stage when the Survey will be published.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 46 TO 54 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that that requires a disproportionate amount of time or is that a policy decision?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. It is a policy decision. It is work in progress. It is the process by which the Government collates information to include in a report which is not yet been published. Why should we start providing information about process before the outcome of the process is completed and published?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Simply because if the hon Member sends out 100 surveys in October and I ask him in January how many did he send out in October, I do not see why he should not be able to tell me when he has been able to tell me every previous year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. There is a difference between asking one question and to asking a series of questions, cross-examining almost every aspect of the survey process but this is a matter of Government policy. This is not information that the hon Member is entitled to have at this stage. When the Government publishes the 2009 Employment Survey, he can ask as many questions as he likes and then the question of whether it will be provided in the context of whether it requires a disproportionate amount of effort or not will then be considered. At the moment it is not being considered on those grounds. It has been considered on the grounds that it is premature.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But how can it be premature in 2009 and it is not premature in 2008, 2007 or any other year when the hon Member has had no problem in giving me the information. These are not new questions. Each and every one of these questions I have asked about previous surveys and the Government has had no problem because in fact it does not require any time to say, "I have sent out a thousand" and, in fact, I have asked in supplementaries in the past, saying "by this time of the year the response has been higher or lower, does the hon Member think there is any difficulty this year with employers"..... he has never had any problem in doing it. This year he has decided not to provide the information. That is to say... he has decided this year to give me reasons for not answering questions where before he has had no problem in answering them.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. He has given him reasons and I did say to him about two hours ago that he would notice lines being drawn in a different place in the sand this year. Did he not hear me say that?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He did! Nor has he had an answer from me to the effect that he will not get the information. The answer that he has had from me, he may or may not get it, but the answer that he has had from me this morning is that he cannot have it at this point in time and that he should ask the questions after the Employment Survey has been completed, published. It is not, you cannot have the information, it is that you cannot have it now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And the reason is because this year I have decided to draw a line, maybe I have got out on the wrong side of the bed, when the questions landed on my table and therefore what I was willing to do in 2009 and 2008, I am no longer willing to do in 2010. That is the policy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said to the hon Member that he is systematically increasing the range of issues in which he places the public administration under pressure that we think it should not be placed under through Opposition questions and of course, when lines are redrawn they capture things which were not applied before the accretions had gone to the point where the Government decides that lines have to be drawn. So obviously if the Government says, if one year you ask for one thing, the next year you ask for two things, the next year you ask for three things, the next year you ask for four things and the fifteenth year you ask for forty three things, at some point in time the Government says this cannot continue. We have to have policy criteria which determines whether it is proper for the Opposition to ask and get this information or not. In making those decisions which I have called drawing lines in the sand for want of a better phrase, obviously it affects, it involves doing differently in respect of some things, some of the things that have been done in the past. It is not the only instance that he is going to come across. This is information which is asked of the Employment Survey staff at the very time that they are wrapping up the Employment Survey information. Last year we published the Employment Survey during the budget session as far as I can recall. Well fine, the Government has chosen to say as a matter of policy, we no longer, if you want I do not mind including the words "no longer" in the answer. We are no longer willing to provide internal processed information about a survey report until the survey report has..... in other words, until the work for which that is processed is concluded and the outcome of it is known. In other words, we are no longer willing to succumb to what we regard as premature requests for information. The fact that in the past the prematurity has not impeded or has not been used as a reason for not giving it is neither here nor there. As of this year, the policy is that information, which the hon Member is entitled to ask for... I am not questioning that when the Employment Survey is published, I am not saying that this is information that the hon Member is not entitled to ask or not ask, but the policy decision is that we are no longer willing to answer questions about process whilst that process is still on-going. We want to give the information, if we give it, and I cannot imagine why this one should not be, after the Employment Survey to which the process relates has been concluded and published.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that when the Government moved to one Employment Survey instead of two, the reason that was given at the time was that this would enable the information to be provided by the end of the financial year, that is, by March/April and that therefore would be available when the estimates were considered and therefore they stopped having an Employment Survey.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I do not, of course, recall exactly what was said, if indeed anything was said about that at that time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, xxxxxx research.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well yes but, alright, at the moment neither of us have researched it. I would speculate that what might have been said was that it would enable the information to be provided more quickly and indeed it has done that because if he considers that he has had during the last couple of years, certainly during the last one, I cannot remember about the year before that, but now the Employment Survey is available in budget time. In other words, the 2007 Survey was available in early summer 2008. That is infinitely more timely. Infinitely more quicker and infinitely more helpful to the Opposition in terms of parliamentary debate than used to be the case when he knows that it used to take a very long time for the Employment Survey to be published, much, much longer than the six or seven months that it now takes from the reporting date, October, than it does now. He may want it in time to plan his budget debate and that may be his wish but he should know that whenever he gets it, whether he gets it the day before, the same day or the day after, he is getting it much, much more quickly than he made it available to me when I was Leader of the Opposition, which is not... By the way, I do not want him to think that that is the criteria that is determining when it is made available to him. But there has been a huge improvement in the alacrity of the report publication.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well yes. I do not dispute that the improvement exists. In fact, one of the factors was that the others were collected through PAYE and consequently it was determined by the tax returns and the time... and that is why the hon Member moved to the other. That is what I am telling him. I recall that when he moved it one of the arguments he used that it would be possible to produce it quicker than the old system which..... and so it has been done. But does the hon Member not think that if it is produced later or quicker it should be available to both sides at the same time or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if that were my view it would not coincide with his views when he was sitting in this chair.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He thinks I used to get it earlier than he did?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Presumably he has access to the same amount of information as I have now, generally. Government information generally.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But when the report was published, which was a long time after the date, as he rightly says, it was published when they finished doing it and that was it. It did not have... That is to say, if the hon Member cares to look back at the debates that took place which referred to employment, we were debating the employment of a year or

18 months before on both sides because that is information that we both have. What I am saying to him is, would he not agree with me, that.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxx

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, whether he believes me or not, he will find that the public record of it coincides with what I am telling him. We were both quoting the same year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxx not saying whether he had it or did not have it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, it certainly shows that if I had it I was not making use of it and when he did not have it, I made use of the same figures. What I am saying to him is, if we get it when the Bill is tabled and he has had it on his desk a month before, then obviously he is able to stand up and announce there are now twenty thousand people and as far as we know, until he has told us or five minutes before, we thought there were nineteen. I would have thought, in fact, I recall that in one year he accepted that once it was available, even if it had not been tabled, he would let us have the copy on the basis that we would not actually make use of it until it was formerly tabled. It may be that that is one of the things that another line in the sand has been drawn this year. But I do not know.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is the Government's prerogative to publish information and to choose the timing. The budget debate is now a very different creature to what it used to be in the past. Now, it is an occasion in which economic statistics are published and, frankly, I would prefer that it continued that way. I do not know exactly when this report is ready. Whether the Government provides it to the hon Member in advance of the budget date is something that I can think about but certainly it will not be in a way.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

It would not be creating a new precedent. I can assure him that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand, yes. The possibility of providing it to you privately is a possibility which I will see we should repeat, because I do recall, as he says, I did do that one year. I do not remember how long ago it was but I have a vague recollection that we did it.

NO. 55 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of the 548 employers who made a nil return in respect of the October 2008 Employment Survey showing how many of these (a) made a nil return in October 2007; (b) made no return in October 2007; (c) made a return with employees in October 2007 showing the total number of employees involved?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 44, 56 and 57 of 2010.

NO. 56 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state whether all the 548 employers which recorded a nil return of employees in October 2008 were sent a questionnaire in October 2007 and if not how many were?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 27, 30 to 44, 55 and 57 of 2010.

NO. 57 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the number of employers who were sent a questionnaire in October 2007 who were included in the 548, who made a nil return in October 2008, and of those employers in 2007, how many made a nil return and how many failed to answer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Providing the information requested by the hon Member would require a recompilation of the published tables following a new recalculation of the available data on a different basis to that reported in Table 10. This requires a disproportional amount of time and resources which it would not be appropriate to expend. Government is willing to share with the House information on statistics that it has, and which can be easily accessed. But it is not willing to create information in a form that Government does not produce for its own purposes, simply to provide it in answers to questions. Nor is Government willing, when it provides new information in a survey from a particular year, to recalculate the same schedule on the new basis in respect of previous years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 24 TO 27, 30 TO 44 AND 55 TO 57 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has said that about Table 10 I take it in the answer, yes? First of all he tells me he cannot give me the information about Table 10 because it has been wiped out of the computer and now he tells me that he cannot give it to me after 1998 because he is not prepared to do the work that he was prepared to do at the last meeting of the House. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, clearly the last sentence of the answer relates only to those questions in the long list which have not been read out in which he is asking, basically in the 2008 survey report. The Government produced information that it had not produced before. As at 2009 for the first time and in some of these questions, I think, Nos. 55, 56 and 57, the

hon Member is asking say, "well thank you very much, now can we have that new information in respect of past years as well" and so that last sentence refers to those questions. Obviously the rest of the answer does not apply only to Table 10 because some of the questions that have not been read out do not apply to Table 10. Some apply to Table 11, 11A, 11B, 12, et cetera. I think I am right in saying that. They are not all relating to Table 10. Am I right? I think that is right. This is the consequence of not having read them out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps he had better read them all out then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But they are your questions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For example Question Nos. 25 to 27 relate to Table 10. Question Nos. 30 to 44 relate to Table 11B and some to Table 12 and Question Nos. 55 to 57 are the three that I have spoken to relating to the new information provided the first time which was in Table..... No, which were other Tables. So, the point is that the Government goes to quite long lengths to provide the information to the hon Member in the particular way that he would like it presented to him. But we are told by the officials that do this that what the hon Member is in effect asking now, increasingly, is for the information to be recompiled and for the Tables to be recompiled and therefore for the statistics to be repackaged and reanalysed and represented in a way different to the way that they are presented in the Employment Survey. Of course it can be done because somewhere in the bowels of the..... except for the previous question where the Income Tax Office no longer keeps the raw material, the raw information, all of this information is produceable but after a process of, in effect, working it all anew and that I am told by the Statistics Office, and this I can speak for myself because before accepting this answer I did call them in to satisfy myself that the statement that it would require a disproportionate administrative effort was actually correct and justifiable and that it what they assure me. The book it presented in this way. The information is in the system. It is available but it would have to be completely reworked and the work done again and the Tables recalculated and the information, he says, "yes Chief Minister if I stop doing everything else I can do it, it may take more than four days, it may take ten days", it can be done but in effect the Statistics Office... the officials in question would be working for him and not for the Government during the period of time that it does that and that is not, we believe, we and all previous Governments including his own I believe, that when a disproportionate amount of administrative effort is required to produce the information, the information is not given. There are many occasions, I should tell him, where the Government does not use the information in the same form as he likes to get it for his own analytical reasons. Under standing instructions to the Statistics Office and indeed to all departments, if the information in the form that the

Government have it can be converted easily and quickly and without disproportionate resource, then it should be done. But if it requires disproportionate resource, administrative resource then I think it is a clear standing parliamentary precedent not just here but indeed in the UK and elsewhere too that the Opposition is not entitled to in effect dictate how the public administration manages and presents and produces and works the information that it has because in effect we would have a system whereby the Opposition or any Member of the House, sorry, would be dictating how information is worked and presented. So, that is the position. Obviously, there is no political issue, as far as we are concerned, with any of these questions. It is not that there is any reason why the hon Member should or should not have the information, if it were readily available he would have it and if things can be done differently in the future. I have suggested before that one of the things that we could discuss is the whole question of whether the statistics as they are published and as they are worked, whether that needs to be reviewed. The Government have no objection to changing the composition of the Tables in the Employment Surveys so that in future it gives more information or different information but then the system has got to be set up that way so that that is what is produced. Not that it is worked throughout the whole year to produce that and then we spend the next eight months in question time asking for it to be produced on a different basis which is what bogs down the system. Certainly, the Government are, as I think I have indicated this to the hon Member before, willing to take into account the statistics that, I am not going to say the Opposition, that this House, this Parliament would like to see available to it. If it possible to amend the Statistics Act or whatever it is called to require the survey to be produced in that form, that it should be produced in this form, because that is what the Government want, as much public information as possible to be available not just to this House but publicly. That is very different to bogging down the public administration in between statistical surveys with having to rework everything that is being done administratively. Now, I do not know personally the amount of work that is involved here, in any of these exercises. I do not know. I do not know in what form the data is held. I am not a statistician. I do not know how much it would take to do it but I have personally questioned the officials in question and they maintain this position and I accept their position as accurate and correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that in fact that position did not occur in October, does he know what it is about answering the same question but of a different year now when in October they had no problem in doing it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not that in October we did not have any problem in doing it. In October all the things that I am telling you now are required were incurred and the system has got to stop because otherwise the hon Member will achieve maybe one of his wishes, which is to have the Statistics Office working for him as his personal research assistants to fuel his weekend hobby which is to pour over statistics drawn up in a particular form. But that is not why the tax payer pays them, which is not to say that if the system cannot be reorganised to produce information in a reasonable way, it should not be rejigged to produce information in a reasonable way, but that would require agreement between us about how the Tables in the Employment Survey might be expanded, rejigged so that more of the information that he keeps on asking for is available and that is fine because then from the moment they get... First of all they would have to make sure that the Employment Surveys ask all the right

questions for whatever information we might agree should be in a remodified set of Tables. Then they would work that information throughout the year when the surveys replies come back and produce, *ab initio*, the Tables that have been agreed. That is very different to the process that we are now being asked to engage in. Of course, if the hon Member does it once in one area, or even more than once in one area, well the system says, well alright, this is quite hard work, it really is diverting a significant amount of resources but..... But the problem is that the hon Member continually increases the areas in which he asks the administration to do this and there comes a time when the administration simply says, I am sorry we cannot continue to provide this service. We just do not have the resources to continually, in more and more statistical Tables, in more and more areas of statistics, in more and more departments, to, in effect, restate, recreate, represent, recalculate, reformulate the basis on which public information is provided. Remember that the Statistics in the survey are statutory. They are produced in that form because I think that is what the Statistics Act says. Schedules and things, but that can be changed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Government have information of what is the earnings of part-time female frontier workers and they do because they have provided it for me and it is in the computer, all that is happening at the moment is that the table does not give the element of the Spanish. That is, it is not linked to the nationality.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not the position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. Well, I will have to do the work myself by hand then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the information were available simply on the pressing of a computer button, it would be in his hands already. I am told that that is not the case. I do not know whether it may be the case in one of these 30 questions. I am told and I would ask him to please at least accept that that is what I have been told.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that he has been told that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have been told that that is not the case and there are questions here which will be answered, which have been answered, which will be answered because the information is available on the basis that he has just described. Senior officials in the public administration have no interest or care or concern about our political cut and thrust. Why should they say that this information is difficult to produce if in fact it is

not difficult to produce? They have got no interest in whether I produce it to you or not. Therefore, I cannot accept, on the basis of what I have been told, the analogy between being in the computer and pressing a button.

NO. 58 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government confirm whether the October 2009 questionnaires for the Employment Survey explain how employers should treat detached workers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Government can confirm that the Employment Survey questionnaire for October 2009 includes an additional column in which responding employers are expected to identify any detached workers which they may have engaged.

For the benefit of employers, Note 5 of the questionnaire Explanatory Notes describes a detached worker as follows: "A detached worker is defined as an employee, who is not ordinarily resident in Gibraltar and is in employment in a country outside Gibraltar and who is required by his employer to perform work of a temporary nature in Gibraltar in the course of his employment".

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 58 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it intended that this then will be shown when the report is published as a separate..... or does the Minister know how it is going to be dealt with?

HON L MONTIEL:

I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the answers that I have been given when I have asked about the detached workers, presumably, the industrial classification that appears in the survey will be along the same lines, that is to say, if it is retail it could be like we saw with the people who were....., that is the intention.

HON L MONTIEL:

Like the example we saw before.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxx the employer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Instead of the employer! It would be the place at which they are actually providing the service.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Then it should be..... because then there is no employer in Gibraltar. The sector of the Gibraltar employer should be irrelevant because there is not a Gibraltar employer as such. There is a company who benefits from the work of these individuals but they are not the employer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in effect, what the information that is being obtained and will be reflected in the report would be on the basis that it would not be employed in the retail industry but providing a service to the retail industry.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is my view, but I do not want to make a categorical statement about how it will be done until I have consulted with the Statistician to see what view he has about the proper way to reflect the information. But the employer industry sectors are a description of the sectors in which the employer functions, properly analysed in the case of a detached worker. The employer is the organisation in the other country that he works for and not the sectorially categorised entity in Gibraltar whose services uses the detached workers labour output, if I am explaining it. We have got to discuss with the Statistician what his views are about the most accurate way... and whether it would be to continue the way it is presently done or whether it would be in the new way that the hon Member is mooted in his last supplementary.

NO. 59 OF 2010

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 January 2010 giving a breakdown by grade, sex nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

The information requested is contained in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO.59/2010

PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY
AS AT END OF JANUARY 2010

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

ORAL

NO. 60 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Sports and Leisure Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 61 of 2010.

NO. 61 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what has been the recurrent expenditure of the Sports and Leisure Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2009 giving a breakdown of personal emoluments and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

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

The information requested is in the written schedule that I will now hand over to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 61/2010

RECEIPTS TO THE GIBRALTAR SPORTS & LEISURE AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL YEAR 2009-10 UPTO 30/9/2009

Income:

Contribution from Consolidated Fund Head 2B	£0.00
Contribution from I & D Fund Head 101 (1)	£11,974.99
Fund Raising	£7,000.00
Miscellaneous	£1,210.00
King's Bastion Leisure Centre	£229,778.35
Total	<u>£249,963.36</u>

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 83P/2010
EXPENDITURE TO GIBRALTAR SPORTS & LEISURE AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL YEAR 2009-10 UPTO 30/9/09

<u>Personal Emoluments:</u>	
Salaries	£540,271.47
Overtime: Conditional	£70,229.92
Overtime: Emergency	£0.00
Overtime: Manning Level Maintenance	£81,506.67
Overtime: Discretionary	£6,049.50
Allowances	£45,927.37
Employers Contributions	£60,801.70

<u>Office Expenses:</u>	
General Expenses	£76,767.68
Telephone Service	£5,403.19
Printing & Stationery	£1,544.89

<u>Operational Expenses:</u>	
Sports Development Unit	£10,236.10
Running Expenses	£8,219.87
Vehicle & Plant	£0.00
Training Courses	£0.00
Computer & Office Equipment	£2,057.16
Stay & Play Programme	£16,427.24

<u>Sports Facilities & Equipment:</u>	
Hockey Pitches	£0.00
Europa Gymnasium	£0.00
Other Facilities & Equipment	£14,880.53

<u>Contracted Services:</u>	
Upkeep of Facilities	£73,163.18
New Swimming Pool Expenses	£135,835.51
Playground Expenses	£0.00

<u>Sports Grants:</u>	
Grants to Sporting Societies	£44,237.67
International Competitions	£5,921.82
Sports Development Projects	£4,371.00
Hosting of Special Events	£15,110.00

<u>Capital Expenditure:</u>	
Works & Equipment	£15,927.34
Total	£1,234,889.81

RECEIPTS TO THE GIBRALTAR SPORTS & LEISURE AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL YEAR 2009-10 UPTO 30/9/2009

<u>Income:</u>	
Contribution from Consolidated Fund 2B	£0.00
Contribution from I & D Fund Head 101 (1)	£11,974.99
Fund Raising	£7,000.00
Miscellaneous	£1,210.00
King's Bastion Leisure Centre	£229,778.35
Total	£249,963.34

NO. 62 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 29 September 2009?

ANSWER

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

There have been two meetings of the Heritage Action Committee, that is the one of the 29th September and the next one was held on 8th December 2009.

NO. 63 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE ACT

Can Government say whether the relevant schedules to the draft of the Gibraltar Heritage Act have now been finalised?

ANSWER

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

No Sir, they have not been finalised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 63 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member give an indication of when he would expect them to be finished?

HON E J REYES:

It is not possible to say when the Government will be ready to launch its reform of heritage legislation and heritage administration. It remains works in progress.

NO. 64 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR MUSEUM – ADMISSION FEES**

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 in admission fees to the Gibraltar Museum?

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

I want to clarify something. In the last Question Time in this Parliament there was no question of this type made. In fact, since the beginning of the financial year I have seen no question relating to the money raised in revenue. So what I have done is prepared the monthly breakdown as from the commencement of this current financial year. So the hon Member may wish to note these figures.

April	£1,329.85
May	£1,015.42
June	£1,972.82
July	£1,317.68
August	£1,383.45
September	£2,220.72
October	£5,178.42
November	£1,329.87
December	£ 482.62

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 64 OF 2010**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

If I may clarify, the question is normally asked together with the Upper Rock and the Coach Park. That may be why in the past the hon Member may not have answered the question. It has been answered by another Minister.

HON E J REYES:

That is why I wanted to clarify. I did have all the information so I thought it best to give the hon Member the whole financial year because the previous financial year is in the published estimates.

NO. 65 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Can Government confirm to whom the tender for the "Organisation, Production and Staging of the last New Year's Eve Celebrations" was awarded and whether this was the lowest bid?

ANSWER

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

The tender for the Organisation, Production and Staging of the last New Year's Eve Celebrations was awarded to Word of Mouth. This was the only fully compliant tender offer received.

ORAL

NO. 66 OF 2010

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 to Question No. 831 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 67 to 71 of 2010.

NO. 67 OF 2010

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. 832 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 FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 66 and 68 to 71 of 2010.

NO. 68 OF 2010

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. 833 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 66, 67 and 69 to 71 of 2010.

NO. 69 OF 2010

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. 834 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 66 to 68, 70 and 71 of 2010.

NO. 70 OF 2010

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 October 2009 to January 2010 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 66 to 69 and 71 of 2010.

NO. 71 OF 2010

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 October 2009 to January 2010 in respect of employment injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I will now hand the hon Members the lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 71 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 66

The monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund as from October 2009 to January 2010 is as per the following tentative statement:

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Oct-09</u>	<u>30-Nov-09</u>	<u>31-Dec-09</u>	<u>31-Jan-10</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>				
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£20,282,533.97	£20,480,462.12	£20,395,035.42	£19,097,100.58
<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.)	£1,413,634.74	£1,318,964.08	£1,190,218.65	£1,365,586.99
Misc Receipts	£15,653.98	£5,360.16	£28,064.96	£15,355.47
	<u>£22,420,156.02</u>	<u>£22,513,119.69</u>	<u>£22,321,652.36</u>	<u>£21,186,376.37</u>
Less				
Payments	<u>(£1,939,693.90)</u>	<u>(£2,118,084.27)</u>	<u>(£3,224,551.78)</u>	<u>(£1,826,008.76)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£20,480,462.12</u>	<u>£20,395,035.42</u>	<u>£19,097,100.58</u>	<u>£19,360,367.61</u>

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 71 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 67

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the months of October 2009 to January 2010.

	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10
<i>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</i>	273	267	257	251
<i>British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)</i>	5512	5519	5524	5530
<i>Moroccan Pensioners</i>	2010	2014	2017	2022
<i>Other Nationalities</i>	668	669	672	674
Total	8463	8469	8470	8477

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 71 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 68

Persons receiving disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements as from October 2009 to January 2010 giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex.

	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
October 2009	23	31	26	22	16	16	3	137	96	41
November 2009	25	33	26	23	16	15	3	141	98	43
December 2009	24	34	24	25	16	15	3	141	98	43
January 2010	24	34	24	25	15	15	3	140	97	43

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 71 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 69

Persons receiving social assistance for the months of October 2009 to January 2010 by month, sex and age.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
October 2009	189	312	501	86	150	123	142
November 2009	188	313	501	85	152	123	141
December 2009	185	309	494	83	151	118	142
January 2010	190	314	504	86	156	120	142

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 71 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 70

The following payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Funds from October 2009 to January 2010 arising from the employers' insolvency.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
October 2009	nil
November 2009	nil
December 2009	£890,070.32
January 2010	nil

Answer to Question No. 71

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund from October 2009 to January 2010 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows :-

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND - TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	<u>Oct 09</u>	<u>Nov 09</u>	<u>Dec 09</u>	<u>Jan 10</u>
Payments:				
Employment Injuries	£37,817.92	£48,449.99	£48,662.62	£31,568.09

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 66 TO 71 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to Question No. 70 of 2010 which relates to payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund arising from the employers insolvency, in the past few months before this question in June to September 2009, the amount paid had been in total for four months £17,000. We now see a very high payment in December 2009 of £890,000. Can the hon Member give some more details as to what that accounts for please?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes indeed I can. Obviously, this responds to the payment to beneficiaries in that particular month which is December 2009. This arises from a total of six companies who became insolvent and as a result of that payments being made in that particular month were a total of 269 beneficiaries who were working before for those six particular companies. Although the figure of 269 beneficiaries in respect of former employees were in relation to those six companies, we still have two outstanding payments which, presumably, are either with the Employment Service or the Treasury Department that might be reconciling some final figures. But to answer your question, that very high figure for December is in relation to payments being made to 269 beneficiaries arising from six companies.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member give details of the six companies involved?

HON J J NETTO:

In relation to Haymills, we are talking about beneficiaries here, in relation to Haymills - 124 beneficiaries; in relation to EMServ E & N Gibraltar Limited - 22 beneficiaries; Labour Hire Gibraltar Limited - 82 beneficiaries; PCG Group Overseas Limited – 30 beneficiaries; Berrylee Limited – ten beneficiaries and finally, Safety and Risk Management Limited – one beneficiary.

HON G H LICUDI:

So, can I have the name of the penultimate one, before Safety.

HON J J NETTO:

Berrylee Limited.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are all these companies connected to the Haymills collapse?

HON J J NETTO:

I would not know. I have not got that information with me.

HON G H LICUDI:

In respect of the amount that the Government has paid out, does the Government then take steps to try and recover that money from the assets of the company as a creditor, as if it were a creditor of the company because it has made a payment on behalf of the company? These, I imagine, are payments which would otherwise have been made by the companies arising from the redundancies which they have to make and therefore they are a liability to the company under statutory provisions which provide for the protection of the employees, quite rightly, that there is the Insolvency Fund that meets payments. But what steps are then taken by the Government to recover that from the companies themselves.

HON J J NETTO:

I am afraid I am not in a position to be able to say what the procedure is because I am simply just answering questions on the basis that the money is being paid from the Statutory Benefit Fund. What happens in that particular process of liquidation, whether the Government are able to recover money or not, is not something that passes through the Department of Social Security, at all. I should imagine that the Government in some way or form would try to get some money back. But I am not in a position to be able to give the hon Member an answer.

HON G H LICUDI:

One assumes that because it is the hon Member that is answering this question that it is his department that is responsible for managing and administering the Statutory Benefits Fund and the hon Member shakes his head. If the answer is no, then perhaps he can tell us who is responsible for administering the funds?

HON J J NETTO:

I think for the sake of clarification, let me say that the only reason why I am answering this question is because the money is coming from the Statutory Benefits Fund. But at the end of the day, when a particular company becomes insolvent, it is not a matter for the Department of Social Security. Initially, the persons who are actually collating all the information are the officials in the Employment Service who will have, depending on each particular individual, who has been working with a particular company, to make an assessment of what is due to that particular person. Once that exercise is done, the information is then sent to the Treasury Department where obviously they will look at the paperwork which has been generated. If there are no queries brought as a result of that, they allow the payments to be made and then the payments are made through the Statutory Benefit Fund, which is my Department. But there is no involvement as such by the officials in the Department of Social Security, neither initially or through the process in relation to this.

HON G H LICUDI:

One assumes that there is involvement, maybe what comes to the hon Member's Department is a list with figures and therefore as an administrative process those payments are made out of the Fund. Given that the fund is a fund which is administered by his department, does the hon Member not acknowledge that he clearly has an interest that if there is a mechanism for recovering those amounts from the companies themselves, as a creditor, that all measures necessary ought to be taken by his department for the recovery of the amount for the benefit of the part-fund that is administered by the hon Member's department, and if there is that mechanism then I would have thought that the hon Member should jump at it and try and put all necessary measures in place to be able to recover as much as possible.

HON J J NETTO:

Well indeed, of course I have an interest in this. But I am not too sure about the mechanism. If the mechanism is there, of course we will try and recover the money but if the mechanism is not there, obviously, there is not a lot that I can do through that particular process.

HON C A BRUZON:

With reference to the answer given to Question Nos. 68 and 69 of 2010. Is the figure of 43 which is the total for females and the figure for males which is 97 in answer to Question No. 68, are those figures included in the more general question, Question No. 69, where the total is 190 males and 314 females in terms of who is receiving Social Assistance. One refers to Disability Allowance under the social assistance arrangements for which the total males is 97 and females 43, the other one, persons receiving Social Assistance in general, the totals given are 190 and 343 for males and females respectively. Are the totals given with reference to the Disability Allowance included in the totals given in answer to Question No. 69 of 2010. I do not know if the Minister follows my drift.

HON J J NETTO:

Not quite. Question No. 68 refers to persons receiving Disability Allowance and Question No. 69 refers to people receiving Social Assistance Allowance. Now, beyond that what is the hon Member seeking to know?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the question is quite simple. According to Question No. 69 of 2010, in January there was a total of 504 persons that receive Social Assistance, and in that same month there was a total of 140 that received Disability Allowance. Is the 140 on top of the 504 or included in the 504? That is the question.

HON J J NETTO:

On top!

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I can take the hon Member back to the payment from the Insolvency Fund.

HON J J NETTO:

Which question?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The one that he was answering previously! The one on Haymills and the insolvency payment which is now payable from the Statutory Benefits Fund. In the Insolvency Fund, when the Insolvency Fund existed before the Government merged it with the social insurance which we opposed, if the hon Member will remember there was indeed a provision there for recovering the money because I have asked questions about past insolvencies as to how much is recovered although invariably the answer has been that the person that went insolvent had no money at all to pay anybody. But is it that the provisions that were in the Insolvency Fund do not necessarily apply now that it is a Statutory Benefit Fund? The Insolvency Fund existed up to a point in time. It was in July 2008.

HON J J NETTO:

I presume that whatever existed before would have been transferred into the new system and if that is the case, obviously, there is a clear interest by the Government to try to recover as much money as we possibly can albeit if there is some money to recover at the end of the day. The fact that we combine two different funds into one does not mean that we took away whatever was the procedure before. Standing as I am on my two feet, I just do not know whether the procedure has changed. I assume that the procedure is exactly the same.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As far as I recall they were different bits of legislation. The Insolvency Fund which was created a very long time ago was actually financed by employers, by a contribution from employers and had its own separate legislation and its own separate procedures and its own separate rules. From day one, it was intended for the Insolvency Fund to advance the pay. Presumably, this includes not just redundancies but any arrears of annual leaves, basic pay or anything else. It is all the monies that are owed to those workers are a liability on the employer and a liability on the liquidator and the Insolvency Fund, as it used to exist previously, advanced the money, obviously, to meet the hardship of the workers and then proceeded to recover it. Now, since the money does not come from the Insolvency Fund because the Insolvency Fund has ceased to exist and the money that was in it was transferred into the Social Insurance Fund, I am just asking whether in fact, certainly the provisions that I am prefacing the question with do not exist in the Statutory Benefits Fund because the Statutory Benefits Fund is what pays unemployment benefit and pays old age pension and widows pension. None of those things are recoverable. So, is it that the legislation that was there for the Insolvency Fund does not necessarily apply now that it is a Statutory Benefits Fund as it would have done before?

HON J J NETTO:

I would assume it does but I would need to check on this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask a related point? These payments happened in December but in fact at the time that Haymills ceased operations, I cannot remember the exact date, what happened was that the workforce was transferred, and there are some questions later in the order paper about the transfer between Haymills and the Gibraltar Government Construction Company. So, was this payment when they terminated with the construction company, and in that case the Insolvency would not apply?

HON J J NETTO:

I would imagine that the payments must be on the basis of what was owed to the workers prior to being taken over by the new company. So, obviously the new company will start with a clean sheet in relation to any liabilities that they may have on the workers. So, the answer to your question must be that the payment must be in respect of monies owed to the workers for the period that they were working for Haymills.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But in fact when the announcement was made, the situation was not, surely, unless we understood the situation incorrectly... Surely the situation as it came out in public was not that people were made redundant by Haymills, registered as unemployed and then commenced employment with a new employer. It was in fact that a new company, newly created for the purpose, took over the site and the workers and therefore under the normal rules of the transfer of undertaking the service in Haymills counts as service in GGCC. That is what the law says. So, presumably, they would have to have their employment terminated by GGCC and then GGCC would be liable for the whole of their service including their service with Haymills. They might not be liable for things like unpaid wages but certainly in terms of continuity of service the redundancy liability would arise with their most recent employer, not with the employer they had before.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes. Obviously, yes I agree with the hon Member in the sense that if the people are transferred in terms of the functions being taking over, the new employer accepts the liability of the person that it is transferring over. That is the transfer of undertaking legislation which the hon Member is referring to. So, in that scenario, that means that at that precise moment in time new contracts must have been issued by the new employer and therefore the payments that we are talking about here and now are payments in relation to the previous period because if there was no transfer of undertaking, because there was a break in the sense that it did not transfer and a new contract was issued, the workers still had monies owed to them for the period in which they were working for the previous employer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, not really. If there is a worker on a building site or indeed in any other business and somebody comes and takes over the contract, he takes the contract and the workers on the contract. Therefore the fact that..... If people had open contracts before, if there is a new contract issued, there cannot be a new contract issued without the old contract being terminated. We have already heard from the Minister for Employment that when Haymills ceased trading they found that there was nobody whose termination had not been notified. So they did not have people who are shown as still working in Haymills, who had in fact gone before. It seems that the exception to the rule that is prevalent in Gibraltar, that employers do not notify the ETB, it seems that Haymills was bad at everything except notifying their terminations where they were 100% up to date. The one silver lining in the cloud of the Haymills disaster was that they terminated their workers and notified the ETB. But those terminations could not have been a termination of contract because then the redundancy would have kicked in at that point and then GGCC would not be able to say to them we are taking over the contract and we are taking over the workers. The employment in GGCC would have been without taking the workers on and they would have had to recruit unemployed workers from the ETB, some of which might have been there before and therefore the only liability would be under the new contract of eight weeks. Now, does the Minister of Employment know whether this is something that happened?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. I think that this is a matter where we shall have to revert to the hon Member with further information as to the process that took place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is it that he does not know whether it has happened or he does not know what I am asking? Which of the two is it?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I know what you are getting at but I think there will be questions related to that, regarding the Haymills issues, in other areas and I think that it is better left where it should be left and I think the Minister for Social Services should answer the questions related to the ministerial issues that pertain to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the ministerial duty that pertains to him is that he is dished out nearly a million pounds from the Social Insurance Fund to which we all pay. I would have thought that if indeed the situation is that the Haymills workers transferred to GGCC, it may well be that he should not have paid that money out.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I think the short answer to this is that, quite rightly the hon Member is seeking to have clarification and further information on the matter, and if he leaves it with me I will try to find out what was the actual procedure that took place and why this issue of transfer of the actual project, transfer of undertaking to the new employer and how that kicked in or did not kick in the question of the payment which is what he is seeking to know. So, if he gives me some more time, I will try to provide him with a reasonable answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that if the information is not readily available to him, I accept that answer. But I would simply point out to the hon Member that when he answered an earlier question he actually told me that he was able to give me the information because in the case of Haymills his department had worked out for each individual what money they were owed. So, presumably, it is his department that produced the bill of £890,000 for the Minister of Social Security to pay. Now, clearly the fact that the hon Member does not know how that was arrived at is understandable because it was not done in his department but it was done in the department of the Minister for Labour. Does he not recall whether in fact when the Haymills redundancy payments were calculated and the other associated companies, is it that the people were then registered as being unemployed for that particular month as having terminated with Haymills? Did they go on the books in that month?

HON L MONTIEL:

There was a procedural arrangement at the time. I understand that there are questions that deal with these issues and they will be answered in due course.

HON G H LICUDI:

Just to end on factual information. Of the £890,000, does the hon Member have a breakdown as to how that figure is arrived at? Not in terms of the companies. How much is redundancy? How much is back pay? How is the £890,000 added up?

HON J J NETTO:

No. I am afraid not in that particular sense. No and obviously what we cannot do is now provide information per individual person. That we cannot do.

HON G H LICUDI:

No. I am not asking information per individual person or even per individual company. What I am saying is, £890,000, if £850,000 is one category, for example, redundancy, £40,000 is wages owed, £10,000 is tax, whatever it is.

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information with me. What I have been trying to do is to provide information to the hon Members. What I have done, I have broken it down the nearly £900,000, by the number of the companies and the number of beneficiaries.

HON G H LICUDI:

But you do not know what they were paid for?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have the information broken down in that manner, no.

.....

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, may we go back to the previous question just one more supplementary of a factual nature.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

In respect of the six companies identified, we are going back to Question No. 70, not the matters that we have covered already. With respect of the six companies involved, does the hon Member know whether each of these companies, or all of them, had their social insurance contributions in respect of these employees up to date at the time when these payments were made?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information with me.

NO. 72 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving Social Assistance, to date, since the answer to Question No. 835 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 FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 72 of 2010

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
October 2009	189	312	501	86	150	123	142
November 2009	188	313	501	85	152	123	141
December 2009	185	309	494	83	151	118	142
January 2010	190	314	504	86	156	120	142
As at 12 February 2010	191	317	508	91	153	122	142

PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
October 2009	6	3	9	2	3	2	2
November 2009	3	0	3	2	1	0	0
December 2009	7	5	12	6	3	3	0
January 2010	1	3	4	1	1	1	1

NO. 73 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

MOUNT ALVERNIA – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are presently waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At present there are 469 (including those in John Cochrane Unit) elderly citizens waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia. A total of 28 elderly citizens are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital. May I just add that of the 469, there are approximately 56% of persons who have placed their names on the waiting list in notification of their future need and not current need.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 73 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Sorry, could the Minister repeat the percentage?

HON J J NETTO:

56%.

ORAL

NO. 74 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

VISIT TO WORCESTER LOCAL SERVICES BY MINISTER

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the visit by the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs to Worcester in November to see the local services on offer to children, young adults and adults with learning disabilities, homes for the elderly and the Shopmobility service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 75 to 77 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 75 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

VISIT TO WORCESTER LOCAL SERVICES BY MINISTER

Can Government say how the visit by the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs to Worcester came about and why this city was selected for such a visit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 74, 76 and 77 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 76 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

VISIT TO WORCESTER LOCAL SERVICES BY MINISTER

Can Government list the names and offices of those who accompanied the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs to Worcester in November?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 74, 75 and 77 of 2010.

NO. 77 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

VISIT TO WORCESTER LOCAL SERVICES BY MINISTER

Can Government say who hosted and organised (from the UK end) the visit to Worcester by the Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs in November?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The cost of the visit to Worcester was £3147.94 broken down into:-

Hotel costs	£1375.00
Subsistence	£ 694.94
Flights	<u>£1078.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>£3147.94</u>

I was accompanied by Mrs Carmen Maskill, the Chief Executive Designate and Ms Jennie Allison, the Clinical Standards Compliance Director of the Care Agency.

The Clinical Standards Compliance Director of the Care Agency was asked to arrange a visit having first hand knowledge of Worcestershire County Council and the range of facilities offered by the Council. The facilities visited there were all relevant to the information required for the purpose of the visit.

The visit was hosted and organised by:- The Director of Children's Services, Worcester Day Services and the Head of Integrated Services for Children and Families, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester.

NO. 78 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

SHOPMOBILITY PROJECT

Can Government say whether and if so when the Shopmobility project in Gibraltar was suspended and explain when it intends to relaunch this scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Shopmobility Shop was handed to Government by a charitable organisation by the name of Gibraltar Disability Awareness and Information Group (GDAIG).

Since then the shop is undergoing a refurbishment which will include new furniture. In addition to this, the Care Agency is working with other NGO's to purchase new equipment for the benefit of disabled persons. It is hoped that this facility will be opened during the course of this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 78 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could you the Minister tell us when the Shopmobility Shop was closed in order to make the refurbishment?

HON J J NETTO:

I cannot give the hon Member an accurate figure, but I think it was certainly some time last year. Probably..... I do not know whether it was April, May or June perhaps when it closed. I have not got that sort of information available with me but I think that is roughly when it closed. It was at a time when the Care Agency was sort of coming to fruition and obviously there was a handing over period. The details and what was going on from the previous private trust into the new Care Agency. So I would say, perhaps April, May, June of last year. I am not too sure though.

ORAL

NO. 79 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Social Services Agency prior to and after its incorporation into the Care Agency for this financial year to 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 80 and 81 of 2010.

NO. 80 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what have been the payments made by the Social Services Agency for this financial year to 30 September 2009 with a breakdown for personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and employer contributions and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 79 and 81 of 2010.

NO. 81 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Elderly Care Agency prior to and after its incorporation in the Care Agency for this financial year to 30 September 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

In relation to Question No. 79 of 2010, the receipts of the Social Services Agency prior to its incorporation into the Care Agency was £101.99 in respect of a refund of a family tea urn and after its incorporation £3,482 in respect of inter-country adoption fees.

No contribution by Government has been made so far but will be given at the close of accounts at the end of the financial year.

In relation to Question No. 80 of 2010, I now hand the hon Member the requested information.

Finally, in answer to Question No. 81 of 2010, the total receipts of the former Elderly Care Agency prior to its incorporation into the Care Agency, is £49,672.46 and after its incorporation is £332,372.96 for this financial year up to 30th September 2009.

No Government contribution has been made for this financial year until the close of accounts at the end of March 2010.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 81 OF 2010.

Answer to Question 80

The following payments have been made by the former Social Services Agency for this Financial year to 30th September 2009:-

1 Salaries	£1,377,894.00
2 Overtime	£ 138,718.20
3 Allowances	£ 168,225.10
4 Basic Wages	£ 29,404.94
5 Overtime	£ 58.59
6 Allowances	£ 923.03
7 Recruitment	£ 294.00
8 Relief Cover	£ 252,667.90
9 Social Insurance	£ 149,564.06
10 Pension	£ 41,071.12
19 Children in Care	£ 69,866.96
20 Dr Giraldi Home	£ 36,848.69
22 St Bernadette's Centre	£ 17,466.07
23 General Expenses	£ 2,471.69
24 Electricity & Water	£ 24,798.47
25 Telephone Service	£ 20,662.76
26 Printing & Stationery	£ 7,859.40
27 Training & Official Travel	£ 24,212.17
28 Maintenance Works	£ 2,445.19
29 Vehicle Expenses	£ 3,629.42
30 Insurance	£ 0.00
31 Cleaning	£ 5,678.49
32 Planted Areas	£ 3,500.00
33 Inter-Country Adoption	£ 1,482.00
34 Special Care Abroad	£ 178,155.02
35 Domiciliary Care	£ 44,326.48
36 Day Centre	£ 6,250.00
37 Losses of Public Funds	£ 184.80
50 Capital Equip & Wrks	£ 31,065.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2,639,724,.53

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 79 TO 81 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say whether it is intended to show the different components when the financial year closes given that at the start of the financial year what was shown at the estimates time was before they were merged? Will the agencies figures, since the merger, show separate expenditure for the Elderly Care side of it or will it all be combined? Does he not know?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, this is very much a question that will, perhaps, will depend on the decision that the Financial Secretary takes. For the benefit of our interaction here in Parliament, it would be ideal if the hon Members could get information segregated between what used to be the Elderly Care Agency and the Social Services Agency and then be able to make sense of the whole thing together. But it would not depend on me. It would depend very much on what the Financial Secretary determines. I hope that it would be the case so that the hon Member can make the logical deductions in seeing how we are getting the receipts and the payments. But it would depend on the Financial Secretary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps the hon Member, given that he agrees that it is a good idea in terms of being able to analyse information, can sort of support the concept.

HON J J NETTO:

I agree definitely, yes.

NO. 82 OF 2010

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. 885 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 83 of 2010.

NO. 83 OF 2010

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 January 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 83 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 82

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 OCTOBER 2009 TO JANUARY 2010.

				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	1		0		1
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	0		0		0
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	0		0		0
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	0		0		0
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	1		0		1
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	5		0		5
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		0		0
TOTAL				8		0		8

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 83 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 83

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 JANUARY 2010.

				SINGLES		COUPLES		TOTAL
				No		No		No
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0		2		2
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	17		1		18
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	10		3		13
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	12		1		13
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	17		0		17
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	12		2		14
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	19		0		19
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	20		1		21
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	235		2		237
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	20		5		25
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	21		6		27
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	8		1		9
TOTAL				447		30		477

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 82 AND 83 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member confirm that the £111 to £115 for the single is in fact the maximum rate? Is it that it is persons who have no other income? Is that correct?

HON J J NETTO:

That is correct.

NO. 84 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – REPAYMENT OF LOANS OWED BY STUDENTS

Is Government aware that students might be penalised by lending institutions due to the fact that students have a pending debt with the company in UK which gives out student loans to pay for their tuition fees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Gibraltar Government has made itself responsible for the repayment of the loans taken out by the students and so no student should be penalised for the reason suggested by the hon Member.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 84 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

I state this because I have had a few people coming to me saying that they have applied for different things, buying a car or whatever they want to have a loan for, and that the lending institution when questioning that student about their debts, they have opened up and said, well I have got a debt that is maybe in the future on the debt as a student. Therefore, they have been told that they cannot get a loan because they have already got a loan pending. That is why I have posed the question. Is there any way that the Government can, for example, give some sort of documentation, maybe to the student, in order to prove to the lending institution that although the loan is in their own name, that the guarantor or the person who is going to ultimately pay their loan will be the Government?

HON C G BELTRAN:

With all due respect to the hon Member, he seems to know the answer to his question and that is why he is asking it. The Government has indeed issued... I have just said in my answer that the Government has made itself responsible for the repayment of the loans taken out by the students. The Government cannot make itself responsible without any kind of documentation that will support that student, if and when the students goes to seek a loan from a lending institution of whatever type. Without doubting the hon Member's word, I am very surprised that anyone could have gone to him with that kind of problem because, to my knowledge, very few if any students at this moment in time will have received any notification from the

loans company in UK as to the amount of their debt because the system started in 2006 and it will only kick in some time now. So, as I say, without doubting your word, I am very surprised that a number of students have already gone to you with this problem because they should not have gone to you with that kind of problem because no lending institution should have refused the loan because Government has issued credit worthiness letters to all students.

HON S E LINARES:

I have only had one student and a couple of parents coming to me asking. So, there has been one specific student who said, I am now finished, I want a loan, maybe it was a three year course and finished and has the loan and other parents. I can assure the member that I have not had..... he says that I am answering my own question. The thing is that I am thinking, as I speak I am thinking of how it can be overcome and it is obvious that the hon Member has already taken that on board, which is giving documentation, which I appreciate.

HON C G BELTRAN:

What the hon Member is saying is exactly what I said in my answer to him in the first place. Is the hon Member wants to say the same thing again, I can keep on jumping up and down.

MR SPEAKER:

I think he agrees.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state on what dates these letters have been handed out to students as cover for their loan in respect of their tuition fees?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I do not write these letters so the dates will not have stuck in my mind but well in time to prevent any student the embarrassment of being told, I will not give you a loan.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware of how many students have actually requested this letter?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Those students who have finished their studies in time for the system to kick in. I do not carry numbers of students in my pocket.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Without knowing the exact date because presumably he does not type or sign the letter, can he say whether it is within the last six months or within the last three months? That kind of.....

HON C G BELTRAN:

Certainly within the last three to four months, yes.

NO. 85 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state how many teachers who are currently on supply have been covering on a continuous basis for one year, two years, three years, four years or more giving a breakdown by years covering?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Fifteen teachers have been covering for about a year, 6 for two years and 2 for three years and none beyond that.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 85 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Just to confirm, it is on a continuous basis, is it not?

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is what the question asks and I have answered duly.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Government then thinking about what we have spoken and debated before regarding giving contracts to these teachers, six of whom have been covering for two years continuous and two for three years continuous. A contract where, again we go back to the lending institutions they seem to be the ones that are more demanding, they have problems in trying to get themselves mortgages, loans or whatever because they do not have a full-time job. Is there any light, as in, at the end of the tunnel of the contract?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I have described Government's policy and how we have arrived at a conclusion on a number of occasions to the hon Member. No lending institution will issue a huge amount of money or a significant amount of money based on somebody who is working on one year's contract. So, that really is not an argument for a contract. I

am sure the hon Member, if he thinks about it carefully, will understand that no lending institution will do that. I have already explained as well, at least on two occasions, that the Government had looked at this very carefully, a decision was taken some time last year that no contracts really will be issued because it is not in the interest of those teachers who offer their services on supply or indeed for the service and I have explained the reasons in detail in the past on a number of occasions.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member saying that the Government has come to the conclusion that it is not in the interest of the teachers themselves to have a permanent contract? Is that what the hon Member is saying?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. Indeed. If the hon Member lets me answer the question he has asked. I have explained it to the hon Member on a couple of occasions, but of course the Opposition want to make the point that there should be contracts. Government does not agree with that. It would certainly be divisive because there are teachers who over a period of two years may work for three terms which is the equivalent of one academic year and yet because they are not working continuously for a year, would not be in a contract. It would be divisive within, if you like the supply teacher population. That is an important reason that Government..... and also the fact that offering somebody a contract, certainly in everybody's experience, leads to that person seeking permanent employment. While a school, for a number of reasons, needs a teacher to be there for a year or two, it does not follow that the teaching complement, in general, the Department of Education teaching complement needs to be increased because that requirement of that particular school may be lost a year and a half down the line. So, there are good reasons for the service and indeed for the supply teacher population why Government arrived at the conclusion that contracts are not in the best interest for anybody.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member accept that the real question is whether or not there is a vacancy for a teaching position in a particular school and if there is a vacancy, is not the policy decision that ought to be taken, that that vacancy ought to be filled properly and permanently rather than have people continuously on supply?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Most certainly, but that is not the case. I have just explained how people... It may arise that a teacher may be on supply for one or two years but it is not a permanent requirement beyond that and giving somebody a contract over two years may, according to EU legislation, I am sure the hon Member as a professional in that area will understand, lead to Government being forced to employ permanently. That is why Government has to balance that and what is in the best long-term interest of the education service. That is what we are doing.

HON G H LICUDI:

As I understood the hon Member earlier, he said, there may be a requirement for a teacher but the requirement may be lost in the future, one and a half or two years down the line. Can the hon Member give any circumstances in which a current requirement where there is a vacancy can or may be lost in a couple of years time? I can understand somebody filling in for maternity. That is not a vacancy, that is not filled because there is somebody in that post and therefore somebody comes in from supply and that is perfectly understandable. But where there is a position which is vacant, can the hon Member explain in what circumstances that position which is vacant in respect of a complement in a school..... For example, if there is a complement of 20 in a school and the Government decide to fill two of those vacancies with supply teachers, in what circumstances will that complement be reduced in two years time.

HON C G BELTRAN:

The hon Member, with respect, misses the point. He does not quite understand the system. It is not a vacancy arising. If a vacancy arises then a teacher is employed permanently. The way that one can get somebody being required to do supply work for a year in a school might be that the child with a particular special need arises and somebody who specialises in that area will be taken on to look after the interests of that child. That could last a year or even two or even more. One could also have, because of somebody's retirement for example, I do not know, for whatever reason, a subject specialism, for example, the teaching of 'A' level physics. Not every teacher on the payroll will necessarily be able to do that. For a year or two, depending, as an example, maybe it is not a very good example because physics is taught at 'A' level continuously. But there could be a subject specialism that arises and extra help in English is required. For example, a child who arrives from the First or Middle school who does not speak English and needs extra support for a year or two until the child picks up. So these are the kind of special circumstances that require a teacher to be taken on supply but without necessarily being a vacancy in the complement. Vacancies in the complement are filled.

HON G H LICUDI:

That was going to be my next question. Can the Government confirm that it is not their policy to use supply teachers simply to fill up vacancies?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes, indeed.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just jump in on this issue because I think there are a number of statements which the hon Member has made which simply do not accord to the reality of the situation as presented to the Opposition on many instances. For example, will the hon Gentleman not accept that there are a number of teachers on supply contracts in some of the major schools, the two Comprehensive Schools for example, who are filling in not necessarily just for people who are on maternity leave but who are not

providing simply specialist care for particular pupils in the schools. Although the hon Gentleman has told the House that that particular practice of the Government is in the interests of the supply teacher complement or the supply teachers collective, in fact, nothing could be further from the truth because a lot of those supply teachers, some of whom may for instance be single parents, are not able to go to lending institutions, for example, to borrow in respect of mortgages because as they are supply teachers they do not have a continual income guaranteed in employment as with a contract teacher. For example, can he confirm that supply teachers do not receive salary for the months of the summer when they are not in employment and therefore the suggestion that this practice is in the interests of the supply teacher collective, is actually one very much which is subjective to the hon Member and not their views as a collective.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, as I understand it the teachers on supply actually earn a salary, yes, that includes the holiday periods so that on a pro-rata basis they are actually earning more per hour than the teacher who is there permanently.

HON F R PICARDO:

That may be right. But they are.....

HON C G BELTRAN:

It is right. Not may, it is right. That is a fact.

HON F R PICARDO:

That may be right. It may be that the salary for the month that they are working is weighted to take into consideration the fact that they have no salary for other months.....

HON C G BELTRAN:

Correct.

HON F R PICARDO:

But they are not able to go to a lending institution and say, I am in permanent employment...

HON C G BELTRAN:

Of course not!

HON F R PICARDO:

Therefore, I, a single parent teacher in employment, cannot take a mortgage and that therefore this is causing problems for the supply teacher collective and it is not therefore in the supply teacher collectives interest not to have permanent employment. I just cannot see how the hon Gentleman would think the opposite.

HON C G BELTRAN:

He is just asking the same question that has already been answered. Nobody can go to a lending institution saying, can I have x amount of money to purchase a property. I am on supply for a year or even two. That is understandable for the loans provider to say that is not a secure, whatever you call it.

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Minister concede, at least, that there could be people who need smaller loans? It does not have to be a huge amount to buy a house. Somebody may need a loan to buy something less valuable but that still requires £5,000 or £3,000 and to have a teacher, at least with a two year contract, could help the lender immensely.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I have already answered the liabilities that could arise for Government in respect of contracts of a longer period of time.

NO. 86 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – PUPILS ENROLLED IN FIRST AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the pupils enrolled in First and Middle Government schools as at the 30th September 2009 and provide a breakdown by age and gender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 87 of 2010.

NO. 87 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – PUPILS ENROLLED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Can Government provide a breakdown of pupils enrolled in Secondary Government schools as at the 30th September 2009 and provide a breakdown by age and gender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which I now hand to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 87 of 2010

Answer to Question 86

Pupils enrolled at Government School, by age, 30th September 2009

(a) First and Middle Schools

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total
Less than 5	191	190	381
5 to 6	171	186	357
6 to 7	180	153	333
7 to 8	170	176	346
8 to 9	200	189	389
9 to 10	199	163	362
10 to 11	193	166	359
11 to 12	214	185	399
TOTAL	1518	1408	2926

Answer to Question 87

(b) Secondary Schools

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total
12 to 13	215	213	428
13 to 14	231	185	416
14 to 15	211	190	401
15 to 16	210	176	386
16 to 17	189	159	348
Over 17	84	117	201
TOTAL	1140	1040	2180

ORAL

NO. 88 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – VEHICLE MOT

Can Government state whether vehicles belonging to the City Fire Brigade are subjected to MOT testing biennially as is the case with all other vehicles and if not why not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 89 to 91 of 2010.

NO. 89 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – FUNDS FOR INDUCTION TRAINING

Can Government state whether extra funds have been allocated to the City Fire Brigade for training of officers who are not new recruits since the answer to Question No. 888 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 88, 90 and 91 of 2010.

NO. 90 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – SHIP FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING

Due to the increase of operations in and around Gibraltar waters such as cruise ship visits and bunkering operations, can Government state what ship fire fighting training has taken place in the last 12 years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 88, 89 and 91 of 2010.

NO. 91 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CITY FIRE BRIGADE – HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT

Is it Government's intention to conduct a full independent health and safety audit of the whole City Fire Brigade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

All fire brigade vehicles except Fire Engines are tested biennially. Fire Engines are exempt from MOT under the Motor Vehicle Test Regulation Schedule 1 Item 5.

In answer to Question No. 89 of 2010, the answer is yes.

Thirteen Officers and firefighters from the CFB were sent to Strathclyde and undertook the Marine Firefighting advanced training in October 1998, and just outside the 12 year period in November 1997, 14 Officers and firefighters had also been sent to the same course at Strathclyde.

Two City Fire Brigade Officers attended a three week ship firefighting course at the Fire Service college in the UK in March 2007.

All training received on all these occasions was cascaded down through the three watches.

In relation to Question No. 91 of 2010, the answer is no.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 88 TO 91 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

In Question No. 88 of 2010, I asked whether the City Fire Brigade vehicles were subject to MOT, the Minister has said that those except fire engines. Can she explain why because the question asks why?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I explained that there is a regulation that exempts fire engines from having to be tested under MOT, along with other vehicles by the way, not only fire engines. There

are certain categories of vehicle that do not require to pass the MOT test, including fire engines.

ORAL

NO. 92 OF 2010

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 September 2009 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 93 and 94 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 93 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MESOTHELIOMA CASES

How many cases of Mesothelioma have been diagnosed by the GHA since 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 92 and 94 of 2010.

NO. 94 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ASBESTOS CASES

How many cases of Asbestosis have been diagnosed by the GHA since 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In relation to Question No. 92 of 2010, I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

The GHA has recorded 6 cases of Mesothelioma since 2000.

The GHA does not keep a registry of asbestosis cases.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 94 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 92 of 2010

	September 2009	October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	January 2010
Patients	2	2	1	2	1
Staff	0	0	0	0	0

NO. 95 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VASECTOMIES

Can the Government say what is the policy of the GHA in relation to carrying out vasectomies at St Bernard's Hospital and from what date does this policy apply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In June 2009 the GHA Board approved the policy that allows vasectomy to be carried out in the GHA for medical reasons.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 95 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

What was the policy of the GHA before June 2009?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That only the woman was sterilised as opposed to the man.

HON C A BRUZON:

When the Hon Minister says for medical reasons, does that include things like psychological pressure which could be diagnosed as medical in some cases.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Psychological pressure on whom, on the female or on the male?

HON C A BRUZON:

On the families? On anybody? There could be pressures..... Seriously, you may laugh indeed.....

HON XXXXXX

Xxxxxx

HON C A BRUZON:

Yes, everybody may laugh but the question is, when you say medical reasons, I am not a doctor, but I assume that there are certain areas of medicine that cover areas like psychological pressure. You could be under problems and you need to go and see a psychiatrist and the psychiatrist will tell you look you should be careful, do not have any more children, would that be classed as medical? That is what I am asking?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. There are other forms of contraception which could avoid the circumstances that the hon Member has explained. The criteria that has to be met is when there are certain conditions in the woman that requires either the woman or the partner to be sterilised and in this case I am told that vasectomies are less risky and less difficult to reverse. So therefore as opposed to subjecting the woman to a more invasive operation, vasectomies are now allowed in the man as long as the woman suffers the condition which would put her at risk if she had more children.

NO. 96 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

Can Government state how many keyhole surgery operations have been cancelled since September 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. 97 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 97 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between September 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

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Continued Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 96 of 2010

Cancellations keyhole surgery

	No beds	No show
September 2009	-	-
October 2009	2	1
November 2009	-	-
December 2009	-	-
January 2010	-	-

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Cancellations September 2009

Answer to question 97 of 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Plastics	Radiology	Total
Medical Bed availability				1	2				1		4
		1			3						4
Per patient	1		4	2	(1)		8				15 (1)
No show			1		(1)	1		2			4 (1)
No longer required			2								2
No surgeon available					(1)						(1)
Out of theatre time					1						1
Dr Sick								2			2
Radiology equipment out of order										1	1
											Contd.

Continued Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Cancellations October 2009

Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Total
Medical	1			3	2 (1)	1			7 (1)
Bed availability	2				8				10
Per patient	1		3	1	(1)		4		9 (1)
No show			3		1				4
No longer required				1					1

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Cancellations November 2009

Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Paeds	Total
Medical	2	1		2	1		3	1	10
Per patient			2	1					3
No show			3		(1)		2		5 (1)
No longer required	1	1	1						3
Out of theatre time		1			2				3

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Reason for Cancellation	Cancellations December 2009									
	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Spinal	Total	
Medical Bed availability		1	2	1	1		1		6	
Per patient			2	1			5		8	
No show			3		(1)				3 (1)	
No longer required			1				1	1	3	

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010

Reason for Cancellation	Cancellations January 2010									
	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Plastics	
Medical Bed availability		1	1				1		3	
Per patient			1		1		1		3	
No show			3	1	(3)	1	1		6 (3)	
No longer required			1	1	(1)		1		3 (1)	

ORAL

NO. 98 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE

What is the make, model number and the cost of the equipment that has been purchased to set up the routine, structured mammography service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 99 and 100 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 99 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE

Can Government say on what date the GHA intends to commence offering a routine, structured mammography service and give the age group of the women to whom this service will be available?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 98 and 100 of 2010.

NO. 100 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE

Can Government say whether the equipment that will be used to provide the routine, structured mammography service will be using MRI technology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The make of the mammography equipment is GE Senographe Essential, the model number is 5145113 and the cost was 370,140.00 Euros.

The GHA is hopeful that a pilot breast screening programme will commence during the spring of this year.

This service will be available for women over 40 years old.

In relation to Question No. 100 of 2010, the answer is no.

NO. 101 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER**

Can Government say how many females were administered the vaccination against cervical cancer since October 2009 with a breakdown by month?

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

Month	Vaccines Administered
September	514
October	10
November	417
December	49
January	15
February	4

NO. 102 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMMES

Can Government say when they expect the GHA team review panel to report its recommendations to the Government in relation to new cancer screening programmes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No Sir. The position remains the same as explained the last time this question was asked.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 102 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister state the reasons why there has been no progress in respect of Question No. 102 of 2010. Why the position remains the same?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Why there has been no progress?

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What I answered the last time was that there had been no progress. So what I am saying now is that there has been no progress. The hon Member is asking why there has been no progress. Well basically because as I explained to him the last time that he asked this question, this requires a lot of planning, a lot of administrative work, seeing whether the necessary equipment..... what is necessary, where it is going to be installed and the logistics of screening will be fully tested once the breast screening programme is implemented and underway and we see that it is working well. The breast screening programme is the priority at the moment.

NO. 103 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

Can Government say whether the third radiologist, whose proposed commencement date of employment was January of this year, has now been recruited and whether that person started work in January as planned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

A third radiologist commenced employment with the GHA on the 18th January 2010 for a period of two months on a locum basis. The GHA's intention is that following completion of this period he will be offered, and hopefully will accept, a long-term contract.

NO. 104 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRIVATE PRACTICE BY CONSULTANTS

Can the Government confirm whether it is the policy to allow hospital consultants to engage in private practice during working hours by commuting between the hospital and private clinics?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Absolutely no. Consultants are not allowed to engage in private practice during contracted clinical working hours.

ORAL

NO. 105 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – X-RAY RESULTS

What is the time that it takes for someone who has had an x-ray to receive their results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 106 to 108 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 106 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CT SCAN RESULTS

What is the time that it takes for someone who has had a CT Scan to receive the results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 105, 107 and 108 of 2010.

NO. 107 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – X-RAY RESULTS

Can Government say whether there is a backlog of patients waiting to receive the results of their x-ray and if so how many persons are affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 105, 106 and 108 of 2010.

NO. 108 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CT SCAN RESULTS

Can Government say whether there is a backlog of patients waiting to receive the results of their CT scans and if so how many persons are affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 105 of 2010

One week.

Answer to Question No. 106 of 2010

One week.

Answer to Question No. 107 of 2010

No. There is no backlog.

Answer to Question No. 108 of 2010

No. There is no backlog.

NO. 109 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER DEATHS

Can Government say how many persons made up the 22% whose cause of death was given as cancer in 2006 with a breakdown showing what form of cancer caused or led to the death in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 110 and 111 of 2010.

NO. 110 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER DEATHS

Can Government say how many persons made up the 25% whose cause of death was given as cancer in 2007 with a breakdown showing what form of cancer caused or led to the death in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 109 and 111 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 111 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER DEATHS

Can Government say how many persons made up the 26% whose cause of death was given as cancer in 2008 with a breakdown showing what form of cancer caused or led to the death in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 111 of 2010

Answer to Question Nos. 109 to 111 of 2010

CANCER DEATHS BY SITE

	2006	2007	2008
Lung	11	11	7
Breast	5	5	3
Colon	5	1	7
Prostate	4	2	4
Pancreas	2	6	5
Stomach	3	8	2
Brain	3	2	2
Melanoma	3	2	0
Leukaemia	0	2	1
Other	15	11	20
Total Deaths	51	50	51

NO. 112 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM SPANISH HOSPITALS

Can the Government confirm whether it is the policy of the GHA that patients taken to hospitals in Spain by GHA ambulances then have to make their own way back to Gibraltar if they are discharged by the Spanish hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The mode or method of travel for patients returning from tertiary care in Spain is determined by the doctor or medical team in the tertiary hospital or centre.

Patients who are discharged home and are considered by the medical team in the tertiary hospital to be sufficiently fit to travel on their own, are required to make their own travel arrangements.

Patients who are discharged back to St Bernard's for re-admittance are transferred via GHA ambulance and nurse escort team where necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 112 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

There is a case of an elderly lady, well in her eighties, who went from Victoria Ward by ambulance to a hospital in Benalmadena to receive heart treatment because that could not be done in Gibraltar. That lady went in her nightie and slippers and when the doctor in Spain..... After having had her for a whole day in ITU, the following day she was put into a room and then was discharged. I think the relatives who had gone by Spanish public transport could not bring her back and they appealed to the local GHA if the ambulance could go and fetch her. Maybe the Minister is not aware of that situation but I believe that in future there should be some, not some, proper consideration given to special cases so that an ambulance will be provided to bring people back who find themselves in those situations.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

And there is. There is a set of criteria that satisfies the circumstances that the hon Member has described. If you have an elderly lady, for example, who lives by herself and who has no one to bring her back, certainly the GHA ambulance will go and

collect her. I do not know the circumstances surrounding the case that he has mentioned but it seems to me that the family were at the ladies disposal.

HON C A BRUZON:

Two daughters were there but they had no transport, no means of bringing their mother back. They were told that they could get a taxi costing about €120 but the taxi would drop this elderly lady at the frontier and she would have had to make her way in her nightie and slippers across to this side. Now that kind of scenario is not on.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Is the hon Member aware of whether the family members who have such great difficulty in transporting the lady back, approached the GHA to see whether, because of these circumstances, some flexibility would be shown.

HON C A BRUZON:

As far as my information goes, yes, they telephoned the GHA from Spain and they were told that the ambulance would not go to fetch her. As it happened, by sheer coincidence, and I do not want to get anybody into trouble, an ambulance was making its way there with another patient and the ambulance men very kindly brought the lady back. But that was just luck.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If the hon Member would be so kind as to give me the details in private I will certainly look into it.

HON C A BRUZON:

I will.

NO. 113 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – AUDITABLE ELECTRONIC SCANNING SYSTEM

On what date was an auditable electronic scanning system introduced in the hospital, what was the cost of such a system and where is it located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The electronic Guard Patrol Recording System was introduced on 8 May 2008.

This system was introduced at no cost to the Health Authority as it was commissioned by the contracted Security Company in response to GHA's requirements for an increase in security patrols and the ability to be able to audit frequency and attendance.

The scanning points are installed in locations which were identified to require additional security measures across St Bernard's Hospital. A new patrolling route was established to include the additional scanning points.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 113 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Hon Minister identify those locations which require the additional security measures?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What required additional security measures were the new patrolling route. There are a series of points where these appliances are located. There are 31 of them. If the hon Member wants I can pass on the list over to him, if it is of any use to him. Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

Sure.

Supplementary
Information

SECURITY GUARDS PATROLLING ROUTE

SCANNING POINT ORDER	BLOCK AND LEVEL	LOCATION
1	Ground B2	Reception
2	Basement B3	Outside OT Stores - 3-B-50.63
3	Basement B2	Electrical Distribution Rooms
4	Basement B2	Fire escape into Garden
5	Basement B1	Main Stores
6	Basement B1	Outside chapel
7	Ground B1	A&E Reception
8	L1 B3	Outside Rehab. Main entrance
9	L1 B4	Clinics - Staff locker room 4-1-15.12
10	L1 B1	Bed Lift 8
11	L2 B1	Exit from Pathology Laboratory
12	L3 B1	Bed Lift 8
13	L3 B4	Outside Calpe ward
14	L4 B4	Outside Rainbow ward
15	L4 B1	Bed Lift 8
16	L5 B1	Outside Lift motor room
17	L6 B1	Lift Lobby
18	L7 B1	Lift Lobby
19	L5 B4	Outside Medical Investigation Unit
20	L6 B3	Outside Lecture Theatre
21	L7 B3	Outside Teaching Staff room
22	L2 B3	Outside main entrance to Pathology Lab.
23	L2 B4	Staff Rest room
24	Outside area	Road side by Bicycle Racks
25	Outside area	Road side by Fuel Tanks Inlets
26	Outside area	Oxygen Tanks
27	Outside area	Podium by A&E Ambulance entrance
28	Outside area	Garden Area by Fire exit from basement
29	Outside area	Podium by Physio Department / Europort
30	Outside area	Inner patio by Ammonia Duct
31	Outside area	Inner Patio by Mortuary / Smoking area

ORAL

NO. 114 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

JOHN COCHRANE WARD

Could the Government say on what date they ordered bedside telephones for the residents of John Cochrane Ward, how many units were ordered, from whom and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 115 to 117 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 115 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

JOHN COCHRANE WARD

Can the Government say when they expect the bedside telephones which were ordered for the John Cochrane Ward to arrive and on what date these will be operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 114, 116 and 117 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 116 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

JOHN COCHRANE WARD

What is the policy of the Government in relation to the provision of individual televisions to replicate the hospital system for the residents of John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 114, 115 and 117 of 2010.

NO. 117 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

JOHN COCHRANE WARD

Can Government state what works would need to be carried out to be able to install individual bedside televisions for the residents of John Cochrane Ward and what would be the cost of such works?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

In relation to Question No. 114 of 2010, on the 4th September 2009, 30 bedside telephones were ordered for the residents of John Cochrane Unit from Gibtelecom at a cost of £600.

In relation to Question No. 115 of 2010, telephones ordered were delivered in October 2009 when 16 out of the 30 were installed. The existing telephone system has had to be upgraded. This has taken place last week and the remaining telephone lines will be installed over the coming week. The GHA expect the system to be operational by the 26th February 2010.

Finally, in relation to Question Nos. 116 and 117 of 2010, the policy of the Care Agency is not to replicate the hospital system for the residents of John Cochrane Unit. The Agency draws a clear distinction between the medical needs of patients in the GHA wards and our residents in the John Cochrane Unit.

Our objectives towards the elderly residents is to incentivite them to move out of their individual bedrooms into the common areas and enjoy the benefit of social interaction with their colleagues which among other things includes a range of activities and the use of a common television.

NO. 118 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – BEDSIDE TELEVISIONS IN WARDS**

Can Government say how many televisions are currently installed in the wards at St Bernard's Hospital with a breakdown by ward showing how many of these are operational and how many are not?

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

All the televisions currently installed at St Bernard's Hospital are functioning properly as at 12 February 2010 at 0900 hrs, which is when I presume the answer was drafted. The breakdown of all the televisions installed per ward is as follows:-

Ward	Number of bedside televisions
Captain Murchison (Orthopaedics & Trauma)	30
John Mackintosh Ward (Male Ward)	30
Dudley Toomey (Surgical Ward)	30
Victoria Mackintosh Ward (Female Ward)	30

NO. 119 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SUPPLIERS OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Can Government say how much was paid to the 356 Gibraltar suppliers of surgical and medical equipment listed on the GHA's central database in the last financial year and in the current financial year to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 120 to 123 of 2010.

NO. 120 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SUPPLIERS OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Can Government say how much was paid to the 125 suppliers of surgical and medical equipment listed on the GHA's central database who are based in Spain in the last financial year and in the current financial year to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 119 and 121 to 123 of 2010.

NO. 121 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SUPPLIERS OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Can Government say how much was paid to the 535 suppliers of surgical and medical equipment listed on the GHA's central database who are based in the United Kingdom in the last financial year and in the current financial year to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 119, 120, 122 and 123 of 2010.

NO. 122 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SUPPLIERS OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Can Government say how much was paid to the 21 suppliers of surgical and medical equipment listed on the GHA's central database who are based in the rest of the EU (that is to say not in Gibraltar, the UK or Spain) in the last financial year and in the current financial year to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 119 to 121 and 123 of 2010.

NO. 123 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SUPPLIERS OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Can Government say how much was paid to the nine suppliers of surgical and medical equipment listed on the GHA's central database who are based outside the EU in the last financial year and in the current financial year to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information previously provided in answer to Question No. 422 of 2009 related to the number of suppliers in the GHA database in its entirety. It did not exclusively reflect the suppliers for medical and surgical equipment and I apologise for that error.

The information now requested by the hon Member is impossible to obtain, I am told, at such short notice. The GHA will be in a position to provide the data requested once the exercise required to obtain the information is completed and, as soon as that is done, I will be pleased to write to the hon Member with the information.

ORAL

NO. 124 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLAINTS LODGED

Can the Minister for Health provide the number of informal and formal complaints lodged against the GHA since October 2009 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 125 of 2010.

NO. 125 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – PANEL APPOINTED BY OMBUDSMAN TO REVIEW APPEALS/COMPLAINTS**

Can the Government say on how many occasions has the Ombudsman appointed a panel to review appeals/complaints against the GHA since the date on which the Ombudsman was given the power to do so, with a breakdown by month and year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION****Answer to Question No. 124 of 2010**

Month	Formal	Informal
October 2009	7	8
November 2009	7	12
December 2009	1	7
January 2010	8	10

In relation to Question No. 125 of 2010, I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

Continued Answer to Question No. 125 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 125 of 2010

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
2008	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
2009	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2010	0											

N/A = Not applicable as the Complaints Procedure was set up in October 2004.

NO. 126 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Is it still the policy of the Government to make changes to the mechanism by which repeat prescriptions are issued at the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Yes. The answer remains the same as that provided the last time which is that we are looking towards that but it has not happened yet.

NO. 127 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS

Can Government say what is the earliest available date at present 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

Answered together with Question No. 128 of 2010.

NO. 128 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SEEN BY GPs AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government say how many patients were seen by GPs at the Primary Care Centre each month since October 2009 on a monthly basis and indicate how many of those patients were children aged 16 or under?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 127 of 2010

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

Dr Robles	-	3 weeks
Dr Fitzpatrick	-	2 weeks
Dr Gupta	-	6 weeks
Dr Galloway	-	11 weeks
Dr Mena	-	3 weeks
Dr Chichon	-	9 weeks
Dr Ferrera	-	8 weeks
Dr Penrice	-	3 weeks
Dr Bentata	-	3 weeks
Dr Pinto-Ocana	-	10 weeks
Dr Pincho	-	8 weeks
Dr Poyatos	-	8 weeks
Dr Negrette	-	3 weeks
Dr Nerney	-	13 weeks
Dr Jones	-	11 weeks
Dr Montero	-	13 weeks
Dr Thoppil	-	3 weeks

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.

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 128 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 128 of 2010

Under 16				
GP	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
BENTATA	32	49	24	62
CHICHON	63	49	106	76
FERRERA	27	58	43	84
FITZPATRICK	69	111	44	44
GALLOWAY	71	80	89	29
GUPTA	78	112	36	104
MENA	44	107	46	31
NEGRETTE	53	100	69	62
NERNEY	50	134	69	97
JONES	58	117	41	49
PENRICE	48	53	27	59
PINTO	79	42	39	53
POYATOS	68	107	54	39
RISSO	54	73	65	0
THOPPIL	109	96	78	54
ROBLES	100	276	352	450
VASSALLO	49	20	17	21
MONTERO	0	0	51	72
MORBY	49	109	21	138
TOTAL	1101	1693	1524	1524

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 128 of 2010

Answer to Question 128 of 2010

Over 16				
GP	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
BENTATA	162	235	170	234
CHICHON	528	423	319	429
FERRERA	277	356	268	454
FITZPATRICK	260	467	228	250
GALLOWAY	504	944	513	372
GUPTA	395	274	250	430
MENA	389	373	244	440
NEGRETTE	314	412	298	421
NERNEY	296	490	388	465
JONES	444	524	295	350
PENRICE	269	209	107	202
PINTO	497	195	218	322
POYATOS	421	288	272	238
RISSO	319	306	234	0
THOPPIL	488	383	395	294
ROBLES	773	622	572	684
VASSALLO	244	155	156	179
MONTERO	0	0	285	630
MORBY	527	419	446	875
PINCHO	980	712	850	729
MACLEOD	0	89	264	0
TOTAL	8087	7876	6772	7998

In addition to the slots that he will see on the lists, GP's 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.

NO. 129 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT

Can the Government say how many prescriptions have been provided to patients by the Prescription Advisory Unit at the Primary Care Centre on a monthly basis for each month of 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 130 to 132 of 2010.

NO. 130 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT

Can the Government confirm on what date the Prescription Advisory Unit was set up at the Primary Care Centre and state how many persons staff the unit and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 131 and 132 of 2010.

NO. 131 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT

Can Government state whether the manager and the staff of the Prescription Advisory Unit located at the Primary Care Centre have any other function or role apart from providing advice on prescriptions to patients and if so what else do they do?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 130 and 132 of 2010.

NO. 132 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT

Can Government confirm whether the qualified pharmacist who manages the Prescription Advisory Unit at the Primary Care Centre is permanently based on location at the unit itself?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question No. 129 of 2010, I hand the hon Member the information requested.

In answer to Question No. 130 of 2010, the Prescription Advisory Unit was set up at the Primary Care Centre in August 1998.

The staff consists of 1 Pharmacist, 1 full-time and 3 part-time Administrative Officers.

In answer to Question No. 131 of 2010, the role of the Prescription Pricing Advisory Unit also includes providing advice to GPs, to Pharmacists and to chemotherapy patients. They also supply patients with diabetic syringes and other items necessary post chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

They input manual prescriptions and ensure prescriptions conform with the conditions stated in the Gibraltar Drug Tariff and the BNF, that is the British National Formulary, in terms of dosage, prescribing, dispensing, et cetera.

The answer to Question No. 132 of 2010 is yes, the Pharmacist is qualified.

Answer to Question No. 129 of 2010

Month	Number of Prescriptions
January 2008	300
February 2008	365
March 2008	336
April 2008	385
May 2008	324
June 2008	283
July 2008	290
August 2008	221
September 2008	218
October 2008	283
November 2008	214
December 2008	166
January 2009	170
February 2009	490
March 2009	186
April 2009	217
May 2009	194
June 2009	379
July 2009	231
August 2009	125
September 2009	250
October 2009	295
November 2009	159
December 2009	104
January 2010	402

ORAL

NO. 133 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOUSE CALLS LOGGED BY GPs

Can Government say the number of house calls logged by GPs in respect of October 2009 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 133 of 2010

	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010
House Calls	325	262	324	320

The table shows calls logged while the GP clinics are in session.

ORAL

NO. 134 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU CASES CONFIRMED

How many laboratory tested cases of Swine Flu have been confirmed in Gibraltar to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 135 to 140 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 135 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU HOTLINE

How many calls have been received by the Swine Flu hotline since October 2009 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 134 and 136 to 140 of 2010.

NO. 136 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PERSONS PRESCRIBED TAMIFLU

How many persons have been medically assessed and tested positive for Influenza A and have been prescribed Tamiflu by the Flu Clinic since October 2009 on a monthly basis with a breakdown showing the number of patients and contacts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 134, 135 and 137 to 140 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 137 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PANDEMRIX SWINE FLU VACCINE

Can Government say how many persons there are in each of its eight published priority groups for the administration of the Pandemrix Swine Flu vaccine?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 134 to 136 and 138 to 140 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 138 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS

Can the Government say how many persons were offered and how many agreed to be vaccinated against Swine Flu with a breakdown by priority group and by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 134 to 137, 139 and 140 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 139 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF PEOPLE VACCINATED AGAINST SWINE FLU

Can the Government give the total number of people who have been vaccinated against Swine Flu since the process commenced on 16 November?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 134 to 138 and 140 of 2010.

NO. 140 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can the Government say how many Swine Flu vaccinations have been administered on a weekly basis at the Primary Care Centre since the vaccination clinic was moved to that location on 18th January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question No. 134 of 2010, 115 cases.

In relation to Question No. 135 of 2010, I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

In answer to Question No. 136 of 2010, the number of persons who were medically assessed and tested positive for Influenza A were:

29 in October 2009
79 in November 2009
3 in December 2009

The number of persons who were prescribed Tamiflu are as follows:

72 in October 2009
276 in November 2009
73 in December 2009
95 in January 2010

It is not possible to differentiate between the number of patients and contacts who were prescribed Tamiflu because testing for Influenza A stopped on the 22nd November 2009 and all patients with Influenza A type symptoms were subsequently prescribed with Tamiflu.

In relation to Question Nos. 137 and 138 of 2010, the information requested is contained in the schedule that I hand to the hon Member.

In relation to Question No. 139 of 2010, the total number is 2,880.

In answer to Question No. 140 of 2010:-

Week commencing	Total vaccines administered
18/01/10	5
25/01/10	2
01/02/10	6
08/02/10	6

ANSWER TO QUESTION 140 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 135 of 2010

Call received by swine flu hotline

Oct-2009	Nov-2009	Dec-2009	Jan-2010
348	1140	231	25

Answer to Question No. 137 of 2010

Clinical Priority Groups

Groups	Estimated figures
Health Care Workers	750
Pregnant	350
Schools (5-19 yrs)	5,500
6mths – 5 yrs	1,300
Others 20-29 yrs	3,450
Others 30-64 yrs	12,000
Over 65s	5,500

Note: The eighth published group would be immuno-suppressed patients which would cover all age groups and who had open access to the vaccine.

Answer to Question No. 138 of 2010

Month	Group	Vaccines administered
November	High Risk	
	Essential Services	
	Pregnant women	
	Health Care Workers	
	Immune disorder	
	Total	1732
December	Open	989
January	Open	94

ORAL

NO. 141 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATION CENTRE

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of converting and preparing the facility at the ex-NAAFI depot at Waterport into a vaccination centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 142 of 2010.

NO. 142 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – STAFFING OF SWINE FLU VACCINATION CENTRE

Can Government say what are the staffing levels and list the posts which manned the vaccination centre at the ex-NAAFI depot at Waterport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question No. 142 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 141 of 2010

The total cost of converting and preparing the facility at the ex-NAAFI depot at Waterport into a vaccination centre was £83,780.70 the breakdown being as follows:

- Works £77,000.00
- Furniture 3,901.20
- Equipment 2,879.50

Answer to Question No. 142 of 2010

GHA staff on rotation	GHA/Government staff on rotation	4 month contract for vaccination programme	
Sister x 1	Clerical x 3	Nursing assistant x 4	Doctor x 1
Staff Nurses x 4			

These are the initial staffing levels for the months of November till mid December. Staff numbers were reduced by two staff nurses, two nursing assistants and all clerical support when the demand began to fall.

NO. 143 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TAMIFLU STOCKS RELEASED TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

How many stocks of Tamiflu have been released to community pharmacies for dispensing with GHA prescriptions, on what date did this release take place and how many prescriptions were issued after the release, on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The stock of Tamiflu which was released to community pharmacies for dispensing with GHA prescriptions were:

560 on the 20th November 2009

96 on the 24th November 2009

56 on the 30th November 2009 with 276 prescriptions issued relating to the three months that I have just mentioned.

40 on the 1st December 2009

80 on the 2nd December 2009

72 on the 9th December 2009 with 73 prescriptions issued.

Another 25 prescriptions were issued in January 2010.

ORAL

NO. 144 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME LEAFLET

How many copies of the Vaccination Programme Leaflet were printed and published by the Government, at what cost and by whom were they printed and can Government confirm whether or not this went out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 145 of 2010.

NO. 145 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME LEAFLET

Can Government say on what date were copies of the Vaccination Programme Leaflet first distributed, what was the total number of households that it was distributed to and on what date was its distribution complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

A total of 15,000 copies of the Vaccination Programme Leaflet were printed at a cost of £3,623 and distributed to all households.

The leaflets were delivered to households by Civil Servants under the supervision of the Senior Management of the Post Office on Saturday 14 November 2009.

The printing of the leaflets did not go out to tender as they were urgently required. They were printed by the Gibraltar Chronicle.

ORAL

NO. 146 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Is it the policy of the Government that the GHA should have its own Health and Safety Officer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 147 of 2010.

NO. 147 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can the Government state which post-holder at St Bernard's Hospital was tasked with health and safety issues when the hospital opened?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In relation to Question No. 146 of 2010, this is a matter for the GHA. Government has no policy in this regard.

In answer to Question No. 147 of 2010, the Director of Human Resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 146 AND 147 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the Minister. Could she tell us what the policy of the GHA is?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As far as I am aware, the policy of the GHA is that it does have a Health and Safety Officer.

ORAL

NO. 148 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can Government say on what date(s) they received representations from the Union requesting the employment of a Health and Safety Officer by the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 149 of 2010.

NO. 149 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can the Government confirm why the establishment of a forum between the GHA and the Union where health and safety issues can be raised and dealt with has been delayed by management?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Government does not consider it appropriate to give a public account of its routine industrial relations issues with trade unions, unless there is an industrial dispute which affects the availability or quality of services to the general public.

There has been no delay in establishing such a Forum. The forum was set up in 2005. The forum meets on a monthly basis and undertakes health and safety risk assessments across the GHA.

NO. 150 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ZERO TOLERANCE LETTERS

Can the Government say how many zero tolerance letters have been issued by or on behalf of the GHA to members of the public on a monthly basis in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 151 to 153 of 2010.

NO. 151 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SECURITY IN GHA PREMISES

Can Government say on how many occasions members of the public have been escorted out of GHA premises by security staff when instances of verbal or threatened physical abuse have been recorded, on a monthly basis in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 150, 152 and 153 of 2010.

NO. 152 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TRAINING IN DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES

How many members of GHA staff have been offered training in de-escalation techniques and how many have undergone such training on a monthly basis in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 150, 151 and 153 of 2010.

NO. 153 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – CONCERNS OVER VERBAL ABUSE OR THREATENED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**

Can the Government list the areas of the GHA where concerns of verbal abuse or threatened physical violence have been registered or deemed to be areas where there is potential for such events?

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

In answer to Question No. 150 of 2010:

2007	2008	2009	2010
-	-	4	Nil to date

Members of the public have been escorted out of the GHA premises by security staff and or RGP following instances of verbal or threatening physical abuse as follows:

MONTH	NUMBER OF OCCASIONS
February 2007	1 – 23/2/07
February 2008	1 – 23/2/08
May 2008	4 – 11/5/08, 20/5/08, 22/5/08 & 24/5/08
July 2009	2 – 7/7/09, 12/7/09
November 2009	1 – 28/11/09

All members of the GHA have been offered training in de-escalation techniques. The following numbers took up the offer:

	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	6	6		9
February	6	2		
March	16	6		
April	2	3	4	
September	8	2		
October		3		
November	9	7	21	
December			11	

Verbal abuse or threatened physical violence can be experienced in most if not all areas of public services within the Gibraltar Health Authority.

It is difficult to exclude any area but the areas where such incidents have been more frequently registered are A&E Department and Out-Patients clinics in St Bernard's Hospital and the Primary Care Centre.

ORAL

NO. 154 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SECURITY IN A&E DEPARTMENT

On what date were staff of the A&E Department offered a security presence in the clinical part of the department and on what date was this rejected by staff as being too intrusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 155 to 158 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 155 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SECURITY IN A&E DEPARTMENT

Can Government list the improvements to security access to the A&E Department that were incorporated in 2007 and again in September 2009, with a breakdown showing the cost where applicable?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 154 and 156 to 158 of 2010.

NO. 156 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING SESSION

Can the Government say when the Critical Incident Debriefing Session with GHA staff took place following the stabbing incident on Friday 6th November and how many members of staff attended?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 154, 155, 157 and 158 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 157 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING SESSION

Can the Government say who conducted the Critical Incident Debriefing Session with GHA staff which took place following the stabbing incident and where it was held?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 154 to 156 and 158 of 2010.

NO. 158 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COUNSELLING FOLLOWING STABBING INCIDENT

How many members of GHA staff have been offered and how many have accepted the counselling which has been made available on an on-going basis after the stabbing incident?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In November 2007 the A&E Department were offered a security presence in the clinical part of the Department, however staff felt the presence in the clinical area was too intrusive and requested that the security guards be based in the waiting area and corridors to the Department.

In 2007 works to improve security in the A&E Department were provided in-house and included an adaptation and relocation of the reception counter. A new sliding electric door at the reception counter was also commissioned at this time at a cost of £4,200.

In 2009 an enclosed entrance lobby was created at the back Ambulance entrance to the A&E Department incorporating a sliding door at a cost £9,800.

Further works have been commissioned and are expected to be completed in the coming months. These include the installation of an automatic barrier at the entrance to the Ambulance ramp at a cost of £4,900.

In answer to Question No. 156 of 2010, between seven and nine members of staff attended.

In relation to Question No. 157 of 2010, there have been two debriefing sessions with GHA staff following the critical incident on the 6th November 2009.

The first session took place in A&E on the 12th November 2009. This was a therapeutic debrief with the two GHA Psychologists.

The second session took place also in A&E on the 17th November 2009. This was led by Management (the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and the Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Patient Services).

In relation to Question No. 158 of 2010, all the staff involved were offered counselling. Unfortunately, only three members of the Medical staff and one member of the Nursing staff responded to the offer.

ORAL

NO. 159 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SECURITY AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL AT THE TIME OF THE STABBING INCIDENT

Can the Government say how many security guards were on duty at St Bernard’s Hospital at the time that a doctor was stabbed in the A&E Department, and can they say where the security guards are based?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 160 to 162 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 160 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SECURITY AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can the Government confirm how many security guards are normally on duty at St Bernard’s Hospital during the day and during the night?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 159, 161 and 162 of 2010.

NO. 161 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TRAINING OF SECURITY GUARDS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government say whether the security guards on duty at St Bernard’s Hospital receive specific training in dealing with persons who are violent or who are threatening violence or who are armed and if so can they explain the nature and duration of such training, and by whom and when it was conducted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 159, 160 and 162 of 2010.

NO. 162 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TRAINING OF SECURITY GUARDS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can the Government say whether the security guards on duty at St Bernard’s Hospital are specifically trained to disarm persons who might be carrying an offensive weapon like a knife or a firearm?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There were three Security Guards on duty at St Bernard’s Hospital at the time of the incident.

The Security Guards on Day Shift are based as follows:

- One at the Main Reception Security Base
- One in the A&E Department
- One on patrol duties

The Security Guards on Night Shift are based as follows:

- One at the Main Reception Security Base
- One on patrol duties based in the A&E Department.

There are three Security Guards on Day Duty from 08.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs and two Security Guards on Night Duty from 20.00 hrs to 08.00 hrs at St Bernard’s Hospital.

Security Guards on duty receive training organised by the contracted security company.

All guards attended a three day Security Guard Training course at Bleak House in June 2009. This course is equivalent to NVQ standard in basic Security Guard level for Security Industry Authority (SIA) accreditation. The course was delivered by Mr Roger Gould, Security Consultant and Qualified Instructor accredited by the SIA.

Most of the guards, the majority, have also undertaken Managing Violence and Aggression and Self-Defence Courses delivered by Frontline, a Gibraltar based company, in December 2009.

Those guards who have still not completed this course will be attending on the 22 February 2010.

This course is a tailor made five day programme which covers the following:

- Recognising Danger, Awareness, Self-Defence and Managing Violence.
- Communication Skills.
- De-Escalation Skills.
- Defence against any weapon.
- The Law and Self-Defence.
- Legal Issues and Legislation.
- Defining Violence and Aggression.

- The Assault Cycle.
- Triggers of Violence.
- Breakaway Techniques in the form of Control and Restraint.
- Refresher one day course six months post qualification.
- Accredited qualification Certificate.

As answered in Question No. 161, the majority of the Security Guards on duty at St Bernard's Hospital have received training on defence against any weapon. Those guards who have to date not completed this course will be attending on the 22 February 2010.

NO. 163 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OXYGEN TREATMENT CENTRE

Can the Government say whether the GHA has now sent any patients to the oxygen treatment centre in the Devil's Tower Road area, and if not, why not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No. The GHA's position on the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy as with any alternative therapy treatment remains unchanged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 163 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

If I remember correctly on the last occasion that we debated this issue across the floor of the House, the Hon Minister said there was research being conducted. Has that research now been completed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes indeed. The GHA carried out an exercise to try and establish whether at least the majority of trusts in the NHS provided this sort of treatment and the information that came back to us was that it is not funded in the UK. Nevertheless, there are several conditions where this sort of treatment has been proven to be effective and, in fact, we have sent one patient as a result of a diving incident to a hyperbaric chamber in Malaga which meets the specifications required by this type of condition.

HON N F COSTA:

Is the Hon Lady saying that in relation to this one particular incident that she has mentioned, the Gibraltar based facility would not have been able to deal with?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No because it was below the atmospheric pressure that was required for the treatment of this condition.

HON N F COSTA:

Am I right in understanding that because the majority of trusts of the NHS in the UK do not fund such referrals, is it the case that the Gibraltar Government or the GHA have taken the same view. Has a policy decision been reached or is that still being considered?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The policy decision has been reached. The GHA's position originally, before we decided in the interest of fairness and transparency in terms of assisting as far as we could the operator of this chamber, was to establish whether there was evidence to prove that this treatment was at all effective. The GHA initially established that there was no evidence to establish this. Subsequently we carried out an exercise with the NHS Trusts who have the same view because as far as I am aware, the information that has come back to me, none of them fund this sort of treatment on the basis that there is no clinical evidence to support it.

HON N F COSTA:

May I ask the Hon Lady as she says that on the basis of the information she has received, may I ask, and who conducted that research and how she obtained that information?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot recall out of memory the official who did it in the GHA but it was one of the senior officers that carried out this exercise.

HON N F COSTA:

Would the Hon Lady remember whether the official who carried out the exercise was it done in consultation in conjunction with any experts from the United Kingdom or was it done by the official on his or her own?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The official contacted the relevant person in whatever department within the NHS Trusts.

HON N F COSTA:

I suppose that the question I am asking, apologies for not having made myself clear, is whether there have been any experts visiting the facility in Gibraltar and if so, who did visit and what were the recommendations or the results made to the Hon Lady?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

A professor from Scotland who is a specialist in hyperbaric treatment visited sometime ago. As a result of that visit and the outcome of his report, the GHA first adopted the policy decision that it would not fund. Subsequently, as I say out of fairness in trying to assist the operator, we tried to establish, I think I explained that to the Hon the Leader of the Opposition at the time, whether irrespective of the outcome of this report, whether NHS Trusts indeed funded this sort of treatment and the answer that we have received is that they do not.

NO. 164 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – STEM CELL RETRIEVAL AND STORAGE

Can the Government state when they expect the procedures for stem cell retrieval and storage from birth to be available in Gibraltar and operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 164 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Is that no that the GHA cannot say right now or.....?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, that we cannot state when we expect the procedures to be implemented, if they are implemented at all because I must add that the research conducted over the years, it is not as if we have been sitting on our hands, the research has been going on and contacts with, not only with the Anthony Nolan Trust in the UK but also the Carreras Foundation in Spain and what has come back so far leads me to believe that there are some problems that might be insurmountable for a small community of our size. We will however continue with our efforts to try if possible, as far as is reasonably possible, to find a solution and overcome these hurdles.

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Hon Lady clarify whether these problems are financial, medical or both?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is a combination of the two. By way of example, in terms of transportation we are having a lot of difficulties in finding a courier service or a transport company that will deliver the blood units in the timescale that they are viable which is 33 hours. That is one of the problems. To date we have not found a courier service which will be able to guarantee that the samples would reach Nottingham within this 33 hour timescale. There is also the integrity of samples that have to be stored below a certain

temperature and we need to find a way of transporting them to be able to contain them. There is the question of the EU Tissue Directive. We are currently exploring the local implications of this with the two potential providers and the issue of costs as well. It might prove prohibitive. The indication that I have so far, although initially we were led to believe that this would be done at low cost to Gibraltar, I have been given quotes like for example with the Anthony Nolan Trust, irrespective of the other issues that we might not be able to overcome, is something in the area of £145,000 per annum and with the bio xxxxxx in Spain, which is one of the laboratories which might be able to help us in this regard, it is even more expensive to the tune of half a million euros per annum. So we are trying to renegotiate all this and trying as hard as possible to try and make this project feasible because it is in the interests of Gibraltar but obviously everything within reason.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Excuse me, can the Hon Lady clarify, the cost plan that she gave is for what the cost for one stem cell storage or the cost of storing one stem cell for a year or for all of Gibraltar for a year.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is calculated on..... there are approximately 350 births a year in Gibraltar so it is calculated on the basis that all of them will want to donate. This is the maximum price, obviously. What I am not aware of is whether there is a minimum of how many samples we can send over. All this has been looked at and researched very actively, I can assure the hon Members.

HON G H LICUDI:

When the hon Member talks of the number of births and the possibility that all of them may want to donate, one assumes that the hon Member is talking of people donating for research purposes, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. For storage in the bank in either the UK or Spain for whoever might need the stem cells in the future. It is really.....

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxxx

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not for themselves. Or for anybody who might need them. The banks are there globally even we can access the banks. Whether we contribute ourselves as a small community or we cannot.

NO. 165 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ORGAN DONOR REGISTER

Can the Government say what is their policy in relation to setting up an organ donor register in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Government does not currently have a policy in this regard.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 165 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Hon Lady say whether this is something that has been looked into before or not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not that I am aware of.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Government not consider it desirable that there should be an organ donor register so that anybody who wants to donate organs is able to register in some form of official channel?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Government has not formed a view in this matter to date.

ORAL

NO. 166 OF 2010

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 met on one occasion since this question was last asked, on the 2nd February 2010.

NO. 167 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what have been the payments made by the Gibraltar Health Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2009 with a breakdown by personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 168 of 2010.

NO. 168 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Gibraltar Health Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2009 with a breakdown by Social Assistance Fund, GPMS, Consolidated Fund and other receipts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 168 of 2010

Answer to Question 167/2010

	SPEND TO 30 SEPT 09	
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	£	14,015,379.94
INDUSTRIAL WAGES	£	1,312,150.08
OTHER PERSONNEL	£	2,582,238.49
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	£	15,906,998.89
TOTAL	£	34,094,817.81

Answer to Question 168/2010

Receipts For Gibraltar Health Authority as at 30 September 2009

	Rev for yr 09/10
Cont. from Social Assis. Fund	£1,750,000.02
GPMS	£17,750,472.85
Cont from Consolidated Fd	£12,768,000.00
Cont from Improvement & Dev Fd.	£400,000.02
Medical Records	£1,826.00
Hospital Fees	£31,089.90
Finance Officer	£574.23
Sale of GHA Stores	£2,805.64
Catering School & Prison	£85,985.00
Lab work for RGP	£7,135.45
Coin Boxes - Telephone Collection	£690.00
TOTAL	£32,798,579.11

ORAL

NO. 169 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Has Government now got a final figure for the cost of the epidemiological study, and has the anticipated delay involved an increase in the costs thereof to Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 170, 171 and 172 of 2010.

NO. 170 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Why was GIS mapping not considered to be an option worth paying for as an additional item in respect of the epidemiological study commissioned by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 169, 171 and 172 of 2010.

NO. 171 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Does Government now have an indication of when the consultants carrying out the epidemiological study will have delivered their study?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 169, 170 and 172 of 2010.

NO. 172 OF 2010

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

The epidemiological study is progressing well after the initial delay in sorting out the available data. The consultants are now processing all of the environmental and medical data sent to them but further requests for information have been received and this additional data is currently being compiled and will be sent to them shortly.

The study is scheduled for completion during the last quarter of this year, with the exact date depending on whether further requests for data are received and how readily available such data is. Clearly, the emphasis is in ensuring that we produce a robust, accurate and reliable study, even if this regrettably negatively impacts on the programme. In any case, and despite the delay in completing the study, the work that is being undertaken is, in the main, part of the project brief and should therefore not attract additional expenditure beyond the Government's allocation for this work.

The option of whether to interpret the results of the study on a GIS format was not taken up as this was not considered worthwhile at this stage, since it would not affect the delivery or quality of the results. What was actually being suggested was not an interactive mapping system as such but rather the production of diagrams laid over the Government's base map. The Government's technical representatives dealing with the study advised that this did not represent value for money and was something that Government could do in-house at any future date, should it subsequently be considered that there will result some benefit from so doing.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 169 TO 172 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman, of course is right, that it is better to have a robust set of results to rely on rather than have a quick set of results that might produce data that is not reliable. But does this mean that the original specification of the study set up by the Government has been superseded by the involvement of the consultants who believe that further detailed evidence is required or that the Government's specification has

in some way led the consultants to seek an extension of time and data not originally envisaged by them as being relevant.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Neither. My understanding is that the specifications have been maintained but the quality of the data or the format of the data that was supplied to them by the Government was not in a state that they could use sufficiently and what they have asked for is more data and also for some of the data already submitted to be increased in detail. So the original objectives remain except that the delay is caused by the Government needing to provide more data than it provided originally.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it at all clear to the hon Member when the additional data which is going to be provided shortly is going to be provided? Are we talking weeks or months?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that information, I am afraid.

HON F R PICARDO:

Very well! Is the hon Member at least now able to confirm that it is the Government's intention to publish the information in the study when it is provided to them so that the whole of the community has available the results of the epidemiological study and can consider the consequences of any findings thereof.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government has from the very beginning said that it will make the findings of the study public.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not asking just about the findings of the study. I am asking about the study itself. In other words, the data and the report provided to the Government. Not just the Government telling the community what the report says in the Government's view but actually publishing the report that is provided to the Government.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will not make a detailed commitment at this stage on my feet but I will say that it is not the intention of the Government to try to sweep any of the results under the carpet but that the intention is to provide the information, that is why the study is being done. Exactly in what format it is published is something the Government will decide once the study is received but the underlying intention is to publish rather than to keep information private even if that information is not what we would like to hear.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that and I am grateful for that indication but why is it that the hon Gentleman finds it difficult to commit himself to publish the report that he receives. I am starting to see similarities here with the position of the hon Member for broadcasting and everything else because actually I think it is unfair to Mr Holliday to suggest that he is being responsible for those issues but actually the Chief Minister who has taken a similar and equally non-committal approach to the King report in respect of GBC in previous sessions of the House. Why is it that the Government will not simply agree to publish the report? What could be wrong with the community having access to the report that the community is paying for?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Precisely what the hon Member is saying. The Government is different from the Minister. The hon Member is asking the Minister to make the commitment and the Minister is saying that when the Government receives the report and the Government has a chance to study the report then the Government will make a decision in what format it is published. It cannot be the decision of an individual Minister on something that affects all Government as a policy decision.

HON F R PICARDO:

When I am asking questions of the other side I am asking questions of the Government they happen to have different spokesmen in respect of each area of responsibility but my question is to the Government. What I am asking the Government is why is it that they cannot make a commitment to publish a report so that the community has access to the report that the community has paid for. I would have thought that, at this advanced stage in the epidemiological study process, the Government should already have made a collective decision in that respect. To an extent, the hon Gentleman is telling me that they are not going to want to keep information secret et cetera but why cannot that be followed up by a simple commitment that the report will be made available to the community? Why is it that the Government has not yet made such a decision and what could possibly lead the Government to decide not to make the report available to the community?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I rise to answer the same question for the second time. The Government has initially indicated that the findings of the report will be made public as and when it is made or how it is made is a matter for the Government to decide in due course once it receives the report, analyses it and decides what to do. What format it will take is not something that I can give on my feet today.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it that in commissioning the report the Government has not sought that the consultants, who are involved on behalf of the Government, should produce the report in a particular format which would have been the obvious thing to do at the commissioning stage. In a format that is designed from the first moment to be user friendly to the whole of the community and easily digestible at least with a summary

so that the people who are better versed in the issues can have more detailed information available to them. Is it that the Government has not done that in commissioning the report?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

At the request of the hon Member, the Government has made public the terms of reference. The Government has also said that it is not in any way interfering, and that applies to the Minister as well, not in any way interfering, directing or instructing the consultants of how they carry out their work or in what form they produce the report or what the final form of the report will be. So the short answer to his question is no the Government has not done that. But it has not done it precisely to avoid the accusation that would otherwise be levelled at the Government that is interfering or are dictating to the consultants what they should do. The Government has given the consultants a completely free hand. It has appointed technical representatives to cooperate with the consultants and to liaise with them and this is what is being done. But the Government having made the policy decision to have the report drawn up has taken a step back, and that includes the Minister. In fact, the Minister met one of the consultants initially on a courtesy call which lasted about twenty minutes and since then he has had no further contact and he intends not to have any further contact of a working nature with the consultants until they finish their work. So that is the answer. It has not been done precisely so that the accusation of interfering cannot arise.

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect to the hon Gentleman, to say that asking consultants to produce things in a particular format is interfering with the work of consultants is a little bit like saying that when one asks what the result of a prosecution is one is interfering with the independence of the judiciary and the prosecuting process. Does the hon Gentleman not agree with me that it would have been perfectly proper for the Minister and for the Government in the terms of reference provided to have simply asked, for example, that a short executive summary be produced of the report to be put at the front of the report which is not in technical language, which can be understood by the community and that that cannot by any stretch of the imagination, I am sure the hon Member will agree, be construed as attempting to interfere with the terms of reference or the work of the consultant. That is the only issue that I am pressing the hon Member on at this stage.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the hon Member has answered that. He says, apart from the terms of reference there is nothing else. The answer is there.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect of course, the hon Member said that he had not told the consultants or sought to suggest to the consultants how the report should be presented because that would be an interference with the way that the report is being prepared and what I am asking the hon Gentleman is whether he believes that simply asking for example for an executive summary to be at the front

which is in plain English not in technical jargon would have amounted to interference. That is what I am pressing him on.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is a hypothetical question. I have said the Government has not done it and it has not done it.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is not the whole purpose for us to be here today, to probe the Government on why it is that they may or may not have done it, and is it not an answer that simply says, well we have not done it that is it, not satisfactory.

HON MR SPEAKER:

With respect, he did answer it before because he thought he would be accused of interference. He has answered that question before. Surely the purpose of a supplementary is to bring forth new answers not to repeat the same answers.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course it is and I am grateful that Mr Speaker should remind me of that basic rule and, of course, that is why I was asking the hon Member whether he agreed with me that it was not interference as he had suggested it might have been to simply ask for a short executive non-data centric language summary to be put at the front of the report. That is the issue I was pressing the Minister on and his answer was simply, well I have not done it so that is an end to it.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I did not suggest, quoting the hon Member, that it would be interference. What I said was that if the Government had done it, the Government could be accused of interfering. So the Government has taken a step back and has done nothing more than bring in the consultants and appoint the consultants to conduct the study. I am sorry I do not agree with the hon Member. We shall have to agree to disagree. That is the way the Government decided to go forward and that is the way the process..... I have no intention of changing it at this stage.

NO. 173 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

Has any further progress been made in respect of the possibility of exporting a number of apes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

There has not been any progress in respect of macaques exportation, although effort to identify interested locations and facilitate the transportation of the barbary macaques continue.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 173 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Should one take that as confirmation that the country that had originally been on the radar as potentially being interested is no longer interested and that we are now having to identify other alternative potential recipients for the macaques?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. As I have indicated more than once in the past, the country that was on the radar, as the hon Member says, still remains on the radar but it remains on the radar not of the Government, directly, but on the radar of other interested parties who have the management contract for organising and running the ape population. They are the ones who have established at technical level the contact and the ones who are unable to progress the contact because the country that shows an interest does not progress that interest beyond the point. But an additional problem has arisen in that it has been established that none of the airlines who currently operate from Gibraltar are willing to transport the Barbary macaques.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given the apparent absence of any progress at all in real terms, in relation to the potential exportation of the macaques, what is the Government going to be doing this

year in terms of the control of the population of macaques which it does on an annual basis?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have answered that question before. I have detailed the various things the Government does and will do in priority. The information is publicly available. I have no intention of answering it again.

HON F R PICARDO:

Sorry, I think the hon Member has not heard my question. I asked him, for the first time, what it is that the Government is going to do this year about control of the ape population? So I do not think there has been a public statement by the Government about what it intends to do this year in respect of control of the ape population?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Government will be doing this year what it has done in previous years and which has been announced in previous years, exportation, relocation, birth control and all the other measures that the Government employs.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does that mean that the Government will continue its process of extermination of apes?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If the hon Member looks up his dictionary he will find that extermination means complete elimination of something and if he visits the Upper Rock he will find the macaques are there, alive and kicking.

HON F R PICARDO:

Extermination means the complete extermination of a thing. The killing of one ape is the extermination of that ape. The extermination of a species is the complete extermination of a species and I am not asking about the extermination of the species because I am asking about control therefore I am asking whether the Government is going to continue the process of exterminating some apes. The Government seems to want to answer that question in the positive without telling the community that that is what it is doing. Why is the Government running scared of its own information and trying to hide its own acts. Is it so embarrassed about the effects of what it is doing?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

First of all, they are not apes, they are Barbary macaques or monkeys; and secondly, I will correct the hon Member once more, the Government is not running scared. The Government made a policy announcement in respect of control measures of the Barbary macaque population and that policy is still in place and that is all I have to say.

HON F R PICARDO:

I think we have all accepted the hon Gentleman's short rebuke on the issue of monkeys and apes because I think this is an issue that changes almost generationally. In school we were always taught that we had to call them apes because they were not monkeys but recently the research seems to have suggested that they are monkeys and we do not therefore call them apes anymore but I would commend to the hon Gentleman at least a change of name to the apes den if he is so clear about his view on that particular issue. The Government here seems to be having a bit of an identity crisis. An identity crisis brought along by four successive election victories which also therefore deny them some of the excuses that they are so keen to rely on. They were, at the time that they were elected, proudly trumpeting that they were the party of transparency and accountability. Why is it that they are not transparent and accountable about the fact that they kill apes?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will let the hon Member continue to tarnish Gibraltar's reputation without any help from myself.

HON F R PICARDO:

With the very greatest of respect to the hon Gentleman, it is the indicia of Government in disarray when Ministers of the Crown start to believe that criticism of them is criticism of the country and that to probe them is to try and denigrate ones country. Does not the hon Gentleman agree with me that simply asking him about his preferred method of ape population control is not in any way an attempt to tarnish my country but simply to hold him to account, which is my obligation?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I do not agree with him because the results of what he has been doing consistently over the past meetings of Parliament prove my point.

HON F R PICARDO:

If anybody is tarnishing Gibraltar and if anybody is tarnishing the reputation of Gibraltar, does not the hon Gentleman agree with me, that it is him and his Government given the manner in which they have been left to control the ape population, either by a lack of imagination or a lack of endeavour in order to control the population in another way. If Gibraltar is being embarrassed internationally it is

being embarrassed by him and his Government's decision to proceed down this path and not simply because the Opposition shines the cold light of day on their actions.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I do not agree with him.

ORAL

NO. 174 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

SEAGULLS

Has Government now received the report it anticipated receiving from Central Science Laboratory in respect of the £99,000 contract for the culling of seagulls?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 175 and 176 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 175 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

SEAGULLS

Does Government intend to once again contract Central Science Laboratory (or any other third party contractor other than GONHS) to carry out culling of seagulls, and if so, what is the cost of entering into any such contract.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 174 and 176 of 2010.

NO. 176 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

SEAGULLS

Has Central Science Laboratory now invoiced the Government for the cost of the contract work carried out in the culling of seagulls in Gibraltar last year, and if so, what was the date and final sum of the invoice and when was it paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

A contract will be entered into with FERA which is now the name of the Company previously known as Central Science Laboratory. That is the contract for this year. The contract will be for approximately £119,000.

The report from the then Central Science Laboratory was received. The invoice was dated 6 October 2009 for a sum of £98,947 and was paid in the first week of November 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 174 TO 176 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman told us last time that they had still to assess the issue of value for money in respect of this contract. I see that they are now decided to enter into a new contract in respect of the same service with, in effect, the same entity with a different name. Can he tell us how he evaluated the issue of value for money and how the decision to progress with a new contract in respect of this service with the same entity was therefore made?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO

In general terms, value of money in respect of the numbers of seagulls that were culled and in respect of the way the exercise was carried out, disciplined, organised, very safety conscious and the Government was satisfied with the work that was done and has therefore engaged the same entity again.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Member have the number of birds culled? I think the last time he was awaiting a final figure in the report.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have it at hand but I thought I gave it at the last meeting, did I not?

HON F R PICARDO:

Subject to confirmation in the final report.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I shall try and get the figure for him before the end of the session and confirm it but I think the figure I gave the last time was accurate.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. Can the hon Gentleman confirm what the methods of culling used in respect of this particular animal is?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Different methods were tried. Essentially, the shotgun proved to be the most effective and most cost-effective and also humane method to do it.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman confirm that GONHS continues also in respect of this endeavour and that FERA are working additionally to GONHS and not independently?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I can confirm that. GONHS have an on-going annual contract which remains in place and GONHS were assured when the Central Science Laboratory and FERA were engaged that this would not interfere with the contract. In fact, last year there was a liaison between both entities and the advice of GONHS was taken on board whenever that advice was needed.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman explain to the House what the increase of cost relates to? Is it that additional services are contracted this year or is it just an increase in the contract price for other reasons?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Essentially, the difference is that last year the programme run for six weeks and this year it is almost double the length despite the relatively small increase in price. This year will last eleven and a half weeks.

HON F R PICARDO:

Are FERA sending the same number of people down for that longer period or is it less people but for a longer period?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that information at hand. I would have to check those figures. I am not certain that it is the same number. The numbers are approximately the same but I cannot remember them off hand.

NO. 177 OF 2010

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 178 and 179 of 2010.

NO. 178 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

RUBBISH DUMPS AT TANKERVILLE, TANK RAMP AND CASTLE STEPS

Have new quotes been received by Government for the works required for the relocation of 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 177 and 179 of 2010.

NO. 179 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT CATALAN BAY

What was the cost of the erection of the new refuse collection point at Catalan Bay (at the entrance to Williams Way Tunnel)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

It is not correct to say that nothing has happened about the relocation of Tankerville and Tank Ramp 'refuse facilities'.

The cost of the works to create a new proper refuse holding facility at an area behind the Plater Youth Club was agreed with GJBS on 27 October 2009 after their initial quote was revised and decreased. Unfortunately, the start of the works has been delayed because of other pressing commitments on GJBS and due to service clearance procedures.

GJBS took possession of the site and works have commenced earlier this month. Work is estimated to be completed before the summer.

The cost of the building housing the refuse collection facility at Catalan Bay was £70,362.37.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 177 TO 179 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman said that the works were estimated to be completed when, I did not hear?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Before the summer.

HON F R PICARDO:

Before the summer! The hon Gentleman has told us about the works being done by GJBS in the area behind the Plater Youth Club. Is that going to be the dump that is

going to replace all of the three dumps that I referred to in my question or simply the one at Tankerville and Tank Ramp?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The new refuse holding facility, to use the correct term for it, is being designed to cater for the other refuse holding facilities in the area to centralise them. There is an element of distance involved from Castle Ramp, or is it Castle Ramp or Castle Steps sorry. The effects of that distance will be assessed when the facility is completed and we will then decide what alternative steps to take, if alternative steps are needed.

HON F R PICARDO:

That sounds like double speed to me with the very greatest of respect to the hon Gentleman because I know that he does like to give information in the House. But is it not possible even today to assess the effect of the distance between the rubbish dump at the bottom of Castle Steps and the new refuse holding facility which appears to be the new language for the new word for rubbish dump in the area behind the Plater Youth Club already and to make any alterations in the area which may be required at the same time as the construction of the new rubbish dump goes on so that the people who rely on the area at the bottom of Castle Steps but who also consider it a nuisance because of its location and of the noxious smells, particularly in summer, have a solution by the summer, and do not for the fourteenth GSD summer, have to suffer the effects of that rubbish dump which the hon Gentleman has said before, he thinks it should not be there.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Maybe I should remind the hon Member that what he calls existing rubbish dumps were constructed and placed by the GSLP when they were in office. The intention is to do away with the facility at the bottom of the steps. Maybe I did not make myself clear but I will try to be clearer now and to direct the residents of that area to use the new facility at Plater. Once the facility at the bottom of the steps is removed, then any rubbish deposited there will be illegal dumping. But the intention is to remove the facility or the rubbish dump, as he calls it, that exists.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that answer. With respect, I do not think that was clear in the original answer. So I am grateful for that clarification. Of course the hon Gentleman is right. These rubbish dumps were put there in the time of the GSLP and they must have been working relatively well if the Government has left them there for fourteen long summers otherwise, of course, it is much more an indictment of the Government than it is for having done nothing for fourteen years than it is of the GSLP for having put them there over fifteen years ago. But will the hon Gentleman agree with me that if the intention is to remove the rubbish dump now and if the intention is to move everyone up to the new refuse holding facility, there you are I said it, why cannot an assessment be made now of whether a smaller refuse holding facility is required in the area of the bottom of Castle Steps, which of course does not just cater for the people who live at the top of Castle Steps and down but also those who live in the

area in the steps coming down, La Calle Comedia, as it is colloquially known and the area around the xxxxxx towards St Bernard's School. Cannot something be done now in that area or cannot the Government assess now whether something has to be done in that area and not just in the area of Tankerville so that we do not have further exchanges in this House after summer. After the hon Gentleman has opened with great fanfare and cut the ribbon of the new refuse holding facility which to everybody else will be known as a rubbish dump and we have a solution quickly.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The assessment has been done and I suspect the same assessment was done at the time that the GSLP decided to place it there. Where it currently is must have been judged at the time to cause the least inconvenience, the least number of people. Time has shown that the inconvenience, particularly to one particular tenant living just there, is considerable. I invite the hon Member to go round the area and suggest to me an alternative location because the alternatives that have been identified would just transfer the nuisance from Mr & Mrs A to Mr & Mrs B. So that is why the decision has been made to remove it and to direct everybody, especially those who are being inconvenienced, to walk the extra few metres and deposit it in a proper refuse facility which will be, I am sure the hon Member will be happy to hear, will be ape-proof and monkey-proof.

HON F R PICARDO:

Ape-proof and monkey-proof!

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

To satisfy both definitions!

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I say this to the hon Gentleman, perhaps it is not a question of location but of the standard of the facility and would he consider this as a potential alternative. What we have seen in that area and I do not need to go there because as the hon Gentleman knows I live in the area, is that better facilities provide less nuisance even if they are in the same place. So although, of course, a rubbish dump or refuse holding facility cannot be hermetically sealed, something can be done as was done in the area of Calpe, further up by the top Tank Ramp but where the Calpe married quarters are, to make the facility ape or monkey-proof. In any event, it is also possible, in the same way that they are made monkey-proof, to make them less noxious in the sense that there would be no smells coming out if they were not completely open to the elements as they are now and if they were not subject as the one at the bottom of Castle Steps is, as the hon Gentleman may know, to flooding because the area enjoys, or suffers rather, a xxxxxx which makes the whole of the present refuse holding area a bit of a refuse holding lake when it rains especially as badly as it does now that strews the rubbish through no fault of any particular tenant throwing things in a particular way as happens in the other one, all across the area. Therefore, can I invite the hon Gentleman to think outside the box a little bit in respect, or think outside the dump a little in respect of this particular problem and think not just of relocation, relocation, relocation but of a better facility perhaps in that area which will

take away the problem of noxious smells from those who are suffering it immediately there. It will take away the problem of the area being flooded with rubbish but would still maintain the facility within short walking distance of some of the tenants in that area. Is that something he is prepared to look at and consider also?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is interesting to see that the hon Member who has been, I was going to say pestering but that would be the wrong word, who has been questioning me in depth for x number of question times in the past to remove the facility from the bottom of Castle Steps is now changing tack once he is being told it is going to be moved, he is now changing tack and asking me to replace it rather than remove it. The question of making the facility monkey-proof is the least of the problems. That deploying the right resources can be done as the hon Member knows. That is not the problem. The problem is the other two things. The flooding is a different issue particular to that particular place. I do not know off hand how easy or how difficult it would be to correct that but of course everything has a solution if we throw enough money at it. But the problem is, as the hon Member I am sure realises, one the noxious smells and two the bulkiness of the refuse in an open facility as we have now. However good the facility can be and I refer him to one of his other questions, the one at Catalan Bay, however good the facility is the noxious smells will remain if the public do what was happening at Catalan Bay and I understand is no longer happening, which is not to bother to open the door but to dump the rubbish outside the door and that was happening for quite a while. Now, however air conditioned, filter proof, smell extracting facility we were to construct, if the rubbish remains outside the door it will be smelly and it will still provide the obstacle to access which was the other inconvenience to people living up those steps. So just providing a facility does not remove the problem. Changing its location is difficult because we have looked all along, the technical people I should say have looked all along that road and I have gone myself to make sure that I was satisfied with the advice that I was being given and the only possible location is a few metres. A few metres is what, ten, fifteen metres north of the present location in what is a lay-by which would remove parking spaces for one and secondly, which transfers the smell problem in particular to the people who live immediately above it. So, I say again, a decision has been made to close down the facility, to encourage the people who are being inconvenienced in particular to use the other facility and once that is happening we will then assess whether it is working or not working. If it is not working, we shall then need to see if there is another possible solution.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. The hon Gentleman to an extent should not be allowed to get away in my submission with the suggesting that I have been pressing him to move it and therefore now I am pressing him to simply change it. I started my line of questioning in respect of this, I think when he was Minister for the Environment the first time when I was first elected, by asking what he was going to do about it. He started to tell me then that he was going to move it to another area. So then I have been asking him about when he is going to move it. It is not that it was simply my idea that it should be moved but be that as it may can I refer the hon Gentleman to consideration, for example, of the refuse holding facility at Harbour Views which is much more, and obviously it is a private estate it is not a Government area, but is much more of actually almost like a small refuse holding villa rather than area which has a roof, which has areas on the side to allow smells to come out which is tiled and

which is regularly, I think daily, hosed down by a caretaker to ensure that during the day there are no smells left behind. So there are solutions, Mr Speaker. Will the hon Gentleman perhaps at least put these things at the back of his mind so that when the moment does come to reassess post the celebratory opening of the new facility in Tank Ramp if there is still a problem at the area at the bottom of Moorish Castle Steps, so that these potential alternatives be considered in addition to just the reconsideration of relocation of the facility.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already said we will do that. We will reassess.

NO. 180 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

WIND TURBINE BED OFF EUROPA POINT

Has any progress now been made in the assessment of the possibility of the introduction of a wind turbine “bed” off Europa Point or in respect of the introduction of any sources of alternative energy?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The situation remains as stated in my reply to Question Nos. 512 of 2008, 932 of 2008 and 156 of 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 180 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

With the whole world recognising the effects of climate change on the planet. With the whole world and Governments proudly the world over making announcements on what alternative energy provision they are making for their citizens and with the whole world now determined to do something to reduce the carbon footprint of each of us, why is it that the Government of our country does nothing proactive about the uses of alternative energy and when questioned about it in Parliament, proudly refers us to the fact that nothing has changed in the past two years in respect of the answers that they can give about these very, very important issues.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As I said, the situation remains the same which does not mean that the project has been abandoned. The hon Member should also bear in mind that in the present state of economies worldwide people who were interested and were showing interest in developing this project with the Government have now gone into passive mode and have not withdrawn but are not actively pursuing the projects either.

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the Government actively doing about finding alternative sources of energy, even the things that do not require hard work on the part of the Minister or massive investment in respect of private sector partners?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As the hon Member is aware, the Government commissioned a report in 2007 for the options of renewable energy. The recommendations of that report indicated three sources of renewable energy suitable for Gibraltar. One was wind energy and the Government is actively pursuing that possibility. The second one was energy from waste and this will be provided as and when the new refuse incinerator is up and running and the third one was tidal current which is a project that is not available off the shelf. It is frontier signs. It is development signs. The development costs are extremely high and therefore it is the third in the list of priorities and that is why nothing has happened in effect.

HON F R PICARDO:

My question does not just ask about the turbine bed off Europa Point, it asks about the introduction of any sources of alternative energy and hence my surprise that the hon Gentleman has simply referred me back to a list of questions that we have asked previously on this. The hon Gentleman has referred back to a report on alternative energy now dated 2007. Technology has moved on. There have been changes in the possibilities available to Governments worldwide in the generation of alternative sources of energy. What is it that the hon Gentleman is doing about ensuring that we are bang up to date with the latest potential technology that we could use for this purpose?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I just answered the question indirectly. Government is following the recommendations made to it which were to explore wind energy as the first source. Secondly, energy from waste and, in fact, the report said maintain a watching brief on the development of current devices for future consideration because as such there are no effective projects available.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman tell us what the watching brief has produced?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The watching brief has produced contact with outside sources who showed an interest in exploiting the currents that exist in the Strait but the project needs to be carried out for quite a lengthy period. I think, if I remember rightly, it was something like two years to establish, first of all, whether the currents are suitable and reliable and the company that was working with the Government continued to maintain the interest and the contact with them but they were due to have started measuring currents in the area already and they have not actually done so.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman has told us that the Government is actually actively pursuing the use of wind as a source of alternative energy. What does that "actively pursuing"

entail and when are we going to see the introduction therefore of wind produced energy.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

“Actively pursuing” means establishing commercial contacts and trying to establish suitable sites. Until those phases are completed we are some way from giving completion dates for the project.

HON F R PICARDO:

Pursuing is one thing. Actively pursuing, which is what the hon Gentleman has said when he first mentioned this, suggests there is something actually happening. How long is it going to take the Government to identify a potential location to establish a commercial contact? These things are actually quite urgent and quite a priority for most other Governments. What is happening with his brief in the Environment Ministry? Why are these things not at the top of his agenda?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They are on the agenda. They are being pursued but I am not in a position to give dates.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is this not actually evidence of the fact that this Government is not committed to the introduction of alternative sources of energy for Gibraltar. That this Government is committed simply to the continued reliance on diesel generated electricity for all the needs of our community and is not looking forward enough and is not perhaps even concerned enough about the effects of climate change in our planet to see that every little helps and that even little Gibraltar has something to contribute to the worldwide effort to combat climate change. Should the hon Gentleman therefore not just have these things on the agenda, but at the top of his agenda, and should he not be leading our community in respect of these issues when in fact he is very much following and very, very far behind.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I did not detect the question in that, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

The question was..... I was going to intervene there. Is this not evidence of all that. Surely the answer is clearly.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The answer is, no sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Xxxxxx so obvious!

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps in that case we should bring to the attention of the Speaker of the House of Commons that a lot of questions asked at question time there have obvious answers. But is it not also therefore true that the hon Gentleman's answer a moment ago is simply a self-serving denial of the facts and that therefore the community needs to look very carefully at what it is that they offer us in terms of the provision of alternative energy for the future and what other parties will offer at the next election because they have absolutely no plan to put to us other than simply actively pursuing nothing.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am very tempted to say that that is a statement again, although there was an inclination of a question mark right at the very beginning. Of course I do not agree with the hon Member and I will not waste the time of the House.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman will not waste the time of the House. But is that not because he has nothing to say. For the past three years they have been lying on this report that has been prepared but they have done nothing to implement any potential alternative source of energy. Is it not time, and does not the hon Gentleman agree with me, that it is time that these issues move to the top of his agenda and that we start doing something to implement the use of alternative sources of energy either on the grid as a whole or independent parts of the grid.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They are on the agenda and they are a priority and the Government is moving towards making them a reality. But of course because he cannot see them on the ground, he cannot accept that.

HON F R PICARDO:

No, this is obviously not a question of seeing things on the ground. This is simply a question of judging the Government on its record and for 14 years we have seen this Government do nothing in respect of the introduction of alternative sources of energy. Perhaps that vision thing does not extend to the carbon footprint of Gibraltar being reduced. So, my final question for the hon Gentleman on this issue is to ask him whether he is prepared to commit himself today to actively pursuing all of these issues and not simply having them on the agenda with the aim of producing real alternatives to the generation of energy in Gibraltar as soon as possible.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That was what I said right at the very beginning, that the Government is actively pursuing these projects.

ORAL

NO. 181 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRAFALGAR INTERCHANGE

Can Government confirm that works on the Trafalgar Interchange are still scheduled to be completed by July 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 185 to 187 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 182 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EUROPORT TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state when the works on the new road linking Europort to Queensway in Coaling Island commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 183 and 184 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 183 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EUROPORT TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state when the works on the new road linking Europort to Queensway at Coaling Island will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 182 and 184 of 2010.

NO. 184 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EUROPORT TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state the cost of the new road linking Europort to Queensway at Coaling Island?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The works to construct the new link road between Europort Road and Queensway have as yet not started on site. Completion of the road is currently programmed for September 2011 at a cost of £1,476,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 182 TO 184 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I understand then when in the traffic plan the Government stated that certain projects are currently underway and one of the projects listed was the new road linking Europort to Queensway, can he explain what currently underway meant if it has not actually commenced?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

What I said was that the works on site had not actually commenced. Underway starts with the commitment, the decision, the design and the viability, all of which have been completed.

HON G H LICUDI:

And in this particular case, all those matters have been concluded and a final firm decision has been taken. It is just the actual works which need completion. Can I ask the hon Member to remind me of the amount involved because I did not take it down.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes certainly, £1,476,000.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that mean that the contract has been awarded to a particular entity?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I assume so. I do not have that information in front of me but I assume it has.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that the amount is very specific, I assume this is not a Government estimate but it is the amount of the works as contracted. Does the hon Member know whether this has gone out to tender and whether there are any tenderers xxxxxx?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I do not have that information I am afraid.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member know, off the top of his head, who will do these works?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am afraid not. The answer that has been prepared for me is narrow to the question but if the hon Member wants further information I suggest he write to me and ask me for the further information and I will try and provide it.

HON G H LICUDI:

The completion I heard 2011, the month was if you could repeat please?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

September 2011.

ORAL

NO. 185 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ROSIA TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state whether it has now concluded the work on the design and viability of the road linking the Rosia area with Queensway via the Dockyard and whether a decision to build this road has been taken?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 181, 186 and 187 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 186 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GLACIS ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state whether it has now concluded the work on the design and viability of a roundabout in Glacis Road and whether a decision to build this roundabout has been taken?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 181, 185 and 187 of 2010.

NO. 187 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUEENSWAY ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state whether it has now concluded the work on the design and viability of a roundabout in Queensway at the Regal House junction and whether a decision to build this roundabout has been taken?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government can confirm that works on the Trafalgar Interchange are still scheduled for completion in July 2010.

Government will make announcements relating to its policy initiatives as and when it considers it appropriate to do so. The Government does not consider it appropriate to account publicly for progress in internal preparatory work that is on-going.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 181 AND 185 TO 187 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure I follow the answer. The Government will make announcements on policy initiatives. I assume that that is in response to Question Nos. 185, 186 and 187. Is the answer then that the Government has not concluded the work on design and viability and has not taken a decision on whether these road schemes are going to be implemented?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The answer remains as given in the primary answer. It is work in progress and the Government is not going to account for it every time a new drawing is made. It is work in progress. Once the work is completed then we will provide the information.

HON G H LICUDI:

No. How can it possibly be work in progress when the Government trumpeted not more than a few weeks ago, months ago, a blue print for the solution to Gibraltar's traffic problems in the much heralded PR exercise which did no more than repeat many of the commitments, and I say commitments, which had been made previously.

Some of these matters were commitments which had been made previously and which had been downgraded in this blue print. So having trumpeted that and having said to the whole of Gibraltar, "look how good we are on traffic matters. Look at all these matters that we are doing and look at this blue print which is going to solve the problem and we are working on these projects", and for us to come to this House and ask, "well what is happening with these decisions? Have you now made a decision" and the Government simply brushes it aside and says we will simply not tell you. Well let me ask the hon Member this. In relation to the design and viability of the road linking Rosia Road with Queensway, why is it that this which was previously a commitment, a promise by the Government to do this, why is it that this was downgraded in the traffic plan to mere work on the design and viability of this project when it had previously committed itself to doing it. How is it that a couple of months ago it simply said, we are working on the design and viability. How did it previously commit itself to doing this project when it still has not finished the work on the design and viability and does not even know as a matter of policy whether it will build this road?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I find the hon Member's intervention astonishing. His Question Nos. 185, 186 and 187 asked whether work on the design and viability of the road had been concluded, whether work on viability of the roundabout had been concluded and whether work on the design and viability of the second roundabout had been concluded. To then divert onto the issues he has diverted to, does not arise from either the question or from the supplementary. The answer remains the same. The Government announced the initiatives. The initiatives are still there and are taking place. Work is proceeding on the design and viability and what the Government is saying just as it said yesterday in relation to the Employment Survey, is that it is not going to account for every time the draftsman sits down and adds another two lines on a piece of paper. The work is in progress and once the design work is completed or at whatever time the Government decides it is appropriate, it will make further allowances. But it is not going to be accounting publicly for every single brush stroke on a piece of paper.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the hon Member has chosen to reopen the debate on the Employment Survey, can he please explain to me why asking the Government to tell us how many questionnaires were sent out in October last year is work in progress or asking questions about every brush stroke. I mean, surely that is information that has always been given and what the Government is doing is, as a matter of policy, deciding that it does not like the number of questions that the Opposition is putting which it is perfectly entitled to put and therefore collecting a number of them with this new lines in the sand that have been dictated to them by the man that dictates everything to them and not permitting them to answer questions which individual members have never had any problem in answering. Surely that is the xxxxxx.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have not opened up the debate to the Employment Survey. I merely referred to it as an example of what I was saying, but on the narrow point of his supplementary to me, the answer is, I would need notice of that question to be able to answer it

because it is outside the realm of my political responsibility and therefore I am unable to answer him without notice.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sure the hon Member will have no difficulty in answering a question if he was responsible for having dished out one thousand or one thousand two hundred letters in October because he has always been, in fact, very helpful in trying to give as much information in any of his responsibilities.

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to Question No. 185, which is about the work on the design and viability of a road linking Rosia Road with Queensway via the Dockyard. Does the hon Member not recall a glossy document which they published in 2007 which they seem to have called the Manifesto full of promises which have never been fulfilled? Does he not recall under the heading "Parking and Traffic – Our Commitments" and perhaps he could explain what he means when this Government makes a statement under a heading "Our Commitments", subheading "New Traffic Schemes – New Roads". "A new road from the south district through New Harbours exiting at Queensway", and further on as if to reinforce the commitment by this Government..... "New Harbour Road, a new road will be built through the Dockyard south gate, through New Harbours directly to Queensway". How is it that having made a commitment to build a road, we are then told in this blue print for the solution of Gibraltar's traffic problems that all they are doing is working on design and viability and now we are told that they are not accountable to tell us what they are doing in respect of this project? How is it that they could make a commitment without having worked on viability and having decided that this was viable? Are we now to believe that all the commitments that are made whether in Manifesto or elsewhere by this Government are simply work in progress for which the Government are not accountable, for which the Government refuse to give information and on which viability has not even been considered or concluded. Is that the Government's position?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Once again I find the intervention astonishing. The hon Member has either not listened to the answer or is deliberately misunderstanding. He is asking me about the commitment. The commitments in the Manifesto are exactly that, the commitments of the Government to carry things out during its term of office. So, the fact that the work that is in progress is being questioned in the way he is questioning it, shows a complete misunderstanding or lack of understanding of the way things are done. The Government made the commitment. It is now designing the project. The work on designing the project is in progress. The viability of it, the hon Member seems to narrow viability to whether it can be done or cannot be done. Viability is a much broader word than that. It is viability in the way it can be done. It can be done this way or that way or that way, and that is what is being studied.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is design. That is not viability.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is design and viability.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is not viability. Viability is whether it is possible.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Mr Speaker!

MR SPEAKER:

Well with respect, the Minister is answering.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The work is on the design which is the final product and is on the viability on how the design can best be done to produce the final product. We are being semantic and unnecessarily so. The hon Member seems determined to portray a picture that does not exist. All I have said in my answer is that the work is in progress, that the Government is not going to stand up and be accounting for every single stage of the progress, that it announced the project, that it is in the process of designing it so that it can carry it out and when it comes to the stage that the Government decides that it wants to make further announcements it will, but what it cannot do is be explaining how many ticks have been done in the tick box or many plans have been produced as.....

HON G H LICUDI:

That is not what I have asked.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. That is exactly what is being asked Mr Speaker. What is being asked is whether it has concluded the work. Well I am telling him, it has not been concluded. It is in progress but what I am not able to do is give the detail.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member clearly has not understood the original question. The original question had two parts. Each of the original questions had two parts. Has the work been concluded or has not the work been concluded? Yes or no. We do not need a lecture on policy initiatives. We do not need a lecture on work in progress. We need a simple answer to a simple question. Has the work been concluded, yes or no? The answer, it appears that we are now getting is "no, the work has not been concluded". But there is a second part to the question. Has a decision to build this

road been taken? Again, the answer is, yes or no. It appears again from the answer that has been given that the answer is “no” because the work has not been concluded and what I am asking the hon Member is how he can justify not having taken a decision when in 2007 they committed within this term of office to actually build this road. How is it a question of semantics when in 2007 they say, “a new road will be built” and now they are saying, “we have not concluded the work. We do not know whether a decision is going to be taken on whether to build this road”. That is contradictory and I am asking this Government to be accountable and to justify to this Parliament contradictory statements.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I refuse to be drawn down the line that I am being drawn which is that words have been taken out of my mouth and been thrown back at me that I have not said or they are being twisted into something that I have not intended to say.

HON G H LICUDI:

What is the answer?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The answer is as has been given. The Government will make announcements on policy initiatives like this as and when it wants to do so. That is what I have said very clearly and Government will not account for progress. The decision has been made. The commitment has been made in the Manifesto. The decision has been made to do it, right, and I am now being asked whether the work has been concluded. It is obvious from my answer that the work has not been concluded and therefore anything else emanating from there becomes hypothetical. When the work is concluded then the Government will announce it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, I am struggling to understand the Minister’s position. The original answer was that they would not give us an answer. That was the original answer that the hon Member gave. “We are not going to be accountable for this. This is work in progress. We are not going to tell you”.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Today!

HON G H LICUDI:

Well today. I do not know whether they are going to tell me tomorrow or next week or two years. I am asking today and therefore I expect an answer today because I expect the Government to be accountable today for the questions we ask and when we ask simple questions like “has something been concluded?”, a simple “yes” or “no” would be helpful. When we ask a question as to whether a decision has been

made, again a simple “yes” or “no” has been taken. But let me ask the hon Member, specifically. Is this Government committed, irrespective of the work that needs to be done on design and viability and which has not been concluded, that we gather so far, is this Government committed to building the three road schemes which were set out in the public, in the consultation document Integrated Traffic and Transport Plan, and which were described as “still more road schemes involved”, as if to emphasise “still more road schemes”, road linking Rosia with Queensway via the Dockyard, the roundabout in Glacis Road, the roundabout in Queensway at the Regal House junction which are the three subject matters of these three questions. Is the Government committed to actually building those new road schemes within this term of office?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Anything that appears in the Manifesto is a commitment by the Government.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the hon Member was referring to the policy announcement.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

And the policy announcement, the same thing applies. It is a commitment. If and only such commitments are possible because I am not saying this applies to any of these commitments, but anything that is a commitment in the Manifesto, if it is subsequently proven to be impossible to do, and I am not referring to these three in particular, then obviously a commitment is a commitment but if it is impossible, it is impossible.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member saying that as a matter of course they make commitments which may or may not be possible? Does the word commitment not mean that they actually will do it and that they are committed to doing it and therefore they have made the necessary studies in order to take the decision and therefore that decision has been taken? What I am trying to ascertain quite simply is whether these decisions have been taken for the simple reason because the question seemed to be left open in the traffic plan which is what these questions are about. In the traffic plan, there were two sections on road schemes. “We will build these road schemes” and there were a number of road schemes, Trafalgar Interchange, Eastern Beach, Devil’s Tower Road. “We will do this”, and we are working on, what appeared to be, consideration of viability on these other and therefore until that consideration is concluded, the Government could not commit itself. That is what appeared from this and it appeared in our view to be contradictory to previous commitments. So, if the hon Member is now saying, and I would ask him to be clear and categorical, given that this question mark was left open in the traffic plan, is it now that we can remove this question mark and we can remove the words “in addition”. Can we read this as saying, the Government will build these new road schemes? Is that what the hon Member is saying? Within the time scale set out in the traffic plan itself which is a three year time span but most of it to be completed within two years.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The traffic plan is the traffic plan and anything that is given there as a commitment is a commitment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the original answer was that they would not, and that there was a new policy in place which was explained yesterday of this line in the sand, that what the Government considers to be work in progress would not be answered. Is the position then that if the Government is saying in respect of any project, we are now working on a design, and we ask at a point in future because there has been no announcement between one House and another, has this work been concluded, they will not tell us whether it has been concluded or not? By definition, presumably, if the answer had been yes it has been concluded then it would not fall under the definition of work in progress because it would have been concluded. So if they are saying, we will not answer, it means that it has not been concluded. That is to say, by telling us they will not answer the question because it is work in progress what they are saying is, the answer is, it has not been concluded. Is that the correct interpretation of the original answer to the original question?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think that is a fairly good analysis of the answer. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then it must follow that that is also the answer to the second half. That is to say, that the answer to the second half is, that the hon Member is not in a position to confirm that the decision to build the road say, in answer to Question No. 185, is firm at this stage because presumably it is the work on the design and the viability of doing it that will confirm the desire to do it. At this stage that is still pending the completion of the work that is currently being done. Is that not the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. It is exactly the other way round. The commitment is there to do it. The work is in progress to find the way of doing it. Not finding that it cannot be done. It is the other way round. The work is in progress to finding how to do it and the commitment remains.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but is the hon Member saying that in respect of any commitment, if when one tries doing it one finds that the viability is not there then it will not get done. He told us in middle of some of the answers that he gave my hon colleague.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would have thought that that is a fairly obvious statement. I will give him an example that goes back a number of years. When the Government was considering opening up Lover's Lane to traffic, there was a commitment to do it but when we consulted various bodies, which included the Heritage Trust, there was doubt about the position of an old wall I think, if I remember rightly, and if the wall had been where the Heritage Trust said it was, then it would not have been possible to make the new road. So having made the commitment, this factor came up which was unknown at the time the commitment was made and that is the caveat I was making. That if a commitment is made and then something happens, or some factor emerges, or some new information becomes available which was not known at the time, then that obviously hinders the commitment. As it turned out, to avoid the question being asked in a future Question Time, the Heritage Trust were wrong and the wall was not where they said it was which was underneath the road, it was actually underneath the wall of the Convent. So it did not interfere with the new road and the new road was able to go ahead and that is what I meant when I made the comment that I made with a bit of a throw away comment!

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then in fact the last answer that he gave, which was that the decision to build was definitely made, is not the accurate answer. If the analysis that I have made, he agrees with, then it must follow that they want to build this road but until they finish with the design and assess the viability which could either be technical or financial then they will not be able to confirm the decision. That is, the decision is at the moment an intention subject to the result of the work that is still currently being done to establish what it will cost and how it is going to be done. By definition, by his explanation, if it was found to be prohibitively expensive it would not happen.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already answered..... He has asked the same supplementary twice running and when I disagree with him, he asks it again. I am not going to agree with him the second time. It is the other way round. If the commitment is there to do the project and the project is being designed and its viability looked at to find out which is the way of doing it, not to find the way of not doing it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. I am not suggesting..... I am not suggesting for one moment.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

With respect to the Leader of the Opposition, I have answered it twice and I am not going to answer the same question again.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not suggested that they do not want to do it and are looking in this design work for a justification for wriggling out of the commitment. I am just simply saying by logical extension of what he has told me about the heritage and the Lover's Lane situation, then presumably, the exercise involves establishing how it should be done and what technical problems there could be and what the finances of the operation are. So if anything, the decision to build follows that work. At this stage the decision has not been made because if it has been made then the design and the viability are academic. It would still happen whatever is thrown up by the design and the viability.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Xxxxxx, we have changed from commitment to decision. Obviously, the commitment is there, we are finding the ways of doing it but if we now narrow it to the decision to do it..... then technically he is right. The actual "yes" or "no" decision is only made at the time the money is provided and the project goes ahead. If we narrow it to that point.....

HON G H LICUDI:

So if the answer is "no" to both, why did the Government say in 2007, a new road will be built if the answer now is that no decision has been taken?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am sorry.....

MR SPEAKER:

Before the hon Member answers, I can see where the paths are at cross-purposes. It is the way question is phrased, or the three questions are phrased. The question asks, "Has Government concluded work on the design and viability of the roundabout at Queensway", for example, "and whether a decision to build this roundabout has been taken?" What the Minister is saying is the other way around. A decision has been taken to build but the work of the design and viability is still on-going and until that final design is agreed the decision to work or build on a particular design has not been taken. I think that is where the cross-purposes.....

HON G H LICUDI:

If that is the position then that is not what we understand he said.

MR SPEAKER:

Well exactly. I can see the cross-purpose, sitting over here.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is very helpful to have your intervention because.....

MR SPEAKER:

If the hon Member follows, it is which way you put it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. That is precisely what we are getting at and perhaps.....

MR SPEAKER:

But because the design and viability of a particular roundabout has not been concluded, a decision on that design and viability has not been taken.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, but the decision which is referred to in the question is the decision to build the road, not the decision on any particular design.....

MR SPEAKER:

Well it says this roundabout. One talks of a particular roundabout but if the work and design is not concluded how can they take a decision to build that roundabout?

HON G H LICUDI:

Well yes, but if we look at the other one of the road it says the decision to build the road obviously subject to design and viability.

MR SPEAKER:

That is my understanding.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is most helpful, Mr Speaker. But we seem to have gone full circle with...

MR SPEAKER:

Going in a roundabout route in getting there!

HON G H LICUDI:

From “we do not give an answer”, to “yes” we have a commitment to “no” we have not made a decision. Can we have some clarity? Is the Government committed to building these schemes subject to their work on design and viability having been concluded and making that final decision to go ahead on a particular day, on a particular budget and contracting somebody? Is that the Government’s position? That we have a firm commitment to build these roads?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Is that not what has been said all the way along?

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, if you are not sure it is because you are either not listening or do not want to listen or you are trying to find “*la quinta pata del gato*”. The commitment is there, the decision to do it is there, the work is in progress to do it and maybe, if I put it now in a different way, maybe he will be convinced, and if, when it comes to the crunch, something makes it impossible then the reversal of the original decision might take place. But that is hypothetical and that is why we are saying we cannot account publicly today in the House for work that is in progress. We will make the announcements when the time comes. But the commitment is there. The decision to do it is there. The design work is in progress. The viability studies are being made and the intention, the decision has been made to do it. If for some reason it becomes impossible, then the decision to do it will have to change. But the decision has been made.

HON G H LICUDI:

That Mr Speaker is, as I see it now, clear. We will certainly hold the Government to account for that commitment in due course and it might have been helpful, may I helpfully suggest, if that clear and categorical answer had been given originally rather than the wishy-washy answer of, “we will not tell you”.

NO. 188 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

CATALAN BAY ROAD – ROCKFALLS

Can Government state what inspections have been carried out to the rock face at Catalan Bay Road following the recent rockfalls in the area of the black spot?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

An inspection of the cliff face from ground level was undertaken by Government engineers following the rockfall.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 188 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Could the hon Member explain what that means, an inspection from ground level? Can he give details of what the result of that inspection was? What works are required or expected to be undertaken? As the hon Member knows, there was a very significant rock fall with quite a number of very large boulders crashing down, one or two getting onto the road itself. Can we know what the Government is doing to make sure that the area is safe for cars and pedestrians using that area?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

An inspection of the cliff face from ground level is exactly what the word says. It is a visual inspection with binoculars or telescope by the Government engineers concerned. The problem of that area is that the height of the cliff is in excess of 400 metres because there are two ways of inspecting a cliff, one from ground level and two from the top down and in view of the height of the cliff I am advised that road access or inspection was not possible. The case has not been closed, if I can put it that way. The engineering side of the civil service is still looking at it and trying to evaluate whether further work is necessary and if so what work can be done and how it can be done. But at the moment I do not have any answers.

HON G H LICUDI:

I hope the hon Member will accept that I am not trying to be alarmist or in any way to suggest that it is not safe. I am just trying to find out the facts but if I could draw a

parallel with Dudley Ward Tunnel where there was a rock fall which happen to result in a tragic and fatal incident but the result of that rock fall was that the Government deemed that area not to be safe and therefore closed it down and it has been closed for eight years. This other road where there has been a rock fall which luckily, and I say luckily, there was nobody passing at the time either pedestrians or cars, so we did not have any injuries or any fatalities. I am trying to ascertain whether there is any parallel and whether the Government in this particular area is satisfied that the area is generally safe for cars and road users generally.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, we are very conscious that there could be a parallel and that it why I say that the case has not been closed and the situation is still being assessed. With the height of the cliff in question, what the engineers call, active stabilisation, which means holding anything that might be loose in place, is not a practical proposition. But that applies to the whole of the length of that cliff on both sides of the rock. It is not isolated to Williams Way. We live on a rock. We live on a rock that is made of limestone and that limestone can be unstable and has shown itself to be unstable in the past and will no doubt show itself to be unstable in the future. Not just there but anywhere you go in Gibraltar. So, as I say, the assessment is being made on whether further precautions need to be taken but if those precautions are taken it cannot be on the cliff just as it could not be on the cliff in Dudley Ward Way Tunnel, it would have to be measures similar to those that have been taken in other sections of Catalan Bay Road or in Dudley Ward Way Tunnel itself and that is work in progress.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am obviously not an expert in this field or technically appraised but as I understand it the problem is not the cliff itself, it is the sandy slope on which there are lots of boulders and as we get the rains a lot of the sand is washed away and that dislodges the rocks that are on the sand itself. So there is a slope and then the cliff face and the problem primarily as I understand it, certainly in respect of these rock falls, was in the sandy slope itself. Can the hon Member say whether whilst all that has assessment is being made whether any residual measures are being taken or are being planned? I am aware, for example, that in the area just beyond where this rockfall occurred, opposite the bus stop leading down to Catalan Bay, there have been some works with some wire mesh put up to prevent precisely this because occasionally there were rock falls which came onto the road and onto the bus stop area and that was dangerous and the Government has done some work on that. Is the Government thinking of any such works? I would also ask the hon Member to comment on the fact that immediately after this rock fall there was a large trench. I am not sure to what extent the hon Member is aware, but at the bottom of the sandy slope a large trench was dug up. I assume that that was so that if any rocks fell they fell into the trench at the bottom of the slope rather than onto the road. Will the hon Member look into this because as a result of recent rains the washing away of all the sand has meant that the trench has been filled up? So there is no trench anymore. I do not know whether this was a residual measure but I simply bring it to the hon Member's attention. But I would be interested if the hon Member can find out what residual measures can or ought to be taken possibly similar to the measures opposite the bus stop in order to prevent the rocks, if there are any rock falls, actually getting... One thing is stabilising the cliff face, another thing is if there are rock falls stopping the rocks getting actually onto the road itself.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is correct when he refers to the rock catch fence. That is the correct name for it. Opposite the bus stop further south from where the current rockfall took place. That rock catch fence was constructed after a period of assessment of that particular area. One rockfall does not necessarily mean that there are going to be more rock falls in a particular area. But where the fence is now being constructed, over a period of time, there was more than one fall, in fact, there was a series of falls, small sizes not as big as the current one, and that led to the decision of constructing the rock catch fence. The same process or the same sort of thinking is, I understand, now currently taking place by the engineers on an on-going assessment basis of the location where the rock fall took place recently. The hon Member mentions a trench. I was not aware that a trench had been done. I have made a note of it and I shall find out. He says that it is now full of sand. I am not sure whether this is coincidental or whether it is linked to..... it might well be, but I was not aware of it. I will certainly look into that. But the situation is as I am saying, the assessment is on-going and depending on the results of that assessment by the technical people, depending on what action will be taken.

NO. 189 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government provide details of the progress of works to reopen Dudley Ward Tunnel and confirm that the Tunnel is still scheduled to open for traffic in July 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

As explained to the hon Member during the last Parliamentary question session, the works to re-open Dudley Ward Tunnel comprise three separate contracts. The first contract consisting of the installation of rock catch fences, started on site on the 1st June 2009. The contractor encountered adverse ground conditions on the slopes which required the re-design of the anchorage method required for the fences. This resulted in a three week delay to the completion of the first contract with a corresponding delay to the commencement of the second works contract, comprising demolitions and advance earthworks to re-profile the rubble mound to accommodate the alignment of the new tunnel approach road.

The second contract started on site in mid-August 2009 and was completed on the 18 December 2009. Extra stabilisation works in the area of the entrance to Dudley Ward Tunnel were identified during this contract which, when coupled with adverse weather conditions, resulted in completion being delayed by a period of four weeks from that originally programmed.

The third and final contract comprising the construction of the rockfall canopy and new approach road to the tunnel started on site on the 4 January 2010 and is currently ongoing. Unfortunately, the exceptionally bad weather by way of heavy rainfall and high winds encountered on site since the New Year have already resulted in delays to the construction of the rockfall canopy of approximately two weeks.

The original date for reopening the tunnel had been July 2010 but the accumulated delay to date to the project pushes back the anticipated re-opening to September 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 189 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the difficulty we have in assessing the new policy, I take it that the very full answer on the details of the progress of the work has nothing to do with work in progress.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am having difficulty in assessing the difficulties that the hon Member xxxxxx in assessing our difficulties. The question is factual and the answer that has been given is factual. There is no work in progress of unknowns into the future. If he were to ask me in a supplementary "can I commit myself to the tunnel opening in September 2010?" I would repeat what I said here that is scheduled at the moment but if it continues to rain as it rained last night and is scheduled to rain on Sunday, anything can happen.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member will no doubt agree with us that it is unfortunate that there is a delay which extends the re-opening to the tunnel to after or the very end of the summer of 2010. The hon Member will also agree that in the summer this is a particularly bad area because of the number of extra users of that area of the rock with users to Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay, some users to Sandy Bay and no alternative.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sandy Bay?

HON G H LICUDI:

One or two still go to Sandy Bay. The lack of the alternative available route and given the traffic problems we have had for a number of years, particularly in the summer although it now seems to be endemic and we get it all the time, it is going to be particularly acute for people visiting the beach with their children and having to come home and having to encounter all these problems. Given that, is there any way that the programme can be accelerated through extra hours, extra manpower. Is there any way that completion can be brought forward so that we do have a reopening on or around the summer of 2010 and avoid these very distressing problems for many people.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Like most things in life and projects in particular, everything can be speeded up by throwing more money, more resources at the project. The decision to do that has not been taken at this moment in time.

NO. 190 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

STORM DAMAGE – WESTSIDE AREA

Can Government list the studies that were commissioned to determine the causes and extent of the damage caused to the reclamation at the Westside area by the storms of 10th and 11th October 2008, showing who conducted each study, what was the cost, the date when the study was commissioned and the date that it was complete and submitted to Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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

Answer to Question No. 190 of 2010

Ref	Study	Commissioned on	Conducted by	Cost / £	Completed on
1	Study into the magnitude of the storm on 10 & 11 October 2008 to determine the storm condition.	21-11-2008	Van Oord (Gibraltar) Ltd	22,000	05-12-2008
2	Report on extreme waves and influence by Algeciras.	21-11-2008	Deltares B.V.	20,000	22-06-2009
3	Damage to 1989 revetments; North Mole and inside the Harbour	25-11-2008	Van Oord (Gibraltar) Ltd	29,700	16-01-2009 (Inside Harbour) 03-02-2009 (North Mole)

NO. 191 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHARLES V WALL – WALK EXTENSION

Can Government say who is conducting the feasibility studies to confirm whether the walk on Charles V wall can be extended all the way into the town area, at what cost, on what date the study commenced and when it is expected to be complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Feasibility studies are not being conducted at this moment in time and neither have they been conducted in the past.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 191 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the hon Member says that, does he mean by the Government as a whole or by his department.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, by Government as a whole.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I ask the question because the hon Member for Heritage in his speech in the annual general meeting of the Heritage Trust, I think it was, said that this would happen and I quote “as soon as feasibility studies confirm that it can extend such a walk all the way into the town area”. Is there such a feasibility study being planned even though it has not been conducted yet?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is why I was careful to say that they have not been conducted in the past or in the present. I understand, although this is more the territory of my colleague the Minister for Heritage, that there has been some thought of this being done by the Heritage Trust and that the Heritage Trust themselves may be making proposals to

the Government to extend the wall all the way down into town. Of course, if the Government accept the proposals, and now we are in the realms of designing it, viability and hypothesis as well for the matter, from the Heritage Trust and decide to go ahead, at that stage a feasibility study would have to be done.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

To clarify! First of all the Trust would approach the Government.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Will, no, may.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

May approach the Government with a study, or with the proposal to conduct a study. What is the position?

HON E J REYES:

Yes. In a casual conversation with the Heritage Trust, they have expressed some sort of interest. Government has expressed an in-principle interest as well. Now like my colleague said, we have not conducted any studies in the past. Nothing has been conducted now but we are certainly not ruling out jointly looking into the feasibility for the future.

NO. 192 OF 2010

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

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

Answer to Question 192 of 2010

a) Stayed at Hotel:-

	Total No. of Interviews	Stayed at Hotel	Airport		Average length of Stay	Frontier	Average length of Stay		Elsewhere	Average length of Stay
Aug 2009	1,501	5	4	4.8	1	4.2	-	-	-	
Sept 2009	1,404	11	11	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	
Oct 2009	1,437	2	2	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	
Nov 2009	1,296	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dec 2009	1,252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

b) Not stayed at Hotel

	Total Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel	Airport		Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Aug 2009	1,496	51	41	1,226	-	-	178	
Sept 2009	1,393	64	39	1,259	-	1	30	
Oct 2009	1,435	26	3	1,247	-	1	158	
Nov 2009	1,296	-	-	1,264	-	-	32	
Dec 2009	1,252	-	-	1,252	-	-	-	

ORAL

NO. 193 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CITY UNDER SIEGE EXHIBITION

Can Government say whether the repairs to the City Under Siege exhibition have commenced and if not when they are expected to start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The works commenced in November of 2009 and they expected to be completed shortly.

ORAL

NO. 194 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF UPPER ROCK

Can Government say on what date they last met with the private sector operators who are interested in becoming involved in the running of the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 195 and 196 of 2010.

NO. 195 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF UPPER ROCK

Can Government say how many different proposals for the involvement of the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock have been made to them in 2007, 2008, 2009 or 2010 to date giving the date when each proposal was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 194 and 196 of 2010.

NO. 196 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF UPPER ROCK

Can Government say whether the possible involvement of the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock has been discussed by the Tourism Advisory Council in 2007, 2008, 2009 or 2010 to date and if so on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The situation remains as explained in answer to Question No. 936 of 2009 and in answers to supplementary questions to that Question.

The Government is not aware that there are any private sector operators who are interested in becoming involved in the running of the Upper Rock and therefore no meetings have taken place to discuss this.

The Government has not received proposals for the involvement of the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock. Therefore it is not possible to give the dates requested.

The matter has not been discussed, tabled for discussion or included in the agenda of the Tourism Advisory Council meetings in 2007, 2008, and 2009, and this is confirmed by the minutes of these meetings.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 194 TO 196 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the hon Member said in answer to Question No. 940 of 2009 that the Government receives proposals from the private sector for many things including the Upper Rock, what proposals was he talking about?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Exactly what I said, that the Government receive proposals for many things including tourism related matters but not for running the Upper Rock or for involvement in the running of the Upper Rock.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When I asked him whether he had received proposals, the answer was yes but they had not been considered.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But not for involvement in the running of the Upper Rock!

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That was the question at the time. The answer then was, I will just get it out and go over it. In supplementaries in answer to Question No. 940 of 2009, the hon Member said, "I have replied in answer to previous questions that the Government continuously receives 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". So, obviously, he must be talking about those proposals. What else could he have been talking about?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am answering today's questions. Today's questions talk about private sector operators who are interested in becoming involved in the running of the Upper Rock and as I have said, the Government have not received any proposal for the running or involvement in of the running of the Upper Rock. What I said in answer to Question No. 940 of 2009 is still valid. The Government do receive proposals which include its tourism assets and which may include some aspects of the Upper Rock and it has received that sort of proposal but not for involvement in the running of the Upper Rock. The hon Member should choose his words more carefully in phrasing his questions.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say then how many proposals have been received or if any have been received for the running of the tourist sites on the Upper Rock?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Proposals have been made by private sector companies which directly or indirectly affect Gibraltar's tourism assets and other related matters and which include those assets on the Upper Rock. There have been three proposals. One from a local company in May 2008. Another one from a local company in December 2008 and a third one from a UK based company in August 2008 and those were the ones I was referring to in answer to Question No. 940 of 2009 and I said they were not under active consideration but on the shelf as it were.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the position still the same, are these still not under active consideration.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Are they still what, sorry?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are they being considered at the moment or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the situation remains the same.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Apart from the tourist sites, have they received any proposals relating to the actual nature reserve itself?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, unless he were in that including a document that was produced by GONHS which was of an advisory nature to the Government. As far as I know, no proposals have been received in relation to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. I am not aware of anything let me put it that way.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the three proposals for running the tourist sites, do any of those involve franchising?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If the hon Member would give way. That is not what I said. I did not say for the running of the tourist sites.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the proposals involving the tourist sites, do any of them involve franchising the sites out to private entities?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

These are matters commercial in confidence and at this stage because they have not been dismissed, they are not being considered but they are still there, I am not going to go into any detail because the proposals by the very nature are competitive in some respects. So it would not be appropriate for information to be disclosed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government confirm whether the position then is that they intend to continue with the present arrangements in relation to the employees of the area which come under the GDC.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If the Government were to have any plans to change the conditions of employment of any members of staff, the members of staff would be the first to know.

ORAL

NO. 197 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How many meetings of the Tourism Advisory Council have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

One meeting was held on 17th November 2009 and another one will be held shortly.

NO. 198 OF 2010

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 of function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The statistical information sought by the hon Member is detailed in the schedule given to him.

Answer to Question 198 of 2010

DATES	EVENT/FUNCTION	VENUE	CITY	COUNTRY
08/11/09 TO 10/11/09	WORLD TRAVEL MARKET	EXCEL EXHIBITION CENTRE	LONDON	UK
29/11/09 TO 02/12/09	MARKETING BUDGET MEETING LONDON OFFICE, UKGTA MEETING AND ROAD SHOW	GIBRALTAR OFFICE, LONDON AND CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, MANCHESTER	LONDON AND MANCHESTER	UK
15/01/10 TO 16/01/10	LONDON BOAT SHOW	EXCEL EXHIBITION CENTRE	LONDON	UK
20/01/10 TO 21/01/10	FITUR EXHIBITION	IFEMA EXHIBITION CENTRE	MADRID	SPAIN
16/02/10 TO 17/02/10	ROAD SHOWS	STRAND PALACE HOTEL, LONDON AND GRAND HOTEL, BRIGHTON	LONDON AND BRIGHTON	UK

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 198 OF 2010

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have just noticed a correction that needs to be made to the schedule that I have just handed to him. I had, on the last item, the road shows which you will see took place this week, they show me attending the London and Brighton road shows. In fact, I came back one day early in order to be here to attend the meeting of Parliament and therefore I only attended the London one and did not attend the Brighton. I apologise for the error.

ORAL

NO. 199 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADMISSION FEES TO UPPER ROCK

Can Government list the non-Governmental organisations or entities that were consulted following the decision to increase admission fees into the Upper Rock as reflected in Legal Notice 86 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 200 to 202 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 200 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADMISSION FEES TO UPPER ROCK

Can Government say when it took the policy decision to increase fees payable on admission to the Upper Rock listed in legal Notice 86 of 2009, and explain in respect of each separate fee listed why it took the decision to increase it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 199, 201 and 202 of 2010.

NO. 201 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED THROUGH UPPER ROCK ADMISSION FEES

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 in admission fees to the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 199, 200 and 202 of 2010.

NO. 202 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – UPPER ROCK EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide the breakdown of the actual expenditure on the Upper Rock in the financial years 2005/2006 to 2008/2009 inclusive, showing what the money was actually spent on?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The increase of fees was part of the budget measures for 2009. The Government do not normally consult on budget revenue raising measures, unless Government are uncertain about the effect of an increase on demand.

The only fee not increased was for those who simply want to walk on the Upper Rock, in order to encourage more people to do so.

Following the announcement of the increase, representations were made by the transport operators in Gibraltar as a result of which the implementation date for the increase was exceptionally postponed until to 1st January 2010.

The total expenditure on the Upper Rock between 2005 and 2009 has been:

2005/2006	£1,189,416
2006/2007	£1,456,354
2007/2008	£1,786,357
2008/2009	£1,468,550

A breakdown of these total figures just given and the remainder of the statistical information requested is contained in the schedule now handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 202 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 201 of 2010

MONTH	UPPER ROCK REVENUE RAISED
August 2009	£ 411,820.62
September 2009	£ 339,198.72
October 2009	£ 315,327.01
November 2009	£ 146,488.55
December 2009	£ 103,308.62
TOTAL	£ 1,316,143.52

Answer to Question 202 of 2010

UPPER ROCK - TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
SALARIES UPPER ROCK DEPARTMENT				
SALARY PRODUCT MANAGER	815,906	927,758	1,018,868	1,067,760
TOTAL (A)	40,215	38,254	41,189	34,362
	<u>856,121</u>	<u>966,012</u>	<u>1,060,057</u>	<u>1,102,122</u>
SITES EXPENSES				
Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements	40,116	30,975	41,446	37,829
Telephone & Fax	6,692	4,787	8,174	8,704
Printing & Stationery	2,599	3,039	7,040	11,151
Electricity & Water	25,782	39,605	28,903	26,444
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	1,521	3,304	2,107	1,570
Uniforms	5,554	11,184	4,614	5,146
General Expenses	13,724	12,681	8,712	7,681
TOTAL (B)	<u>95,988</u>	<u>105,575</u>	<u>100,996</u>	<u>98,525</u>
I&DF IMPROVEMENTS TO UPPER ROCK				
Cleaning slopes	19,550	24,993	0	0
Firebreaks	14,998	26,797	0	0
Litter Bins	0	0	20,595	0
Lime Kiln Works	0	0	2,910	0
Heritage Centre	0	0	850	0
Signs & plaques	0	6,961	188	0
Water Tanks	0	9,105	703	0
Flags	0	846	0	2,592
Improvements O'hara's Battery	0	2,466	0	0
Improvements City Under Siege	3,842	5,068	720	2,218
Improvements Apes Den	0	1,563	0	0
Improvements Great Siege Tunnels	0	7,231	156,862	1,623
Improvements Moorish Castle	0	69,792	30,688	3,984
Improvements St. Michael's Cave	3,895	8,426	15,235	3,350
Improvements Jew's Gate	2,823	2,661	20,472	10,878
Improvements Toilets Upper Rock	0	47,568	11,800	280
Sewage	5,320	0	0	0
Lighting	11,884	0	0	0
Miscellaneous projects	15,757	0	0	0
TOTAL (C)	<u>78,069</u>	<u>213,477</u>	<u>261,023</u>	<u>24,925</u>
APES MANAGEMENT CONTRACT (includes health care & food)	98,872	107,718	116,621	113,889
SALARIES APE KEEPERS	60,366	63,572	63,085	62,458
DRAINAGE & SEWER WORKS	0	0	184,575	66,631
TOTAL (D)	<u>159,238</u>	<u>171,290</u>	<u>364,281</u>	<u>242,978</u>
TOTAL (A to D)	<u>1,189,416</u>	<u>1,456,354</u>	<u>1,786,357</u>	<u>1,468,550</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 199 TO 202 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the hon Member have available the figures in relation to the I&DF Improvements to the Upper Rock, the figures for each year which start at £78,069 and ends on £24,925, does he have a breakdown of those figures.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sorry. Could the hon Member repeat the question because there was too much ...

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No, that is fine Mr Speaker.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Okay.

NO. 203 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VISIT BY SPANISH TRAVEL AND TOURISM JOURNALISTS

What was the cost, with a breakdown of the visit by a group of Spanish travel and tourism journalists to Gibraltar on or around 15th October?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 204 of 2010.

NO. 204 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MEDIA REPRESENTED BY VISITING SPANISH JOURNALISTS

Can Government list the media that the group of Spanish journalists who visited Gibraltar on or around 15th October represented and which of those media has published information about Gibraltar as a result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The statistical information sought by the hon Member is detailed in the schedule given to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 204 OF 2010**Answer to Question 203 of 2010****PRESS TRIP 13 – 16 October 2009**

ACCOMMODATION	£1,890.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	£55.25
PR SERVICES	£750.00
TOTAL	£2,695.25

Answer to Question No. 204 of 2010**SPANISH PRESS TRIP 13TH – 16TH OCTOBER 2009**

1. EJECUTIVOS MAGAZINE
2. TRANSPORTE AEREO Y TURISMO MAGAZINE
3. VIAJEROS MAGAZINE
4. GRUPO IH – HOSTELERIA Y TURISMO MAGAZINE
5. MAS VIAJES MAGAZINE
6. LUGARES DEL MUNDO MAGAZINE
7. ONDA CERO RADIO
8. DIARIO ADN NEWSPAPER

MEDIA	PUBLISHED PIECE
EJECUTIVOS MAGAZINE	GIBRALTAR PIEDRA CALIENTE (NOV 2009 ISSUE)
TRANSPORTE AEREO Y TURISMO MAGAZINE	UN FIN DE SEMANA EN GIBRALTAR (NOV/DEC 2009 ISSUE)
GRUPO IH – HOSTELERIA Y TURISMO MAGAZINE	GIBRALTAR A UNA HORA DE MADRID (NOV/DEC 2009)
BLOGSPOT.COM (Partners of GRUPO IH – HOSTELERIA Y TURISMO MAGAZINE)	EL VIAJE DE LA VIDA (OCTOBER 2009)
MAS VIAJES MAGAZINE (Partners of LUGARES DEL MUNDO MAGAZINE)	GIBRALTAR PARAISO DE COMPRAS (NOV/DEC 2009 ISSUE)

NO. 205 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the road show held by the Gibraltar Tourist Board in Manchester on 1st December?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 206 to 209 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 206 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

How many persons made up the official Gibraltar Tourist Board delegation to the road show held in Manchester on 1st December and what offices to they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 205 and 207 to 209 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 207 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

Can Government list the co-exhibitors from Gibraltar and the UK that attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in Manchester on 1st December?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 205 , 206, 208 and 209 of 2010.

NO. 208 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

How many persons attended the dinner hosted by the Gibraltar Tourist Board in Manchester on 1st December for agents and co-exhibitors, showing how many were agents and how many were co-exhibitors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 205 to 207 and 209 of 2010.

NO. 209 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

What was the cost of the dinner hosted by the Gibraltar Tourist Board in Manchester on 1st December for agents and co-exhibitors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

As I explained to the hon Member in answer to Question No. 943 of 2009, the use of the words “Gibraltar Tourist Board Delegation” can be misleading and can lead to an incomplete or incorrect answer which does not give all the information that he is seeking.

I have therefore interpreted the Question to be seeking the number of persons who were at the Road Show or who were representing the Gibraltar Tourist Board whether they are based in Gibraltar or in London.

These were:

Ian Leyde, the Sales Manager based at the Gibraltar Tourist Office in London.

Tracey Poggio, the Marketing & PR of Gibraltar Tourist Board London.

Daniel Lerner, also from the Gibraltar Tourist Board in London and he is the Sales & Marketing Assistant.

The Road Show was also attended by myself, by Mr Albert Poggio, the Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London and by Mr N Guerrero, the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Tourist Board who also delivered a destination presentation at the meeting or at the dinner.

The statistical information sought by the hon Member is detailed in the schedules given to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 209 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 205 of 2010

MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

SUBSISTENCE	£90.66
HOTELS	£540.00
FLIGHTS	£1,022.14
TRAVEL EXPENSES	£183.80
AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT	£950.00
HOSPITALITY	£5,602.25
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	£485.50
TOTAL	£8,874.35

Answer to Question No. 207 of 2010

CO-EXHIBITOR	REPRESENTATIVE
Classic Collection Holidays	Product Manager and Assistant
Cadogan Holidays	Sales Director
The Rock Hotel	General Manager
The O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel	Reservations Co-ordinator
Calypso Tours	Cruise Manager
Parodytur/Parody Holidays	Chairman & General Manager
Monarch Airlines	Advertising Manager
British Airways	Account Manager
Gibraltar Taxi Association	Two representatives

Answer to Question No. 208 of 2010

106 PERSONS ATTENDED THE DINNER AS FOLLOWS:

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM.

85 TRAVEL AGENTS.

3 MEMBERS OF THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

12 CO-EXHIBITORS.

5 MEMBERS OF STAFF.

Answer to Question No. 209 of 2010

The cost of the dinner hosted by the GTB IN Manchester on 1st December for agents and co-exhibitors was £3,640.

NO. 210 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the World Travel Market which took place from 9 -12 October 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 211 and 212 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 211 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Can Government say why they took the policy decision this year to locate the Gibraltar stand for the first time in the UK and Ireland hall of the World Travel Market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 210 and 212 of 2010.

NO. 212 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Can Government list the representative of Gibraltar's tourism industry who attended the World Travel Market as co-exhibitors this year and indicate whether they made any contribution to the costs of Gibraltar's participation in the event?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The decision to locate the Gibraltar stand in the UK and Ireland hall of the World Travel Market was taken after recommendations and requests to this effect from co-exhibitors and by the UKGTA itself.

The Gibraltar Tourist Board has based much of its 2009/2010 advertising campaign in the UK on the fact that Gibraltar is a Sterling currency zone and not a Euro currency zone. This has been in response to the exchange rate situation where UK tourists are searching for destinations where their purchasing power is not affected by currency exchange rates. Therefore locating the stand in the UK area was complimentary to this.

The Gibraltar stand was positioned directly next to the Visit Britain stand and, with a rise also being experienced in domestic tourism in the UK, this resulted in a higher number of visitors to our stand than in previous years.

The location was very well received by the co-exhibitors and the stand will be located in this area once again in 2010.

The remainder of the statistical information sought by the hon Member is detailed in the schedule which has been handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 212 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 210 of 2010

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

SUBSISTENCE	£204.86
HOTELS	£1,311.00
FLIGHTS	£1,546.40
TRAVEL EXPENSES	£434.00
STAND COSTS	£20,408.88
FLOOR SPACE	£9,204.54
HOSPITALITY	£152.18
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	£355.55
TOTAL	£33,617.41

Answer to Question No. 212 of 2010

1. BLAND TRANSPORT
2. H M BLAND GROUP
3. PARODYTUR/PARODY HOLIDAYS
4. THE GIBRALTAR TAXI ASSOCIATION
5. THE O'CALLAGHAN ELIOTT HOTEL
6. THE ROCK HOTEL

No contributions were made to the cost of Gibraltar's participation at this event.

NO. 213 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – FITUR

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at FITUR in January this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 215 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 214 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – FITUR

How many persons represented the Government or GTB at FITUR in January this year and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 213 and 215 of 2010.

NO. 215 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – FITUR

Can Government provide a breakdown of the following expenses relating to the cost of participation in FITUR in 2009:

- (a) expenses - £1,700.79;
- (b) hospitality - £1,523.28?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Can the hon member confirm to me that the schedule that I handed to him in answer to the previous question was in fact the FITUR list. So I will now hand to him the schedule with the statistical information for the previous question and he already has the schedule for the answer to this one.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 215 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 213 of 2010

FITUR

SUBSISTENCE	£3,187.50
HOTELS	£306.60
FLIGHTS	£1,218.60
TRAVEL EXPENSES	£174.89
STAND COSTS	£38,216.10
HOSPITALITY	£258.62
PR SERVICES	£817.30
COURIER	£540.00
TOTAL	£44,719.61

Answer to Question No. 214 of 2010

Mr Dylan Ferrar - Marketing Manager, Gibraltar Office

Mrs Marie Gloria Macedo - Marketing Co-ordinator, Gibraltar Office

Mr Ferrar and Mrs Macedo were on the stand from 20th to 24th January.

Minister Britto and the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Tourist Board visited the event on the afternoon of 20th January and on 21st January.

Answer to Question No. 215 of 2010

(a) Expenses

ITEM	COST
Individuals contracted to wear Gibraltar Mascot Costumes (Dolphin and Monkey). This is 50% of the cost, which is jointly funded with M H Bland – M H Bland contract service and own costumes.	£445.54
Photographers and photographs for the event	£911.95
Overtime costs Gibraltar Tourist Board employee Madrid office for work at the weekend.	£343.30
TOTAL	£1,700.79

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 215 OF 2010

(b) Hospitality

ITEM	COST
Sherry for stand – served to guests as hospitality	£21.14
Foam cups	£9.42
Tea bags	£7.30
Kettle	£35.38
Water	£6.29
Reception held on stand for press and co-exhibitors	£1,230.67
Staff Dinner	£213.09
TOTAL	£1,523.29

ORAL

NO. 216 OF 2010

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 217 to 225 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 217 OF 2010

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. 216 and 218 to 225 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 218 OF 2010

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. 216, 217 and 219 to 225 of 2010.

NO. 219 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 752 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. 216 to 218 and 220 to 225 of 2010.

NO. 220 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 753 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 216 to 219 and 221 to 225 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 221 OF 2010

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. 216 to 220 and 222 to 225 of 2010.

NO. 222 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM THE SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 755 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. 216 to 221 and 223 to 225 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 223 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

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

Since the answer given to Question No. 756 of 2009, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the Social Category “A” List and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 216 to 222, 224 and 225 of 2010.

NO. 224 OF 2010

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 Nos. 216 to 223 and 225 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 225 OF 2010

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

The information requested is contained in schedule format.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 225 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 216 of 2010

The Housing Department is currently dealing with 38 homeless cases.

Answer to Question No. 217 of 2010

There are 61 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended, as follows:

A+	-	2
A	-	17
B	-	19
C	-	23

Answer to Question No. 218 of 2010

There are 195 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	-	67
B	-	41
C	-	61

Answer to Question No. 219 of 2010

DATE	A+	A	B	C
October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	2	3	1	2
November 2009	2	1	-	1
December 2009	-	1	1	1
January 2010	-	-	-	-
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question No. 220 of 2010

A total of six 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
October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	1	-	-	-
November 2009	-	2	1	-
December 2009	1	-	-	-
January 2010	-	-	1	-
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	-	-	-

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 225 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 221 of 2010

There are currently 77 persons on the Housing Social Category “A” List.

Answer to Question No. 222 of 2010

A total of nine applicants have been removed from the Housing Social Category “A” List as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	3
November 2009	-	1
December 2009	-	4
January 2010	-	1
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question No. 223 of 2010

A total of six applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category “A” List as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	2
November 2009	-	Nil
December 2009	-	1
January 2010	-	3
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question No. 224 of 2010

There are currently 1145 applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists as follows:

1RKB	-	628
2RKB	-	76
3RKB	-	266
4RKB	-	156
5RKB	-	18
6RKB	-	1

Answer to Question No. 225 of 2010

There are currently 385 applicants on the pre-list as follows:

1RKB	-	295
2RKB	-	10
3RKB	-	58
4RKB	-	18
5RKB	-	4
6RKB	-	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 216 TO 225 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

This will take some time Mr Speaker. I hope you understand it. It will take a few minutes. If you ask them one at a time I could address the issues more promptly.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Xxxxxx

HON C A BRUZON:

What was that?

HON J J NETTO:

You seem quite strong.

HON C A BRUZON:

Could you repeat that Mr ...

HON J J NETTO:

What I am saying is you seem to come across quite strong, quite energetic.

HON C A BRUZON:

Thank you.

HON J J NETTO:

With pleasure!

HON C A BRUZON:

I wanted to take my time over the questions so that everybody, both on Radio Gibraltar and the few people here, could understand what I was saying so that I can now, hopefully having allowed everybody to hear the questions, be given time to prepare my supplementaries.....

HON J J NETTO:

Absolutely right!

HON C A BRUZON:

.....and give time to my colleagues here as well. Mr Speaker, in connection with the 38 homeless cases, does the Minister have a breakdown of male and female?

HON F J VINET:

No.

HON C A BRUZON:

Okay. Can the Minister confirm that these 38 homeless cases are all of them on the Social Category "A" List?

HON F J VINET:

Yes. I recall, in fact, perhaps the last time, having explained in my answer that the fact that the Housing Department is currently dealing with, I think that back then it was 40 homeless cases, did not necessarily mean that they were all included in the Social List and that perhaps we were assessing their applications at that stage and, in fact, I recall that out of those 40, I think two or three applications were being assessed at the time. As it stands today, the 38 homeless cases referred to are all already in Social List.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say in the figures that he has given in answer to Question Nos. 224 and 225 of 2010, which show the 1,145 applicants on the waiting list and the 385 on the pre-list, is the trend currently that there are more people moving, as it were, from the pre-list to the main list than people coming off it through allocations or is it that the 1,145 is more or less static with people joining it and leaving it in about the same numbers?

HON F J VINET:

In fact, partly as a result of the new policy implemented on the 1st June last year which brought the eligibility age down from 21 to 18, that has resulted in an influx of new applicants all of whom, because that year has still not expired, are now on the pre-list. So, although it is true that, in fact, there are more allocations happening than in the recent past, the numbers do not tally and there are more new applicants joining the pre-list than there are allocations taking place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not asking that. What I was asking was the movement from the pre-list to the list from which allocations are made. Is the position currently or the trend of the last few months....., at the moment..... The effect of the age 18 ability to apply is reflected in the 385 and not in the 1,145 as he has confirmed.

HON F J VINET:

That is right!

HON J J BOSSANO:

But my question was, is the movement from the 385 to the 1,145 at the moment, as many people coming off, as it were, as there are people joining or is it more or less static or is there a trend?

HON F J VINET:

I am not sure I understand the question. When the Hon the Leader of the Opposition says people coming off, is he referring to xxxxxx?

HON J J BOSSANO:

If there are, say in a month, five people who move from..... To give a hypothetical example, if there were five people who had completed the two years and therefore came from the 385 and joined the 1,145, if there were five allocations in that month the effect would be that the 1,145 would not be changing, that it would be more or less static. Is that what is happening or.....?

HON F J VINET:

Yes. There are more people being added on to the proper waiting list than there are allocations taking place. The move happens automatically. There used to be a two year pre-list period that has now been halved to one year but the outcome is that. There are more allocations happening than before but there are even more new applicants on the pre-list who are moving on to the waiting list proper.

HON C A BRUZON:

With reference to the answer given to Question Nos. 224 and 225 of 2010 to which my hon Colleague has referred, may I just make quite clear that in spite of the explanation given to the Minister, that I think it is unacceptable that after so many years in Government, the housing waiting lists are increasing, not quite every time I ask, but nearly every time I ask, and is it not an indication that the commitments that this Government give on a number of issues are really not worth the paper they are written on?

HON F J VINET:

No and actually I sense an enormous feeling of *déjà vu* because that is precisely the same.....

HON C A BRUZON:

A feeling of what?

HON F J VINET:

Of *déjà vu*, because that is precisely the same question that was asked last Question Time and in previous Question Times and I have no difficulty in repeating what my reply has been. As I have already said, there are in fact more allocations taking place than there have been in recent times. It just so happens that there are more new applicants onto the waiting list. Now, there is no scientific study as to what that reason may be but I have certainly got my own conclusions which are a combination of factors. Certainly, the new eligibility age of 18 is a strong factor because there are three additional years worth of potential applicants that are now on the waiting list. The fact is that we live at a time where property is more expensive worldwide than it used to be and that in itself is an incentive for people who may otherwise not have thought about applying for Government housing, now doing so. Perhaps difficulties with people who would like to purchase in the private market but are not obtaining mortgages, so they decide to go onto the waiting list and in fact an additional factor which I know, based on the information that has been passed on to me, is that people who found out about this magnificent, fantastic new rental estate that is being built.....

HON XXXXXX:

Absolutely!

HON XXXXXX:

Quality!

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxxx before the last election!

HON F J VINET:

No matter how much I try to highlight how magnificent and fantastic it is, it really would not do it justice. There are people who have been attracted by the possibility of moving into this new estate, who may not otherwise have put their names down on the waiting list and who have done so. Let me also say that not everyone who chooses to become an applicant actually has disregarded the possibility of purchasing privately. There is the factor which is that people in Gibraltar, many people, when they attain their eligibility age which is now 18, they automatically go down to the Housing Department and put their name down, even though perhaps they may have no real desire to live in a Government flat or they may prefer to buy a property of their own in the future and they do so. But that, of course, does not preclude them from joining the waiting list. So, is the waiting list getting larger? Yes, that is an xxxxxx fact but there are, I believe, reasons for that happening and which

we are working to address that to a large extent with the 500 new flats in the new estate.

HON C A BRUZON:

It was in 2006 that the then Minister for Housing announced, what a wonderful day it was for the Housing Department, for the administration of those people who have the responsibility of allocating homes under extremely difficult circumstances over the previous decades and that 2006 was a wonderful day for the Housing Department. That was nearly four years ago. I am not really convinced of the arguments that the Hon Minister for Housing has been using because the reality is that they have simply not made adequate and timely provision for social housing for our people. Why does he not agree with that?

HON F J VINET:

I certainly do not agree with the premise of the question that no adequate provision for social housing has been made because if the hon Member chooses to refer specifically to social housing, in fact, there are more allocations for social cases now than ever.

HON C A BRUZON:

There are still many, many people who are homeless, who are Social Category "A", medical cases "C", "B", "A" and then "A+" which gives me the impression that they, how shall I put it without being offensive, I want to be respectful to the hon Member because it is not entirely his fault but it is the Government that he chooses to belong to that unfortunately, in my opinion, have failed in providing adequate housing policies to solve the housing problem. When the GSLP, and I am often accused rather naughtily by the Chief Minister, that I chose to join the GSLP, well I am happy to be in the GSLP and next to Mr Bossano. Unfortunately, Mr Caruana's Government has simply failed on the matter of housing. The so called "affordable housing" when they came out, were not sufficiently affordable. What more problems are we to face now?

HON XXXXXX

That is not true.

HON C A BRUZON:

The reality is that when something recent happens which puts the breaks on a particular development, they concentrate on that as the excuse but they forget that these problems have been going on since 1996, particularly on housing. Social, affordable and call it what you like, that is the truth as I see it. Does he not agree?

HON F J VINET:

I do not believe that housing issues started on the day the GSD came into Government in 1996. Housing issues and housing waiting lists have existed, well certainly as far back as I can remember.

HON XXXXXX:

Unless you build Tilden huts?

HON F J VINET:

I cannot recall the GSLP when they were in Government having built any new rental housing. But if the hon Member really is concerned, and I am certainly not suggesting that he is not, as to the plight of applicants on the Social Housing "A" waiting list, he will be very happy to learn that we are very confident that later on this year the Social Housing "A" waiting list will be totally wiped out.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member mentioned earlier that as part of the increase in the lists, talking about this new rental accommodation that has been built, that people were attracted to the new rental estate and have therefore put their name on the waiting list. Is it not the case and does the hon Member not recall that this rental estate which was announced as an electoral gimmick in 2007 was actually allocated to those who were at the time on the waiting list. Before a brick was laid and at a time when the Government in fact announced that there were going to be over 900 flats and it turned out that they made a U turn subsequently and it has turned out that we lost well over 100 flats in that. So, how are people attracted to place their names on the waiting list in respect of an estate which has been allocated two years ago.

HON F J VINET:

I will explain. First of all there was no promise of 900 flats. There was a promise of 700 new flats, 500 of which..... 490 of which are now being built in the new estate, and an additional 200 to be built elsewhere. I believe there may be a relevant question in the order paper elsewhere which I think the Chief Minister may be answering. The fact that there were indeed 490 offers made some time ago does not mean that those flats will be going to those same 490 applicants. Why, because those 490 offers were made to the 490 applicants who were highest in their respective waiting lists. Of course, many of those, and in fact there is a question later on in the order paper, many of those have already reached in the past two or three years the top of their respective waiting list and when that happens they are offered the possibility of either choosing to wait for the new flat they were offered or to accept an existing flat I cannot recall the figures at the moment, but it is almost 50:50. Some people choose to wait for the new flats, others will accept whatever is available on the day. So, there will be flats left over, so to speak, for new applicants on the list.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that answer not in fact confirm the folly of this Government in actually allocating flats which did not exist at a time when three, four years down the line, the position with the list was going to change necessarily by the logic that the hon Member has just given and does that not make the Government understand that they made a mistake. It was only an electoral gimmick. They made 490 offers knowing that there were going to be 490 flats and yet they announced to the whole of Gibraltar that there were going to be 700 flats and does that not suggest an electoral fraud which was committed by this Government?

HON F J VINET:

Most certainly not and the facts speak for themselves.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes of course they do!

HON F J VINET:

The fact that there are..... Well, perhaps the hon Member is interested in the answer I am giving or perhaps he is not and he only wants to make a point. The fact that there are applicants on the waiting list who are choosing to wait for the new estate rather than accept what is available now, notwithstanding that they have reached the top of their respective waiting list, incidentally not only on normal waiting list but also on the medical "A+" list, indicates precisely that this was no folly and there was good reason for making that promise.

HON C A BRUZON:

The Hon Minister for Housing made a reference or made a statement that has been made by the Chief Minister in the past, namely that the GSD has built more homes for rental than the previous GSLP administration.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Exactly!

HON C A BRUZON:

What was that? Did you have permission to speak Mr Clive Beltran? The Chief Minister told the House that the GSD had built Bishop Canilla House whilst the GSLP had only added a floor to the buildings at Laguna Estate.

HON C BELTRAN:

Xxxxxx

HON C A BRUZON:

Instead..... Pardon!

HON C BELTRAN:

Xxxxxx

HON C A BRUZON:

Mr Speaker, would you kindly ask the hon Gentleman to stop interrupting please?

MR SPEAKER:

It is definitely not in order for hon Members to interrupt each other but there is a degree of heckling going on, on both sides.

HON C A BRUZON:

Fair enough. I will accept that.

MR SPEAKER:

Either we all heckle or we do not heckle at all.

HON C A BRUZON:

It happens all the time! The Chief Minister told the House that the GSD had built Bishop Canilla House whilst the GSLP had only added a floor to the buildings at Laguna Estate instead of fixing a leaking roof. That is untrue. In fact the GSLP was responsible ...

HON XXXXXX

What is the question?

HON C A BRUZON:

I am coming to the question. This is an important preamble, Mr Speaker.

HON XXXXXX

Xxxxxx

HON C A BRUZON:

Well, with your permission. If you do not allow me, I will sit down.

MR SPEAKER:

No. I have not stopped you. I will allow the hon Member a brief preamble.

HON C A BRUZON:

The fact is that the GSLP was responsible for the development of the following properties for Government tenants: 140 for the elderly at Sir William Jackson Grove; four specifically for the disabled at Sir William Jackson Grove; 100 further flats at Laguna, Glacis, St Josephs and St Jago's Estates, Catalan Bay and six at the old St Joseph's School. The last six were developed by the GSLP but allocated by the GSD Government. So, before the Minister makes statements to the effect that they built more houses for rental than we did, he should check his facts and that is not a question but let me ask him, does he not accept that?

MR SPEAKER:

There was no question there really.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Xxxxxx not accept the preamble!

HON F J VINET:

Perhaps, the hon Member may wish to draw comparisons between a Government, the GSD Government, that actually builds new estates and previous administrations who choose to add three, four or five flats by adding an additional floor to some existing flats in Laguna or perhaps who choose to convert garage spaces into bedsits in St Jago's. But if the hon Member, who has highlighted a number of flats having been built, will take out his calculator if he so needs to, 86 flats for the elderly at Bishop Canilla House, 140 new flats for the elderly at Albert Risso House coming on stream later this year, 500 new flats in a new estate. I think the numbers also speak for themselves.

HON XXXXXX

Edinburgh Estate.....

HON C A BRUZON:

But Albert Risso House is not ready yet. I know that hopefully it will be ready soon. So that should not be part of his argument.

HON F J VINET:

In that case I will remove those flats that have not yet been built and I will take the liberty of adding Edinburgh Estate which I did not choose to mention before.

HON C A BRUZON:

From the MOD! That is fine, yes.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order, order. I think we need to ask questions and get some answers. Next question..... The hon Fabian Picardo!

HON F R PICARDO:

Given all that mathematics and all the arguments that we have heard in the past answers to this question from the hon Gentleman, how does he reconcile the fact that the housing waiting list is now about three times the size that it was at the beginning of 19.....

HON XXXXXX

Xxxxxx

HON F R PICARDO:

No, no, no, no. If the hon Lady and Gentleman in the sedentary position allow me to finish my question they will see that I am going to take into consideration the pathetic excuses already advanced by the hon Gentleman. How is it that he explains, unless he believes that in each generation in Gibraltar between the ages of 18 and 21 there are 1000 people putting their names down for the housing waiting list, that the housing waiting list today is three almost four times the size of the housing waiting list as it was that his administration inherited in 1996. Does not that fact and the fact that the hon Gentleman likes to rely on facts and calculations and numbers actually speak for itself, and condemn this Government for what it has done in respect of housing, which is not to deliver enough on time and therefore condemn themselves, Gibraltarians into simply putting their names down on the housing waiting list, expectant that the Government will deliver shortly, which in the GSD lexicon as we know can mean forever, on their housing promises.

HON F J VINET:

No. There is simply more demand for Government flats now than there used to be in the past.

HON F R PICARDO:

With the very greatest of respects to the hon Gentleman, that simply cannot be true and I am not for one moment suggesting that he is attempting to mislead the Parliament by his answer but he is in effect misleading those who are listening by suggesting that, because it must be clear to him, must it not, that there is now more housing in Gibraltar than there was in 1988, and yet the population of Gibraltar is not that much greater than it was in 1988 and the housing waiting list in 1996 when the GSLP left office was much lower than it is today. So therefore, if there are more private properties available to buy or rent, if the Government has, either the GSLP or the GSD Government has developed affordable, and we can argue over the affordability of these properties, more property, how is it that today he can try and justify that there is more pressure for housing in Gibraltar. The number of Gibraltarians, the ones eligible for housing under the Housing Act, has not increased substantially, absent his as I describe pathetic excuse, suggesting that the number of people between 18 to 21 had all put their names down for housing. So, can he not agree with me that the excuses he has proffered really do nothing to advance their cause and that they have presided over a massive increase in the housing waiting list and therefore failed a massive amount of people?

HON F J VINET:

No. The length of housing waiting lists has always fluctuated. Mr Picardo chooses to refer to the number of people on the waiting lists in 1996 when the GSLP left office. Of course, that number was not the same as that existed before the GSLP came into office. The fact is that the number of people on the waiting lists move up or down depending on the availability, not only of Government flats but also of private properties purchased. Of course, when the GSLP built the co-ownership flats at Montagu Gardens and Harbour Views.....

HON C A BELTRAN:

Notorious!

HON F J VINET:

Well, when the private sector at the time of the GSLP being in Government built those flats, I beg the hon Member's pardon, they were bought by people who were on the housing waiting lists and who thereafter ceased to be on the waiting lists. Similarly, people who are now on the waiting lists and who have bought flats at Waterport Terraces and at the former OEM developments in the South District will be removed from the waiting lists once they move elsewhere. So, the waiting lists have always fluctuated and that will continue to be the case in the future.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that not exactly the point. Are we not back, under 14 years of the GSD, are we not back where we were in 1988 in terms of the crisis for the people on that waiting list because the housing waiting list has not fluctuated downwards in the 14 years that the hon Gentlemen and Lady have been holding office. They have only fluctuated upwards and that is not a fluctuation but a very clear curve and a very clear evidence

of their failure to provide any alternative, either in terms of the financing of the building of co-ownership homes, in the development of a rental estate in time and these 14 years are now weighing down on them and weighing down on those who are on that housing waiting list?

HON F J VINET:

I have nothing to add to my previous answers.

HON C A BRUZON:

The situation, and I will ask a question I promise, is much worse than my hon Colleague Mr Picardo describes because in fact when the AACR left office in 1988 there were about 2,300 people on the waiting list and when the GSLP came into power, and they were there for eight years, the housing waiting list had dropped from 2,300 to a mere two or three hundred. So, it is not just two or three times bigger in terms of arithmetic, it is eight or nine times worse. Now, is that not something that the Government should be ashamed of?

HON F J VINET:

That question does not change one iota the nature of my previous replies.

ORAL

NO. 226 OF 2010

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 CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 227 and 228 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 227 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING ATTENTION OF BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Can Government state how many jobs are currently listed as requiring the attention of Buildings and Works within the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 226 and 228 of 2010.

NO. 228 OF 2010

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

The number of flats currently with Buildings and Works requiring refurbishment is 22.

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of Buildings and Works, as at 11th February 2010, was 3,473.

The number of tenants currently awaiting works/repairs by the Housing Department, as at 11th February 2010, was 1455.

Since the hon Member makes the point, an understandable point albeit, but with some undisguised relish, to highlight even the most minimum of increases in the past, and although I qualify what I am about to say because, of course, as I have always explained, the number of outstanding jobs fluctuate depending on severe weather and so on. The fact is that when this question was asked, when the question as to the number of outstanding jobs was asked last time, the answer was 4,075. As it stands today, it is 3,473. That is a difference of 602 jobs, 602 fewer outstanding jobs which represents a decrease of almost 15%.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 226 TO 228 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Are the Government aware that in those figures, I accept the statistics, I do not deny the information, I cannot, because I do not have access to the banks of information that the Government have, but are the Government not aware that within those figures there are a number of elderly people who for years have been trying to get Buildings and Works, which obviously comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Housing, to resolve problems of dampness which comes from the outside. I can give an example of Alert House. An elderly gentleman..... and I have written to, I think, all the Ministers for Housing since I acquired this job, and the work is still outstanding. The people are told, and is this not true, I think the Minister for Housing has an incredibly difficult job, I can only begin to imagine how difficult it must be, because there are so many outstanding jobs and even though there has been a

reduction in the statistics as given to me today, but the fact is that there should be more pro-activity, if you like, more..... a system whereby problems are addressed and not just a question of people being asked to go to the reporting office, phone such and such and then getting letters months later, if you need any further help do not hesitate to contact us. I have so many cases of people who are really tired, saddened and are constantly coming to see me and I write letters to the Minister and unfortunately the works that should be done are simply not being done. So, I would like to know, is it a question that there are not enough materials, is there not enough money, are the workers dissatisfied, are Government not handling the Buildings & Works system properly? What exactly is going wrong? Whatever the reduction, there are still many outstanding jobs and what are the Government doing to reduce this?

HON F J VINET:

First of all let me start by answering the latter part of the question. Certainly, it is not and cannot be a question of there being not having enough money and not enough materials because, in fact, the opposite is the case. If the hon Member were to ask me, "Would the Minister for Housing prefer there not to be anyone waiting for a job to be done?" of course the answer is "Yes". In an ideal world there would be no one waiting more than a few weeks for outstanding jobs to be done. I have said that, in fact, myself in the past and I wish the productivity at Buildings and Works was even greater than what it is now, but the fact is that notwithstanding that there may be people who have been waiting for a fair amount of time for outstanding works to be done, this Government has spent £35 million in capital projects over the last 12 years. No other Government have spent that amount before, and that is completely separate to the on-going funds spent every year in Buildings and Works. I want the waiting list to decrease into nothing, if at all possible. We are far away from that happening but if the hon Member looks at the answers I have given in this House as to the number of outstanding jobs and even taking into account that these do fluctuate from time to time depending on weather conditions and so on, there is a very clear downward trend. So, although I think and accept that there is a long way to go, I think we are certainly heading in the right direction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member saying that the downward trend, as he describes it, that is the fact that there are now 602 jobs outstanding less than the last time the question was answered, is because more work has been completed in the period since the last question, that was being completed before. Is that what he is telling us?

HON F J VINET:

There are fewer outstanding jobs than there were three/four months ago.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but my question is, is he telling us that the reason why there are fewer outstanding jobs is because the amount of work carried out since the last question has increased and that therefore more work is being..... the output is up and more work is being done than was previously being done. Is that what he is telling us?

HON F J VINET:

I assume that is the case. It also depends on the nature of the jobs. Some of these jobs are minor in nature and others are not, and if the workforce choose to perhaps focus on the minor jobs rather than on the more major ones then of course that is reflected on the waiting lists.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not also a fact that the department is turning down requests for jobs on the basis that tenants are not entitled to have the work done by the landlord and should be doing the work themselves and that this effort of the department in concentrating in what should be done and should not be done, has been greater in the last few months than it was in the past. Could it be the case that the reason for the decline in the numbers outstanding is because they are rejecting work that previously they were accepting?

HON F J VINET:

No, purely because the downward trend, in fact, goes back to prior to that change in policy. It is true that Government has chosen to more closely adhere to the terms and conditions and rights and obligations of the Tenancy Agreement. The Tenancy Agreement stipulates what are the rights and obligations of the Landlord, the Government, and also of the tenant. The tenant is responsible for some of the repairs that may need to be undertaken in the flat. I think in the past what has happened is that, gradually perhaps, Buildings and Works, wrongly I believe, wrongly in the sense that they are going beyond what the Tenancy Agreement actually stipulates, have been accepting to undertake works which were in fact the responsibility of the tenant and all that Government has done is to adhere to that Tenancy Agreement as it, I think, should have done in the first place. There may be an element of that happening in the figures, I recognise that, but that cannot be the sole reason for the downward trend because, as I say, that downward trend already started prior to this change in policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But then, in fact, he cannot attribute the 602 exclusively to the fact that more work is being done because he must be aware that there are many people who have been complaining recently about having their request for work being turned down when they phone in on the basis that the work that they are reporting is not the responsibility of the Government. There are people who claim that this was previously being accepted and, therefore, it may well be that we will have to see and ask him how much has been, what has been the inflow of works that have been reported and accepted as being the Government's, xxxxxx monitor the effect of this then.

HON F J VINET:

Yes, except that there is no clear way of perhaps comparing the number of jobs that are accepted because the number of jobs accepted is not solely dependant on whether they happen to fall within the confines of the Government's obligations under

the Tenancy Agreement. It also depends on a number of other factors and if the hon Member were to look at the number of jobs accepted immediately after the October 2008 storms, it bears little resemblance to the number of jobs coming in in the previous months. So, I do not think one can make a fully scientific comparison but there may be an element of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, presumably the reason for taking the step of emphasising this more than in the past was precisely to bring about a reduction in the number of works being accepted. Otherwise why do it.

HON F J VINET:

The xxxxxx was taken in order to ensure that the Tenancy Agreement is adhered to and it has to be adhered to and to further prevent, because this has been a gradual process in fact, it was not just a case of one day someone deciding, well actually we are going to accept all the jobs that we have not been accepting up to now, notwithstanding that they do not fall within the obligations of the tenant. It has happened gradually over a period of time and we came to realise..... Government obviously has its obligations but so do the tenants and I think everyone has to accept that. So, it is a question of addressing what has been an increasing change in circumstances.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. I am not questioning the wisdom of the policy nor am I saying whether we agree or disagree. All I am trying to establish is that by definition everything that the hon Member has said means that the object of the exercise was precisely to bring to a stop and to reverse the process that he claims has been taking place of gradually encroaching in what he considers the Government should be doing which ought to be done by the tenant. Otherwise, why is it that from a given point in time people get told, when they report something, that this is not something that the Buildings and Works can accept as a complaint because it is not their responsibility. The department presumably has been given specific instructions to identify the complaint to see whether it falls on the landlord or it does not fall on the landlord. That must have happened at a point in time. Now, if it has happened at a point in time because the Government felt that they were being asked to do too much because this had been, a sort of slippery slope that had started a long time ago, then the purpose of the exercise must have been to stop the slippery slope, which must definitely mean that the consequence must be less jobs being accepted after this step was taken than were being accepted before. Otherwise it would make no sense. It would mean that the step had not worked.

HON F J VINET:

Certainly, the consequence to some extent will of course be reflected in the waiting lists because if Government is choosing to adhere to the Tenancy Agreement and therefore no longer accepting some of the jobs that it had, I think, wrongly been accepting in the past, then of course the number of jobs accepted does go down but the change was not in order to bring down the waiting lists. That may have been the

consequence of it. The change has been carried out in order to ensure that the available funding is focussed on those jobs that really are the landlord's responsibility. But, of course, the fact that some tenants may have chosen to report repairs which were not the landlord's obligations, does not mean that every single tenant does the same thing. There are those tenants who accept that some repairs to the flats are their responsibility and they choose to carry out themselves and I think that is unfair, that discrepancy I think is unfair, and I think Government's funding ought to be focussed on the jobs that Government are obliged to carry out. Notwithstanding everything I have said, perhaps just to clarify, to give a bigger picture, although there has been a change in policy and Government will be adhering far more closely and strictly to the terms of the Tenancy Agreement we are also flexible. There may be some cases where Government may be convinced for social or other reasons that we may go beyond the terms of the Tenancy Agreement, and in fact we have taken a decision of stopping this strictness when it comes to old age pensioners. So, Buildings and Works will continue to accept the undertaking of repairs, even if they fall outside the obligations of Government, when it affects pensioners.

ORAL

NO. 229 OF 2010

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. 768 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 230 to 233 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 230 OF 2010

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. 769 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 229 and 231 to 233 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 231 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 770 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 229, 230, 232 and 233 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 232 OF 2010

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. 771 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 229 to 231 and 233 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 233 OF 2010

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. 772 of 2009, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested is contained in a schedule that is now being passed over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 233 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 229 of 2010

A total number of 24 households have applied for rent relief as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	Nil
November 2009	-	10 (7 active)
December 2009	-	7 (4 active)
January 2010	-	3 (active)
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	4 (1 active)

Answer to Question No. 230 of 2010

The number of households that have received rent relief is as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	853
November 2009	-	835
December 2009	-	827
January 2010	-	764
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	687

Answer to Question No. 231 of 2010

The number of households that were on full rent relief is as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	30
November 2009	-	99
December 2009	-	94
January 2010	-	74
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	60

Answer to Question No. 232 of 2010

The number of households on rent relief that have had this benefit terminated, is as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	Nil
November 2009	-	13
December 2009	-	8
January 2010	-	23
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	21

Answer to Question No. 233 of 2010

The number of households that have had the level of rent relief reduced, is as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	11
November 2009	-	12
December 2009	-	10
January 2010	-	12
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	12

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 229 TO 233 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

I would like to thank the Minister for the statistics presented to us. May I ask the question? I know I cannot specifically mention names. I do not know whether that ... but would the Minister check in his in-tray to see if there is a letter that I wrote to him about three weeks ago concerning the subject of full rent relief to somebody who may be entitled to full rent relief.

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I will check. It does not ring a bell because I have read a number of recent correspondence from the hon Gentleman. That one does not ring a bell but I will check when I return to the office.

HON C A BRUZON:

Thank you. I know the letter has been acknowledged so it should be there. Thank you very much.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member confirm two things. One, that persons who are on social assistance according to the formula are entitled to the full level of rent relief because their income is such that it falls below the threshold, and two, that the formula has not changed since the he last explained it to us?

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I can confirm both xxxxxx of the question.

NO. 234 OF 2010

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

Answer to Question No. 234 of 2010

The total number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent is 34.

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

	Total agreements	Amount
October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	5	£25,499.97
November 2009	2	£ 4,985.82
December 2009	17	£70,676.67
January 2010	8	£39,984.10
February 2010 (up to 11.02.10)	2	<u>£ 1,668.74</u>
		<u>£142,815.30</u>

NO. 235 OF 2010

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 to Question No. 774 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Two pre-war housing units have been allocated.

NO. 236 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Chief Minister and/or the Minister for Housing since Question No. 776 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Under the terms of the Housing Act, all houses are technically allocated by the Minister who is the Housing Authority under the Act. The Chief Minister does not allocate Government flats.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 236 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

So, then when in the last session of Parliament I was told that six homes were allocated without the advice of the Committee to do so and I assume that the Minister was implying that there had been a direct intervention on the part of either himself or the Chief Minister in these six cases. Is that correct?

HON F J VINET:

Yes. There is actually a specific question on that one or two question down the line. But I am happy to confirm there may well be involvement in the process leading up to the actual allocation by the Chief Minister or myself. What I am trying to explain, the question asks whether flats have been allocated by the Chief Minister or by the Minister. The Chief Minister does not allocate flats. He may have been involved in one or two cases where the matter may have been brought to my attention and so on. So, he may have been involved in the process leading up to the allocation but the physical, technical allocation is done by myself as the Housing Authority.

HON C A BRUZON:

There are more questions on that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How many?

HON F J VINET:

I just seem to have overheard the hon Leader of the Opposition asking how many. I do not have the information here before me but I recall, because I did have that information in supplementary format last time, that out of those six I recall that the Chief Minister was involved with two of those and I xxxxxx the other four.

ORAL

NO. 237 OF 2010

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. 775 of 2009, providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 238 and 239 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 238 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee since Question No. 776 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 237 and 239 of 2010.

NO. 239 OF 2010**THE HON C A BRUZON****HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED**

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee, since the answer to Question No. 776 of 2009?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Eight post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases, as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	2
November 2009	-	1
December 2009	-	4
January 2010	-	1
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	Nil

Thirty-one flats have been allocated to applicants on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee.

Four flats have been allocated without the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 237 TO 239 OF 2010**HON C A BRUZON:**

My understanding of the procedures as explained by the Minister is that the Housing Allocation Committee, even though it is still called the Housing Allocation Committee, is only advisory. So, apart from the Minister, because I am sure that the Minister, correct me if I am wrong, does not allocate every single home even though he is the Housing Authority. So, who within the Housing Department makes the decision?

HON F J VINET:

No. The way it works is that, first of all I accept that perhaps the nomenclature of the Housing Allocation Committee may not be perhaps what it is, may be misleading, because what the Committee does and again there is a specific question on this, in fact, it is the next Question No. 240 of 2010, all they do is actually advise the

Government. The mechanics of it are quite simple. Although I may technically carry out the allocation, I choose not to involve myself with the vast majority of these cases. What happens is that there are applications to the Committee for social categorisation and medical categorisation, that forms the bulk of the work of the Committee. I remind the hon Member that part of the membership is a medical practitioner and a social worker and other individuals. They assess what the applications may be and they determine whether the advice given to the Authority is to accept or not accept the application. If the Committee chooses to accept their application, I do not concern myself any further other than in effect rubber stamping what they have advised.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The system that used to exist before was effectively that the Housing Allocation Committee in 99 cases of 100 simply allocated according to the pointage scheme on the priority list that existed. Is that still how it is done? Is it almost automatic in the vast majority of cases and that it is only in exceptional circumstances that somebody, not at the top of the list, is the one that is recommended for allocation? Is the nature of the advice anything other than saying, give it to the person with the most points?

HON F J VINET:

There may be occasions, in fact, when the advice of the Committee goes beyond simply recommending that the person is accepted for inclusion in the social list or the medical list. The circumstances of the individual or family that signs may lead the Committee to advise Government to actually prioritise the allocation because we are talking about very severe social or medical cases.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am saying, in the normal allocations that the hon Member does on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee, is that advice driven by the pointage scheme of the individual on the waiting list?

HON F J VINET:

Yes. In fact the Committee does not involve itself in that. That is a far more automatic process. When flats are returned to Government housing stock either because the previous tenant has sadly passed away or they may have moved to Mount Alvernia or they may have bought in the private sector, we simply, not the Housing Allocation Committee but the Housing Department, allocate it to whoever is next in line on the waiting list. So, there is no actual involvement by the Committee in that process.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh. I see.

NO. 240 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

With reference to the answer to Question No. 776 of 2009, can Government explain the circumstances that led to the allocation of six Government flats without the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee to do so?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Allocation Committee, who I may add perform an exemplary service and to whose members Government are indebted, is, notwithstanding that, an Advisory Committee with a purely advisory role. Government are neither obliged to follow the advice received or to seek such advice in the first place. When the circumstances of a particular case are so clear and obvious that they do not require the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee, no such advice is sought.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 240 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

I admit that the Minister may well have answered my question but I am not clear in my mind. The question asks, if he can explain the circumstances, has he done that Mr Speaker?

HON F J VINET:

I may not have given precise examples but the circumstances are when the facts and circumstances are so glaringly obvious and clear to even a lay person like myself. Just to give a generic example. When, for example, a young child is suffering emotionally because of the household circumstances in the house or perhaps I have had one or two occasions when very, very elderly persons with very serious mobility problems have come to see me. I do not need the advice of a doctor to tell me that that person cannot climb the stairs to reach their flat. That is the sort of thing that we are looking at. I would rather not go into a great deal of detail for two reasons. First of all, because by going to the specifics of cases we may identify the individuals concerned and I prefer to respect their privacy and also perhaps because by doing so we may be inviting others to engineer or self-inflict similar conditions in a bid to speed up the process. What I can say is that the..... actually the sort of circumstances that may lead to the Authority, the Government, not necessarily

channelling these applications through the Committee are the sort of circumstances, the sort of scenarios, which convince members opposite to write to me recommending that a particular person is allocated a flat or..... In fact, I can actually tell you that some of those six families/individuals that were referred to are known to members opposite because the Hon Mr Bruzon actually wrote to me urging me to do precisely what has been done and I am perfectly happy to share the names of those individuals privately but I would rather not do so across the floor of the House.

NO. 241 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REINSTATEMENTS INTO THE HOUSING WAITING LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 777 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 six applicants have been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists since the answer to Question No. 777 of 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 241 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the hon Member said in answer to the supplementaries in one of the previous questions that in terms of the waiting list some of the people who bought in the OEM Developments would have an impact on that list. But in fact, is it not the case if he is saying that the ones who do not complete are being reinstated, does it not mean that the ones that are intending to complete are no longer in the waiting list. That is to say, the people who put their name down and put the deposit down and so on for those developments, have they not already been removed from the waiting list?

HON F J VINET:

I accept what the hon Member is getting at. I will try and obtain confirmation but I believe he is right. I believe that when an applicant expresses an interest in purchasing a flat at one of these developments, they are in effect temporarily suspended from the waiting list.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This would be people who are not now going to complete and have therefore been reinstated?

HON F J VINET:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it therefore means, of course, that when he was hoping that those who complete would reduce the list, it is a hope that is not going to materialise, presumably, because they have already been taken out of the number.

HON F J VINET:

Perhaps my mathematics are not as quite as good as I thought they were.

NO. 242 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 778 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 11 such applicants have been offered an existing Government flat since Question No. 778 of 2009 and six of these have accepted. I may clarify that the fact that six out of those 11 have accepted does not necessarily mean that the remaining five have declined. In fact, three have declined and two have a flat under offer and we are still awaiting their decision.

ORAL

NO. 243 OF 2010

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. 779 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. 244 to 246 of 2010.

NO. 244 OF 2010

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. 780 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. 243, 245 and 246 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 245 OF 2010

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. 781 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 243, 244 and 246 of 2010.

NO. 246 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month since the answer given to Question No. 782 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The answer to Question Nos. 243 to 245 is none in all of those cases.

The answer to Question No. 246 of 2010 is that a total of six applicants were accepted, as follows:

October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	1
November 2009	-	1
December 2009	-	4
January 2010	-	Nil
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	-	Nil

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 243 to 246 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

According to the new Housing Act, I suppose the decision to accept these six was on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee or were you involved in any way?

HON F J VINET:

No. I was not involved at all. It was a straight forward channelling through of a decision.

NO. 247 OF 2010

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. 784 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 248 of 2010.

NO. 248 OF 2010**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. 783 of 2009?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

A total of 185 phone calls have been received of which 92 cases were found to be correct.

The breakdown of the past few months is as follows:

MONTH	Calls	Correct	Incorrect	Pending further Investigation
October 2009 (since 7.10.09)	-	-	-	-
November 2009	1	-	1	-
December 2009	-	-	-	-
January 2010	3	1	2	-
February 2010 (up to 12.2.10)	3	-	3	-

In relation to Question No. 248 of 2010, one flat has been repossessed.

ORAL

NO. 249 OF 2010

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. 785 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Allocation Committee has met seven times.

NO. 250 OF 2010

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. 786 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. 786 of 2009, the Tribunal has not dealt with any new cases. They have completed one case and are currently dealing with 33 cases.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 250 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister tell the House how frequently the Tribunal meets?

HON F J VINET:

I really have no idea, because I think as I have explained in the past, I have no involvement and necessarily so with the Committee, so I would not be able to say.

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister confirm that my query/worry, if you like, of certain cases that were taking too long, have now been completed? I know I cannot be specific in this but the Minister agreed in the last House that things were taking maybe a little longer than they should.

HON F J VINET:

Yes. I recall, in fact, I have got Hansard in front of me and I said that I think the matter was very close to being resolved and that, in fact, is now imminent. We really are talking days or so I understand.

NO. 251 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Since the answer given to Question No. 787 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

One more flat has become available.

ORAL

NO. 252 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PAINTING OF ENTRANCE AREAS OF CONSTITUTION HOUSE

When does the Ministry for Housing plan to complete the work of painting the entrance area and stairways of Constitution House, Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 253 of 2010.

NO. 253 OF 2010

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 remaining new lift at Referendum House, Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The painting of the entrance area and all stairways at Constitution House will be completed in May 2010.

I am informed that the installation of the remaining lift at Referendum House will be completed at the end of March 2010.

NO. 254 OF 2010

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 cost, to date, is £25,194.75.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 254 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Is that not the figure he gave me in October or is it very similar?

HON F J VINET:

It is the exact same figure. There has been no increase in the cost to Government.

HON C A BRUZON:

Is this a fixed cost for as long as this scaffolding is going to be placed?

HON F J VINET:

Yes. There is a..... just some very brief explanation. Sometimes, when contractors are contracted to carry out repair works, included in that cost is the cost element attached within that global figure attributed to the scaffolding. This was different. This followed the October 2008 storms where the roof was blown off, literally blown off, and there was a very urgent need to tackle emergency repairs. So, the cost just related to the erecting of the scaffolding and it does not attract any additional cost. There may be some costs to come in the future when we arrive at the point of dismantling it but there will not be any additional costs accrued simply because it happens to remain in place for a longer period.

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Minister for Housing have any feedback from the relevant department as to how long the scaffolding will have to be there? In other words, when will the roof be finally repaired, finished?

HON F J VINET:

The roof both at Maidstone House and at Sortie House have been completely repaired, in fact, not repaired, completely new roofs were installed. The reason why the scaffolding at Maidstone House is still in place is because, given the fact that the scaffolding is already there, we may take advantage of that, because there are some other works to walls and painting and so on which we would like to carry out now rather than doing so in the future.

ORAL

NO. 255 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state how many flats are currently empty at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

At present there is one empty flat at Bishop Canilla House.

ORAL

NO. 256 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PARKING AT EUROPLAZA FOR HOSPITAL USERS

Can the Government say whether the car park for hospital users at Europlaza is now operational and if so as from what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 257 and 258 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 257 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

PUBLIC PARKING – EUROPLAZA

Can the Government state why the public parking facilities at Europlaza continue to be closed despite having been finished several years ago?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 256 and 258 of 2010.

NO. 258 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

PUBLIC PARKING – EUROPLAZA

In relation to the Government's stated intention to allow the public parking facilities at Europlaza to be used by hospital visitors by day and nearby residents by night, can Government state whether it proposed to set specific times at which different categories of users will have access to the parking facilities?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government will be making a public statement in respect of the public parking facilities at Europlaza, its users and specific times of use, when this facility is ready for operation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 256 TO 258 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

As this House is very well aware, we have been now asking questions relating to the Europlaza car park for some time now. On the last occasion if I remember correctly the hon Gentleman said that an announcement would be made shortly and he asked me not to press him any further because he knew that I was going to ask him, well when will shortly be? Given that that was at the last Question Time and now various months have passed, and as I say we have been asking this question now for all that time, could the Minister be any more specific as to what "shortly" means from the last question in the last Question Time and when will the car park be operational for visitors to the hospital and other persons?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As I have said when the facility is ready for operation we will be making an announcement in respect of this. However, the only thing I can tell him, in terms of timescale which he is obviously keen on hearing and on which I cannot really give him a date for, is that he will not be asking the questions again in the House. In other words, by the time of the next Question Time in the House the car park will be operational.

HON N F COSTA:

I will certainly be holding the hon Gentleman to that, certainly in the light of the questions already asked in previous Question Times. But could the hon Member also give us, could he give us the details asked by my hon Friend Gilbert Licudi in respect of the times, and the specific times for the different categories of users. This has been a matter which has now been under consideration by the Government for quite some time. So, surely by this point, given that the answer will definitely be given by next Question Time, those answers should be at the hon Gentleman's disposal. Could he clarify those right now?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As I have already said in my answer to the question, a statement in respect of the different aspects of this particular parking facility will be made available to the public when we are ready and in a position to do so.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. I am terribly sorry to keep pressing the hon Gentleman but as I said we have heard this same answer after many, many, many months and the people who come to us to complain about the lack of facilities because for whatever reason they have been inconvenienced when visiting a relative at the hospital et cetera and the consequences of that..... Could he at least tell us, and he is going to tell me once again that he will be making the announcement shortly or whenever the Government is ready, that seems to be the pat-template response of the GSD Government whenever they are going to do something. But could he at least tell us whether the people who will be visiting patients at hospital, which is the main category of constituent who come to ask us, when they will be operational, will it be free for them?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I prefer to answer that question when I am in a position to do so and make a public statement and I do not think I need to add anything further.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member at least confirm that Question No. 258 of 2010 accurately records the Government intention that the parking facilities at Europlaza are to be used by hospital visitors by day and nearby residents by night?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The facilities that are going to be made available will allow hospital visitors to make use of the car park and will also allow nearby residents to use it at night. Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No. 257 of 2010 asks why the public parking facilities at Europlaza continue to be closed. Can the Minister explain why it is still closed and not given to the general public when it is ready for operation.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think in previous Question Times I have explained to the hon Members the fact that this is part of a wider range of car parking facilities that are going to be made available. The fact is that in order to be able to operate and manage these, there needs to be an infrastructure in place in terms of human resources et cetera which are going to be managing all these public parking facilities and that has not been in place to be able to do so. We will shortly be able to do so and at that point we will be making a statement announcing the opening, operations and terms for the car park.

HON N F COSTA:

Do I not remember correctly that on at least one Question Time session the hon Gentleman did say that Car Parks Limited was already staffed, so is there now an additional element of human resources, in addition to the Car Parks Limited Company?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. There is now a Chief Executive in post and there are personnel that are being either recruited or are recruited already.

HON G H LICUDI:

Why is it that at this stage the Government are still in that process as we heard this morning? This is what the Government would probably call, work-in-progress and therefore they will make the announcement when it stops becoming work-in-progress. It is the sort of answer that we have been getting regularly during this meeting of the House. But does the hon Member not accept and recognise that this is not a decision which still has to be made, not any policy issue that is still work-in-progress and consideration of any design or viability or anything like that. This is a car park that has actually been built and been available for use for the last several years. I am not sure whether it is two years, two and a half or three years. But Europlaza has been there, as I understand, since 2007 and this car park has always been stated to be for use of hospital visitors, certainly for use of the public. Does the hon Member not accept that it is simply not acceptable for a car park facility which has been available and ready for the last two or three years to simply be considered today as work-in-progress whereby decisions still have to be made and therefore no announcements can be made?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not accept that because although the structure of the facility may have been ready, there are other issues that need to be ready as well to be operational and in

relation to the management of the car park and that has not been ready until only very recently. Therefore, that is why I am saying that now the announcement of this is fairly close, rather than shortly.

HON G H LICUDI:

That argument cannot possibly follow because there have been other car parks that had been ready during this period, Willis's Road, Sandpits, New Harbours. Those car parks have been ready within this period. After this particular car park was ready and measures have been put in place and arrangements have been made for those car parks to be open to members of the public and to be used and they are being used today. So, what is wrong with this particular car park when other car parks that have come on stream afterwards have been made available. Can I also ask the hon Member to comment on this, the car park at Queensway which is related to this particular question, was closed for some time and then it was re-opened. We did not need to wait for Car Parks Limited. We did not need to wait for a Chief Executive. There was a need. There was a question. There was pressure from the people that needed that car parking facility. It was there. It was ready. It was available and it was open to the public. What is wrong with this particular one?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think I have said enough on this. All I can do is repeat what I have already said and that is that it has not been operationally possible to open up the car park to the public up until very recently and therefore we will be making an announcement very shortly in respect of its opening.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member will forgive us for insisting on this. But why on earth is it operationally possible to open Queensway car park to members of the public and it is not operationally possible to open this particular car park?

MR SPEAKER:

The question was asked and the answer was there.

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer that has been given is, it has not been operationally possible, and what I am saying is, by comparison to another car park which was closed and has been open and whereby it has been operationally possible, why is there this difference between these two car parks. All the Minister said is, I will give the same answer as before, it has not been operationally possible. My question now is why it is operationally possible to open one car park but not another?

MR SPEAKER:

Is that not the same question as the one immediately preceding?

HON G H LICUDI:

Immediately preceding.....?

MR SPEAKER:

This question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well yes, but the answer that I got was, it was not operationally possible.

MR SPEAKER:

With respect, unlike as in court proceedings, a repetition of a supplementary is not the purpose of the supplementary.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand that entirely but Mr Speaker, and hopefully hon Members opposite, will understand the frustration that we feel on this side in particular with this facility which is a facility which is needed and the hon Member has accepted in the past that this is a facility that is needed. It is needed for hospital users. It is needed at night. It is needed for nearby residents. We are struggling to understand why this is closed and all we get is we will make an announcement in due course. Well, if that is so, that may be so, but let that be an indictment on the priority that this Government gives to parking facilities.

MR SPEAKER:

Let me say, I understand the desire to obtain information. I understand that fully but at the same time the rules of questioning..... By repeating a question one is not taking the matter further and the supplementary is intended to take the matter further.

NO. 259 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

CHANGING OF PARKING SPACES – LINE WALL ROAD

Can Government state why it has changed the parking spaces on Line Wall Road behind the Museum and the Bristol Hotel from parallel parking?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As a result of the revised traffic arrangements at Bomb House Lane, parking had to be re-provided for taxis and coaches that service the Museum. Thus, due to the length of these coaches, the parking spaces along Line Wall Road had to be amended to accommodate these vehicles.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 259 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member aware of any coaches actually using these facilities? I have certainly never seen any coaches parked there and I pass by every single day.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The hon Member must be going through at the wrong time because they do call at the Museum on a daily basis.

NO. 260 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW CAR PARK – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government confirm that the new car park at Devil’s Tower Road will be available for use by members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 261 to 263 of 2010.

NO. 261 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING SPACES – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state how many parking spaces which were available at Devil’s Tower Road before the commencement of the road works will be lost?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 260, 262 and 263 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 262 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW CAR PARK – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state the cost of the new car park at Devil’s Tower Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 260, 261 and 263 of 2010.

NO. 263 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW CAR PARK – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state when the new car park at Devil's Tower Road will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

There are approximately 200 road side parking spaces at Devil's Tower Road that may be lost once the works are complete. The Government are considering how these spaces may be re-provided.

The contract sum as executed under contract is £14,826,847.11. The new car park at Devil's Tower Road is scheduled to be fully completed by June 2011.

The Government will make known details of how it will operate the Devil's Tower Road Car Park in due course nearer to the date of its opening for business.

I think there is a typo error in this I think the completion date is June 2010.

I think that the complete new car park, because it is in two phases, I think the first phase will be finished in June 2010 and then the second phase which completes the car park will be finished in June 2011.

So, the answer is strictly correct but there will be a first phase that will be finished in June this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 263 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Now again, we are told that details of the operation will be given in due course. It is important, given that the Government embarks on a project, for us and the general public to understand what the Government's intentions are and it is difficult to see the rationale for the Government wanting to keep this under wraps for as long as possible and simply make an announcement in due course when the car park is ready. If people may need to make alternative arrangements with regards to parking facilities and therefore they ought to be able to know. We now know that over 200 parking spaces will be lost at Devil's Tower Road and the Government have said that

they are looking at the possibility of re-provisioning this. Can the Government tell us what they are thinking is? Whether they have identified a site or whether this is simply wishful thinking that at some point in the future they may be able to identify something, somewhere, where they might re-provision 200 parking spaces?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. There is no wishful thinking here and the thinking has already been done. However, it will not be made public until we are in a position to do so.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member will recall that when the car parks at Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours were being created they gave a commitment, a promise, a statement of intention or desire that if street parking was lost then free parking would be available within those car parks to make up for that street parking that has been lost. Are the Government able to give a similar commitment in respect of this particular car park that in terms of the numbers that will be lost, will be available free of charge in this car park?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not sure that I want to answer that question but by doing so I am actually opening myself to giving away our thinking on the matter and I do not think it is prudent for me to be able make this public at this stage. Therefore.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxxxx

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Pardon!

HON J J BOSSANO:

It just crossed my mind that since there appears to be a three-line whip on what he can say, I can understand his hesitance and his desire to be prudent.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. There is no three-line whip on the issue but there is a decision on the Government that it will be making announcements in respect of the various aspects of the parking and transport scheme as we go along introducing the various phases of it. Therefore, rather than do it piecemeal, we would rather do it as an overall policy in respect of general and..... He is specifically asking the question on this specific car park and by doing that I would be giving away quite a number of indirect results because by whatever I answer will have repercussions in other areas. Therefore, I

think it is better for it to be done, rather than just answering one particular aspect of it, for the public to be able to appreciate the general concept of what we are trying to achieve in that area, holistically and therefore done at the appropriate time.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well no, we do not accept that because in understanding, and the public will not accept that, for this simple reason in understanding the concept and the thinking, the Government have been very willing to publish and give much publicity in a press conference and then the hon Member participated with me in a TV discussion programme at which this was discussed. They have published, they call it a comprehensive integrated traffic parking and transport plan, and the questions, and I imagine the answers to all the other questions that I will have, will be along the same lines, because they all relate to all the different car parks and schemes that the Government have in place. So, they will say we will give the details in due course.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I must say that I am very pleased that you have read our policy paper extremely well and, obviously, judging by the interest that you have in enquiring into every single detail, you obviously consider it an excellent plan.

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely, and I appreciate the.....

HON C G BELTRAN:

Absolutely!

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Mr Licudi, if you give way, let me just tell you that whatever has been done in this park and ride car park will be looking after the interests of the residents of the area. Those that work in the area, the visitors to the area that come just for casual shopping, church goers, funerals, these are things that have been taken into account because representations have been received from all different sectors in the area who are interested in wanting to know what is going to happen when they have to go to a funeral or they have to go to church or whatever. So, the whole thing has been tailor made around that. So, therefore you should not be concerned as to whether the policy is going to address..... It addresses every issue that I have mentioned and others and therefore when we are in a position to make an announcement we will do so and we will do so quite shortly because the first phase of this is opening in June this year. So well before that, we will make a public announcement in order for possible residents to take the opportunity, for people that work in the area to take the opportunity et cetera, et cetera. So, it will be done in due course at the right time.

HON G H LICUDI:

The problem that the Government have when it says in due course we will make an announcement is it that they have already made an announcement. In this plan which as I described this morning they consider to be the blue print for the solution, if not the solution certainly going a long way to resolving Gibraltar's endemic traffic problems which as we have said in our response to the traffic plan is something that needs to be tackled and needs to be done properly. But in making that announcement the Government have announced all these schemes and I do not want to pre-empt the various other questions that will come later on but the Government has announced Devil's Tower Road, Engineer Lane, Naval Hospital, Arengo's and we have got questions on all of these matters. Does the hon Member not accept that having made that announcement as they have, it is legitimate for the general public and for us as the Opposition, to want to get further commitments and know clearly what the Government's intentions are and say, well you have announced that you are going to make 1000 car parking spaces available in Devil's Tower Road, how exactly do Government intend that this is going to work and how is it going to relate to the parking spaces that have been lost? So, hopefully the hon Member will understand where we are coming from and will the hon Member accept that the difficulty that we have in following the Government's hesitation and reluctance to be firm and committed is twofold. Firstly, is it not a sign that the Government have taken a policy decision not to make firm promises, not to make firm commitments because they then find that they cannot keep either to the timescale or to the commitment at all. That has been found out by the Government in various areas including housing and in other xxxxxx. So, they appear to have taken a policy decision generally when answering all our questions not to enter into any commitments at all and say, we will answer it in due course. Is that not the case? Secondly, why is it that the Government now have this reluctance to give details of their intentions and of their plans and it is not as if we are talking of matters which are simply at a design stage or, again to use the phrase "work-in-progress", or the Government have not decided whether to do it or not to do it. These are matters that the Government have decided and they are firm decisions and designs have been made and viability has been considered and all those matters have been considered. So, why is it that we see this reluctance now, after having made the announcement that this is going to be done, as to the details as to this is how going to operate and in particular in relation to the provisioning of free parking. Why is it that the Government have that reluctance when at the time of the last elections, in connection with Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours car parks, they had no hesitation at all in setting out their thinking which was that these, the car parks, would provide a mixture of free parking, if street parking has been lost. Now, knowing that street parking was not going to be lost and there was not going to be any free parking available, and I have accused the Government of this in the past, they made that commitment erroneously.

HON XXXXXX

Where is the question?

HON N F COSTA:

He has already asked one. This is the second one.

MR SPEAKER:

It is a very long one.

HON N F COSTA:

But it is a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well the hon Members might have.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order! Order! Order! I am sure it is on its way very soon.

HON N F COSTA:

He has already formulated one. This is the second.

HON C G BELTRAN:

The question has been formulated.

MR SPEAKER:

Order! Order! Order!

HON C G BELTRAN:

Mr Speaker, the car park will be finished by that time he puts the question.

MR SPEAKER:

Is the hon Member offering a timescale?

HON G H LICUDI:

Hopefully yes. If the car park is going to be ready in the next two minutes then we will be very happy.

MR SPEAKER:

Order!

HON G H LICUDI:

The question has been formulated. It may be that hon Members have had difficulty in following the rationale of the question but in putting the question I am trying to make the hon Members understand the rationale of our thinking. Why we are asking these things and why we are having difficulty in understanding these matters particularly having regard to two things and perhaps this is precisely what they can answer. Why, having made the announcement, they cannot be more specific now, having already taken decisions and considered all aspects of viability, design and all that. Having made all that, why is that they cannot make the announcement now and why is it that they did not have this difficulty at the time of the last elections when they made these announcements as to how the other car parks were going to work, which actually turned out not to be correct because they did not work in the way that they had announced. So, is that the real reason why they are reluctant to make these commitments?

MR SPEAKER:

There are a number of questions there. I think the hon Minister has the gist of the question.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

All I would like to say is that I can understand what he is saying. I do not necessarily agree with him. However, the Government when it is ready to do so and when we see the time is fit, we will be making the announcement and making public what the schemes will be.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me see if I can understand this new policy that has been introduced at this meeting of this House. Is it that the Government feel that having told Parliament that it is going to spend £14m on something, no questions about the expenditure of the £14m will be answered until the thing is completed and finished and they think it suits them politically to give the details of what the £14m is going to deliver? So, we just vote the money in the budget and then we wait for them, some time in the four years before the next election, to tell us what they think will get them most votes. Is that the new philosophy of the Government?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. That is not the new philosophy but he is asking me the details as to what and how the car park is going to operate and whether it is going to take care of the parking that is going to be lost with free parking. All I have said was that an announcement will be made on how the car park is going to operate when we think the time is right. It is not relevant to whether it's..... When a car park such as this has been built and we have had to finance this, we must have produced a business case with works in terms of model, in terms of composition as to how..... Whether these car parks are going to be long-term car parks, short-term car parks? Whether it is going to be residents parking? Whether there is going to be free parking? All

these things have been taken into account in formulating the business model to make the thing feasible and commercial xxxxxx.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I accept that but can I remind the hon Member that the original plan of the Government was to spend this money from the Improvement and Development Fund and there was a token vote in that fund of £1000 and then the Government changed its mind and instead put £14 million as an investment in shares. If this had been in the Improvement and Development Fund then there would have been surely no way in which the Government could have been committed to the principle that the money that we vote in the House we can then ask questions about why it is being spent. We do not have to wait for it to have been spent and ask the questions in the subsequent financial year. I think if we were voting £14 million from the Improvement and Development Fund and I was to say to the Government, well look, if I am going to vote on the £14 million I would like to know whether that £14 million is going to have in it an amount which will ensure that the 200 car parks that is now free is going to be available after the £14 million because the £14 million is removing the car park. I would have thought that would have been a perfectly normal thing if we are voting this in the estimates. I think it would be wrong if I was being asked in Parliament to vote public money and I was told, well no, we have decided that we know how it is going to be, whether it is 100 or 200 or none and we will announce it when we think it suits us to announce it and you can vote it without knowing what you are getting for your £14m. Well, I think the Government would not even dream of suggesting that that should be the correct way to have public control of the money voted in Parliament in the Improvement and Development Fund and it has certainly never been like that. The fact that it happens to be now more efficient to do the thing through a car company, wholly owned and for the public money to be used to purchase the shares, should not deprive the Parliament of the same access to information and that is in effect what he is doing. Would he not agree?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. We are not denying information on anything to do with the finances of the car park. All I am saying is that we are not willing to divulge the way the car park is going to be run in terms of free parking et cetera at this particular moment in time. That is all I am saying. I am not having a discussion over the finances. Neither am I refusing to answer issues in respect of financing or voting of funds but on the logistics of actually operating the car park, right. It is something that the Government can then state that it wishes to do so later on when we feel we are in a better position to do so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Okay. Can I ask some more questions then and the hon Member can tell me whether..... of the new criteria that he has been provided with, that he considers them to be legitimate questions that he can answer or not. Given that the original thing was announced to be a park-and-ride predominantly linked to the access road that is going to take people to the frontier without crossing the runway and that is not going to be for that use in 2010, can the hon Member tell me that if this is going to be available and finished, the first phase is going to be finished in 2010, does it mean

that the first phase is going to be for local use given that the use in relation to the use of the air terminal is not going to be there in 2010?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

On the first phasing of the thing, as you say the current system of traffic cross-runway will continue since the airport would not have been done. The basis of a park-and-ride system will be available there but in any case the 1000 odd parking spaces that are going to be available as a whole in the whole complex, not its totality is going to go to park-and-ride. The park-and-ride concept is mainly geared towards visitors who are here for short-term, in other words, for a few hours and wish to take the opportunity of not having to drive into town, park outside the town and then have a free service into town through the bus and that is the park-and-ride concept. Therefore, that system will be available immediately the system starts or phase I is available, but possibly on a lower scale because the number, I do not know exactly what the phase I is, but instead of a 1000 it is 500 say because divided into two, possibly instead of having 600 cars for park-and-ride it may have 300 initially. But the whole concept will start as soon as phase I is available. Possibly because the traffic will not actually flow in front of it there will be less takers and that we understand. But I think it is not a bad thing that we actually start moving in that direction by phases rather than open up on day one and expect people to flow in there. I think a lot of people that come to Gibraltar actually are repeat business people that come regularly. People that come annually. If they see that there is a park-and-ride system available in Gibraltar then if they do not use it on the first occasion they may use it on a second occasion. So, the idea is to start and initiate the park-and-ride concept as soon as the system or the phase I is available but together with all the other components as well, in terms of the parking for residents, parking for street parking, short-term parking, long-term parking. There will be an element of that. At the same time, I will also have to be done in the same way as other car parks have been done when we have made a parking available for monthly rental or for yearly rental or whatever, we will want to see what the uptake is. We do not want to make more spaces available for a particular type of requirement than there is the actual need. But obviously our priority will be to make sure that the residents of the area are taken care of. That people who work in the area which..... I have worked in Devil's Tower Road before and when I used to work in Devil's Tower Road I know that at night most of Devil's Tower Road is empty but during the day it is actually quite full as a result of the fact that people come and drive to the area. So, there will be also the requirements for those to be looked after. Therefore we have taken into account... We have gone back in much detail as to the requirements of when people want to go to funerals and how they are going to park et cetera in the area. Therefore we are taking care of all these different requirements in order to try and accommodate as much of it as possible. We will not please everybody all the time but at least we will try and make sure that we meet as much of peoples demands as possible.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So essentially, in effect, what the hon Member is saying is that when the first half opens in 2010 subject to the distribution of its use changing as a result of the take up that there is, effectively the second half would be, if you like, a repetition of the first one. If it turns out that the have got the balance right in the first one.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If we get the balance right first time round, yes. There may be an element of tinkering in the second time round because we might find that say, if we asked who is interested in buying long-term car parking spaces and maybe there are 150 people and we make those available, when we put it out a second time round there may not be another 150 because these are permanent residents of Gibraltar really, not necessarily the area. Therefore we may not have the same uptake and therefore we may have to rebalance the numbers afterwards. So we will have to do this in a two-scale xxxxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the financing of this, at one stage I think we were given an indication that the basis of the arrangements with the bank was that this would yield revenue which would effectively service the finance that has been provided by RBS. In terms of the package that the hon Member already has in his mind and is going to be making public in a few months time, presumably the different slots are intended to yield..... to produce that. Does that mean then that the parking for the people who choose to leave their car there and get a free bus into town means that they have to pay to park there, the ones who come in from Spain?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Oh absolutely! Those short-term park-and-ride facilities are probably going to be the highest revenue generating sector for Gibraltar Car Parks Limited because they are meant to be the ones that are there on say, a few hours and are paying a much higher rate per hour for them to be able to use the facility of them being bussed into town. Obviously, those that are in longer term car parking have a much easier revenue or cost to obtaining that facility. But yes, I think the principle of what you said in terms of obtaining a loan from RBS and then having Gibraltar Car Parks Limited self-financing the loan, obviously is correct and also the fact that the composition of the revenue streams and there will be various depending on the connotation, must be right to make sure that we are able to facilitate the repayment of the loan from the revenue to the company.

NO. 264 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING SPACES – CATALAN BAY CAR PARK

Can Government state how many car parking spaces have been lost at the Catalan Bay car park near the beach as a result of the depositing of rubble in the area of Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

It is difficult to precisely quantify the temporary loss of parking spaces as the area is not marked out as in the case for permanent car parks. However, I sent somebody down and the estimated number of vehicles that could be parked there were about 39.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 264 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful to the hon Member for at least that indication. The hon Member has described this as a temporary loss, can he give some more details as to how temporary are the losses of these car parking spaces?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

A few months, is temporary. In reality, as soon as we start removing this rubble from that area, those will probably be the first areas that will require the thing to be moved from.

HON G H LICUDI:

So, the current thinking and I know there are a couple of questions in relation to the rubble which will come later in the order paper, is that at least those car parking spaces which have been lost will be restored by simply removing the rubble that is in that area currently blocking off the use of that facility. Can the hon Member say, and he said a few months, can he give a firmer indication on whether those expanded facilities to what there currently is will be available for the summer season?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not really directly leading on this particular project but I understand that it is a matter that has been taken into consideration in order to achieve that. To make sure that, come the summer months when there is probably more demand for the parking spaces in that area, that rubble will have been removed.

HON G H LICUDI:

As part of that process which involves the car park, hopefully in readiness for the summer months, the hon Member will be aware that that particular car park has not been tarmacked or tarmacked properly for many years. There is a lot of loose rubble and stones there. Is it intended to make that a more permanent car park with, as the hon Member has indicated that there are no demarcation of the parking spaces themselves, is that part of the thinking and part of the intention for the purpose of the summer because that is certainly badly needed in that car park.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I do not think that that is the thinking. I think it will be restored to what it was.

NO. 265 OF 2010**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 October 2009 to January 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares from these passengers is as follows:

	October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	January 2010
Paying Passenger	184,051	149,284	142,610	134,538
Revenue	£76,424	£60,391	£60,102	£54,616

NO. 266 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – NEW BUSES FOR ROUTE NO. 2

Can Government state whether it has now received quotes from the two parties identified for the selective tender procedure in connection with the purchase of new buses for route number 2?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A tender, using the selective tender procedure was issued on 2nd November 2009.

This tender closed on 22nd December 2009. Subsequently a Procurement Office Board met on 15th January 2010 to consider the bid that had been submitted. This Board has now submitted their recommendations to the Government and these recommendations are currently being considered.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 266 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I assume it is the case the Government will give no further details until it is in a position to make an announcement on these matters.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely! I am glad that he is now starting to get the gist.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, what we are starting to get the gist of is this starvation of information which is a matter of policy they have now decided that anything.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Is the hon Member expecting me to give him verse and chapter as to what the Tender Board has recommended to the Government without actually having had the decision taken by the Government? I think that would not be proper.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is why precisely I phrased the question in the way that I phrased it, that I assumed that the Government would say that they would make an announcement in due course. That is precisely why I made that announcement. Can I press the hon Member a little bit further just on this? Given that there have been one or two, I honestly cannot remember how many, abortive attempts through the tender process to purchase these buses in the past, is the hon Member now confident that the result of this procedure will be that buses have been identified as being suitable. Is it just a question of the Government taking the final decision rather than there is, no bus which has been identified and therefore we have got to go back to the drawing board, as has happened in the past?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes Mr Speaker. I can tell them that I have read the recommendations submitted by the Tender Board, the Procurement Office Tender Board and there is the recommendation that is made on a particular bid, so I am assuming that if they have recommended, they have had technical input into this at the stages of considering the options, so I am assuming that if that is the case there must be a vehicle that now they are recommending for adjudication. So therefore the decision is now quite imminent.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that. Can the hon Member explain a little bit of the process from hereon rather than the decision making process, the purchasing process. Is it the case that this vehicle is available off the shelf as it were or is it to be built to specifications by manufacturers and therefore that is a process that takes months? Do we have any indication of how long that process will take?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. From my understanding, assuming that we accept the bid that has been suggested and I am talking here, I am looking to see whether in the notes that I had there was any information in respect of that but they have really concentrated on the history of it rather than going forward..... I am going forward but I do remember reading that it would be three, four or five months before we actually see a vehicle on our roads. This is not an off the shelf vehicle. These vehicles are manufactured to order and with very specific options that have to be selected depending on the requirements of the clients concerned and so therefore I think that we are talking of at least four or five months before we see them.

NO. 267 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government confirm whether it has now engaged the manufacturer of the new bus shelters which the Government has identified meet the criteria which they want for Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government will announce the implementation of its policy to replace all bus shelters when it is ready to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 267 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

This question arises from previous questions and the wording of the question is essentially the wording that has been used previously by the Minister of the identification of bus shelters which meet the criteria that they want for Gibraltar. That is precisely what the hon Member has previously told me. They know who the manufacturer is, they have identified the criteria that they want for Gibraltar and the question is quite simply, have they now engaged with that manufacturer for the purposes of purchasing those bus shelters. It is based on the assumption that the decision in principle has been taken. It is not a question of, again, well this is something that is being considered, it is work-in-progress and we will make an announcement in due course. We have previously been told that a decision has been taken to replace the bus shelters. That there has been identification of the criteria that is needed for Gibraltar, that, I assume, has involved identification of the manufacturer which can supply that criteria and the question simply asks well, have you now engaged with that manufacturer? A simple yes or no will do.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think I can confirm that the policy has been taken to.....

HON G H LICUDI:

We know about that.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Right! Fine! The criteria, has been..... But I will try to explain to him why I have to answer in the way I do, right. If we have identified more than one manufacturer who can supply these bus shelters and if I today were to say to you that I am nearly there or that I am in negotiations with one or whether I am..... then that information, no doubt, reaches the manufacturer, because a lot of these people read.....

HON XXXXXX

Xxxxxx

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. You will be surprised. You will be surprised how much what is said in this House and what is reported in local newspapers, people who we are in contact with in a respective number of areas actually quote, "oh we read it online in the, one newspaper or another". Right! What I cannot do is give you too much information whether I am engaged or not engaged or whether I am nearly engaged to any particular manufacturer because the negotiating ability then puts me in a weaker position as a result of making it known as to what my thinking is on a particular situation. As you can well imagine this is quite a priority for me. Right! No stones are being left unturned to get this thing done very quickly. The only thing I can tell you is that there is quite a lot of progress that has been achieved in this area and I am quite happy to explain it to him privately. Then I will explain to him why it is so crucial that I should not give any information away precisely today. Right!

HON XXXXXX:

Xxxxxx

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I may be having negotiations with these people next week and I do not want to weaken my position in the negotiations. I think we are all keen in getting value for money and trying to get the best deal we can. Therefore that is in the best interests of us tax payers to be able to try and see whether we can get the best out of the current negotiating procedure.

HON G H LICUDI:

We understand fully that where there are commercial sensitivities involved it is not in the public interest that that matter should be debated in public and I appreciate the candid nature of the response by the hon Member. Let me just say again that we

were not seeking to interfere with that process except that we had understood and we had presumed in formulating this question that a particular manufacturer had already been identified as meeting a particular set of criteria but if there are more or possibly more than one manufacturer then certainly that is a process that will continue and I appreciate the hon Member's answer.

ORAL

NO. 268 OF 2010

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 October 2009 to January 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 and 270 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 269 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were granted during the months of October 2009 to January 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 268 and 270 of 2010.

NO. 270 OF 2010**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 October 2009 to January 2010 giving a breakdown between heavy roads and other roads?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

No application for weight exemption certificates were turned down during the period October 2009 to January 2010.

The monthly breakdown of the weight exemption certificates issued during this period is as follows:

2009	Trucks	Cranes	Motor vehicles designed for excavation or shovelling works.
October	5	10	5
November	8	6	0
December	6	5	0
2010			
January	17	9	4

A total of 18 companies have been issued with monthly permits for Heavy Traffic Roads. Only one company has been issued with a monthly permit for other roads.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 268 TO 270 OF 2010**HON G H LICUDI:**

In respect of monthly permits for other roads, can the hon Member say what criteria, what conditions are imposed, if any, to make sure that the use of those other roads is not necessarily inappropriate so as to damage the roads by going over the weight limits for those other roads?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really focus on that particular company. I am not into the day to day issuing of exemption certificates or otherwise, but normally if an exemption is issued to roads which are outside the normal..... then they have to be accompanied by the police and notified to the authority 24 hours in advance in order to make the relevant arrangement to ensure that they comply with whatever criteria the Highway Authority may decide to implement. But that is the generic answer and not to this particular question. But normally that is the trend they always follow.

NO. 271 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Can Government state the result of the public consultation exercise in relation to the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan and whether any changes to the Plan are intended to be made as a result of that consultation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 272 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 272 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Can Government state whether it has now opened the vacancies for the position of Parking and Traffic Enforcement Officers and when such vacancies are expected to be filled?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 271 and 273 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 273 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Can Government state how many Parking and Traffic Enforcement Officers will be employed?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271, 272 and 274 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 274 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Can Government state whether the employment of Parking and Traffic Enforcement Officers will affect the complement of Police Officers engaged by the Royal Gibraltar Police?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 273 and 275 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 275 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

“POINTS” PENALTY SYSTEM

Can Government state when it will introduce legislation for a “points” penalty system for traffic offences?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 274 and 276 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 276 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

“ON THE SPOT” PARKING FINES

Can Government state when it will bring legislation for “on the spot” parking fines for non locally registered vehicles?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 276 and 277 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 277 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

METERED PARKING

Can Government state where precisely metered parking will be introduced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 276 and 278 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 278 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

“TAKE, RIDE AND LEAVE” BICYCLE FACILITY

Can Government state whether it has now purchased the bicycles required for the “take, ride and leave” facility which it announced in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 277 and 279 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 279 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

“TAKE, RIDE AND LEAVE” BICYCLE FACILITY

Can Government state where the “pods” will be located for the “take, ride and leave” facility which it announced in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 278 and 280 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 280 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ENGINEER LANE

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at Engineer Lane will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 279 and 281 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 281 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ENGINEER LANE

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at Engineer Lane are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 280 and 282 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 282 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ENGINEER LANE

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at Engineer Lane will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 281 and 283 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 283 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ENGINEER LANE

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the parking project at Engineer Lane?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 282 and 284 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 284 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ENGINEER LANE

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at Engineer Lane?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 283 and 285 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 285 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – MID TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at the Mid Town Development will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 284 and 286 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 286 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – MID TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at the Mid Town Development are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 285 and 287 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 287 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – MID TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at the Mid Town Development will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 286 and 288 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 288 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – MID TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the parking project at the Mid Town Development?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 287 and 289 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 289 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – MID TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state why the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan provides for the creation of 100 parking spaces at the Mid Town Development when it has previously committed itself to creating 400 new parking spaces in this area?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 288 and 290 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 290 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – MID TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at the Mid Town Development?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 289 and 291 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 291 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH BARRACK ROAD

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at South Barrack Road will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 290 and 292 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 292 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH BARRACK ROAD

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at South Barrack Road are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 291 and 293 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 293 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH BARRACK ROAD

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at South Barrack Road will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 292 and 294 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 294 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH BARRACK ROAD

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the parking project at South Barrack Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 293 and 295 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 295 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH BARRACK ROAD

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at South Barrack Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 294 and 296 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 296 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ARENGO’S PALACE

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at Arengo’s Palace will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 295 and 297 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 297 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ARENGO’S PALACE

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at Arengo’s Palace are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 296 and 298 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 298 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ARENGO’S PALACE

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at Arengo’s Palace will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 297 and 299 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 299 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ARENGO’S PALACE

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the parking project at Arengo’s Palace?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 298 and 300 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 300 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – ARENGO’S PALACE

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at Arengo’s Palace?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 299 and 301 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 301 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – FLAT BASTION ROAD

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at Flat Bastion Road will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 300 and 302 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 302 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – FLAT BASTION ROAD

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at Flat Bastion Road are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 301 and 303 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 303 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – FLAT BASTION ROAD

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at Flat Bastion Road will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 302 and 304 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 304 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – FLAT BASTION ROAD

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the parking project at Flat Bastion Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 303 and 305 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 305 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – FLAT BASTION ROAD

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at Flat Bastion Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 304 and 306 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 306 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXPANSION OF PARKING FACILITIES – GRAND PARADE

Can Government state when the works for the expansion to the parking facilities at Grand Parade will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 305 and 307 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 307 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXPANSION OF PARKING FACILITIES – GRAND PARADE

Can Government state how long the works for the expansion to the parking facilities at Grand Parade are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 306 and 308 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 308 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXPANSION OF PARKING FACILITIES – GRAND PARADE

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the expansion of Grand Parade will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 307 and 309 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 309 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXPANSION OF PARKING FACILITIES – GRAND PARADE

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the expansion to the parking facilities at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 308 and 310 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 310 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXPANSION OF PARKING FACILITIES – GRAND PARADE

Can Government state the cost of the works for the expansion to the parking facilities at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 309 and 311 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 311 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at Old Naval Hospital Road will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 310 and 312 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 312 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at Old Naval Hospital Road are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 311 and 313 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 313 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at Old Naval Hospital Road will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 312 and 314 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 314 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the parking project at Old Naval Hospital Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 313 and 315 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 315 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at Old Naval Hospital Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 314 and 316 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 316 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH PAVILION

Can Government state when the works on the parking project at South Pavilion will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 315 and 317 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 317 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH PAVILION

Can Government state how long the works on the parking project at South Pavilion are expected to take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 316 and 318 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 318 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH PAVILION

Can Government confirm that the new parking spaces created as a result of the parking project at South Pavilion will be available to members of the public without charge?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 317 and 319 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 319 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH PAVILION

Can Government state how many car parking spaces which are currently available will be lost as a result of the works for the parking project at South Pavilion?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 318 and 320 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 320 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECT – SOUTH PAVILION

Can Government state the cost of the parking project at South Pavilion?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 319 and 321 to 323 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 321 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ENHANCED PARKING FACILITIES – EASTERN BEACH, CATALAN BAY AND WESTERN BEACH

Can Government state when the work on the enhanced parking facilities at Eastern Beach, Catalan Bay and Western Beaches will commence, when they will be completed and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 320 and 322 to 323 of 2010.

NO. 322 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARKING PROJECTS – 2300 ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES

Can Government state how it accounts for the 2300 parking spaces which are described as “new, additional car parking spaces” to be provided by the parking projects at Grand Parade, Devil’s Tower Road, Engineer Lane, Old Naval Hospital, Arengo’s Palace, South Barrack Road, Mid Town, South Pavilion and Flat Bastion Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 271 to 321 and 323 of 2010.

NO. 323 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – BUS ROUTES

Can Government give details of the changes to the bus routes which it intends to introduce and when these changes will come into effect?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government is glad that the hon Member has identified many of the excellent elements of the Government's Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan.

Following its consideration of points raised in the Public Consultation Process, the Government will shortly be publishing the final text of the Plan. As the hon Member may know, the Plan states that it is a three year programme and the Government has not yet made any announcements of when each element that is not yet in progress will commence, or other details of each element of the Plan.

The Government will make announcements about the timetable and other details relating to the implementation of its policy initiatives as and when it chooses to do so.

The information requested cannot and will not be provided in advance of Government's announcement of its decision to proceed with the implementation of each element of its Parking Plan.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 271 TO 323 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Does this again suggest a reluctance to be accountable for public money which will be expended on these projects and the Government having announced these projects, these are not projects which are not announced previously, are now simply unwilling to tell us how much these projects are going to cost, what the consequences for the parking users at the moment will be and how long people will be expected to take. We know how long overall but in terms of specific projects which have been identified, why is it that the Government are not prepared to be accountable for tax payers money that it will expend on these matters.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government will be making announcements and giving details as per what the requirements of the questions that have been presented by the hon Member. However, it will do so when it is in a position to do so and wishes to make it so and not when asked particularly today. There is still a lot of work going on as far as the programme is concerned. It is a three-year programme and in fact when the public consultation exercise was completed, we considered some of the input in the submission that has been made, certain changes have been made to the plan in order to take on board some of the comments that the Government found it could accept and therefore it is in the process at the moment of re-programming and putting the plan together which will be implemented over the three year period. Once it is in a position to do so then we will be making announcements as and when it can.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is now February 2010, in January 2009 the Chief Minister announced, these are his words "during the next few weeks the Government will be publishing its detailed comprehensive and integrated parking and traffic and improvement plan". That was a promise made by the Chief Minister in January 2009 saying that something would happen in the next few weeks. It did not happen for a few weeks. It took another ten months, almost eleven months for the traffic plan to be published. Is the hon Member now telling us that having waited all this time and knowing about what has been described as a perennial traffic and parking problem which the Government have recognised for a number of years and having given the commitments that they have given in the past is it not the case that they still do not know how they are going to be implementing this? When they will be implementing each part of the projects and what the consequences of each part of the implementation will be? Is it the case that this is still work on design and viability and they just do not know?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are certain aspects of the plan that are still in that stage but most of the plan is now being concluded, identified and it is being worked on and when the different initiatives are launched, an announcement will be made. I know that you want to seek information earlier than the Government would want to do and you have to accept that that is a Government decision in this matter.

HON G H LICUDI:

I have to accept that the Government are refusing to be accountable for what it is doing with public funds and it is choosing, as and when it is politically expedient for them, to decide when they make certain announcements and having made this, and again I say, having made this announcement it is perfectly proper, perfectly appropriate that we should ask all this list of questions which emanate from a Government document. Having said that, in the Manifesto for 2007 there was a commitment to expand the parking facilities at Commonwealth Parade, can the hon Member tell us why that is not in the traffic plan? Let me be a bit more specific. In the Manifesto talking about city centre car parks, "these will be supplemented by a public underground car park at Mid Town project" on which I will ask supplementaries because it is one of the questions, "In addition, the Commonwealth Parade and Grand Parade car parks will be expanded into underground car parks". Now we

have got a provision in the plan for expansion of the Grand Parade car park. I do not know whether it is going to be underground or over ground or how it is going to be because the Government do not give me that information. But the expansion of Grand Parade is described in the plan as catering for 230 spaces. But a Manifesto commitment to expand into an underground car park the Commonwealth Parade car park is just not there. Why not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would like to give him a straight answer on this and I am trying to recall why the issue was xxxxxx consulting my colleague who was involved in some of the meetings that we were having on this. I think there were some technical issues in respect of this but I would not be able to confirm this to him. I am happy to write him a note if he wishes to have clarification on it but I think there were technical aspects in respect of the underground facility probable in Commonwealth Parade and we were reluctant to build in front of the city walls. So, I think that idea had to be dropped because of technical problems. But I am not 100% sure on this so, I would not want this to be taken as the gospel truth because I am not sure.

HON G H LICUDI:

I appreciate that the hon Member does not know precisely the reasons and he is trying to be helpful but if I can remind the hon Member of the debate or questioning this morning with his hon Colleague in respect of other projects which are described in the Manifesto under "Our Commitments" where it says "we will do this" and then we either find that the Government are considering design or viability or having considered design and viability decided that it is not viable at all, which is it what possibly may be the case in this instance. Why is it that we have firm commitments given by the Government when it has not concluded any issue of viability and determined for sure as a matter of decision of policy that this project can be implemented? Why do we see this? I gave a number of examples this morning arising from the Manifesto and this is yet another example of that.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think one needs to understand that there are times when you wish to have a project done and you see it as feasible and possible but then when it actually comes to the design stages and technical input comes in, there may be..... Anything can be built. One can definitely build an underground car park in Commonwealth Parade at a cost. There are engineering solutions xxxxxx to be able to build an underground car park but maybe the cost would be absolutely exorbitant and then a decision has to be taken to drop that. Unfortunately, those things do happen sometimes and we need to accept that it goes against the best interest of the tax payer in getting value for money in a particular project where we have to decide to drop it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member not accept that having regard to those circumstances that he has described, it is wholly wrong for a party that has been in Government for twelve years? It is not as if they do a Manifesto without knowing what they have done or what can be done. Having been in Government for twelve years in 2007, or eleven

years, when they made this commitment to state that Government will do something, does the hon Member accept that that leads to a legitimate expectation by the general public that this is something that the Government have studied and will do. Not is considering do but will do. That is what is stated in the Manifesto and on the basis of the analysis that the hon Member, I appreciate again before I am scolded by the Hon Minister for Education that I am linking two questions together, on the basis of the analysis made by the hon Member, that would justify, which cannot be right. Would they accept this? That would justify resigning from any commitment at all because having made a commitment they then go and say, "well actually when we came to look at it in a bit more detail it was too expensive or it was not feasible or it could not be done for this reason". How can they excuse promises and commitments on that basis?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I think you should leave the electorate to judge on that at election time. I think the electorate will judge us on our performance and if we have failed in any of our commitments in our Manifesto then they will be the best judge.

HON G H LICUDI:

The electorate on the last occasion thought they were voting for a goose and now we are realising they are getting a gander because they are getting something different to what they voted for. I say that without any disrespect. Just meaning that they expected something to be done which now turns out to be no longer commitments. I made the point earlier.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It is a commitment to build car parking. Right! Even though we may not be building it in Commonwealth Parade, we are building a lot of others to compensate for that. It is not that we are negating and ignoring the issue of providing additional parking spaces. The only issue is that it cannot be built or we feel that it is not in the best interest to build it in a specific location. Not that we are not building them at all.

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to these parking spaces which the hon Member says well, the issue is not whether we build it in a particular location but whether we build it at all. We are building more than we actually said we would. What they said is that they will provide 2300 new additional car parking spaces. Can I ask the hon Member to account for those 2300 new additional car parking spaces?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that..... I have not got the information here in front of me to..... spread out, but I think our policy paper actually specifies the number of parking spaces and how we reach that figure. In fact, we will surpass that quite substantially if one takes into consideration all the other schemes that are not in our Manifesto that were not

committed but are in our policy paper as new initiatives that have now come on board.

HON G H LICUDI:

What I am referring to is the plan not the Manifesto. The Manifesto did not say 2300 parking spaces. The plan says..... and the hon Member says we should look at the plan and just add it up. Yes, we do add it up and it adds up to around 2000 odd parking spaces but what I am questioning is, how does he account for the fact that these are described as new additional car parking spaces. Additional to what?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Additional to what there is at the time of writing the paper.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am very grateful for that. So, when Devil's Tower Road car park is described as providing 1000 additional.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

One assumes that that is 1000 additional to the 200 odd that already existed in Devil's Tower and will be lost and therefore what Devil's Tower Road car park will provide is 1250 car parking spaces. Is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is not far from it. I do not have the figures right in front of me but the actual xxxxxx park and ride car park in Devil's Tower Road is in excess of 1000 car parking... It is 1190 something or to that effect. I do not have the figures here to be able to calculate to the nearest decimal point but I can tell the hon Member that there is additional parking.

HON G H LICUDI:

So what the hon Member is saying is now committing the Government to is confirming that these 2300 are in fact new. We know they are going to be new because they do not exist now but are additional to any parking spaces which are actually going to be lost as a result of these developments.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government are committing themselves to what it says on the policy paper. Right! After the three years you will judge us. You get your calculator and subtract and add and see whether it comes to in excess of 2300 and you will see that there is more than that.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well no. We are judging the Government now. We are judging the Government every single day. The electorate is judging the Government every single day and expects the Government to be accountable to the electorate every single day. This is not the case and I hope the hon Member will accept this that the Government are only held to account once every four years when it goes to the polls. That is not the case in a democracy. The Government have to account to this Parliament and to the electorate every single day and that is what we are doing. So, we are not saying, let us wait until you do this. We are holding the Government to account now for what it is saying and all I am asking is for confirmation that when these are described as additional and we now know that additional means, additional to what currently exists and takes into account parking spaces which are going to be lost as a result of the projects which are being undertaken. Then in fact this means 2300 on top of the 200 that are being lost. On top of the x that is going to be lost in Old Naval Hospital Road, the x that is going to be lost in Engineer's Lane, the x that is going to be lost in Flat Bastion Road, the x that is going to be lost in Arengo's Palace, et cetera, et cetera. Is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is the position.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am very, very grateful for that clarification.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Can I just jump up for one second and make a point. The hon Member is very keen to highlight all these things that they say the Government have committed themselves to doing and is actually not doing. I would like to hear, and he says that it is his duty, the Opposition's duty to hold the Government to account on a day to day basis. Not every four years. Could we hear from that side of the House, what their plans are for parking in Gibraltar today?

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, as a matter of fact.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order! Order! Order! That is not the purpose of question time. That can be debated at the budget debate in June or whenever it happens.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am more than happy to debate.....

MR SPEAKER:

No please!

HON G H LICUDI:

.....But I am not going to do it now, I was going to add.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Ah ah ah!

HON G H LICUDI:

The Speaker has stopped me.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Oh, I see.

MR SPEAKER:

I have not stopped you. I implore you not to!

HON G H LICUDI:

Oh, Mr Speaker is imploring me not to do that but I am certainly..... I am not afraid to answer questions whether here or in a television debate or in the Piazza there in the lobby or anywhere.

MR SPEAKER:

Put down a motion, those are the tools of this Parliament, either side, put down a motion to debate any question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely! We will be more than happy to debate this particular issue.

MR SPEAKER:

Today let us look at parking spaces.

HON G H LICUDI:

But hopefully when we debate these matters we will debate it with, not in equality of arms, because the Government have all the information and facts, but we will have the facts as well. So, when we ask these questions in order to gather the facts, when the time comes to do a debate we will both have the facts and we will both be able to say these facts are good or these facts are bad. The public will judge. That is the proper way to debate. The proper way to debate is by providing information to us so that we can make our own analysis. Hold the Government to account and then the electorate will judge. Not by denying us information.

MR SPEAKER:

Can I implore the hon Member to put a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes indeed.

HON XXXXXX:

Xxxxxx

MR SPEAKER:

Order! Order!

HON G H LICUDI:

I have put 50 questions and I am struggling to go through some of them and get some additional answers. The public consultation document or rather the plan which was published, contained a proviso that members of the public could write and express a view by 30th November 2009. The hon Member in his original answer has acknowledged that that process closed and the Government are reviewing that and will publish..... Can the hon Member tell us how many representations were made in respect of this as part of the consultation process.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. We had 20 submissions from the public. Each covering a wide range of issues not necessarily one particular issue. They range from a wide range of issues to one narrow xxxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are these 20 individuals or organisations or groups? Does the hon Member know?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It varies somewhat. Most of them were actually individuals. I would say about 25% were from entities such as the Environmental Safety Group, for example. Then the rest were all individuals.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am, obviously, not privy to the representations that have been made to the Government. I am aware of one representation which has to do with the widening of Europa Road just past Brympton.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That was from an individual!

HON G H LICUDI:

From one individual! Is that the sort of matter, something that the Government are now putting into the melting pot and actually considering.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well yes. All representations have different proposals and all these were gone through one by one and we either decided to adopt those and integrate them into the plan or not to accept them and reject them.

HON G H LICUDI:

Has that process then, of evaluation of those representations, been concluded with decisions taken in respect of particular representations and if so how will we see that translated into the new plan? I know that there might be a revised plan but I am keen to understand the timescale and the process that is going on in Government at the moment.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. We have accepted a number of these proposals that have been put through. These are being integrated into the new plan and the Government intend to publish the new plan in order for all members of the public to be fully conversant with what the plan is and the new areas which may not have been covered initially and are now covered.

HON G H LICUDI:

Some of the questions that I have asked relate to enforcement measures relating to this particular plan and in particular the employment of parking traffic and enforcement officers. One assumes that that is not work-in-progress. The decision has been taken because that was part of the plan, that the implementation and the enforcement of the plan would be dependent on these officers being in place. Can the Government now tell us whether they have made a decision as to numbers and processes to employment of these particular individuals.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Internally some of these decisions have already been taken but as I said in my answer the Government will be making announcements in respect of the implementation of these in due course.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government at least confirm, to make the position absolutely clear, that this will have, given that there is going to be interaction between those enforcement officers and the Royal Gibraltar Police, that this will not interfere at all with the complement of officers engaged by the Royal Gibraltar Police?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot give any commitment in respect of that until an announcement is made in that respect.

HON G H LICUDI:

Various of the questions in relation to each of the projects ask about costs and the answer that has been given is, an announcement will be made in due course. Is that because there is a costing exercise to be carried out and are we to assume therefore that no one has actually been awarded any contracts in respect of these projects. Any of these projects, because otherwise if there had been a contract awarded, I would assume that the Government would have no difficulty in telling us who it is being awarded to and what the contract sum is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. We have internal costs based on what our quantity surveyors have told us are the estimated costs of this. No contract has been awarded otherwise it would have been made public by initially having put the project out to tender. When that happens, the hon Member will be able to see them published like any other tender notice for any project.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are the Government then able to confirm that in respect of each of these projects there will be a tender process and all of these projects will be put out to tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The intention is to put all these projects out to tender. I cannot see why this may not be the case.

HON G H LICUDI:

One of the questions relates to the costs of providing the parking facilities or the parking project as it is described at the Mid Town Development. As we had understood the position, and I hope the hon Member will accept this or correct me if I am wrong, these are public parking facilities which were going to be provided by the developer of the Mid Town Development. Is that still the case or are we looking at a public cost for the provision of these parking spaces?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. There are both. There are a number of parking spaces that are going to be made available by the developers for public use and there are also some parking spaces which the Government will be constructing for public use as well.

HON G H LICUDI:

In the same area?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In the same Mid Town area. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have to wait for the process to complete, in line with the philosophy of the other side, before I can make xxxxxx. Can the hon Member tell me whether these projects for parking are going to be Government projects or Gibraltar Car Park Limited projects?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Gibraltar Car Park Limited projects.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does that mean that there will be a continuation of the mechanism that has been used for the Devil's Tower with the finance being provided to the company by the Royal Bank of Scotland?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the philosophy will definitely be the same one and I am not involved in the financial transaction with the bank and the negotiations but I think that is what is being worked on to achieve. To continue what we currently have in place. In other words, expand the loans that are available to the company Gibraltar Car Park Limited and have these car parks re-generating revenue to repay back the loans.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member know whether the intention is to do them sequentially or are they going to happen more or less at the same time?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Some of them will happen almost imminently. There are a number of car park schemes which are now in an advanced stage, almost to be put out to tender. These will happen very shortly. Then after that there will be others that will follow. One has to understand that even just from the construction point of view there is a limit to how much of these projects one can actually have going at the same time. But we are making provision in order to stagger some of these. In order to allow the market to absorb the work involved in that from the construction point of view. I assume that there is also a financing issue as well in order to ensure that there is income coming in from older or existing car parks in order to start revolving the loan and the facility. I presume that this is something where the Financial Secretary is the one that is involved in all the financial arrangements with the banks et cetera. But I assume that that is the basis under which it is being worked on.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will there be a stage when that kind of information will be provided in answer to questions in this Parliament, or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot commit myself to doing that but I would assume that that is the case, yes. I do not think that the Government would withhold information from the Opposition for the sake of doing so. I think that the information will be made available at some point

in the future. Matters of finance, as you know, are the responsibility of the Chief Minister and so therefore I would not want to answer on his behalf. But I am sure ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not advisable?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not know whether it is advisable or not but.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Aqui cada uno hace lo que le da la gana!

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

But I think that that sort of information will be available to the Opposition at some point in the future.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member in reply to my Hon Leader has referred to Gibraltar Car Parks Limited and that there will be financing arrangements made and hopefully the car parks will be generating money in order to pay for that finance. It follows from that, that car parks will be made available to members of the public at a cost. This is not a case of visitors from Spain on short-term having to pay at a higher rate than the normal monthly or annual cost. Certainly they will not go to Flat Bastion Road to use a car park over there on a short-term basis, one assumes. But given that these will be available at a cost, are the Government at least able to follow what it said in 2007 in respect of, as I have mentioned Willis's, Sandpits and Harbours, that to the extent that car parking spaces are lost on the street, there will be free parking spaces available within these car parks. So, will there be a mixture of free and paying parking at these facilities?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that one ought to follow what has happened in Willis's Road and Sandpits et cetera.

HON G H LICUDI:

You said xxxxxx.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I do not know what was said at the time and what subsequently happened. The only thing I can tell the hon Member is that we are conscious that any parking that is lost in the street has to be compensated elsewhere. So the principle is quite obvious. On the other hand, I think we need to understand that we also need to move away from the parking culture that we have today and move to where we are going to have pay and display. Where we are going to have residents permits. Where there is going to be an element of change especially within the city walls as to the parking culture in the area. It is described in our policy paper and these things have to come..... and necessarily by stages. What we cannot do is implement pay and display and no parking in certain areas and residents parking and then not have the ability to have multi-storey car parks that provide the extra parking for people to be able..... Otherwise, one is going to have to take ones car into your sitting room because we will not have anywhere to put it. So, it is very much a staged process that one has to do but obviously we are hoping that within the three year period we will have already been able to put the relevant part of the jigsaw together to be able to make the thing work. But there is going to have to be a change of culture in not being able to park where you want free of charge at all times. That I think does not exist now in most places in the world and cannot continue in Gibraltar.

HON G H LICUDI:

Part of the projects that we are concerned about are entirely new projects, building a car park where currently there is no car park. One in particular is an expansion of an existing car park, that is Grand Parade, and that is very different to, for example, the Devil's Tower Road where it is being built in a totally new area of land and therefore does not cause, although the road building causes a disruption and a loss of the parking spaces, the car park itself is not what is causing the loss. But in Grand Parade, the hon Member will appreciate that any works at Grand Parade itself will cause a great deal of disruption to residents of the area. Is the hon Member able to give an indication of the sort of nature of the disruption. Are we talking of the whole car park being unavailable? Half of the car park being unavailable? What parts, in respect of which the parking spaces will be lost, being re-provided temporarily somewhere else? Are these matters that are being considered and how is it possible to minimise the disruption and possibly not just to Grand Parade but the other areas as well. We are concerned that we have got road works going on which are causing a great deal of disruption and we understand that some disruption is necessary, but if all this is going to happen at the same time and there is going to be disruption almost everywhere in Gibraltar, that is going to result in a great deal of inconvenience. I am trying to understand how the Government are going to manage this process.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As far as Grand Parade is concerned, it is definite that this will have to be done in phases in order to keep the top parking area accessible for people to continue parking there and therefore Grand Parade will probably be split up into three or four sections at a time to be able to minimise the disruption in that. There will be an element of disruption and there will be loss of parking on a temporary basis. But unfortunately there is no way that one can get to where one wants to get unless one goes through that pain. But of course, when any of these projects are being worked on and formulated at design stage, these are things that are taken into account and

we try to address these to the best of our ability because we are limited in the options available. But, definitely, minimising the disruption is very present in our planning.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member able to confirm in relation to Grand Parade that the intention is still as has previously been announced to expand by underground facilities. To expand Grand Parade by the creation of an underground car park? That is, as I understand it, what had previously been announced. Is that still the intention?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. That is still the intention. However, there are a number of options still under consideration and so therefore the hon Member should not take that as confirmation that that is definitely what is happening. Definitely, we want to maximise the availability of parking spaces in Grand Parade, the only way you can go is down. There is no way that you can build up in that area. We want to leave that area as an open area where..... there has been a lot of historic..... the approach to the Alameda et cetera. I think it would be a crime to actually build up in that area. So, the only way it can be done..... One may be able to do something that is providing another 200 or 300 parking spaces by actually doing something which is a slightly raised up but it does not really address..... One really wants to get 800 or 900 parking spaces which is what we want to do. It has got to go down. But having said that, there are options that are being looked at to try and see how best we can maximise the number of parking spaces and going down is the only way.

HON G H LICUDI:

Hopefully, finally in relation to this batch of questions, one of the areas of the plan which was the subject of a couple of the questions in the order paper relates to the bicycles and this idea of taking and riding and then leaving somewhere else, hopefully, somewhere else where the Government will have access to get the bicycles back. We know that this is a plan which is expected to be implemented over a period of three years but I am again trying to understand the extent and the level of priority given to that particular part of the plan. Are we to expect, for example, in the course of this year, we will see this bicycle pods somewhere around Gibraltar or is that more on the medium scale or on the long scale. When do we expect these bicycles to be available generally for the use by the public?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would not want to commit to a timetable in that because there is on-going contact with suppliers of these at the moment and I really do not know whether these take a long time or a short time to deliver. The only thing I can say is that this is one particular area of the plan that does not really hinge on anything else, if the hon Member understands what I mean. Therefore, it is one of the areas which is now moving quite fluidly without really taking into account anything else because it is really, apart from identifying suitable locations to be able to do it et cetera, very much its own project and therefore will be something that we may see soon but I would not want to say this year or next year. Maybe at the next question time we may have a

better idea of it. It is too early at the moment to be able to give you a clear confirmation on that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member confirm that the Grand Parade is also going to be a publicly owned car park development and not a private thing as was originally suggested?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As we speak today, it will be a Gibraltar Car Park Limited parking. Although I personally feel that there are some private sector interests which I think may suit the arrangement in this particular area, always preserving the existing free parking area available to the residents of the area, and may fit the situation and the peculiarities of that area better. But as I stand on my feet today, it is very much a Government Gibraltar Car Park Limited project which is being worked on in the same way as any of the others.

NO. 324 OF 2010

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,

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. 325 of 2010.

NO. 325 OF 2010

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,

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 over to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 325/2010

FLIGHTS FROM GIBRALTAR DELAYED BY MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR

	<u>London Gatwick</u>	<u>London Luton</u>	<u>Manchester</u>	<u>Madrid</u>
October 2009	6	2	0	1
November 2009	4	1	2	0
December 2009	6	0	0	2
January 2010	7	0	3	4

FLIGHTS FROM GIBRALTAR TIMETABLED AND CANCELLED

	<u>London Gatwick British Airways</u>		<u>London Gatwick EasyJet</u>		<u>London Luton</u>		<u>Manchester</u>		<u>Madrid</u>	
	<u>Scheduled</u>	<u>Cancelled</u>	<u>Scheduled</u>	<u>Cancelled</u>	<u>Scheduled</u>	<u>Cancelled</u>	<u>Scheduled</u>	<u>Cancelled</u>	<u>Scheduled</u>	<u>Cancelled</u>
October 2009	24	0	48	0	28	0	14	0	25	0
November 2009	0	0	30	0	21	0	14	0	25	0
December 2009	0	0	30	3	20	1	11	0	26	4
January 2010	0	0	31	2	18	1	11	0	25	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 324 AND 325 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the answer given to Question No. 325 of 2010, there is no sub division between British Airways and EasyJet in relation to London Gatwick.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I know. The question did not ask this. It specifically asked London Gatwick. There was no mention of London Heathrow. If the hon Member wants the information he can always write to me and I am very happy to send him the information like I always do when he requests anything.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Thank you.

NO. 326 OF 2010

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. 327 to 330 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 327 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS FROM LA LINEA FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many departing passengers on the flight from Gibraltar to Madrid arrived at the air terminal on the bus from La Linea on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 326 and 328 to 330 of 2010.

NO. 328 OF 2010

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 Madrid to Gibraltar boarded the bus to La Linea after landing here on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 326, 327, 329 and 330 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 329 OF 2010

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. 326 to 328 and 330 of 2010.

NO. 330 OF 2010

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 330

ANSWER TO QUESTION 326

	<u>STAYING IN GIBRALTAR</u>	<u>IN TRANSIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
October 2009	135	474	609
November 2009	136	496	632
December 2009	52	452	504
January 2010	52	219	271

ANSWER TO QUESTION 327

GIBRALTAR TO MADRID

October 2009	2
November 2009	1
December 2009	4
January 2010	1

ANSWER TO QUESTION 328

MADRID TO GIBRALTAR

October 2009	1
November 2009	2
December 2009	0
January 2010	0

CONTD....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 330

ANSWER TO QUESTION 329

	ARRIVING	DEPARTING
October 2009	609	562
November 2009	632	603
December 2009	504	427
January 2010	271	317

ANSWER TO QUESTION 330

October 2009 (5 October onwards)	£ 1,512.50
November 2009	£ 1,703.00
December 2009	£ 1,703.00
January 2010	£ 1,703.00

NO. 331 OF 2010

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, broken down on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 332 of 2010.

NO. 332 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX

Can Government say how much is owed in passenger tax by each of the commercial airlines that use Gibraltar airport, broken down on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government no longer considers it is appropriate to provide details of sums due by individual named commercial entities or citizens. Between the four airlines that use Gibraltar Airport, £88,496.09 is due in respect of Landing and Parking fees, and £247,510 in respect of Departure Tax.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 331 AND 332 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the hon Member to, without giving the names of the airlines, divide the figures by airline? Airline 1 so much, airline 2 so much, airline 3 so much.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. We are talking Landing and Parking fees: Airline 1, £22,646.18; Airline 2, £17,002.62; Airline 3, £16,864.56; Airline 4, £31,982.73. Departure Tax: Airline 1, which is the same as the one above, £55,240; Airline 2, £44,010; Airline 3, £77,680; Airline 4, £70,380.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say why, given that this information has always been supplied across the floor of the House, it is no longer appropriate now and it was appropriate before?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, because subsequent to having this information made available to the House and some of it reported in the press, I had representations made by one particular entity who told me that they did not feel that it was proper for their affairs to be made available to the press and to the public and therefore the Government have taken the view that..... I am quite happy to make it available to the hon Member confidentially if he wishes but the fact is that one of them complained and we felt we would oblige because at the end of the day it is not really..... Except for one particular airline which is slightly behind, there have been, and in fact they have now entered into a repayment schedule with us and so therefore we will find that come the 27th April they will be up to date. I think most of the hon Members know which airline I am referring to. The other three are within the specified timescale. They only owe December and January which is, for all intents and purposes, the normal invoicing at the end of the month and we give them 30 days to pay and..... So, they were within and I think probably that is why they were concerned. Why they should be exposed publicly to something when they were not really in arrears or anything like that. It was normal xxxxxx of business. Also, one can tell by the passenger tax, the number of passengers that they are carrying. So, it is information that is available that they would rather not give their competitors. They can derive information from these figures.

NO. 333 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – MANDATORY OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Can Government confirm whether mandatory occurrence reports detailing aviation incidents recorded in Gibraltar are sent to and included in the EU central depository of information on civil aviation occurrences exchanged in accordance with Directives 2003/42/EC, and if so on what dates has this information been supplied by Gibraltar for inclusion?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Following resolution of concerns regarding the confidentiality arrangements applied to the European Co-ordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems, the UK commenced transferring its own data in September 2009. Gibraltar's information began to be transmitted, via the UK, at the same time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 333 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether the information submitted by Gibraltar can be identified separately to that of the UK?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not sure but I think it is. But I am not 100% sure.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In that case is that information freely available to all the Member States of the European Union?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, they are.

NO. 334 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – DOCUMENTATION IN RESPECT OF PLANS

Can Government say when the plans of Gibraltar airport referred to in section 25 of the Civil Aviation Act 2009 will be published?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The plan will be published when all related MOD land transfers in the area have been completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 334 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the hon Member say they were complete or they are being published? I did not.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

When the transfers in the area have been completed. Yes, when it is completed they will be published. I think it is only a matter of documentation. I know I said that last time this question was asked and when I got your question I sought an update and really nobody had done very much. There had not been much progress in this field and I have now given them notice that they have to complete this.

NO. 335 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION
AUDIT IN RESPECT OF GIBRALTAR**

Can Government say whether they are aware of the recommendations of the Gibraltar aspect of the audit conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) under the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) into the UK and the UKs Overseas Territories during the latter part of 2008 and 2009 and if so what are they?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 336 of 2010.

NO. 336 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION
AUDIT IN RESPECT OF GIBRALTAR**

Can Government say whether the MOD or the Gibraltar Government would be responsible for implementing any findings and recommendations of the ICAO audit conducted under the USOAP in respect of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The final report on the audit is expected to be published by ICAO in March this year. There will be a small number of recommendations which will have applicability in Gibraltar. Some fall under the responsibility of the Government of Gibraltar and others of the Ministry of Defence. It would not be appropriate to pre-empt the final report by providing details of its contents at this stage.

NO. 337 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – RUNWAY CLOSURE DUE TO FRONTIER QUEUE

Can Government say on how many occasions has Gibraltar airport been closed because of traffic accumulating on the runway due to the frontier queue in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

At the time of drafting this question, Gibraltar airport had never been closed because of traffic accumulation. However, I understand this morning that this did actually happen last night.

NO. 338 OF 2010**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**

The number of ships which have called at Gibraltar since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
BUNKERS	616	582	425
CARGO	19	17	10
REPAIRS	16	8	8

Bunker fuel sold since October 2009 is as follows:

October 2009	388,931 tons	
November 2009	440,373 tons	
December 2009		305,374 tons

NO. 339 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued, or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No application for a bunkering licence has been received nor a bunkering licence issued.

NO. 340 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

STORAGE AND SUPPLY OF BUNKER FUEL – DETACHED MOLE

Can Government confirm whether it is their policy to allow the development and use of the Detached Mole for:

- (a) the storage and supply of bunker fuel; and/or
- (b) floating storage tankers to berth in order to allow vessels requiring bunkers to come alongside?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 341 to 342 of 2010.

NO. 341 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING OPERATIONS IN GIBRALTAR'S TERRITORIAL WATERS ON THE EAST SIDE

Can Government confirm whether it is their policy to allow bunkering operations and/or ship to ship oil transfers to take place in Gibraltar's territorial waters on the East Side?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 340 and 342 of 2010.

NO. 342 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REDUCTION OF CONGESTION/WAITING-TIME FOR BUNKERS IN GIBRALTAR'S TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government state what steps are being taken to reduce the congestion/waiting-time of vessels waiting for bunkers in the territorial waters of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Government have considered the development and use of the Detached Mole for the storage and supply of bunker fuel and/or floating storage tankers to berth, in order to allow vessels requiring bunkers to come alongside, but no policy decision has been taken.

The volume of vessels handled and the quantity of bunkers delivered has increased to unprecedented levels. This indicates that handling has become more efficient over the past months/year. Most congestion is due to adverse weather. However, with the introduction of the VTS system which will provide more accurate vessel ETA information and surveillance on the East Side, operations can be improved which will allow the service to the customer to be improved further.

NO. 343 OF 2010

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 collected from vessels using the East Side anchorage, on a monthly basis, is as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>
October 2009	£34,454.16
November 2009	£28,065.22
December 2009	£21,226.65
January 2010	£ 2,028.19

NO. 344 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – MARINE OFFICER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Marine Officer with the Gibraltar Port Authority which was advertised in October 2009 and how many were from Gibraltar and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Eleven applications for the post were received with one of these being from Gibraltar.

An offer of employment was made but this was declined. The post is in the process of being re-advertised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 344 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say why the offer was declined?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If the hon Member looks at the order paper, there is another question in respect of the new VTS vacancy as well and it was coincidental but there was a recruitment board and obviously applications for both posts and the person that was..... A gentleman and a lady were selected, as the preferred candidates, and they both came out to Gibraltar to look around and they came to see me to, not a courtesy call, but just to..... I wanted to see who they were and then they realised that they were common-law husband and wife. I told them that this could present problems, and although we were not taking them on because of that, they had to understand that leave could be a problem and, in fact, they could find themselves substituting for each other. If one of them was away, the other one had to provide cover because they were of a similar position. They understood the situation and in front of me said that that was fine. When they left the room and went back to the UK, they only came over for one day, they both wrote back saying that they thought it was not in their interest to come to Gibraltar. Possibly, I put them off. But I think it is better in the long-term because I think it would have created problems. I think their expectations were that they would probably be able to do things as a couple and because of that,

those two particular jobs which are very much interlinked, it would not work. The idea of taking leave together and things like that was not something that was an option. So, they decided that they would decline. We went down the list of other applicants and it was decided that there was nobody really suitable. So, we are in the process of re-advertising and of course we have to wait for publication in the International Maritime press and it takes a bit of time. It is a monthly publication of job opportunities in the maritime world and so we are advertising now in March.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the Member, why have the Government decided to re-advertise the post instead of choosing one of the other nine applicants?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have just explained that we went down the list of those and the Board felt that there was no second option really, that the rest did not really fit the bill. So, we abandoned and had to go down the re-advertising route.

ORAL

NO. 345 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VTS

Can Government confirm whether the new VTS system for the Port has now arrived in Gibraltar, has it now been installed and when is it expected to be operational?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 346 of 2010.

NO. 346 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MANAGER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Vessel Traffic Service Manager with the Gibraltar Port Authority which was advertised in October 2009, how many were from Gibraltar and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The VTS system is currently part operational and further modules will be delivered and installed over the next six weeks that will make the system fully operational.

As regards the post of VTS Manager, six persons applied for the post. None were from Gibraltar. An offer of appointment was made but was declined as I have explained earlier.

The post is in the process of being re-advertised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 345 AND 346 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Member, how many members or how many of the staff of the Port Authority are trained to use the new VTS system which is coming in?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is an on-going programme being undertaken at the moment in terms of training. There are currently five VTS operators that are fully qualified as VTS operators and then there are some Port Officers who are also qualified because they were VTS operators who subsequently applied for promotion and became Port Officers. So, their qualifications are valid in the sense that they are able to use it as well even though they are, strictly speaking, a grade lower. But the objective is to have all Port Officers and VTS operators fully conversant and trained in the system so that there is a supervisory and an operative grade for the VTS.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether any additional training is going to be required as a result of the new equipment?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Not for those, there will be some refresher courses that they will need to undergo because these systems are all being updated. It is the same as saying, I know how to use a computer, but then there is a new programme that appears and one needs an element of training to be able to do that. There are some current Port Officers training in the UK. I do not know whether they are back or they are there but there is an on-going....., sending two over at a time in order to get them fully conversant with the system. But at the end we want to make sure that all Port Officers and all operatives are fully conversant with the system. In fact, two Senior Port Officers, I am not sure whether one of them is the acting Senior Port Officer and another one is the Port Officer, have both been to the UK and qualified already. I think it is a six or seven week course.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether it is the policy or the intention of the Government to employ any more people to actually work the VTS system?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, there is a case at the moment for one extra VTS operator which the Government are giving consideration to in order to avoid the possible lack of operatives if there is, for example, an unexpected illness or whatever. But that has not yet been approved by the Government.

NO. 347 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA (GIBRALTAR) LIMITED – PORT OPERATORS LICENCES

Can Government say when the Port Operator Licences requested by Transcoma (Gibraltar) Ltd on 23rd September 2009 and 16th October 2009 were granted and how many objections were received in respect of each application?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 348 and 349 of 2010.

NO. 348 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA FERRY – PERSONS ARRIVING FROM ALGECIRAS

Can Government say how many persons arrived at Gibraltar on the Transcoma ferry from Algeciras, on a monthly basis, since it commenced operations?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 347 and 349 of 2010.

NO. 349 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TRANSCOMA FERRY – PERSONS DEPARTING FOR ALGECIRAS**

Can Government how many persons departed Gibraltar on the Transcoma ferry to Algeciras, on a monthly basis, since it commenced operations?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

Transcoma (Gibraltar) Ltd was granted a Ferry Operators Licence on 23rd October 2009 and no objections were received.

A Ship Agency Licence was granted to them on 15th December 2009. No objections were received.

The number of persons arriving and departing Gibraltar on the Transcoma ferry since commencement is as follows:

Month	Arrivals	Departures
December 2009	46	46
January 2010	105	118
1 st to 6 th February 2010	14	19
8 th to 10 th February 2010	5	7
TOTAL	170	190

ORAL

NO. 350 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT TRIBUNAL

Can Government say what is the current composition of the Port Tribunal?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 351 to 353 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 351 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how many cases have been heard by the Port Tribunal since it was established, with a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 350, 352 and 353 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 352 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how many cases are currently pending determination before the Port Tribunal?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 350, 351 and 353 of 2010.

NO. 353 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT TRIBUNAL

Can Government say, with a breakdown by year, how many of the cases heard by the Port Tribunal since it was established were appeals under old section 14(1) (d) of the Port Operations (Registration and Licensing) Act whereby a person aggrieved by the registration or licensing of another applicant could appeal against the grant of such registration or licensing and in how many cases was the appellants successful?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Port Tribunal has not been established as there has not been yet a need for it since no cases have been referred for appeal. There are no cases currently pending determination.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 350 TO 353 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

On the 26th November 2009 we voted in this House to amend the Act to remove the right of appeal under section 14(1)(d). At the time I remember asking the hon Member why this was being done. In the sense, were there many people coming forward and was this proving cumbersome to the operations of the Tribunal. My impression was that that was the reason why this was being amended. Can the hon Member say, given that a Tribunal has not been established and as they have heard no cases, can he then say why the Act was amended in that way?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the Port Tribunal will be set up, if it ever needs to be set up, in order to entertain an appeal by an applicant who has had its application rejected by the Port Licensing Committee. In other words, if an applicant applies for a licence and gets it rejected he can appeal to the Tribunal. The law that we passed was to allow third parties to object to somebody's licence and hold them to ransom time wise whilst they go through a long process in trying to establish their objections to the application. So therefore, the Tribunal's purpose is for the rejection of an application to an applicant by the Port Licensing Committee and that has not yet..... I am not sure if there has been an application rejected. I do not know. I was trying to think as the hon

Member was reading out the question if there have been any cases. I am not sure whether there have been, but if there has been, nobody has appealed against it. Or the applicant has not appealed against the decision.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

My understanding was....., we even amended that Act, it was to remove the third parties right of appeal. I understand that. What was the policy reason behind removing that right of appeal? I was under the impression it was because there had been many appeals of that nature made to this Tribunal but the Tribunal has not even met and has never heard an appeal?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. An application has been put to the Port Licensing Committee and it is given 21 days for people to submit their objection or their representation and then if the Port Licensing Committee approves it, then that objector used to appeal against that decision and then we found that on the appealing of that, it delayed the process of being able to establish whatever business it wanted to do. Now, the recourse is obviously judicial review in the Supreme Court and not appeal directly to it. If we have had a case where an applicant has placed an application for a licence to the Committee and it is rejected by the Committee, that applicant can then appeal and it appeals to the Port Tribunal. Either there has not been a rejection of any licence or no applicant that has been rejected has wanted to appeal and use the Port Tribunal to be able to determine whether he can overturn that decision.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand the mechanism. I have the section of the Act in front of me. What I cannot seem to establish is the policy reason why the Government removed the rights of the third party to appeal the granting of a licence to somebody else given that the Tribunal has actually never met and never heard any appeals from anyone. So, why did the Government take the policy decision to amend the Act in that way in November? That is what I am trying to establish.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not a lawyer. Maybe Mr Speaker may be able to shed some light on this but as I understand it, if an applicant puts through an application to the Port Licensing Committee and it is approved, a third party who has objected to or made representations to that licence would then appeal and, as he appeals, that licence was not able to be granted and what was happening was that these people used to object to people applying. It would delay the process as much as possible and not allow genuine cases of people wanting to get a licence to operate and the Port Licensing Committee approving it, having to go through the process of getting this appeal, not appeal, but objection heard. What the Government did away with was for the third party to be able to appeal against that granting of the licence and to do so only on its merits, by judicially reviewing the decision rather than the decision itself because nobody is going to want anybody to come in to its own field or business and provide competition. So, I think it is to make sure that the methodology has been done properly and that the applicant meets all the criteria and therefore it can only be

done through judicially reviewing the Act. Mr Speaker, I bow to anything you may want to add on that.

MR SPEAKER:

No. I will not add anything. I think the hon Member misunderstood the question. The question is, if there has never been an appeal and hence no need to establish a Port Tribunal, where does all this explanation come in of, appeals delaying the grant of a licence. Perhaps the Minister may say, we anticipated too many appeals. I do not know. Xxxxxx

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that the appeal by a third party on the granting of a licence was to the Port Licensing Committee itself, whilst the appeal done through an applicant was through the Tribunal. In other words, there were two ways of, depending on the circumstances, how one could appeal. The Tribunal was only there to receive an appeal from an applicant that has had his application rejected by the Committee and not by an objection of a third party. That is my understanding of it. I bow to..... If there is any other light that can be shed on the matter I am quite happy to get somebody to clarify it for the hon Member. But that has always been my understanding of it.

MR SPEAKER:

I must confess that I share the hon Member's question.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can understand what he is saying.

MR SPEAKER:

If there is an appeal to the Port Tribunal from a third party, there was an appeal and that is an appeal pending determination. So, if it is not an appeal, why the need to remove the right of appeal, on the grounds of abuse, if I may call it that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Would you like me to clarify the.....

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful to Mr Speaker because that is exactly the point I was trying to make. I have the Act here in front of me and the actual right of appeal of a third party is to the Tribunal not to the Board. It is actually to the Tribunal itself and that is a right we removed in November, which we queried at the time. Given that there has never

been an appeal and the Port Tribunal has never been constituted, we do not know why the Government took this policy decision. That is what I am querying.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It has never been used.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No it has never been used and never met. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the argument which sounded logical was that this, in fact, had the effect of people stopping competition by using an appeal procedure that was only a success in delaying the inevitable and it was really a way of mischief making, if you like, in order to put off the evil day, then one would have expected that there was some evidence that this was happening in order to get the Government to thinking about the possibility of having to do away with this impediment to competition. But if nobody has ever done it, why is it that the..... If nobody has ever abused the system of appeal, how can the argument be, we are doing away with it because of the abuse, if it has never happened.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I understand the point the hon Member is making and I will have to go back to the Port Committee and seek some clarification on it if I may because what I have explained to the hon Member is what my understanding was of the system and it may well be that my understanding is not the correct one and therefore I will clarify and maybe write a note to the hon Member if he wishes or he writes to me if he wants any specific clarification.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If the hon Member can clarify the policy on the situation and revert to us we would be grateful. But certainly the query was why did the Government take that policy decision given that nothing has ever happened to justify it.

ORAL

NO. 354 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANGLING FROM NORTH MOLE

Can Government list the terms and conditions applicable to anglers who want to fish from the North Mole?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 355 and 356 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 355 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANGLING FROM NORTH MOLE

Can Government confirm that anglers who have permission to fish from the North Mole cannot do so when there is a vessel of any kind berthed alongside, or is this restriction applicable only to cruise ships?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 354 and 356 of 2010.

NO. 356 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANGLING FROM GIBRALTAR'S SHORELINE

Can Government say whether it is their policy to regulate the activities of anglers in all of Gibraltar's shoreline and if so in what timescale is this expected to happen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Anglers wishing to fish from the North Mole are able to do so on the following conditions:

- Anglers must be full members of the Gibraltar Federation of Sea Anglers, Gibraltar Fishing Club or Mediterranean Shore Angling Club with a valid up to date membership;
- Fishing will only be allowed from the South end of the Cruise Terminal to the old Look Out Tower;
- Only two rods per angler are allowed due to limited space;
- No fishing is allowed whilst vessels are alongside the berth or two hours before any passenger ship is expected;
- Fishing times are from 17.30-06.00hrs Monday to Friday and 08.00-06.00 hrs Saturday and Sunday;
- When a vessel other than a passenger ship is alongside, fishing may take place either ahead or astern of the vessel if space permits and does not impinge upon security arrangements.

I can also confirm that it is Government policy to regulate the activities of anglers on Gibraltar's shoreline and legislation is currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 354 TO 356 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the North Mole, do they still have to show passports or ID cards or is the Membership Card sufficient?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that what they do is that they hand in the Anglers Membership Card or a valid fishing pass permit in order to ensure that on the way out they do the exchange and we control who is in the port because anything could happen at any particular time. We want to know how many people were actually fishing in the area. Initially we used to have the idea of supplying identity cards and passports and all this but we have done away with this now that we are able to engage the three fishing clubs and federation et cetera. Now it is them that actually control, to a certain extent, who their membership are and who is not. That does not stop a foreigner or a visitor to Gibraltar from becoming a member of the club and using the facility. But they have to be members and accountable to them. So, if there are any ill practices which sometimes there are in the fishing from the shoreline in leaving rubbish behind and all sorts of things, you can actually complain to the club that one of their members have not followed the rules and they can be reprimanded if required.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This situation has been under review particularly the regulating of anglers across all of Gibraltar's shoreline. It has been under review since 2005. Today, we are told it is still under consideration. Are we any nearer to actually seeing the draft bill or the regulations or whatever it is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. I think that we have had to engage with the Federation and the Clubs themselves to make sure that we were not actually putting legislation that would adversely affect, specially the local fraternity, in this respect, but I think, actually the legislation has been taken forward by the Ministry for Sport and Leisure rather than myself. The only thing is that because of the North Mole aspect I have become involved in it. But the basis of what we are doing in the North Mole will be more or less the basis for xxxxxx putting in place for the rest of our shorelines. I think it will work well. I think everybody seems to be quite content with the way we are heading in that respect but I think the legislation is now quite imminent.

NO. 357 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PILOTAGE FOR OUTBOUND VESSELS FROM WESTERN ANCHORAGE

Has Government now taken a policy decision as to whether masters of all vessels will be asked to engage pilots when outbound from the Western Anchorage or whether this will apply to tankers or vessels over a certain size?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government have not taken a policy decision as to whether the masters of all vessels will be asked to engage pilots when outbound from the Western Anchorage or whether this will apply to tankers or vessels over a certain size only.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 357 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the decision dependent on anything else, for example the VTS system or anything else?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The hon Member must understand that taking a decision such as this adds cost and considerable cost to a call to Gibraltar. It basically doubles the pilotage fees coming into Gibraltar. So therefore, we do not want to overburden the industry with unnecessary costs. The general view of the industry, in fact, the Captain of the Port as well, is that we should wait until the new VTS system is fully operational and we see how that actually works in practice to see whether we are just going to restrict it to a certain type of ship. Maybe even only to different circumstances of weather conditions. We may find that in severe weather conditions or when there is lack of visibility or whatever, we may decide and impose that they actually must have a pilot on its way out. So, there are still different options that are being considered but I think the VTS will be the first point of consideration. Then after that whether we actually apply it across the board or in different categories or within certain conditions of, especially weather conditions, will be something that..... But that is very much a technical decision more than a political decision that needs to be taken on this but I am very conscious of the implications of added costs to calls to Gibraltar. We do not want to find ourselves not being competitive because we double our pilotage fees as

well. Apart from the fact that we need to then provide additional resources for pilotage, pilot boats and the whole works and we may have to provide it for only a limited amount of time. So, we are doing a cross benefit analysis of the whole situation and I think later on this year we will be able to take a more informed decision.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This was one of the recommendations that followed the New Flame accident. The report into the New Flame accident which the Government at the time said they accepted.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has that now changed slightly in the light of what the hon Member has said?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Not at all. I think that if there is a report, an investigation such as this which recommends a particular issue, one accepts it in good faith because one feels that it would be a good thing for it to happen. One then has to look at the real world and see whether..... In most ports that is not a requirement, only if you have not been in the port before and certain criteria..... So, we may have to look to see whether the master of the vessel is a regular caller at Gibraltar and knows the weather and knows the situation as it arises in the area. So, there are a number of things that will have to be considered before the final decision is taken.

NO. 358 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MEDCRUISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MONACO

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the 35th MedCruise General Assembly in Monaco in October 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The total cost of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the 35th MedCruise General Assembly in Monaco in October 2009 was £5,303.65, broken down as follows:-

Airfares	£3,030.90
Accommodation	£1,919.72
Meals	£ 212.59
Transport (Taxis)	£ 140.44

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 358 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member confirm that that was the cost in respect of three people?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is in respect of three people, myself and two others.

NO. 359 OF 2010

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**

Mr Speaker, this question normally is a generic question across Government but I always get lumbered with answering it and I do not know why. So I am answering, my Ministry has not sponsored or co-sponsored in Gibraltar or elsewhere any conference since the last Question Time in this Parliament.

I am not sure if there are any others across another Ministry but I always get sent this.

NO. 360 OF 2010

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**

Since the information supplied at the last Question Time in the Parliament:

- a) the Port Advisory Council has met three times on the 22nd October 2009, 9th December 2009 and 21st January 2010;
- b) the Business and Commerce Advisory Council has met once on the 20th January 2010; and
- c) the E-Business Advisory Council has met four times on the 1st October 2009, 13th October 2009, 26th November 2009 and 20th January 2010.

NO. 361 OF 2010

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**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 361/2010

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	PS	Purpose of Grant
13	Corks Wine Bar Ltd	Active	£49,877-51p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£116,380-85p (70%)	Building works, purchase of equipment & furniture & Import Duty (12%)
14	Carteia Recycling	Awaiting Sponsors acceptance	£14,473-89p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£33,772-42p (70%)	Equipment & Import Duty (12%)
15	Wastage Products Limited	Active	£40,359-83p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£94,172-93p (70%)	Building works, purchase of equipment, payment of Import Duty (12%) & Freight Charges
16	Camelot Holdings Limited	Active	£12,185-29p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£28,432-35p (70%)	Refurbishment Works, purchase of equipment & payment of Import Duty, Advertising & Rent Subsidy Scheme (12 months)
17	Adme Ltd	Active	£102,483-32p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£239,127-76p (70%)	Purchase and installation of equipment, advertising & website & Import Duty (12%)
18	Caprasi Investments Limited	Active	£17,156-03p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£40,030-75p (70%)	Purchase of equipment, building works, Freight Charges & Import Duty (12%)

NO. 362 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Development Aid Advisory Committee met since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Development Aid Advisory Committee has met on one occasion since the last Question Time, on 12th November 2009.

NO. 363 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – 26/28 GEORGE’S LANE/65a DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government say whether the DPC has now granted planning permission in respect of the following projects:

- (a) Rosmel Ltd, 3 storey new building at 26/28 George’s Lane;
- (b) Basewell Ltd, mobile concrete plant at 65a Devil’s Tower Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Development & Planning Commission has granted outline planning permission to Rosmel Ltd at 26/28 George’s Lane on 24th December 2009.

The Development & Planning Commission has resolved to grant planning permission to Basewell Ltd at 65a Devil’s Tower Road. However, this permit has not yet been issued, at least at the time of writing the question.

NO. 364 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – NEW PETROL FILLING STATION AT ARIEL FARM

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted by the DPC for a new petrol filling station with compound and shop/office building at the Ariel Farm in Devil's Tower Road and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 365 to 367 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 365 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RELOCATION OF CEPESA PETROL STATION TO ARIEL FARM

Can Government say whether the relocation of the CEPESA petrol station to the Ariel Farm will result in the surrender by them of their existing site next to the Victoria Stadium and if so will this be at any cost to the Government?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 364, 366 and 367 of 2010.

NO. 366 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RELOCATION OF CEP SA PETROL STATION TO ARIEL FARM

What is the area in square metres of the existing site of the CEP SA petrol station next to the Victoria Stadium and what will be the area in square metres of the new site allocated to them at the Ariel Farm?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 364, 365 and 367 of 2010.

NO. 367 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RELOCATION OF CEP SA PETROL STATION TO ARIEL FARM

What will the cost to the Government, if any, as a result of the relocation of the CEP SA petrol station to the Ariel Farm site?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The DPC has agreed to grant planning permission but a permit has not yet been issued.

Government are presently in the final stage of the negotiations with CEP SA for the relocation of their existing petrol station to a new site at the Aerial Farm. These negotiations have not yet been concluded and so details cannot yet be made available.

The area of the existing CEP SA petrol station is 2974 m². The area of the proposed new site is approximately 2860 m².

The intention is that CEP SA will release their current site simultaneously with the new one to be ready to operate. All costs associated with this relocation will be met by CEP SA and the exchange of plots will not result in any financial transaction between the two parties. Government expect to suffer no cost. The exchange will allow Government to expand sporting facilities at the Bayside Sports Centre and Victoria Stadium.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 364 TO 367 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Does Government have any further details of the extent and the ambit of the expansion of the sports facilities to the existing facilities at Bayside Sports complex as a result of the releasing of this particular site?

HON E J REYES:

At this very early stage, I have commenced initial discussions trying to get some feedback from the Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council whose remit is to advise

Government on the use of facilities. So, they have obviously welcomed the news of this extended area. There is some initial feedback but it is on-going discussions among themselves and we will take on board the recommendations on which specific sporting facilities, in plural, will be my intention to put there. So, I would like to cater for a number of sports and not just one sport. As we speak today, those are the intentions.

NO. 368 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – G AND JB HOTELS LTD

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to G and JB Hotels Ltd for the renewal of the main hotel façade and the expansion of the hotel closing the existing garden area with a closed glass roof, and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A planning application for an expansion and external refurbishment to the property owned by G and JB Hotels Ltd has been received by the Development & Planning Commission but this has still to be considered. Therefore, no planning permission has been granted to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 368 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say how many representations have been received? I did not catch it or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not aware of any representation. Normally, I get to know what representations are when we go to the meeting and the papers are laid and the Town Planner makes like a short presentation to introduce the application and then is when this information is discussed. We have not discussed it yet. I think it was only recently that it went through its 21 day consultation period so I am not sure whether we will be discussing it at the next meeting or not.

NO. 369 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR ROSIA BAY

Can Government confirm whether they have received any proposals for the development of Rosia Bay and if so what are they and what is the status of this project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have recently received a formal proposal for the establishment of a dolphinarium and other related leisure activities for Rosia Bay.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 369 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have the Government decided at this stage whether Rosia Bay will go out to tender or are they considering negotiating directly with this particular investor?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If the negotiations that are currently on-going with these prospective developers for this site as a dolphinarium actually reach a satisfactory conclusion, the Government would not be going down the tender route. That site has been available for a long time. Nobody has really, although some odds and ends interest have been expressed, but nothing has ever come formerly to the Government and we feel that a dolphinarium will be something completely different. It is not like somebody proposing a residential development or something which is xxxxxx common. This will be, I think, an excellent asset for Gibraltar for leisure, both for tourism and for locals as well. It will be a dolphinarium that will also involve interactive swimming with the dolphins and there are not many places in Europe where that is possible and we feel that it would be an excellent opportunity for Gibraltar not to miss. They have been around now for a number of months. They have done a lot of work. They have invested a lot of money in studies, environmental, historic and all sorts of..... because of the sensitivity of the area. They have actually now submitted a formal proposal early this week. In other words, here is my plan. There is my business case. There is my financing and everything and now the Government will go through a period of having a look at what they are actually proposing. It is a particular entity

that has other similar facilities in the Caribbean. They want to reposition something in Europe.

ORAL

NO. 370 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOTEL AT LITTLE BAY

Can Government confirm whether the construction of a hotel in the area of Little Bay was approved and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government have given no approval for the construction of a hotel in the area of Little Bay.

NO. 371 OF 2010

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 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**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 371/2010

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 12/10/09 AND 10/02/10

<i>App No</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Site Address</i>
11242	Mr Nicholas Prior	Proposed internal alterations to flat.	Approved	Asphodal House Waterport Terraces
11278	Mr Jason Segovia	Proposed enclosure to balcony.	Approved	19 Hermes House Varyl Begg Estate
11281	Bimal Bhatia	Joining together of apartments 1503/1504.	Approved	Majestic Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11282	Irish Town Property Venture	Proposed alterations.	Approved	62/64 Irish Town
11283	Ann Jensen	Proposed awning over tables and chairs area.	Pending	5 Governor's Parade
11284	Dragados S.A.	Proposed Demolition of Shell Offices & Gibair Hangar.	Approved	Airport terminal Winston Churchill Avenue
11285	WM Morrison Supermarkets	Proposed superstore roof safety measures key safety fall protection solutions, key anchor deadweight system.	Pending	Superstore Europort Avenue
11286	Adrian B Tilbury	Lobby extension to enhance façade	Pending	11A Elliot's Battery
11287	Mrs A Anderson	Proposed replacement of windows and new storm shutters.	Approved	Sir Herbert Miles Road Both Worlds
11288	The Trading Room	Demolition and reconstruction of internal partitions.	Approved	Suite 4A Eurolife Building Corral Road
11289	Bari Properties Ltd	Proposed modernisation of façade and construction of 2 additional floors.	Pending	ICC Casemates Square
11290	Balmory Limited	Proposed change of use from residential unit into small reception/office/lounge unit/breakfast area.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11291	Mr S. Vaughan	Proposed part demolition of house and re-construction into 2 dwellings	Pending	7 Humphrey's Bungalows Engineer Road
11292	Gibreality Ltd	Internal partitions to 2nd floor unit and ancillary works.	Approved	Centre Plaza
11293	Mr Richard Chellaram	Proposed alterations to flat.	Approved	Iris House Waterport Terraces
11294	Mark D Dellipiani Esq	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Sylvaner Vineyards Estate
11295	Mr S & Mrs C Holmes	Proposed alterations.	Approved	19/6 Rodger's Road

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11296	Essardas Property Holdings	Proposed refurbishment of shop premises.	Approved	121 Main Street
11297	Bijou Brigitte Ltd.	Proposed refurbishment	Approved	73 Main Street
11298	Veena Co. Ltd	Proposed engagement in height of existing shop window beside entrance.	Pending	9 Engineer Lane
11299	Irish Town Property Venture	Proposed demolition of part of building.	Approved	62/64 Irish Town
11300	Londex Ltd	Proposed change of use from take-away to mini market.	Approved	52 Governor's Street
11301	Prime Suite Limited	Proposed change of use into offices.	Pending	218-220 Main Street
11302	Government of Gibraltar	Demolition of building.	Government Project	8 Castle Steps
11303	Patton Ltd.	Proposed conversion of vault into bar premises.	Approved	Chatham Counterguard Fish Market Road
11304	Lewis Stagnetto Ltd	Proposed pizza oven with flue within existing terrace enclosure.	Pending	Barbary Ape Boyd Street
11305	Lewis Stagnetto Ltd	Proposed construction of new extension and beer garden.	Pending	Barbary Ape Boyd Street
11306	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed phase 2 & 3 demolition	Government Project	Town Range
11307	Mr Carlos Buhagiar	Proposed permanent sewage pump/RC hopper pit	Approved	68 A Devils Tower Road
11308	Sunseeker (Gibraltar Ltd)	Proposed internal fit-out of unit.	Pending	Ex-Tahiti Bar Ocean Village
11309	K. I. T (GIB) LTD	Single storey extension to existing office building and general alterations/refurbishment.	Pending	8490 Main Street
11310	Cepsa (Gibraltar)	Proposed construction of a new petrol station.	Pending	Devils Tower Road Aerial Farm
11311	Peter George Gil	Proposed internal fit-out of unit.	Approved	Majestic Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11312	Credit Suisse Gibraltar Ltd	Refurbishment of Credit Suisse 1st Floor offices consisting of air conditioning and internal partitions and finishes.	Approved	Neptune House Marina Bay
11313	Dr A Gupta	Exterior construction of a lightweight structure, interior construction of a timber staircase and alterations to internal partition walls.	Pending	12/4 Armstrong Steps

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11314	Duncan Paul Sykes & Linda	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	6 Britannia House Marina Bay
11315	A Barcio	Proposed alterations to existing terrace.	Pending	24C Elliot's Battery
11316	Instituto Cervantes	Proposed fit-out of existing offices.	Approved	Cloister Building Market Lane
11317	L & J Gaduzo	Proposed conversion of land at rear of the building and construction of individual bridges/stairs.	Pending	63/5/6 Europa Road
11318	Mr Joseph Guillianio	Proposed interior and exterior alterations.	Pending	The Ship Admirals Walk Marina Bay
11319	Amco (Gibraltar) Ltd c/o J J De	Proposed demolition of a single storey load bearing masonry structure with a flat rc roof slab and adjacent boundary masonry walls.	Government Project	Pumping Station Devils Tower Road
11320	John L Azopardi	Build partitions walls for office use.	Pending	Fish Market Road
11321	Evensong Ltd	Conversion of vault into bar, restaurant premises.	Approved	Chatham Counterguard Fish Market Road
11322	Gibtelecom Ltd	Proposed installation of earth plate on seashore and cable duct to link with infrastructure.	Pending	Rosia Bay
11323	Prem Matkani	Retail shop refurbishment to internal and external property.	Pending	126-128 Main Street
11324	Montagu Properties (2006) Ltd.	Proposed temporary surface car park.	Pending	17 Bayside Road Former Med Rowing Club
11325	Mr J Mir & Mr R J Mir	Proposed conversion of existing patio to a semi-concealed pool.	Pending	29 A/1 Hospital Ramp
11326	Lourdes Borg	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Crown Daisy House Waterport Terraces
11327	Foyle Holdings Ltd.	Proposed re-conversion of apartment into two separate residential units.	Pending	607/608 Wellington Court Devils Tower Road
11328	Mr A Davis	Proposed alterations to flat.	Approved	19 Pimlico Close Montagu Crescent
11329	Wolfback Ridgg Properties Ltd.	Proposed communicating door between apartments.	Pending	39 & 40 Cormorant Wharf Queensway
11330	H H W Holdings Ltd	Extension at 3rd floor level, internal alterations, extensive refurbishment of interior and exterior and change of use to offices.	Pending	68 Irish Town
11331	Mr G Daswani	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Honeysuckle House Waterport Terraces

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<i>App No</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Site Address</i>
11332	Ocean Village Properties Ltd	Internal office fitout.	Pending	Leisure Island Business Centre Ocean Village
11333	Melissa and Matthew Payas	Glass enclosure of balcony.	Pending	112 Peninsular Heights Harbour Views Road
11334	G and JB Hotels Ltd.	Proposed refurbishment of building and expansion of car park.	Pending	Calela Hotel Sir Herbert Miles Road
11335	Mr & Mrs J Jarvis	Proposed roof conversion.	Pending	17 Town Range
11336	Craig & Rachel Sacarello	Proposed replacement of windows.	Pending	18 Shortform Farm Europa Road
11337	Europa Five Ltd	Proposed fit out of new office.	Pending	Atlantic Suites Europa Road
11338	Enrique & Petra Guzman	Proposed construction of glazed conservatory extension to form new lounge accommodation.	Pending	6 Naval Hospital Road Admiral's Place
11339	Breckland Trading Co Ltd	Conversion to offices of full first floor premises including ground floor level.	Pending	175/177 Main Street
11340	Car Care Center Limited	Proposed alterations to shopfront.	Pending	59 Devils Tower Road
11341	Mr J K Pacheco	Proposed alterations to flat.	Pending	18 Rock Rose House Waterport Terraces
11342	Mr & Mrs P McNally	Proposed conversion of existing attic into residential accommodation.	Pending	Barley Hill House Prince Edward's Road
11343	Rebecca Faller	Proposed attic conversion.	Pending	3 Lighthouse Cottages Europa Road
11344	Mr S Shacaluga	Proposed internal alterations to flat.	Pending	Wellington Court Devils Tower Road
11345	Diana Soussi Avellano	Alterations to internal flat layout.	Pending	Cumberland Terraces
11346	Mediterranean Estate Agent	Proposed minor internal alterations.	Pending	12/6 College Lane
11347	WM Morrison Supermarket PLC	Proposed roof safety measures.	Pending	Europa Avenue Morrisons
11348	WM Morrison Supermarket PLC	Proposed balustrade to enclose external café seating area.	Pending	Europa Avenue Morrisons
11349	Breckland Trading Co. Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	28 Victoria House Main Street
11350	Mr & Mrs J Imossi	Proposed Alteration & Refurbishment	Pending	23 Scud Hill
11351	Mr Keith Charlton & Mrs Julie	Proposed Conversion of Two Flats into One	Pending	23/24 Admirals Place Naval Hospital Road

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NO. 372 OF 2010

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 12th October 2009 there have been five meetings, the dates of which are:

1. 16th October 2009
2. 3rd November 2009
3. 19th November 2009
4. 10th December 2009
5. 22nd January 2010

ORAL

NO. 373 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD VAULTS

How many vaults at Chatham CounterGuard have now been handed over to their respective tenants providing a breakdown by date and showing which have been handed over and which have not?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 374 and 375 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 374 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD VAULTS

How many tenderers who were allocated vaults at Chatham Counter Guard have now signed the leases or agreements in respect of their respective premises?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 373 and 375 of 2010.

NO. 375 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD VAULTS

How much rent has been collected from the tenants of the vaults at Chatham Counterguard, on a monthly basis, from the date that the first payment was made?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Five tenderers who were allocated vaults at Chatham Counterguard have now signed leases in respect of their premises.

These units were handed to the successful tenderers under an initial six month Licence Agreement in order to allow for their fitting out. The monthly licence fee for this period is £10.00. This applies to all allocated units. None have yet signed the lease. No rent has been collected yet.

I will now hand over to the hon Member a schedule with the information requested to Question No. 373 of 2010.

Schedule to Question No. 375 of 2010.

Unit Number	Successful Tenderer
1	Public Toilets
2	Bin Store
3	Vacant
4	Vacant
5	Evensong Limited
6	Anglo Hispano Ltd
7	Camelot Holdings Ltd
8	Patton Limited
9	Vacant
10	Ana Maria Alman
11	Vacant
12	Vacant
13	Mr A Boulaich

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 373 TO 375 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I may not have heard the hon Member but there was a request for a breakdown by dates, the dates when they were handed over. Does he have that, the actual dates?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Sorry. Could the hon Member repeat that?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The question asked for the dates, the dates when they were handed over. I do not see that.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that I may have the information. It is not a project which I am leading on or even my department is leading on but it is a land issue so it was passed on in my direction but there was, Unit 5, the licence agreement commenced on the 21st September 2009; Unit 7 commenced on the 10th June 2009; Unit 8 on the 11th October 2009; Unit 10 on the 8th July 2009 and Unit 13 on the 8th June 2009.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member in a position to say why there appears to be so little activity in the different units?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can tell him what I hear but it is not something that I..... There has been an element of water ingress in these units and some works have either got to be done or are being done or have been done. I am not sure and therefore that has delayed the process, not just of allocation, but the actual ability to be able to open up a commercial unit there.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the position that the, as I understood it, five tenants have signed leases now. The other ten are they refusing to sign until this water ingress problem has been resolved or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I assume that what has happened is that they have either signed or not signed depending on what has happened. But definitely five were being allocated and

obviously their time will start to tick as soon as the vaults are in a condition for them to do and conduct their business. I assume they are waiting for this exercise to be finished. In other words, exercise meaning the putting it right.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member in a position to say where the water is coming in from into the units. Are the Government aware of that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am only aware of it because of what I have heard people talk about. I have not really found out from them but I think that there were some issues with the drainage system and rainfall coming and flooding some of the units.

NO. 376 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GROUND RENT

Can Government confirm whether developers paying ground rent in respect of their leases are then free to charge ground rent to individual property owners at whatever level they choose?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Developers paying ground rent in respect of their leases are free to charge ground rent to individual property owners at whatever level they choose. However, it is standard practice for developers to apportion the ground rent paid to Government amongst the underlessees which is eventually paid to the management company, once the headlease is assigned.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 376 OF 2010

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

You want me to repeat that?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Yes please.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Developers paying ground rent in respect of their leases are free to charge ground rent to individual property owners at whatever level they choose. They are not restricted in any way. However, common practice is for developers to apportion the ground rent paid to Government amongst the underlessees which is eventually paid to the management company once the headlease is assigned.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

As I understand it, the developer is paying £30 a year. If the developer is paying £30 a year in ground rent, he would apportion those £30, common practice between the different tenants or the different subleases or whatever. Is that what the hon Member is saying?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct. But it is up to every individual lease holder to decide how they wish to apportion that or actually make money on it. There is nothing restricting them. That is according to the information that is being supplied to us by Land Property Services Limited on the issue. I do not get involved in any of that. I am not sure what is the..... But that is what the information that has been.....

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The reason is xxxxxx because obviously a tenant has come to us making representations. Of a situation where a developer is paying £30 a year and then charging 200 flats £130 each and then actually selling the company which deals with that as a profit making entity to somebody else for them to carry on the money making and they have actually increased the ground rent it charges for the different flats. But obviously what the Government are saying is that there is nothing in place which can stop this practice.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There has never been anything in place to stop that but I am just wondering whether when they charge, in your example, £130, whether it actually includes other issues and not just ground rent.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Xxxxxx

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That may well be the case. Under current leases they are allowed to do that and have always been allowed to do that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to confirm that it is actually only ground rent they are charging. We have actually seen the invoices and.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, it is something worth considering actually for the future because it is money for jam really.

NO. 377 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What is the value and the 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 378 and 379 of 2010.

NO. 378 OF 2010

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 Nos. 377 and 379 of 2010.

NO. 379 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTER HARDWARE

What was the value and number of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since 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 which I now hand to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 379/2010

Answer to Question 377/2010

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since July 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>
July 2009	40	87	500	8.2
August 2009	21	63	376	5.9
September 2009	28	109	299	5.6
October 2009	26	103	382	6.4

Answer to Question 378/2010

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since July 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>
July 2009	1	1	5	23
August 2009	-	-	5	99
September 2009	-	-	7	42
October 2009	-	-	11	85

Answer to Question No. 379/2010

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since July 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Value of Computers</u> <u>(£ thousands)</u>
July 2009	813
August 2009	441
September 2009	2,033
October 2009	981

NO. 380 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTATION OF “SEGWAYS” AND EQUIVALENT VEHICLES

Can Government explain the policy reasons why it has chosen to prohibit the importation of ‘Segways’ and equivalent electric personal transport vehicles following the notice to that effect which appeared in the Gazette dated 21 January?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government took the decision to ban the importation of these machines purely on the grounds of health and safety.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 380 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member elaborate on that? On what precise health and safety concerns.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

When we looked at these machines we considered perhaps..... these could be classified and how these could be monitored in order not to allow them to just freely be..... and allow them some form of parameters and allow them maybe in pedestrianised areas only. But we came to the conclusion that the size of Gibraltar really, with the size of our streets, it was a dangerous piece of machinery to have operating at everybody’s free will. In fact, they are illegal in the UK as well on public highways. They can be used in private estates. In fact, in other European countries they are only used by the police and certain law enforcement agencies in order to travel from one side of the town, or the inner city to the other in a slightly more quicker way than walking and patrolling, in that particular area. We took the view that this could end up in a similar situation to a certain extent to what we have had with these little disability cars that we have where some of the users use it for the right reasons and in the right spirit in which they are meant to be used, whilst others use it as an alternative to a motor cycle. Others actually use them in the public highway and they do not have any signals. They do not have any lights and they are a danger to traffic. We are actually now, in fact, we have been approached by the Senior Citizens Association, I think is the right connotation or description of the society that

have approached us, asking us to put a regime in place to actually try and regulate the use of these because they find that some of their members who generally have a need for the use of these, could find themselves in a very dangerous predicament if they are not regulated. So, we are working with them and with the highway authorities to try and put a regime in place in order to try and regulate them. I think that this will be more of something for the younger generation. One will definitely have people, every little toddler will want one to drive around and they are actually quite a dangerous piece of kit and allowing them to go on the public highway, imagine with the state of our roads, with the problems we already have with traffic circulation, having these things coming in and out of side streets and God knows what..... It is just too dangerous to consider. So, on the advice of those that know a bit more about these things than I do, the Government took the decision that we will not be allowing and actually consider them a prohibited import in order to put a complete stop to them. Otherwise, one then has people coming in through the back door and allowing them..... for one purpose or another and it just gets out of hand. So, on that basis we decided that we would make them an illegal import.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Member if he can remember how did the ban come about? Did somebody actually try to import one and that is what?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. Somebody actually came to see me saying, "I would like to import these but I am told that there is no classification for it to be imported. So, I cannot import them". So, I told the person we would look into it and we would consider it but I immediately pointed out at that meeting the fact that there could be problems because we know of problems that have developed in other jurisdictions, UK being one of them. They are having problems in that it is legal for them to do it in private estates but that does not stop anybody from going on the public highway and therefore because there are a lot of problems we thought we would try and put a stop to it before it became a problem for us in Gibraltar which we then find difficult to reverse.

NO. 381 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GTB – REVENUE RAISED BY CHARGING COACHES THAT USE COACH PARK**

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 by charging coaches that use the coach park?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The revenue collected at the coach park on a monthly basis is:

	Amount (£)
October 2009	8,830.22
November 2009	4,377.80
December 2009	4,750.24
January 2010	1,865.08
1st February to 10th February 2010	851.04
TOTAL	20,674.38

NO. 382 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUILDING CONTROL SECTION – STAFFING

What is the number of staff at the Building Control Section at present with a breakdown by post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The total number of technical officers comprising the Building Control Section is six.

They are:

The Building Control Officer – SPTO

The Structural Engineer – SPTO

Four Building Control Inspectors – PTO's

There are a further five officers of the clerical grade which are shared with the Planning Section which provides administrative support, namely:

Two full-time AO's

One part-time AO

One AA

One Typist

ORAL

NO. 383 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVESTGIBRALTAR OFFICE

Can Government say on what date the InvestGibraltar Office was set up?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 384 to 386 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 384 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVESTGIBRALTAR OFFICE

Can Government give the cost with a breakdown of the advertisements that have been placed to promote the InvestGibraltar Office since it was set up, with a list giving the name of the publication and the cost of each advertisement?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 383, 384 and 386 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 385 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVESTGIBRALTAR OFFICE

Can Government explain why the advertised website of the InvestGibraltar Office was not operational until December 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 383, 384 and 386 of 2010.

NO. 386 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVESTGIBRALTAR OFFICE

Can Government say who designed the website for the InvestGibraltar Office, at what cost and on what date the project was commissioned and on what date was it completed?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The InvestGibraltar concept originated in September 2004. However, the Office was not formally launched until August 2006 when dedicated staff resources were recruited.

The breakdown of the advertisements that have been placed to promote the InvestGibraltar Office since it was set up is shown in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

The InvestGibraltar Office website was completed in May 2009. It was active in a restricted site whilst the website was being Beta tested. It was launched in December 2009 once it had received Ministerial approval.

It was designed by Piranha Designs Gibraltar at a cost of £3,600.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 386/2010

Below is a breakdown of the advertisements that have been placed to promote the InvestGibraltar Office since it was set up. The expenditure covers four consecutive financial years (i.e. 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010).

Financial Year 2006/2007

Date	Publication	Advert Cost	Description
22.03.07	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£1,200.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
28.03.07	Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce Annual Report	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert

Financial Year 2007/2008

Date	Publication	Advert Cost	Description
09.07.07	Publicaciones Mencar S.A. / Port Newspaper	£770.62	1 Discounted A3 Full Page Colour Advertorial
21.11.07	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
11.01.08	Copywrite / B2B Magazine	£1,170.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
01.02.08	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£800.00	1 Discounted A4 Full Page Colour Advert
29.02.08	Insight Magazine	£700.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
29.02.08	123 Properties Publication	£180.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert (One Off Special Offer)
27.03.08	Offshore Investment Company Formation The Survey 2008	£4,900.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert

Financial Year 2008/2009

Date	Publication	Advert Cost	Description
24.06.08	Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce Annual Report	£650.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Reverse Back Page Advert
24.06.08	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
24.06.08	Insight Magazine	£350.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
24.06.08	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£800.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
11.07.08	Insight Magazine	£600.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
22.07.08	Copywrite / B2B Magazine	£1,170.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
28.07.08	123 Publishers Publication	£180.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert (One Off Special Offer)
28.07.08	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£800.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
01.08.08	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
04.08.08	The Gibraltar Financial Services Handbook	£780.00	1 A5 Full Page Colour Advert

27.08.08	The Gibraltar Magazine	£522.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advertorial
25.09.08	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
21.10.08	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
21.10.08	Insight Magazine	£300.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
21.10.08	The Gibraltar Development & Property Development Services Handbook	£780.00	1 A5 Full Page Colour Advert
06.12.08	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£800.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
14.01.09	The Gibraltar Magazine	£522.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
14.01.09	Insight Magazine	£600.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Advert in separate publications
24.01.09	Plan It Booklet	£180.00	1 A5 Half Page Colour Advert
28.01.09	Insight Magazine	£300.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
04.02.09	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£800.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
16.02.09	The Gibraltar Maritime Services Handbook	£663.00	1 A5 Full Page Colour Advert
03.03.09	Copywrite / B2B Magazine	£1,170.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
03.03.09	The Gibraltar Magazine	£522.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
18.03.09	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert

Financial Year 2009/2010

Date	Publication	Advert Cost	Description
17.06.09	Offshore Investment Company Formation The Survey 2009	£2,995.00	1 A4 Half Page Colour Advert
17.06.09	The Rock Hotel Guest Information Booklet	£325.00	1 A5 Half Page Colour Advert
08.07.09	Insight Magazine	£1,200.00	4 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
05.08.09	Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce Annual Report	£650.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Reverse Back Page Advert
05.08.09	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
02.11.09	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£800.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
05.12.09	Insight Magazine	£300.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
26.01.10	Copywrite / B2B Magazine	£1,170.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications
26.01.10	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses / in touch Magazine	£500.00	1 A4 Full Page Colour Advert
10.02.10	Gibraltar International Finance and Business Magazine	£1,600.00	2 A4 Full Page Colour Adverts in separate publications

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 383 TO 386 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I heard the hon Member say when the website was completed. Did he say when it was commissioned?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. It was completed in May 2009. It was commissioned a few months before. I really do not have a date. I am sorry. I have omitted to spot that..... but I think it was commissioned maybe a few months before or even more. This is a website, the hon Member needs to understand, where there is information on all aspects of Gibraltar, Government Departments, different application forms. Everything to do with setting up a business in Gibraltar, from trade licence application forms to employment and training, income tax applications, everything and therefore it took some time to collate and also make available to the different departments to check whether the information was correct at the time of the launch and is updated now regularly. So, it is not something that..... The design of it probably took a few months to build but then actually getting all the information in, I think took more than a few months, probably over a year.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Member why it took from May until December 2009 to put the website on line?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, because I wanted to read the website from A to Z and that is the time it took me to read it. I did it in my spare time whenever I had a gap. I wanted to make sure that, remember this is the website that a lot of foreign investors and people looking at Gibraltar visit and, in fact, a lot of enquiries that we get in the Department of Enterprise are directed to that website, presentationally it was a good representation of what Gibraltar was all about as a quality jurisdiction and making sure that there was nothing in it, in the form of detail, which I felt was not in our best interests. So, it took a few months for me to do it and I remember taking it during my summer holidays but not actually getting through as much as I wanted. It took me a few months before I managed to give the okay.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say, given the importance of the website to investors, why the Government spent thousands of pounds advertising it for two years before it was online?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Sorry, could the hon Member repeat the question? I am sorry I did not.....

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given the importance of the website to investors, why did they spend thousands of pounds advertising it for two years before it was available online?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, because although we did not have a website, we actually had an office open and therefore we needed to..... If you look at our advertising, it is mainly focussed on publications which are actually produced in Gibraltar like, for example, the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses, In Touch magazine. So, when they circulated they claimed to be circulating it outside Gibraltar for people who want..... The Chamber of Commerce as well, 123 Properties publication, the Offshore Investment, they claimed to have a circulation outside, particularly targeted at people that have a connection with Gibraltar or maybe having more of a dedicated interest, not sort of putting adverts in the Financial Times which would be totally outside our league. If the hon Member looks at the expenditure in a year of advertising one may be talking of a few thousand pounds only in totality. The Financial Times advert will cost one more than that for the whole year, even if one puts one advert in. So, we are targeting those that are locally orientated and letting them know that there is such a thing as InvestGibraltar. Thanks to the InvestGibraltar concept, we have had a number of people knocking on our door which then have developed into having a wider interest in Gibraltar and actually coming in investing or relocating to Gibraltar as a result of it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government doing anything in respect of the adverts to try and see which of the different media was being more successful in producing enquiries? Is there something to show whether the enquirer had seen the advert in one publication or another?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. We have not done that going forward, but I think if the hon Member looks at the adverts for one year, for example, we are talking eight adverts in one year, it is not really a very, well probably more as we progress throughout the year, in subsequent years but the reality is that we are not particularly taking preference one over another. We are trying to cover the wider spectrum because it is very generic what we are trying to promote and what we are trying to promote is the one-stop shop for initial information into whatever sector. For example, if somebody comes and wants to have information on financial services we will entertain them. We will give them the basic information but then it will be the Finance Centre Director who takes over because the people there are not specialised to that extent. If one looks at, for example, a possible developer then I would deal with that to make sure that, and in fact, I do get reports. They handle roughly about 700 contacts or enquiries a year. I think that was last year's figure and I get reports on all of them. If there is anything I particularly want to follow up or I tell them, look, if these people are coming back I would like to say hello to them next time they come because I may see that there is a business opportunity there and that is mainly the function of what they do. I think they carry out a very useful function considering the level of cost that is involved with the running of that office.

ORAL

NO. 387 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY – RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS

Can Government state how many residential consumers had not paid their October, November and December 2009 electricity bills by the end of January 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 388 to 390 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 388 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY – COMMERCIAL CONSUMERS NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS

Can Government state how many commercial consumers had not paid their October, November and December 2009 electricity bills by the end of January 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 387, 389 and 390 of 2010.

NO. 389 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY – COMMERCIAL CONSUMERS NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS

Can Government state how many commercial consumers who had not paid their October, November and December 2009 electricity bills by the end of January 2010, were sent a letter informing them that their electricity could be cut off?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 387, 388 and 390 of 2010.

NO. 390 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY – RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS

Can Government state how many residential consumers, who had not paid their October, November and December 2009 electricity bills by the end of January 2010, were sent a letter informing them that their electricity could be cut off?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A total of 888 domestic consumers had not paid their October, November and December 2009 bills by end of January 2010.

A total of 246 commercial consumers had not paid their October, November and December 2009 bills by end of January 2010.

A total of 246 disconnection advice letters were sent in January 2010 to those commercial consumers who had not paid their October 2009 bill as at 31 December 2009.

A total of 588 disconnection advice letters were sent in January 2010 to those domestic consumers who had not paid their October 2009 bill as at 31 December 2009.

NO. 391 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what has been the operating expenditure of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority for the financial year to 30th September 2009, giving a breakdown of personal emoluments, employment costs and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 392 of 2010.

NO. 392 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – REVENUE

Can Government state what has been the operating revenue of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority for this financial year to 30th September 2009?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The operating expenditure for this financial year to 30th September 2009 is £17,328,606.81 of which personal emoluments add up to £3,397,498.49, employers contribution costs is £237,140.76 and other recurrent expenditure £13,693,967.56.

The operating revenue for this financial year as at 30th September 2009 is £10,438,347.05.

ORAL

NO. 393 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CLIFF TOP HOUSE – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Can Government state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Cliff Top House remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 394 to 396 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 394 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

THE ANCHORAGE – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Can Government state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in The Anchorage remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 393, 395 and 396 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 395 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MAJESTIC PLAZA – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Can Government state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Majestic Plaza remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 393, 394 and 396 of 2010.

NO. 396 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRAND OCEAN PLAZA – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Can Government state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Grand Ocean Plaza remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government is not privy to the information requested. All four developments mentioned in these four questions are private and commercial developments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 393 TO 396 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that they are private developments. My question is whether they are able to establish that information through, for example, the fact that people have to apply, in order to be in occupation of these apartments, for electricity connections or telephone connections so as to get an idea, which presumably the Government have an interest in, as we have, of the extent to which use is made of these developments given that there are many people who express concern at seeing these blocks going up and then apparently one or two of the flats appear to be in use and the rest appears to be empty.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

To be honest with the hon Member, I had not thought of the idea of checking with the electricity connections as a source of information but that is something that can be pursued if he so wishes and I can write to him on the matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I mean.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

To be perfectly fair, I had members of my staff contacting the various developers on the issue and they were happy to supply the information for my information but not to provide it across the floor of the House and therefore I felt that I was not in a position to be able to feed that information to the hon Member. What I may try to do is see whether I could give him the information on a confidential basis. I will revert back to the hon Member on that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that. The point that I make in my supplementary is that I think it is a matter of interest to all of us to know that these things are not simply lying there idle given that, as a matter of policy, Gibraltar has got limited land resources and we want to put it to the best use.

ORAL

NO. 397 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – REVIEW

Can Government explain why it has decided to publish a summary rather than the full report of the study of GBC conducted by Mr King?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 398 to 401 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 398 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – REVIEW

Can Government state whether the full report by Mr King is being made available to
a) the Board of GBC and b) the staff employed at GBC?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 397 and 399 to 401 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 399 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – STAFF GRADES AND ANALOGUES

Can Government list the grades of GBC staff and their BBC analogues in respect of the current complement?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 397, 398, 400 and 401 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 400 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – STAFF GRADES AND SALARY STRUCTURE

Can Government provide a breakdown by grade of the salary structures at GBC based on the present complement?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 397 to 399 and 401 of 2010.

NO. 401 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – LEVEL OF EARNINGS

Can Government state in the financial year 2008/2009 what were the highest, the lowest and the average levels of earnings of staff employed at GBC?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The review of GBC by Mr King was commissioned by the Government to inform Government policy. It is therefore a document internal to the Government. The Government have decided to publish the Report's finding and recommendations but not the Report itself.

At present, Government have no plans to make the full report by Mr King available to either the Board of GBC or the staff employed at GBC.

The Government are not responsible or accountable for the staff at GBC or their pay arrangements and the hon Member should therefore seek information about that from the Board of GBC.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 397 TO 401 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government therefore believe that the House that provides the subsidy should not have available the salaries of the staff of GBC. Is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

One thing is for the Government to have the information available and the other one is to have the responsibility to account to this House on the salaries and conditions of staff and therefore you are always free to contact the Board of GBC and obtain the information from them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, if the Government come here at budget time and asks me to vote money for GBC, are they saying that if I put questions in respect of that vote in the Committee Stage, they will refuse to give me breakdowns of where the money is going? Why table the accounts of GBC here if they are not accountable for anything?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The annual reports of GBC have information on salaries and scales and some of the information that you are requesting here.

HON XXXXXX:

It is tabled here.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It is tabled in the House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The information that I am seeking in the question is not available in the report, otherwise, in fact, the question should not have been allowed because it would have been public knowledge already. If what the hon Member was saying was correct, the information that is available in the House in the report should not be there anyway because they are not accountable for it in the House. They should not be tabling it in the House. We should not have the salary scales. All the information that we get is recognition of the fact that this is a public body financed by public money. If the Government have put in the public domain a summary of recommendations which talks about a recommendation on the manner in which staff is being paid having to be changed and they have not put any of the arguments that leads Mr King to that conclusion, then I would have thought it is not asking too much to find out what is the analogue. As far as I am aware, GBC has been on BBC analogues since parity was introduced in Gibraltar and it was because the Government of the day and the Parliament of the day approved the necessary funding, otherwise GBC would not have been able to do that agreement with its employees or negotiating with the Branch Officer of ACTSS which happened to be me. I am able to tell him what happened then but I do not know what is happening now and I think that it is not that I am asking for the names of people and their salaries. I have actually asked for information which is grades here and in BBC and average in order to see to what extent the impression that has been created by the information that the Government have chosen to put in the public domain, whether, in fact, the level of remuneration is too generous. That seems to be a general impression created by the bits that have been made public. I think the answer is that, in my view, the questions that I have put simply seem to put some information in the public domain, consistent with what the Government have published, not consistent with what the Government have not published. Now, I do not think GBC is answerable to me. They certainly do not treat me as if they were. So, I do not see how I can say to them, I want to have this information and they have to give it to me. But I think I am entitled to say as

somebody that votes the subsidy and somebody that may have an obligation to express a public view which the Government have invited people to do on what they put in the public domain, to seek more information. I do not think I am asking for too much. So perhaps the Government will reconsider.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I will give the matter further consideration and revert back to the hon Member.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman has told the House that the Government have decided not to publish the full report. Can the hon Gentleman tell us, the House, why the Government decided not to publish the full report?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have already answered that in the question. I have said that this is a report that was commissioned for the Government in order to be able to inform Government policy on the way forward for GBC. It has decided to publish recommendations and findings of the report but not the full report and that is the decision that has been reached.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman has told us what we already knew, namely that the commission of the report was by the Government and that they have decided to publish only extracts of it. But I am asking why that was the case? Why did the Government decide to publish only extracts instead of publishing the full report? What was the reason for that decision?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government are at liberty to take whatever decision in respect of a report that it commissions for its own information. That is exactly what it has done.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Government are entitled to make decisions and the administration of the Government is presently entrusted to the hon Gentlemen who are all of the same political party and we on this side of the House are entitled to seek to hold them to account for the decisions that they make as a Government. They will recall that much in the same way as we were dealing with the salaries now, at the time that we came to vote the budget, we voted the £50,000, we as a Parliament voted £50,000, that they went on to spend, as a Government, on that report. So that report does not, in my view, belong to the Government. It is commissioned by the Government. It belongs, like everything, to the community and therefore the issue is this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The schools do not belong to the Government because they pay for them.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course not!

HON J J BOSSANO:

So why should the report?

HON F R PICARDO:

Absolutely!

HON C G BELTRAN:

The report is not a school?

MR SPEAKER:

Order!

HON J J BOSSANO:

The books in the school!

HON F R PICARDO:

The report is an asset of the Government of Gibraltar like every other asset of the Government of Gibraltar and so, the position that I am asking the hon Gentleman to clarify is what is it that led the Government to decide to give us a glimpse of part of the report but not publish the whole of the report?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have already said that the Government's decision is not to make the report public and that decision stands. I think that what Mr Picardo ought to be doing is asking himself why, when the GSLP were in Government, they commissioned a number of reports and they never published any of the reports. The report was available to the Government only.

HON XXXXXX:

On GBC?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Not on GBC. They never had the initiative to actually review GBC.

HON F R PICARDO:

Xxxxxx fourteen years?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, it is better late than never Mr Picardo. Better late than never, Mr Picardo!

HON J J BOSSANO:

Fourteen years later!

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I will not be giving any further explanations.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman can take that attitude to the Parliament if he likes but I am not going to be deterred from asking my questions in respect of this. Is it that there is something in the report that the Government do not want the public to see?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have already said that I would not be adding any further to the matter.

HON F R PICARDO:

Have the Government given consideration at least to giving access to the full report to those at GBC who are going to be most directly affected by the reforms?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That will be a decision that will need to be taken at the right time. At the moment, the Government are not going to make the report available either to the Board or to the employees of GBC but there is, as the Government have announced, an implementation committee that will implement the decision in order to carry out the review and that may involve members of staff and, therefore if that is the case, they will be involved but the decision is not being taken to xxxxxx the report to all members of staff.

HON F R PICARDO:

How many people in Government have seen the full report?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would have assumed that not many people have seen the report. Not many but officials and those that surround the Chief Minister and myself have definitely seen the report and there is nothing there that anybody should be worried about. In fact, the staff of GBC have very much welcomed the.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Without seeing it!

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Not really. That is not the information that is communicated to me by members of GBC. I think that, generally, the report has been very, very welcome and they look forward to the changes that they all believe need to be made in order to ensure the successful broadcasting in Gibraltar for the next 50 years.

HON F R PICARDO:

So, given all of that, given that the report has been seen by Ministers, has been seen by a number of officials, that the feedback that the hon Gentleman is telling us is that the people at GBC who are directly affected have welcomed the report even though they have not seen it, of course. They have seen the extracts that the hon Gentleman tells us or we have seen have been published in the position paper. Can I just ask him to reconsider the publication of the report especially given that he tells us that there is nothing in it that anybody should fear and that should be of concern, given that we have as a community funded this report into this very important resource that we all agree is an important part of our community, namely the broadcasting service. Can I commend to the hon Gentleman reconsideration of this, not just in relation to this issue, but also, for example, in relation to the reports that I know are lying on other desks in respect of Customs et cetera. Given that all of these are funded by the community and given that the assets of the Government do not belong to the ten people who sit across us in this Parliament or even to this Parliament. They belong to the community as a whole.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member think it is reasonable to argue that the Board of GBC is free and independent to take whatever decision it wants and yet it does not know what is in the full report and how it is that the Government have arrived at the position that it has published? The Government have commissioned this report. It has studied its contents. It has come to a certain set of conclusions as to what the way ahead is, right, but nobody is able to evaluate whether it makes sense, whether they would have come to the same conclusion, whether there are perhaps some other conclusions that they should have come to. This Board that is being asked by the

Government to implement it, is simply being asked to do it on the basis that that is what the Government want. Is that not questioning the independence of the Board? What is it that the Board cannot be trusted to have it confidentially?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government have considered whether to make it available to the Board and to the staff at GBC and decided against it and that is the decision that I am able to communicate to you today.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the hon Gentleman at least agree with me that until the report is published people in our community, on the Board of GBC, in GBC itself and the Opposition benches and generally in the community may be forgiven for thinking that there is something in the report that the Government do not want the wider community to see.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the Minister's stance is that he is not going to answer that.

HON F R PICARDO:

He has got no arguments left. I understand xxxxxx

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member accept and we have had this argument about reports in the past and reviews and when matters will be published, that in the past we have been told, reports have been received, they are currently being considered, a decision will be taken in due course, including a decision about publication. Do the Government acknowledge that there is a difference between that position which we may or may not disagree with, but that has been consistently the position in the past and the position which has now been adopted which is the position that the report has been received, has been considered, decisions have been taken on implementation but we are not going to tell you the rationale for the implementation which is contained in the report. Is there not a fundamental difference there between those two positions?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not believe there is.

ORAL

NO. 402 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF ALGECIRAS FERRY

Can Government state whether Customs Officers have to do the customs clearance for the Algeciras ferry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 403 to 409 of 2010.

NO. 403 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – SUPERVISION OF BUNKERING OPERATIONS

Can Government state whether Customs Officers physically supervise bunkering operations in the Port area or in Gibraltar waters generally?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402 and 404 to 409 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 404 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – YACHTS RUMMAGED

Can Government state how many yachts have been rummaged within the last three years giving a breakdown by year and the names of vessels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402, 403 and 405 to 409 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 405 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – VESSELS RUMMAGED

Can Government state how many vessels with a displacement of 2500 tons or larger have been rummaged in the last three years giving a breakdown by year, name of vessel and tonnage?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402 to 404 and 406 to 409 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 406 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – AIRPORT MANNING FOR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT

Can Government state whether Customs Officers man the airport when private aircraft land at the Gibraltar airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402 to 405 and 407 to 409 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 407 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – MARINE VESSELS

Can Government state how many marine vessels are currently being used by the Customs Department, when they were purchased and when were these vessels last surveyed by a qualified marine surveyor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402 to 406, 408 and 409 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 408 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – VEHICLES

Can Government state when was the last time that vehicles were purchased for the Customs Department and if so how many, what type and the dates they were purchased?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402 to 407 and 409 of 2010.

NO. 409 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – DOG SECTION

Can Government state how much it costs to run the Dog Section of the Customs Department per annum, how many seizures has this part of the Customs Department obtained under customs work or as an agency working for the RGP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Customs Officers do carry out customs clearance for the Algeciras ferry.

Customs Officers do not supervise bunkering operations in the Port area or indeed anywhere around Gibraltar waters.

The number of yachts rummaged within the last three years is:

2009	34
2008	48
2007	57

It is not appropriate to disclose the names of vessels rummaged or persons searched.

The number of merchant vessels that have been rummaged in the last three years is:

2009	30
2008	48
2007	49

The department does not record the gross tonnage of vessels rummaged.

Customs Officers man the airport when private aircraft land at Gibraltar.

The department currently has a fleet of five vessels, four of which are commandeered, that is, seized assets.

HMC Sentinel, the patrol craft, was purchased in January 1999.

None of the vessels have been surveyed.

The last vehicle purchased was a Toyota Hi Lux Pickup in November 2009.

A van for the Dog Section, a Renault Kangoo, I am sure he is more familiar with these things, has been purchased and is awaiting delivery.

The cost of running the Dog Section of the Customs Department is estimated at £232,044 per annum.

The following seizures have been carried out:

Year	HM Customs	RGP	Total
2007	14	13	27
2008	32	9	41
2009	27	13	40

ORAL

NO. 410 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – NEGOTIATIONS WITH STAFF SIDE OR UNION

Can Government state whether negotiations have taken place with the staff side or the union representatives of Customs in relation to pay and conditions in the last six months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 411 and 412 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 411 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – REVIEW OF MANNING LEVELS

Is Government envisaging a review of the manning levels of Customs in view of the fact that cruise liner visits and bunkering operations have increased?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 410 and 412 of 2010.

NO. 412 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – UNIFORMED BODY

Does the Government recognise Customs Officers as a uniformed body now that it is expected of them to cooperate with their Spanish counterparts the Guardia Civil who are recognised by everyone as a uniformed body?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Here is a welcome recognition of the increase in the number of cruise liner visits at least from somebody of the Opposition benches, makes a change from the contrary line taken during other parts of Question Time.

Customs is a uniformed body because its officers wear a uniform, and not because it is expected of them to co-operate with their Spanish counterparts.

No manning level negotiations are taking place, and none are envisaged. Government have no intention of revising customs manning levels upwards. No negotiations are taking place on pay and conditions, and none are envisaged.

ORAL

NO. 413 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state whether the employees at the Mackintosh Hall will be transferred to the proposed new Culture agency and if not what will happen to them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 414 to 419 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 414 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state what will happen to employees of Knightsfield Holdings who are currently employed to run the Museum and the Mackintosh Hall after the Culture agency is created?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 413 and 415 to 419 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 415 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state what will happen to the contract of Knightsfield Holdings after the Culture agency is created?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 413, 414 and 416 to 419 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 416 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state whether the directors of Knightsfield Holdings will be employed by the Culture agency after the agency is created and if so, on what terms and conditions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 413 to 415 and 417 to 419 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 417 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state whether the employees of the Museum will be transferred to the Culture agency and if not what will happen to them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 413 to 416, 418 and 419 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 418 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state whether the current employees of the Ministry of Culture will be given first option of employment within the newly created Culture agency once this is done and whether the same conditions afforded to them as civil servants will apply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 413 to 417 and 419 of 2010.

NO. 419 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state whether the Culture agency will have the power of charging users of Mackintosh Hall, Ince's Hall, Central Hall and any other cultural venue that the Ministry of Culture currently charges at a commercial rate or will it be set by Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

When Government have anything that it wishes to say publicly to announce implementation of any policy initiative relating to the establishment of new mechanisms to administer culture and heritage, it will do so. In the meantime, Government will not answer speculative and hypothetical questions relating to internal policy work in progress.

ORAL

NO. 420 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what price it has paid in respect of the purchase of the Theatre Royal site?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 421 to 423 of 2010.

NO. 421 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what has been the total amount spent to date in respect of the Theatre Royal site, including the option purchase price, consultants' fees, rent to the previous owners and any other expenditure, since the Government first became a leaseholder of the site, giving a breakdown by entity paid and by year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 420, 422 and 423 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 422 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the property where the Theatre Royal was, has been assigned to Government or to a company owned solely or partly by Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 420, 421 and 423 of 2010.

NO. 423 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the cost of purchasing the site where the Theatre Royal was situated has been charged to the Improvement and Development Fund and if not to where?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can see that the hon Member thinks he is on to a political winner on this subject. Mr Speaker, the price paid for the purchase of the Theatre Royal site was £1,673,981.32.

The total sum spent by Government in relation to the Theatre Royal site is £5,231,000 comprising:-

(a)	Rent	-	£ 502,000
(b)	Purchase price, rounded up	-	£1,674,000
(c)	Demolition works, site safety and professional fees	-	£2,965,000
(d)	Legal fees	-	£ 90,000

The property has been assigned to Gibraltar Land (Holdings) Company Ltd, which is a Government of Gibraltar wholly owned company.

The cost of purchasing the site was charged to Gibraltar Land (Holdings) Company Ltd.

ORAL

NO. 424 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon N F Costa

GOVERNMENT OWNED FLATS AT MERLOT HOUSE

Can Government confirm how many flats are owned by the Government in Merlot House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 425 and 426 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 425 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon N F Costa

MERLOT HOUSE – ACCOMMODATION FOR SOCIAL CASES

Can Government confirm whether Merlot House is being used to provide accommodation for social cases and if so state how many flats are occupied for this purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 424 and 426 of 2010.

NO. 426 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon N F Costa

MERLOT HOUSE – ACCOMMODATION FOR SOCIAL CASES

Can Government confirm as from what date they have provided accommodation for social cases in Merlot House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Through GRP the Government presently owns 20 flats in Merlot House.

There is a flat in Merlot House which houses Children in Care and two flats which are being used to offer respite services for adults with learning disability, as a temporary measure, whilst Dr Giraldi is being refurbished.

Children in Care have been housed in Merlot House since 15th December 2008 and the respite service since 14th January 2010.

ORAL

NO. 427 OF 2010

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. 1030 of 2009, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I will now hand the hon Member a statement giving him the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question of 427 of 2010

Sales of Government-Co Ownership share of Properties

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Totals
Oct-09 Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£63,730.20	£0.00	£63,730.20
Nov-09 Monies Received	£28,793.44	£0.00	£37,395.83	£0.00	£0.00	£66,189.27
Dec-09 Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£8,162.26	£73,141.25	£0.00	£81,303.51
Jan-10 Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£28,793.44	£0.00	£45,558.09	£136,871.45	£0.00	£211,222.98

ORAL

NO. 428 OF 2010

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. 429 to 431 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 429 OF 2010

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. 428, 430 and 431 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 430 OF 2010

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. 428, 429 and 431 of 2010.

NO. 431 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES, AND 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

Albert Risso House is currently expected to be completed around June.

There are three blocks at Waterport Terraces which have not yet been handed over to GRP by the (new) contractor. These are expected to be completed by the end of March 2010. They constitute a total of 92 flats, broken down as follows:

Amaryllis House	28 flats
Daffodil House	32 flats
Freesia House	32 flats

Completion Notices have been issued to all purchasers at Cumberland Terraces. Nelson's View and Bayview Terraces are estimated to be completed by the end of July 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 428 to 431 of 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Are the Government aware that there are purchasers in connection with the purchase of Waterport Terraces who entered into agreement with banks over three years ago and have already incurred a cost with the bank of over £3,000, money which they have lost? Is the Chief Minister aware of this and if so what is he doing about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question can only be rhetorical because as he well knows we have debated this issue in the House on more than one occasion. Therefore, to his certain knowledge he is aware that we are aware of the position adopted by some that they have been made to incur this expenditure to which the Government have explained both in this

House repeatedly and also in a pamphlet that has been circulated by the Government to each of the buyers that the vendor is not responsible for the financial implication to the purchasers of delays in the construction which are not the fault of the vendor. That is as true today in Waterport Terraces as it was in the days of the GSLP Government with the delays in the Westside Reclamation projects, as it is today in the delays that buyers suffer when they buy in private housing developments, all of which suffer delay. This is exactly the same debate as we have had on many occasions. The hon Member can, if he wants, encourage us all to have it again if he thinks if it is of political advantage to him but he should not start his question with the words "Is the hon Member aware" because I would have to be suffering from deep-seated amnesia to have forgotten the frequent occasions in which we have discussed this matter and that is the Government's position. As to whether it has been lost, is also open to discussion. It has been lost in the theoretical sense that if you have had a 25 year mortgage, 25 years from now you will in total have paid a few thousand pounds more. If he says £3,000 I am not going to quibble with him. But actually in terms of their current budgetary positions, most people, at least the ones that are not renting somewhere else at great cost, are probably, have less call on their budget because the amount of sustaining the cost of servicing the bridging loan is smaller than what would have been their mortgage repayments had they had their properties and therefore their mortgages in place for all of that time. So, certainly it is true that if you have a 25 year mortgage and before it starts you have to pay extra money in carrying a bridging loan, by the time the mortgage is finished you will have paid the few thousand pounds plus 25 year's worth of mortgage repayments. But in that sense it is extra cost. But in terms of unaffordability, for most people it is actually nothing to do with affordability. They would have been paying more, although of course I understand that they would have wanted their houses. They have bought houses because they want them, not because they want to be kept out of them in order to save some money. The Government understand that. But the Government reject the hon Member's repeated attempts to try and pin on the Government political responsibility for delay in constructions which have not been the Government's fault. When the hon Member says what is the Government doing about it, I think the whole of the rest of the community, because it is all very well for the hon Member to pamper to a few dozen purchasers in Waterport Terraces but when the hon Member asks the Government, what is the Government doing about it, what the hon Member is implying is that the Government should compensate them. Well, for Government read the rest of the community. Read the tax payers of Gibraltar because the Government's money is the tax payers money and these tax payers that the hon Member thinks should compensate people for the delay, which is not the Government's and therefore the tax payers fault, these are already purchasers that have been hugely favoured by the tax payer by being sold excellent housing, for a fraction of what they are worth on the market, on free public land and on top of that huge degree of subsidy by the tax payer, the hon Member now wants the same tax payer to further enhance the advantages that they have had by compensating them for delay which is not the Government's fault. He may think it is good politics to beat this drum and therefore he should beat it for as long as he wants. We think there is no justification. The Government answers in the name of the tax payer for what the Government is to blame for and the Government does not pay for what it is not to blame for with tax payers hard earned tax money.

HON C A BRUZON:

The Chief Minister is wrong in saying that we are going to have a debate. I asked a simple question and he has given me an answer, a rather long answer but he has

given me an answer, but we have not had a debate. I move on to my next supplementary. Is Government not aware that there have been complaints of water leakage in one of the apartments at Waterport Terraces and that this has affected the flat below where wooden beams or wooden components have become warped?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I do not know if anybody in the Government is aware but I certainly am not.

HON C A BRUZON:

More or less when did the Government become aware that there were problems with the construction company or their subsidiaries in connection with the construction of Waterport Terraces?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I could not possibly start to answer that question until he explained to me what meant by problems. Problems of what sort? Financial? I mean, we know if by problem he means delays, well delays start to occur almost immediately in a building contract.

HON C A BRUZON:

I mean problems with construction. Workers who regrettably have not been paid for months and therefore could lead to shoddy workmanship, through no fault of their own, and this is why I am putting the question to the Government, when did Government become aware that there were those kind of problems with the construction company or their subsidiaries?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member has confused housing estates. Shoddy workmanship is Harbour Views not Waterport Terraces. There is no shoddy workmanship in Waterport Terraces and there is no shoddy workmanship in Waterport Terraces for the simple reason that unlike the previous GSLP Government in Harbour Views, this Government invested a huge amount of time, energy and resources in carefully supervising the construction of Waterport Terraces. As a result, there are now a lot of very happy home owners in Waterport Terraces. Yes, who have suffered delay, but very happy, and who because of the quality of the construction that they have purchased, and they consider themselves fortunate when compared to the thousands of Gibraltarians that suffered ten years of misery because the GSLP Government did not take the same care as the GSD Government has taken in Waterport Terraces. That is the reality of the situation.

HON C A BRUZON:

Obviously, the Chief Minister and I talk to different people. I can assure the Chief Minister that there are many people who ask me, "How long is it going to take for us

to be able to live in these wonderful and well constructed buildings". Every time I ask questions in this House there are delays since I started asking questions and I ask questions because people ask me to ask questions and to put some pressure on Government to give us answers. We want completion to happen Mr Speaker because maybe the Chief Minister does not understand the human problem that some of the people have come to me have with regards to bridging loans. So therefore, I put the question again to the Chief Minister, can he or his advisers, give us more accurate answers because quite frankly this has gone beyond the joke. Every time I ask there are further delays and this is unacceptable. Does he not agree?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is unacceptable is that the hon Member ignores every time he asks the same question, which is every time this House meets, he ignores the answers that have been given to the same question every time he has asked it before. That is the only thing that is extraordinary. Look, as I have explained to him before, although my responsibilities at the head of the Government of Gibraltar are very deep and wide and varied, laying bricks on building sites of which the Government is the developer, has not yet been explained to me as one of the Chief Minister's or any Minister's responsibility. For the hon Member therefore to say that he puts pressure on the political Government to see if they can hurry the building works up as if: (a) Ministers were doing anything to delay it, (b) Ministers were desisting from doing everything that they could to accelerate it, as if the hon Member did not understand that there is very little that you can do to accelerate the rate of work once the site is in the hands of a contractor. What is the point of the hon Member saying to the few people that visit his constituency offices, "I am going to put questions in the House to put pressure on the Chief Minister to see if the buildings go up quicker". This is just a monument to the abuse that he has made of this delay by the contractors and seeking to pin the blame for it on a political Government for his own selfish political opportunism. It is as simple as that because even he must understand that there is nothing that I can do except give up my weekends and go and, sort of lay bricks myself, to accelerate the speed of construction. It is not true that we have given him inaccurate answers. We have had this debate a million times as well. I give him the answers that I get. The fact that there is then further delay does not mean that the original answer was inaccurate. Or does he think that delay in a building site only occurs once. What would he have answered if he had been in Government at the time of the Montagu Crescent/Montagu Gardens developments when there was a delay of around a year? Alright, so this one has been a bit longer but we are not going to argue about the length of the piece of string. Right! What were they going to say? I mean, what would he have said if the Opposition, I was probably in opposition at the time, "Well Mr Speaker, when is the hon Member going to finish the building of.....?" The hon Member can stand up and ask me, "Is the Government doing everything that it can to use all the powers available to it to make the contractor hurry as much as it can?" That is a legitimate question. Because of course, if the Government had available to it, mechanisms to avoid delay which it were choosing not to use, that is something for which the Government could be rightly criticised. But if the Government are doing everything that it can, everything in its power as an employer of a contractor and there are delays because of technical reasons on the site, because of the incidents of inclement weather, because the contractor gets the work wrong and thanks to the careful supervision and unlike what used to happen at Harbour Views, the Government's supervision team says, "take that down and do it again". If all of those things cause delay, what is the point of coming in here and trying to hold the Government responsible for it. The hon Member should be

congratulating the Government for supervising this work in a way which has resulted in hundreds of Gibraltarian home owners obtaining for a very reasonable price, compared to the quality of construction, homes that are more than fit for purpose which is more than can be said for the vast majority of first generation home owners in Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman accept that, as a matter of fact, the developer at Harbour Views which is the estate which he has mentioned on a number of occasions during the course of his answers, was not the Government, the previous administration or otherwise, but in fact a private developer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that the Government was the developer but I am saying it was a Government project in the sense that it was a project done in partnership with the Government. The Government gave Gibraltar Homes Limited this franchise, it guaranteed to purchase all the apartments. It was a 50:50 owner of most of the apartments. Or is the position now that the GSLP Government disclaims responsibility for the Harbour Views fiasco? Because put in that way, we are not the developers of the ex-OEM developments either. That did not stop the hon Member spending the first year and a half asking me questions about delays to the ex-OEM developments, when the Government was not the developer, it was a private development by his definition. I never took the absurd point that the Government is, in what is in effect a home ownership scheme, a co-ownership scheme, washing its hands of all responsibility. In the case of Harbour Views, the Government of the day was not the developer, in the sense that Gibraltar Homes Limited was not a Government-owned company, but that did not relieve the Government of the responsibility for the thousands of Gibraltarians that it was encouraging and indeed co-funding as purchasers to have supervised that development, to avoid, not just ten years of misery for hundreds of flat owners, but indeed millions of pounds of cost for the Gibraltar tax payers in putting it right.

HON F R PICARDO:

So, I take that as a yes.

ORAL

NO. 432 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – RESERVE LIST 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, Nelson's View, Cumberland Terraces and Bayview Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 433 of 2010.

NO. 433 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF BAVIEW 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

There are 72 applicants on the reserve list for a flat at any of the three ex-OEM developments.

I am now handing the hon Member a schedule containing the other information that he has requested.

Answer to question 433

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

Development	Purchaser share											Total
	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	78%	80%	85%	88%	100%	
Nelson's View	25	3	17	0	21	5	1	5	1	0	49	127
Bayview Terraces	6	0	9	2	24	2	0	3	1	0	37	84
Cumberland Terraces	43	3	27	1	34	5	0	5	1	1	35	155
Total	74	6	53	3	79	12	1	13	3	1	121	366

ORAL

NO. 434 OF 2010

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. 435 to 437 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 435 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

How many applications for banking licences have been withdrawn by the applicant since 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 434, 436 and 437 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 436 OF 2010

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. 434, 435 and 437 of 2010.

NO. 437 OF 2010

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

One banking licence has been issued since the last answer in this House on 11th December 2009.

One application for a banking licence in which a certain local family had a shareholding interest has recently been withdrawn.

The Government have exercised its powers under Section 23(3)(i)(j) or 3A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act in relation to the consent given to the issue of the one licence that has been issued.

The Government have not refused consent for any application made under section 74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act.

NO. 438 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

PAYMENT SERVICES DIRECTIVE 2007/64/EC

When does Government expect to implement the Payment Services Directive 2007/64/EC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The present intention is for this Directive to be implemented by the middle of March.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 438 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman will know that that Directive requires those who will be responsible for the obligations imposed by it to put in place certain mechanisms within their own organisations. Can the hon Gentleman give an indication to the House and I am sure we will see it when the Bill comes, of whether there will be transitional provisions to allow for that and that the Government has taken those issues into consideration in the draft of the Bill to be published.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Members will not see it in a Bill to come because it will be transposed by regulations which will not come to this House. I am not aware of any transitional provisions being in it and depending on who he has in mind, most of the banks in Gibraltar are experienced in these matters and I would not expect them to have any difficulty but if they did have difficulty the question of transition can be accommodated.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that answer. In the same way that we will not see it before it becomes law, if it is not published as a Bill, it will not actually be seen by the banks other than, unless they are allowed to have sight of them before the Minister signs them and makes them law. So, can I commend to the hon Gentleman that he should communicate with his Ministry of Financial Services hat on with the parties that may be the subject of these obligations, if he has not done so already, because I take it

from his answer that he has not in respect of what transitional provisions it may be that they might require in order to ensure the smooth implementation of this Directive across the Board because I have had representations from more than one deposit taking institution.

MR SPEAKER:

There was a question. Will the Minister, putting on his Ministry of Finance hat, communicate with the possible affected parties? Have I got it more or less right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I do not give commitments to communicate with anybody else in this House. The hon Member has brought things to my attention and I will deal with them as thought appropriate when they are looked into.

ORAL

NO. 439 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT – PFI CONTRACT

Have any terms now been agreed in respect of the PFI Contract for the new proposed “Waste-to-Energy Plant”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. Discussions with potential PFI contractors have not yet commenced and are not likely to start for some time.

NO. 440 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

What has been the cost of the extermination of Barbary Macaques in each of the financial years since 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been no extermination of Barbary Macaques.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 440 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

That answer flies in the face of the fact that the Government have accepted publicly since that date that they have been culling apes. Now, extermination, culling, killing, it is all two sides of the same coin. Now, assuming that the hon Gentleman is going to take a point as petty as that taken by the Minister for the Environment, with all due respect to him because he is not here to defend himself, at the time that I was having answers in respect of the earlier question, it is very clear for anybody who cares to look into the English dictionary that the way that this question is phrased is not about the extermination of a species but a particular member of that species, hence the fact that this question does not ask about the extermination of the Barbary Macaques but of Barbary Macaques. Therefore, given that it is in the public domain that the Government are culling or killing or assassinating or exterminating, however one might wish to put it, Barbary Macaques, can I ask the hon Gentleman to reconsider the answer to the question that he has given?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member may think that giving the words in the English language that belongs to them is a petty matter. Indeed, he may think that all words in the English language are interchangeable with one another. But that is not the use that normal people make of language. He has, for theatrical, political, graphic reasons chosen to use the word exterminate. "What has been the cost of the extermination of Barbary Macaques?" In the English language, the word extermination means the total elimination. It is therefore completely absurd for him to stand up in this House now and xxxxxx said that the question, given that he now feels a little bit ridiculous, having to ask it with a word that is clearly inapplicable and inappropriate to it. The answer to

his question is the answer to the question that he has asked. There is no extermination of Barbary Macaques. There is culling of Barbary Macaques. Extermination means the total elimination and the attempted extermination means the attempted total elimination of the Barbary Macaques. The fact that he now feels embarrassed about the misuse of a word in the English language hardly justifies him suggesting that we should have re-written his question to correct either, his exaggerated and inaccurate use of the English language, or more likely, his unfamiliarity with what words mean in the English language.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman does his office no good to allow his pressure to take over his mouth and his language. I have checked the meaning of the word extermination in the extended version of the Oxford English dictionary also known as the OED and in the shorter version of the Oxford English dictionary also known as the OED shorter version. I am comforted by that, that I know exactly what the word extermination means and that the hon Gentleman's definition of what extermination is in order to continue what he must obviously feel was a very ridiculous answer he gave in the first instance, is somehow maintained. I commend to him that he should check the definition of extermination and not rely on what he thinks the definition of the word is.

[Inaudible]

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On a Point of Order, I would ask Mr Speaker to rule that implicit in the explicit in what the hon Member has just said is the fact that the Oxford dictionaries to which he has referred support his contention and contradict mine. He is asserting in this House that the two dictionaries that he has mentioned do not suggest that the word extermination requires the element of totality. We are not going to establish this now but he can be certain that I will bring a motion in this House on this issue and I want no doubt about what he is saying in this House today.

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker, I am quite happy to concede that you should make that ruling.

MR SPEAKER:

[Inaudible]

HON F R PICARDO:

I am extremely confident of the ground on which I stand having checked exactly this point. Having been prompted to do so by the honourable and gallant Mr Britto, who is not here, so I am quite happy for you to rule...Oh, he is here, I am so sorry. I am quite happy for you to make a ruling on that basis and quite happy to take the motion given that the Chief Minister obviously feels that he has enough time to bring motions on issues of vocabulary, so be it and I am quite happy to bring my editions of both of

those dictionaries so that the hon Gentleman can eat the pie once he has had the chance to read the dictionary.

MR SPEAKER:

There was a preamble to a question which is in the offing which was xxxxxx Point of Order, is there a question which I can then look at the preamble in the context of?

HON F R PICARDO:

The question is given the fact that the definition of extermination is not as the hon Gentleman has suggested actually as I have indicated to the House, will he now reconsider his first answer. But I assume, given that he seems to be sticking by his guns on this one, I really do not know why because I have checked this, his answer is going to be he is not going to reconsider. So be it Mr Speaker.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All I can say is that it would take much more than an oral statement across the floor of this House for me to accept anything that the hon Member says that he has checked. Particularly, when it is not the first answer he gave in this House. The first answer he gave me, even before I had given the answer he put the patch on by saying, I hope he is not going to take a silly point about the meaning of the word extermination. He knew it was coming. Despite his research, he knew what was coming. I do not accept what the hon Member has said. I do not know whether he has even researched it but if he has researched it and come to the conclusion that the word extermination does not import the element of finality or attempted finality then he is a much poorer researcher than even I believe him to be.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just quickly say that I am happy for the House not to waste any more time on this ridiculous point that the hon Gentleman has taken because, as I am delighted that he has said that he is bringing a motion and we are going to concentrate on this forensically, we will be able to verify that my research is correct. His is not and that he should have given a better answer to the question. So I am quite happy, Mr Speaker, not to labour you any further in respect of this question at this stage.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, without ruling on the point because I do not think it is the purpose of this Parliament to go into the meaning of words in the English language. Rather, it is my duty to rule on Parliamentary procedure and practice but I would ask the hon Member and the House generally..... A point occurs to me, perhaps the hon Member will just take the point, there was a question asked of the Hon Minister for the Environment last week asking how many seagulls were culled at a certain point. Perhaps the hon Member will care to consider why he chooses the word cull for seagulls and extermination for Barbary Macaques. I leave it at that.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful Mr Speaker and I look forward to the motion, very much.

ORAL

NO. 441 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Has Government now been invoiced and can it provide details of the sums described as "not yet invoiced" in the schedule provided in answer to Question No. 1060 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he seeks.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 441

Date	Purpose	Persons Travelling With CM	Met With	Air Fares	Accommodation	Subsistence & Other Costs
27th - 28th September	Labour Party Conference	Mr J Reyes	GoG Reception	Already provided	£360.00	£1,553.84
30th September - 1st October	Finance Centre Seminar Geneva	Mr J Reyes	Senior Executives From Credit Suisse Lombard Odier	Already provided	Already provided	£400.06
5th - 6th October	Conservative Party Conference	Mr J Reyes	GoG Reception	Already provided	£1,000.00	£34.00
6th - 8th October	United Nations	Mr R Garcia	UN Address to the 4th Committee	£5,007.40	£255.11	£2,430.17

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 441 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

In respect of the third item on the schedule which is the trip of the 5th to 6th October 2009, can the hon Gentleman tell us whether that was one overnight stay or two overnight stays.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to his question is that I only stay at party conferences one night, so as he has formulated his question the answer is one night. However, the political parties in the UK require hotels, hotels rather, in the venues where the political party conferences take place, require the rooms to be booked for a minimum number of days and do not accept single day bookings, so the fee may relate to more than one day but certainly I only stay at party conferences one night.

HON F R PICARDO:

Could the hon Gentleman explain, given that explanation, how it is that he seems to have managed to only pay for one night in respect of the trip to the Labour Party Conference rather than having to pay for a number of nights that he appears to have had to pay for in respect of the Conservative Party Conference? For the purpose of those that are listening, in respect of one, the night of 27th and 28th of September 2009, the accommodation fee is £360 and the accommodation fee in respect of the Conservative Party Conference seems to be £1000. I just wonder whether the hon Gentleman has any indication of how that happened?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I do not have that information with me. I am afraid I cannot help him without notice.

HON F R PICARDO:

No problem at all. I will ensure that there is a question with notice for the next meeting. But can he give a fuller breakdown of the £1,500 subsistence and other costs in respect of the Labour Party Conference. Does that include the Government's reception costs?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I do not. It is subsistence and other costs so it would include things like cars and his favourite airport services and things of that sort. The reception is not funded from my office. It is funded by the London Office.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, I will move on to the next one which is the United Nations trip. Is the hon Gentleman able to give a fuller breakdown of the subsistence and other costs amounting to £2,430.17 because I note that accommodation has already been dealt with at £255 and airfares are already dealt with at £5,000? I am painfully aware that is just also a one night or a maximum two night trip. Can he give a fuller breakdown of those £2,400.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The breakdown is the same. It is things like airport departure and arrival VIP facilities and cars in New York and things of that sort.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman has a detailed breakdown. Is he able to provide it today?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. In both cases they are vehicles. They are, I am just trying to work out why, oh because I must have come out from one airport, arrived in one airport and returned by another. So the one in September is car hire, VIP Gatwick airport and VIP Heathrow airport and then the New York one is VIP Heathrow airport, VIP Gatwick airport and cars in New York. Limousines in New York, as they are called there apparently.

HON F R PICARDO:

Limousines in New York! Well, I never..... and £2000 odd. In respect of the VIP lounge at Heathrow airport, the hon Gentleman will know that the earlier questioning that we dealt with on this matter dealt with the VIP lounge at Gatwick airport and he gave me a cost in respect of that per trip which he knows I consider to be high and he considers to be appropriate. Can he tell us what the cost is in respect of the VIP lounge at Heathrow airport?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With respect, the debate is not between it being high or appropriate. Indeed, we might agree that it is high. The fact that it is high does not make it inappropriate. High describes the amount of money and appropriate relates to whether it is appropriate or not for the head of the Government of Gibraltar to use these services. They are not necessarily linked to one another. Of course, except in the sense that if they were outrageously expensive then the balance may tilt. Now, the.....

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the hon Member give way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot.

HON F R PICARDO:

Very quickly, I think that just as a matter of trying to shorten the debate. He is quite right to take that point and I did phrase my question appropriately. I think it is entirely inappropriate for the hon Gentleman to avail himself of this service and not just inappropriate because it is or not expensive in my eyes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In the unlikely event that the hon Member should ever find himself in this job, he is free to protect the status, standing and dignity of the office of Chief Minister of Gibraltar however he sees fit. We have got some sort of indication how that might be already. Certainly, whilst I remain Chief Minister of Gibraltar I will continue, at relatively modest expense to the tax payer of Gibraltar, to uphold, raise and sustain not just the dignity of the office of Chief Minister but the standing and stature of the Government of Gibraltar because in that way the stature and standing of Gibraltar as a whole, its people, is equally enhanced and sustained. It is the hon Member's inability to understand concepts of that sort that renders him completely unsuitable to do the job that I am doing today.

HON F R PICARDO:

Certainly, if I ever do get the chance to do the job, I hope I do not surround myself with performing monkeys like he does. The dignity and stature in respect of the office of Chief Minister is clearly in the eyes of the beholder. I have asked a simple question. What is the cost of the VIP lounge at Heathrow?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I cannot tell him whether this is the standard charge or more or less because unlike on other occasions when he has asked that question, we checked out for all the users, on these users the Labour Party Conference trip, Gatwick was £776 and Heathrow was £414 and on the New York trip, Heathrow was £828 and Gatwick was £776. Of course in two directions each.

NO. 442 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

Given that the Government has now missed its revised intended publication date of January 2010 (having previously missed its intended publication dates of June 2009 and its “slippage” date of September) for the text of the new proposed tax legislation, when does Government now expect to publish the Bill or consultation document for the new tax reform legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As soon as it is ready. It is not possible to say when that will be although we hope that it will be before the end of this tax year.

NO. 443 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

**SALARY/FEE PAID TO GIBRALTAR LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY LIMITED
AND LAND PROJECTS CONSULTANTS LIMITED**

What salary or fee has to date been paid by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited on the basis:

- (a) of the "on account formula"; and
- (b) of that part of the composite fee which comprises 20% of the costs of the services to be provided by all project design consultants and the 1% of the agreed project value;

referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited in respect of any of the following contracts individually:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) the new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) the Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) the relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the Sea Scouts;
- (x) the Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) the new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) the simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road; and
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 443 OF 2010

Payments made by Gibraltar Investments (Holdings) Limited to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited on the basis of the 'on account' and 'composite' formulae.

	Composite Formula payments	On Account Formula payments	Total
	£	£	£
Mid Harbour Phase I	23,633	59,000	82,633
Mid Harbour Phase II	23,633	40,000	63,633
GoG Relocations	139,336	80,000	219,336
Terminal Building	471,808	175,000	646,808
New road	390,256	145,000	535,256
MoD Relocations	336,980	116,000	452,980
Infrastructure	190,112	50,000	240,112
GoG Housing	293,583	150,000	443,583
Power Station	287,916	75,000	362,916
Car Parks	172,034	50,000	222,034
Simple Approach Lighting System	0	0	20,000
Sewage Treatment	0	0	0
Energy to Waste	0	0	0
Revetment repairs	2,509	0	2,509
Total	£2,331,800	£960,000	£3,291,800

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 443 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker, if I may.....

MR SPEAKER:

Yes. I think I will allow that.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sorry. I was not looking up because I was trying to read the schedule. The hon Gentleman has given us a list which does not accord entirely to the list provided in answer to the question last time. I entirely accept that it may be simply because there are parts of the project, the 15 listed projects in the question that are now referred to in respect of the part that has been completed in the list that has been provided. Can I ask him, the revetment repair reference which appears at the bottom of the schedule which has been provided in answer to the question, which of the 15 projects does that relate to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It may not..... very loosely it might have been included in the Mid Harbour reclamations. These are the revetment repairs that derive from the storm damage to the West View promenade and also to a lesser extent to what used to be called the Gib Components Factory reclamation just outside the northern arm of the harbour which is being done in this structure.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. In that case, just for the sake of carrying through this question as we go in terms of projects, should I just consider that added, as a sort of sixteenth project in respect of those works?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well he can do. He is in receipt of a little piece of gratuitous information for which he had not asked but I am very happy for him to have. Whoever has put this answer together is very helpfully giving him all the information relating to all contracts, not just the ones that he has asked for, which is fine. So he can add it as number sixteen for the next time he asks the question if he wishes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Are there any other projects in respect of which this formula is being used in respect of this company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not that I am aware of and apparently not as far as the answerer of this question is aware of either, or the person who put the information together is aware of either, apparently, since I do not see why he should have chosen to give you one that you did not ask for but not any others that you did not ask for.

HON F R PICARDO:

There may be a very innocent explanation. Namely, that there may be others in respect of which payments have not yet been made because the question is about payments made.

ORAL

NO. 444 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

NEW DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TO FRONTIER

Can Government state when the works on the new dual carriageway to the frontier via the Aerial Farm and Eastern Beach will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 445 to 447 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 445 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

NEW DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TO FRONTIER

Can Government state the cost of the works on the new dual carriageway to the frontier via the Aerial Farm?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 444, 446 and 447 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 446 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

RUNWAY TUNNEL

Can Government state when the tunnel under the runway will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 444, 445 and 447 of 2010.

NO. 447 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

RUNWAY TUNNEL

Can Government state the cost of the tunnel under the runway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The estimated completion date of the final dual carriageway to the frontier via the Aerial Farm is July 2011.

The cost of the works on the new dual carriageway to the frontier via the Aerial Farm including all roads and roundabouts from the Cross of Sacrifice to the frontier, inclusive of the tunnel is £36,725,593.

The estimated completion date of the tunnel is July 2011 as well.

The cost of the tunnel itself is £13,329,903, out of the £36,725,593.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 444 TO 447 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Are those amounts inclusive of the amounts that will be paid on the formula to the company referred to in respect of Question No. 443 of 2010, one of the beneficiaries of which we have not mentioned in this House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, is he asking whether this is in addition to or inclusive of the fees that were the subject matter of the previous question.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is right! The hon Gentleman will know that.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding is that this is just a contract cost. The contractor contract cost and therefore exclusive of all of that, the subject of the previous question.

HON F R PICARDO:

I see because those payments will fluctuate depending on the final contract price. Is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suspect not. I suspect that the question has been interpreted..... The cost meaning the construction cost rather than construction plus other costs. My understanding is that these numbers correspond to what I understand to be the construction contract costs and not inclusive therefore, as I said before, of the Government's design team fees.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman have those design team fees with him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has them, does he not?

HON F R PICARDO:

Do we?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has it in the answers to the previous question. At least what has been paid so far.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes. That is right! But it is not the full amount!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But it is the formula. It is the formula for the first time there.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is what I thought that you would.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, subject to the formula from the first time that we discussed it, many moons ago now.

NO. 448 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon G H Licudi

HEALTH AND SAFETY REVIEW

Can Government state what options it has considered following the review of all aspects of health and safety in Gibraltar which it has conducted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are considering a number of options of models for the administration of health and safety legislation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 448 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman give the House a flavour of what those different models may be?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The Government are not intending to give the hon Members a summary of what it may hypothetically be considering or not as its internal options consideration. When the Government have decided what it wishes to do by way of new model for the administration of health and safety legislation in Gibraltar, it will announce it. In the meantime, and indeed, there may in due course be a formal consultation process in respect of this and that would be the opportunity for others to express their views on whether it was or was not the right option. But this is not the time for the Government to account for its internal ruminations.

ORAL

NO. 449 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government state for how long it is intended that the area of the Eastside Development will be available to Government for depositing rubble?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 450 to 453 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 450 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government now confirm the date on which negotiations with the Eastside Developers were concluded that enable the Government to continue to deposit building construction rubble in that area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 449 and 451 to 453 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 451 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government state whether the commercial deal with the Eastside Developer included any payment by Government for the use of the site for depositing rubble and if not what was the nature of the commercial arrangement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 449, 450, 452 and 453 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 452 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government state the anticipated date of commencement of the Eastside Development before the deal that allowed the Government to resume using the site as a rubble dump?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 449 to 451 and 453 of 2010.

NO. 453 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government state the date on which Government had to stop depositing rubble on the East Side because the area was handed over or became part of the arrangement of the Eastside Development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is currently no timeline that determines the use of the East Side for depositing of rubble. The intention is that the Government will continue to use a small part of the site to process rubble, as part of the process to remove the rubble from the site.

The Eastside Developers approved the use of the site for the temporary storage of material in June 2009.

No payment has been made or is due by the Government for the use of the site for depositing rubble. The Eastside Developers approved the use of the site for temporary storage. There was no quid pro quo.

The anticipated date of commencement of the Eastside Development was three years from the execution of the Lease. The Lease has not yet been signed. There is no link between the storage of rubble and the commencement of the development, in the sense that the latter is not being held up by the former.

The developer of the Eastside asked the Government initially to stop using the site to deposit rubble in May 2007 and the operation stopped in June 2007. That was for reasons unconnected with any desire to start the project.

ORAL

NO. 454 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government state what its intentions are with regard to the rubble which continues to be deposited in the area between Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 455 of 2010.

NO. 455 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

DEPOSITING OF RUBBLE AT EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Can Government state how much rubble it estimates the site of the area of the Eastside Development can take before an alternative area is required and of this quantity how much is the amount that is to be moved from the Dudley Ward area at a cost of over £1m?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government intend to remove the rubble mountain, and to provide rubble disposal facilities for the future, both, by means of the establishment in Gibraltar of a rubble sorting and crushing plant that will allow rubble to be systematically used as material for intended new reclamations and therefore the question of how much more it might take before reaching its maximum capacity is academic because that is not what the Government intend to do or xxxxxx.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 454 AND 455 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Government intend to operate this rubble sorting and crushing plant itself or would this be an initiative that the Government puts out to tender?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Both are possibilities and indeed we have received certain local proposals from local entrepreneurs to do that. The Government have not yet made a decision but we do regard this as a good opportunity for increased activity in Gibraltar of the sort that would provide employment for certain people that may have had difficulty in accessing stable employment for some time.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I take it that the Government is in receipt of more than one proposal given the way that the hon Gentleman has expressed what he said.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am only aware of one and remember that was the third option. The other two were, the Government doing it itself or putting it out to tender. The proposal was in addition to the two possibilities that he offered me in his supplementary question.

NO. 456 OF 2010

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

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

A total of 1942 persons were employed by 20 remote gambling companies as at 31st January 2010 and that is the highest ever level in employment to the remote gambling industry.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 456/2010

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2010

	Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (International) Limited	31	60	4	8	103
Victor Chandier (International) Limited	56	154	26	37	273
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	16	198	14	37	265
Bwin International Limited	30	35	18	106	189
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	5	12	1	2	20
Carmen Media Group Limited	6	3	2	3	14
32 Red Plc	2	23	0	3	28
St Minver Limited	27	38	15	46	126
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	9	10
888 Holdings Plc	47	86	23	108	264
Globet.com Group Limited	2	3	1	10	16
International Betting Association Limited	1	0	0	8	9
PartyGaming Plc	33	100	11	64	208
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	16	51	2	37	106
Prospreads Ltd (formerly Futuresbetting)	1	9	0	0	10
Partouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	3	3	2	6	14
WHG (International)/Trading Limited	6	95	1	20	122
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	6	57	3	13	79
Petfre (Gibraltar) Limited	10	47	3	10	70
Entertaining Play Limited	6	10	0	0	16
Overall Total	304	985	126	527	1942

Source: Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

ORAL

NO. 457 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS RECEIVED FOR DEMOLITION OF PART OF OLD ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Can Government say how many tenders have been received for the demolition of part of Old St Bernard's Hospital and indicate whether the tender has been awarded, to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Five tenders have been received for the demolition of part of the Old St Bernard's Hospital.

The closing date was Friday 12th February 2010 and the tender is still under active consideration, has not yet therefore been awarded and accordingly would not be appropriate for me to provide any of the other information that he seeks.

NO. 458 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ALLOCATION OF 10 ARENGO'S PALACE, 14-16 GEORGE'S LANE, 18 GEORGE'S LANE

Can Government say whether the following tenders have now been allocated and if so to whom, in what amount and can they confirm that in each case it was awarded to the highest bidder:

- (a) the tender for a garage, previously a shop at 15B Naval Hospital Road;
- (b) 10 Arengo's Palace;
- (c) 14-16 George's Lane; and
- (d) 18 George's Lane?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 459 and 460 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 459 OF 2010

THE HON DR R J J GARCIA

TENDERS RECEIVED FOR 6 NORTH PAVILION ROAD

Can Government say how many tenders were received for 6 North Pavilion Road, has the tender been awarded and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 458 and 460 of 2010.

NO. 460 OF 2010

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

The tender for the purchase of a garage at 15B Naval Hospital Road, previously a shop, was withdrawn by the Government. This unit was subsequently allocated on rental terms to a tenant of Penney House, that is to say the same building where the unit is located, who was next in line on the existing waiting list for the allocation of such premises. I think they use it as parkings.

Residential tenders awarded since the last Question Time are as follows:

1. Arengo's Palace
2. 14-16 George's Lane
3. 18 George's Lane
4. Humphries Hut, 6 North Pavilion Road

Completions of three of these are due to take place by the end of this month. The sale of Arengo's Palace is due to be completed by the end of March 2010. Details of the number of bids, the purchasers and tender price shall be available thereafter. All the properties were adjudicated to the highest bidders.

ORAL

NO. 461 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government give a breakdown of the revenue collected from land and property sales since the information supplied during the last Question Time in this Parliament, giving the date the revenue was received, the name of the land/property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 462 and 463 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 462 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what property or land sales, if any, there have been in the current financial year, resulting in receipts to the Improvement and Development Fund since the answer to Question No. 718 of 2009.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 461 and 463 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 463 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what was the total number and value of property sales in 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The very substantial amount and detailed nature of the information requested by the hon Members is set out in a statement that is now being handed to them.

Answer to Question 463 of 2010

Answer to Question 461 & 462

Residential Property Sales From 1 October 2009 To 31 January 2010 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Oct-09	M Canessa	Sale of 5 Scud Hill Steps	£157,250.00
Oct-09	C Perez	Sale of Flat 84 Rosia Dale	£72,300.00
Oct-09	C T & J Russel	Sale of Terrace and Swimming Pool at 26/4 Witham's Road	£44,600.00
Oct-09	E Walker	Sale of 20 Flat Bastion Road	£23,800.00
Oct-09	Crestfield Prop Ltd	Premium ired Redevelopment of 45 Engineer Lane	£90,000.00
Dec-09	P Abudharham	Premium ired extension of lease for Flat 4 Trafalgar House	£4,351.90
Jan-10	D A Cassano	10% Deposit ired tender for Humphries Hut, 6A North Pavilion	£21,000.00
Jan-10	B R & S L Brindle	Sale of Terrace Area at 26/5 Witham's Road	£11,480.00
			<u>£424,781.90</u>

Contd Answer to Question 463 of 2010

Answer to Question 461 & 462

Residential Property Sales From 1 October 2009 To 31 January 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Gibraltar Residential Properties Co Ltd</u>			
Oct-09	Mr E Clinton	10% Deposit iro tender for Garage 117, Vineyards	£2,500.00
Oct-09	Ms M Bisset	Premium iro assignment/sale of Flat 1, Poca Roca	£24,650.00
Nov-09	Mr & Mrs Reyes	90% Balance iro tender for Garage 96, Vineyards	£22,500.00
Nov-09	Russell	Sale of 04.07.04 Rose Court (Option C)	£28,793.44
Dec-09	Mr & Mrs Debono	10% Deposit iro tender for Garage 117, Vineyards	£2,200.00
Dec-09	T & S M Vinet	Reservation Deposit iro 1 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Dec-09	I Peralta & A Rose	Reservation Deposit iro 2 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Dec-09	D Ramos & M Walsh	Reservation Deposit iro 3 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Dec-09	K Menez & T Sacramento	Reservation Deposit iro 6 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Dec-09	D & N Ochello	Reservation Deposit iro 7 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Dec-09	J & N Sacramento	Reservation Deposit iro 8 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Dec-09	A Zapata & R Gracia	Reservation Deposit iro 10 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Jan-10	K & I Colton	Sale of Flat 2 & Garage 2, 6 Sandpits	£260,000.00
<u>Westside Two Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Oct-09	Ramirez - Martinez	50% Sale of 31 Freemantle Court, Harbour Views	£39,341.98
Oct-09	J Quinn - Fortunato	30% Sale of 38 Montreal Court, Harbour Views	£24,388.74
Dec-09	Prescot	50% Sale of 18 Miami Court, Harbour Views	£39,303.93
Dec-09	Hayward	50% Sale of 6 Durban Court, Harbour Views	£33,837.32
<u>Gibraltar Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Nov-09	J Borastero	Sale of 34% of 27 Iberis House & CPS 74, West View Park	£37,395.83
Dec-09	Mr & Mrs Palmero	10% Sale of 37 Limonium House, West View Park	£8,162.26
			<u>£526,573.50</u>

Contd Answer to Question 463 of 2010

Answer to Question 461 & 462

Commercial Property Sales From 1 October 2009 To 31 January 2010 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Oct-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Oct-09	M H Bland & Co.	Premium iro sale of additional land adjacent to Cable Car Top Station	£50,860.00
Nov-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Dec-09	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Jan-10	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
			<u>£54,788.00</u>

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 463 of 2010

Answer to Question 461 & 462

Commercial Property Sales From 1 October 2009 To 31 January 2010 (Government Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
	<u>Gibraltar Commercial Property Co Ltd</u>		
Oct-09	Garwil Catering Services	Premium iro tender for Unit F15, Europa Business Centre	£10,000.00
Nov-09	Garwil Catering Services	Deposit iro Unit F15, Europa Business Centre	£832.20
			<u>£10,832.20</u>

Answer to Question 463 of 2010

Breakdown of Receipts to Government Companies in respect of Land and Property Sales for the period January 2009 to December 2009

Westside Two Co-ownership Company Limited

Jul-09	10% Sale of GOG Share iro 24 Rotterdam Court, Harbour Views	£9,623.56
Aug-09	40% Sale of GOG Share iro 7 Plymouth Court, Harbour Views	£27,069.92
Aug-09	40% Sale of GOG Share iro 6 Vancouver Court, Harbour Views	£25,685.92
Oct-09	50% Sale of 31 Freemantle Court, Harbour Views	£39,341.98
Oct-09	30% Sale of 38 Montreal Court, Harbour Views	£24,388.74
Dec-09	50% Sale of 18 Miami Court, Harbour Views	£39,303.93
Dec-09	50% Sale of 6 Durban Court, Harbour Views	£33,837.32
		<u>£199,251.37</u>

Gibraltar Co-ownership Company Limited

Feb-09	10% Sale of 21 Willow Lodge	£10,951.04
Feb-09	3% Sale of 11 Ash Tree Lodge	£3,935.97
Mar-09	40% Sale of GOG Share iro 1 Hawthorn Lodge, Montagu Gardens	£27,752.28
Jul-09	50% Sale of GOG Share iro 3 Ebony Lodge & CPS15, Montagu Gardens	£44,601.70
Nov-09	34% sale of 27 Iberis House & CPS 74, West View Park	£37,395.83
Dec-09	10% Sale of 37 Limonium House, West View Park	£8,162.26
		<u>£132,799.08</u>

Gibraltar Residential Property Investments Company Limited

Jan-09	Balance of Flat 7 & Garage 7 Sandpits	£246,500.00
Feb-09	Balance of Flat 4 & Garage 4 Sandpits	£246,500.00
Feb-09	Balance of Flat 11 & Garage 11 Sandpits	£246,500.00
Mar-09	Unit 2 F Block Naval Hospital Hill	£252,525.25
Mar-09	Sale of Flat 6, Garage 6 Sandpits	£259,500.00
Mar-09	Sale of 05:06:04 Apricot Court, Sir William Jackson Grove	£29,870.96
Apr-09	Sale of 01:04:07 Oleander Court, Sir William Jackson Grove	£22,253.00
May-09	Balance of Flat 3 & Garage 3 Sandpits	£246,500.00
May-09	Balance of Unit 2, 'F' Block, 14 Naval Hospital Hill	£227,272.25
Aug-09	10% Sale of 05:08:03 Apricot Court, Sir William Jackson Grove	£10,304.78
Sep-09	Sale of Poca Roca	£51,200.00
Oct-09	Premium iro assignment/sale of Flat 1, Poca Roca	£24,650.00
Nov-09	90% Balance iro tender for Garage 96, Vineyards	£22,500.00
Nov-09	Sale of 04.07.04 Rose Court (Option C)	£28,793.44
		<u>£1,914,869.68</u>

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Contd Answer to Question 463 of 2010

**Breakdown of Receipts to Government Companies in respect of Land and Property Sales for the period
January 2009 to December 2009**

Gibraltar Commercial Property Company Limited

Jan-09	Purchase of Units 95B & 95C Harbours Deck	£100,148.36
Mar-09	Premium iro Unit 47, Harbours Deck	£104,328.95
Mar-09	Premium iro Unit 12, Harbours Yard	£307,598.52
Mar-09	Premium iro Unit 52, Harbours Deck	£104,328.95
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 9, Harbours Yard	£319,025.47
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 29E, Harbours Deck	£48,000.00
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 57, Harbours Deck	£96,803.88
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 45, Harbours Deck	£103,771.53
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 54, Harbours Deck	£104,328.95
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 46, Harbours Deck	£104,328.95
Apr-09	Premium iro Unit 36, Harbours Deck	£154,217.32
Jun-09	Premium iro Unit 13, Chatham Counterguard	£12,500.00
Jun-09	Premium iro Unit 7, Chatham Counterguard	£10,000.00
Sep-09	Premium iro Unit 44B, Harbours Deck	£22,296.48
Sep-09	Premium iro Unit 38, Harbours Deck	£166,294.58
Sep-09	Premium iro Vault 8, Chatham Counterguard	£10,600.00
Sep-09	Premium iro Vault 5, Chatham Counterguard	£8,000.00
Oct/Nov 09	Premium iro tender for Unit F15, Europa Business Centre	£10,832.20
		<u>£1,787,404.14</u>

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Property Sales Government Companies with total value

£4,034,324.27

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 463 of 2010

**Detailed breakdown of Receipts to the Improvement and Development Fund for the period January
2009 to December 2009**

Feb-09	Premium iro lease for 2 West Place of Arms	£20,000.00
May-09	Sale of plot of land & ext of term 11B Naval Hospital Hill	£55,580.00
Jul-09	Sale of 10 North Pavilion Road	£81,070.00
Aug-09	Sale of 22 Flat Bastion Road	£20,730.00
Aug-09	Premium iro tender for premises at Ironside House, 5 Glacis Estate	£4,000.00
Oct-09	Sale of 5 Scud Hill Steps	£157,250.00
Oct-09	Sale of Flat 84 Rosia Dale	£72,300.00
Oct-09	Sale of Terrace and Swimming Pool at 26/4 Witham's Road	£44,600.00
Oct-09	Sale of 20 Flat Bastion Road	£23,800.00
Oct-09	Premium iro sale of additional land adjacent to Cable Car Top Station	£50,860.00
Oct-09	Premium iro Redevelopment of 45 Engineer Lane	£90,000.00
Dec-09	Premium iro extension of lease for Flat 4 Trafalgar House	£4,351.90
		<u>£624,541.90</u>

12 Property Sales Improvement & Development Fund with total value £624,541.90

ORAL

NO. 464 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

Is it still the policy of the Government that any handover of the Garrison Library must include the books and other documents housed therein?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 465 of 2010.

NO. 465 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

Can Government say whether formal or informal discussions are now taking place between the Government and the trustees for the handover of the Garrison Library to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Formal discussions are now taking place and good progress is being made, and it remains the Governments' position that transfer arrangements must include the books and other contents of the library.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 464 AND 465 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Member whether the discussions are at a very preliminary stage or is it something which is reaching conclusion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. There is more or less agreement in principle. The principles have been agreed and it is now just a question of documenting them.

NO. 466 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUFFIELD POOL

Can Government confirm whether there are any plans to transfer the Nuffield Pool from the Ministry of Defence to the Gibraltar Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are on-going discussions to that possible end.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 466 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are these at an advanced stage or are these at the very preliminary stage at the moment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is much harder to be precise. They are on-going. You just never know when you are near the end. There is no agreement until everything is agreed and therefore you are always as far away as you are when you started because you are potentially one issue away from no agreement at all. So, they are on-going. They have not just started. They have been going on for some time.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it only the Nuffield Pool or is it just part of a wider package of MOD properties?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Those particular discussions to which my answer has referred and indeed his question refers are limited to the Nuffield Pool but when it emerges it may emerge as part of a wider package of agreements.

ORAL

NO. 467 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government list the applicable EU specifications which are currently being studied and may need to be incorporated into the Gibraltar Identity Card?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 468 of 2010.

NO. 468 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government list the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation which are currently being studied and may need to be incorporated into the Gibraltar Identity Card?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

EU Resolution 15356/06, which reflects best practice on common minimum security standards for Member States' national identity cards, provides for identity cards to be issued in machine readable form in compliance with Part 3 Volume 1 of ICAO Document 9303 machine readable travel documents. Their layout and the way they are issued should also meet the specifications set out in this Document. The Resolution further provides specifications relating to the material used, the biographical data contained therein, the form of printing, numbering, issuing technique, security features including biometrics and protection against copying.

Paragraph 3.11 (Recommended practice) of Chapter 3 of Annex 9 (Facilitation) to the Convention of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recommends that when issuing identity documents or visas accepted for travel purposes, contracting states should issue these in machine readable form also as specified in Document 9303.

Part 1 of Volume 1 of Document 9303, which is therefore the basic text, sets out the technical specifications for machine readable passports. However, issuing states and organizations are encouraged to apply them to other identity documents as well.

Document 9303 is a substantial publication ranging from technical specifications for the security of the design, manufacture and issuance of machine readable travel documents, to details regarding abbreviations, character sets and fonts. It would therefore be impossible to provide a comprehensive list of all the technical and other specifications contained therein. But if the hon Member really wants to spend his time doing this, I understand it is available on the ICAO website.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 467 AND 468 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say how long have the Government being studying these two documents with a view to making changes to the card?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Government have not yet set its mind to these particular documents. Government have made a policy decision, not for reasons actually of this matter that he raises, but regardless of this, the Government have already made a policy decision to upgrade the Gibraltar identity card and this is just something that needs to be taken into account. This is not mandatory. But if it is going to be done, then it might as well comply with these guidelines which are mandatory for passports but not for identity cards.

ORAL

NO. 469 OF 2010

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. 470 of 2010.

NO. 470 OF 2010

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

For some reason this has not been given to me to hand over to him in a schedule so I will have to read out the numbers to him, I am afraid.

The amount of import duty collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis since October 2009 is as follows:

October 2009	£14,697.84
November 2009	£21,547.86
December 2009	£21,595.86
January 2010	£12,223.07

The amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since October 2009 is as follows:-

October 2009	£130,697.80
November 2009	£106,720.71
December 2009	£ 80,133.04
January 2010	£ 80,007.33

ORAL

NO. 471 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

What was the cost with a breakdown, of Gibraltar Day in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 472 to 475 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 472 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

Can Government say how many persons were invited to the Guildhall reception event for Gibraltar Day in London and how many attended?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 471 and 473 to 475 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 473 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

Can Government list the UK Government Ministers and UK MPs who were invited to and attended Gibraltar Day in London this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 471, 472, 474 and 475 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 474 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

Can Government say how many persons attended the Finance Centre event at Gibraltar Day in London and how many of these are based in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 471 to 473 and 475 of 2010.

NO. 475 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON**

Can Government list the persons from Gibraltar who they invited to Gibraltar Day in London and for whom they paid the flights, transport and accommodation costs with a breakdown showing the total amount spent on flights, transport and accommodation?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER****GuildHall Evening Reception**

Hire of Guildhall	5,980.00
Interior and exterior lighting and projection	4,295.25
Invitations, admittance cards, programmes, printing and postage	8,493.90
Graphics for lectern	50.00
Canapes and drinks at the Guildhall reception	36,678.32
	<hr/>
	£55,497.47
	<hr/>

Finance Centre Lunch

Room hire and catering	22,331.97
Invitations and printing	536.00
	<hr/>
	£22,867.97
	<hr/>

A total of 1,600 persons were invited to the Guildhall reception, of which 902 attended.

A total of 58 UK Ministers and MPs were invited to the Guildhall reception. Many attended but the Government does not consider it appropriate to publish the list of names.

A total of 263 persons attended the Finance Centre lunch of which 76 were Gibraltar based.

The 18 persons from Gibraltar who were invited to the Gibraltar Day in London and for whom flight, transport and accommodation costs were paid, but not VIP lounge facilities, were six Trade Union leaders, 11 Gibraltar related journalists and His Lordship the Bishop. The costs for them were in respect of air fares, a rather modest looking £768.99. I wonder whether that can be right, perhaps it is. But anyway that is the figure I have here so I would like to just check that. It is even xxxxxx by low cost airline standards. It sounds low but it may have been booked far enough in advance to have been purchased so cheaply, I do not know. Accommodation, a much more realistic sounding, £3,380.00. Transport £1073.04. Totalling in all £5,222.03.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 471 TO 475 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say, in relation to the UK Ministers and MPs which I think he said there were 58 invited, how many of those attended without saying who they were?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I cannot. I have seen and one of the reasons why I have not been forthcoming with the information, and I have seen a list of Members and Ministers who were alleged to have attended and I did not remember seeing some of them on the list. So I was reluctant to rely on the information supplied from source so to speak. Although I have to say the source insists that the list is accurate. When checked against my memory I was insufficiently confident about that fact to bring the information to the House.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I relation to Question No. 471 of 2010 which was the cost with the breakdown is that then all the figures which have been given added up or are there other costs which may not have been given?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, there was somebody moving just behind me and I did not get it?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 471 of 2010, the cost with the breakdown of the Gibraltar Day in London, is that all the figures that he has given added up or are there other figures which are not shown which he has not given?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I have given him the total and five headings with sub-totals which hopefully add up to the total that I have given him. Does he think they do not?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The figure I have here says one figure for the Guildhall.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, one figure for the hire of the Guildhall.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Right.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The total for the Guildhall event was £55,497.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That is right. I have that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The first figure I gave him was for the hire of the hall and then I gave him a figure for interior and exterior lighting and projection, invitations, admittance cards, programmes, printing and postage and then a figure for graphics, for lectern and then a figure for canapes and drinks.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Yes, but what I wanted to establish is the total cost which is the figure for the Guildhall, the figure for the Finance Centre and the figure for those invited by the Government. Those are the only costs. Is that the total adding up those three or is there anything else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it should be the total for all the things that he has asked for in his questions.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Question No. 471 of 2010 asks for the costs with a breakdown in general terms.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Then he should assume that that is.....

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That that is.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It would be an omission if there were something else.

NO. 476 OF 2010

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

Thirteen by fee paying commercial members of the business community. The total amount received has been £2,490. It has obviously been used many more times by non-fee paying users, including Government departments.

NO. 477 OF 2010

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 the 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 is on the schedule I now hand him although of course the phrase "the Chief Minister" does not add anything to the phrase "each individual Minister".

ANSWER TO QUESTION 477

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
London	15 - 20 October 2009	£775.95	EasyJet British Airways	Economy Club Class	N/A Online Bland

MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
the Hon JJ Holliday	Monaco	29 - 30 October 2009	£1,183.00	British Airways	Club Class	Tourafica
the Hon JJ Holliday	London	17 - 19 January 2010	£944.20	British Airways	Club Class	Tourafica
the Hon E Britto	London	8 - 10 November 2009	£773.20	British Airways	Club Class	Bland
the Hon E Britto	Manchester	29 November - 02 December 2009	£1,366.70	British Airways	Club Class	Bland
the Hon E Britto	London	15 - 16 January 2010	£462.20	British Airways	Club Class	Bland
the Hon E Britto	Madrid	20 - 21 January 2010	£414.30	Iberia & Andalus	Club/Economy	Bland
the Hon E Britto	London	16 - 17 February 2010	£1,159.00	British Airways	Club Class	Bland
the Hon J Netto	Worcester	15 - 19 November 2009	£694.00	British Airways	Club Class	Globe Travel
the Hon J Netto	Tanzania	28 September to 07 October 2010	£5,151.10	Transavia KLM KLM	Economy Business Economy	Bland

NO. 478 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN THROUGH UK

Can Government list the communications between Gibraltar and Spain, 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. 479 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 479 OF 2010

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

The information is contained in the schedule that is now being handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 479

Answer to Questions 478 & 479

October 2009 - February 2010 (Incoming)

Post Box ref & Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
(I)PB/56/09 22-Oct-09	Sepblac, Madrid	Gibraltar Financial Intelligence Unit	Request for Information
(I)PB/58/09 04-Nov-09	Oficina Nacional de Investigacion del Fraude	Attorney General's Chambers	Request for Information
(I)PB/64/09 30-Nov-09	Oficina Nacional de Investigacion del Fraude	Attorney General's Chambers	Request for Information

October 2009 - February 2010 (Outgoing)

Post Box ref & Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
PB/116/09 10-Nov-09	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/117/09 18-Nov-09	Financial Services Commission	Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones	Notification
PB/01/10 05-Jan-10	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/04/10 18-Jan-10	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification
PB/05/10 18-Jan-10	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Murcia	Notification
PB/10/10 08-Feb-10	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Murcia	Notification

NO. 480 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DIVING ACTIVITIES IN BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say what are the options it is currently considering for the licensing and regulating of certain diving activities in British Gibraltar territorial waters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This is ongoing internal work in progress and the Government does not think it appropriate to say what options it is considering. When Government wishes to make a policy announcement it will do so.

ORAL

NO. 481 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING FUEL STORAGE

Is it the policy of the Government that the existing floating storage of bunkering fuel in tankers will be removed and replaced by land storage and if so in what timescale is this envisaged and where will the latter be located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 482 and 483 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 482 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

KING'S LINES BUNKERING FUEL STORAGE

Can Government say whether they have any plans to refurbish and renovate the King's Lines underground storage facility in order to store bunkering fuel for ships?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 481 and 483 of 2010.

NO. 483 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

KING'S LINES BUNKERING FUEL STORAGE

Can Government state whether they have received any plans or proposals from private sector operators in respect of the renovation of King's Lines storage and its use for the storage of fuel for bunkers for ships and if so on what date, how many proposals are there and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government have a medium to long-term aspiration to reduce, and if possible eliminate floating bunker storage.

King's Lines is one of the resources available to try to use for this policy objective.

Government have received several proposals for the future use of King's Lines.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 481 TO 483 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the hon Member say the Government have received several proposals for King's Lines from several different entities? Can he say how many?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Almost as many as there are bunker operators except one. Four or five, or three, six. That sort of thing. Four or five.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to King's Lines which he mentioned, the hon Member said was one of the options which are available, the proposals made by private sector operators were in relation to King's Lines, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

NO. 484 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS FOR GIBRALTAR

What is the policy of the Government in relation to seeking World Heritage Status for Gibraltar or for parts of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As previously stated, Government policy is not to seek World Heritage Status for the whole of Gibraltar because that will seriously curtail and restrict the ability of future Governments of Gibraltar and future generations of Gibraltarians to develop Gibraltar to meet their socio economic needs.

The same applies to seeking that status for parts of Gibraltar.

But Government is not opposed to seeking such status for individual isolated sites, which would not have the above effect in a significant measure.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 484 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether, the last thing that he said in relation to seeking status for individual isolated sites, it is something that has been progressed and have sites been identified, or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He is not entitled to deduce any such thing from my answer which was that the Government are not opposed to it. That does not prompt him to ask whether the Government is actively... as far as I am aware the Government are not actively seeking this. I am just informing him that the Government are not opposed but would not agree to sponsor or allow any such bid if it had the effects that I have described which are now affecting some world heritage site hosts in a very significant way. In the way, precisely, that caused us to reverse our policy in this matter some years ago.

ORAL

NO. 485 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GORHAM'S CAVE

Can Government say whether the steps which provide the land access to Gorham's Cave have now been transferred from the MOD to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been no development to the land transfer of the steps to which he refers since the question was last answered.

NO. 486 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROPOSED WORKS AT EX-BFBS BUILDING AND KEY AND ANCHOR COMPLEX

Can Government say what are the proposals which could see works being carried out at the ex-BFBS building and the Key and Anchor complex and what these works would entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member has already deduced from some of the answers he has had during this session that the Government prefer to make its own announcements in its own time and that applies to this question too. At present, I can tell him that the ex-BFBS house is under consideration as an alternative site for the Lady Williams Centre and for other cancer related charities.

NO. 487 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Can Government say whether it remains their policy to set up an Office of Fair Trading and if so what progress has there been on this issue since it was raised in Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government continue to wish to upgrade Gibraltar's consumer protection processes and resources. However, this is not presently being worked on as a priority.

NO. 488 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PERMANENT JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

On how many occasions and on what dates has the Permanent Joint Liaison Committee on Gibraltar airport created in September 2006 met since it was established and who were the participants on each occasion?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Permanent Joint Liaison Committee on Gibraltar airport has met on two occasions. The participants on each were:

PARTICIPANTS			
Date of Meeting	Gibraltar	UK	Spain
20 Dec 2006	Mr E Montado Mr R Garcia	Mr P Barton Mr D Nicholas	Sr J Domecq Sr A Urzaiz
26 Nov 2007	Mr R Garcia Mr S Ramagge Mr D Ramos	Mr P Barton Ms J Bowyer	Sr J Domecq Sr A Urzaiz Sr F J Alonso Morillo Sr M A Arrocha Sr A Lozano

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 488 OF 2010**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Would he be able to tell the House what the technical issues discussed in each of these meetings were?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Contrary to the incorrect folklore that some media seek to propagate and indeed and others, this is not a joint liaison committee for the management of the airport. This is a joint liaison committee to monitor compliance with and implementation of the respective parties' commitments under the Cordoba Airport Agreement, Airport Statement. So, it would have been issues of that sort. What should have happened by now? Has it happened yet? Has it not happened yet? Who is complying? Who is not complying? How is it going and how is it not going? I cannot identify for him the specific issues but they would be issues of that sort in relation to specific Cordoba commitments.

NO. 489 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTLINE BETWEEN PORTS OF GIBRALTAR AND ALGECIRAS

Can Government confirm whether the hotline between the Ports of Gibraltar and Algeciras that will allow information to be exchanged on a case by case basis is now in place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not the intention nor ever was it that there should be a hotline between the Ports of Algeciras and Gibraltar to allow information to be exchanged on a case by case basis. Rather, the intention was that there should be a hotline between the Ports that he mentions for the reporting of maritime and environmental incidents. This hotline for this purpose is indeed now in place. Although I have to say the word "hotline" is rather melodramatic. It is a telephone.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 489 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The confusion perhaps is..... The Government issued a statement on the 18th December 2009 which says "meanwhile a hotline will be in place that will allow information to be exchanged on a case by case basis" and the question was derived from that. So is it a different hotline or is it that there is only going to be one? Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is why I have carefully chosen my answer not to be unduly critical of the formulation of the question but rather to clarify what was and never has been the Government's intention.

NO. 490 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARITIME RESOURCES CAPABILITY

Has Government now taken a policy decision on how many larger vessels it intends to purchase, at what cost and which department these vessels would come under in order to increase the capability of its maritime resources?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 490 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it still the policy of the Government to purchase these vessels or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes Sir. It is.

NO. 491 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GHA – SALARY SCALES OF GRADES ANALOGUED TO UK NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Can Government confirm that all grades employed in the GHA which have analogues in the UK National Health Service are on salary scales based on application of the Parity Principle and if not identify those grades that are not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Prior to April 2004 salary scales of the vast majority of the non-medical clinical support posts, for example, nurses, allied health professionals, laboratory staff and others, were analogued to the Whitley Council pay scales in the National Health Service based on the application of the Parity Principle. The exceptions were the Pathology Services Manager and the Junior Medical Laboratory Assistants. The first was analogued to Senior Officer pay scale and the latter were analogued to UK Local Authority MLA scales, not NHS scales.

In April 2004 the NHS introduced new pay arrangements for non-medical NHS staff entitled "Agenda for Change". The NHS continued to run with the Whitley Council pay scales alongside the new Agenda for Change pay scales until April 2006, by which time all NHS Trusts were required to have implemented Agenda for Change. The local analogue with the NHS pay scales therefore continued until this date.

Since then the analogue has ceased to exist as the former Whitley Council pay scales no longer apply in the NHS. The GHA is currently negotiating the introduction of a local application of Agenda for Change with the trade union UNITE. Once these negotiations have been finalised the analogue will be restored under the Parity Principle.

ORAL

NO. 492 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – VACANCIES FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Can Government state how many vacancies for managing director were opened with the Employment Service in 2009 and how many persons were sent to fill such vacancies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 493 and 494 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 493 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – WORK PERMIT FOR COMPANY DIRECTOR

Can Government state how many employers requested the issue of a work permit to fill a vacancy for company director in 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 492 and 494 of 2010.

NO. 494 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – WORK PERMIT FOR COMPANY DIRECTOR

Can Government state whether the Employment Service has refused any request for a work permit to fill a vacancy for company director and if so how many and on what grounds have such requests been refused?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The number of vacancies registered with the Employment Service in 2009 for a managing director is seven.

Such vacancies invariably do not seek candidates to be submitted, as the employer will have identified the prospective post holder before complying with the legal obligation to register the vacancy. Therefore no candidates were submitted.

The Employment Service does not know which employees of a company are appointed to its Board of Directors.

However 12 requests for work permits were submitted for jobs described variously as finance director, marketing director and other job titles including the use of the word “director”.

Question No. 494 of 2010 does not specify over what period of time, and it cannot reasonably be expected to undertake an exercise going back indefinitely.

Given that the two previous questions, and this question apparently related, are in respect of 2009, Government can state that of the 12 such requests in 2009, two were refused.

ORAL

NO. 495 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Can Government confirm whether the jobs occupied by persons employed as part-time Community Officers by Community Care were included in the 2007 Employment Survey, and if so, under which industry are they classified and what was the number included in 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 496 to 499 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 496 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Can Government confirm whether the jobs occupied by persons employed as part-time Community Officers by Community Care were included in the 2008 Employment Survey, and if so, under which industry are they classified and what was the number included in 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 495 and 497 to 499 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 497 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Can Government confirm that the persons employed as part-time Community Officers with the charity Community Care Limited are included in the Employment Service register of employed persons, and if so, how many were so registered at the end of October 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 495, 496, 498 and 499 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 498 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Can Government confirm that the persons employed as part-time Community Officers with the charity Community Care Limited are included in the Employment Service register of employed persons, and if so, how many were so registered at the end of October 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 495 to 497 and 499 of 2010.

NO. 499 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Can Government confirm that the persons employed as part-time Community Officers with the charity Community Care Limited are included in the Employment Service register of employed persons, and if so, how many were so registered at the end of October 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government can confirm that the jobs occupied by persons employed as part-time Community Officers were included both in the October 2007 and October 2008 Employment Surveys in accordance with the practice in place since before 1996. Persons engaged as Community Officers historically have always been included in the relevant Employment Surveys, with their status changing from full-time to part-time with effect from October 1998. In other words, under the previous Government they were registered as full-time and we have transferred them to part-time.

They are classified under the Real Estate and Business Activities Industry and totalled 379 in 2007 and 459 in 2008.

The Employment Survey has never sought to have these officers registered. This is the answer to the last three questions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 495 to 499 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

I note that the hon Gentleman has not given us the answer in respect of the numbers for Question No. 499 of 2010. That is because of the statement he made to the House at the beginning of this Question Time, I assume, in respect of the Employment Survey for last year. Is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. It is not right and it ignores what I have just told him. The Employment Service has never required the registration of Community Care Officers. The last three

questions that he has asked relate to the Employment Service. The first two relate to the Employment Survey which is why he has had different answers. So the answer to the last three is that the Employment Service has never sought to have these officers registered.

ORAL

NO. 500 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

LICENSED COMPANY MANAGERS/PROFESSIONAL TRUSTEES

Can Government state as at the end of March 2009 how many company managers/professional trustees were licensed by the Financial Services Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 486 company managers/professional trustees were licensed by the Financial Services Commission.

Of these, 71 were in respect of professional trustees. The balance in respect of company managers includes a small number of company manager licensees that are restricted to experienced investor fund directorships.

ORAL

NO. 501 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state the original contract price of the new Government Rental Estate development agreed with Bruesa?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 502 to 504 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 502 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state what variations, if any, were agreed with Bruesa in respect of the new Government Rental Estate development during the course of the construction and the addition to the original cost price?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 501, 503 and 504 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 503 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state how much was paid to Bruesa in respect of the new Government Rental Estate development by the time the contract was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 501, 502 and 504 of 2010.

NO. 504 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state what retention monies were held by the Government in respect of the work done by Bruesa in the new Government Rental Estate development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are only willing to provide information at this time that is not commercially sensitive nor will prejudice the Government in the event of any legal dispute relating to this contract and I am sure the hon Member can readily understand that there are many potential areas of dispute. Not least the contracts termination by the Government although it is in our view absolutely properly done but we do not yet know if Bruesa wishes to take a different view and as I announced in this House several months ago, there is now the usual end of contract submission to adjudication of claims by the contractor for extensions, for additional works. The Government in turn have counter claims for this and counter claims for that. That indeed, that process has started already. So there is a lot of these adjudications going on. We do not know how much more will be due to Bruesa. Nothing is due as at the time of the termination of the contract. Nothing more was due. The Government have paid out every certificate that it was required to pay out. But of course, that situation may change as the adjudication process unfolds and takes its course. Therefore, I am sure the hon Members will understand that we are now embarked on a contentious situation and that they will understand that I will not wish to say anything that could prejudice the Government nor assist the other party.

But the original contract sum, I can tell him was for €64,800,000. I beg the hon Member's pardon. He should disregard my..... although it applies but not in the same way. This is the wrong set of questions. What I have just said about the processes being afoot applies mainly to Waterport Terraces. No doubt there will also be a similar process in respect of the Government rentals but those have not yet started. So, if they could read my answers until now as applicable to the Waterport Terraces questions. The next ones on the order paper. And in respect of the these questions which relate to the Government rental housing estate development, the formal answer is the same about only wanting to say things that will not prejudice, because the Government has terminated that contract too and the price of the contract was €64,800,000. A total of €16,160,574 had been paid at the time that that contract was terminated and €850,672 had been retained. I want to make sure they

are not misled. In this contract there are not yet any adjudications or any of..... All that relate to the Waterport Terraces which are the next questions.

ORAL

NO. 505 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state the original contract price of the Waterport Terraces development agreed with Bruesa?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 506 to 508 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 506 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state what variations, if any, were agreed with Bruesa in respect of the Waterport Terraces developments during the course of construction and the addition to the original contracts price?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 505, 507 and 508 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 507 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state how much was paid to Bruesa in respect of the Waterport Terraces development by the time the contract was terminated on the 24th December 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 505, 506 and 508 of 2010.

NO. 508 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state what retention monies were held by the Government in respect of work done by Bruesa in the Waterport Terraces development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I repeat what I said in the previous answer about commercial and legal sensitivity and transfer to this answer what I said in the previous one, prematurely, about change in contract prices by virtue of these adjudications and claims and counter claims.

The original contract price for the construction of Waterport Terraces including Albert Risso House was with Bruesa Construction (Gibraltar) SA and was for £50,212,474.

The full list of agreed variations is a technical document which is still being finalised by our teams of consultants.

I am advised however that at the time of the determination there had been approximately 250 instructed variations on the project. These variations are as valued by the Quantity Surveyor in accordance with the contract procedures as at 30th November 2009, but in most, if not all cases, the contractor had not yet agreed to these values. In other words, these are some of the areas in dispute and subject to these now adjudications amongst other issues that are in adjudication.

A total of £48,280,499 has been paid to the contractor as at the termination of the contract. The sum of £1,090,125 is held by Gibraltar Residential Properties by way of retention.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 505 TO 508 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Given what the hon Gentleman has said, we will not be pressing the matter further.

ORAL

NO. 509 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES – ARREARS OF PAYE AND SOCIAL INSURANCE

Can Government state whether Bruesa had any arrears of a) PAYE and b) Social Insurance contributions when the Waterport Terraces contract was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 510 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 510 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE – ARREARS OF PAYE AND SOCIAL INSURANCE

Can Government state whether Bruesa had any arrears of a) PAYE and b) Social Insurance contributions when the new Government Rental Estate was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, but the Government are not willing to provide details at this stage, given that recovery processes are in progress. For example, should the end of the adjudication process result in a net sum payable by the Government to the contractor, the Government would be seeking to set off, against any such sums, all amounts due by Bruesa to the Government in any other respect including but not limited to these issues.

ORAL

NO. 511 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state how many persons were working at the new Government Rental Estate development when the Bruesa contract was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 512 to 518 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 512 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state how many persons were employed by Bruesa at the new Government Rental Estate when the contract was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 511 and 513 to 518 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 513 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the persons employed by Bruesa at the new Government Rental Estate development at the time of the termination of their contract by occupation and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 511, 512 and 514 to 518 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 514 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA SUB-CONTRACTORS – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the persons employed by Bruesa sub-contractors, identifying the name of the sub-contractors at the new Government Rental Estate development, at the time of the termination of their contract, by occupation and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 511 to 513 and 515 to 518 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 515 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state how many persons were employed by Bruesa at the Waterport Terraces development when the contract was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 511 to 514 and 516 to 518 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 516 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government provide a breakdown of the persons employed by Bruesa at the Waterport Terraces development at the time of the termination of their contract by occupation and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 511 to 515, 517 and 518 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 517 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA SUB-CONTRACTORS – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government provide a breakdown of the persons employed by Bruesa sub-contractors, identifying the name of the sub-contractors at the Waterport Terraces development, at the time of the termination of their contract, by occupation and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 511 to 516 and 518 of 2010.

NO. 518 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state how many persons were working at the Waterport Terraces development when the Bruesa contract was terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not consider it appropriate to provide information about one specific company in relation to its affairs, where there is no financial implication for public funds, meaning that were there to be payments out of, for example, the Insolvency Fund then the Government would provide the information because it is accountable to this House in respect of the expenditure of public funds but does not believe that it is appropriate to give in this House details that it holds about a particular citizen or a particular company simply because the Government have the information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 511 TO 518 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Government consider answering a question in respect of contractors providing services to the Government as a developer without naming those contractors?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government keep information about the names and details of employees of particular companies as a keeper of a public record, as a register. The Government has lots of information about lots of citizens and it is not thereby appropriate to give them out. The fact that the Government have information about individual citizens is not to say that the Government should give it out when it is asked for in this House. That would lead to a very unusual situation where today it is about Bruesa and tomorrow it is about somebody else. The Government have taken the view that unless there is some public financial liability or some suggestion of maladministration by the Government, it is not appropriate simply to hand out information about an individual citizen and Bruesa is still just one individual citizen and the Government do

not consider it appropriate to provide in this House or publicly information appertaining to an individual citizen in this community.

HON F R PICARDO:

As the hon Gentleman knows, there is only one ship repair facility in Gibraltar and when we ask questions about the ship repair industry, the hon Gentleman has no difficulty providing that information. But so be it. If the hon Gentleman is going to take that attitude we will simply put the questions again in another form in the future.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I am sorry. It is not an attitude. It is a position and a perfectly proper one. It is to protect individuals, both corporate and non-corporate from an airing of their private information in this House. It is not an attitude and the example that he cites, proves that the hon Members have accepted this principle in the past because they no longer ask information about Gib Shiprepair, they ask information about the shipping industry and if they ask information about an industry and there happens to be only one company in that industry from which they can deduce information, so be it. The Government cannot justify not providing aggregated information about an industry even if it allows, by deduction, information about an individual. The Government do not thereby gratuitously give information about one individual and I thought that the hon Members had accepted this position which is why they have, for a number of years, formulated their questions in relation to industry and not Gib Shiprepair Ltd, particularly, especially in the context that there is only one company in it. That is the reason why they have reformulated the question.

HON F R PICARDO:

If it is the Government's attitude to adopt that position, we will reformulate the question as I said earlier in exactly the format that the hon Gentleman I thought was suggesting when he gave the first answer. In other words, by industry, which is what I asked him in my first supplementary.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose for somebody who does not see any difference between the word culling and the word extermination, also would not be sensitive to the fact that the use of the word "attitude" carries with it a connotation which is not present in the word "position" and he cannot now stand up in this House and pretend that the words "attitude" and "positions" are synonymous or interchangeable. They are not. One is a mutual recognition of the fact that somebody has a view on something and the other is implicitly critical in the sense that it is an "attitude" as opposed to a "position". But look, clearly he does not share the view that that distinction exists. It clearly does exist in the Government's view and the Government have a position and not an attitude.

HON F R PICARDO:

That adds nothing to the information issues which are the subject at question time so perhaps we should just move on.

ORAL

NO. 519 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA/SUB-CONTRACTORS – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state whether the Minister for Employment has given any commitment or indication that the former Bruesa and/or sub-contract workers from the new Government Rental Estate development will be paid any wages owed to them by the former employer by the Government of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 520 of 2010.

NO. 520 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

BRUESA/SUB-CONTRACTORS – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state whether the Minister for Employment has given any commitment or indication that the former Bruesa and/or sub-contract workers from the Waterport building site will be paid any wages owed to them by the former employer by the Government of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government have no liability or responsibility for the wages of employees of companies who are sub-contractors of a contractor engaged on contract by the Government. Nor would any such be a proper or acceptable use of public funds. No such commitment can thus have been given.

The Government's only commitments for other people's unfulfilled obligations to their staff is under the Insolvency Fund rules.

NO. 521 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GGCC – FORMER HAYMILLS EMPLOYEES

Can Government state of the 137 Haymills employees listed in answer to Question No. 795 of 2009, can Government identify by nationality and occupation those whose employment was continued with GGCC for eight weeks and those still employed by GGCC on former Haymills projects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In fact, although there were 137 employees of Haymills (Gibraltar) Limited, there were other employees of other related companies – 212 in all. I hand him a schedule relating to those 212, not the 137, in respect of the initial 8 weeks, and a separate schedule showing those that remain employed by Gibraltar General Construction Company on former Haymills projects, being 64 employees.

Answer to Question 521

Employees of Gibraltar General Construction Company Limited, by nationality and trade -
Eight Week Contract

Trade	Spanish	Gibraltarian	British	Moroccan	Other EU	Total
Accounts Clerk		2				2
BCE	5	5	7	14		31
Canteen Manager			1			1
Carpenter	1					1
Concrete Finisher	1		1			2
Crane Driver	1					1
Dryliner			5		12	17
Electrical Engineer			1			1
Electrical Fitter			2		3	5
Electrical Supervisor			1			1
Electrical Working Chargehand					1	1
Electrician	1		6		2	9
Electrician's Mate		1			1	2
Fixer	2		2		3	7
Foreman			1			1
Foreman		3	10			13
Ganger			1		1	2
Health & Safety Officer		1				1
Joiner				1		98
Labourer	1	4	3		1	9
Labourer/Fixer					1	1
Logistics Manager			1			1
Machine Worker			2			2
Monocouche Renderer	4					4
Office Clerk		4	5			9
Office Manager/Payroll		1				1
Painter	6	1	1	3		11
Payroll Clerk			1			1
Plumber	1	1	4	1	1	8
Project Manager			1			1
Quantity Surveyor		3	6			9
Renderer			2		4	6
Scaffolder	2	5	15	3		25
Screeder					5	5
Semi-skilled Ducter			1			1
Semi-skilled Operative	1	1	3			5
Site Engineer		1				1
Site Security	1	1				2
Site Supervisor					1	1
Storeman			2			2
Student		1				1
Supervisor			3			3
Taper and jointer	1	1	2			4
Total	28	36	90	22	36	212

Answer to Question 521

Employees of Gibraltar General Construction Company Limited, by nationality and trade -
Remaining on ex-Haymills sites as at 5 February 2010

Trade	Spanish	Gibraltarian	British	Moroccan	Other EU	Total
BCE	1					1
Bricklayer		1				1
Carpenter	1			3		4
Concrete Finisher	1		1			2
Electrical Fitter			3		1	4
Electrician		1				1
Electrician's Mate		1	1		1	3
Forklift Driver			1			1
Ganger			1			1
Joiner				1		1
Labourer		3		4	1	8
Logistics Manager			1			1
Mason				2		2
Monocouche Renderer	2					2
Painter	1	2		1		4
Painter Working Chargehand			1			1
Plasterer					1	1
Plumber	1	1	4		2	8
Renderer			1		3	4
Screeder			1		5	6
Semi-skilled Labourer	1	1	4	1		7
Supervisor/Mechanic			1			1
Total	8	10	20	12	14	64

ORAL

NO. 522 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GGCC – FORMER HAYMILLS EMPLOYEES

Can Government state whether the terms of employment offered by GGCC to former Haymills employees were made in accordance with the requirements of TUPE?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

TUPE was not applicable because there was no transfer of undertaking.

ORAL

NO. 523 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

**HOUSING – COST OF CUMBERLAND TERRACES SINCE PROJECT TAKEN
OVER BY GGCC**

Can Government state how much has been spent on the completion of Cumberland Terraces since the project was taken over by GGCC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 524 to 528 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 524 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

HOUSING – FINAL COST OF CUMBERLAND TERRACES

Can Government state the current estimated final cost of Cumberland Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 523 and 525 to 528 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 525 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

HOUSING – FINAL COST OF NELSON’S VIEW

Can Government state the current estimated final cost of Nelson’s View?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 523, 524 and 526 to 528 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 526 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

HOUSING – COST OF NELSON’S VIEW SINCE PROJECT TAKEN OVER BY GGCC

Can Government state how much has been spent on the completion of Nelson’s View since the project was taken over by GGCC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 523 to 525, 527 and 528 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 527 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

HOUSING – FINAL COST OF BAYVIEW TERRACES

Can Government state the current estimated final cost of Bayview Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 523 to 526 and 528 of 2010.

NO. 528 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

HOUSING – COST OF BAYVIEW TERRACES SINCE PROJECT TAKEN OVER BY GGCC

Can Government state how much has been spent on the completion of Bayview Terraces since the project was taken over by GGCC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of £3,093,017 has been spent on Cumberland Terraces since the project was taken over by Gibraltar General Construction Company Limited. Actually, it was really taken over by Gibraltar Joinery and Building Services

The estimated construction cost of Cumberland Terraces is £19,954,943.

The estimated construction cost of Nelson's View is £18,374,224.

A total of £2,735,421 has been spent on Nelson's View since the project was taken over by GGCC Ltd.

The estimated construction cost of Bayview Terraces is £13,423,396.

A total of £1,740,330 has been spent on Bayview Terraces since the project was taken over by GGCC Ltd.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 523 TO 528 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Could I ask if he could quickly give again the answer to Question No. 523 of 2010. I did not quite catch £3 million something he said.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A total of £3,093,017.

ORAL

NO. 529 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS

Can Government state whether it still estimates the cost of the Civil Service pension payments in the current financial year will come to £17 million as estimated in the Budget, and if not, what is the latest estimate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 530 to 532 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 530 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

Can Government state the number of Civil Servants receiving a pension as at the end of each of the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 529, 531 and 532 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 531 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CIVIL SERVICE PENSION SCHEME/PROVIDENT FUND PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state as at the end of each financial year 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, what was the number of Civil Servants in employment covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and the number of public servants covered by the Provident Fund Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 529, 530 and 532 of 2010.

NO. 532 OF 2010**THE HON F R PICARDO****On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano****CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS**

Can Government state the cost of the Civil Service pensions expressed as a percentage of the Civil Service payroll in each of the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The latest estimate for the current financial year in respect of Civil Service pensions is in the region of £18M.

The number of Civil Servant pensioners at the end of March 2007 was 1,910 compared with 1,860 at the end of March 2006.

The number of Civil Servants in employment covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and other Public Servants covered by the Provident Trust Pension Scheme is as follows:

	<u>Civil Service</u>	<u>Other Public Servants</u>	<u>Total</u>
2006/2007	2,772	687	3,459
2007/2008	2,790	799	3,589
2008/2009	2,772	839	3,611

In 2006/2007, Civil Service pension costs represented 14% of the Civil Service payroll compared with 13% in the previous financial year 2005/2006.

ORAL

NO. 533 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government confirm whether contributions to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund cover all employees of the entities that have joined the scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 534 to 540 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 534 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government confirm whether contributions by employers to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund are conditional on the employees opting to join and paying contributions as well?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 533 and 535 to 540 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 535 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government confirm whether the redemption value of the accumulated contributions in respect of persons covered by the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund is guaranteed or underwritten in any way by the Government so that it cannot be less than the sum of the original contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 533, 534 and 536 to 540 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 536 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government confirm whether contributions to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund cover all employees of the entities that have joined the scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 533 to 535 and 537 to 540 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 537 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government confirm whether contributions by employers to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund are conditional on the employees opting to join and paying contributions as well?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 533 to 536 and 538 to 540 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 538 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government confirm whether the redemption value of the accumulated contributions in respect of persons covered by the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Scheme is guaranteed or underwritten in any way by the Government so that it cannot be less than the sum of the original contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 533 to 537, 539 and 540 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 539 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how many employers in the Construction and Allied Trades Industry have joined the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund from 29 June 2009 and the number of employees covered by each such employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 533 to 538 and 540 of 2010.

NO. 540 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether any employer in the Construction and Allied Trades Industry was contributing to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund prior to the 29 June 2009, and if so, how many and what was the total number of employees covered in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Contributions to the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No. 2) and (No. 3) Pension Schemes only cover those employees who have actually decided to become members.

There is no requirement under the (No. 2) and (No. 3) pension schemes for employee contributions. It is the employer who decides whether or not employer contributions are to be conditional on the employee contributing as well. In the case of public sector employees who join the (No. 2) pension scheme, employer contributions, currently at the rate of 10% of the employees basic pay, are conditional on the employee also contributing, currently set at a minimum of 5% of basic pay.

The redemption value of the accumulated fund on the retirement of an employee is not guaranteed or underwritten by the Government at a particular level, although, of course, the funds remain in the Government's possession. Members of the pension schemes have a choice of investing these contributions in one of four investment funds. These comprise a low risk Cash Fund, the medium risk Bond and Balanced Fund and a higher risk Equity Fund. In other words, each pensioner decides whether he wants there to be any risk at all of a reduction in the value of the fund below the aggregate of the contributions and the more he guarantees that the fund will not depreciate below that, the less opportunity he has for the fund to grow and this is a choice that each individual pensioner has and exercises.

I now hand the hon Member a list showing the employees from the Construction and Allied Trades who participate in the (No. 3) pension scheme with details of the number of employees covered by each employer.

Answer to Question No. 540 of 2010

Statement showing employers in the Construction and Allied Trades Industry admitted to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Scheme.

Company Name	Prior to 29 June 2009		After 29 June 2009	
	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive
Sharrock Shands	16	2	0	18
General Contracting & Maintenance Services Ltd	20	1	0	0
Turner Facilities Management Services Ltd	83	4	0	0
SERCO	0	0	96	34

Contributions from Sharrock Shands ceased in December 2007, and General Contracting & Maintenance Services Ltd together with Turner Facilities Management Ltd were taken over by SERCO who were admitted to the scheme in January 2008.

ORAL

NO. 541 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

Can Government state of the 1,891 Civil Servant pensioners as at 31st March 2008 and 1,937 as at 31st March 2009, how many were receiving a Widow's Pension in each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 542 and 543 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 542 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

Can Government state of the 1,891 Civil Servant pensioners as at 31st March 2008 and the 1,937 as at 31st March 2009, how many excluding Widow's Pensions, were receiving a pension and what was the average value of the pension in each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 541 and 543 of 2010.

NO. 543 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Civil Servant pensioners excluding those receiving a Widow's Pension in the years ending March 2008 and 2009 were receiving less than £8,000 per annum and how many were receiving more than £20,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

At the end of March 2008, 66 of the 1,891 Government pensioners were pensions payable to widows under the Widow's and Orphans Pension Scheme. The corresponding figure for the end of March 2009 was 64 out of the total of 1,937.

It follows therefore, that the number of pensioners, excluding those in receipt of a Widow's pension was 1,825 at the end of March 2008 and 1,873 at the end of March 2009.

The average pension payable in 2007/2008 was around £8,000 per annum costing about £15 million for 1,825 pensioners and in 2008/2009 this was around £9,000 per annum costing around £17 million for 1,873 pensioners.

Around 1,000 pensioners were in receipt of a pension of under £8,000 during the years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. Around 140 pensioners were in receipt of a pension of more than £20,000 in 2007/2008 and this increased to around 185 in 2008/2009.

ORAL

NO. 544 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state whether there has been any amount written-off in respect of arrears of rates in 2008/2009, 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

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 544 of 2010

Breakdown of Write-offs for Financial Year 2008/2009

Classification	No. of A/C's	Amount Written-off	Range of debt period	Remarks
a) Domestic	197	£319,601.40	1990 to 2008	This amount includes £146K in penalties. The debts were written-off on the grounds of the debt being statute-barred.
b) Commercial	84	£525,016.95	1988 to 2008	This amount includes £233K in penalties. The debts were written-off on the grounds of either the companies being liquidated or the debt being statute-barred.

ORAL

NO. 545 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm the final GDP figure for 2007/2008 and give the breakdown by the income and expenditure methods of calculation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 546 of 2010.

NO. 546 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GDP FIGURE

Can Government now confirm the GDP figure for 2008/2009 and give the breakdown by the income and expenditure methods of calculation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The GDP figure for 2007/2008 is estimated at £804.36 million.

I now hand over to the hon Member a schedule showing the detailed breakdown by both the income and expenditure methods.

The GDP figure for 2008/2009 is still provisionally estimated at some £850 million as I stated in answer to Question No. 695 of 2009. This estimate cannot yet be refined at this stage.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 546

Answer to Question No 545

INCOME METHOD (£ million)	*	2007/08
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT	B	494.98
INCOME FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT	C	66.83
GROSS TRADING PROFITS OF COMPANIES	C	127.74
GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES	A	4.68
RENT	C	111.38
TOTAL DOMESTIC INCOME	B	805.61
LESS STOCK APPRECIATION	C	-1.25
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	804.36
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD ABROAD	C	-1.66
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B	-104.84
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B	697.86

EXPENDITURE METHOD (£ million)	*	2007/08
CONSUMERS' EXPENDITURE	B	323.38
GOVT. FINAL CONSUMPTION	A	223.51
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAP. FMTN	C	202.96
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE	C	749.85
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	C	1,572.48
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	B	-1,448.04
RESIDUAL ERROR		12.67
GDP (MARKET PRICES)	B	886.96
SUBSIDIES	C	6.55
TAXES ON EXPENDITURE	A	-89.15
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	804.36
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD ABROAD	C	-1.66
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B	-104.84
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B	697.86

ORAL

NO. 547 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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. 1179 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 548 and 549 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 548 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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. 1180 of 2009 from the Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 547 and 549 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 549 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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. 1181 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 549 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 547 of 2010

Stamp Duty collected in each month since Oct 2009 is as follows:

October 2009	£296,255.86
November 2009	£322,360.25
December 2009	£284,572.71
January 2010	£424,235.31

Answer to Question No. 548 of 2010

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues in each month since Oct 2009 is as follows:

October 2009	£1,790.00
November 2009	£1,670.00
December 2009	£1,200.00
January 2010	£1,250.00

Answer to Question No. 549 of 2010

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sales since Oct 2009 is as follows:

October 2009	53
November 2009	33
December 2009	40
January 2010	45

ORAL

NO. 550 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

NEW POWER STATION – PLANNING AND OPERATION

Can Government confirm that the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will man and operate the recently announced £100 million power station?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

NO. 551 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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, and numbers employed 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

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

Answer to Question No. 551 of 2010

Based on the 2008/2009 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	26.83
(c) Government owned/JV companies	3.90
(d) Private sector employment	62.17
	<hr/>
	96.91
	=====

The employers' annual statements for the tax year 2008/2009 are currently being processed and it is not possible at this stage to provide details of numbers employed by area of employment.

ORAL

NO. 552 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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. 1183 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 553 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 553 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CORPORATION TAX COLLECTED

What was the amount of company tax collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 1190 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 553 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 552 of 2010

The PAYE tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No. 1183 of 2009 is:

	£M
October 2009	8.82
November 2009	7.77
December 2009	7.73
January 2010	8.87

Answer to Question No. 553 of 2010

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question 1190 of 2009 is:

	£M
October 2009	0.01
November 2009	0.33
December 2009	0.36
January 2010	3.76

NO. 554 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

WITHHOLDING TAX REGIME

Can Government state the amount of tax paid to the UK as a result of the Withholding Tax Regime option under the EU Tax Directive in respect of the UK tax years 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Not enough to plug the UK Government's budget deficit but, in:-

2005/2006	£75,020.05
2006/2007	£421,984.11
2007/2008	£379,801.55

The amount for 2008/2009 is in the process of being collated and transferred and is tentatively estimated at £383,000.

NO. 555 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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 payments, compared to residents, since the answer to Question No. 1192 of 2009 and if so by whom and when were the representations made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as stated in answer to Question No. 1192 of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 556 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government confirm that the value of imports into bond is included in the import figure (excluding petroleum products) of £425.7 million for 2007, and how much did it amount to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 557 to 563 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 557 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government confirm that the value of imports into bond is included in the import figure (excluding petroleum products) of £449.8 million for 2008, and how much did it amount to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 556 and 558 to 563 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 558 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government confirm that the value of re-exports ex bond is included in the export figure (excluding petroleum products) of £151.8 million for 2007, and how much did it amount to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 556, 557 and 559 to 563 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 559 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government confirm that the value of re-exports ex bond is included in the export figure (excluding petroleum products) of £154 million for 2008, and how much did it amount to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 556 to 558 and 560 to 563 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 560 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government state the value of imports of petroleum products in 2007, 2008 and 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 556 to 559 and 561 to 563 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 561 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government state the value of exports of petroleum products in 2007, 2008 and 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 556 to 560, 562 and 563 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 562 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government state the import value by main country of origin, excluding petroleum products in 2009, providing a breakdown by country?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 556 to 561 and 563 of 2010.

NO. 563 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government state the value of imports from EU countries, excluding petroleum products, in 2009 and give a breakdown by country?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The imports value figures do not include the value of imports into bonds. The value of goods that go into bond are only included in the import figures when they pass from bond into local circulation.

The value of exports from bond is included in the export figures of £151.8 million and £154 million for 2007 and 2008 respectively, and amounted to £92.2 million and £92 million respectively.

The value of imports of petroleum products in 2007 and 2008 stood at £897 million and £1.161 billion respectively that is £1,161.8 million.

The 2009 figures requested are not yet available.

ORAL

NO. 564 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

WATERPORT TERRACES – COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Can Government provide the dates on which visits took place by inspectors to the Waterport Terraces development to establish compliance with legal requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 564**Dates of visits by inspectors to the Waterport Terraces development:**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	-	16,30.	11,17,25.	-	20, 23, 26, 28	
February	-	1,7,16,20.	19	6,13.	20	8
March	-	6,29,31.	15,16.	18,24,25,26, 28,31.	2, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 24, 31	
April	-	21.	17,18,20,26.	17,28.	2	
May	-	3,9,17,31.	11,22,23,24,25, 29,31.	-	11	
June	-	5,20,21.	1,4,5,6,7,8, 12,13,15,20,21, 22,26.	-	2, 16, 17, 26	
July	-	4,14,17,27.	22,4	22, 25, 31	6, 7, 8, 23	
August	15,18.	7,8,9,16,21, 23,25,29.	25.	14, 21, 22, 26.	6, 14, 18	
September	8,28.	-	-	4,9,11, 30	16.	
October		-	-	23, 27, 30	6, 19, 22, 26, 27.	
November	15,18,23.	3,7,20.	-	10, 13, 18, 25	13, 16 to 20, 17,25, 27	
December	8,15.	11.	-	2, 5, 8, 11, 23	2.	

NO. 565 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

WATERPORT TERRACES – CONTRACT AWARDED BY GRPI TO BRUESA

Can Government confirm that the contract to build Waterport Terraces was awarded to Bruesa by GRPI Company Limited, and if so, does the transfer of the building contract to GJBS carry with it any outstanding liabilities from the previous contractor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The contract for the construction of Waterport Terraces and Albert Risso House was awarded to Brues y Fernandez Gibraltar SA (which has very recently changed its name to Gibralcon 2004 SA) by GRP Investments Company Limited. That is to say the contract was awarded to that Spanish company by GRP Investments Company Limited now called Gibraltar Residential Properties Limited. So indeed both companies have changed their names since the contract was issued. The Gibraltar Government company has changed its name from GRP Investments Company Limited to Gibraltar Residential Properties Limited and the construction company has changed its name from Brues y Fernandez Gibraltar SA to Gibralcon 2004 SA, presumably, although I speculate, in an attempt to protect the Brues y Fernandez name from the indignity of abandoning a subsidiary.

This contract was terminated by Gibraltar Residential Properties Limited on 24th December 2009.

The new contract with Gibraltar Joinery and Building Services Limited is for the completion of three blocks at Waterport Terraces and Albert Risso House. It does not carry with it any outstanding liabilities from the previous contractor.

ORAL

NO. 566 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CONSOLIDATED FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide a total estimated Consolidated Fund expenditure for this financial year to 30 September 2009, giving a breakdown by head of expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 567 to 573 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 567 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

CONSOLIDATED FUND – REVENUE

Can Government provide a total estimated Consolidated Fund revenue for this financial year to 30 September 2009, giving a breakdown by head of revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 and 568 to 573 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 568 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

I & D FUND – EXPENDITURE

Based on expenditure to date, does Government still expect to spend almost £106 million from the I&D Fund in the current financial year and if not what is the most recent estimate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 566, 567 and 569 to 573 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 569 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

I&D FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide the total estimated Improvement and Development Fund expenditure for this financial year to 30th September 2009 giving a breakdown by head of expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 to 568 and 570 to 573 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 570 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

I&D FUND – REVENUE

Can Government provide the total estimated Improvement and Development Fund revenue for this financial year to 30th September 2009 giving a breakdown by head of revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 to 569 and 571 to 573 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 571 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GDC – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide the total estimated Gibraltar Development Corporation expenditure for this financial year to 30th September 2009 giving a breakdown as between Employment and Training and other divisions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 to 570, 572 and 573 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 572 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GDC – RECEIPTS

Can Government provide the total estimated Gibraltar Development Corporation receipts for this financial year to 30th September 2009 giving a breakdown as between Employment and Training and other divisions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 to 571 and 573 of 2010.

NO. 573 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GDC – RECEIPTS

Can Government provide the estimated total Gibraltar Development Corporation revenue for this financial year to 30th September 2009 giving a breakdown as follows:

- (a) ESF;
- (b) Consolidated Fund Head 1B;
- (c) Miscellaneous;
- (d) Other Receipts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a series of statements based on Treasury records as they currently stand setting out the information that the hon Member has requested.

Contd Answer to Question 573 of 2010

Answer to Question 566/2010

CONSOLIDATED FUND EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
1A Education	£12,138,155.23
1B Training	£458,418.94
2A Culture and Heritage	£1,042,448.32
2B Sport and Leisure	£1,079,216.83
3A Housing - Administration	£1,125,560.28
3B Housing - Buildings and Works	£3,622,625.81
4A Environment	£7,311,541.35
4B Technical Services	£2,628,563.08
4C Tourism	£1,289,059.67
5A Family and Community Affairs	£13,142,481.99
5B Youth	£179,483.15
6A Enterprise	£1,222,959.57
6B Transport - Port and Shipping	£530,494.20
6C Transport - Aviation	£1,543,152.53
6D Transport, Vehicle, Traffic and Public Transport	£685,746.76
6E Postal Services	£1,213,747.02
6F Broadcasting	£952,764.17
6G Utilities	£7,824,907.77
7A Health	£12,768,000.00
7B Civil Contingency	£147,061.06
7C Fire Service	£1,721,765.69
8A No. 6 Convent Place	£3,822,289.96
8B Human Resources	£359,109.06
9A Finance Ministry	£216,439.63
9B Treasury	£2,265,088.01
9C Customs	£2,256,892.58
9D Income Tax	£1,018,254.26
9E Finance Centre	£607,980.25
10 Employment, Labour and Industrial Relations	£897,874.66
11A Justice Ministry	£306,964.56
11B Supreme Court	£327,170.53
11C Magistrates' and Coroner's Court	£223,008.58
11D Attorney General's Chambers	£312,978.90
11E Prison	£648,764.75
11F Policing	£4,876,332.14
12 Immigration and Civil Status	£1,202,444.47
13 Parliament	£646,722.89
14 Gibraltar Audit Office	£302,075.90
15 Supplementary Provision	£0.00
16 Exeptional Expenditure	£405,819.18
	<u>£93,324,363.73</u>

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 573 of 2010

Contd Answer to Question 566/2010

CONSOLIDATED FUND CHARGES

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
01 Statutory Offices	£262,953.57
02 Judicature	£325,952.19
03 Pensions	£12,339,668.48
04 Employer's Contributions	£1,624,132.89
05 Public Debt Charges	£5,124,427.09
06 Public Services Ombudsman	£104,827.54
07 Revenue Repayment	£11,512.95
08 Public Debt Repayment	£0.00
	<u>£19,793,474.71</u>

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 573 of 2010

Answer to Question 567/2010

CONSOLIDATED FUND REVENUE

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
1 Income Taxes	£63,171,200.38
2 Duties, Taxes and Other Receipts	£31,082,455.24
3 Gambling Fees, Taxes and Lottery	£4,806,972.67
4 Rates and Rents	£9,220,225.92
5 Departmental Fees and Receipts	£5,789,267.54
6 Government Earnings	£2,999,081.42
7 Exceptional Item	£0.00
	<u>£117,069,203.17</u>

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 573 of 2010

Answer to Question 568/2010

Improvement and Development Fund expenditure for the current financial year is now estimated to be in the region of £90 million.

Answer to Question 569/2010

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND – EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
101 Departmental	£2,835,753.57
102 Projects	<u>£36,190,015.65</u>
	<u>£39,025,769.22</u>

Answer to Question 570/2010

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND - REVENUE

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
101 Contributions and Loans	£8,486,600.00
102 Sale of Government Properties and Other Premia	£240,397.00
103 Grants	£44,246.56
104 Reimbursements	<u>£53,875.48</u>
	<u>£8,825,119.04</u>

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 573 of 2008

Answer to Question 571/2010

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Expenditure

Employment and Training	<u>£630,799.55</u>
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OTHER DIVISIONS

Expenditure

Other Divisions	<u>£2,498,065.23</u>
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Answer to Question 572 - 573/2010

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – REVENUE

1 APRIL 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
12 FEBRUARY 2010

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Revenue

Contribution by European Social Fund	£173,978.00
Contribution from Consolidated Fund - Head 10	£382,500.00
Miscellaneous	£59,769.50
	<u>£616,247.50</u>

OTHER DIVISIONS

Revenue

Other Receipts	<u>£2,498,065.23</u>
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Note:

As can be seen from the Estimates, there are two main contributions from the Consolidated Fund to the Gibraltar Development Corporation, one in respect of staff services and another contribution from Head 10 - Employment, Labour and Industrial Relations.

ORAL

NO. 574 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – FUNDING

Can Government state what funding, if any, has been provided to Community Care to date in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No funding has been provided to Community Care to the date that this question was prepared. I do not know if it has been made in the last day or two. However, in any event, an estimated grant of £1.6 million, payable from the Social Assistance Fund, is expected to be made before the end of the current financial year.

ORAL

NO. 575 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

LEVEL OF AGGREGATE AND NET PUBLIC DEBT

Can Government state as at the end of each month since August 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. 576 to 579 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 576 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of 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. 1157 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 575 and 577 to 579 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 577 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – PUBLIC DEBT

Has there been any change in the level of public debt held by Gibraltar Community Care Limited since the answer to Question No. 1158 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 575, 576, 578 and 579 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 578 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEPOSITS

Can Government say what was the level of (a) non-Government deposits and (b) Government deposits, in the Savings Bank Fund as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 724 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 575 to 577 and 579 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 579 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

On behalf of The Hon J J Bossano

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES/BONDS

Can Government state what sales of Government bonds or debentures to the public have taken place each month since the answer to Question No. 727 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will now hand the hon Member a statement giving the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question 579

Answer to Question 575

	Aggregate Public Debt £'M	Cash Reserves £'M	Net Public Debt £'M
September 2009	371.4	254.4	117.0
October 2009	374.1	248.1	126.0
November 2009	377.5	246.8	130.7
December 2009	377.8	228.0	149.8
January 2010	381.3	237.4	143.9

Answer to Question 576

The amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loans from local banks since October 2009 is as follows:-

Date	Barclays	Natwest	Total
October 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
November 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
December 2009	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
January 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000

Answer to Question 577

Gibraltar Community Care Limited currently holds £1,589,900 in Government of Gibraltar Debentures.

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 579

Answer to Question 578

Revised figures on the level of Savings Bank Deposits for April and May 2009 are as follows:

	Non-Govt Deposits £'M	Govt Deposits £'M
April 2009	100.5	121.1
May 2009	98.5	266.0

The level of Savings Bank Deposits stood as follows:

	Non-Govt Deposits (tentative) £'M	Govt Deposits (tentative) £'M
June 2009	96.7	259.2
July 2009	92.5	254.8
August 2009	91.3	255.4
September 2009	87.5	247.6
October 2009	86.9	236.4
November 2009	85.5	226.8
December 2009	84.2	222.2
January 2010	88.5	232.1

Answer to Question 579

Government has issued the following Debentures to the public:

	Total Issues (Sales)
June 2009	£6,274,300
July 2009	£16,472,100
August 2009	£8,793,900
September 2009	£9,136,500
October 2009	£5,090,300
November 2009	£4,409,800
December 2009	£4,068,300
January 2010	£4,704,800
	<hr/> <hr/> £58,950,000

ORAL

NO. 580 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES

Can Government state which department controls the budget for the Construction and Training Centre, the Vocational Training Scheme, Cammell Laird/Gibdock Apprenticeship or any other training scheme which is currently available?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 581 of 2010.

NO. 581 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES

Can Government state which Government department is in charge, and thereby monitors and runs the Vocational Training Scheme, the Construction and Training Centre and the Apprentices Scheme at Cammell Laird?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

All matters appertaining to vocational training are the joint responsibility of the Department of Education and Training and the Employment Service. Vocational Training is intrinsically linked to employment whilst training in general is the domain of the Department of Education and Training. To this effect, the Government's Training Officer is the principal link between the two departments concerned.

In this manner, the Training funds budget comes under the Education and Training Department whilst the operational control of the Vocational Training Scheme and related programmes is the responsibility of the Employment Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 580 AND 581 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has just stated that there are two departments running training. Does that mean that any mistakes in budgetary... For example, he has just said that the Department of Education has the budget whilst the Employment Service has the actual running of it and there is only one person that coordinates between one department and another. Is that correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

The coordination is essentially at the beginning by the Training Officer but of course then the Director of Employment will also have a say if there are any problems related to budgetary problems.

HON S E LINARES:

In the coordination aspect, are there regular meetings between one department and another in relation to training.

HON L MONTIEL:

Training is a matter which is very clearly defined. The Education Department does the training which pertains to their responsibilities and the Employment Service does the training pertaining to vocational training which is something that my department is fully organised to undertake. If there are to be discussions on any matter related to training, there is no question of there not being any meetings coordinated by the Training Officer.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Department of Education then have a say in the courses and all the actual running, for example, of the vocational training. Do the educational advisers have input into the vocational training and any aspect of the apprenticeship?

HON L MONTIEL:

The Education Department will have an input when we ask them to support us in any particular aspect of training. For example, if we want to improve standards in schools in order to be able to have a better catchment of students for vocational training, we consult the Education Department so they can help in that particular area of work. But when it comes to actual development of training schemes, vocational training schemes, that is the sole responsibility of the Employment Service.

HON S E LINARES:

But yet the Minister says that budgetary issues and all the money comes from the Education Department. Correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

We do not have any problems in that direction and we foresee no problem in that direction because the coordination is very open and very successful, I must say.

NO. 582 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

FINING OF EMPLOYERS IN TRANSPORT INDUSTRY FOR USING ILLEGAL LABOUR

Can Government say what fines have been issued to employers in the transport industry for using illegal labour on an annual basis from the financial year 2006/2007 to date, with a breakdown by financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

No fines have been issued to employers in the transport industry for using illegal labour from the financial year 2006/2007 to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 582 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

In the light of that answer, are the Government satisfied that every effort is being made, in the particular industry that we are talking about, to make sure that there is no illegal labour and the fact that there are no fines imposed during these last four years suggest that the Government are satisfied that illegal labour has not been used or is a problem in that particular industry?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government are not satisfied about that in this or in many other industries. It is self evident from the coordinated approach to this problem now, which the Government warmly welcomes, between the Government, Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Business and indeed the Trade Unions who have now aligned their respective positions and approaches to an approach to non-compliance generally across the whole range of taxation which is now company tax, PAYE, social insurance contributions and other compliance requirements. In this process that I have alluded to, measures are being consensualised to the greatest possible degree between the various participants which will result in the Government making announcements in due course about a whole panoply of measures all designed to bring about in Gibraltar a greater climate of compliance than has historically been the case in many areas of taxation including, but not limited to, the sector that the hon Member raises and indeed all manner of taxes. But the question, limited as it is to

one sector, does empathise with one of the approaches in the emerging consensus and that is that there should be a more sector by sector approach. In other words, instead of a scattergun approach where the Government just goes for individual employers right across the economy, a more structured, organised approach of tackling one sector at a time and saying, for example, to the transport sector or to the bar and restaurant sector, look you have a month to put your house in order because a month from now we are going to be concentrating on assessing and evaluating compliance broadly within this sector in all the players in it is thought by some of our stake holders in this process to be a more, that sort of focussed approach is thought to be so. We will in future be bringing a more sectorial approach but at the moment I think it is true to say that the Government have not adopted that approach and therefore to ask questions about the transport industry, like asking questions about any other, the Government are not satisfied that there is a sufficiently... Put it another way, I think the climate of compliance, the climate of tax administration and the climate of policing of compliance has historically been in Gibraltar too benign. As the Government tries to lower taxation across the board for everybody, that benign climate of compliance and enforcement has got to be tightened so that by everybody paying their dues then everybody else can pay less.

HON G H LICUDI:

We are grateful for that explanation. We certainly agree that there is a greater need to ensure compliance at all levels and not just this particular sector that is the subject matter of this particular question but across all sectors. The hon Member will be aware that there have been public pronouncements and issues raised about in particular another industry, the construction. The construction industry in particular has been highlighted in the past. This question deals with a separate industry. The fact that there have been no fines imposed over the last four years would appear to suggest one of two things. Either that there has been full compliance by that industry which appears not to be the case or that there has not been sufficient, dare I say, effort or resources allocated to ensure compliance because the hon Member will agree that we have the necessary legislation in place. This is not a case of there being a need to review regulations to ensure compliance. The legislation is in place. The enforcement officers, I understand, are in place in the hon Minister's department. I am slightly concerned and perhaps I could ask the hon Member to expand on this, why has there been this more benign approach in the past. Not just sector by sector but generally across the board which has allowed what the hon Member and everybody will agree, will clearly be an unfair system whereby some employers get away with employing illegal labour and therefore not contributing their dues, creating a system which is not fair across the board, in terms of employees and the payment of all dues and taxes. Is it because there have not been enough resources allocated to the hon Minister's department and is that something that is now going to be redressed and what measures does the hon Member envisage are now going to be taken to redress the benign approach in the past to a more strict approach, which is what I understand will now happen in the future?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Firstly, the benign approach is not recent. I think historically in Gibraltar, going back for ever, we have had, as a community, a benign approach to the enforcement, benign meaning an unaggressive approach, to the enforcement of taxation and not limited just to this sort of thing like employing illegal labour or withholding PAYE contributions or not forwarding it. I think it has been an approach across the whole

board of Government revenue enforcement, extending also to income tax administration and therefore I think this is something, this benign approach has afflicted both the administration's... both the Government's and therefore the tax payers perceive that they are operating in this climate of benign non-aggressive enforcement and therefore feel that there is insufficient incentive for those who are minded to get away with whatever they can get away, not to comply and there is an across the board approach now which is not new. The Government have tried in the past to tackle this area of non-compliance, not in transport but by employers generally and I remember at the time that we were severely criticised by the Chamber of Commerce for introducing measures which were "too draconian" and I said but how can one be too draconian in deterring people from consciously avoiding and evading their tax dues. There cannot be degrees of draconianness. Either one wants to eradicate an activity, in which case one puts penalties so high that people will think twice before they do it or one does not. But the Government have been and we have done it not just as a matter of policy but because the Principal Auditor has been flagging up issues of this sort for many years. The difference now, which I think gives the Government a new impetus are various. First of all, the recent events with failing construction companies in which measures have already been introduced specific to construction companies to prevent that from happening again. Secondly, we now have all the social partners aligned complaining about the same things and suggesting more or less the same approach. The unions, the two employer organisations and the Government, and thirdly, as we enter an era of lower tax in Gibraltar, the Government have a fiscal need to tighten up on evasion and avoidance because only... What this community cannot afford is ever lowered taxes for those who pay whilst allowing those who do not pay to get away with it. That has got to... because unpaid taxes is a source of untapped revenue and that has got to be now harnessed because there is a greater need, because we are seeking to collect less from those who do pay. So, there is a series of measures. Resources may be an issue. Resourcing of enforcement mechanisms, not just the quantity of it but how they are structured. Where they are placed? How they might be unified? How they might be directed? How they might be coordinated? So the general issue of human resources for policing is certainly an element of the Government's broad approach but there are others. There is the question of the consequences to employers and companies and senior management of companies that engage consciously and premeditatedly in this activity and I think in the future the personal consequences are going to be much greater in terms of criminal liability. In terms of personal liability and in terms of their ability to be involved in future with the ownership, management of businesses when a previous business that they have been involved with has failed leaving serial non-compliance with tax obligations in its wake. There are name and shame approaches. There is a whole range of approaches in terms of deterrence. So there are enforcement resources. There is deterrence both by personal and legal and financial penalty and then there is this sector by sector approach. So, I think the hon Members will see and I hope that they will welcome and contribute to the evolution of this changed climate and in the future when they get the legislative opportunity to do so. I think the hon Members will see during the next six months a series of measures. Some administrative, some legislative, which move in this very clearly determined direction by the Government. The first evidence of it as I say has already happened although they may not be aware of it. There is now for Government contracts a scheme which will be imposed legislatively for everybody in the construction industry whereby there has to be a withholding. Each contractor has to withhold from subcontractors amounts relating to PAYE and Government taxes and that system is working very well already. But the hon Member will not have had an opportunity to see it unless he had a peep at it whilst it was lying in his law firm over the last few months but he will see in the new Income Tax Act new, extensive and very tough measures on anti avoidance and deterrence measures in relation to

income tax, PAYE, social insurance contributions and things of that sort. So, the measures are beginning to emerge but there is a whole range of further measures that will emerge from this multi-lateral process between the Government and... So, certainly I accept what the hon Member says that the Government have to look into as its... amongst all these other approaches, at enforcement resources but not just quantity, other aspects of enforcement resourcing too.

ORAL

NO. 583 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED IN SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY

Can Government state how many Gibraltarians are employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 584 of 2010.

NO. 584 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – NON-BRITISH EU WORKERS EMPLOYED IN SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY

Can Government state how many non-British EU Workers are presently employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar giving a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The number of Gibraltarians employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar as at the end of May 2010 is 92, and I will now hand over to the hon Member the other statistical information that is requested.

Answer to Question No. 584 of 2010

Number of non-British EU workers presently employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar, by nationality.

Nationality	Numbers
Spanish	54
Portuguese	12
Italian	1
Romanian	3
Bulgarian	19
Total	89

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 583 AND 584 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Whilst I wait for the answer to the other question. In relation to the number of Gibraltarians, I do not know if this is information that the hon Member has and perhaps if he does it would be helpful, can the hon Member tell us 92 out of a complement of how many, because there might be a difference if it is 92 out of 93 or 92 out of 5000. Does the hon Member have that information?

HON L MONTIEL:

When he gets the information I have provided he will have a better idea. But the hon Member must take into account as well that the numbers fluctuate in that particular industry not only of Gibraltarians working but in terms of other extra labour that the yard may require from time to time. The hon Member will notice that on this specific question, we have made it to May 2010 so as not to... because if he asked a question at another time he may get a different answer.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, but the question was, generally, does the hon Member know how many people are in total employed in the ship-repair industry?

HON L MONTIEL:

It fluctuates. There is no way that one can tell ...

HON G H LICUDI:

As at the end of May?

HON L MONTIEL:

At the end of May. It is calculated by the numbers that have been given here.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let's be clear what use we make of the information given in these answers which are the answers to the questions specifically asked. The hon Member appears not to be interested about non-Gibraltarian British people.

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxx

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has asked how many Gibraltarians are employed and he has had the answer. He has asked how many non-British EU nationals are employed but he has not asked about how many non-Gibraltarian British are employed. So the total of these two answers is not necessarily the total employed in the yard because he has not asked the right question. The question that he is asking is not capable of a precise answer because there is fluctuation but give or take the permanent ... limiting the detached workers and all these people that come in and out, in but not out often enough, the permanent cadre is somewhere between, I think it is around 220, 230. It fluctuates around that level.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member know in respect of this figure whether that is simply the permanent complement or those actually contracted on a permanent or temporary basis or whether it includes, or that is the number of jobs in the industry, including casual workers and we have had a discussion previously as to what is a casual worker and the legal definition of a casual worker. But is 220, the figure that has been given, the number of jobs available or simply the number of people that are registered with the Employment Service.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The information that I gave him from, give and take, is the sort of level at which full-time equivalent posts exist on a more or less permanent basis, excluding people that come in for very short periods of time, whether it is as detached workers or as casual workers. There is a large incidence of all sorts of working in every ship repair yard by the very nature of its activity which is the answer that he has had from the Minister. Now, there are a number of posts which is around the 230 mark which is the level of, call it if you want, indefinite type of employment. What you and I would call as layman, permanentish sort of posts in the yard.

NO. 585 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY APPRENTICES

Can Government state whether all or any of the five apprentices who were trained by the ship-repair industry but were subsequently dismissed are now in employment in the field in which they were trained?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 586 of 2010.

NO. 586 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY APPRENTICES

Can Government state what has been the result to date of the intense work carried out by it with the ship-repair industry in order to maximise the industry's uptake from the new craft skills pool created by apprentices having completed their training?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the five apprentices who trained in the ship-repair yard, two are currently employed in the field in which they were trained.

As regards the intense work carried out by Government in trying to maximise employment opportunities in the ship-repair industry for locally resident workers, this cannot be exclusively measured in respect of the resulting number of trained apprentices being taken on.

When I referred to this intense work by Government, in answer to Question No. 4 of 2010, I was not limiting myself to uptake of trained apprentices, much as the question by the hon Member opposite appears to be intended to limit my reply in this direction.

In relation to the uptake of trained apprentices, and as I have previously explained, it will always be the Government's expectation, like that of the individuals concerned, that an employment position be offered. This must also be the reasonable expectation of the employer undertaking to train the individual and thus seek a return on the training investment. The reality, however, is that there is never a guarantee of employment as such.

It is also a reality that such trained apprentices, undoubtedly, stand a better chance of finding employment by the simple reason that they are trained in a specific trade.

Whilst not all apprentices may be taken on by the ship-repair industry, those that do not will be well equipped to secure a job in their trade or related to it and even to progress beyond craft trade level.

Completing an apprenticeship programme is a success in its own right for the individual concerned and never a failure because the individual has failed to land related employment at the first attempt.

Coming back to the intense work by Government that the hon Member has chosen to quote from my answer to Question No. 4 of 2010, I have to insist that such work is

ongoing and in turn I will not quote to avoid repetition but will refer the hon Member to the Chief Minister's related contribution as part of the supplementaries to this same Question No. 4 of 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 585 AND 586 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member says and I believe I quote his words "whilst not all may be taken on by the ship-repair industry", the reality is that none have been taken on. Of the five who were trained, they were all dismissed. So it is not a question of not all been taken because if one has a situation where five are trained but eventually one has capacity only for three or four, that is one thing but if five are trained in an enterprise in which the Government appears to be participating, because they have described it as a joint initiative between themselves and the shipping industry and none of them are employed at all, that suggests and would the hon Member not agree, some sort of failure by the Government because it has not ensured as part of its partnership arrangement with that industry and part of the training that at least some of those are taken on. That is the first part. The second part of the supplementary relates to... What seems to me that the hon Member is doing is moving away from the answer that he gave to Question No. 4 of 2010 by saying well my reference to the intense work did not relate to this and it has been taken out of context. That was the gist of the answer given by the hon Member. Well it has not been taken out of context and it was precisely words uttered in relation to this specific issue and let me quote what the hon Member said at the time. "Whilst it is to be noted that taking an apprenticeship and successfully completing an apprenticeship does not constitute a guarantee of employment, it is still the Government's expectation, let alone that of the successful apprentice, that an employment position will be offered. To this effect, the Government is working intensely with the ship-repair industry in order to maximise its uptake from the new crafts skills pool". In other words, to this effect in order to fulfil the Government's expectation and the expectation of the individual that he will be taken on and therefore the question was what has been the result of that intense work for that purpose because that intense work was stated to be for that purpose and does the hon Member now acknowledge that that work whether intense or not has proved to be a complete and utter failure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Neither the Minister nor indeed his colleagues sitting next to him will subscribe to such a view. What he can say if he wants is that the Government's intense work has not yet succeeded in finding permanent job placements for these groups of individuals. But look, there is a serious political banter to one side. There is a serious point here which the hon Members miss and which demonstrates that should they ever find themselves on this side of the House, Gibraltar will once again be an apprenticeship desert as it was when they were last in office. It is only since this Government has been in office that we have been able to restore the system of apprenticeship that they so carefully dismantled despite their alleged subscription to the promotion of worker rights. Look, if the Government and now I am going to talk about Governments generically not this Government or any future or any past Government. If Governments signal to private sector partners that helping the Government establish apprenticeship schemes gives them an obligation to employ people that they help to train up whether they need them or not, well I think you do

not need to be... it is not rocket science to work out what the result will be. No private sector employer will ever agree to help the Government with an apprenticeship scheme because why should a private sector employer to boot come to the assistance of the community at the price of having to employ people that it does not need. The purpose of apprenticeship schemes is not to guarantee employment for the trainees in the organisation that has trained them. The purpose of apprenticeship schemes is to endow youngsters in this community with skills which then make them mobile, employable mobile, gives them personal formation which they can apply to better, to get themselves better jobs and with it better personal economies in the future. But of course it would be preferable and it is the Government's expectation and I would add hope, that as many as possible of people that have been trained in Gibdocks as it is now called, would be able to find work in Gibdocks. It has not yet happened and I agree therefore that there is more work to be done by the Government in trying to persuade Gibdocks to take on more people. But more people generally, more Gibraltarians and other local residents generally. The idea of endowing local residents with skills is that when jobs then do become available... the fact that somebody has got a skill does not mean that an employer has got a job for him. But if we give him the skills, when there are jobs available it is more likely that Gibraltarians and residents will be able to successfully shoehorn into them. What would be unacceptable to the Government, as I am sure equally unacceptable to the hon Members opposite, is that there being Gibraltarians available with the necessary training and skills, that they should continue to prefer outside workers in preference to available and trained local workers. That is what is unacceptable. So this debate does not... I realise it lends itself to a cheap political headline which will appeal to the five apprentices and their families. Alright, I understand that that is what Opposition's like and need to do and I accept that as part of the political banter, but let it not blind us from the real issues here which are much more complex, as he well knows, than the treatment that he has sought to give politically to this issue which is both superficial and inadequate.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member is wrong in many respects but in particular in these two respects. He describes it as cheap political points, but he started off by making a cheap political point about apprenticeships being dismantled. That is not a view to which we subscribe or with which we agree. That is a distortion of history in Gibraltar as in fact there have been distortions of many other aspects and facts of history in Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Who closed down the training centre?

HON G H LICUDI:

That is a distortion and the hon Member knows it.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question here and the hon Member asks, rhetorically, why should an employer employ somebody that they do not need? Well, that is absolutely right. Why should an employer employ somebody that they do not need? But why should an employer train somebody that they do need and then dismiss that person to employ somebody else? That is precisely the nub of the complaint in relation to this industry and that is what caused the outrage of one particular courageous individual who had what it takes to expose publicly this particular industry whilst the hon Member, the Minister opposite, stood by pale faced and embarrassed because he had nothing to say to that response. The fact is that five people were trained in a scheme in which the Government participated. The fact is that jobs are and were available and the fact is that none of them were kept on specifically to employ somebody else and the figures that had been given about 92 Gibraltarians being employed in an industry where over 200 are employed are in fact staggering because people are being trained for that industry and not being taken on in preference to outside workers. Now, the hon Member has said that that is unacceptable. If that is unacceptable and if the Government are carrying out intense work with the ship-repair industry, what are the Government going to do about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only distortions introduced into the debate are introduced by the hon Member who continues to deal with issues as superficially as the depth of his knowledge permits him. It is simply not the case. Firstly, it ought not to be necessary for me to lecture a fellow member of the legal profession, that to use the phrase dismissed, in relation to an apprentice who was never an employee in the first place, is an abomination and an aberration and a distortion.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member give way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member give way just on that particular point?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. They have not been dismissed.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will be happy ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I quote the hon Minister?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

Then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is why I said it ought not to be necessary for me to lecture a fellow member of the legal profession which he is not.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

I simply intervene to correct that statement because ... and to prevent the hon Member embarrassing his Minister any further because the answer that was given to the last question in relation to this particular issue by the Minister was "In this connection, five apprenticeships were initially taken on and were subsequently dismissed". They are their words not ours.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is an abomination?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. I very carefully chose my words about it should not be necessary for me to lecture a fellow member of the legal profession.

HON XXXX

Xxxx

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, what it means is that non lawyers sometimes use terminology loosely but lawyers should not fall into the same traps. That is exactly what it means. But look, as to whether I was distorting or not distorting anything when I last spoke, I certainly was not distorting anything when I said he was just trying to make cheap political points without descending into the complex issues because it is clear from the hon Member's style what the point is that he really wants to make because if the point that emerges when his voice is at its loudest and the pitch is at its highest and it is sort of like radio waves and his pitch was at its highest and his voice was at its loudest when he was saying that the Minister was standing pale faced and embarrassed next to this poor trainee. So, I think from that we can deduce that the sole point of his interest in this matter is actually not the apprentice or the fact that there are now apprenticeship schemes in Gibraltar which never existed before. It is not the fact that these four apprentices, whilst not yet having a job, at least have skills which they would not have had if it were a GSLP Government sitting on this side of the House. He is not interested in any of that. All he is interested in is pointing out political pale-face and embarrassment for the Minister who had to witness this tirade from this heroic apprentice who plucked up the courage. Well, one of the great advantages of Gibraltar today is that it is not necessary to pluck up courage to say things against the Government even with a Minister standing next to you. But the hon Member provides the evidence for that with his own statements. Look, of course we want to see these young men absorbed into employment because, of course, there is another side to the coin. If young people make the effort to get qualifications, whether it is in the construction training centre or in any other form of apprenticeship scheme, and then it does not help them very much in getting employment, this acts as a disincentive to others to follow suit. So, of course the Government has an interest in seeing that these young men find work as soon as possible either in the ship-repair yard or in some other industry for which the training that they have received is suitable. But the hon Member must have sufficient knowledge of employment law and other legal principles, generally. Well, he shrugs. It is him that shrugs not me. I assume that is in his favour even if he does not want to assume it in his own favour to know that it is not possible legally for the Government to coerce employers, even employers that have participated in apprenticeship training schemes, to employ people. The question of whether these five men were dismissed in order to make way for foreigners which would be in my view an objectionable thing that the employer ought to be hauled over the coals for if it had happened is not as simple and as simplistic as the hon Member uses for political effect. Ship-repair company has a ship in port with a very specific job to be done needing specific skills. He cannot necessarily service that requirement from recently trained inexperienced trainees. The needs of the employer at a particular time, when he makes employment decisions, have got to be taken into account. But he must understand that the Government does not spend the money training Gibraltarians and other residents young or old to acquire skills, to watch employers, without the Government at least taking them to one side and saying, look this is not part of the social deal. We may not have legal powers but we expect you to then maximise your absorption of these people into your organisation. That is true and it is going to become increasingly true of the construction industry, the ship repair industry, the financial services industry where we are spending money training people up in various training courses that exist. So, we have got to distinguish here between the desirable

objectives which I am sure we share on both sides of the House which is that trained residents should then be able to get the jobs that become available. We have got to separate that from the means available to Government in a law abiding society to bring about its desire and the Government cannot dictate that this should be the case. The Government have persuasive powers which I think it is bound to deploy in favour of the common and presumably common desired objective. For the hon Member to say it is a failure because you have not done so, suggests that the Government have more power to bring it about than he knows to be the case. So, I am quite happy to take sort of the political ankle taps in the sense of the political fray. But beneath that political debate there has got to be an understanding of the realities, both the Government's objectives, why the Government invest public funds in training and what limited recourses there are to the Government to make employers cooperate with those objectives and that desire. He can be absolutely certain that the Government will invest whatever effort it takes to use its persuasive powers and its dialogue powers to bring that result about, but if he sets the bar of failure or success simply at the question of whether it has happened or not, that is an over estimation of the Government's power. He is sending out the signal, the wrong signal, to people that the Government have the power to bring this about and simply choose not to exercise it because it does not care whether Gibraltarians or foreigners are employed. That is a wholly unreasonable, unfair, inaccurate, incorrect analysis of the situation and he must not do it.

HON G H LICUDI:

There is obviously a serious issue surrounding this matter and quite apart from the political points that the hon Member and myself might make across the floor of this House, the hon Member will know and will understand that there are matters of concern to people out there. These five individuals who are trained, other people who might be undergoing training, people who may face a similar situation in the future and it is certainly not my style or my purpose simply to make cheap political against the hon Member. That is just an aside and the hon Member knows that but I do not want that impression to be given. The hon Member has talked of the bar of failure and where that is set. Clearly, we acknowledge that the legal powers that the Government have are constrained by what the legal framework is. But there are other powers. There are powers of persuasion and we had understood that when we were told that there was intense work being carried out it was not that the employer was being brought in and being threatened with the prosecution or threatened with legal measures if they did not carry out the Government's wish. Clearly, the Government could not do that. But there was an element of dialogue, and element of work which was being carried out jointly in order to persuade the employer that it was desirable at least that when apprentices are trained they should, if there are vacancies, be taken on and my reference to failure was failure in that respect. That to the extent that the Government are intensely working with the industry to try to persuade them to take some people on, they had not achieved at all and the fact that they have not achieved that at all suggests, certainly at this stage, a failure on that particular policy. There might be success in three months time. There might be success in a year's time but certainly at this stage it suggests a failure of that particular policy. But going back to a more serious point. Perhaps the hon Member can tell us this. Going forward, does the hon Member envisage that there are going to be other people in the same situation? In other words, are there apprentices, are there people undergoing training under the scheme at the moment who may well find themselves in the same predicament in six months time or in a year's time and if so what extra efforts are the Government going to take in order to ensure that what has

happened this year or last year certainly does not repeat itself. I am not sure he has heard me. Does the hon Member want me to repeat the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, because I do not think that either the preamble to the question or the question adds much or contradicts much than what I have already said. If all that the hon Member is saying is that we have not yet succeeded in, or rather, that these young men have not yet succeeded in finding work in the ship-repair yard, that is true. But that is not the Government's test of success or failure. The hon Member knows that there are issues about the degree of expectation that jobs may have been offered to them but not of the sort that they wanted. That they were making demands about the nature of the employment and the ... People lay down demands, and it is not just apprentices. It is sort of fishing federations as well. Red lines demands that the Government have got to comply with. This is sort of governance turned on its head. But anyway, so it is not as simple and I do not want to get into debating the affairs of individual citizens who because they have raised their public profile can be identified but it is not even as simple as to say that they were not offered employment. They may not all have been offered the sort of employment that they wanted and some of them have obtained employment elsewhere since because of the skills that the apprenticeship scheme gave them. So, not even the facts affecting this group are quite ... and I have tried to engage in a ... because I recognise it is an important issue. I have tried to engage in an exchange across the floor of the House to the hon Member just as he did with the issues on the principles and not focussing on the facts affecting these five particular individuals because I do not think it will be entirely right because they are identifiable. But I just want to flag up that if we were debating the facts in relation to these five individuals, my understanding of it is that there would be things that would need to be said on both sides perhaps and not just on the one side about exactly what it is that has happened here. But that does not affect the fact that we share the hon Member's view that local employers should prefer suitably trained and suitably experienced locally available labour and that there should be some degree of willingness. This is something, a debate that I have, for example, with elements of the Government as well. For example, sometimes in the GHA... The GHA trains people through schools of nurses and sends them on courses and things like this and then a vacancy comes up and they say the person needs to have three year's experience or four year's experience in this or that and I say well what is the point of training people and then you create vacancies and you write up the job description in a way that necessarily cannot be complied with by the trainees because the trainee necessarily will not have the experience that comes with a qualified worker. So, it is not just the question of employers having an obligation, I believe, to the community in which they operate. Not a legal obligation. But I think they have a moral obligation not just to prefer resident available suitable workers when they are available, but indeed in the case of recently qualified people, whether they be trainees or any other form of qualification, they have got to have some willingness to absorb some degree of insufficiently experienced labour payroll cost in order to give people an opportunity to acquire the experience that eventually will make them more useful to them as employers and these are conversations that the Government does have with employers. So there is a lot of dialogue. It is not just the question of employing Gibraltarians, because they have got to be suitably qualified and employers need people to do a particular job and they do not want people necessarily that have just obtained the qualification and cannot do the job that they need doing. Between those two positions, we have to work to create a situation where employers across the economy provide, carry some degree of what they would regard as not value for money cost by carrying some number of recently

qualified staff which they then continue to train on the job and make them experienced on the job. That also is a serious point which would feature in any approach to maximising the availability of local employment opportunities, especially for those who have gone to the trouble of trying to acquire some degree of qualification.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member, I am grateful for this, has answered the preamble to the question but not the question itself. The question that I asked in the last supplementary was looking to the future and I was wondering whether the Government was aware and what could be done in order to avoid a repetition of what has happened recently whereby people have been trained in a particular industry and not taken on in that industry and therefore the question was, "Is the Government aware how many people or how many apprentices are currently going through the process of being trained and does the Government know when they are going to finish and what the prospects for employment are". The point that needs to be made is... things have happened in the past which certainly we do not consider acceptable and from the Government's point of view, as we understand it, it is also not acceptable if jobs are available for people to be..., whether you call it dismissed or not taken on. But if there have been public remarks by one of the individuals and I agree we do not need to go into the individual circumstances, but there have been public remarks, and if those public remarks have the effect of changing things for the future so that people who are trained at the moment do not suffer the fate of those individuals in the past, then those public remarks by that brave individual would have been certainly worthwhile and ought to be congratulated. So, my question simply is, looking to the future, do we face the prospect of a repetition of what has happened recently and are the Government aware of any steps being taken to avoid that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Not beyond what we have spent 45 minutes debating. The hon member asks a question. Look, this young man is not some sort of Joan of Arc that has changed the landscape in the sense that it has carried the Government... he has carried his heroism in daring to speak out with a pale and embarrassed Minister standing by his side, as somehow carrying the Government reluctantly across the threshold of activity. The Government, except in the public sector, and even then there is a selection process, does not accept ... The Government has the obligation to maximise the opportunity for individuals to acquire personal skills that will make them as attractive as possible to employers. That is why the Government, to an unprecedented extent, this Government, have invested in offering training opportunities almost across the whole field of economic endeavour so that people have the opportunity to better their own appealability to employers but that does not go hand in hand with a guarantee that the Government will find you a job. There is no economy in the world, except, not even in centrally managed communist economies does the Government guarantee employment for everybody. The idea that the Government by spawning an apprenticeship and not just apprenticeship because there are training opportunities going, available across huge areas of the economy, that because the Government does that which is a legitimate, proper, necessary, responsible governmental area of activity, that the Government must somehow then accept that because there is one apprentice who in factual circumstances, which are not entirely yet in the public domain, has failed to get an employment immediately in the organisation in which he was being trained, that

therefore this is a great failure and the Government must be immediately put its hand up and say, *mea culpa*, and guarantee that this will never happen again, is a completely distorted, unrealistic, completely undeliverable assessment of the respective roles of the Government, citizens, employers in a mixed democratic economy and society. So, the answer is that we do not accept that the backdrop painted by the hon Member about this young man's valiance not having been in vain if the Government then takes xxxx. I think that that is a completely distorted and unrealistic assessment. Will the Government continue to try and do all that it can to assist these young men and other apprentices and other trainees in other areas to find the work that will satisfy them in the context of the training that they have done? Of course the Government will. Does the Government consider that it fails if there are one, five or fifteen cases in which it has not yet succeeded? No, that is not the definition of success and failure to which the Government holds itself. The fact of the matter is that training ought to be undertaken by people even if, at a given moment in time that they finish, there may not be immediate employment opportunities for them where they want it. Why? Because these moments will pass and will change and these skills will stay with them. So, it was not my Government and I am not sure it was exclusively their Government either that dismantled the apprenticeship scheme. Indeed, we have restored the apprenticeship scheme even in some areas of the public sector. So, it was not we who abandoned the original historical model in Gibraltar of apprenticeships in the private and, well, mainly in the public sector but even some in the private sector with big companies that used to operate then, followed by immediate employment. It was not us who dismantled it and we do not accept responsibility for the fact that it no longer exists. There are others who bear a greater responsibility than us and nor do I think it is necessarily a system that ought to be lamented that it no longer exists. There are more efficient ways of combining employment skills in a prosperous economy and the Government are doing all that is reasonably can to maximise those policies and to maximise ... But our definition of success or failure, I repeat and I finish, is not whether this young man or he and his four colleagues have or have not yet been employed in the organisation that helped the Government to train them because, I finish with something that I said at the beginning, if that is the moral obligation in terms of legal expectation or political demand, persuasion... attempts to persuade are a different matter, in terms of political ... if that is the level of responsibility placed on the private sector company that cooperates by providing training placements then we will soon run out of companies willing to do that and that is not a good thing for the youngsters involved.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that these five apprentices did not end their employment when they completed their apprenticeship but were in fact employed after being qualified on a probationary period of three months and dismissed at the end of the three months? Is that version incorrect because that is the version we have heard?

HON G H LICUDI:

That was the answer to the last question which was that they were employed for three months probationary period.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That's right.

HON G H LICUDI:

And they were subsequently dismissed. So, perhaps I can assist the hon Member by ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding of the facts just being ... is that they were taken on, on a temporary basis. Not employed indefinitely in the sense of full employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member still maintaining that lawyers do not think that people taken on, on a three months contract and then dismissed are being dismissed because ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. People taken on, on a temporary basis are not dismissed when their temporary period comes to an end.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member simplify this ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The definition in the law of dismissal when a contract terminates by the effluxion of time is no longer the case. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not in the circumstances of these individuals. No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government, because the Government seem to be talking originally, at least he seemed to be talking originally as if he was not aware that they had actually been working for three months having finished their apprenticeship and it seems peculiar that people should be told, look you are on a three month probation and then the person that has trained them for four years, tells them at the end of the probation they are not suitable. Well look, if the trainer has not found them suitable what chance is there that a third party that has not had them on the books for four years should find that they are not suitable. Indeed, is it not the case that when their

temporary, probationary period was ended and their contracts were not renewed, the work did not disappear, somebody else was taken on to do that work. That information must be available in the Employment Department.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I say, I am not willing to debate four particular individuals however much they may have been seeking the support of the hon Members opposite. I do not think this Parliament exists to debate the employment prospects of four individuals amongst a population of 30,000. Now, I do not believe that they were told, and I am just being told this now, I do not believe that they were told that they were not suitable. They were simply told that they were no employment opportunities for them in the yard at that time. It is not that they were told, you are incompetent, I have trained you for four years and I have only just realised that you are not up to any job, so please go.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is not what happened. But I am not going to ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has made a lot of statements to which I have been listening very carefully and throughout until now he has been making the statement on the presumption that we were pressing for people to have to give a guarantee of employment at the completion of the apprenticeship. His entire argument for the last 45 minutes has been, "look all that happened here is that people have been put into a four year apprenticeship programme without a guarantee of employment at the end of the four years and then the end of the four years has arrived and they have told them, look, sorry we have trained you for four years but at the moment there is no job" and his argument throughout the 45 minutes, and he has reminded us of it, is that "well, look if that is what we are expecting, we are wrong to expect it". It is not normal to expect it and that is all that has happened in this case. But it is not normal. I can assure the hon Member it is not normal for somebody to be trained in a company for four years and then to be given a three month probationary contract and then at the end of the contract to be told, he claims, there is no job for you even though he was on probation for three months, not that you are not up to the requirements of the jobs that there are. Well, neither of us can say with certainty exactly what was said because we were not there but it is very clear that it is not so much a question of these five individuals but a question of what happens at the end of the apprenticeship. I think it is normal that if the guy is told at the end of the apprenticeship, "look I am very sorry we had hoped there would be a job available when you finished, but it is not, but we will bear you in mind". That is one thing. But if the guy is told, you finish in September. Here you have got a three month contract on probation and then on the 1st January he is told that there is no job, "well look what has happened to the job that I have been doing for the last three months". I would have thought that a department would investigate given that there is an obligation to open vacancies and register terminations, to investigate whether in fact

what has happened is that at the end of the three months the jobs that they were doing still existed. If it had been simply that the employment terminated because the apprenticeship was completed, which has been the entire argument used today, then there would have been a different scenario and it is not because there are five or ten or twenty but because there is a difference in the two situations. Is it not the case that in fact very few, every year very few are employed of the people that they produce? Is that not the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

As I understand it and I spoke to these apprentices. They came to see me and we had a good discussion about the whole process that took place. I was very annoyed at the time of the situation because I felt that the company should do their utmost to try and keep them because I thought, given the information that had been provided about their training potential, that they were potentially good skilled workers and I was annoyed at the fact that they were not kept on. Management, however, took a different view. They took the view that, first and foremost, that they did not have... and apprentices know this, the right to be taken into permanent employment when they finish employment. The apprentices knew that and management are very insistent that that was the basis upon which they undertook this training scheme with us. Notwithstanding that we insisted on management. "Notwithstanding the fact that you are not, at this particular time, able to provide them permanent employment which is what they want, and the apprentices expected this, if I have been trained for four years then I want permanent employment". Management, and I intervened as well through the management, and I said look, keep them on and eventually you know, because they are good skilled workers, and they said, yes but we cannot offer them permanent employment because we are beyond sustainable levels of permanent employment but we will give them a temporary job. Now, the apprentices' version of what happened and what the management tell me are two completely different things.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, then!

HON L MONTIEL:

I am not prepared to enter into any details of what. At the beginning, I took the view that the apprentices were right and I defended their case with the management. The management, however, denied that some of the statements that had been made were correct. Notwithstanding, the reality is that these individuals were not... they decided then that they would not go and do any work up the yard unless it was under the terms that they wanted to enter. Then there was nothing that I could do in order to keep them in the yard in whatever capacity until the position got better and through sustainable levels of permanent employment, they would eventually get in. But that was not the case. Notwithstanding what I have said and to put everything in context, because you see it always comes from a particular angle of the Opposition. The Opposition obviously hits and try to make a song and dance of a small thing. The reality is that since 1998, 150 apprentices have been trained at the yard obtaining very successful qualifications. Admittedly, as always happens, of the 150 that have been trained, 25 per cent decided to do their own thing and leave before, but the majority of them undertook the training there to NVQ Levels 2 and 3, qualified

craftsmen. Many of them were taken on by the yard. Others have found very lucrative and important jobs within other spheres, areas of employment in Gibraltar. In the Electricity Authority, I see, for example, many people who work extremely well and in other areas of Government and in the private sector. In my employment statistics for this particular trade, I have only one or two people unemployed with NVQ qualifications. The majority of unemployed, unskilled labour and when I talk about intensively engaging it is because we are pushing the employers to take more and more of our people rather than use foreign labour and this is what we are doing. We do not have a skills problem with employers. We will have problems from time to time whereby they will not want to take apprentices that they think are not capable enough or otherwise, that they consider that their manning levels are such that they cannot sustain them at this particular point in time and that is the reality of the situation. Normally, people who train and have qualifications, sooner or later, get employment. That is the history of the unemployment list. The majority of people with qualifications, sooner or later, find employment. By the way, in answer to his question, 27 trainees are now undertaking apprenticeships, 18 of which have already obtained NVQ Level 2 and in September more young people will undertake the training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member and the Chief Minister have, throughout, both kept on talking about employers in the plural and apprenticeship schemes in the plural. Is it not the case that this is the only one? Presumably the NVQ in the construction industry and the NVQ placed with employers are not included in the concept of apprenticeships? This is something different, is it not? The apprenticeship is exclusively in Gibdock or is there any other apprenticeship scheme with any other private sector employer?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. We have the construction training schemes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They are not anybody's apprentices?

HON L MONTIEL:

No, but of course the modern way of doing apprenticeships is that they spend some time in the training centre and then they are moved with employers so that they start to build up their portfolio of competence but they are generally placed with employers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but the only apprenticeship scheme other than the ones that are run by the Government in the construction training centre is the one in Gibdock. There is no other employer that actually employs apprentices?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, there is. I am very happy to say that we have a very, very successful partnership arrangement with Gibtelecom and now we are training about 18 IT engineers and they are being trained by Gibtelecom.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, then there are two, one in Gibdock and one in Gibtelecom.

HON L MONTIEL:

And in the public sector we have a number of other schemes and eventually... and I appreciate the members also asking about these important things. Real questions about training because I am sure that there is a lot to be said about what we are doing about training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am just seeking information. I am not advertising. Is it the case or is it not the case that there are employers employing apprentices? These people have got a contract of employment with Gibdock as apprentices and that contract of employment as an apprentice has got a beginning and an end and there is another one, as the hon Member says, in Gibtelecom. Are there any other private sector employers with similar schemes or not?

HON L MONTIEL:

Not at the moment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not at the moment. Fair enough.

NO. 587 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – NOTICE OF STATE OF REDUNDANCY OF ONLINE GAMING CASINO 888

Can Government say on what date online gaming casino 888 owned by Cassava gave 60 days notice of consultation to the ETB regarding a state of redundancy by the company and can they confirm how many employees are affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

888.com gave 60 days notice of consultation to the Employment Service regarding a state of redundancy at the company on 27th April 2010. The number of employees that the company anticipates could be affected is at least 30. The consultation period has not yet elapsed.

ORAL

NO. 588 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government state the total number of frontier workers registered with the Employment Service at the end of each month since the end of January 2010?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 589 of 2010.

NO. 589 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality of the frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since December 2009?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 589/2010
Answer to Questions 588/2010 and 589/2010

Frontier Workers by Nationality since Dec 2010

Nationality	Dec-10	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
American	11	11	10	8	8	8
Argentinian	2	3	3	3	3	3
Australian	4	4	5	5	5	5
Austrian	7	6	7	7	7	8
Belgian	11	11	11	11	13	12
Bolivian	1	1				
Brazilian	4	4	4	4	4	4
Bulgarian	12	10	20	15	14	13
Canadian	2	2	3	3	3	3
Chinese	1	1	1	1	1	
Colombian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Czechslovakian	27	29	31	32	29	26
Danish	39	38	35	35	35	36
Dutch	50	45	43	44	45	44
Estonian			1	2	3	3
Finnish	6	7	7	6	6	5
French	69	66	65	69	70	71
German	118	119	120	116	115	115
Gibraltarian	130	127	128	129	127	127
Greek	15	16	17	18	19	24
Greek Cypriot	9	9	8	8	7	8
Hungarian	32	31	33	37	40	42
Indian	3	3	4	4	4	4
Irish	53	54	56	56	55	55
Israeli	6	6	6	6	6	6
Italian	43	46	48	52	55	55
Japanese	2	2	2	2	2	2
Latvian	6	8	7	8	7	8
Lithuanian	19	18	25	21	22	20
Luxembourg	2	2	2			
Macedonian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maltese	2	2	2	1	1	1

Cont...

.../Contd. Answer to Question 589/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Questions 588/2010 and 589/2010

Frontier Workers by Nationality since Dec 2010

Nationality	Dec-10	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
Mexican	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moroccan	4	4	4	4	4	4
New Zealander	3	3	3	3	3	3
Norwegian	2	2	1	2	2	2
Other British	2040	2030	2029	2035	2028	2047
Peruvian					1	1
Polish	114	118	122	127	123	134
Portuguese	347	345	364	354	365	371
Romanian	66	74	77	76	76	74
Russian	2	2	2	2	2	2
Slovakian	15	16	16	18	18	17
South African	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spanish	3288	3200	3349	3413	3472	3558
Swedish	16	15	15	13	13	13
Swiss	10	10	9	10	11	11
Ukranian	4	5	5	5	5	5
Totals	5913	5826	5998	6064	6125	6244

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 588 AND 589 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

As a clarification, can the Minister check frontier workers by nationality since December 2009. It cannot be December 2010 in his answer to Question No. 589 of 2010. If he looks at the top there is just a slight error.

HON L MONTIEL:

Sorry.

HON S E LINARES:

No, it is okay.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In this, would the people that are shown in the separate answers that have been given to me on detached workers, would they be included in this information or be in addition to?

HON L MONTIEL:

The detached workers will not be included. Xxxx

NO. 590 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – CATA

Can Government confirm that the advice of the Employment Service to employers with contracts on CATA terms of employment is that they have to pay CATA redundancy terms and not the statutory minimum redundancy terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As already explained in answer to Question No. 17 of 2010, the agreement commonly referred to as CATA is recognised and registered under section 9 of the Employment Act as a Joint Industrial Council agreement and its terms and conditions of employment are binding on the industry including, of course, terms relating to redundancy.

In consequence, the Employment Service, as it may be requested, informs that CATA redundancy is payable to workers in the construction industry, as opposed to the Redundancy Pay Order being applicable.

The Redundancy Pay Order also only applies if there is no other statutory provision. If CATA had not made a provision for compensation on redundancy the Redundancy Pay Order would be applied.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 590 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not the case that in fact if they do not pay the CATA terms there is nothing that the Employment Service can do to require them to do it. So how can it be a statutory requirement?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, because this is a statutory provision that is legally given to the negotiators of the Joint Industrial Council, that the Unions and CATA and the employers to actually police their agreement. It is their agreement and we have given statutory effect to and right to their agreement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously, neither the hon Member nor I are lawyers and I am not sure therefore that ... If something is a statutory requirement surely then it means that there is a legal obligation to comply with it. It is not purely a private matter between the two sides. The answer that I was given previously was that if somebody does not pay..., the hon Member told me that they get advised of the terms but that they cannot be required to comply with those terms and that if they do not then the affected individual is the one that has got to take private legal action against the employer. That is what he told me before.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have explained this to the Unions and the employers in the past. I have told them that they have a statutory means by which to enforce their agreement and, of course, it is now up to the people who are responsible for policing the agreement to put it to the test. If an employer does not want to pay, presumably, it is for the organisation of employers and the Union to take that employer to court, to test the matter in court.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But then it cannot be a statutory duty? If an employer signs an employment contract which says, the terms of this contract are CATA and does not comply, then it is a breach of contract and the individual can sue privately for breach of contract. Most workers that have been sacked are in no position to sue anybody, as the hon Member is fully aware, the same as I am. But surely if it is a statutory thing, it means that it is the public organisation that ensures compliance and he told me before that that is not the case.

HON L MONTIEL:

Not in this particular case. In this particular case, it is the authority that the Minister, through the powers of the legislation, gives to the negotiating Council to police and agree on their terms. Of course, the question of policing therefore relies on the Council that have agreed these conditions. It is up to them to find ways and means of policing their thing. What we do in the Employment Service is to inform people of the reality that exists. Therefore, if an employer does not want to, we cannot force them but we can pass the matter over to the Union or to the employers and say, look these people are not complying with your agreement. What are you going to do about it?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but we have just established that the worker that becomes unemployed who gets told by the hon Member look these people are not doing what they should be doing, what are you going to do about it? Well look, there is not much he can do about it. How can it be a statutory obligation which he then devolves to private individuals to ensure compliance with the law? He may be right and I am not in a position to dispute that this is the correct concept of a statutory obligation but is the hon Member aware that in fact the statutory minimum redundancy terms are better than the CATA terms?

HON L MONTIEL:

In some respects they do but not in every circumstance.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member saying then that somebody that has got a law that give shim a minimum statutory entitlement cannot enjoy the value of that minimum because of a bilateral agreement to pay less?

HON L MONTIEL:

I have raised the matter at the Labour Advisory Board and I have informed the Unions and I have informed the employers of the reality that the hon Member is mentioning and therefore it is not beyond the employers and the Unions to be able to change their agreement, the terms ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking what the employers and the Unions may do. They may not be able to reach an agreement. I do not know. I do not understand how the Union in the first place... He was the District Officer that did this agreement in the first place, anyway.

HON L MONTIEL:

This agreement has evolved over time and in some respects is very good and at other times it should have evolved and changed in other respects. I cannot make myself responsible for the situation of this agreement as it stands today.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can assure the hon Member that the agreement has not changed. The redundancy terms are identical and they are below the statutory minimum. Now, I would have thought that if the law says, you have got a minimum wage of £5, you cannot have a CATA agreement that says we will pay £4.50 and if there is a minimum element in the construction industry which is below the maximum in the construction industry and is less than the minimum in the law, what does a worker have to do to get what the law says?

HON L MONTIEL:

The law does precisely what the hon Member is saying. The law tells them that so long as you have an Industrial Council agreement that is what counts not the law. This matter came to the fore when we had to pay redundancy terms to people on insolvency and of course we took legal advice on the matter and we have been told that one cannot pay statutory redundancy terms when there is a Joint Industrial Council agreement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Which is not legally enforceable by the Government. So the Government say, if one does not have an agreement, I will require the employer to pay you x but if one has an agreement and the employer does not pay what the agreement says then I cannot require them to pay you what the agreement says. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government does not say that. The law says, contrary to what the hon Member suggested in his previous... not this last intervention but the previous one, the law appears not to establish a minimum position. It says, "This is the position unless there is a JIC to the contrary in which case that JIC prevails". So, what he is calling the statutory minimum is the default provision in the absence of a JIC agreement and the law is crafted in a way that entertains the possibility or allows that that JIC should not be to improve but to detract from the statutory default provision. That is what we are told the law provides. I suppose whether the law originally was intended ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sure it was.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Whether the law was originally intended to foresee a position where the JIC would be to improve. In other words, this is the statutory minimum. You can agree better if you want.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of course.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But the way the law was written all those years ago, it was "This is what the position is, unless there is an agreement", leaving it open for the agreement to be less than the statutory default provision. It is not what the Government says. It is what the law says. Unless the law is changed, the people are entitled to rely on those provisions. Then it is a question, a matter of negotiation. Then it is a matter of negotiation between the industry and the Unions because, of course, the JIC is a package of measures and it seems to be an odd negotiation to me. But it is possible that a Union may accept less in that area in exchange for more in another area. It is not possible now for me to get into the heads of those who either drafted the original law or subsequently negotiated the JIC agreement with CATA. But I would have to analyse what they got in return for that to see if it was a justifiable *quid pro quo* for what is a clause in one area which gives them less than they would have had if they had had no JIC at all, namely in this area. But it is not a question of the Government... That is not the Government's position. It is the legal position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that. In fact, I think it was the Government that introduced the original redundancy terms and my recollection of how it was done, it was done by a legal notice, was that it had a clause which says that this does not preclude a more favourable agreement being reached. That this would ... so if anybody is reading that notice it says, well look this is the minimum you have got to pay but it does not stop you from paying more. It is very strange to be told x years later well look this does not stop you paying less. I find it odd that the Government says, well look that is the legal requirement and yet the legal requirement is not a legal obligation enforceable but is a matter for the individual. Well look, it seems to me that the individual is caught between two stools. If there was no agreement he would have the protection of the law and because it has got the agreement he still does not have the protection of the law because he has got to sue the employer to comply with CATA.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has the protection of his Union that negotiated this JIC for him. It is not that the worker is... devices, he is bound by an industry collective agreement, negotiated on behalf by his Union and I would expect the Trade Unions to have something to say about it if an employer does not comply with the CATA agreement in a respect. It is not... the law does not elevate and I think we had this exchange last question time, does not elevate the CATA JIC to the law of the land enforceable by those who police the law. The law says, this is the law but if you want to step out of it and negotiate something in civil law between yourselves, the law allows you to do that and that is what has happened, uniquely, in the construction industry. The only industry I think with the JIC. Yes. It is the only industry with the JIC. The Unions and the employers have chosen, in the construction industry, to negotiate a bilateral agreement between them that takes that sector out of the default statutory provision. Well look, it is not then for the Government to explain or justify what that document says, nor to become the policeman of what is a Trade Union agreement with employers. Look, the law could be written in that way. I suppose it would not be, necessarily a bad law. The law could say, "well look these are the statutory default provisions. You are free to negotiate something different, even if it has something worse, never mind, you are free to negotiate something different and if you do decide to negotiate something different and you register it with the Government, then that becomes the substantive provisions of the legislation as far as these two parties are concerned". The law could say that but it does not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the hon Member was telling me in the answer to the original question appears to be that that is what the law says. What he says it should say because if I get a piece of paper which I have just quoted to him which says ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not saying it says that. I am saying it could say.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know he is... but the hon Member that answered the question, xxxx the Minister for Employment seemed to be suggesting that what he thinks it could say is what it does say because if what the law says is, "this is the minimum and this is without prejudice to employers and employees agreeing better terms". Not agreeing any terms, agreeing better terms. So the substitution that the actual legal notice enables is the substitution of terms that are more favourable to the employee. You have got an employee that is not in the Union and an employer that does not have the Union having negotiating rights. The hon Member has answered in the last meeting of the House that there were 486 employers and something like 3,000 people in the industry, covered by an agreement where the vast number of those employers and the vast numbers of those employees are not a party to it. When I asked, well what happens then, he said, we can only advise people that this is what exists and they can either comply with it or that they cannot comply with it. So, you have got a legal entitlement to something which can be removed from you because somebody else signs with another party something different. Surely, when the hon Member reminds me that there are people who are lawyers and people who are not lawyers, I always accept that the world is not necessarily the same world as somebody that might be at the receiving end of this law. When people come to me for advice, my instinctive advice has been to say, well look, I do not see how you can be employed by somebody and because the Union has signed with another party an agreement, you are no longer entitled to what the law says you are entitled to. You have not signed anything. Neither has your employer. There are no more than half a dozen employers of the 486 that actually are involved in negotiating this agreement and there are no more than 300 or 400 employees, the bulk of them in Government companies, who are unionised in the construction industry. So, here you have got thousands of people who are removed from the minimum provided by the law by agreements between different parties. Surely, that cannot be the correct interpretation of the law.

HON L MONTIEL:

The reality is not as the hon Member is telling us. He has experience as I have in the Trade Union movement and he knows that there are not many redundancy situations of people with many services in the construction industry. The Unions have always been concerned with short-term redundancy compensations because people do not last too long in the construction industry and the Union has concentrated for years and years in the short-term. This issue of the law has come to the fore now because we have had to deal with long-term redundancies as a result of insolvency and some people may have xxxx. The Union now understands that there is a problem there and they are prepared now to meet with the employers and all they have to do is a little amendment to give more favourable terms. But of course one must understand as well ... Before we try to say that it is the Government who has to support everything, statutory... The danger with what the hon Member is saying is that if we all go by statutory ..., we will not have this industrial council agreement which goes far beyond the statutory terms and if one looks at this agreement it does provide in many areas better terms than the statutory xxxx. For example, the statutory minimum wage. This agreement gives better terms than the statutory minimum wage. So it is in the interests of employers and it is in the interests of the Union to give xxxx to this agreement and make it better and I am sure that if they make it better all the issues that the hon Member is raising can be easily dealt with in the agreement and I think they will. They are now conscious of it and I think they will do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The redundancy system that has been in place for years gives people a payment of redundancy based on length of service and age with a maximum of one year. When the legislation was brought in, it was brought in with a clause that says, "this is without prejudice to something better being provided". If you provide something for people who have got lower service then that is better than what is already there. But I cannot understand how the Government, the Minister for Employment can argue, first of all, that you can do an agreement which replaces the statutory obligation but the enforcement of the new statutory obligation, unlike the obligation that was replaced, is not enforceable by the state. It is a private matter. He has just told us that if we move in the direction of making the thing a statutory obligation, we are going to undermine the collective agreements. He has just said that. He has just said that we have got to be careful that if we go down the road of saying, statutory obligations are ... have got to be extended and the Government is going to take on more, it means that the agreements in the industry would be ... there would be no point in having them or they would be undermined and that they are a good thing and he has given the example of the minimum wage. When I asked about the minimum wage and CATA the last time, he said the CATA agreement says, for example, a labourer in the construction industry shall be paid £7, and I said to him, well what happens if somebody gets paid £5 instead of £7. He says, well the answer is that that somebody that has just been taken on for £5 has got to sue the employer for being in breach of the CATA agreement. Well, that is not going to happen and if he does sue him he will not last a week because he says that the department can only enforce the £5 which is the minimum wage, not the £7 in the agreement.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is the case.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is the law.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How can the law be that it is a statutory agreement but not a statutory agreement that is enforceable by the Government, by the state or by the Employment Service but in the nature of a private contract between the employer and the employee? Is it possible to have a statutory agreement that replaces the minimum wage, saying you are going to pay £4.50?

HON L MONTIEL:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. Well, why should it be in redundancy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are several points that arise from the hon Member's ... quite apart from the fact that he is pointing to the wrong statutory provision and I will explain that to him in a moment. But can we just be clear. Yes. Before there are too many giggles, I will ... you know, reserve your giggle until you hear it. But first of all, this statutory provision which brings about the result that he is saying is so irrational, I believe was the legal position during all the years that he was in Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because the statutory provision that brings about the result is not the final provision of the 2001 Pay Order Regulation. This is the mistake that he is making. He is. No. Look. Either they want the answer or they want to shout down the answer. It is a mistake. The hon Member is proceeding on the assumption that regulation 6 of the Conditions of Employment Redundancy Pay Order 2001 is the statutory provision that brings about this dastardly effect and it is not. All that the Pay Order Regulation says is "that the provisions of this order shall not prevent agreements for compensation by reasons of redundancy more favourable than those prescribed in this order". So by definition, this could not be the statutory basis for any provision that was less favourable. But he is wrong in thinking that this is the statutory provision that has the effect about which he is complaining. It is not. That is a different statutory provision.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Hon Mr Licudi's nervous intervention suggests to me that he is the source of the erroneous legal advice to the Leader of the Opposition about which the Leader of the Opposition has based his opinion because I am debating with the Leader of the Opposition and he has punctuated every sentence nervously with an interruption from a sedentary position. So is it not easier as a lawyer ... Does his legal training not teach him that it is always more sensible to listen to the case that you have to answer rather than sit there like xxxx. Well, he must have been taught that way. I

would refer the hon Member to sections 6 and 7 of the Employment Act and regulation 3(1) of the Redundancy Pay Order which specifically provides, regulation 3(1), "subject to sub-regulation 2, this order shall apply to all employees in an undertaking or any branch or department of an undertaking of which no other statutory provision is made for compensation by reason of redundancy". That has to be read together with section 39 of the Employment Act which says, "the conditions of employment prescribed in a Conditions of Employment Order or determined by a Joint Industrial Council under this Act shall be the recognised conditions of employment for the employees concerned". The legal advice that the Government has received is that the effect of that legislation, not of regulation 6. Regulation 6, I agree with him, could never be relied on to do something less favourable than the minimum but this apparent ability and possibility that exists in the construction industry for something less favourable than the statutory default minimum to be possible, which strikes me as something very historical that I would not have done, but does not derive from that section. It derives from other sections because if it did not derive from regulation 6, which it does not, it would clearly not be doable because it would not be something more favourable. But the hon Members are looking at the wrong statutory provisions as being the ones that bring about this result which he considers to be irrational, undesirable and peculiar. Now, we can all come to the conclusion that it is indeed, irrational, undesirable and we can say that the law should be changed. Parliament is free to change laws. Indeed, the Government is free to change regulation 3(1) of the Redundancy Pay Order without coming to this House, initially. So, the law can be changed and we can say to the Trade Unions and CATA, look of course you can do joint industrial council agreements but it is to improve on, not to detract from the statutory default minimum and the Government, either itself through subsidiary legislation or this Parliament collectively, can bring that result about. We need to consider whether it is best to do it by legislative intervention or whether it is best to leave it to the JIC parties to correct what would appear to be, appear to me Now, I would have to talk to the Unions and to the construction industry to see whether it is indeed an anomaly, as it appears to me, or whether it is not an anomaly as it appears to me, but rather something brought about consciously in the context of give and take of a multi-pointed negotiation. On my feet here, I do not dare speculate about which of those two it is. On balance, I would guess that it was an unintended consequence but before concluding that it was an unintended consequence I have got to find out. Now, whether the consequence was intended or unintended, it appears to be lawful in the context of the language used in the Employment Act and the Employment Order. So first of all, we have got to decide whether it was an intended or unintended consequence. Regardless of whether it was intended or unintended by the construction industry and the Unions representing construction workers, we have then got to decide whether it is desirable that that should be so or whether the law should provide differently and then if we decide that it is undesirable that the law should be so and that the law should provide differently, then the law has to be changed. In the meantime, the very firm legal advice that the Government has..... Remember that this arises in the context of the disbursement of public funds. The Government had claims under the legislation and the Director needed to be sure that he was lawfully paying out monies for which he takes the legal advice and he gets a very clear... The Government was not seeking necessarily that that should be the legal advice but that was the legal advice and, of course, all laws can be changed and we can certainly have a debate about whether it should be changed and if so, how and whether it is intended or unintended, rational or irrational consequence. But the hon Members need to look wider in the legislation than just regulation 6 of the Pay Order for the source of the problem in law.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just put on the record that I think the hon Member has assumed that the reason for this question was in fact the payment that they had. This has nothing to do with that. I can tell the hon Member that there is one particular individual in one particular employment who under the law was entitled to £14,000 and under the CATA agreement had been paid £6,000 and when he came to see me, I said to him, I do not think the employer can pay you £6,000 because the law says the minimum is so much. I worked it out for him, so I was not aware that anything that he has mentioned in relation to the insolvency..... This employer is not insolvent. This is an employer who has just made one person redundant and the response of the employer to the worker, "this is what I have been told by the department I have to pay you". So, the individual who looks to the law which says this is the minimum and is without prejudice to you getting more.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law xxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He looks at the law on redundancy which is not an abnormal piece of deduction to go to the law on redundancy and he comes ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law on redundancy?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. He comes to me and having been told previously that the CATA agreement was not a matter of statutory obligation to the extent that a breach of that agreement by the employer is enforceable by the department, I then said, you cannot have it both ways. It means that if there was no agreement, the department would force the employer to pay you £14,000. Correct. But because there is an agreement to which you are not a party because we have already established ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

You are bound as a private contract, not as a statutory obligation. I do not understand how ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law says, if he will just give way ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law then says, if there is such an agreement, however minority the participants of it might be both on the employer and the employee side, the law goes on to say as it is drafted not in sub-regulation 6 but in sub regulation 3(1) of the Redundancy Pay Order read together with section 39 (6) and (7) of the Employment Act, that if there is one of these agreements, even if signed up only to by a minority of employers and a minority of employees, it has the effect of constituting the conditions that bind these people. Now, that is what the lawyers tell us is the effect of the law. We can debate one of two things. We can debate what the law is or is not, which is not something that this House exists for, or we can debate whether the law should be, as it appears to be, and needs to be changed. Now, that is the debate... This Parliament does not exist to debate, to have lawyers' arguments about whether sub section 6 says this or sub section 3 says that. We can do it. I do not mind doing it but as a legislature what we are supposed to be doing is, here is a factual situation affecting society, is this the intended ... Is this the situation that the legislature intends should prevail or does the legislature or the executive believe that it should be different in which case it has recourse to one of the legislative powers to bring it about. That is the debate that we should be having.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but the fact is that I am not trying to have a debate at all. I am seeking information and I base my supplementaries on the answers that I get to my original questions and the point that I am making is ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answers the hon Member has had are correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the answers I have had are correct then perhaps the hon Member can explain how it is that the department says to people in the industry, you do not have to pay the minimum that the law says. There is a way out which allows you to pay less, in this case ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because that is what the law provides.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but then how can the law make that a substitute statutory obligation where what it is substituting is enforceable by the Employment Department who can then sue the employer but the substitute that replaces it is a private matter that the individual has to pursue because that is what I was told the last time. Either it is a statutory obligation and then you can sue your employer for paying you less than the £7 or it is not and then it seems to me the employers have it both ways when they can say, I pay you the minimum wage which is a £5 because you have got no way of forcing me to pay the £7 in the contract. But I will pay you the £6,000 redundancy because I do not have to pay the £14,000 that I would have if I was not ... It is a very peculiar way of ... I know that we are not here to discuss the law. We are here to make the law and then we rely on the lawyers to tell us whether what they claim we have done is what we intended to do or the opposite. As a layman, I would have thought that a statutory obligation of an employer means that the department then has to say to people, you are required by law to pay this redundancy and you are required by law to pay these wages and you are required by law to pay this holiday. Either the whole agreement is required by law or it is a private agreement between an employer and an employee where, which in fact, is binding, apparently, even on those who do not even know it exists and have not signed it. It is certainly a new element in contract law, I would have thought. Which is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We are told that that which he believes to be undesirable, namely that you can contract your way out of a statutory provision and that that contracting out of the statutory provision does not itself have the status of administratively enforceable law. We are told that that is the position. Now, I have not done the legal research and I cannot now ... That is the position that the lawyers have given to the Minister and which the Government brings to the House. I understand that the content of these JIC's are conditions of employment applicable in that industry. Now, the fact that they are conditions of employment applicable in that industry Because section 39 of the Act says, "the conditions of employment prescribed in a conditions of employment order or determined by a Joint Industrial Council under this Act, shall be the recognised conditions of employment for the employees". Whether the fact that they are statutorily recognised conditions of employment, but the lawyers are aware of that and have nevertheless concluded that they have xxxx, but whether they are statutorily recognised conditions of employment means that they are enforceable administratively as opposed to simply binding in a civil way between the parties concerned..... I would have to conduct my own legal research which I do not have the time or the opportunity to do. But, I repeat that if that is what the law is and we consider it that it should not be the law... There are lots of things in the law that then circumstances come to light and people say, why is this the law and no one can remember or nobody knows or the circumstances in society have changed, making that law no longer a fair law. That is very possible and if, upon proper investigation, legal investigation as we are being told, the position is that that is the law, well it is open to this House and to the Government, to consider whether it should continue to be the law or whether it should be changed so that dealing with just the final of the points that the hon Member has made, whether, fine, you can negotiate your way out of the law through this JIC business, but if you do, that becomes the enforceable law as if it were written in sections this and sections that of the statute. That sounds to me a logical approach from where I now stand without having consulted either side, either the Unions or the employers but I am perfectly happy, if the hon Member so believes that this is an unfair position, to ask the Minister to engage in a consultation

process with both the construction industry and the Union to see whether this was the intended consequence. Whether they agree that this is the law because they might say, the Government lawyers are wrong, we do believe that you should be enforcing this administratively. They could say that. So anyway, establish the position, do a proper consultation process of the affected parties. The Government will then consider the outcome of that and if we consider it appropriate, bring the necessary amendments to this legislation so that a position that appears to be odd, I agree with him that it appears to be odd, if to boot it is unintended or no longer appropriate, it should be changed. So, there is not necessarily a difference between us on the ... We are not necessarily defending the outcome. At the moment, we are just defending what we are told the position is in law which binds the administrators of the legislation but that does not mean that we are positioning ourselves against a change of the position if when it is examined, it is found to be unjustifiable because if it looks odd to me and to the Minister, somebody is going to have to come up with a jolly good reason why it should remain so. There may be a good reason. This is why I am not willing to commit myself to the hon Member now. I want to give them the opportunity to say, is there a good reason for continuing with what appears to be an oddity and I have got to listen to that before agreeing with the hon Member that it should be changed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was the Minister who did it. He ought to know why he did it. He was not the Minister then. He does not have to ask anybody.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is not true. Nothing that he did either as a Minister or as a Union has the effect of which he is complaining which is that the content of a JIC does not have statutory status in terms of its enforceability by the public administration. He may have negotiated ... I do not know when that JIC was negotiated. He may have been a Union leader at the time that the redundancy provisions of the construction industry were negotiated. I do not know. But that is not the point that we are now discussing. The point we are now discussing is, regardless of the content, should it have the statements of law or not? That is the point that I am addressing. Not the content. The content also seems odd to me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point that I was referring to was whether it was a deliberate thing as a *quid pro quo* for something else or whether it was something that was done on the basis of having overlooked the undesirable relationship between the two. I cannot imagine that the Union actually went into the negotiations with the purpose of producing a lesser agreement than the law provided. It is just that it so happens that once one hits two years one is worse off because in the agreement signed by the Union they pay a fixed amount of £7 for every week that you work. So once you go over the 104 weeks you are in trouble. Now, I am sure that when the Union negotiated that, that possibility was overlooked because all they had to do was to say, for people below a certain length of service this will apply. But the point is that in terms of asking the people who did it, what was in their mind. It is very easy to ask the people who did it. He would have to ask himself. That is the point I am making.

HON L MONTIEL:

The hon Member suffers from amnesia as well. He must know that this agreement was there for many, many years before I was District Officer. But nevertheless, he raises first the question of the redundancy. The reality, as he knows it very well in the Union, was that the people there were on short-term employment and what they wanted was quick money. That is what our negotiator at the time, Pepe Nuza at the time, was making sure he got the maximum for the short-term possible. Of course, very few examples came to the Union of people who had been in the industry for many, many years that were xxx redundancy. This has come up now because there has been an insolvency situation that we have had to look at. We looked at the situation. We saw that it was unfair. We have raised the matter at the Labour Advisory Board. This is what we found. This has got to be changed. There are two ways of changing it. One is make a little amendment to this particular clause and say, whichever is more favourable. It can be done and thereby sustaining the concept of the Joint Industrial Council because I think there is more to it than just converting everything into a Pay Order because that what it does eventually, it stops the Union from engaging, in discussing Union affairs, Union wages, Union agreements and so forth. It does limit the Unions' ability to represent members if everything is done through statutory means. Right. So, there are ways and means of dealing with it and we have raised the matter at the Labour Advisory Board. So, I am sure that one way or the other, we will deal with this matter. Of course, if they want to retain a Joint Industrial Council, then they have got to know that according to the law they have to police it themselves. If they want to transform it into a Pay Order then the Employment Service will have to police the Pay Order terms and conditions. So, it is a matter for discussion with the Unions and with the employers. We are not going to engage them simply because this discussion has been taking place here. We have already started discussing this matter. It is on the table.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have already informed the hon Member that the source of this question has nothing to do with the people going bankrupt and the other things that brought it to his notice. He has got to understand that I have given him one example that I am aware of where if that agreement did not exist, the person would have been entitled by law to £14,000. Because the agreement exists, the employer says to him, I have called up the ETB and the ETB tells me I do not have to pay you £14,000. I only have to pay you £6,000. Then if you say to the ETB, well does that mean that you have to force people to pay the £6,000. The answer he says is no, it is a private matter. There seems to be a contradiction in that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We can debate the stated point *ad nauseum*. That is the position. The ETB informs both employers and employees of what the statute requires them to do. That does not mean that ETB is the enforcer. If an employer rings up in the construction industry and says, what are my obligations of redundancy payment to this worker, well the ETB takes the information and says, under the law as it presently stands you have got to pay so much. I do not see why the hon Member then goes on to say, and to boot he is not liable for the enforcement of the law. We are just going round in circles. We have debated what the law is. We have debated about the possible desirability of changing it. I am entirely satisfied that the ETB has done what the law requires it to do and therefore the remainder of the debate is simply about whether

the law should be changed or should continue to bring about the situation that the ETB correctly advises people is the case and which results apparently, accepting at face value the hon Member's example, in a redundant construction worker being entitled to £7,000 or half the redundancy payment that he would otherwise be entitled to. That is simply a manifestation in the flesh of the situation brought about by the law as it presently stands and we have been debating for an hour and a bit whether we should change it or not change it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it is correct that, in fact, other than in the construction industry, the department would do two things. Inform the employer, you have to pay so much and actually take legal action against him if he did not. Is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I personally do not know the answer to that. Whether the legal entitlements of workers under the Act are enforceable only by the employee through a court action or industrial tribunals or whether the administration has the powers to prosecute, I suppose it would be, if it had any powers at all. An employer either pays or does not. If they do not pay what is due or respect any other condition, I do not know whether the Act creates criminal offences. Normally, public administrators of legislation have powers which are limited to prosecution. They do not have any particular power of collection greater than any citizen has. But the answer is that I do not know precisely what the nature of the enforcement powers and/or obligations are of the Employment Service under the Employment Act. If we had a copy of the Employment Act we would soon look at it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Some of my questions have been based on a premise which until now I thought was not in doubt that if there is a Redundancy Pay Order and that Order is not complied with, then the department could actually prosecute the employer ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Indeed and that may be the position but that does not necessarily put the money in the hands of the person who is entitled to it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. But given the fact that if the Order was not there, and if there was an agreement, then the only thing the individual could do would be to try and get the cash by suing the employer for breach of contract. Therefore, that which is a very difficult thing to do for somebody that has been dismissed and does not have the resources, I would have thought ... My understanding was that in the case, for example, because I was told in a previous meeting of the House on the question of the wages that if the employer did not pay the £7 to the labourer, the department would not be able to take the employer to court unless he went below the £5 which is the minimum wage.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Implicit in that answer is that he can xxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is the implication. It is based on that answer, that I am assuming that you can do it for the other.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that the hon Member will now engage in a consultation process with employers and with the Unions, will the Government agree ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Which Member ... This Member. That Member has already engaged in consultation process.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister suggested earlier that the Minister for Employment will engage in a process of consultation. So there will be a process of ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the Government agree, whether as part of that process or separately, also to revisit the question of the legal effect of the provisions to which the hon Member has alluded and I acknowledge that the purpose of this House is not to debate interpretations of the law but rather to make the law. But given that the hon Member has referred to the provisions in question, perhaps it would be useful to revisit that having regard to the comments I am about to make. The hon Member has referred to paragraph 3 of the Conditions of Employment Redundancy Pay Order which, as the hon Member has said, applies to an undertaking of which no other statutory provision is made for compensation by reason of redundancy. In other words, what this specifically does is say, where there is another statutory provision which prescribes compensation for redundancy then that applies and not this. The reference to section 39 of the Employment Act is not a statutory provision which prescribes compensation for redundancy. There are other provisions. It is a general provision and in fact paragraph 3 does not say, of which there is no other statutory provision which prescribes conditions of employment generally, which is what section 39 does. It specifically refers to statutory provisions for compensation, for redundancy and there are other statutory provisions for compensation, for redundancy. There is the Wholesale Trade Order, the Transport Contracting Undertakings Order, the Licence Non-Residential Establishments Order and the

Retail Distributive Trade Order. So, all I am saying to the hon Member is that it is arguable, at the very least and the concern I have is that if somebody decides that they are not going to agree to be compensated less than they think they ought to be compensated and takes the matter to an industrial tribunal saying, these conditions of employment order apply because that is what prescribes redundancy compensation and not section 39, a tribunal which may have regard to debates in this House may come to the conclusion, well that is what the legislator actually believes is the case. Well, we on this side of the House think that is not necessarily the position. There is a provision which specifically refers to compensation for redundancy. The other provision does not. Therefore we consider that this is the one that properly has effect and all I am asking is will the Government agree simply to revisit that issue of the legal effect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, was that a rhetorical question?

HON G H LICUDI:

No it was not a rhetorical question. Will the Government agree to revisit?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I hope that those who form legal opinions within and for the Government are constantly keeping the correctness of their legal opinions under review. It does not require a commitment from me which is what the hon Member is asking for. This is the legal view that the Government has been advised to take. If anybody else thinks it is wrong then it is wrong. People are allowed to disagree legally with the Government. I doubt very much that any tribunal of law is going to determine what the law is by reading the Hansard at question time between him and I. Quite a different thing is when trying to assess the intention of those who made the law to have regard to the debate of the passing of the law originally. They might want to look at Hansard to see what the Parliament thought at the time that the Employment Act was first passed as to what they intended at the time. That sometimes happens. A very narrow use the courts would make of that but yes they could make of it but that is not a subsequent 25 years later political exchange at question time between two legislators, neither of whom were involved in that legislative process and therefore what is in our minds is simply not forensic about what was in the minds of the legislature when it passed that Act. But that still does not detract from the fact that if the hon Member believes that the Government's legal assessment is wrong, I am very happy to have that question reconsidered because obviously the Government is as interested as he is in ensuring that it maintains the correct legal position and not a mistake in the legal position.

NO. 591 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS EMPLOYED

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 10 of 2010, how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 592 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 592 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the 22 British detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 and 593 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 593 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the 132 Spanish detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of the commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591, 592 and 594 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 594 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the two Moroccan detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 to 593 and 595 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 595 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the two Other EEC detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 to 594, 596 and 597 of 2010.

NO. 596 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the 20 Non-EEC detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 to 595 and 597 of 2010.

NO. 597 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide the list of employers and country of origin of the contractors who had deployed the 182 detached workers who were engaged in the construction industry in January 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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

Answer to Question 597/2010

Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

February 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.					77	77
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	6	115	1	8	18	148
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
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	4	7		1	1	13
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	10	127	1	9	97	244

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

March 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				4	72	76
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	4	128		8	17	157
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
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	4	7		1		12
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	8	140	0	13	90	251

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

April 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				4	84	88
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	4	117			12	133
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
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	4	7		1		12
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services		2			1	3
Total	8	131	0	5	97	241

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

May 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				6	106	112
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	2	116		4	10	132
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
Hotel Trade						0
Restaurants, Bars etc						0
Repairs of Consumer Goods						0
Sea Transport and Related Services	1	4				5
Air Transport and Related Services						0
Road Transport and Related Services						0
Post and Communications						0
Banking, Finance and Insurance	3	7				10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services		2			1	3
Total	6	134	0	10	117	267

Cont....

.../Cond. Answer to Question 597/2010
Answer to Question 592/2010

British Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
26/02/2009	1									1
10/03/2009	1				2			1	2	6
18/03/2009					1				1	2
01/04/2009		1								1
27/04/2009									1	1
01/08/2009					4				4	8
18/08/2009									1	1
15/09/2009					1					1
16/11/2009					1					1
Totals	2	1			9			1	9	22

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 Answer to Question 593/2010

Spanish Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
13/02/2009									3	3
17/02/2009									2	2
23/02/2009		1			1					2
26/02/2009					2					2
02/03/2009					1					1
06/03/2009					4					4
12/03/2009					1					1
17/03/2009					1					1
18/03/2009		1								1
31/03/2009					1					1
14/04/2009					3					3
15/04/2009					1					1
21/04/2009					1					1
22/04/2009									2	2
23/04/2009					4					4
28/04/2009					2					2
01/05/2009					2					2
04/05/2009					1					1
05/05/2009					1					1
01/06/2009					5				3	8
10/06/2009					2					2
11/06/2009					2					2
01/07/2009					3					3
02/07/2009	2	1		3						6

Contd....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 .../Contd. Answer to Question 593/2010

Spanish Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
07/07/2009	2	1			2					5
29/07/2009									1	1
15/08/2009					1					1
16/09/2009					2					2
21/09/2009					1					1
28/09/2009					6					6
01/10/2009				1						1
07/10/2009	1				5					6
16/10/2009					1				1	2
28/10/2009					1					1
30/10/2009		4			1					5
06/11/2009	4	1		1	1					7
16/11/2009					4			1	1	6
17/11/2009	1	1			3					5
20/11/2009									4	4
30/11/2009	2				7				7	16
01/12/2009		3			2					5
10/12/2009					2					2
Totals	12	13	0	5	77	0	0	1	24	132

Contd....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
Answer to Question 594/2010

Moroccan Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
01/03/2009									1	1
05/04/2009									1	1
Totals	0	0			0			0	2	2

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 Answer to Question 595/2010

Other-EEC Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
13/04/2009					1					1
13/10/2009									2	2
30/11/2009					1					1
01/01/2010					1					1
15/01/2010					1					1
Totals	0	0			4			0	2	6

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 Answer to Question 596/2010

Other Non-EEC Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
01/03/2009					2					2
02/03/2009					1					1
12/03/2009					1					1
14/04/2009					1					1
21/04/2009					1					1
21/05/2009					1					1
09/06/2009					2					2
01/08/2009					2					2
12/08/2009					1					1
25/08/2009									1	1
14/10/2009					1					1
30/11/2009					1					1
07/12/2009					2					2
15/01/2009					3					3
Totals	0	0			19			0	1	20

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
Answer to Question 597/2010

Number and country of origin of contractors who deployed 182 detached workers to be engaged in the construction industry in January 2010.

Country of Origin	Number of Contractors
Spain	37
United Kingdom	4
Holland	2
Poland	1
Totals	44

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 591 TO 597 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there not a requirement on a time limit for detached workers?

HON L MONTIEL:

Normally, a detached worker is termed as a temporary employment. That is as far as I can go in determining time limit. It is expected that it will be for a specific period to do a particular job but there are other circumstances that come into effect when you go deep into what is temporary. But generally yes. It is generally a temporary employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there not a specific reference to three months, not being more than three months, in the law?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. We have looked into this and there is no specific limit that we know of.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In relation to my questions in the previous House, did not the hon Member say that he would look, in fact, to see if it was happening, that the detached worker was being used to keep people working for long periods which really then ought to be ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is a mistake, if the hon Member would just give way to me. I think it is a mistake to think of detached workers as being rightly or wrongly detached workers by reference to the length of any temporal period. This is not about whether it is one month, three months or six months. I do not think detached workers are properly detached workers if they are doing a permanent job in Gibraltar for any period of time however short. The whole point of detached workers is that they are permanently engaged abroad by a company that has a function to do, a piece of work to do and deploys its employees from another EU jurisdiction to plaster this wall or to fix this machine or to fix the engine of this ship. Not to do engine fixing for six months or for three months. You see what I mean. It is not ... My interpretation of detached workers is that they are deployed for a function, for a job of work that is necessarily brief but which may take less or longer but it has got to be one job. It ought not to be used simply to provide general labour resource for a Gibraltar employer for whatever business might come his way requiring that skill. I do not think that that is what detached worker regime is designed for. I think it is designed, for example, just using the example of the ship yard. If there is a ship in the yard that needs particular skills to fix the boiler, fix the engine or inspect the funnel. I do not know and it is legitimate to bring as detached workers as opposed to workers coming in to Gibraltar exercising

right of freedom of employment but registering as workers in Gibraltar, employees of the ship yard company. As detached workers, it requires the ship yard company to say, you company in Germany, you have employees that are experienced in fixing boilers. I want to contract you company in Germany to fix the boiler of this ship that I have got in my dry dock and the company says, okay and I am sending my workers from my German workshop to Gibraltar to fix the boiler of the ship. In my view, that is the correct concept for detached workers and I think it would be dangerous for us to commit to say, well you could be a detached worker for six months because all we are doing, which I think, I do not know if it is happening or not, but if it is happening, I think it is not desirable that it should happen. Detached workers cannot be an alternative to short-term Gibraltar employment. I do not think that is what the detached worker regime in the EU is designed for. It is designed for the temporary deployment of employees elsewhere in the EU to do a particular job of work. Not to temporarily staff a Gibraltar company and that is the way, the position that I approach it from and therefore it is not a question of whether it is a three months or six months. I do not think we should be allowing detached workers even for three months if this is just some form of temporary labour generally available to the yard for whatever business might come its way.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Subject to correction, my recollection of the detached worker regime when it was brought in was that, in fact, there was a limit of time up to three months, that the Director of Labour had the discretion to either renew or not renew and it just strikes me that if the hon Member looks at the answer to Question No. 593 of 2010 in the first two lines, we have got five Spanish labourers who have been here for 11 months. Now I do not know what kind of specialist work in the construction industry five Spanish labourers were doing as detached workers which were not being done by hundreds of other Spanish workers who come in and work as labourers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly. That is exactly the point that I am making. That we should not be allowing construction companies to use the detached worker route as an alternative contracting model for what is in effect their own labour requirements. Not least because those jobs are then not counted when you come to assess the number of full-time employment opportunities in the economy when you are measuring macro economic ... Apart from that, I believe that is not what the detached worker regime in Europe exists for and I have noticed the trend when we first started debating detached workers in this House, when it was really a phenomenon limited to the ship building industry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have detected myself through my own perusal of statistics that it is becoming increasingly prevalent among some construction companies and I think that the Government needs to tighten up because it is either ... A detached worker is not an

alternative to a temporary Gibraltar employee. I think that that would be the Government's view and we have got to work through the Employment Service to make sure that the detached worker regime is not abused by any foreign employer in Gibraltar beyond the purposes for which we have mandatorily included it in our employment legislation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I agree with the hon Member, in fact, that the original concept was precisely that kind of thing, that if you have got a ship coming in which has got a specialist job then you bring the people in to do that. They finish the job and the time it takes is the time it takes. But I think that in the law, and to my knowledge it has not been changed, the provision was that the discretion to say yes or no to prevent any kind of abuse of the kind the hon Member ... is already there, and has been there already, and it would appear from a superficial look at the figures being provided to me today that it is not being used because it is difficult to understand how labourers can be here for a year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have some recollection of some period but I am not sure it was in the statute. I think it was some informal administrative operation because I do recall complaining some years ago about a device that I thought was happening was, that to comply with whatever it was that neither of us can quite remember, they were shipping out one group of detached workers and replacing them with a new group to somehow comply with whatever might have been the criteria that was then being applied. But I do not know whether that was the statutory provision of three months or something or whether it was the administrative interpretation of the word "temporary" in the legislation. But I seem to recall that there was some such measure in practical operation at least.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, it means, if my recollection of the regime that was introduced is correct and it has not been changed, I have not seen any change, effectively that when we have got people here who have been here for a year, it must have been that they have had a number of renewals, where a case has had to be made. That is to say, the employer that brings in a detached worker and has him here for more than three months has then got to back to the department and explain why it is that he still needs him here for another three months. Now, it would have to be a very peculiar level or speciality where you have got unskilled workers in the construction industry doing what, that nobody here can do. Even if you say, at the beginning they are coming in because we are putting in bathrooms and these guys are labourers specialised in helping the craftsman that puts in the bathrooms. I get the impression that it is almost become, in many areas, a labour-only subcontracting system and that is not what was intended and I think the powers to stop it happening exists already and I will ask the Government to see if, in fact, the discretion that is available to them needs to be used perhaps more than has been done until now.

HON L MONTIEL:

I think that the Employment Service looks very closely at every case submitted. In many cases they get claims for a particular job. Now, the job in question has a limit. But the limit can be three months or it can be up to a year. So, if you bring your employees to do work of a temporary nature which it is going to take one year, then the temporary nature will be a year and, of course, we are looking at every single case made for a detached worker.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Employment Regulations are the ones that provide the power that the Director of Labour has which is related to the amount of time and provides that there has to be a case made for the extension of that time. The hon Member is telling me that he knows that in the 244 people that we have recorded in February, some of whom have been there for 11 months, that has been scrutinised on the basis of using the powers that the law provides? Is that his answer, is it?

HON L MONTIEL:

I would think so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He is presuming it. The authority with which he answered the previous supplementary, I took it to mean ...

HON L MONTIEL:

I presume so because the object of the exercise is to limit the stay in terms of the job to the least possible time but if there is a case to be made for more, for a longer period, then discretion is exercised in that respect. In fact, we have looked at other jurisdictions as to how they apply... In some jurisdictions, for example, up to a year can be temporary work.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he know that the Employment Regulations in relation to the use or the discretion that the department has which is that they suspend the requirements of registration in exchange for a payment of a fee and for a limited period of time of up to three months and that, therefore, if the employer comes back and says, I want another three months, he has got to make a case and then if he wants another three months ... He seems to think that the continuous renewal of three-month contracts for detached workers is okay. Surely, he knows that that is not what was intended when that was put in.

HON L MONTIEL:

Given that he has mentioned that particular case. There are cases when employers have a need to bring people on a temporary basis and they just do not want to apply for it in order not to pay the £50 every time. So, what they say is, look if my plant operator has got to come here on a short-term basis ... He is a detached worker and I want to extend his temporary placement for say six months. That is not to say that this man is going to be here on a permanent basis for six months. He has asked for six months provision so that during the six months he can come a number of times to repair his plant or whatever he has to deal with, on the basis of that. We do have cases where employers may ask for a longer period but in fact the detached worker is not working in Gibraltar all that time. I do not know whether that was what the hon Member was referring to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is the reality.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There may be some exceptional cases like that. I am limiting myself to the further information that he has provided today, in terms of the information he gave me the last time, on the basis that the last time when I was questioning the numbers of frontier workers, I wanted to identify whether, in fact, the use to which the frontier worker regime was being put, which is the one that the hon Chief Minister has been mentioning and the one that was certainly there when he came in ... I do not know if it came in our time or before because it was an EC requirement to make this provision, but the provision entitles the recipient state to limit it to something and therefore if you have got five Spanish labourers working here for 11 months, then it can only be because the hon Member's department has actually extended the permits because they are only for three months in the first instance.

HON L MONTIEL:

Not necessarily.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No?

HON L MONTIEL:

We are now in the area of speculation without knowing what a particular firm or employees we are talking about. But I can speculate on the fact that this particular employer will need to do all the refurbishment of roofs and he has got a special

contract and he is doing it with his employees. If the job takes about 11 months to do and he satisfies the Director that it is ... and they are just here to complete that roof, presumably, the Director will say, I think it is logical that you should not have to re-register every three months. If he is going to be here for 11 months, so be it. But if you are going to do other roofs, then you may lose your right to become detached workers. This is the area of speculation without knowing exactly what we are talking about. But there are cases where jobs are longer than one would expect.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, the system now works on the basis that the length of time that somebody is given a permit to bring in a detached worker is determined by the length of time that the foreign employing firm, because it is not a Gibraltar firm that has to request the permit presumably... The permit is requested presumably by these companies that are established in different Member States which is the list that he has given me today. Right. Where there are 37 Spanish companies bringing in detached workers, 4 UK companies, 2 Dutch companies and one in Poland. These are the companies that are being given permits by his department to bring in the 182 detached workers that were here in January which in some cases have been here for a year already and he is saying that the way the system works, which is not something that he is supposing but which he knows, is that the length of the permit given in respect of each worker depends on the case that the firm has made for the length that the job will take.

HON L MONTIEL:

No. The hon Member is putting words into my mouth. I said I am speculating that that may be one of the reasons that the Director takes into account in using his discretion. I am sure that that is not the only thing that my staff investigates before a request is made to become a detached worker.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am talking about whether it is three months or more. Is he saying that the implementation of the detached worker regime now functions on the basis that the Director of Employment gives permits for longer than three months at a time. Is that the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

It may be the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he know or does he not?

HON L MONTIEL:

I have told him that we do not talk about time limitations. We talk about the temporary nature of the work. Those are my words. Now, the hon Member is trying to put a time limitation. There is no time limitation. In addition, consideration is given to the time that the job which they are coming to do takes. This will have a bearing on the decision of the Director.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, he is saying that the discretion includes a discretion to give a detached worker permit for more than three months at one time. That is to say that it is not subject to renewals. That is what he is saying.

HON L MONTIEL:

That may be the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it or is not? Surely, when the hon Member gives me information in this House and he says to me there were five guys here for 11 months. Is it that it is possible and permissible, as far as he is concerned as the Minister that has to answer in the House for these things, to give a permit for 11 months? Yes or no. He has gone off to say what might be the possible reasons for doing it. I am not asking him about the possible reasons. I am asking whether, as far as he is concerned, the department gives permits for more than three months. Yes or no.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have been trying to be helpful but I can also answer the hon Member that I am not particularly aware of the particular case that he is referring to and I can go and ask for the reasons why that particular case was given 11 months.

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think he is asking about a particular case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking that.

MR SPEAKER:

The hon Member is asking as a matter of practice.

HON L MONTIEL:

Practice, I have explained that there is no time limit. I have explained that it is a temporary nature and they will assess the temporary nature of the detached workers position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member is then saying that he knows that the law does not require the Director of Labour to limit a permit for a detached worker to a maximum of three months in the first instance and then to have the discretion to renew it or not renew it. That is not the case. Is that what he is telling me? The definition that I have given is incorrect.

HON L MONTIEL:

As far as I know, the way that the hon Member has put it is not necessarily the way that I know it to happen.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But he may then... Given that he is qualified as far as ... It may be that he is wrong in the answers that he has given until now and that in fact this is happening. He does not know whether it is or it is not.

HON L MONTIEL:

I suspect that people are being allowed to come for more than three months.

NO. 598 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government confirm whether the 180 detached workers shown in December 2009 as working in the construction industry were included in the 2403 registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades Industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 599 of 2010.

NO. 599 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government confirm whether any of the 180 detached workers shown in December 2009 as working in the construction industry were included in the 1495 frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry, and if so how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I think I answered this question earlier on. In both instances, I can confirm that no detached workers were included.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 598 AND 599 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In either?

ORAL

NO. 600 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL TRADE

Are Government now able to confirm whether the 10 detached workers shown as being in the retail trade in June, July and August 2009 have been continuously employed in the industry on a regular basis?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 601 of 2010.

NO. 601 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL TRADE

Are Government now able to confirm what is the nature of the work undertaken by the 10 detached workers shown as being in the retail trade in June, July and August 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The issue of detached workers was discussed at some length during the course of our previous question and answer session in relation to Question Nos. 10 to 13 of 2010.

A detached worker comes to work in Gibraltar on the basis that it is only for a temporary period and this temporary period is not defined in legislation.

A detached worker may then come to Gibraltar to work regularly, that is, every available working day, over that temporary period.

It can also happen that a detached worker may appear in the statistics as a regular worker, always over the anticipated temporary period, but not be working every available working day, which is what I explained to him before. The typical example could be a mobile crane driver. Such a detached worker could be registered for a temporary period but not working on a regular basis, that is, would only come to Gibraltar as may be required over the temporary period.

Put in other terms, it can and does happen with some detached workers that the actual registered temporary work period is not the real or actual work period, but less.

In the case of 10 detached workers identified by the hon Member as being in the retail trade, these are plant operators as already advised. The nature of the work is precisely that of operating plant machinery. As for being classified in the retail trade, this is due to the fact that the work is undertaken by a local company whose business activity is the sales of construction materials such as sand, rubble and the like.

I want to explain that this information that I have just given in respect of the jobs of the detached workers, is being made available, exceptionally, because of the limited number of detached workers concerned and because I think that I can understand the hon Member's cause for query. For example, a plant operator or skilled CATA detached worker showing under the retail trade but which I can explain if he so wishes. In future and has indeed been the case always, any information sought in

respect of the nature of the work undertaken by detached workers would be provided by way of occupational groups.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 600 AND 601 OF 2010.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me remind the hon Member that the question is here because he promised in the last House to obtain the information for me because it was not available at the time when I asked him for it. I am asking as a follow up because he kindly offered to investigate it and come back and because it looked very peculiar to have 10 plant operators in the retail trade and I note that they have now disappeared from the list that he gives me. I do not know whether all the justification for them being there in the first place has suddenly stopped being applicable since I have started asking these questions because in all the statistics that he has given me today, the 10 plant operators in the retail trade have gone. So, having made such a closely argued case for their existence, I have to point out to him that they no longer exist. They are not there any more. In terms of the monitoring that the department does, the hon Member says that one of the problems is that people may come in for one day and go another day. But these people are all of course liable to tax in Gibraltar.

HON L MONTIEL:

Absolutely.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But they do not pay social insurance?

HON L MONTIEL:

All monies earned in Gibraltar are supposed to pay taxes in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, the employer of the detached worker does not have a presence in Gibraltar?

HON L MONTIEL:

In some cases I presume these would be linked to a local company and the Employment Service would relate to the local employer if he brings detached workers through an employer in Spain or elsewhere.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But if the hon Member..., in the examples that he has been giving me is that in, say, the retail and wholesale trade you can have these people who put up stands in shops and they are plant operators that come in and they can do it in different shops, there is not one customer all the time. The company that is providing this service in Gibraltar is bringing its workers in from Spain whom it employs full-time elsewhere. How does the department connect with these people if they do not have an office here at all and they come in from the outside?

HON L MONTIEL:

We have had examples of detached workers operating in employment and we have questioned the employer from whom they have been ... the employer or the client who is ... whom these people are paying to ensure that they actually pay the taxes. It is a very difficult area to follow up unless, of course, they are bona fide employers. They come to the Employment Service and they introduce themselves and they commit themselves or alternatively they do it through a local employer in which case it is easier to follow up the situation through the local employer. But it is not an easy situation to follow up.

NO. 602 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – EMPLOYEES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state the total number of employees registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry and how many of these were frontier workers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 and 604 of 2010.

NO. 603 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – EMPLOYEES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state of the 484 employers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 classified as operating within the construction and allied trades industry how many employed 50 or more persons at the time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 602 and 604 of 2010.

NO. 604 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED IN CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state of the 908 employees resident in Gibraltar who were registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction industry how many were Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the 908 employees resident in Gibraltar, who were registered with the Employment Service at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry, 473 are Gibraltarian.

Of the 484 employers registered with the Employment Service at the end of December 2009, classified as operating within the construction and allied trades industry, 20 have more than 50 employees.

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

Answer to Question No. 604 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 602 of 2010

The total number of employees registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry showing number of frontier workers.

Month	Employees	Frontier Workers
Jan	2529	1418
Feb	2674	1554
Mar	2734	1610
Apr	2759	1626
May	2883	1753

NO. 605 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – MOD EMPLOYEES REGISTERED

Can Government state what was the number of employees registered with the Employment Service employed by the MOD at the end of March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Hopefully, this the right answer for the hon Member. The number of employees registered with the Employment Service employed by the MOD at the end of March 2010 is 745.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 605 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister satisfied that this figure of 745 does not include terminations that have not yet been communicated to him?

HON L MONTIEL:

A lot of work has gone into getting these statistics right since we last had this bit of a ding dong in this Parliament.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer is yes.

HON L MONTIEL:

I am satisfied that these are more accurate numbers than previously given.

NO. 606 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTSFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL AND MUSEUM

Can Government state whether accounts are presented to Government by Knightsfield Holdings Ltd who is contracted to run both the Museum and the John Mackintosh Hall and if so whether these accounts are presented separately from each other?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 607 to 609 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 607 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTSFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – MUSEUM

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions in the contract given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for the upkeep and running of the Museum?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 606, 608 and 609 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 608 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions in the contract given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for the upkeep and running of the John Mackintosh Hall?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 606, 607 and 609 of 2010.

NO. 609 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTSFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state how much has been spent by the agent running the John Mackintosh Hall on maintenance for the part of the building which they are responsible for in the last five years giving a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

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

Under the terms of the contracts signed between Government and Knightsfield Holdings in May 1993, there is no requirement for accounts to be presented to Government. What is agreed by contract is a fee for a schedule of functions, which Government monitors and pays for, for example, repairs and maintenance.

I now hand over a schedule with details of expenses incurred in respect of maintenance works carried out at the John Mackintosh Hall over the last 5 years as requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 609 OF 2010

2004/05

G.J.B.S. Ltd Refurbishment of the Exterior Façade	£38,927.10
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Total £38,927.10

2005/06

J & C Joel Ltd Purchase & fitting of theatre Curtains	£3,790.00
Topgem Limited Roofing Works	£29,293.75
Topgem Scaffolding for roofing works	£8,062.50
Mifsud Electrofreeze Purchase of VC1400 display cabinet – Cafeteria	£1,260.00

Total – 42,406.25

2006/07

J Balban Electrical Company Ltd Supply and installation of corridor lighting	£605.00
Topgem Ltd Refurbishment Works to Charles Hunt Room	£6,207.50

Total - £6,812.50

Cont'd

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010

2007/08

J Balban Electrical Company Repairs and rewiring of earth bonding system	£3,092.00
Knightsfield Holdings Ltd Ceramics & Plumbing works at Cafeteria	£790.00
J Balban Electrical Company Wiring and fixing of water heater at Cafeteria	£1,975.00
Knightsfield Holdings Ltd Purchase of water heater for Cafeteria	£110.00
Knightsfield Holdings Purchase of ceramics for Cafeteria	£4,067.70
Topgem Ltd Roofing works	£29,293.75
	<u>Total - £39,328.45</u>

2008/09

Race Furniture Purchase of 100 Theatre seats	£26,286.00
Knightsfield Holdings Ltd Insurance and Freight Flights and Accommodation for Race Furniture personnel	£6,937.95
Freddy Plumber Plumbing works	£71,825.45
	<u>Total - £105,049.40</u>

Cont'd

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010

2009/10

Freddy Plumber Plumbing works	£70,122.00
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ME Belilio & Partners	£560.00 *
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* Survey to establish the construction of the terraced floor slab including intrusive investigation. It includes preparation and submission of an engineers report with recommendations on fixing the new seating.

J Balban Electrical Company Repairs to electrical installation in Library	£505.00
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Southern Point Roofing Ltd Repairs to roofing gutter in Library	£873.00
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Total - £72,060.00

Cont'd

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010

Minor Works Breakdown

	April'05 to March'06	April'06 to March'07	April'07 to March '08	April'08 to March '09	April'09 to March'10
Maintenance - Air Conditioning	2,864.40	1,411.00	1,050.50	2,856.00	1,292.00
Maintenance - Bulbs	393.65	1,163.13	3,287.10	2,444.00	138.28
Maintenance - Cafeteria	115.00	0.00	97.00	275.00	0.00
Maintenance - Emergency Cleaning	97.00	70.98	478.44	0.00	1,706.00
Maintenance - Exhibition/Rooms Refurbishment	0.00	2,566.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance - Fire Extinguishers	154.00	128.00	140.00	52.50	52.50
Maintenance - Emergency Exit Corridor	1,092.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance - Library	0.00	395.00	0.00	425.00	0.00
Maintenance - Lift	1,931.42	2,056.56	2,675.97	2,583.90	2,924.07
Maintenance - Electrical Repairs	3,291.50	1,133.00	1,970.00	3,343.00	2,660.00
Maintenance - Office Refurbishment	65.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance - General Public Areas	3,345.25	3,836.51	4,184.72	5,381.97	2,893.58
Maintenance - Paint	157.47	519.92	293.39	265.56	131.69
Maintenance - Theatre	2,469.00	997.15	205.08	2,143.67	408.00
Maintenance - Toilets	1,574.00	1,235.81	3,614.53	11,392.60	3,336.00
Maintenance - Toilets refurbishment	0.00	0.00	0.00	915.00	0.00
Maintenance - Window Cleaning	132.00	475.00	840.00	65.00	65.00
Maintenance - Window Replacement	199.00	89.52	137.00	164.50	0.00
Maintenance - Total	17,880.95	16,078.38	18,973.73	32,307.70	15,607.12

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 606 TO 609 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

While the schedule is coming round, can the Minister state then that the money actually given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for the running of the John Mackintosh Hall at least is spent on what? Because if maintenance is taken away and the Government is the one who actually pays for the maintenance, what is the actual money given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for. Is it only for the payment of employees there? What exactly is it that these monies are used for?

HON E J REYES:

I will clarify a little bit further. Major refurbishment and repair works are the ones that Government monitors and reimburses for. However, in the contractual sum given towards the running of the John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum, there are minor works undertaken and the hon Member if he has the schedule with him will see that there is a part that says minor works breakdown. So that has been broken down, detailed. Those are not reimbursed by the Government. Those are already included in the provision of the sum awarded in the contract. It is only when the amount of works needed to be done go over and above the minor works nature or the in-principle agreed sum of expenditure. Those are then the ones that the Government actually monitors to be able to authorise and then reimburse. From the whole of the sum received there are employees and so on, they need to be paid for by Knightsfield Holding Ltd. They are the employers and they have as well the statutory obligation of employer's social insurance contributions and so on to make from there.

HON S E LINARES:

Is there a specific amount of money which then becomes major works as opposed to minor works? Is there a cap, for want of a better word, cap as in how much money is minor works and how much is major works?

HON E J REYES:

My understanding is that the money is received by Knightsfield Holdings Ltd. They come to an agreement with us of how much money they foresee to be spending in a year on what are so-called minor works. If from one year to the next there has to be a substantial increase then Government will consider this and tell them, no look, take it from savings from what we have already paid or we will provide additional funding because it is in Government's interest and Government has deemed it over and above the minor works schedule. By looking carefully at the schedules, he will be able to work out from there what ends up being classified as major or minor works. One example he will see on the last page of the schedule before the minor works breakdown. Government requested a survey to establish the construction of the terraced floor slab including intrusive investigation. It includes preparation and submission of an engineer's report with recommendations of fixing the new seating at the theatre and so on. That cannot be minor works. That was Government's initiative to upgrade the seating facility and therefore to ensure that the floor could take the new seats in the correct manner. That could not be attributed to minor works. That was a Government led initiative.

HON S E LINARES:

Going back to the first question which was to do with the accounts which the Minister says that since the contract from 1993 was signed, there is no, within the contract, no need for Knightsfield Holdings Ltd to present accounts. Is the Minister aware, because there are two sets of accounts that come from the actual revenue and expenditure which are separate, that is the John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum? So, we vote in this House for two separate amounts. Is it possible then that Knightsfield Holdings Ltd gets those two amounts and can amalgamate and use that amount of money for either one or the other?

HON E J REYES:

In the agreements we have, the amounts allocated towards John Mackintosh Hall should be spent within John Mackintosh Hall only. The amounts towards the Museum should be spent in the Museum only. What I am also informed is that the company's, Knightsfield Holdings Ltd as a company, their audited accounts are submitted to the Commissioner of Income Tax as one entity. That is Knightsfield Holdings Ltd only and they will show obviously like two branches. One for one contract, one for another, but they are one contract.

HON S E LINARES:

How does the Government or the Minister monitor the actual spending of Knightsfield Holdings Ltd on one or the other? What system does the Government have for monitoring that Knightsfield Holdings Ltd gets, for arguments sake £100,000 for the John Mackintosh Hall and that those £100,000 are actually spent in the John Mackintosh Hall. How does the Government monitor this?

HON E J REYES:

What I am told by the employees who look after the accounts and so on, yes, that at some stage or another they actually get sight of costs incurred, whether it is by invoices or what matter it is, I do not know, that is a clerical administrative task, but they actually get sight as a way of checking that a sum of money that within the contracts allocation should have gone towards a certain specific item of expenditure is being used in that direction. It does help us, for example, if we have had increased usage in the theatre, for example, for Government led Spring and Autumn Festivals, the theatre stage lighting does consume a lot of electricity, so there is always an area there where we monitor so that neither Knightsfield Holdings Ltd nor Government is being short changed.

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government, apart from the fact that they give the monies to John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum, take into account the revenues that these two entities bring in to, I would presume, Knightsfield Holdings Ltd as opposed to Government.

HON E J REYES:

All revenues received are paid into Gibraltar Government General Account.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I ask the hon Member to clarify two items in the schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010? Question No. 609 of 2010 refers to maintenance of the John Mackintosh Hall and there are two amounts. One in 2008/2009, plumbing works £71,000 and the following year 2009/2010, again plumbing works £70,000. So, over a relatively short period about £140,000 appears to have been spent on plumbing works. Can the hon Member explain how that is accounted for?

HON E J REYES:

The hon Member certainly can explain. These were emergency works that were needed. The construction of the John Mackintosh Hall, such as both sides of the House will hear, having been built in the 1960's was built to the standards applicable at the time and the whole plumbing works of the whole building collapsed. It required major, major works that took several months to complete. Hence the Treasury Department was paying invoices as and when received and the first £71,825 happened to fall within that financial year's accounting procedure and the other £70,122 happened to fall after the 1st April 2009. Therefore, is accounted for in the second accounting financial year.

NO. 610 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can the Minister for Culture explain the arrangement in place at the John Mackintosh Hall theatre in relation to the sound and lighting systems?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 611 and 612 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 611 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state whether it is satisfied with the current facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall in relation to the theatre?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 610 and 612 of 2010.

NO. 612 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state whether it is satisfied with the current facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall in relation to the library?

ANSWER

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

The Ministry of Culture has a maintenance agreement with Sound Reinforcement Systems Ltd, known in short as SRS, to operate and maintain the audio, lighting and conference equipment at the John Mackintosh Hall. SRS are the authorised technicians and, together with other approved users, may operate the equipment.

The Government have commenced a programme of inspections which explores the necessary works required to refurbish and, where necessary, upgrade the facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall Theatre. This includes theatre seating, lights, sound, stage, furnishings, et cetera.

The replacement of seating has already commenced and we will continue to undertake upgrades, repairs and maintenance when the examination of all facilities are complete.

Similarly, we are exploring the repairs and maintenance of the library and its facilities, as well as additions to the library collection.

This winter, the heavy rains caused a serious deterioration of the library roof requiring emergency works to be carried out. The problems caused by water penetration affected the electricity installations, thus preventing a section of the library from being used for safety reasons. Government are awaiting a report in respect of the damage to the membrane of the roof and recommendations as to how this should be best repaired.

Due to emergency works required to be carried out at the John Mackintosh Hall to its entire plumbing system, some delays have been experienced in respect of other planned refurbishment programmes. Therefore, given that there are still outstanding works to be carried out, Government cannot say it is fully satisfied with the state of current facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall in relation to the library, to the theatre/conference hall or indeed other areas.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 610 TO 612 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has explained that he is not satisfied with the facilities as in the roofing, for example, he has mentioned the library. Is the Minister satisfied with the actual content of the library, for example, books, equipment. Like computer equipment. Is the Minister satisfied with that arrangement which most probably should be run by Knightsfield Holdings Ltd.

HON E J REYES:

I did say, similarly we were exploring repairs and maintenance of the library and its facilities, hence computers, on-line facilities to explore the world-wide web and so on as well as additions to the library collection. One can deduce from there that it is our intention to improve this. However, two and two equals four. If we have water penetration on the roof, we have had to shift books to one area to keep them dry and so on. I am not going to purchase new books where there are no proper facilities to display these, to store these, without running the risk of damage from the water penetration.

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government envisage that the library should be extended rather than have the two and a half rooms that are currently the library. Are the Government thinking of extending that library to make it a decent library for our community as opposed to what it is now which is quite frankly in a decrepit state. The books are in a state. The facilities are in a state and do the Government not think that a decent library for our community is now necessary?

HON E J REYES:

When the hon Member says a decent library it reminds me of how long is a piece of string. This Government intend to work towards having a library that will service the needs of its community. Because of a good relationship held with the Department of Education and Training, there are existing libraries, mainly in our secondary schools and in the college, which contain a good collection for the specific needs of specialist areas where our students undertake examinations. In some cases it is worthwhile sharing stocks, loaning stocks one from another but it is also worth our while taking the advice from the Education Advisers mainly of facilities that should be provided for students to undertake their studies for examination purposes after school hours. Although the schools do keep the libraries open very often over and beyond school hours, there are students who like to come into the library because they first go home for a cup of tea and so on. So yes, from that point of view, I restate, Government are not completely satisfied that what we have on offer at the moment would be the ideal service we would like to offer to the public but I assure both sides of the House and the public at large, if they are listening, that certainly we shall work in partnership with my colleague, the Minister for Education and provide the service that Gibraltar owes to its community and above all to its students.

HON S E LINARES:

Does that mean that anybody, the general public, can go and visit the school libraries?

HON E J REYES:

How on earth he came to that deduction, I do not know.

HON S E LINARES:

I am asking.

HON E J REYES:

School libraries are available for school students.

NO. 613 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government provide a list of organisations, groups or entities that have used the John Mackintosh Hall facilities in the last two years giving a breakdown by date used and by organisation, group or entity?

ANSWER

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

I now hand over a schedule to the hon Member.

Schedule to Question No. 613/2010

January 2008

Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Counselling Hours	8
Danza Academy	2
Department of Culture	1
Department of Trade & Industry	1
Divorced, Single and Widowed Women	1
Dyslexia Support Group	2
Exhibition - Various Artists	0
Friends of the Earth	2
Gibraltar Academy of Dance	1
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	1
Gibraltar Community Association	3
Gibraltar Health Authority	4
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
JM Memorial Foundation	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Lions Club	1
Medical Complaints Review Panel	1
Mediterranean Shore Angling Club	1
Parental Support Group	5
Royal British Legion	1
Step Forward	1
Zarzuela	3

Jan 2008 Totals 62

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	February 2008	
Action for Housing		4
Barley Hill House Management		1
Calpe Chess Club		4
Cancer Relief		1
Cancer Research		1
Childline Gibraltar		1
Clinic Nepal		1
Corona World Wide		2
Counselling Hours		13
Danza Academy		3
Dyslexia Support Group		2
Friends of the Earth		5
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association		1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		2
Gibraltar Community Association		2
Gibraltar Community Projects		1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		1
Gibraltar Magic Circle		1
Gibraltar Museum		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Income Tax Tribunal		2
Junior Chess Club		4
Lions Club		2
MO Productions		15
Parental Support Group		4
Rosia Plaza Management		1
Royal British Legion		1
Scrabble Club		4
Watergardens Management Phase I		1
Waverly House Management Ltd		1
Westview Park Management		1
	Feb 2008 Totals	87

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	March 2008	
Action for Housing		3
Calpe Chess Club		4
Cancer Research		3
Corona World Wide		2
Department of Education		2
Down Syndrome Support Group		1
Dreamgirl of the Year		1
Dyslexia Support Group		2
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Amateur Dance Association DSA		1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		2
Gibraltar Health Authority		1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		0
Gibraltar Magic Circle		1
Gibraltar Museum		1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Senior Citizens		1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)		1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired		1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Grant Thornton Accountants		1
Income Tax Tribunal		1
Junior Chess Club		4
Lions Club		1
MO Productions		3
Royal British Legion		1
Santos Productions		1
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		4
Simmarians Society		1
Westview Park Management		1
	March 2008 Totals	57

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	April 2008	
Action for Housing		4
Calpe Chess Club		5
Cancer Research		2
Casava Enterprises		1
Corona World Wide		2
Department of Culture		4
Department of Education		1
Dyslexia Support Group		1
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Amateur Dance Association DSA		1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		1
Gibraltar Health Authority		20
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		13
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association		1
Gibraltar Museum		2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		5
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		6
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired		1
Junior Chess Club		5
Manchester Football Club		1
Open University		1
Overeaters Anonymous		2
Pointes		4
Royal British Legion		1
Runway 2007		5
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		4
Waterport Terraces		1
Zarzuela		2
	April 2008 Totals	99

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	May 2008	
Action for Housing		2
Calpe Chess Club		3
Cancer Research		1
Clinic Nepal		2
Corona World Wide		1
Department of Culture		1
Department of Social Services		15
Dyslexia Support Group		3
Edinburgh House Estate Association		1
Environment & Safety Group		1
Exhibition - Various Artists		5
Friends of the Earth		5
Gibraltar Academy of Dance		9
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		1
Gibraltar Community Association		2
Gibraltar Health Authority		8
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		1
Gibraltar Museum		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		3
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		2
Income Tax Tribunal		2
Junior Chess Club		3
Mediterranean Dance Group		4
Overeaters Anonymous		4
Pointes		7
Queensway Quay Management		1
Royal British Legion		2
Royal Gibraltar Police		1
Scrabble Club		4
Watergardens Management Phase I		1
	May 2008 Totals	97

Cont'd...

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

June 2008	
Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Chartered Management Institute	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Corona World Wide	1
Dyslexia Support Group	1
Edinburgh House Estate Association	2
Engineers Lane	1
Friends of Calpe House	1
Friends of the Earth	3
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	2
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Photographic Society	38
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
Junior Chess Club	3
Montagu Gardens Management	1
Moroccan Workers Association	1
No 6 Convent Place	1
Overeaters Anonymous	4
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Tarik Dance Group	1
Zarzuela	2
Jun 2008 Totals	92

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	July 2008	
Action for Housing		4
Calpe Chess Club		5
Calpe Football Club		1
Cancer Relief		1
Cancer Research		1
Clinic Nepal		2
Cormorant Wharf		1
Director of John Mackintosh Hall		1
Dyslexia Support Group		5
Gibraltar Health Authority		1
Gibraltar Magic Circle		2
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		5
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Gibraltar Sub Aqua Club		1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Junior Chess Club		5
Montagu Gardens Management		1
Moroccan Workers Association		2
Overeaters Anonymous		5
Save the Children		1
Scout Group (MMHO)		1
Scrabble Club		4
Stage One Productions		1
	Jul 2008 Totals	53

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

August 2008	
Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Research	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Dyslexia Support Group	5
Gibraltar Law Students Association	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	2
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	4
Ombudsman	2
Ordinance Wharf	1
Overeaters Anonymous	4
Santos Productions	10
Scout Group (MMHO)	1
Scrabble Club	4
Self Determination Gibraltar Group (SDGG)	1
Aug 2008 Totals	50

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

September 2008	
Action for Housing	5
Admirals Place Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Dyslexia Support Group	1
Friends of the Earth	1
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	2
Gibraltar Photographic Society	11
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
JM Memorial Foundation	1
Junior Chess Club	4
Overeaters Anonymous	2
Pool Association	1
Royal British Legion	1
Santos Productions	5
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Table Tennis Association	1
Waterport Terraces	2
Sep 2008 Totals	57

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

October 2008

Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Cat Welfare Society	1
Clinical Psychological Department	1
Corona World Wide	2
Costa Golf Action Group	1
Department of Culture	1
Dyslexia Support Group	6
Exhibition - Various Artists	6
Friends of the Earth	5
Gibraltar College of Further Education	3
Gibraltar Health Authority	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	1
Gibraltar Olympics Committee	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Port Authority	1
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
JM Memorial Foundation	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Medical Complaints Review Panel	1
Montagu Crescent Management	1
Overeaters Anonymous	5
Rock on the Rock Club	1
Royal British Legion	2
Save the Children	2
Scrabble Club	4
Simmarians Society	1
Stage Musical Group	3
Stage One Productions	9
Trafalgar House Management	1

Oct 2008 Totals 88

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

November 2008

Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	3
Calpe Chess Club	5
Cancer Relief	2
Cancer Research	1
Corona World Wide	2
Costa Golf Action Group	1
Department of Culture	2
Department of Social Services	1
District Grand Lodge	1
Dyslexia Support Group	8
Exhibition - M H Bland & Co Ltd	39
Friends of the Earth	14
Gibraltar Amateur Athletics Association (GAAA)	1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
Integration with Britain Movement	4
Junior Chess Club	4
Junior Top Model	5
Medical Complaints Review Panel	3
No 6 Convent Place	9
Petanque Club Assoc	1
Queensway Quay Management	1
Royal Gibraltar Police	2
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Stage One Productions	16
Westside Comprehensive School	3
Zarzuela	2

Nov 2008 Totals 150

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

December 2008	
Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
Calpe Chess Club	8
Cancer Relief	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	1
Department of Social Services	1
Dyslexia Support Group	7
Ex-employees of Indosuez Bank	1
Exhibition - M H Bland & Co Ltd	9
Exhibition - Various Artists	22
Friends of the Earth	3
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Integration with Britain Movement	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Junior Top Model	2
Magistrates Court	1
Mini Miss Gib	7
No 6 Convent Place	5
Overeaters Anonymous	1
Queensway Quay Management	1
Sacred Heart School	2
Santos Productions	7
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Tiny Tots Nursery	2
Wellington Court Management	1
Westview Park Management	1

Dec 2008 Totals 108

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	January 2009	
Action for Housing		3
Alzheimer's Support Group		1
Calpe Chess Club		3
Cancer Relief		2
Cancer Research		1
Corona World Wide		2
Coroner		4
Director of John Mackintosh Hall		1
Disability Awareness		1
District Grand Lodge		1
Divorced Women's Pensions Group		1
Down Syndrome Support Group		1
Dyslexia Support Group		11
Exhibition - Various artists		10
Friends of the Earth		2
Gibraltar Federation of Sea Anglers		2
Gibraltar Fishing Club		1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)		4
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel		6
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group		3
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		2
Gibraltar Museum		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		3
Income Tax Tribunal		1
Junior Chess Club		4
Medical Complaints Review Panel		1
Mediterranean Shore Angling Club		2
No 6 Convent Place		15
Royal British Legion		1
Sunset Close Management		1
	Jan 2009 Totals	97

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

February 2009

Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	4
Baker Tilly	1
Brympton Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	2
Cancer Research	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Coroner	49
Costa Golf Action Group	1
Danza Academy	7
Department of Education	1
Down Syndrome Support Group	1
Dyslexia Support Group	8
Exhibition - Various artists	7
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar College of Further Education	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	2
Gibraltar Museum	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	2
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Housing Tribunal	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Medical Complaints Review Panel	5
MO Productions	1
No 6 Convent Place	4
Rosia Plaza Management	1
Royal British Legion	2
Save the Children	1
Theatre Rehearsal	1
Uncle Moshe Concert	2
Watergardens Management Phase II	1
Feb 2009 Totals	142

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No 613 of 2010

March 2009

Action for Housing	4
Air Training Corps (Gibraltar)	1
Allegro Music Productions	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
British Red Cross	1
Calpe Chess Club	5
Cancer Relief	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Conference - GHA Ambulance	36
Cornwall's Centre Management	1
Corona World Wide	2
Coronation Lodge	1
Coroner	12
Department of Social Services	1
Dyslexia Support Group	6
Friends of the Earth	3
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	3
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar League of Hospital Friends	1
Gibraltar Museum	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	5
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	2
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Gibraltar Teachers Association	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Institute of Gibraltarian Studies (talk to Council of International Education Exchange)	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	10
Medical Complaints Review Panel	3
MO Productions	18
Open University	1
Royal British Legion	1
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Talk on Breast Cancer	1
Mar 2009 Totals	145

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	April 2009	
Action for Housing		4
Alzheimer's Support Group		1
Calpe Chess Club		5
Cancer Research		2
Corona World Wide		2
Coroner		8
District Grand Lodge		1
Dreamgirl of the Year		5
Dyslexia Support Group		6
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel		1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group		1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		18
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association		1
Gibraltar Museum		2
Gibraltar Olympics Committee		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Port Authority		1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		7
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Income Tax Tribunal		1
JM Memorial Foundation		2
Junior Chess Club		8
Parliament (Returning Officer)		8
Royal British Legion		1
Santos Productions		1
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		5
Senior Citizens' Association		1
Stage One Productions		1
Student Study		1
Waverly House Management Ltd		1
	Apr 2009 Totals	107

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

May 2009	
Action for Housing	3
Alameda Tenants' Association	1
Bethal Christian Fellowship	2
Calpe Chess Club	4
Calpe Tenants' Association	2
Camel Laird	3
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	3
Corona World Wide	2
Department of Social Services	1
Dyslexia Support Group	10
Environment & Safety Group	2
Friends of the Earth	5
Gardiners View Management	1
Gibraltar Community Association	2
Gibraltar Health Authority	2
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Museum	2
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	2
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	3
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Haymills Gibraltar	1
Human Resources Assoc	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Medical Complaints Review Panel	2
Mediterranean Dance Group	5
Parliament (Returning Officer)	22
Queensway Quay Management	1
Royal British Legion	1
Scrabble Club	3
Senior Citizens' Association	1
Showdance company	1
Student Study	7
Urban Dance Group	1
May 2009 Totals	117

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

June 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Amigos del Camino de Santiago	1
Calpe Chess Club	5
Cancer Relief	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	1
Credit Agricole Pensioners	1
Danza Academy	2
Department of Culture	1
Dyslexia Support Group	7
Exhibition - Various artists	7
Friends of the Earth	7
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)	3
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Insurance institute	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	5
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	1
Gibraltar Photographic Society	31
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	3
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Harbour Views	1
Haymills Gibraltar	1
Health Awareness Lecture	1
Housing Tribunal	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	10
Medical Complaints Review Panel	2
No 6 Convent Place	5
Ombudsman	1
Parliament (Returning Officer)	28
Rosia Court Residents	2
Santos Productions	1
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Senior Citizens' Association	1
Shakespeare 4 Kids	7
Trafalgar Theatre Group	1
Transitions Dance Academy	3
Zarzuela	3
Jun 2009 Totals	164

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Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

July 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	2
Clifton Properties	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Department, Port	1
Dyslexia Support Group	4
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Photographic Society	3
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	4
Haymills Gibraltar	1
Hot Liquid Sailing	1
Human Resources Assoc	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Mount Road Management	1
Occupational Health & Safety Group	1
Rock Gardens Management	1
Royal British Legion	1
Scrabble Club	4
Watergardens Management Phase II	1
Jul 2009 Totals	57

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	August 2009	
Action for Housing		4
Alzheimer's Support Group		1
Calpe Chess Club		4
Clinic Nepal		1
Conference - Calpe		7
Dyslexia Support Group		1
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Darts Association		1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		4
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Grant Thornton Accountants		1
Harley Davidson Club		1
Junior Chess Club		4
Royal British Legion		1
Santos Productions		10
Scrabble Club		4
	Aug 2009 Totals	54

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Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	September 2009	
Action for Housing		4
Alpha Group		1
Alwani Trust		1
Book Launch		1
Calpe Chess Club		4
Chiropractic Health Clinic Lecture		1
Citizens Advice Bureau		2
Clinic Nepal		1
Conference - Calpe		30
Cornwall's Centre Management		1
Danza Academy		2
Dept of Civil Status		1
District Grand Lodge		1
Dyslexia Support Group		6
Elliott's Battery Management		2
Exhibition - Various artists		12
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar College of Further Education		1
Gibraltar Community Association		1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Photographic Society		14
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Human Resources Assoc		1
Income Tax Tribunal		2
Island Games Association		1
JM Memorial Foundation		2
Junior Chess Club		15
No 6 Convent Place		1
Police Consultative Group		1
Rhythmic Gymnastics		1
Royal British Legion		1
Santos Productions		5
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		5
Showdance company		1
Stage One Productions		6
Super Nanny		1
Waterport Terraces		1
	Sep 2009 Totals	141

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

October 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Almoghreb Lodge (Masonic Institute)	1
Alpha Group	1
Both Worlds Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Corona World Wide	2
Danza Academy	3
Dept of Civil Status	1
Dyslexia Support Group	11
Elliott's Battery Management	2
Exhibition - Baha'i Faith	4
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Academy of Dance	20
Gibraltar College of Further Education	2
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	2
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	5
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
Inhabitants' Lodge	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Leukaemia Research Fund	1
Lodge of St John	1
Mediterranean Dance Group	3
Methodist Church	5
MO Productions	1
Occupational Health & Safety Group	1
Police Consultative Group	2
Rock Theatre	1
Royal British Legion	1
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Self Determination Gibraltar Group (SDGG)	1
Stagestruck	1
Westview Park Management	1
Oct 2009 Totals	111

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

November 2009

Action for Housing	5
Almoghreb Lodge (Masonic Institute)	1
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
Book Launch	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Calpe Lodge	1
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	1
Connaught Lodge	2
Corona World Wide	2
Coronation Lodge	1
Department of Culture	2
Department of Social Services	1
District Grand Lodge	1
Down Syndrome Support Group	1
Dyslexia Support Group	12
Eaton Park Association	1
Elliott's Battery Management	2
Environment & Safety Group	1
Exhibition - GHA Laboratory	5
Exhibition - Various artists	13
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)	1
Gibraltar College of Further Education	2
Gibraltar Health Authority	3
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Ice Skating Association	1
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	4
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
Inhabitants' Lodge	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Letchworth Lodge	1
Lodge of St John	1
Montagu Crescent Management	1
Montagu Gardens Management	1
No 6 Convent Place	3
Progressive Democratic Party (PDP)	1
Research into Childhood Cancer (RICC)	1
Royal Gibraltar Police Authority	3
Sacred Heart School	1
Santos Productions	3
Save the Children	1

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

November 2009 (Cont'd)		
Scrabble Club		5
Simmarians Society		1
Super Nanny		6
Urban Dance Group		2
Zarzuela		1
	Nov 2009 Totals	129

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Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

December 2009	
Action for Housing	2
Admirals Place Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cormorant Wharf	1
Corona World Wide	1
Department of Social Services	3
Dyslexia Support Group	3
Elliott's Battery Management	1
Friends of the Earth	2
Gibraltar College of Further Education	1
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	6
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	1
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	3
Income Tax Tribunal	2
Inhabitants' Lodge	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Leukaemia Research Fund	1
Magistrates Court	1
Medallions of Honour Awards Ceremony	1
Mediterranean Shore Angling Club	1
Prince of Wales Chapter	1
Royal Gibraltar Police	1
Sacred Heart School	2
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	3
Shorthorn Estate Housing Association	1
St Thomas Lodge	1
Sunset Close Management	1
The Anchorage Management Ltd	1
The Theory of One	2
Tiny Tots Nursery	2
Dec 2009 Totals	66

NO. 614 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

INCE'S HALL

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to say when the lift in the Ince's Hall will be in place or whether it has at least been put out to tender?

ANSWER

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

As previously stated in answer to supplementaries arising from Question No. 19 of 2008, installation of a lift at the Ince's Hall will be considered along with other things when Government is in a position to embark on a refurbishment programme of its existing facilities at Ince's Hall and adjoining complex.

NO. 615 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – VACANCY FOR DEPUTY CEO

Can Government say why it considers it desirable that those applying for the vacancy of Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Sports and Leisure Centre should have a good command of a third language other than English and Spanish?

ANSWER

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

It is considered desirable, but was not advertised as an essential requirement, that applicants for the post of Deputy Chief Executive at the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority should have a good command of a third language, other than English and Spanish, due to the following reasons:-

1. Gibraltar increasingly hosts international competitions with participants whose mother tongue is other than English or Spanish.
2. There is sometimes correspondence received from international sporting federations which originates in a language other than English or Spanish.

Given these two points, the possibility of enhancing communication, either verbally or written, in another language is deemed as a desirable advantage for the day to day running of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority.

NO. 616 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – VACANCIES

Can Government state how many applications they received for the vacancies of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Sports and Leisure Officers in the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority?

ANSWER

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

A total of 26 applications were received for the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

A total of 135 applications were received for the post of Sports and Leisure Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 616 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member explain at what stage we are in the process? Have these posts been filled or are we in interview stages?

HON E J REYES:

Fourteen applicants for the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer have been short listed and will be invited to attend a selection board interview which, I was told earlier this morning, will most probably take place some time next week. Sixty one applicants were short listed for the post of Sports and Leisure Officer and interviews for these were held on Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th June 2010. My understanding is that the selection board jury is still out on its selection of the best suited candidate.

NO. 617 OF 2010

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 May 2010 giving a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

The information requested is contained in the written schedule that I now hand over to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NUMBER 617/2010

**PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY AS AT END
OF MAY 2010**

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	Accounts Executive	4	Admin	Male	British
1	Asst Sports Development and Training Officer	4	Sports Dev. Unit	Male	British
1	Asst Facilities Manager	4	Facilities	Male	British
1	Technical Officer	5	Facilities	Male	British
5	Centre Managers	5	Facilities	4 Male 1 Female	British
2	Administrative / Clerk	6	Admin	Female	British
1	Supervisory Groundsman	7	Facilities	Male	British
23	Sports and Leisure Officers	8	Facilities	21 Male 2 Female	British
1	Secretarial / Typist	9	Admin	Female	British
2	Support	11	Admin & Facilities	1 Male 1 Female	British

TOTAL – 43 Employees

NO. 618 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GASA SWIMMING POOL

Can Government state what works of maintenance or improvement are planned to be carried out this year to the public swimming pool at Waterport, which is commonly referred to as the GASA swimming pool?

ANSWER

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

I would like to start by highlighting the fact that the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is responsible for two swimming pools, both of which are available for use by the public, and not just the 25 metre pool that was previously run by GASA.

The main works planned in the 25 metre pool involves a major overhaul and upgrade to the air treatment system. Other scheduled works for this year, some of which have already commenced, are:-

1. Extensive weeding of all outdoor areas;
2. Cleaning of both sets of stairs and banisters leading to the sea;
3. Painting of access stairs to increase visibility;
4. Refurbishment of all tables and chairs in outdoor areas;
5. New signage in both indoor and outdoor areas;
6. Non-slip tape added to the stairs leading to the sea;
7. Extra litter bins have been provided.

In addition, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority have recently taken over the car park adjacent to the 25 metre pool and remedial works, as necessary, will be undertaken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 618 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I did not hear works being carried out to the changing rooms being included in that list and I am talking of the 25 metre pool here. Can the hon Member say whether in fact any works are envisaged to the changing rooms themselves?

HON E J REYES:

Maybe I have not spoken very clearly. I did not mention the word changing rooms at all in my answer there but if I look at my other notes I can say that the actual design of the building housing the 25 metre pool does not allow for major improvements to be carried out in the changing rooms and toilets. However, it is our plan once the air filtration system has been repaired or replaced, if needed, to carry out where possible remedial works in order to enhance the changing rooms and toilet facilities.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member aware, simply from visiting the site which any member of the public can do, that the changing rooms are in need of works. There are tiles on the walls which have clearly fallen out and whole gaps without tiles and from people who I know frequent the pool quite often, that I understand has been the case for a long, long time, certainly over a year, so very evident for all to see is the fact that there are works... These are what I would suggest minor works and not major improvement works which is one thing that the hon Member has addressed. But there are minor works which are clearly necessary and visible and can the hon Member undertake to look at this and make sure that whatever those minor works are will be done because they are a public facility and should be in a fit state for use by all members of the public, which I am sure the hon Member will agree with.

HON E J REYES:

Yes, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is aware, has been aware of certain remedial works that should be undertaken. What I can say in defence of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is that, although it may not have been noticed by the public, some tiles that were missing and a gap was left in the wall were replaced and within a very short number of days have fallen back again. Whether that could be attributed to bad workmanship or design in its initial construction and so on, I do not know because this Government is certainly not responsible for the construction of that 25 metre pool when it originated. Certainly, it would be our desire to improve the facilities there which is why I said after we have done the air treatment system then we will start on these works because whether one can classify them as major or minor, one has to say, you have to pay for the works to be carried out and how much money do I have will be dependent on whether the air treatment system has to be replaced or repaired at perhaps a far lesser cost. For example, one thing which I have very much close at heart because friends and relatives of mine who go to the pool tell me, there seems to be continuous and recurring problems with, for example, the hot water system. We cannot change the present boilers there to heat up the water which tend to be more like a house type of boiler to a more commercial type of system because when it was constructed the plumbing system was not simply adapted to cater for that. So we are stuck with something designed in the days when it was done, constructed when it was done and therefore it would not be a minor work but rather it would be one of major, at least from a financial point of view proportioned, but one that I think both sides will agree, we would all like to see happening possibly as soon as possible.

HON G H LICUDI:

We certainly would like to see progress made and the works done as soon as possible. The information we have in relation to the tiles which the hon Member has mentioned indicating that it is not clear why they have fallen off. The reports we have is that there is a link, an obvious link between that and the fact that there has not been a functioning air treatment system or dehumidifier functioning for a very, very long time. As a result of the condensation, the tiles have simply expanded and eventually they fall off. That is the information that we have. But with regards to the air treatment system, that is something which is not being functioning and I do not know whether the hon Member knows when it broke down but the reports that we have is possibly a couple of years. Why has it taken so long for the Government to identify that that is something that was needed?

HON E J REYES:

The hon Member is correct in assuming I do not know the exact length of time. What I do know is that it is not as far back as two years. But certainly, like happens quite often when even one has personal possessions, something is not functioning properly, the first thing we do is attempt to repair it, either changing spark plugs in a car or anything of the nature. It then transpires that that was perhaps just a temporary solution and not quite the whole thing. I can guarantee the hon Member is that we have reached the stage where the adequate advice received is a major work has to be carried out but even the experts cannot assure me whether it is a major repair work or a question of a major replacement of the whole thing. Yes, I have heard, although the experts have not committed themselves in writing, but they did mention that part of the problem of falling tiles could be in connection with the air treatment system and I think most pool users now tend to hold that popular belief. But I assure the hon Member that I will take a personal interest to make certain it gets done as soon as possible.

HON S E LINARES:

Since we are now discussing the swimming pool. Since the Sports and Leisure Authority took over from GASA, what system of health and safety, as in the users, is there in this swimming pool? For example, users can now go at any time of the day and use it because the Sports and Leisure Authority have now opened it up to the general public. It is to do with improvements, by the way, of the system which is part of the question if anybody is questioning about this question. I can hear you muttering there. It is true. Absolutely, and it is related to the question. Oh yes it is. That is a matter of opinion.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON S E LINARES:

It is Mr Speaker who should decide that ...

MR SPEAKER:

Order. No Point of Order has been raised, so please ignore the mutterings.

HON S E LINARES:

Thank you Mr Speaker. What system is there on health and safety in relation to users because, as I understand it, anybody can go in at any time of the day, have a swim and then come out and just have a nice time, but what happens if there is an incident with that person in the pool where nothing is recorded about that person. A person could well be drowned underneath in the pool and nobody knows who that person is or what has happened. Is there any system which the Sports and Leisure Authority have implemented in order to avoid these incidents happening?

HON E J REYES:

I feel pretty confident to say that the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority must have in place some health and safety system. If the hon Member wishes to know some of the finer details of how it operates, I am afraid, in order not to mislead this House, I would need notice of that question. But one can deduce and stretch the imagination of which I have no problem in stretching my imagination and making believe that that is part of the original question. Look at the original answer offered to Mr Licudi. Non-slip tape added to stairs leading to the sea and so on. Certainly there are health and safety related precautions being taken.

NO. 619 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR MUSEUM – ADMISSION FEES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament in admission fees to the Gibraltar Museum?

ANSWER

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

Further to Question No. 64 of 2010, the revenue raised in admission fees for the Gibraltar Museum on a monthly basis is as follows:-

January 2010	£ 473.70
February 2010	£2,452.25
March 2010	£ 980.80
April 2010	£ 846.22
May 2010	£ 765.45

ORAL

NO. 620 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 8th December 2009?

ANSWER

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

The Heritage Action Committee met on the 9th March and 5th June 2010.

NO. 621 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

MOUNT ALVERNIA – REPORTED INFECTION

What was the reported infection that resulted in parts of Mount Alvernia being closed to visitors on Monday 21st February 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The reported infection was due to the norovirus which is a gastrointestinal infection. However, Mount Alvernia was never closed but relatives and visitors were advised not to visit for 72 hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 621 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Although Mount Alvernia was not closed, visitors could not visit for 72 hours. So in effect it was as if it were closed to those visitors.

HON J J NETTO:

Certainly, closed to visitors but not to the residents.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. But the question specifically says whether visitors could visit patients in Mount Alvernia because of the infection and whereas he says it was not closed, those people could not visit their relatives because of the virus, yes?

HON J J NETTO:

It was not closed in the sense that they had a padlock closing the doors. Staff were going in and out and everyone was going... The ancillary staff was going in and out. So it was not closed. Now, if the hon Member wants to draw some semantics over that. That is fine. The hon Member can have it on his own terms if that makes him quite happy with that but I am saying it was not closed in the sense that no one at all

could go in and out. There were lots of people going in and out. The ones that could not go in were the visitors, on the advice of the infection control nurses of the GHA.

HON N F COSTA:

What would make me happy is actually having an answer once from the Government without insulting us and telling us that we are drawing semantics. The answer ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is not an insult.

HON N F COSTA:

Of course it is. It is basically saying that we are asking questions trying to draw a silly distinction in order to try to make some political cheap point. That is exactly what he is saying.

HON XXXX:

But you do it as well.

HON N F COSTA:

Well, look....

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON N F COSTA:

The main mutterer and cheerleader of the Chief Minister, as always in a sedentary position, has to say something in order to try to stay on top. So ignoring him, as I would like to do right now, the fact of the matter is that whilst insisting on what is said to be a semantical point, no doubt implied that I am trying to score a cheap political point, relatives were not able to see the visitors for 72 hours because of the xxxx. Yes or no?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful.

NO. 622 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

CARE AGENCY – SUSPENSIONS

How many members of the Care Agency or individuals working for or in premises of that agency if contracted from third parties have been suspended in the past 12 months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

There have been seven members of the Care Agency suspended in the past 12 months.

NO. 623 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

CARE AGENCY – CHILDREN IN CARE OF GRANDPARENTS

How many children are presently in the care of their grandparents on the recommendation of the Care Agency or by order of the court as a result of the advice of the Care Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At present there are eight children in the care of their grandparents.

NO. 624 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

CARE AGENCY – SOCIAL WORKERS

How many qualified Social Workers were employed in the Care Agency before the coming into force of the Children Act and how many are currently employed after the Act came into force?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

There are currently 22 qualified Social Workers employed in the Care Agency, the same number as before the coming into force of the Children Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 624 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Member tell us whether any additional Social Workers are envisaged to be employed?

HON J J NETTO:

Not for the time being. The last time we employed Social Workers was just prior to the enactment of the Children Act but not... It was before rather than after. So obviously, I have answered my question. There are currently 22 Social Workers.

HON N F COSTA:

How many Social Workers were recruited just before the passing of the Act.

HON J J NETTO:

Three Social Workers and that was on the 7th September 2009.

HON N F COSTA:

My information is that ever since the passing of the Act, Social Workers now having expanded role under the Care Agency. For instance, under the new Act there are family assistance orders and supervision orders in addition to the judicial care orders that are made under the Criminal Act. That has meant that there will be an increase in the use of registered and qualified Social Workers under the new legislative provision. Given that, is the Minister therefore saying that notwithstanding those new roles of the Care Agency there is no envisaged increase of registered Social Workers?

HON J J NETTO:

We have already employed three more. Now, the question that the hon Member poses is that he assumes that the workload might increase. Well that may be the case but we will need to wait and see what are the effects of the new Children Act. It is too early to say but the position of the Social Workers has been improved by the employment of those three just prior to the Act coming into force.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the hon Member for that answer but with all due respect I am not assuming anything. The information that we have is that already because of the new additional functions of the Care Agency, there has been delay in some cases, especially when it comes to children that are in care and reports having to be made. So it is not that I am assuming. It is complaints that I have had from people who are affected by the new provisions.

HON J J NETTO:

I do not detect the question.

HON N F COSTA:

No there is no question. I was simply replying to the accusation of assumption.

NO. 625 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

MOUNT ALVERNIA – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are presently waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St. Bernard's Hospital or in John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At present there are 514 elderly citizens waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, 29 of whom are occupying a bed in John Cochrane Unit and 41 in St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 625 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

That seems to be quite an increase from the last answer to Question No. 73 of 2010 where there was a total of 28 occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital. If I understand the hon Minister correctly, he is saying there is now 29 in John Cochrane which is one more and an additional 41. Is that the case?

HON J J NETTO:

Could the hon Member specify who replied with the answer in that particular circumstance which you are now referring to?

HON N F COSTA:

Your goodself.

HON J J NETTO:

My goodself. The only thing I can ... The reason why I am asking this is because, in fact, only this morning my colleague and myself were looking at this and we were looking at how the figures differ from how the figures are collated within the Care Agency and how the figures are collated by the GHA and they have different procedures, different organisations and they both do not necessarily tally. At the

end, we just came to the conclusion that it is just that the way that the Care Agency actually collates the information is different to the GHA. In relation to your actual question which is that it seems that we have gone up in relation to people in Mount Alvernia, that may seem to be the case but, perhaps, given that we are talking about St Bernard's Hospital as such, rather than the John Cochrane Unit which is what you are referring to, then, perhaps, we will need to look at where the difference lies but I am not suggesting that you are not right. It may be true that there have been increases since the last time I gave that particular figure but I am putting a caveat there, as well, that there are differences between the way we collect them and the GHA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We are talking about the number of people in beds. I have difficulty in understanding why people should go into a ward that if they come from one department they see more people in bed and if they come from another department they see less people in bed.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Maybe I can clarify or shed some light on this anomaly. When Mount Alvernia collects the figures of... when they look at their waiting list and analyse how many people, at the time that they are collating that information, are occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital, at that moment in time the figure might vary from what they gathered the last time they looked. For the simple reason that at that moment in time there might be more people in hospital who are not necessarily occupying a long-term bed. They might be just there on a temporary basis and might be discharged the following day. What we cannot do is compare the number of long term elderly who we know are going nowhere, they are going from there either to Cochrane Ward or to Mount Alvernia, which are the figures that we collate in the GHA and how they analyse the figures which is how many people are there at this precise moment in time occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital but who do not necessarily are long-term. They might be going home tomorrow or in a few weeks time. I do not know whether that has clarified the discrepancy between one set of figures and the other.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Elderly Care Agency keeps a waiting list presumably with names and people who are then informed when there is a vacancy, then that list must be made up from the information that the Health Authority provides to the Agency of how many people there are who would be discharged to Mount Alvernia if Mount Alvernia could take them. So surely those two lists must be the same because the source of the list of the Agency is the Health Authority?

HON J J NETTO:

What I will try to do, if we can move on to the next question. Once I have finished I will try to find what is the source of the figure emanating from the Care Agency and then we might be able to reconcile the figures if that is acceptable to the hon Member.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. That is all very well and, of course, I am grateful to the hon Gentleman for suggesting that we proceed in that way. But notwithstanding the analysis and the discrepancy or the anomaly as the hon Lady has said, is this not, though the fact that there is an increase in the number of elderly patients waiting for a place in Mount Alvernia who are occupying beds at St Bernard's Hospital, is this not simply yet a vindication of the fact that we do need... the problem facing people waiting for a place in Mount Alvernia to be resolved quickly, urgently and the Government has not really given this a top priority.

HON J J NETTO:

We reject that completely because first of all, let me say that the management of the Care Agency estimated that about 50 per cent of the 514 persons who are on the waiting list have expressed a desire for a future need to be in Mount Alvernia and not necessarily an immediate need to go to Mount Alvernia. In relation to the latter part, the comment that the hon Member makes that we have not given a priority to this. In fact the opposite is the case. The hon Member, obviously he was not here in 1996 but the budget that we inherited from the previous Government in terms of elderly care services was £870,000 and the figure today is nearly £8.5 million. So you can see the enormous amount of money that this Government has put in order to provide care services to the elderly and the last thing I would say, wait next week when I stand up to give my budget speech.

HON N F COSTA:

First of all, myself and Members on this side of the House and the general public are simply tired of the excuse that we go back to 1996. After all those years in Government, it is preposterous for the hon Member to say, well look it is better than in 1996. One could say, well it is better than in 1941. Who cares about 1996? I am asking the hon Gentleman about political realities and realities today. Not in 1996. We are asking him to answer for his own administration and with all due respect as well, he said now in answer to my supplementary that currently there is only approximately 50 per cent of people who have put their name on the waiting list notifying of the future need. On the last time it was 56 per cent and, of course, the more number of people that you get on the waiting list, the lower the percentage is going to be. The reality still remains that there are people waiting on that list and that it is a problem and they do not do anything about it.

HON J J NETTO:

He says we do not do anything about it. The hon Member is even factually incorrect on that basis.

HON N F COSTA:

On the figures that you have given me, then I am factually correct.

HON J J NETTO:

If we look at the situation as far as Mount Alvernia is concerned. Only a couple of years ago, I do not know whether it was five or six years ago, we doubled the bed capacity in Mount Alvernia. It used to provide something like 62 bed facilities for elderly people in Mount Alvernia. Today there are 135 people occupying a place in Mount Alvernia. We introduced domiciliary care which they never did when they were in Government for the elderly and we are doing more... Just look, for instance, who did the Bishop Canilla House. It was this party in Government and not them. Who is the party that did Albert Risso House, it was this party in Government because the previous Government never did anything for the elderly. That is a fact. I know the hon Member does not want to look back so people cannot remember that they hardly provided any services whatsoever for the elderly. But the facts speak for themselves. Whether he likes it or whether he does not like it, the facts speak for themselves.

HON N F COSTA:

The fact is that it has not been ... That is what it says.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON J J NETTO:

We take very seriously the fact of the service that we provide. We are proud of it and we will continue to do more and more and more.

HON N F COSTA:

More and more and more have not resolved the problem. It does not matter what he says, it does not resolve the problem. If he cannot accept that then he cannot accept reality.

MR SPEAKER:

Is there a question in that?

HON N F COSTA:

No. Just ignore it Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Well this is question time.

HON N F COSTA:

Well if I had got a straight answer I would not have to make replies.

NO. 626 OF 2010

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. 72 of 2010, have been employed since, and how many are still receiving Social Assistance, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 627 to 629 of 2010.

NO. 627 OF 2010

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. 69 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 626, 628 and 629 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 628 OF 2010

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. 68 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 626, 627 and 629 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 629 OF 2010

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 February 2010 to May 2010 in respect of employment injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I will now hand the hon Members the lists giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 626

Persons in receipt of social assistance for the months of February to May 2010.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February 2010	191	317	508	86	144	130	148
March 2010	206	322	528	90	145	143	150
April 2010	213	317	530	91	140	145	154
May 2010	221	322	543	98	138	142	165
As at 10 June 2010	219	326	545	97	138	142	168

Persons employed during the months of February to May 2010.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February 2010	1	2	3	0	1	1	1
March 2010	2	0	2	1	1	0	0
April 2010	6	2	8	5	2	1	0
May 2010	5	3	8	2	2	4	0

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 627

Persons receiving social assistance for the months of February to May 2010 by month, sex and age.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February 2010	191	317	508	86	144	130	148
March 2010	206	322	528	90	145	143	150
April 2010	213	317	530	91	140	145	154
May 2010	221	322	543	98	138	142	165

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 628

Persons receiving disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements as from February to May 2010 giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex.

	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
February 2010	24	34	24	25	15	14	3	139	97	42
March 2010	26	34	24	25	16	15	3	143	101	42
April 2010	26	34	24	25	16	14	4	143	101	42
May 2010	26	34	24	25	17	14	4	144	101	43

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 629

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund from February 2010 to May 2010 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows :-

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND - TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
Payments:				
Employment Injuries	£43,920	£43,056	£33,153	£45,571

NO. 630 OF 2010

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. 67 of 2010, from the Statutory Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners, showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 630 of 2010

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the months of February to May 2010.

	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	245	241	237	238
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nationals)	5574	5598	5663	5695
Moroccan Pensioners	2015	2020	2026	2034
Other Nationalities	669	671	679	692
Total	8503	8530	8605	8659

ORAL

NO. 631 OF 2010

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 to Question No. 66 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 632 of 2010.

NO. 632 OF 2010

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 February 2010 to May 2010 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 632 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 631

The monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund as from February 2010 to May 2010 is as per the following tentative statement:

(*The approved Contribution from the Consolidated Fund was £8.5M for the year 2009/2010 and £7.5M for the year 2010/2011. 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>28-Feb-10</u>	<u>31-Mar-10</u>	<u>30-Apr-10</u>	<u>31-May-10</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>				
<u>Opening Balance</u>	19,352,134	19,435,168	18,450,090	19,886,584
<u>Add</u>				
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	708,333	708,333	625,000	625,000
Contributions collected in cash (Insurance contr.)	1,304,843	1,564,672	1,280,880	1,276,133
Misc Receipts	5,484	23,275	21,207	0
	<u>21,370,794</u>	<u>21,731,448</u>	<u>20,377,177</u>	<u>21,787,716</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	<u>(£1,935,625)</u>	<u>(£3,281,358)</u>	<u>(£490,594)</u>	<u>(£2,207,151)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>19,435,168</u>	<u>18,450,090</u>	<u>19,886,584</u>	<u>19,580,565</u>

Answer to Question No. 632

The following payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Funds from February 2010 to May 2010 from the employers' insolvency.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
February 2010	£5,136
March 2010	£5,930
April 2010	£199,194
May 2010	£39,030

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 631 AND 632 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The breakdown provided by the hon Member has a large amount being paid in April 2010, as opposed to any of the other months, which is £199,000, whereas the other months are £5,000, £5000 and £39,000. Does the hon Member know how that figure of £199,000 comes about?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, the information I have is that that amount of £199,194 comes from one particular company with 22 beneficiaries and that was paid in April 2010.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member explain why in the case of that particular company the payment had to be made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund?

HON J J NETTO:

As we said the last time we debated this earlier on this year, what used to be the Insolvency Fund is now subsumed within the Statutory Benefits Fund so the payments are made from the Statutory Benefits Fund.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask a supplementary about the figures given in answer to Question No. 631 of 2010 which I missed?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In April 2010 the figure for the payment seems to be unusually low given that we are talking about the bulk of the monthly payments being the old age pensions from the Social Insurance Fund. I do not think I have seen such a low figure for a very long time. Is there a particular reason why this is ...

HON J J NETTO:

I can give the hon Member an explanation for that if that is what he wants. The sharp increase in the amount of payments made from the Statutory Benefits Fund for March 2010 reflects the benefit payments in respect of April having been paid in advance because of the Easter long weekend.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh. I see.

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member will remember Easter came at the very beginning of April. So therefore, we took the view to bring in... So that was one element, the lion's share, why you see in the previous month such a rise in payment. But there was an additional thing which normally tends to happen every year at the end of the financial year and in fact your colleague the Hon Mr Licudi seems not to have picked it up this time but certainly picked it up two years before. That is that at the end of the financial year from the Statutory Benefits Fund we have to pay the Gibraltar Health Authority in order for them to recover the cost incurred as a result of industrial injuries and that payment to the GHA was £335,024. So, the two things put together show the complete rise in March and the drop in April and that is the explanation.

NO. 633 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – VACANCIES

Can Government state when it will fill the vacancies advertised last September for part-time and full-time Administrative Officer posts in the Elderly Care Agency, why it has taken the Agency so long to fill these vacancies and how many applicants there were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The reason why the Care Agency has taken so long to fill these vacancies is that there were other priorities with regards to the amalgamation of the Care Agency and opening of John Cochrane Unit. Therefore, the Agency has been unable to address this issue as promptly as it would have liked. There were 145 applicants and they should be receiving a reply within the next two weeks.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 633 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

These, presumably, are posts which are vacant and are bodies that are actually needed to carry out certain work. So, given that these vacancies have been open since last September, is this resulting in any manpower problems such that further priority has to be given in order to make sure that those bodies are in place to take the duties that they are supposed to be carrying out?

HON J J NETTO:

Needless to say, this is taking too long and obviously we will agree to that. It should have taken a shorter period of time but they have to compete with other priorities and unfortunately it has taken much, much longer than it should have done. In relation to the latter part of the question, I suppose like in most areas where there is work, administration work going on, while the extra bodies are always needed, admittedly, more often than not people resources are pooled to help, to make sure that the different functions within the administration, in this particular case the Care Agency, keep moving ahead. In the ideal world, we should not be asking people to work more overtime or to do more things. In the perfect world, we should have people employed as soon as possible in order not to create a burden on the rest of the staff that remain

there. But it has not happened on this occasion. It is taking much longer than it should.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member agree that this situation is undesirable, not just from the point of view of the Agency, because if there are vacancies in posts which need to be filled then the sooner they are filled the better, the better for the Agency and for the staff already in the Agency. But it also seems to us to be unfair for the applicants. For someone who sees a vacancy last September and applies, to be kept waiting nine months for a response. Does the hon Member not agree?

HON J J NETTO:

I do agree. Yes, certainly.

NO. 634 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of pensioners in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee showing the number receiving the single and married rates in bands of £5 to the full amount as at the end of May 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 635 of 2010.

NO. 635 OF 2010

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. 82 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 635 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 634

The 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 the end of May 2010 is as follows:

				SINGLES	COUPLES	TOTAL
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0	2	2
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	31	0	31
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	18	1	19
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	10	3	13
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	13	1	14
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	16	0	16
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	11	1	12
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	17	0	17
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	19	1	20
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	232	2	234
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	19	5	24
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	20	6	26
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	8	1	9
TOTAL				438	29	467

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 635 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 635

The number of persons who have been granted the Minimum Income Guarantee, receiving the single and married couple rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount during the period February to May 2010 is as follows:

				SINGLES	COUPLES	TOTAL
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	1	0	1
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	0	0	0
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	0	0	0
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	0	0	0
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	1	0	1
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	5	0	5
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	0	0
			TOTAL	8	0	8

NO. 636 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL LUNCHESES

Can Government state how many children have stayed in school for lunch in the years 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 respectively giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 636 OF 2010

The total number of children who have stayed in school for lunch are the following:

SCHOOL	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Westside	350	402	370	396
Bayside	781	694	752	561
Hebrew Primary	23	22	26	53
St Joseph's Middle	363	350	352	352
St Anne's Middle	406	409	420	380
Sacred Heart Middle	224	218	203	200
Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	420	440	433	453
St Mary's First	138	141	167	147
St Bernard's First	115	116	100	100
St Paul's First	284	309	314	306
St Joseph's First	308	322	312	320
Governor's Meadow	268	234	232	223
Notre Dame First	187	176	173	187

NO. 637 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRE

How many boys have made use of the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside with a breakdown by year since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 638 of 2010.

NO. 638 OF 2010**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRE**

What has been the cost of developing the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside with a breakdown by financial year since it was set up?

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

Since it was set up in 2006, six boys have been made use of the Alternative Learning Centre in 2006/07, six boys in 2007/08, eight boys in 2008/09 and twelve boys in 2009/10.

The breakdown, by financial year, of the cost of the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside School is the following:

2006/07	£126,487
2007/08	£1,791
2008/09	£4,403
2009/10	£6,339

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 637 and 638 OF 2010**HON S E LINARES:**

Just as a matter of curiosity, I presume the 2006/2007 increase is to set up classrooms and equipment for the Alternative Learning Centre”.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Correct. That is that.

NO. 639 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CAREERS FAIR

Can Government confirm whether the Department of Education has taken over the organisation of the Careers Fair and if so give the reasons why?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Since its inception in 2006, the Careers Fair has always been hosted by the Department of Education and Training and organised by the schools.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 639 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister mean the Department of Education and Training also organises the Careers Fair now as opposed to hosting it.

HON C G BELTRAN:

The hon Member's colleague is correct. What I said is that the Department of Education and Training has since the inception of the Careers Fair, hosted the fair but it has been organised by the schools themselves.

HON S E LINARES:

It is still the case?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Correct.

NO. 640 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state how many teachers are currently working on a supply basis giving a breakdown by years on supply and periods they are covering or assigned for and how many years they have been on supply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There are currently 45 teachers working on a supply basis. Of these, six have worked periodically for less than a year, 12 for under two years, 16 for under three years and 11 for less than four years. Regarding the length of assignment for each of these teachers currently, this is as follows: seven have supplied for one term, six for two terms and 32 for more than two terms.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 640 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give a reason why he has 11 teachers for less than four years on supply.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. That means that in any given time during that period of time, those four years, there have been 11 supply teachers... Sorry, of those who are currently working, 11 have been on supply for less than four years. They have been doing supply work for less than four years, on and off, obviously. It does not mean that they have been working for three and a half years on the trot, no.

HON G H LICUDI:

I do not know if the hon Member has the information. Of the 45 currently working on a supply basis, does he have a breakdown between the two Comprehensive Schools, how many are in each?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Sorry, can you repeat the question?

HON G H LICUDI:

Of the 45 currently on supply, how many are on supply in each of the Comprehensive Schools?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. I do not have that information in front of me.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does he have a figure which he is aware of?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. I would not. I would not like to mislead the House giving just ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Is it still the position, as I understand in answers which have been previously given, that supply workers are used exclusively to cover temporary absences and not to fill posts? Is that still the case?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. A substantive post is covered permanently with a permanent and pensionable position.

HON G H LICUDI:

So the 45 which are currently working on supply, all of them are covering temporary absences, for example, in maternity or an illness or something like that?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Not necessarily absences. They may be covering, and I have answered this before, precisely the same question about four months ago. They may be covering a particular need, subject specialism for example, or a child that has a special need that requires somebody over and above their complement.

NO. 641 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VACANCY FOR EDUCATION TRAINING OFFICER

When does Government expect to permanently fill the post of “Education Training Officer” which has been vacant since November 2007 and in respect of which a number of applications have been submitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 642 of 2010.

NO. 642 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BLEAK HOUSE TRAINING INSTITUTE

Can Government state who is responsible for the staff at Bleak House and all other persons in the Training Section?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In respect of the Training Officer, it is not the Education Training Officer. The actual title is Training Officer. The Government will take a decision on the post of Training Officer when it is ready to do so.

The staff at the Bleak House Training Institute and all other persons involved in Training are employees of the Government's Department of Education and Training.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 641 AND 642 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

This is basically, we can go back to ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

To this morning.

HON S E LINARES:

To this morning, exactly, the Minister is absolutely right.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Absolutely.

HON S E LINARES:

How is it then that these officers who are employed by the Department of Education and Training and are under the auspices, I presume, of the Director of Education...

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. No.

HON S E LINARES:

I presume they are because they are Training Officers within the Department of Education. The Department of Education, I presume the head is the Director of Education?

HON C G BELTRAN:

And Training. Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Therefore, what I am trying to say is, do they then... these officers that are in Bleak House, actually report to, or should I say, are they under the Employment Department. Who are they under then?

HON C G BELTRAN:

It depends what you mean by under? The word under may have many different implications.

HON S E LINARES:

Who is responsible for them?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Oh, I see.

HON S E LINARES:

We are talking about semantics.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, there is a difference. If they are employees of the Department of Education and Training and there is a Director of Education and Training, they come under the

instructions, obviously, of the Director of Education and Training. Now, on the day to day workings of different parts of training, it is the case that they work at Bleak House at say, for example, to run the Vocational Training Scheme and although the Director of Education has very clear instructions as to how that is to be run, nevertheless, the operational responsibilities... I think my colleague was explaining, answering your question along similar lines this morning, for operational reasons the officers in the Department of the Employment may give instructions, support or work alongside people who are as it were, generically employed by the Department of Education and Training. But I do not see a problem. I do not know where the hon Member sees the problem in people who are employed by the Department of Education and Training because Government have seen it fit for operational reasons to divide, what you could call general or professional development and training as opposed to vocational training, that they are situated in different parts and work with different officers. It is not so much a question of who you work under because there is continuous liaison and communication to make sure that Government's policy is carried out. That is the important thing.

NO. 643 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the Education Advisory Committee has met in 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

As far as I can gather, there is no Committee of this name. I honestly do not know what the hon Member is referring to when he talks about the Education Advisory Committee. There is no Committee of that name.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 643 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

This Government has changed the name so many times that he cannot even remember because it was the post 14 Committee that the previous Minister put in place. Then he changed it to post 14 to 19. Then he changed it to the coordinating Committee for post 14 to 19 with co-education in it. So, I thought that by using the words Educational Advisory Committee, it would encompass all the names the previous Ministers had used before. So if for clarity, could I then say that it is the Committee which is supposedly looking at post 14 to 19 education and co-education?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I really do not know where to begin. I think that the hon Member has... because you see he has made the same mistake over the last two and a half years, as far as I am concerned, since I have been Minister for Education. He keeps on talking about the post 14 to 19. No. It has always been the 14 to 19 education. Developments in 14 to 19 education which we have been monitoring in the United Kingdom and which has changed all the time and I think that we were absolutely correct in doing that and not taking any action here because now with the change in Government in UK, they are now looking at all these courses differently. If the hon Member is referring to the 14 to 19 Committee which is known in the profession as the Consortium because they are looking at 14 ... Well, you know what the education jargon is like. But the thing is that you can say that we have the 14 to 19 Committee. You can say that we have the Consortium. What you cannot do is get it wrong and say the post 14 to 19 Committee or the Education Advisory Committee which is another concoction of

yours because you do not understand how the system works or because you do not get the names right, frankly. I hope you make a good note of it because I have told you before, it is the 14 to 19 Committee.

HON G H LICUDI:

On a point of order. Is it in order for the Hon Minister to refer to a Member of the Opposition as “you” in this House?

MR SPEAKER:

No. It is not in order.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I do beg the House’s pardon.

MR SPEAKER:

All comments to be addressed to ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

The hon Member does not understand or has got the names of these Committees wrong all the time and he is trying to impute this difficulty he has with conceptually coming to grips with the names of Committees to the fact that we have changed. We have not changed. We have simply evolved as education evolves. This is what happens and I can tell the hon Member that that Committee meets quite regularly. I cannot tell you the exact number of times. I was not quite sure what Committee the hon Member was referring to so I really could not have an exact number of times that they have met in 2009/2010. We have established now that the hon Member is talking about the 14 to 19 Committee and if the hon Member could write to me I will certainly give him the number of times they have met in each 2009/2010. The hon Member will get his reply.

HON S E LINARES:

I am glad that he has changed the name again in order to clarify the situation because the name seems to be..., and I understand that they do change the name in UK. I do not know why we change the name here, by the way.

HON C G BELTRAN:

We do not.

HON S E LINARES:

You have just said you do.

MR SPEAKER:

Do not address him as “you” address him as the “hon Member”.

HON S E LINARES:

Sorry, my apology. The hon Member, yes. The hon Member states that they have changed the name to suit UK, fine. All I have asked and the hon Member obviously knew which Committee I was talking about because he mentioned it. The fact now that he has not got the answer, fine. I will ask the question again next time in order ... The name that the hon Member has given now is the 14 to 19 Committee. Is that correct?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Not only have I given the hon Member the name of that Committee now, I have given it to him as I said in my previous intervention on numerous occasions over the last two and a half years. But it seems to have got it into his head, the hon Member, that the 14 to 19 Committee is post 14 to 19. It is either post 14 or post 19. Not post 14 to 19. The correct nomenclature is the 14 to 19 Committee which in the profession, professionals call the Consortium. I do not want to confuse the hon Member any further.

HON S E LINARES:

How many times has the 14 to 19 Committee then met?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I require time to answer that. If the hon Member writes to me I will give it to him quicker than at the next meeting.

HON N F COSTA:

If you knew which Committee he was referring to why did you not give him the answer?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. I did not know the Committee he was referring to. I have been able to elucidate that during the course of our exchange.

HON S E LINARES:

How many Committees does the Department of Education and Training have?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Various, but that is a totally new question and I will require time.

HON S E LINARES:

It is a new question within a supplementary of the same question because if he is questioning me about whether I know or do not know the Committee. If he tells me that he has 300 Committees in his Department then I can understand that he does not know which Committee I am talking about within the Department of Education and Training and not in schools... I would not like now the hon Member to now divert and say every school has a Committee and every Parent Committee and all that. The Department of Education and Training has only got but one or even may be even two Committees of which one of them is the 14 to 19 Committee we have ascertained and that the Educational Advisory Committee does not exist. I am asking then how many Committees are there that do the role of 14 to 19 Committee within the Department of Education and Training?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The 14 to 19 Committee of which we now know what we are talking about. There is one. If the hon Member writes to me I will give him the number of times exactly that they met in 2009 and up to now in 2010.

NO. 644 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CAPITATION IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state what the capitation is and has been for children in First, Middle and Secondary schools giving a breakdown by year from September 1996 to May 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The information requested by the hon Member is historically kept for 10 years. We have nevertheless been able to find the information for a further two years over and above those 10 years and I now hand over the schedule with the information from 1998 to 2009.

Answer to Question 644 of 2010

School	Sept 1998 £	Sept 1999 £	Sept 2000 £	Sept 2001 £	Sept 2002 £	Sept 2003 £	Sept 2004 £	Sept 2005 £	Sept 2006 £	Sept 2007 £	Sept 2008 £	Sept 2009 £	May 2010 £
Gibraltar College	19,000	19,800	25,500	32,000	23,000	24,000	20,000	30,000	35,000	43,257	74,658	55,994	Awaiting Budget
Westside	60,250	63,790	73,022	72,747	72,225	72,375	73,375	78,500	83,000	92,448	138,873	140,700	
Bayside	61,250	62,120	73,277	71,203	66,925	70,375	71,375	77,500	82,000	90,594	139,330	160,205	
Bishop Fitzgerald	18,450	20,701	24,159	24,483	26,100	26,100	26,400	30,000	32,000	30,300	44,638	47,378	
Sacred Heart	10,500	11,676	14,902	14,877	15,250	15,500	16,000	17,000	20,000	15,022	23,861	19,458	
St Joseph's Middle	12,500	14,799	16,156	16,339	17,900	18,000	18,500	20,000	22,000	21,816	31,272	33,423	
St Anne's Middle	19,000	20,421	22,077	22,864	24,250	24,250	25,000	26,500	30,000	26,678	38,412	37,147	
Notre Dame First	9,700	9,294	12,895	13,128	14,050	14,050	14,600	16,700	17,400	13,049	16,254	18,079	
St Bernard's First	5,400	5,625	5,457	5,376	5,150	5,150	5,200	8,950	9,600	7,722	9,588	9,082	
St Joseph's First	10,200	10,680	11,836	14,349	15,600	16,000	16,600	18,400	22,500	18,243	26,313	27,679	
St Paul's First	9,150	9,612	12,380	12,570	13,500	13,500	13,800	15,800	16,900	17,230	25,684	25,805	
Governor's Meadow First	7,500	10,110	13,002	13,460	14,000	14,000	14,000	16,000	19,500	12,308	17,846	18,164	
St Mary's First	7,250	7,868	6,740	7,437	7,500	7,500	7,000	8,200	12,500	8,398	13,577	13,768	
Hebrew	2,750	3,299	3,773	3,826	2,750	2,900	3,000	3,900	4,500	5,066	7,333	10,217	
St Martin's	3,000	3,000	2,757	2,659	3,500	3,500	3,600	4,100	4,500	2,692	5,970	5,676	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 644 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate the work the hon Member has done for us. Thank you. Is there a set figure that applies to First School children, then Middle School children and then Secondary School children depending on the age as in capitation, for example, children in the First Schools would probably... the capitation... because this is a global capitation which I have asked, for example in a school, breakdown by school. If we go, for example, the Gibraltar College 19,000 in September 1998, it is a global figure which is an added up figure of the number of students that there are in the College. What I am saying is whether there is a figure that differs between First, Middle and Secondary School and College students. Does the figure vary?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes it does. But as the hon Member himself says, I have answered the question that he asked. If what the hon Member wants is the specific amount per capita for the different levels of education, which he is correct in saying that there is a difference, again, if the hon Member writes to me, I will get them and give them to the hon Member. I do not have them with me. I have just been given the totals.

NO. 645 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION ABROAD

Can Government state how many children are currently in special education abroad, what are their ages, what institution they are in and why they cannot be catered for in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There are currently three children educated abroad. All three are boys and they are aged 13, 16 and 17. The institutions they are in are: Valley House School, Apple Orchard Education Unit and Hillcrest School.

These schools offer highly specialised support in their respective specialism for children with very complex, severe emotional and behavioural conditions and that is why they are over there as opposed to here.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 645 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the 16 and 17 year olds who are over and above the statutory age of schooling, and it has happened in the past, where they are no longer considered children and therefore the budget and the money spent should pass over to the Department of Social Affairs. Is it not the case that these two children will be passing on to another department's expenditure as opposed to the Department of Education because they are over and above the statutory age of schooling?

HON C G BELTRAN:

There are no plans to do that. There is some logic in what he says but the reality, if you look at the local situation although statutory school age is up to 15, Government, nevertheless, looks after young ... I mean, we talk about education as being a life long process and there is a College, for example, where we provide for the education of young people over and above the age of 15. So, as I say, at the moment there are no plans to change which department ... They start off in the Education Department with the schooling and if it carries on for a few more years we look after it and it really does not matter whose books they are on, so long as we are taking care of them.

HON S E LINARES:

Fine, I accept the answer that it does not matter which department ... I was just being systematic about what department it comes from because as far as 16 and 17 year olds, I am concerned they are now over the statutory age and not only that, are they fulfilling educational purposes as opposed to the special needs that they might need, care issues that might come up with these two ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. The hon Member is correct in what he is surmising. If one looks at the reasons why they are being educated much more closely, we are talking about young people who have a history of complex, social, emotional and behavioural problems. A history of public care as well, invariably. So, the hon Member is right. There is a point where the responsibility for these "school children" passes to the Care Agency, yes.

HON S E LINARES:

I might not have picked up on the answer to the question. Why is it that they cannot be catered for in Gibraltar?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The answer to that is pretty obvious. One cannot have schools and specialists here sitting down waiting for the different types of problems that may arise in future. It is a bit like the health in some way. One can look after the special education needs of young people and school children up to a point. We have a very successful St Martin's School and after that they go to a vocational, St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre and so on. But there comes a time when the right decision in the interest of those young people, school children in many cases, is in specialist schools in the United Kingdom.

HON S E LINARES:

I say this because there was a case a number of years back where it was costing the Government more money to send a, it was then a child to a special school and the Government changed the policy which I thought was the correct one and that is why I am asking about these, was that the money that was spent in schooling that child in the UK was costing more than actually bringing professionals over who could fulfil two roles. One was the care of that child and two was the training and the input that that specialist could have in our own schools. What I am trying to get at is that at times although we do not, and I can understand that we cannot have specialists in all fields here, but what we could have is spending sometimes even less money and it is not that I want to cut down on the money, it is that I am saying that it is sometimes more sensible even if it costs slightly more money to bring those specialists here for a number of years where those specialists can then help out our system in order to see, for example, a specific problem that they can then pass on their knowledge and expertise to the likes of schools like St Martin's.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I am not aware of the particular case that the hon Member is referring to. It has to be said that the decision to educate all these three children abroad was not just on the basis of inability to meet their learning needs here, their schooling needs. It was not just that. It was also a need to address the welfare emotional, very severe behavioural problems that needs a specialised school that provides 24 hour care, 7 days a week, 52 weeks for the whole year. It is a very... like a critical unit as it were.

ORAL

NO. 646 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – GIRLS IN 14 TO 15 AGE GROUP EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN EDUCATION

Can Government state how many of the 190 girls in the 14 to 15 age group enrolled in September 2009 in the Secondary school are currently expected to continue in education after the age of 15?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 647 of 2010.

NO. 647 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – BOYS IN 14 TO 15 AGE GROUP EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN EDUCATION

Can Government state how many of the 211 boys in the 14 to 15 year age group enrolled in September 2009 in the Secondary school are currently expected to continue in education after the age of 15?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Of the 190, 181 girls and of the 211 boys, 209 boys in the age group in question are currently expected to continue in education after the age of 15.

NO. 648 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DONATIONS BY PRIVATE ENTITIES

Can the Government list the equipment donations which have been made to the GHA by private entities since the financial year 2007/2008, with a breakdown by financial year, showing the name of the equipment, its function, the department where it is located and the cost in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question No. 648 of 2010

LIST OF EQUIPMENT DONATIONS TO THE GHA

FINANCIAL YEAR 2009-2010

EQUIPMENT	FUNCTION	LOCATION	COST
Mammography Unit	Diagnosics	Radiology Department	£32,439.96
Mammography Unit	Diagnosics	Radiology Department	£308,591.91
Voice Amplifier	Speech & Language Therapy	Speech & Language Department Primary Care Centre	£286.00
Lightwriters	Speech & Language Therapy	Speech & Language Department Primary Care Centre	£19,120.75
Writing Tablets	Speech & Language Therapy	Speech & Language Department Primary Care Centre	£733.35
Lenovo monitor	Staff in Service Training	Primary Care Centre - Boardroom	£585.00
Tactile Vibration Sensory Tub	Paediatric equipment for assisting developmental progress by providing physical stimulus.	Physiotherapy Department	£500.00
Bailey Lovie Distance va Chart	Distance Reading Chart	Ophthalmology Department	£237.00
Phlebotomy Chairs	Blood Sampling	Primary Care Centre	£2,000.00
Leica SM 2400 Base Sledge Microtone	Cutting histological blocks to provide sections	Pathology Department	£9,025.00
Sensory Chimes	Physiotherapy Equipment	Primary Care Centre - Physiotherapy Department	£28.88
Phlebotomy Chairs	Blood Sampling	Phlebotomy Department	£2,231.25
Flowtron Garments	Lymphoedema Management	Physiotherapy Department	£7,165.00
ENCR Breast Biopsy System	Breast Biopsy	Radiology Department	35,500.00 Euros
Hydraulic Stretcher	Patient Portering	Primary Care Centre	£2,881.11

NO. 649 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REDUCTION IN SPEECH THERAPY LESSONS

On what date did Government take the policy decision to reduce the number of sessions of speech therapy lessons offered to children?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Government has not taken a policy decision to reduce the number of clinical sessions available to speech and language therapy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 649 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

That statement from the hon Lady does seem to be in contradiction with the statement that the Government issued on Friday 23rd April 2010. My reading of that press statement is, whilst of course, peppered with the usual insults levelled at me personally, it does seem to suggest very clearly that there has been a reduction in the service of the Speech Therapy Department in respect of children. Is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The same amount of sessions are being delivered by two qualified speech and language therapists as opposed to only one in the days of the Members opposite. More recent demand brought about by more referrals due to the employment of the additional paediatrician has led to the GHA prioritising the clinical sessions in order to be equitable to all service users. The GHA is once again reviewing this area and the recommendations will be considered along with other requests for service expansion as part of its overall provision of care strategy.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it or is it not the case that whereas before children receiving the service were as it were in a permanent term, they are now receiving that service on alternative terms. So that the child who was receiving that service for, say for a full term, is now receiving less of that service because of the increased demand the child that was

previously receiving the full service xxxx, is now receiving one term yes and one term no. My reading of that would be that there has been a reduction as it affects children.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct but the number of sessions, as the question implies, have not been reduced. The number of sessions remain the same, spread out amongst a greater number of children.

HON N F COSTA:

Alright, so the number of sessions may have not been reduced but one child will not be receiving the same number of sessions any more.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful for that. Secondly, the hon Member has also said, and I believe that she or at least the GHA also say this in their press release, that it will consider requests for service expansion in this and other areas. Given that the hon Member has just told me right now that there has been, in respect of children, a reduction of that affected child of the service received, have they considered expanding that service?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I just said that we are conducting a review of the department.

HON N F COSTA:

I am surprised that the hon Member should be so surprised by the question given that this has been aired publicly and there has already been a debate. She knows, the hon Member, apologies, knows that there are disgruntled parents who have come to us to complain about this. This is how the whole issue came to light. Given that that is the case, and given that the parents that I have spoken to tell me that the service provided was so beneficial to the children and that they desperately want it back and given that it is affecting our children and that it is something that has been provided to them to date, given that the reduction is affecting them would not the hon Lady agree with me that it is something that, instead of being reviewed, should have been looked at the moment it came to light and the service resumed the way it was before?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In order to resume the service the way it was before, it necessarily entails adding additional resources to that area.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As it would entail adding additional resources to when we have waiting lists in physiotherapy, when we have waiting lists for general surgery to see the orthopaedic surgeon and the bottom line is that the GHA has to control and manage its resources in the best interest of everybody and not a particular sector of the health service.

HON N F COSTA:

I entirely agree with that. I agree entirely that the GHA should monitor and control the expenditure. Tell you what, slash the wage of the Chief Executive Officer and let us give it back to the Speech Therapy Department.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Very simplistic way of looking at things.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes, but it would solve the immediate needs of our children.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. There was no question there.

HON N F COSTA:

Xxxxx

MR SPEAKER:

No.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can tell the hon Member that the Speech and Language Therapy Department was virtually non-existent during the days of the Members sitting beside him where they

only had employed one Speech and Language Therapist which catered for half of the children that needed the service.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it not the case that to keep harping back to 1996 is simply political fallacy and cheapness.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is just a reality that he does not want to hear.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it not the case, in fact, that the reason why they keep harping back to 1996 is because they are xxx and they have run out of excuses.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If there had been no improvement in the service and we were just comparing ourselves with what happened during their days ... If I compare the track record of this Government in this area and in many others, if I were just comparing it and saying we have not improved but you were the same, what I am saying is you were worse and we have done much, much better.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member think then that we should only criticise them if they have done nothing in fourteen years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They are free to criticise us for whatever they like.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member seems to think it is unfair criticism unless we can demonstrate that in the fourteen years in Government, they had not improved one single thing. I would have thought that they would want to hide their heads in shame if in fourteen years and spending millions of pounds, there was no improvement anywhere. Or does the hon Member think that there was no improvement in the eight years of the GSLP or no improvements in the ten years of the AACR. Every Government improves on what it obtains and every Opposition has got the obligation to seek to get them to improve even more. So what are they complaining about?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not just a question of looking at what they did and what we did. Precisely, it is a question of looking at the improvements within their eight years in Government and the improvements that have occurred in an equal period of eight years that we have been in Government, which is a tremendous difference.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We have not, in fact, picked two periods of eight years. All that the hon Member has been asked is if in twelve months the demand doubles, they may not have a need to do anything for thirteen years. If the hon Member says, we are now paying more pensioners than there were before. Well of course there are more pensioners. We have got more population. There are demands in our society both because of an increase and because of aging and because of peoples' rising expectations. There is nothing unusual about that. It is happening in every country in Europe and therefore the question is simply saying, if the hon Member was providing a certain service to a certain number of people and now the resources have not shrunk but they are being spread because there are more people accessing the service. They may think that spending money in that area is less important than spending money in another area. It is a matter of judgement and they are paid to exercise that judgement. But it has nothing to do with what was happening in 1996 or in 1704.

NO. 650 OF 2010**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 February 2010 inclusive?

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

	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Total
Patients	6	2	1	2	11

ORAL

NO. 651 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

Can Government state how many keyhole surgery operations have been cancelled since February 2010 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 Nos. 652 to 655 of 2010.

NO. 652 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between February 2010 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 651 and 653 to 655 of 2010.

NO. 653 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LISTS FOR OPERATIONS

Can Government say how many people are on the GHA waiting lists for operations at St. Bernard's Hospital with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 651, 652, 654 and 655 of 2010.

NO. 654 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LISTS FOR OPERATIONS

How long has the person who has been waiting for longest on the GHA waiting list for a surgical operation been on that list with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 651 to 653 and 655 of 2010.

NO. 655 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REMOVAL OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM BODY

How many patients in the past 24 months have had to be operated in the GHA to have surgical instruments removed which have been left in the body when an earlier operation had been performed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question Nos. 651 to 654 of 2010, I hand the hon Member lists containing the information requested.

In answer to Question No. 655 of 2010, one patient. Although I must point out that the answer to Question No. 653 of 2010 has also been requested and provided in written format.

Answer to Question No. 655 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 651 of 2010

Cancellations keyhole surgery

	Bed Availability
February 2010	3
March 2010	2
April 2010	1
May 2010	1

Answer to Question No. 655 of 2010
Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations February 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Medical Bed availability	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	10
Per patient		1	1	1	2 (1)		1	6 (1)
No show			3		(2)	1		4 (2)
No longer required				1			1	2
No notes		1			1			2
Surgeon sick				2				2
No anaesthetist Available due to emergency					3			3
No surgeon Available due to emergency					1			1
Locum Per surgeon not his speciality					1			1
Total	3	3	5	10	25 (3)	3	4	53 (3)

() minor ops

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations March 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Medical	1	4	3	1	3 (1)			12 (1)
Bed availability	1	3		10	13			27
Per patient			1	1	1 (1)	1	2	6 (1)
No show			1		1	2	2	6
No longer required			1					1
No medical records available					(1)			(1)
Total	2	7	6	12	18 (3)	3	4	52 (3)

() minor ops

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations April 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Pain Relief	Total
Medical Bed availability	1	2	1		1	1	6
Per patient	1				3		4
No show		1	1	1	(3)	2	5 (3)
No longer required			1		1 (1)	3	5 (1)
Surgeon sick	5	1	1			1	3
Supply item beyond expiry date		1		5	6		16
No medical records available			1				1
No surgeon Available due to ash cloud				3			3
Out of theatre time					1		1
Total	7	5	5	9	12 (4)	7	45 (4)

() minor ops

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Continued Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations May 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Medical		1	4		1		1	7
Bed availability	2	4		4	14	1		25
Per patient			2	1				3
No show			2		(3)		2	4 (3)
No longer required					1 (2)			1 (2)
No Equipment			1					1
Total	2	5	9	5	16 (5)	1	3	41 (5)

() minor ops

Answer to Question No. 653/2010

Elective Surgery Waiting Lists

	May 2010
General Surgery	251
Minor operations general surgery	158
Gynaecology	100
Ophthalmology	82
Orthopaedics	75
ENT	106
Plastic Surgery	160

Answer to Question No. 654/2010

Longest on waiting list and reason

	Date listed*	Reason
ENT	15/5/08	Personal choice
General Surgery Mr Sene	30/4/07	Personal choice
General Surgery Mr Grama	22/7/08	Personal choice
Minor ops	3/11/09	Personal choice
Gynaecology Mr White	23/1/08	Personal choice
Gynaecology Mrs Winge	29/11/05	Patient remains medically unfit for surgery
Ophthalmology	21/7/09	Patient remains medically unfit for surgery
Orthopaedics Mr Ruiz	3/3/10	Patient remains medically unfit for surgery
Orthopaedics Mr Boerger	3/6/09	Unable to contact patient both mail and telephone
Plastic Surgery	1996	The patient has been called in the past and cancelled and the last time she was called she declared herself medically unfit

* Date listed is defined as the original date when the patient was notified to the wait list Manager

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 651 TO 655 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of Question No. 652 of 2010 which relates to cancellations and the reason why operations have to be cancelled. Just looking at the schedule now, in February of this year, as a result of bed availability, there were 22 cancellations. In March there were 27. In April there were four. In May there were 25. So, from these statistics, save for the month of April, the main cause for operations being cancelled would appear to be as a result of bed availability. Can the Minister confirm that that is the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is what the tables indicate. Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

This would seem to be tied into the question I was previously asking the hon Gentleman, Mr Netto, and the fact that I said there was a problem in that there were elderly patients occupying beds and this sometimes leads to the fact that operations are cancelled because of lack of bed availability. I pointed out to the hon Gentleman at the time that the fact of having a proper and bigger Mount Alvernia building was important in order to alleviate not just the fact that there are people, elderly people waiting for places in Mount Alvernia but also because it ties into this perennial problem of bed shortages. Will the Minister therefore not agree, I am asking either that what I said before is true, that this is a serious matter? It is urgent and it is typical of the GSD administration that they do not give priority to what matters to people.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not agree. The hon Member is always linking cancellation of surgery with bed availability. Very recently, the hon Member was pressurising the Government, although the Government already had plans to do it, to open John Cochrane Ward to alleviate pressure. You will see that the pressure has not been alleviated. So, however many measures we put into place and this Government has a very good track record in providing additional measures for the elderly people and trying to eliminate ... the bottom line is that cancellations happen all over the world even in the Houston Medical Centre and the hon Member should not carry on linking bed availability with cancellations of surgery. They happen everywhere in the world. One only has to go to St Mary's Hospital to have an operation cancelled on umpteen occasions by different patients because there are no beds available.

HON N F COSTA:

Would the hon Lady not agree that that is a bit of a xxx answer the fact that this even happens in the Houston Centre. The fact is that when people are preparing for an operation... it is all very well for the hon Member to say that. But the fact is that before people go to an operation there is a lot of preparation for that person. There

is the medical preparation for undergoing an operation. There are arrangements that have to be done in the case of a parent with children and all of that. I will give the hon Member an example of what it really means to have an operation cancelled because it happens everywhere xxxx. There have been people who have come to me and one lady in particular for which I was shocked. She was going to go for an operation. She was put under anaesthetic. After she came up from under anaesthetic she was told, I am sorry we have not been able to operate you because there are no beds. There is a bed shortage. That is shocking.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member will have to prove that allegation. Does the hon Member really think that the preparation that he talks about that happens in Gibraltar before an operation, the gearing up of the patient in anticipation towards that and the let down when they are told that the operation is cancelled, only happens here in Gibraltar and not also in the Houston Medical Centre.

HON N F COSTA:

But this is exactly the point. What type of flippant answer is that? Particularly, I do not care about how centres in other parts of the world work. We are talking about the effects that cancelled operations have on the people of Gibraltar. Whether the hon Member likes it or not, when operations are cancelled people are very upset and they come to complain about it and given that it is a perennial problem about bed shortages, let us get it sorted out. Shall we not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Does the hon Member, going back again to 1996 which he does not like, really believe that operations were not cancelled during that time. The hon Member also routinely asks, the ones they dish out from their computer every time there is a Parliament session, also asks how many elective surgeries were carried out during the same months that he asked for cancellations. Why does not the hon Member mention that, for example, in the month of March when he is criticising us for having cancelled 27 operations, 304 were carried out. However undesirable the cancellation of an operation is, it is something that is unavoidable. Here and anywhere else in the world and that is the reality.

HON N F COSTA:

First of all, I do not think it is right for the hon Member to tell me what questions to ask her. That is for me to do so. Of course it is. Therefore, in the same way that she says that we dish questions out from our computers perhaps instead of dishing out answers like robots, they should give some human consideration to the practical consequences of their policy decisions.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

This Government also has a track record in providing information which leaves the hon Members opposite looking like boy scouts when it came to us asking them and them providing us with information which is absolutely zero.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has never been in this House asking questions and therefore what the hon Member is doing is quoting the GSD propaganda. The reality of it is that if the hon Member cares to go back and check the Hansards, she will find that they put in very few questions and all the questions that came in were all loaded with political innuendos and did not ask for any information at all. The hon Member should go and check the Hansards. They are all in there.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is precisely how I came to the conclusion that you did not answer any questions when the hon Members were in Government and we were in Opposition, precisely from the Hansards.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxxx sought and deny it. That is what I am saying to the hon Member. The hon Member is saying we get more information in this House under the hon Member's administration than they would have got on this side. The answer is they did not want information and they did not ask for information. What they were doing was repeating the rumours that they put in the street about Members of the Government and putting loaded questions in this House. The hon Member can go and read them.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Exactly the same as what the hon Members do now. Jump on the bandwagons of every disgruntled employee and organisation and come back here to ask the questions.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. I think we have departed from the original question. We should move to the next question.

HON XXXX

Xxxxx

HON N F COSTA:

Sorry. On a Point of Order, perhaps the hon Member xxxx can explain what he means by that remark of his.

MR SPEAKER:

No. I will not allow that. Next Question No. 656 of 2010.

HON N F COSTA:

Mr Speaker, if you would kindly ask the hon Member not to interfere when I ask questions.

MR SPEAKER:

If the hon Member does not ask his question we will move to the next question.

ORAL

NO. 656 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say on what date it or the GHA took the policy decision to commence a process of negotiations with UK accredited providers to implement a model of breast screening using Teleradiology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 657 to 660 of 2010.

NO. 657 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say on what date the negotiations with UK accredited providers to implement a model of breast screening using Teleradiology commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 656 and 658 to 660 of 2010.

NO. 658 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say with how many UK accredited providers the GHA is in negotiation with a view to implementing a model of breast screening using Teleradiology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 656, 657, 659 and 660 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 659 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say what is the composition of the GHA steering group that has been set up to carry out due diligence in the selection process to ensure that they meet the recognised standards of performance in relation to implementing a model of breast cancer using Teleradiology, on what date was this group set up and what will the due diligence entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 656 to 658 and 660 of 2010.

NO. 660 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say whether the pilot breast screening programme has now commenced and if not state when it is expected to start using Teleradiology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA took a policy decision to consider UK accredited providers during the winter of 2009.

The negotiations with reputable overseas organisations commenced on the 10th December 2009.

The GHA was in negotiation with three UK accredited providers.

The Steering Group is chaired by the Medical Director and is composed of Consultants, Radiologists, Radiology Superintendent, Deputy Radiology Superintendent, PACS administrator, Lead Mammographer and a Senior Electronic Health Technology Officer.

The group met on the 8th February 2010 and its due diligence has entailed the following:

- The examination of the CVs of the Radiologists that would be supporting this programme and the consideration of these.
- A review of a completed questionnaire by the potential providers that addressed issues including standards and connectivity.
- The benchmarking of the providers against two key documents – Quality Assurance Guidelines for Breast Cancer Screening Radiology – NHSBSP Publication Number 59 and The European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast Screening and Diagnosis.
- A site visit in the beginning of June 2010 by a number of key staff members of the GHA steering group to assess quality assurance components and their implementation plans.

The pilot scheme is planned to commence within the next two weeks. The due diligence visit to the preferred centre has already taken place and any outstanding issues are being addressed by the steering group. Once the due diligence on the quality assurance items has been completed, thus ensuring a safe and robust breast screening programme, the pilot will commence.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 656 TO 660 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

I very much anticipate that the hon Lady will know what my supplementary will be and that is that if the Government had been considering since the winter of 2009 the possibility of using Teleradiology in order to commence a structured routine mammography service, why has it been that the answers in this House have always been that the commencement of such a programme is dependent on the recruitment of a third radiologist. At no point, notwithstanding my questions in this House, have the Government put to me and the hon Members on this side of the House the fact that the third radiologist was not in fact a absolutely only choice viz-a-viz starting the routine structured service but that this was also being explored.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member did not ask the question. In February 2010 the hon Member asked, can Government say on what date the GHA intends to commence offering routine structured mammography service and give the age group of the women to whom this service will be available. I answered, a pilot programme will commence in the spring. It is not my fault that the hon Member does not get up to ask the relevant supplementaries.

HON N F COSTA:

That is, with all due respect, a preposterous position to take. Ever since I was elected and to ask questions in this House, the crux and thrust of every single answer given by the GSD Government and by the hon Lady, in particular, has always been that the structured routine mammography service could not commence without the recruitment of the third radiologist and that it was in fact dependent on this recruitment, right. Now, we are told that there has been this exploration of Teleradiology and now the hon Lady tells me that the reason why the hon Member did not inform me or the public was only because I did not ask a specific question. Would the Minister not agree with me that if this was on the cards and the thrust of all my questions have always been to gauge when the structured routine mammography service was going to be implemented, that the hon Member should have supplied that information to us?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. I do not agree.

HON N F COSTA:

I put it to the hon Lady then that ..., and with all due respect, would the hon Member not agree that it was a bit rich that once it was aired in public, the fact that there were two radiologists which were no longer working in the GHA, and we received concerns from members of the public saying, gosh if there are no two radiologists, when is the structured routine mammography service going to start and the issue was publicly aired and it was said, oh, was it not a bit coincidental that just then, just when it was

that those two radiologists were no longer in the GHA service, no longer was it necessary or was it crucial for the third radiologist to be employed because, in fact, something else could have been done.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What indeed was unfortunate was that the hon Member fell into the trap of assuming that because two disgruntled patients had gone to him saying, or patients or employees I suspect, that one had been interdicted and another had been dismissed, he stupidly and without wishing to insult the hon Member, assume ...

HON N F COSTA:

On a Point of Order Mr Speaker. Without wishing to insult me is xxxx.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Then I will rephrase this.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes. Please.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member unfortunately, assumed and he said it in his press release, that because this had happened, the breast screening programme was back to square one and that is where the debate commenced because he was wrong. He was wrong and his concern at the moment is that he was caught out, because it was not back to square one and the fact that I had not informed him previously that we were considering Teleradiology is the fact of concern. He should be happy that the women of Gibraltar will finally have a proper breast screening programme and that should be his main concern, not the fact that I did not give him the information that he was seeking. Well, he was not even seeking it.

HON N F COSTA:

It is absolutely preposterous now for the hon Lady to suggest that I am not happy for the routine service to commence when, throughout all this time, all I have been doing is pressing the Government to tell them when it is going to start given that it has been a manifesto commitment of theirs. So that, with all due respect to the hon Member, is a preposterous position to take and will all due respect again, it is not that I was caught out in anything. Once again, would she not agree with me that given that all throughout the only reason why the hon Member has told this House and therefore the public is that no routine service will be offered until a third radiologist is recruited given that what transpired it was only natural for people to be concerned that the routine service would not start. It is very unfair, therefore, given that the hon Member is basically admitting that information was not given because the right question was not asked, it is a bit rich for the hon Member, therefore, to say that it was us that were

caught out and not them that have not been providing the information which the hon Member has just said they were more freely given before.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As much aggravated as he is by what has transpired and the fact that he did not ask the supplementary and I did not gratuitously provide it, I can assure the hon Member that the women of Gibraltar are entirely satisfied as we will have seen from the very extensive information leaflet that was issued in the Gibraltar Chronicle by the group that steers the breast screening or rather that advocates for women with breast cancer. So he should be just as happy as they are, as are the women of Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps the hon Lady should ask those other women of Gibraltar who are very disappointed indeed in the past weeks who have been told that some of the mammography that they require is not going to take place for months. Because they are not the ones who are as happy as the hon Member seems to think. Some of the women of Gibraltar are.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes and ...

MR SPEAKER:

One question at a time.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I know that the hon Members are very enthusiastic to grill me in their capacity as lawyers. The fact that there is one letter in the Chronicle does not mean that the majority of women are not satisfied with the service that is being provided.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just because there is one letter in the Chronicle does not mean that that is the only woman who feels that way. Because the hon Lady should spend more time listening to constituents and not listening to managers in the health service and then she would know that there are, in fact, a lot of women who feel that way because there are a lot of women who are being told by the service which she is responsible for, that they will not have the mammography test that they require for many months indeed. Should not we all agree that until women can have this service when they need it, the service will not be adequate, whoever is in power at the time.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Neither the hon Member nor I are in a position to say when a woman needs a mammogram. The breast screening programme is what is going to address the needs or to prevent cancer in all women who are over forty in Gibraltar, something which this Government is providing and that they had not intention of providing. The fact that there are women who need routine mammograms is ... they are classified as a matter of urgency or priority. Those who are urgent, those who are emergencies and those who have been prioritised by the GP are seen within the course of two weeks, not three months as the hon Member is saying.

HON F R PICARDO:

When a woman goes to see a doctor, a GP and she is told that she needs a mammogram, even if the doctor does not say that it is urgent, for that woman it creates an issue as it would for any person that she needs to be seen to as soon as possible. Of course, although we all accept that it is something that there are conditions that can be more urgent than others, does she not agree with me that what we should be trying to achieve, whatever side of the House we are sitting on, is that women should have this service as soon as possible and that therefore the delays which are occasioned to people who may not need the service urgently, are delays which pray on their mind and therefore result in women not being satisfied with the service and therefore is it not clear that all women in Gibraltar are not universally satisfied with the service as the hon Lady was suggesting was the case.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can assure the hon Member that the majority of women that I am aware of ..., and I as the hon Member knows see many more constituents in my office than he has time to see because the majority of his time he is working in his legal practice. Those women that see me and through the input that I get from the biggest breast cancer support group that there is in Gibraltar, the majority of those women are very happy that this Government and not them are providing them with an excellent breast screening programme.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let me reassure the hon Lady that the time I spend in my legal practice does not in any way detract from the time that I give to the constituents who want to see me and that I see a very large number indeed. Perhaps, even more than the hon Member sees even though she is paid considerably well by this community in order to do that job. The hon Member should not be saying to this House, I am sure the hon Member will agree, that she is doing something out of the kindness of her heart when in fact it is her obligation to see members of this community who want to see her.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

On a Point of Order, who has said... I have not said that I see people out of the kindness of my heart, have I?

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not saying that the hon Lady said that she saw people out of the kindness of her heart.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON F R PICARDO:

What I am saying is that ...

MR SPEAKER:

The point that she was making is that she sees more in number than the hon Member on this side of the House.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. Xxxx

MR SPEAKER:

Nothing to do with kindness of heart.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps, what she could do is tell us how she knows how many people I see and how many people she sees. How she is able to compare them.

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think there is advance in the debate there. Is there any ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I could not care less how many people he sees.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON F R PICARDO:

I could not agree more and I think that the point was a petty one made by the hon Lady and you are right to say it is irrelevant.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Lady consider it acceptable that where somebody is referred for a mammogram by a GP, that one and a half years later that person should not yet have even been given an appointment for that mammogram. Is that acceptable?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It does not work that way. I have explained it on umpteen occasions. We still do not have a breast screening programme in Gibraltar. Breast screening will be available very shortly, thanks to this Government, to address the concerns of the category of women that he has just mentioned. If a woman has a lump or has anything which leads the doctor to believe, for example, a serious family history of breast cancer, those women are seen immediately in the breast care clinic. What is not being provided ..., I accept that it is very desirable and that is why we are implementing it. There are women who go to the doctor, to the GP, to just say, I want a mammogram to make sure that I do not have cancer or will get cancer in the future and that is what the breast screening programme will deliver. It is not yet in place and it will be, thankfully, in two weeks time.

HON G H LICUDI:

The lady in question is a lady who I understand had had previous surgery and I will provide information privately to the hon Member rather than openly. But the question was really, after going to a GP eighteen months ago and being referred by that GP for a particular service, presumably, the GP must have understood that that service was in place eighteen months ago. Eighteen months later that person is still waiting for an appointment and only after waiting for all that time and making enquiries, she is told, do not worry we will call you before the end of this year with an appointment. Why was that person referred for a mammogram eighteen months ago if that service did not exist?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Because she was obviously referred for a routine mammogram, for which there is a very long waiting time. Precisely the reason why ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Two years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Precisely the reason why we are implementing a breast screening programme.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member accept that a period of waiting time of two years for that routine appointment is acceptable?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member has spoken for me. But I agree with him. It is not acceptable. It has never been acceptable because this has been happening since time immemorial and that is what we are addressing at the moment.

ORAL

NO. 661 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LIST FOR TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Can Government say how many people are on the GHA waiting list for ultrasound test, CT scan or MRI scans?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 662 of 2010.

NO. 662 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Can Government say how many radiographs, x-rays, ultrasounds or other diagnostic tests the radiology department has carried out in the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to date with a breakdown by test?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There is a waiting list of 501 patients for routine Ultra sound examinations. There is no waiting list for MRI or CT Scan investigations.

In answer to Question No. 662 of 2010, I have handed the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 662 of 2010

2007	CR	CT	MAM	THE	FLUORO	US GEN	US OBS	SALPS	
JAN	1212	132	47	7	32	387	112	0	
FEB	1179	142	112	13	27	403	116	1	
MAR	1291	140	75	12	17	441	115	0	
APR	1017	109	48	20	13	348	105	0	
MAY	1190	182	59	13	16	359	127	1	
JUN	1076	108	56	10	31	335	124	0	
JUL	1067	107	62	13	20	363	103	3	
AUG	1068	150	55	15	37	375	124	1	
SEPT	1054	136	56	24	31	384	89	0	
OCT	1278	170	83	26	25	442	106	0	
NOV	1160	137	76	24	24	367	90	2	
DEC	986	109	67	20	16	355	85	0	

2008	CT	CR	MAM	THE	FLUO	US GEN	US OBS	SALPS	
JAN	1291	135	110	24	28	464	110	0	
FEB	1331	166	88	21	23	431	90	0	
MAR	1168	150	84	24	19	362	93	1	
APR	1407	228	123	33	24	383	127	1	
MAY	1173	166	135	38	29	426	112	0	
JUN	1195	177	94	29	16	375	89	2	
JUL	1231	180	103	31	26	431	123	0	
AUG	1088	185	93	36	19	348	109	1	
SEPT	1182	158	87	39	8	374	116	1	
OCT	1309	204	112	47	21	373	98	0	
NOV	1107	139	100	55	21	314	107	1	
DEC	1050	110	80	43	9	323	77	0	

2009	CR	CT	MAM	THEA	FLUORO	US GEN	US OBS	SALPS	
JAN	1409	144	99	45	28	314	123	0	
FEB	1204	164	130	45	22	322	102	3	
MAR	1235	184	136	41	18	348	128	4	
APR	1251	152	101	47	21	368	124	0	
MAY	1159	136	86	65	19	356	141	0	
JUN	1117	169	97	48	14	481	139	0	
JUL	1152	155	111	44	15	361	114	1	
AUG	1006	141	56	34	12	338	133	1	
SEPT	1033	141	90	46	22	350	139	2	
OCT	1112	144	83	38	16	435	129	0	
NOV	965	133	80	48	20	331	137	3	
DEC	858	108	69	43	12	298	99	0	

• 2009 FIGURES TO 28TH DECEMBER

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 662 of 2010

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CR	GENERAL X-RAYS IN DEPT. AND IN WARDS.
CT	COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCANS (CT SCANS)
MAM	MAMMOGRAPHY
THEATRE	SCREENING IN THEATRE e.g. when doctors fix fractures under x-ray control
FLUORO	FLUOROSCOPY e.g investigations of the stomach, bowel under dynamic x-ray control
US GEN	GENERAL ULTRASOUND
US OBS	OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND (pregnant mothers)
SALPS	SALPINGOGRAMS (investigations of the womb and Fallopian tubes usually done for fertility with fluoroscopy)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 661 AND 662 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure if it is simply a mistake. If the hon Lady would look at the table that has been handed over. 2007 starts CR and then CT. 2009 also starts CR and CT. 2008 has it the other way round but the figures more or less coincide with 2007, 2009. Is that a mistake?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I assume it is a typo but I will check for my own benefit as well.

NO. 663 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CHANGES TO SPONSORED PATIENTS SCHEME

Can Government confirm whether they are planning any changes to the sponsored patients scheme whereby patients who have been given repeat appointments by doctors in the United Kingdom will no longer be able to make arrangements directly and automatically to meet those appointments without seeing a Consultant in Gibraltar first?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No Mr Speaker.

The policy is that all visits to the UK, both the initial visit and follow-up visits, are subject to the approval of the referring GHA Consultant.

The process is that patients with follow-up appointments provided by doctors in the UK present to the Sponsored Patients Department with their review appointment. Based on the content of the clinical notes, or following the direct assessment of a patient during a clinic visit, the GHA referring Consultant makes a clinical decision on whether a follow-up visit in the UK is necessary or whether the follow-up can be carried out in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 663 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just go back... the answer to Question No. 663 of 2010 was that there had been no change. Is the hon Member then saying that when somebody has gone to the United Kingdom as a sponsored patient and they have been given a date when they need to go back for a check up or anything like that, they could not actually proceed with that appointment and that a Consultant here could actually overrule that and that that has been how it has always worked?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not a question of overruling. It is a question of the referring Consultant being informed by the UK of what the follow up of the patient is and sometimes unfortunately there is a bit of a lack of communication. We have had many instances in the past few years where people were being given repeat appointments directly by UK Consultants and which ..., I would not like to use the word abuse in that context but I can give you an example just to quote one hospital. The person might have gone to Moorfields for a particular condition and the sponsored patient ... subsequently discovered that, in quite a significant number of cases, the patient was told, routinely, to come back for the same time every year and the GHA has wanted to monitor the situation very closely. Although when I did answer I said that there had not been a change in the sponsored patient policy, because that is the way it has always worked, I feel that it was not being enforced in the manner that it should be and it now is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, the "change" is that the procedure that should have been followed was not being followed systematically and now it is being followed. Is that the answer.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not a question simply of them ... I accept, entirely, that people cannot simply come and go to the United Kingdom and the GHA does not know what is going on or the Consultant does not know what is going on. But is it that if somebody is sent to the UK, because the treatment is not available here and it is available there and the person there thinks that they need to check that patient up later, is it that that cannot proceed unless a Consultant here agrees with that decision? Or is it simply that the Consultant here is... expects and to my mind quite correctly, to know what is going on and to be kept informed. Which of the two is it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I will quote an example. Historically, cancer patients have gone to the UK either for follow up or treatment and they have continued doing this systematically over the years without even a lot of input between the UK and Gibraltar. Since we employed our third General Surgeon who is a cancer specialist and has a special interest in cancer treatment, he himself has recommended that some of these patients can be followed up by him and this is just one example. As services have developed, those people who are historically been going to the UK are now being asked to be looked at by our GHA Consultant and sometimes it is the case that even our GHA Consultant says look, I cannot do this, go back to the UK. But what we cannot have is a system of people systematically going back and forth when sometimes it is not necessary. They could be treated here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that if we have got a facility here which we did not have before then that has to be taken into account. But what I am concerned is that there might be a situation where, from the patients point of view, once they go to the United Kingdom clearly they develop a level of confidence in the judgement of the guy at the other end and, to my view, it would not be correct and it would not be... in fact. People have enough problems being ill if they find that there is a row between the Consultant here and the Consultant there which sometimes involves professional jealousies and therefore I would have thought that once you put somebody in somebody's hand, I accept that the hospital and the Health Authority and the people here cannot simply get the bills without knowing what is going on, which would be one extreme case. But my worry is that we might go too far in the opposite direction. Is the hon Member satisfied that that is not happening?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. In the really serious cases... all conditions for the patient are serious. But there are, for example, cancer cases which could be considered in everybody's eyes more serious and the policy is that the patient because of what the hon Member has described in terms of the confidence that the person ..., they are followed up for the first five years for people with cancer. Then there is an understanding between the UK and Gibraltar, because we now have our own surgeon who is specialised in cancer treatment that after the fifth year and that is where the complaints are coming in ... That people who have been going for five years for the routine follow ups are now being told, look our GHA Consultant who is specialised in this area will see you. If he deems it necessary for you to go back, you go back, if not you will have to be treated here and that is the whole gist of one of our Manifesto commitments which I think the hon Members agreed with because the Hon Mr Costa has asked me questions before in this House about repatriation of cancer services.

NO. 664 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF UNAUTHORISED MEDICAL TREATMENT RECEIVED IN SPAIN

Can Government say on how many occasions the GHA has paid out sums of money to patients who have not been happy with the service given in Gibraltar and have gone to Spain for medical treatment without informing the GHA or going as a sponsored patient and have then claimed the money from the GHA with a breakdown by financial year since 2007/2008 showing the number and the amount paid in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question No. 664 of 2010

2007/2008		
	Cases	Cost
	1	1,400
	1	104
	1	104
Total	3	£1,608

2008/2009		
	Cases	Cost
	1	1,922.33
	1	2,515.50
	1	1,190.86
	1	13,774.86
	1	215.00
	1	4,647.00
	1	537.00
	1	20,557.00
Total	8	£45,359.55

2009/2010		
	Cases	Cost
	1	3,138.57
	2	570.72
	3	6,170.60
	4	2,679.00
	5	12,398.50
	6	5,004.78
	7	870.40
	8	4,110.02
	9	450.00
	10	7,484.00
	11	31,697.45
	12	18,070.88
Total	12	92,644.92

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 664 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

From the table that the hon Lady has handed to me it is not, at least to me, immediately apparent how she distinguishes between those patients that have been dissatisfied and have gone to Spain without first seeking the approval of the GHA and those that go as sponsored patients. Perhaps the hon Lady could explain how the tables are divided?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that the person who has drafted, after reading the question, has not taken that into account and has just provided the breakdown as he requested by financial year showing the number and the amount paid in each case but the answer does not specify a distinction. It mentions it but the reader or whoever has read and drafted the answer has not taken that distinction on board. I would not be able to tell him which is which.

HON N F COSTA:

Given that the thrust of the question was to distinguish between exactly that, sponsored patients and those who go to seek private treatment not as a sponsored patient, could the Minister provide me today with a guarantee that she will provide me with that information in writing subsequent to today?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Reading the question more carefully myself, I cannot from the top of my head think of any circumstances where reimbursement will be made to a person who has gone for treatment as a sponsored patient. I should understand people who are not satisfied with the service provided or the treatment or diagnosis provided and have therefore subsequently gone privately. But I cannot for the life of me at the moment think of a situation where a person who has been sponsored to either the UK or Spain would ask for reimbursement. Maybe, if the hon Member is aware of a particular case, he can enlighten me.

HON N F COSTA:

Given the last answer provided by the hon Lady, can we work on the assumption that these related to cases of persons dissatisfied with the service, who have gone to Spain for private treatment and reimbursement given as detailed herein.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think we should assume that, but I will check in any case and get back to him.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the hon Lady for that last assurance. May I ask the hon Lady what criteria is employed by the GHA when deciding whether to reimburse a person who is dissatisfied with the service and goes and obtains private treatment and then requests the money. What criteria would be employed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The patient comes to, either back to the consultant or sometimes asks to see me or the Chief Executive. They make their case and investigation ensues and the opinion of either one of our Consultants or if there is a conflict of interest we seek the opinion of an external Consultant, determines whether the reimbursement should take place or not. It is a clinical decision.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful for the hon Lady's reply that essentially it is a clinical decision but who makes that determination on the basis of the advice received. I am assuming that the Consultant will essentially advise the GHA whether it has indicated that reimbursement should follow or not. But who makes the decision ultimately?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Chief Executive.

HON N F COSTA:

May I also ask the hon Lady whether the Chief Executive would consult on these cases with the hon Member or whether he would make a decision himself?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Invariably, unless I have a special interest because the patient has come to see me, he makes the decision himself.

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of clarification and I am not trying to get involved in any of discussions here but 2008/2009 cases 11111111 adding up to 8 and the next one 2009/2010 it does not tally. I just thought I would let the hon Member know that it is 1, 2, 3, 4. When you add all that, it is not 12, if you know what I mean. Just as a matter of clarification because although we might understand it here because of the debate and all that, I think it is incorrectly laid out.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. I agree. I will look into it. Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 665 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – INFORMAL AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Can the Minister for Health provide the number of informal and formal complaints lodged against the GHA since February 2010 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 666 to 668 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 666 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VERBAL COMPLAINTS

Can Government say whether verbal complaints made by users of the GHA to the Minister or to the Chief Executive are catalogued as formal or informal complaints?

ANSWER

THE HON N F COSTA

Answered together with Question Nos. 665, 667 and 668 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 667 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WRITTEN COMPLAINTS

Can Government say whether written complaints made by users of the GHA to the Minister or to the Chief Executive are catalogued as formal or informal complaints?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 665, 666 and 668 of 2010.

NO. 668 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – COMPLAINTS MADE THROUGH ESTABLISHED COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Can Government say whether only complaints made through the established GHA complaints procedure are catalogued as formal complaints?

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

In answer to Question No. 665 of 2010,

Month	Formal	Informal
February 2010	3	8
March 2010	9	15
April 2010	4	7
May 2010	3	7

In answer to Question Nos. 666 and 667 of 2010, any person who makes a complaint, either verbally or in writing, to either the Minister or the Chief Executive, is asked whether they want their complaint catalogued as formal or informal. These are then catalogued accordingly.

In answer to Question No. 668 of 2010, no, complaints submitted by users under the GHA Complaints Procedure may be classified as 'informal' (verbal) or 'formal' (written).

ORAL

NO. 669 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

Can Government say how much it has paid out to claimants against the GHA for the settlement of complaints/disputes out of court in each of the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 670 to 672 of 2010.

NO. 670 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

Can Government say how many cases of complaints/disputes against the GHA which involved a payment by the GHA to the complainant to settle the matter out of court there were in each of the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 669, 671 and 672 of 2010.

NO. 671 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL ACTIONS OR THREATENED LEGAL ACTIONS

How many agreements to settle legal actions or threatened legal actions has the GHA or its insurers entered into since the financial year 2004/2005, and how many of these included “confidentiality” clauses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 669, 670 and 672 of 2010.

NO. 672 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – LIABILITY FOR NEGLIGENT TREATMENT/PAYMENT FOR DAMAGES

In how many cases since the financial year 2004/2005 broken down by financial year has the GHA or the GHA's insurers either:

- (a) accepted liability for negligent treatment;
- (b) paid any amount for damages in respect of negligence, breach of contract or for any other reason;
- (c) paid any amount as an "ex gratia" payment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information requested by the hon Member in Question No. 669 of 2010 is not readily available. The GHA will have to conduct a manual exercise to retrieve the information requested and once this is completed the information will be provided to the hon Member.

In answer to Question No. 670 of 2010, no complaints or disputes are resolved through direct payment by the GHA. All complaints are referred to the Complaints Procedure for investigation. If complainants are not satisfied with the outcome they are informed that they may refer the matter either to the Ombudsman or to their legal representative.

I hand the hon Member a list containing the information requested in Question Nos. 671 and 672 of 2010,

Answer to Question No. 672 of 2010

Answer to Question Nos. 671 of 2010

Financial Year	Cases Medmal	Cases Employers Liability
2004/2005	13	0
2005/2006	22	2
2006/2007	29	1
2007/2008	34	0
2008/2009	18	0
2009/2010	19	0
2010/2011 (to date)	4	0
	139	3

All cases included confidentiality clause

Answer to Question No. 672 of 2010

Answer to section (a):

Financial Year	# of Cases
2004/2005	13
2005/2006	22
2006/2007	29
2007/2008	34
2008/2009	18
2009/2010	19
2010/2011	4

With regard to section (b), I am advised that the information requested cannot be prepared within the timeframe available as it is contained in separate databases and has to be reformatted manually.

Answer to Question No. 672 of 2010

Answer to Section (c)

The total number of ex-gratia payments payments made for all purposes is provided in the table below:

Financial Year	# of Cases
2004/2005	4
2005/2006	1
2006/2007	1
2007/2008	2
2008/2009	4
2009/2010	0
2010/2011	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 669 to 672 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In relation to Question No. 670 of 2010, following the answer given by the hon Lady, in the event that a patient is ultimately dissatisfied with either the Complaints Procedure and/or the Ombudsman and eventually it gets to solicitors and solicitors send a pre-action letter to the GHA, how many of those cases that reach the pre-action stage, how many get settled out of court? That was the question in respect of Question No. 670 of 2010.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid that whoever has drafted the answer has concentrated more on the fact that complaints and disputes do not lead to direct xxx by the GHA than giving the information that the hon Member was seeking. The hon Member wants to know once it gets to the legal representative case which is the only instance where payments could be made by our insurers...

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid that answer has not been provided. I will get him for him.

HON N F COSTA:

Okay. I am grateful.

NO. 673 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REVIEW OF PRESCRIPTION MODELS IN THE UK

Have Government now conducted its review of the different prescription models in the UK and can they say whether and if so when the GHA will change its current prescription model?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 674 of 2010.

NO. 674 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT**

Can Government say how many prescriptions have been provided to patients by the Prescription Advisory Unit at the Primary Care Centre on a monthly basis since February 2010 to date?

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

The different prescription models have now been narrowed down to one which is under consideration by the Medical Director in conjunction with the GPs at the Primary Care Centre.

In answer to Question No. 674 of 2010,

Feb	March	April	May	Total
267	276	154	123	820

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 673 AND 674 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

I understood the hon Lady to say that the different models considered had been whittled down to one model which is under consideration. Could the hon Member give at least basic details of what that model is.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid not. I only received... This is a model that is being worked at by the GPS themselves. In fact, it has been devised by one of them and after the consultation exercise between them, it has now been considered by the Medical Director. I have not had sight of it myself. I will give my view on whether I think it will work or not once I read it. May I add, I do not want to mislead the hon Member, which does not mean to say that what I mentioned in previous answers to previous questions about the recruiting of a clinical pharmacist and legislation to allow the nurses to prescribe, does not mean that it cannot go in tandem with this new model. They are also being considered.

ORAL

NO. 675 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS

Can Government say what is the earliest available date at present 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 676 and 677 of 2010.

NO. 676 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SEEN BY GPs AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government say how many patients were seen by GPs at the Primary Care Centre each month since February 2010 on a monthly basis and indicate how many of those patients were children aged 16 or under?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 675 and 677 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 677 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOUSE CALLS LOGGED BY GPs

Can Government say the actual number of house calls logged by GPs in respect of February 2010 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I hand the hon Member schedules with the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 675 of 2010

Dr Robles	2 weeks
Dr Fitzpatrick	7 weeks
Dr Gupta	9 weeks
Dr Galloway	14 weeks
Dr Mena	15 weeks

Dr Chichon	13 weeks
Dr Ferrera	14 weeks
Dr Penrice	4 weeks
Dr Pinto-Ocana	14 weeks
Dr Pincho	5 weeks
Dr Poyatos	8 weeks

Dr Negrette	9 weeks
Dr Nerney	13 weeks
Dr Jones	14 weeks
Dr Montero	5 weeks
Dr Thoppil	5 weeks

In addition to the slots that he will see on the lists, GP's 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.

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 676 of 2010

	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
No. of Patients seen by GPs	7667	9929	7192	7259

	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
No. of Children Aged 16 or under	2306	2496	2045	2330

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
HOUSE CALLS	313	326	238	173

The table shows calls logged while the GP clinics are in session.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 675 TO 677 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In answer to Question No. 675 of 2010, the hon Lady points out that in addition to the slots on the list, GPs have five slots a day for patients who attend the Centre for an appointment on that day. May I ask the hon Lady what is the cut-off point at any given day for an appointment on those five available slots. If a person were to pop down to the Primary Care Centre, what is the latest time that person can go before there can no longer be allocated an appointment?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It depends on the volume of people that turn up. He will find people, especially elderly people who obviously get up very early in the morning, queuing up from as early as 7.00 o'clock. So it depends on what time one gets there whether you have the chance of getting an appointment or not. One can also phone up and use one of those 18 slots.

HON N F COSTA:

So am I right then in assuming that this is in addition to the emergency GP that would be at the Primary Care Centre?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, absolutely.

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of the emergency GP, when would be the cut-off point by which the emergency doctor will no longer be taking on patients or attend to patients.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not been informed or am aware of any case or any occasion when any person needing emergency treatment has been turned away. I know that on one occasion when there was a particularly very busy period over... I cannot remember whether it was the last winter or the winter before, people were actually referred to the A&E Department.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 678 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

Can Government say how many women were administered the vaccination against cervical cancer since February 2010 with a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 678 of 2010

Month	Vaccines Administered
February	8
March	7
April	307
May	24

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 678 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

From the schedule the hon Lady has provided to me, I see that there is a jump from eight in February, seven in March and there is a jump to 307 in April. Is there any reason why there was such a spike in April as opposed to February and March?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not got the answer. In fact, I did ask the question. The answer was provided but I forgot to jot it down. So I will provide that information to the hon Member at a later stage if he does not mind. There is a reason. A logical one but I cannot remember what it is at the moment.

HON S E LINARES:

Could it be that young girls in schools were vaccinated at that time.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

All of them are of school age.

ORAL

NO. 679 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU CASES CONFIRMED

How many laboratory tested cases of Swine Flu have been confirmed in Gibraltar to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 680 to 683 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 680 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU HOTLINE

How many calls have been received by the Swine Flu hotline since February 2010 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 679 and 681 to 683 of 2010.

NO. 681 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PERSONS PRESCRIBED TAMIFLU

How many persons have been medically assessed and tested positive for Influenza A and have been prescribed Tamiflu by the Flu Clinic since February 2010 on a monthly basis with a breakdown showing the number of patients and contacts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 679, 680, 682 and 683 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 682 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED AGAINST SWINE FLU

Can Government give the total number of people who have been vaccinated against Swine Flu since the process commenced on 16th November 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 679 to 681 and 683 of 2010.

NO. 683 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can Government say how many Swine Flu vaccinations have been administered on a weekly basis at the Primary Care Centre since February 2010?

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

116 cases of Influenza A positive cases were confirmed as Swine Flu in a UK reference laboratory.

In answer to Question No. 680 of 2010,

February 10	March 10	April 10	May 10
8	4	3	5

From February 2010 to end of May 2010, no patients have tested positive for Influenza A. The Flu Clinic at the Primary Care Centre ceased operation on Friday 18th December 2009.

The total number of people vaccinated to date 2,882.

In answer to Question No. 683 of 2010,

Week commencing	Total vaccines administered
01/02/10	6
08/02/10	6
15/02/10	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 679 to 683 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

Did I understand the hon Lady to say that the Flu Clinic was in fact closed in November 2009.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. I provided the information to the hon Member at the time.

ORAL

NO. 684 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ZERO TOLERANCE LETTERS

Can Government say how many zero tolerance letters have been issued by or on behalf of the GHA to members of the public on a monthly basis since February 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 685 of 2010.

NO. 685 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SECURITY IN GHA PREMISES**

Can Government say on how many occasions members of the public have been escorted out of GHA premises by security staff when instances of verbal or threatened physical abuse have been recorded, on a monthly basis since February 2010?

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

In relation to Question No. 684 of 2010, the answer is:

Month	March	April	May
Number	2	2	2

In relation to Question No. 685 of 2010, the answer is:

MONTH	NUMBER OF OCCASIONS
March 2010	1
April 2010	2
May 2010	1

NO. 686 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HYPERBARIC TREATMENT

Can Government say how many patients have been referred by the GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere outside Gibraltar in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date, with a breakdown showing the dates, the cost and the centre where the treatment was administered in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 687 of 2010.

NO. 687 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – HYPERBARIC TREATMENT**

Can Government say of the persons referred by the GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere outside Gibraltar, what was the level of the atmospheric pressure at these centres in each case?

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

In answer to Question No. 686 of 2010:

Year	Number of patients	Dates treated	Cost (£)	Referral centre
2007	1	Feb, Mar, Apr (12 sessions)	£731.90	Xanit Hospital
2008	0			
2009	1	Jun (11 sessions)	£4990.19	Xanit Hospital
2010	0			

In answer to Question No. 687 of 2010:

One patient was treated in 2007 – The pressure used in the sessions varied between 2.5 and 2.8 atmospheres.

One patient was treated in 2009 – The pressure used in the sessions were treated at a level of 6 atmospheres.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 686 AND 687 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

Since the last occasion that the hon Lady provided me with a whole series of answers in respect of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre here in Gibraltar, I understood from those answers to mean that there was some research carried out and part of

the reasoning for deciding that there would be no funding for patients to attend the centre here was because there was no similar funding by the NHS Trusts in the UK for the type of atmosphere in Gibraltar. Now since ..., is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. Not only that. That is one part of it.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. That is ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The other part of it is that there are conditions on which there is evidence that it is beneficial and those are the ones that are funded by the NHS and there are others where there is no evidence that it is beneficial like, for example multiple sclerosis, where it is not funded by the NHS and that is how ..., we follow suit.

HON N F COSTA:

But there is, would the Minister not agree with me, that there is xxxx on the atmosphere used in Gibraltar which indicates that it is beneficial to patients to receive the treatment that for instance will be provided here in Gibraltar. Would the Minister agree with me that there is evidence to suggest that?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot understand the gist of his question, Mr Speaker.

HON N F COSTA:

If there is evidence to suggest that the atmosphere that can be administered here in Gibraltar can be beneficial to patients with certain conditions and that is my research in this matter, given that there is medical evidence to suggest that, would the Minister not agree with me that the decision not to fund patients in Gibraltar who could be administered that atmosphere in Gibraltar for those certain conditions, will not be right for the GHA to fund those patients?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I remember finishing my statement the last time that these questions were asked by saying that if scientific and medical evidence is provided to me which suggests that certain conditions which we do not fund now because the NHS does not fund, begin to be funded by the NHS, we will follow suit.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. But notwithstanding what the NHS may or may not do. My understanding is that the GHA was at some point in the past provided with a wealth of information which in fact showed what I am telling the hon Lady that there is evidence to suggest that the hyperbaric treatment that can be offered here in Gibraltar is beneficial to patients with certain conditions. If that is the case, notwithstanding what the NHS may do, would it not be right and proper for the GHA to consider funding our centre here in Gibraltar.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The GHA has to consider and it follows the NHS in this regard, different sources of information. It bases itself on a report on hyperbaric medicine conducted by a group of people whereas the substantial information that the hon Member is referring to, that was provided to the GHA initially, is the view of one person.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes, but my understanding, from the answer given by the hon Lady on the last occasion, was that representations were made, information was given and an expert in the field came and visited the Multiple Sclerosis Centre. But from my discussions and from my reading, it would appear to me that the correct or the more appropriate expert to have conducted that site visit in Gibraltar would have been Professor James. That is the recognised expert in this field and my understanding is that another expert came to Gibraltar. As a result of which, representations were made to the GHA to consider the views of this other expert and the invitation to ask this person to visit the Centre was never followed. Now given that the hon Lady does accept that it would appear to be two conflicting views and that the Centre here is telling the GHA that there is a particular expert whom in their view should be asked to visit the Multiple Sclerosis Centre, would that not be right and proper for that other expert, given the contradictory opinion, to come and visit the Multiple Sclerosis Centre?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. The information that the hon Member has been provided with is not correct. At the time that we kindly agreed to bring over at our own expense somebody to review the hyperbaric facility in Devil's Tower Road, I was in close liaison with the operator of the facility. We both agreed who should come over and it certainly was not that the person that he is now referring to. Both Mr Pratts and myself and the Chief Executive and the team that was there to advise us on these matters, we agreed that it should be the person who came, the professional in that field who should conduct the exercise. What happened was that because the operator was not happy with the results, he then asked for somebody else and the Government was not willing to go through the whole expense again just because the operator was not satisfied with the opinion of the expert that he himself had agreed should come over.

HON N F COSTA:

The information that I have in that respect is not consistent with the hon Lady is saying.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He can either believe what I am telling him or he can believe what the operator has told him.

HON N F COSTA:

If I may be permitted to ask the question, I am grateful. The hon Lady has said that the reason for the visit by that expert was because of an agreement, as she has given me the explanation, I am telling her the information that I have received is entirely different. Notwithstanding that, given that the hon Lady does accept that there is a difference of opinion between experts and it would appear to me from my reading that the authority on working practices for low pressure xxxxx chambers is Professor James and given that there is a Multiple Sclerosis Centre here that could be beneficial to certain parts of the community, would she not consider that it would be advisable, given the contradictory opinions, for that authority on this subject to visit the Multiple Sclerosis Centre. Notwithstanding our different information on the subject.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If Professor James, according to the information that he has from the interested person, is the expert in the field, he has certainly not managed to convince NHS Trusts in the UK who certainly do not fund treatment for the conditions that Mr Pratts wants funding for.

ORAL

NO. 688 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOGRAPHER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the vacancy for Radiographer (Basic Grade) that was advertised on 25th February, how many were from Gibraltar and whether the vacancy has now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 689 to 691 of 2010.

NO. 689 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER

Can Government say, with regard to the advertisement for the position of Operating Department Practitioner which was published on 22nd April with a closing date of 4th May:

- (a) how many positions were vacant;
- (b) has anyone been selected for the post;
- (c) were any applicants Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered this Question together with Question Nos. 688, 690 and 691 of 2010.

NO. 690 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOGRAPHER/MAMMOGRAPHER

Can Government say, with regard to the advertisement for the position of Radiographer – Mammographer – Senior 1 which was published on 28th April with a closing date of 7th May:

- (a) how many positions were vacant;
- (b) has anyone been selected for the post;
- (c) were any applicants Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 688, 689 and 691 of 2010.

NO. 691 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MIDWIFE

Can Government say, with regard to the advertisement for the position of Midwife which was published on 7th May with a closing date of 12th May:

- (a) how many positions were vacant;
- (b) has anyone been selected for the post;
- (c) were any applicants Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question No. 688 of 2010, one application was received from a Gibraltarian who was appointed and commenced employment on 22nd April 2010.

In answer to Question No. 689 of 2010, one position was vacant. A selection has been made. None of the applicants were Gibraltarian.

In answer to Question No. 690 of 2010, one position is vacant. No officer has been selected. Interviews are scheduled to take place on the week commencing 28th June 2010. None of the applicants are Gibraltarian.

In answer to Question No. 691 of 2010, one position is vacant. No officer has been selected. Interviews are scheduled to take place on 11th June 2010. No applicants are Gibraltarian.

NO. 692 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

Can the Government say whether it is still the policy of the GHA to recruit a third Radiologist?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 693 of 2010.

NO. 693 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

How many interviews have been held by the GHA for the post of Radiologist since January 2007 with a breakdown by dates and the number of people involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Yes. We are still looking to recruit a third radiologist.

The GHA has held 4 interview boards for the post of Radiologist since 2007.

The boards were held on 12th October 2007, 22nd February 2008, 27th June 2008 and 18th August 2009. The number of candidates interviewed at each board were two, three, two and one respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 692 AND 693 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

On 6th May there was a statement of the Government in the Gibraltar Chronicle that said that the GHA had contracted radiologists whilst one was suspended and the other dismissed. May I ask the hon Lady, how many radiologists? It just said radiologists but it did not say the number?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

How many radiologists are in place at the moment?

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. One radiologist is on a short-term contract, is the one that I mentioned in the last House, which expires at the end of this month. The GHA has offered him a

longer term contract and is waiting for a reply. He is the radiologist who applied for the third radiologist post. This is not the one to cover any of the two absences. Another radiologist has just started on a short-term contract from June to December. He is covering the post of the radiologist who was dismissed. As the hon Member knows there is one radiologist that has been interdicted. We obviously cannot commence the recruitment process because we do not know what the outcome of the disciplinary will be. Once we know, the GHA will decide how to proceed.

HON N F COSTA:

In the same press statement, it says that the recruitment of this temporary radiologist was at huge expense which it considers justified to maintain the normal services. Does the hon Lady have the information on how much?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot remember having read that anywhere that it was at a huge expense. I might be mistaken, certainly not my words.

HON N F COSTA:

Mr Speaker, if you allow me a second I believe I have the press statement somewhere here. "The GHA", I am quoting from the Gibraltar Chronicle ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Will the hon Member give way?

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Those words were not mine. They were actually the Gibraltar Chronicle's themselves. They gathered that it was at a huge expense. I do not know where they got that information from. If you read carefully you will see it is not my quote.

HON N F COSTA:

No. It is certainly not in quotation marks. The quotation marks are there to cover the absence of both radiologists.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In fact I took up the issue with the Gibraltar Chronicle.

NO. 694 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DOCTORS REGISTERED WITH THE UK GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

Can Government say how many doctors are employed by the GHA and how many of these are registered with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom with a breakdown showing GPs, hospital doctors and Consultants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There are 61 doctors employed by the GHA, 26 Consultants, 17 Hospital Doctors and 18 General Practitioners.

All doctors must be eligible for GMC registration at the time of appointment. However, in Gibraltar, maintenance of registration with the GMC is not a requirement for continued registration or employment as a doctor in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 694 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

I understand the hon Lady to say that there is no requirement for a professional here in Gibraltar to maintain registration of the General Medical Council. That is what the hon Lady has just told me whilst he ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. As long as he is eligible to be registered there.

HON N F COSTA:

Which would mean therefore that for instance if a Consultant or other professional were to be struck-off then they would not be able to operate here in Gibraltar. Is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Absolutely.

ORAL

NO. 695 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH CARD

Can the Government confirm whether senior citizens who renew their GHA cards are required to provide details of their personal income?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 696 and 697 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 696 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH CARD

How many persons hold a GHA Health Card/European Health Insurance Card?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 695 and 697 of 2010.

NO. 697 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH CARD

Could the Government provide a breakdown of the expiry dates and the number of GHA Health Cards/European Health Insurance Cards that expire on a given date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Senior citizens are not required to provide details of their personal income unless they are applying for exempt status.

The total number of persons who hold a GHA Health Card/European Health Insurance Card is 31,687 to date.

In answer to Question No. 697 of 2010, the information is contained in the schedule which I now hand over to him.

Answer to Question No. 697 of 2010

Breakdown of expired cards on a monthly calculation (June 2010 – May 2011).

JUNE	454
JULY	423
AUGUST	12859
SEPTEMBER	354
OCTOBER	365
NOVEMBER	441
DECEMBER	213
JANUARY	369
FEBRUARY	353
MARCH	1037
APRIL	609
MAY	817

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 695 TO 697 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of Question No. 697 of 2010, from the breakdown provided to me by the hon Lady there would appear to be quite a big difference between the expiry dates of June, July, September, October, November and so forth which runs into, let us say, hundreds, let us say average 500, 600 and then in August it would appear to be that 12,859 cards expire all at the same time in August. Could the hon Lady perhaps explain why that is the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

This is the bulk of insured people. Those who have the status of employed. I personally am not aware of the reason why, how this was worked out for the majority of them to expire at the same date. But what I can tell you is that we have put measures in place to avoid the obvious queues that would form in August if all of these people were to turn up in the same month to renew their insurance cards. Letters have been sent out now to different categories of people. To the employed, to pensioners, to retired persons and asking them to come in prior to the date so that we do not find ourselves with the situation where their cards have expired and they have not had the opportunity because of queues, or any other reason, of renewing them. So I can assure the hon Member that no person, unless they do not turn up ... All people who need to be reminded to come in before the expiry date of their card will be given an opportunity to renew their card before it expires. If they do not turn up, it is a different matter.

HON N F COSTA:

I can understand that. If somebody does not turn up to renew their card, that is certainly an issue for them. I was honestly quite interested to learn of the reason why there seems to be such a discrepancy in so far as there seems to be such a big bulk of cards that expire in August as opposed to every other month. I would ask the hon Lady if she could provide me with an explanation in writing subsequently if she could find out.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that a factor that comes into play as well is that the smaller figures in the different months which apply to different categories of people are not renewed ... Remember that when the EHIC exercise started five years ago, the majority which is the bulk here in August were renewed for a period of five years and those were people who, I think if I am not mistaken, employed people and pensioners. The others fall into categories which can fluctuate. For example, unemployed they can find employment. Retired, they can all of a sudden retire and those are renewed on a much shorter basis. It is not a five yearly period. But in any case, I personally would have thought of a better system of ensuring that the bulk of them did not all fall in August but measures have been put in place to alleviate the situation that could have arisen if these measures had not been put in place.

HON N F COSTA:

The hon Lady does say that there have been measures put in place precisely to avoid the unavoidable queues that certainly would have been formed if everybody went on the same day to renew. But given that we are already in June, does she have information of how many have renewed their cards before the August deadline?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid not. But I know that all letters have gone out to, within the last couple of weeks, to pensioners and to the employed which form the bulk of the numbers. So all those people should by now know that they need to renew their cards and not wait until August to do so.

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Lady, she said if I recall correctly, that senior citizens do not need to provide details of their personal income unless they were applying for exempt status. Am I correct then in thinking that in the event that they do not provide details of their personal income then they will not be able to be registered with the GHA? Is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Of course they are given a card. But their status is not exempt. They would be given a pensioner card. But of course they can register with the GHA. The only difference is that if they do not declare their income ... Being exempt requires a system of means testing and they would be entitled to, not only the free prescriptions which pensioners are entitled to anyway, but to free dental care and, what was the other free thing that they are entitled to... It was dental care and something else. I think it was only dental care actually. So, obviously if they do not declare their income they cannot be registered exempt. They are registered as pensioners.

HON N F COSTA:

They are registered as pensioners. My apologies.

ORAL

NO. 698 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – “HEALTH MATTERS” FOUR YEAR REPORT

What was the cost of producing and printing Health Matters, the four year report 2005-2008 of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 699 and 700 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 699 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – “HEALTH MATTERS” FOUR YEAR REPORT

Can Government say whether the production and printing of the Health Matters four year GHA report went out to tender and if so on what date, how many tenderers were there, who was the successful tenderer and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 698 and 700 of 2010.

NO. 700 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – “HEALTH MATTERS” FOUR YEAR REPORT

Can Government say where the GHA report Health Matters was printed and how many copies were printed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The cost of producing and printing the GHA report Health Matters was £7,129.

All GHA annual reports have been historically designed and produced under contract by the same graphic designer, since 1999.

The applicable procurement guidelines in 1999 were that all expenditure under £2,500 was not subject to the tendering process. These guidelines remain unchanged to date.

The cost of producing the last report clearly exceeds the amount allowed by the guidelines and the production of the report should have gone out to tender. Prior to the posing of this question, whether the hon Member wants to believe it or not, this anomaly was pointed out to the Director of Public Health who liaises directly with the graphic designer in question. The Director of Public Health has now been made aware that future reports will be subject to the tender process.

The GHA Report Health Matters was commissioned to Stephen Perera, Graphics Designer and printed by that company.

1,500 copies were printed.

ORAL

NO. 701 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TRANSFER OF PATIENT RECORDS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS

How does the GHA transfer patient records from one GHA department to another, especially departments located at different premises?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 702 of 2010.

NO. 702 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – INTEGRATION OF PATIENT RECORDS

Has the GHA conducted an investigation as to the feasibility of integrating patient records between all GHA departments regardless of their location, if so when was the study conducted, by whom and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA has an internal messenger service which is responsible for transfer of patient records from one GHA department to another.

Requests for patient medical files are managed via Records Department and requests are received either by phone or email. Patient medical files are electronically tracked to the relevant location.

Radiology and pathology results can be obtained online. However, if hard copies are required these are delivered via the internal messenger service.

In answer to Question No. 702 of 2010, in 2006 the GHA carried out an in depth assessment of an electronic solution to patient records integration. It provided its opinion of the options in a paper prepared by the GHA's Chief Executive and the Deputy Director of Information Management and Technology. The GHA costs associated with the preparation of this report was £15,652.37.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 701 AND 702 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Am I right in thinking, given that the hon Lady has said that the pathology and radiology results are available online, that no other results are available online. Just those in respect of those two departments.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON N F COSTA:

Did the report carried out in 2006 come out in favour of having an electronic solution for the transferring of patient records between all departments and if so, what would have been the cost if that option were carried forward or taken on?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

A very significant cost, it would run into millions which does not mean that the Government did not consider it. In fact, it included it as an item in its manifesto. I can see that the hon Member has not quite read, I thought he had, but he has not read all the items that we have in our manifesto, although he repeatedly asks me and tries to time manage all of them. He has not spotted this one yet. But anyway, the problem is that Government have recently asked for another review and update of what was provided at the time. In the light of the quite disastrous implementation of a similar system in the UK health service, we wanted to be absolutely sure that the provider of this electronic solution under the system was adequate to the needs of Gibraltar so that it could be implemented successfully and would be a benefit and not a retrograde step. So we are in the process of looking at the whole thing again.

NO. 703 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MICROBIOLOGY AND HISTOLOGY SERVICES

Can Government say whether the microbiology and histology services provided by the Pathology Department of the GHA have now been computerised and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Parts of infectious serology testing are now computerised. The remainder of microbiology and histology services will take longer due to the complexities and requirements of re-designing work processes. The Department of Pathology is working with the software providers to achieve full computerisation, and once the resource requirements are defined, a submission will be made to Government.

ORAL

NO. 704 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPOSITION OF GHA BOARD

Can Government list the composition of the Board of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 708 of 2010.

NO. 705 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPOSITION OF GHA EXECUTIVE

Can Government list the composition of the Executive of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 704 and 706 to 708 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 706 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPOSITION OF MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say what is the present composition of the Medical Registration Board?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 704, 705, 707 and 708 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 707 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MEETINGS OF MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say how many times and on what dates the Medical Registration Board has met in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 704 to 706 and 708 of 2010.

NO. 708 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLAINTS HEARD BY MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say how many complaints have been heard by the Medical Registration Board in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Board of the Gibraltar Health Authority has the following membership:

- The Chairman/Minister for Health;
- The Chief Executive;
- The Chief Secretary;
- The Financial Secretary;
- A nominee of the Trades Council, Mr Michael Tampin;
- Medical Representative, Dr Daniel Cassaglia;
- Medical Representative, Dr Joseph Thoppil;
- Mr Charles Lavarello, in his capacity as a Lawyer;

and two ex-officio members who are:

- Mrs Isobel Ellul-Hammond;
- Mrs Paula Galliano.

The current membership of the Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority is as follows:

The Chief Executive;
The Deputy Chief Executive;
The Director of Nursing & Patient Services;
The Medical Director;
The Director of Finance & Procurement;
The Director of Human Resources.

The composition of the Medical Registration Board is as follows:-

Chairman:	Dr Vijay Kumar	-	Director of Public Health
Members:	Dr Krishnakumari Nerney	-	Registered Medical Practitioner
	Mr George Earle	-	Registered Dentist
	Ms Andrea Daly	-	Registered Pharmacist
	Mr Ray Pilley	-	Barrister of the Supreme Court
	Ms Caroline Vinent	-	Occupations Supplementary to Medicine
	Mr Brian Curtis	-	Independent person

In answer to Question No. 707 of 2010,

	Dates of meetings			
2007	20 February	21 June		
2008	26 June	11 September	18 November	11 December
2009	10 March	2 June	30 July	13 October
2010 to date	13 January	30 March	8 June	

In answer to Question No. 708 of 2010,

2007	2
2008	1
2009	1
2010 to date	0

NO. 709 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

How many patients are presently diagnosed as suffering from (i) Alzheimer’s and (ii) Dementia in Gibraltar and how many are (a) at St. Bernard’s Hospital as in-patients; or (b) at Mount Alvernia as residents; or (c) in John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 710 and 711 of 2010.

NO. 710 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

What therapeutic and medicinal programmes are run by the GHA in respect of persons in St. Bernard’s Hospital, Mount Alvernia and John Cochrane Ward with Alzheimer’s disease or Dementia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 709 and 711 of 2010.

NO. 711 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

How many registered medical professionals are employed by the GHA in respect of any therapeutic and medicinal programmes for patients with Alzheimer’s or Dementia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

At the time of preparation of this answer there were approximately 200 people living at home with Dementia, 36 within St Bernard’s, six of whom are in John Cochrane Ward and 32 in Mount Alvernia.

In answer to Question No. 710 of 2010, the GHA meets the acute medical needs of all its in-patients including those with Alzheimer’s and Dementia.

Following the acute phase of their admission to hospital, patients with Dementia are assessed by a multi-disciplinary team including a Physician, a Psychiatrist, a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist, and if necessary by a Psychologist, Dietician and Speech Language Therapist.

Patients deemed suitable for a specific therapy will be provided with that therapy and those discharged home will be referred to the Memory Clinic for follow-up. There are over 100 patients being followed up in that clinic.

The following registered health professionals employed by the GHA are involved in the provision of therapeutic and medicinal programmes for patients with Alzheimer’s or Dementia.

- A Consultant Physician trained in the management of Dementia patients;
- Psychiatrists;
- General Practitioners;
- Non-consultant Hospital Doctors;
- Physiotherapists;
- Occupational Therapists;
- Speech & Language Therapists;
- Counsellors;
- Psycho-therapists;
- Community Mental Health Nurses;
- Dieticians;
- District Nurses;

- In-patient nurses in St Bernard's and in KGV.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 709 TO 711 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Lady tell us... She has mentioned that there are therapeutic programmes involved for patients that require them. Could the hon Lady tell us what those therapeutic programmes entail?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They entail a variety of things. Most of them or many of them are carried out in the Joint Memory Clinic. I am not quite *au fait* with the techniques that are used but I know that there are different methods of trying to improve ..., because as you know Dementia, of which Alzheimer's is a form, is basically a loss of memory. There are different techniques that are used by the professionals to try and improve memory loss. By way of therapy, there is physiotherapy, there is occupational therapy in teaching them daily living skills. All forms and sorts of... I cannot pinpoint one. Well, I have pinpointed a few in particular but there is a variety of things geared towards improving or at least sustaining the level of the disease.

HON N F COSTA:

Is the hon Lady entirely satisfied that patients, for instance, in either St Bernard's Hospital or those who are at home, do receive, for instance, physiotherapy programmes which are indicated?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am satisfied that if a physiotherapist or somebody else considers it clinically necessary for a person to receive it, I am satisfied that they do receive it, and if they do not I would want to know.

HON N F COSTA:

Precisely, the reason why I ask that supplementary is because of information that we have received about complaints of persons that are currently in St Bernard's Hospital with Dementia and whose relatives are telling me that they are not at all satisfied with the fact that they are not receiving physiotherapy and as a result their condition is very much worsened. Quite coincidentally, I am not entirely sure whether we are talking about the same person or not. There was a letter in the Chronicle which also points at two examples of complaints. Now, I am quite sure I did not speak to the person who appears in that letter, I spoke to a different person but he does refer to two different instances. So, I am trying to be fair. I do not know whether Mr Soiza is referring to the person who came to discuss the matter with me. On that basis, is the reason why I ask the hon Lady that question about physiotherapy.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It all boils down to two complaints. One by Mr Soiza, and one by the person who told Mr Soiza. There are 36 patients in the hospital with Alzheimer's or Dementia. As far as I am aware, we have not received any complaints from any of them. On the contrary, they are very happy with the treatment that they receive. If I were to want to defend or justify the clinical decisions taken in relation to this particular case, I would have to go into very personal and specific details and I am not willing to do that.

HON N F COSTA:

Well fine, so the hon Lady is telling me that there have not been complaints to the GHA. But I am sure she has had the benefit of the letter that has been written in the Chronicle. Whereas it may not be a formal or informal complaint made through the ordinary channels, this certainly constitutes a dissatisfaction with the service. I am not even going to quote what the letter says. Given that she knows about this, is the hon Lady going to take it up?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I will certainly look at the case in question. There is only one complaint from Mr Soiza. You mentioned the name. I did not. I am just repeating what you said.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. It has come out in the Chronicle and is therefore public knowledge.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Obviously, it is public knowledge. I will invite Mr Soiza to come in to express his concerns. But as I say, I already know what his concerns are and I already know why, for example, physiotherapy is not being provided. But I am not willing to give details of that personal nature in this House.

NO. 712 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – EXPENDITURE ON UNIFORMS

How much has been spent by the GHA on uniforms in the financial years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Financial Year 2008/2009	£61,893.61
Financial Year 2009/2010	£38,126.50

NO. 713 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TABLING OF REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF GHA

Why was the report of the GHA for the year 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 laid on the table in this Parliament at the same time as the report of the GHA for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The report for the year April 1st 2007 to March 31st 2008 was tabled in the Parliament at the same time as the 2008/2009 report due to an administrative error in the Chief Executive's office which resulted in the previous report not being tabled as scheduled on time. I am sure we will all forgive him for that little mistake.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 713 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

As magnanimous as I am in my forgiveness, perhaps the hon Lady can explain what the administrative error consisted of?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I still have not been able to get to the bottom of it, but I will.

HON N F COSTA:

Then I can be that magnanimous.

ORAL

NO. 714 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how many cases are currently before the Development Appeals Tribunal, showing the date when the case was first brought to the tribunal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 715 of 2010.

NO. 715 OF 2010

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

There are currently three cases pending to be heard by the Development Appeals Tribunal. These were first brought to the tribunal on 26th April 200, 25th May 2010 and 26th May 2010, respectively.

Since the last Question Time in this Parliament, the Development Appeals Tribunal has met on one occasion on Tuesday 8th June 2010.

NO. 716 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

What is the “additional data” that the consultants producing the Government’s epidemiological study have requested?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 717 and 718 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 717 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Does Government still expect that its epidemiological study will be completed by the last quarter of the calendar year 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 716 and 718 of 2010.

NO. 718 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Will Government agree to publish the full epidemiological study when it is completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Several requests for additional data have been received from the appointed consultant. These principally relate to the cancer registry although there has been a recent request for additional information on air quality data and which is currently being processed. We, nevertheless, remain on track to complete the study by the end of the year.

As has been previously stated, Government remains committed to making the findings of the report public.

ORAL

NO. 719 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

REFUSE HOLDING FACILITY AT PLATER YOUTH CLUB

What has been the cost of the provision of a new refuse holding facility (or “rubbish dump”) in the area of the Plater Youth Club and when will it be operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 720 of 2010.

NO. 720 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

RUBBISH DUMP AT CASTLE STEPS

Have Government made any decision as to the relocation of the rubbish dump at the foot of Castle Steps, opposite the entrance to St. Bernard's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The new refuse holding facility in the area of the Plater Youth is currently being constructed so it is therefore not yet possible to say what has been the final cost of providing it. However, this is estimated to be circa £50,000.

It is expected that the facility will be operational in July.

Final decisions in respect of the refuse facility at the foot of Castle Steps will not be made until the new refuse holding facility in the area of the Plater Youth Club is operational.

NO. 721 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

What sites have been established as “suitable” for use for the establishment of alternative energy sources in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 722, 723 and 727 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 722 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

What commercial contacts have been established by the Government in respect of the establishment in Gibraltar of alternative sources of energy in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 721, 723 and 727 of 2010.

NO. 723 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING – WIND TURBINES

What progress, if any, has now been made on the start of the next stage of renewable energy planning which was to focus on a feasibility study for setting up wind turbines locally with the possibility of onshore and offshore turbines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 721, 722 and 727 of 2010.

NO. 724 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENT – EXTENSION OF TIME FROM APPLICATION OF PM10 VALUES/NO2 ANNUAL MEAN AIR QUALITY OBJECTION

When will the Time Extension Notification to the European Commission, in which an extension of time was being sought from the application of the PM10 values until 2011 and the application of the NO2 annual mean air quality 2010 objection until 2014 which the Hon Minister for the Environment announced in his Budget address to the House in 2009 and which is also referred to in the Ministry for the Environment Annual Report for 2008, finally be ready for submission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 725 of 2010.

NO. 725 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENT – EXTENSION OF TIME FROM APPLICATION OF PM10 VALUES/NO2 ANNUAL MEAN AIR QUALITY OBJECTION

Will Government agree to make public the data in the Time Extension Notification to the European Commission in which an extension of time was being sought from the application of the PM10 values until 2011 and the application of the NO2 annual mean air quality 2010 objection until 2014 which the Hon Minister for the Environment announced in his Budget address to the House in 2009 and which is also referred to in the Ministry for the Environment Annual Report for 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

It is intended to submit to the EU the Time Extension Notifications for Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM10) and for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) by the end of July 2010 and to make these public on the Government Website.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 724 AND 725 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Why has it taken so long to produce these time extension notifications?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I understand from memory that the time limit is June next year or something of that order. So these things do take time. They have involved external consultants. They have involved identifying the sources of the pollution in order to be able to find ways of counteracting that pollution and as I said it has involved the employment of the contracting of external consultants and it has taken the time that it has been necessary to take in order to provide a robust and a convincing approach to the EU who, the hon Member I am sure is aware, does not have to automatically accept these TEN applications. So the case has got to be convincing.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman is referring to an extension notification which is first referred to and a document emanating from his department in 2008. It referred to in his Budget

speech of 2009 and we are all now aware that the European Commission has sent a pre-action letter to the United Kingdom in respect of air quality, inter alia, in relation to Gibraltar and that the hon Gentleman's response to that when he was questioned about it by the local media was that all of this would be dealt with in the time extension notification. Clearly, we are out of time because if the EU Commission has already decided that action needs to be taken and that the Member State United Kingdom has to be made accountable in the European Court of Justice because of the air quality in Gibraltar, then clearly this time extension notification should have been completed before the time ran out for the Commission to commence these proceedings or threaten these proceedings against the Member State United Kingdom in respect of Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I am afraid the hon Member is not correct. We are not out of time. Let me start from there and if we were, then the UK would also be out of time because the UK is also submitting TEN applications. The EU is following the path that it follows on these things. It is looking at the fact that there were exceedences in Gibraltar and that there have been more and bigger exceedences in the UK and the warning letter that it has sent is in connection with those exceedences. Now, if the UK and Gibraltar were doing nothing about it and not presenting these TEN applications, then obviously the matter would end up in Court. But because the action has been taken and on the assumption that it is accepted by the EU, both in our case and in the case of the United Kingdom, which are separate applications and not in any way linked, then that warning letter no longer applies if the extension of time is granted to cut down on these exceedences. The information that I am given and the assurances that I am given at technical level is that Gibraltar will be able to meet its targets once the actions to be taken and that are described in the TEN applications as you will see when they are published ... Once these actions are taken then we will be able to lower our current levels to within the target set.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it true that we have already tried to seek an exemption in respect of Gibraltar's air quality from the rules of the EU and that this exemption was not granted?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know what the hon Member is talking about. But I can certainly say that I am not aware of any application for exemption in the time that I have been Minister for the Environment. If that happened before, I do not have the information at hand.

HON F R PICARDO:

The position as reported by Associated Press, reporting a statement of the Commission of the European Union, was that Britain sought an exemption to the rule for eight areas including Gibraltar and that these were not granted. Does the hon Gentleman have no knowledge of the United Kingdom having submitted such an important request to the EU Commission?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Certainly not in the last two years. This must have happened at the time the Directives were being implemented or brought about. But this has not happened whilst I have been Minister for the Environment.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the hon Gentleman aware that the time extension notification required in respect of the United Kingdom has already been submitted by the United Kingdom?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. The hon Member is wrong. It is going to be submitted some time towards the end of July. Speaking from memory and subject to being wrong, the date of 22nd July comes to mind. But it is round about that time.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let us just for one moment accept the hon Gentleman's position. Is not the 22nd July the date in respect of which time runs out in respect of the pre-action letter that has been sent by the EU Commission?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I have already explained that. The pre-action letter refers to the exceedences of which both the UK and Gibraltar are at fault and if nothing were being done then, yes. But the time runs out not on the 22nd July, it would have run out already. But because the EU knows that we are preparing a TEN application and because they know that this is coming, then time does not run out for the UK on the 22nd July. For us earlier, because we hope to be submitting it before the end of July and it will then be processed by the European Union and, if accepted, then the pre-action letter does not come into play.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the hon Gentleman agree to publish the TEN application?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sorry. Could he say that again?

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the hon Gentleman agree to publish the TEN application?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I said that in my answer that the applications would be made public on the Government's website.

NO. 726 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW POWER STATION – EMISSIONS

What carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other emissions, giving a breakdown of these, does the Government anticipate from the new power station commissioned for Lathbury Barracks and originally scheduled to be in operation by 2010, once it is fully operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 728 of 2010.

NO. 727 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION PRODUCED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

What percentage of Gibraltar's energy consumption is produced from renewable sources?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Several renewable energy options remain under active consideration but the site or sites that are finally selected will depend on which of the available renewable energy options, or combination of such options, is chosen. It is therefore premature to comment further because any such comment would be on the basis of hypothesis.

There is some commercial interest in respect of some of the possible options under consideration but none of these have yet progressed to a stage that the Government is able to make a public announcement. The interest received to date and the information contained therein is commercially sensitive and needs to be treated as such.

Preliminary work and assessments have been, and continue to be, undertaken in respect of some of the more viable options, which includes wind turbines. On-site verification and detailed feasibility studies in respect of some of the options will be the next stage.

At present, none of Gibraltar's energy comes from renewable sources.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 721 TO 723 AND 727 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman says that on site assessments could be the next stage. Can he tell us what sites he is referring to there?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, it was what I said at the beginning. The options are all still open. They have not been finalised decisions, or final decisions on which sites are going to be used. It is still work-in-progress. It is still on-going discussions.

HON F R PICARDO:

When is that next stage then likely to be reached given that the hon Gentleman tells us that the next stage is on site? So when is that next stage likely to be reached?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that information but it is not tomorrow or next week because this is still very much at the technical level. It is still being discussed by the technical people in the Government with the technical people... consultants and so on. So it still has to come to Ministers. It still has to come for final decision and still has to come for agreed funding. So it is not on the immediate horizon.

HON F R PICARDO:

What stage is the whole issue of wind turbines at now? Is it that we are still considering that the most likely option or have we made more progress in respect of wind turbines? At a feasibility study, or what?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Progress is being made on all fronts. As the hon Member may remember I... some time ago I told him that the consultancy had established, as the more likely options, wind turbines and tidal current. It discarded the use of solar energy. However, since then, there has been considerable progress in the generation of energy from solar sources and we are now at the stage where we are discussing a possible combination of solar and wind turbines in... not on separate sites but a joint project. But I do not have more information other than to say that solar is now back on the agenda, possibly as a combined option with wind.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is there already a feasibility study in respect of, for example, wind turbines or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure what the answer to that is. I know that modelling has been done. I know that theoretical studies have been carried out but I do not think we are yet at the stage where these studies have identified yes at this point but not at that point. There are still a number of options which need to be narrowed down to one or two sites depending on the number of wind turbines used.

HON F R PICARDO:

I see. So, will the hon Gentleman then agree with me that given that we are days or weeks away from the next budget session at the House, in fact, this year there has been a monumental failure in terms of the delivery by his department of progress in respect of renewable sources of energy for Gibraltar? Given that, and I quote from his budget speech of last year, now delivered twelve months ago. He said this,

“Government is still committed however to increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable resources and with this in mind Government plans to start the next stage of renewable energy planning which will focus on a feasibility study for setting up wind turbines locally with the possibility of onshore and offshore turbines”, and if that has not happened in the past twelve months then the past twelve months have not produced the progress that he told the House he expected.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, apart from his use of the words “monumental failure” which I reject because there has been progress on a number of issues on all the different aspects of renewable energy but apart from that, I cannot dispute what he has said that we have not been able to deliver or progress quickly enough to deliver within the current financial year, I should say the past financial year.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for the hon Gentleman’s frankness and he disarms me with his acceptance that the progress has not been there. He has also told us that none of the energy that we consume in Gibraltar today is from renewable sources. Will he therefore accept that when he said to the House last year that the Government is still committed, however, to increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable resources, that that was an unintended misrepresentation?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, again I would not dispute that, but of course increasing is relative. One can increase from zero to 15 per cent just as you can increase from 20 per cent to 25 per cent. But it was not intended to mean that there was some renewable energy sources being used. However, I can add that our target is still to meet renewable energy by 15 per cent by 2020 which is the EU target at the moment.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful for that clarification from the hon Gentleman. Can he tell me where that target has been fixed? Where the Government has decided that that is the appropriate target?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That, I understand, is the target set by the EU, although very recently in the last, certainly in the last month, I was either reading or hearing about, not from official papers but from the media, that there were moves and there was pressure from within the EU to increase that target of 15 per cent and to reduce the deadline of 2020.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman will agree with me, no doubt, that given that he has told us that no renewable energy is presently produced in Gibraltar, that is zero per cent of the energy that we consume comes from renewable sources, we certainly have not hit that target of 15 per cent. We have not hit a target of 10 per cent at the moment in 2010. We have not hit a target of 5 per cent by 2010. We have hit a target of zero by 2010. That is the position at the moment.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. That is the position.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful because you see the hon Gentleman defended the manifesto at the last election that said that, "The GSD Government", and I am quoting Mr Speaker, "has a target to produce 12 per cent of energy consumption from renewable resources by 2010. We have already undertaken an initial desk top study of options to achieve this target and we remain committed to this policy." Will the hon Gentleman accept that what he has told the House up to now, therefore, shows that this manifesto commitment is no longer worth the paper it was once written on.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. What I will accept is that the target has not been met. That does not mean that the target will not be met in the future.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept that. Of course and I am sure that there is broad agreement across the House that those targets need to be kept and increase them if at all possible but the target that the hon Gentleman defended at the last election said "or was fixed for 2010". So does the hon Gentleman accept that the target which they told the people of Gibraltar at the last election they were aiming for has been one which they have not been able to meet?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The target that we set has not yet been met, yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let me just remind him of what his manifesto said. It said this, "The GSD Government has a target to produce 12 per cent of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2010". Those are not my words, those are the words of the draftsman of the GSD manifesto at the last election. From what the hon Gentleman has said today, can he simply confirm, because it is already self-evident from the

answers that he has given and from what I have read out, for the sake of the record, that this target contained in this GSD manifesto has not been met?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In the last answer, that is exactly what I said, that the target had not yet been met. That has not been met yet, if he prefers it that way.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman then tell us how it is that he intends to go back to before the beginning of 2010 and meet the target because the manifesto says very clearly, "from renewable sources by 2010"? That means that before the commencement of 2010 the GSD defended the manifesto commitment that they would have reduced our consumption of non-renewable energy by 12 per cent. In other words, they would provide 12 per cent of our energy from renewable sources. It is already 2010. The hon Gentleman has told us that we have zero per cent of our energy provided from renewable sources. Therefore, it is undeniable that this manifesto commitment can no longer be delivered by the Government. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I do not agree with his definition that by means before. By means in, it means... I do not want to enter into the grounds of semantics, but I would not agree that it means before the end of 2009. However, having said that, I am not optimistic that we will meet it before the end of 2010. Let me be completely frank. So what I am saying is, yes the hon Member is right. The target has not been met, yet. The target is still there. The ultimate target is 15 per cent by 2020 and the Government is still committed to getting to 15 per cent by 2020. It is committed to do so on a number of fronts, like wind energy, like energy from waste, like possibly tidal or current generation and by the combination of solar and wind turbines. That we are behind in our schedules is undeniable.

HON F R PICARDO:

Obliged! Can I simply then say to the hon Gentleman, *ergo*, this manifesto commitment is not fulfilled and is now not capable of being fulfilled.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am here to answer questions on renewable energy not on manifesto commitments. If the hon Member might like to say that, I could not possibly comment.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged for that last answer.

NO. 728 OF 2010**THE HON F R PICARDO****NEW POWER STATION – ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY**

In what ways will the new generating station be “environmentally friendly”?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

The exact emissions from the new power station will depend on a number of variables, not the least for which is the engine type chosen. As we have not yet awarded this tender, we are unable to provide specific information in this regard. However, the IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Permit conditions have imposed the following limits that cannot be exceeded by the power station when built. These are:-

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Nitrogen dioxide | - | 400mg/Nm ³ |
| 2. Sulphur dioxide | - | 45mg/Nm ³ |
| 3. Particulate matter (PM10) | - | 50mg/Nm ³ |
| 4. Carbon monoxide | - | 100mg/Nm ³ |

The power station contractor will be required to guarantee that the power station will meet these emissions limits.

The new generating station as permitted by the Environmental Agency under Council Directive 96/61/EC concerning Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC Directive) on the 29th January 2010. The objective of this Directive is to minimise the effect of pollution on the environment and thereby seek to make projects such as the new generating station “environment friendly”. This is achieved by imposing numerous conditions under the permitting regime. These conditions include:

1. Control of emissions to the environment by applying “Best Available Techniques” (BAT). BAT guidance is issued by the Commission;
2. Waste Management and minimisation;
3. Energy efficiency in respect of energy utilized at the station;
4. Restrictions on the compositional standards of distillate fuel oil to be used to reduce pollution;
5. Efficient use of raw material including water;
6. The control of noise and vibration by proper construction design.

In addition the power station will be designed to:

1. Minimise visual impact;

2. Incorporate 'brown' roofs, where appropriate, to provide additional habitat areas for wildlife;
3. Maintain corridors for passage of wildlife from Windmill Hill to the Upper Rock;
4. Minimise light pollution to avoid impacts on bird life.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 726 AND 728 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I take it then that the Government is committed and is prepared to commit itself on Hansard in this House to the Best Available Technology for the new power station?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. Within the overall caveat that Governments always place on these things of being suitable for Gibraltar. I do not want to pluck them out of the sky but, within normal logic and reason, the Government will follow the BAT guidance issued by the Commission.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful that those are the only exemptions that the hon Gentleman has sought. Can the hon Gentleman tell us by what date it is now anticipated that the power station, that should have been operational by 2010, will be operational?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I do not have that information and in any case it would depend on when the tender is awarded and all that is not under my control. So I do not have the information.

NO. 729 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENT – DEVELOPMENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDING (ENERGY PERFORMANCE) REGULATIONS 2010

Can the Minister for the Environment confirm which Government construction projects presently in development or finalised in the past twelve months, either being constructed by the Government or by a wholly owned subsidiary, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the developments known as “Waterport Terraces” and the “Mid-Harbour Rental Estate”, comply with the Building (Energy Performance) Regulations 2010 or the earlier rules of the same name of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Government projects presently in development or finalised in the past 12 months are not required to comply with the Building (Energy Performance) Regulations 2010 or any other prior rules of the same name.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 729 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman think that is the sort of example the Government should be setting?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is not a question of example or non example. The law is the law and none of these projects are caught, at the moment. However, if any of these buildings at any time in the future obtain fixed heating or cooling installations, they will then be required to obtain an energy performance certificate before sale or rental. In future, of course, any future projects by the Government will now be caught by the new legislation and will have to comply.

NO. 730 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME – “GREEN BUSINESS” WEBSITE

Are Government intending to establish a “Green Business” website, as proposed in the 2008 Climate Change Programme or has that idea now been abandoned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Green Business Programme, to which the Government remains committed, has been incorporated into the Environmental Action and Management Plan (EAMP) which Government will be launching before the end of the year.

In these changed circumstances, Government has concluded that a separate Green Business website may not be necessary and, within the EAMP, will be seeking to pursue the objectives of the Green Business Programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 730 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Is this not, in fact, just another item to add to the litany of things that the Government announces in respect of environmental protection that it does not see through? Would the hon Gentleman agree with me that just in the space of a few minutes and in having answered the ten questions that I have put to him, he has had to accept that a lot of the Government’s environmental agenda has either completely slipped the timetable expected or been completely abandoned?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I fail to see how that arises from a question on the Green Business website.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will tell the hon Gentleman how it arises. It is the last of the questions that I have tabled today and it is a question which has elicited a further move back from the Government in respect of an announced initiative to deal with climate change. The Green Business website which is part of the Climate Change Programme, the pledge in the manifesto to have Gibraltar have 12 per cent of its energy from renewable

sources by 2010, the pledge made in this House and outside of this House that the new environmentally friendly power station will be established by 2010. Taken together, all of those things showing us in this House that the Government's environmental protection agenda, the climate change agenda is not being met. Even its own timetable is one that the Government cannot meet and that is why it arises from this question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is linking missed targets with failure to carry out an action and this is not the case. I have already said in answer to each of the separate questions and I will say it once more. The 12 per cent target is still an objective. It is still there to be achieved. Agreed it has not been achieved yet. It has slipped. The Green Business website... the answer has been couched in careful language that a Green Business website may not be necessary as we will be seeking within the EAMP to pursue the objectives of the Green Business Programme. So it is pointless to spend tax payers money on duplication if the EAMP has overtaken, to a very great extent, the Climate Change... well not to a very great extent but some aspects like this one of the Climate Change Programme. If the same objectives can be met in a more productive and efficient manner, then I am sure the hon Member would not criticise the Government for better use of tax payers money. The final item he mentioned, the power station is still a commitment. It is still an objective and is currently being planned and will come into being as and when the right moment comes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Herein the crux of the problem. In 2007, the hon Member was saying that the target of 12 per cent of energy from renewables would be met by 2010. In 2008 the hon Gentleman was announcing, in a document that bears his signature, that the Green website would be established. In 2007, we were told that an environmentally friendly power station would be operational by 2010. That has not even been put out to tender yet. It is not clear that what we see here is a litany of mistargets, a litany of things not done, a litany of dates completely slipped and therefore, is one not able to really surmise that the Government does not take these things seriously, at least is not putting in the effort to deliver them on time.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I completely reject that the Government is not taking these matters seriously. Apart from that, all the other points made by the hon Member have already been answered by me during the course of the last questions.

HON F R PICARDO:

If the hon Gentleman insists that he is taking these things seriously, is he, therefore, accepting that despite taking them very seriously, he is not able to produce the results that even he has defended he would be able to produce by the time that he has told the public that they would be produced.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing further to add to what I have already said. All those points again have been answered. The targets have not been met but are still there to be met.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is all very well to say, well the targets are there but they have not been met, but are still there to be met. If the whole world were to take the attitude that the hon Gentleman's Government seems to be taking, we will never meet the Kyoto targets. The seas will continue to rise and let us say goodbye as a species to the planet. Is it not time that the hon Gentleman concentrated some of his political effort so that before the next election and I do not care whether on a partisan basis that is good for them, before the next election at least, we made some progress in respect of the generation of renewable energy in Gibraltar. Otherwise, whoever makes up the next Government will find themselves that we are in exactly the same position we were in, in 2007, in 1996, in 1988 and even in 1900, with all the energy consumed in Gibraltar coming from non-renewable carbon based sources. Now that the technology has improved and the Government have an opportunity of producing these results, will they not give it that extra effort so that at least it can make some inroads into his already missed targets for the good of the whole of the community.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I agree that having energy from renewable sources is a worthwhile objective by whoever is in Government and I know that the Government, because it has its objectives and it has its targets, will move, as it is already moving on a number of these aspects that I have described but I have not gone into detail, is moving towards achieving those targets and to have the energy from renewable sources.

HON F R PICARDO:

We were told in 2007 that something would happen by 2010. Two things would happen by 2010, they have not happened at all. The power station has not gone out to tender. The target of 12 per cent has been missed by, guess what, 12 per cent. So the target of 12 per cent has been missed by 100 per cent and now we are told simply that the target is going to go up to 15 per cent but it is going to be kicked forward to 2010. We do not stand a chance. Will the hon Gentleman agree with me, if he has not been able to meet a target as modest as 12 per cent in 3 years, there is no chance of anybody being able to rely on his statements today that we are going to meet a target of 15 per cent in the next ten years?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing further to add. All the points are now being raised again and again with different words but the questions are exactly the same. The points are exactly the same. I have answered everything that has been asked.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can then the hon Gentleman tell us what amount of renewable energy does he anticipate we will be producing in Gibraltar in 2011?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is a hypothetical question which I cannot answer.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is only a hypothetical question because they have done none of the work to ensure that we are ready to produce it. How much renewable energy is going to be produced in Gibraltar by 2012?

MR SPEAKER:

If it is hypothetical in 2011, it must be hypothetical in 2012.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is very interesting that Mr Speaker should say that because by 2020 it is going to be 15 per cent. Of course, this shows the credibility of the statements of the Government in this respect. It was going to be 12 per cent by now. It is zero. They like to make statements like this to try and persuade the electorate that they are going to do things and I put it to the hon Gentleman that in fact his statements today that we will produce 15 per cent of our energy from renewable sources by 2020, is just that. More puff to keep the electorate happy or to try and keep the electorate happy but no real commitment to renewable energy replacing non-renewable carbon based fossil fuels as our source of energy in the future.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member's statement, because it is not a question, is rejected utterly and completely.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let us not waste anybody's energy and leave it at that but I am grateful for the hon Gentleman's admission that the targets have been missed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the hon Member has told us that he has no information on the new generating station and it has not yet gone out to tender, does it mean that the figure of £100 million that we were given earlier is just a ball park figure. Normally, the Government refuse to give us an order of costs on the basis that that is effectively giving information to people who are going to put a tender in on what the

Government are willing to spend. Therefore, I am surprised that the £100 million figure has been released if, in fact, he does not even know what the sort of price they are likely to get when they go out to tender.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The question is on the Green Business website. But in any case even if I could, I cannot answer the question because certainly the figure of £100 million has not come from me and the whole question of the construction of the generating station, the power station, is not my political responsibility either. So, even if I wanted to I cannot answer his question. I do not have that information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the hon Member is responsible for ensuring that the generation of the energy is such that a certain percentage is going to come from renewable sources then he must have some idea of what the new generating station is going to be like or what it is likely to cost. The £100 million is a figure announced by the Government and I put a question about the £100 million in the last House and it was not denied. So, in fact, the hon Member knows no more about the £100 million than we know on this side of the House. Is that the position?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Considering that the tender process is not completed, I cannot say that I have any idea of how much it is going to cost because until the tender is awarded, we will not have an order of cost. Where the £100 million figure has come from, in answer to your previous question, it certainly did not come from me. But the point was also made that I am concerned about the emissions from the station. That is correct. But not just from the station. I am concerned about the environment and in matters with the environment, generally, of which the new power station is just one factor and one component and a big component in terms of reduction of PM10 and nitrogen oxide because it will mean, effectively, the closing down of the three stations that are currently operating which are culprits in contributing to those emissions. So, I am interested in the environmental aspects of the power station but I do not have responsibility either for electricity generation or distribution or am I involved in the process of the construction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member know whether the stage is that people have already been invited to put prices in for this and therefore there are specifications already finalised or is it not even at that stage?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would not like to risk misleading the hon Member. My impression is that we are either at the tender stage or have already invited tenders. But I cannot guarantee the accuracy of this statement.

NO. 731 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

CATALAN BAY CAR PARK – COST OF REMOVAL OF RUBBLE IN EASTSIDE RECLAMATION

Can Government state the cost of removing the rubble in the area of the Eastside reclamation which had encroached on the Catalan Bay car park with the loss of approximately 39 parking spaces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The final account is currently being agreed but the total cost will be approximately £10,000.

NO. 732 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government confirm that the works to reopen Dudley Ward Tunnel are still progressing as envisaged in answer to Question No. 189 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Yes Sir. However, the anticipated reopening of Dudley Ward Tunnel is slightly delayed when compared to the answer given to Question No. 189 of 2010. The reopening date is now expected to be October 2010 rather than late September 2010.

NO. 733 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SMITH DORRIEN BRIDGE

Can Government confirm whether the recent accidents when large lorries became stuck under Smith Dorrien Bridge will necessitate any repairs to the bridge and if so what is the estimated cost of these repairs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The recent accidents did not cause any structural damage to the bridge itself. Damage was localised to a tray which supports the cables and other services running under the bridge. The cost of these repairs is estimated at not more than £1,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 733 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Who is responsible for paying the cost of these repairs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would need notice of that question. I do not have the information in front of me. The cause was the contravention of traffic signs and traffic warning signs by the drivers of the vehicles concerned. Now, whether the police have taken any action I do not know. So, I am not sure whether there is any methodology for recovering these costs from the owners of the lorries concerned.

HON G H LICUDI:

I would have thought that it is a natural supplementary arising from this question. If there is a cost then who bears that cost. Is the hon Member aware of other situations where there have been contraventions and damage caused to public structures and recoveries have been made. The question is really, why should the public purse pay for people who contravene traffic signs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

First of all, let me agree with the hon Member that it should have been a supplementary that should have been spotted and I apologise for not having the information in front of me. I am not aware of any similar incidents in the recent past but I remember way back in the late 1990's, shortly after or in the short period after coming into Government for the first time, asking exactly this question myself. If I remember rightly, the answer that I got was that it was so time consuming and I am talking about minor traffic accidents like knocking down bollards and damaging road side fencing and so on, that it was so time consuming and ineffective in the long run and unproductive to pursue this through vehicle insurance policies against drivers concerned, that sometime in the past the decision had been made not to do this and Government meet the cost of repairs. So I presume the same thing will happen with the bridge. But I have not wanted to say that because I cannot vouch for the accuracy of that reply.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member agree to ask somebody to look into the possibility that where there is a prosecution which goes to the courts, to the extent that there are powers to ask the court to make an order for compensation, apart from any fine which is imposed in respect of any damage caused by that criminal conduct, that that is a power which could be exercised and it could be sought by the prosecuting authorities at the behest of the hon Member's department if in fact they are the ones that bring this. It may well be that it is just the police but given that the victim in this case is the Government and the public at large, whether the hon Member's department would look into the possibility of recovering this in the form of compensation through the criminal courts, if there is a prosecution?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. I will follow that up and find out to what extent that can be done.

ORAL

NO. 734 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED THROUGH UPPER ROCK ADMISSION FEES

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 in admission fees to the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 735, 747 and 762 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 735 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – COACH VISITOR ARRIVALS

Can Government say how many visitors arrived in Gibraltar by coach in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 734, 747 and 762 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 736 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say what is the formula that was used to determine who is a frontier worker and who is a visitor when they cross the frontier into Gibraltar for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports of 2008 and 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 737 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 737 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £24.06 million spent by visitor arrivals at hotels according to the Tourist Survey Report 2009 broken down by nationality showing the number of people deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 and 738 to 746 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 738 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government confirm that the procedure for counting cruise passenger arrivals for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports continues to be the total number of persons on board the vessel and not those who actually disembark?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736, 737 and 739 to 746 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 739 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the figure for cruise visitor arrivals for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports includes the crew of the vessels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 738 and 740 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 740 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the term “UK Arrivals at hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the nationality of the person or to the fact that they arrived at Gibraltar by air or by sea from the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 739 and 741 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 741 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the term "Arrivals from Spain at hotels" used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the nationality of the person or to the fact that they arrived at Gibraltar by land, sea or air (when applicable) from Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 740 and 742 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 742 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £196.33 million spent by excursionists from Spain shown in the Tourist Survey Report 2008 broken down by category:

- (a) Coach Park;
- (b) Frontier,

showing how many persons were deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 741 and 743 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 743 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £201.86 million spent by excursionists from Spain shown in the Tourist Survey Report 2009 broken down by category:

- (a) Coach Park;
- (b) Frontier;
- (c) Ferry,

showing how many persons were deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered this Question together with Question Nos. 736 to 742 and 744 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 744 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say how many persons who were interviewed for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Report 2008 said that they were departing Gibraltar:

- (a) on a cruise ship;
- (b) on a yacht?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 743, 745 and 746 of 2010.

NO. 745 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say how many persons who were interviewed for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Report 2009 said that they were departing Gibraltar:

- (a) on a cruise ship;
- (b) on a yacht?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered this Question together with Question Nos. 736 to 744 and 746 of 2010.

NO. 746 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £24.06 million spent by visitor arrivals at hotels according to the Tourist Survey Report 2009 broken down by the categories “UK arrivals at hotels” and “Arrivals from Spain at hotels”, and any other, showing the number of people deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The land frontier visitor arrivals statistics published in Table 6 of the Tourist Survey Reports of 2008 and 2009, as explained in the footnote of the table, includes non-Gibraltarian frontier workers. However, primarily for the purposes of calculating tourist expenditure in any given year, the frontier arrivals statistics are adjusted to take these workers into account.

Since the Immigration authorities are unable to provide an accurate figure in this respect, the adjustment is one based on the latest Employment Survey data and is calculated on the basis detailed in the examples worked out for 2008 and 2009 in the schedules that I will give to the hon Member.

The nationality breakdown of visitor arrivals at hotels is not available. However, a breakdown of arrivals at hotels by point of entry into Gibraltar is available, provides a reasonable estimate as to nationality and is detailed in the schedule which I will hand over to the hon Member.

I can confirm that the procedure for counting cruise passenger arrivals for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports continues to be the total number of persons on board the vessel and not those who actually disembark and that the figure excludes ship’s crews. This has always been, and continues to be, the case.

The term “UK Arrivals at Hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the fact that they arrived at Gibraltar by air or by sea from the UK. Similarly, the term “Arrivals from Spain at Hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the mode of arrival and not to the nationality.

The information being requested in respect of people interviewed departing Gibraltar on a cruise ship or on a yacht is given in the Tourist Survey Reports, which are public documents and therefore available to the hon Member.

This breakdown of frontier visitors by nationality is not available. However, a breakdown of arrivals at hotels by point of entry into Gibraltar is available and provides a reasonable estimate as to nationality.

Finally, the remainder of the information which is statistical requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedules now being handed to him.

Answer to Question No. 736 of 2010

Land Frontier Arrivals – Visitor Separation Formula

2008:

U.K. British	1,705 x 2 *	=	3,410
Other Nationalities	4,011 x 1	=	<u>4,011</u>

TOTAL 7,421 visits x 200 working days = 1,484,200

* Assume one more person in the group.

In other words, 1,484,200 were the estimated number of visits by frontier workers netted off the total land arrivals figure of 9,664,882 for the purposes of tourist expenditure calculation. The net visitors by land for 2008 were therefore 8,180,682.

2009:

U.K. British	1,703 x 2 *	=	3,406
Other Nationalities	3,877 x 1	=	<u>3,877</u>

TOTAL 7,283 visits x 200 working days = 1,456,600

* Assume one more person in the group.

The net visitors by land for 2009 were thus estimated at 8,321,712.

Answer to Question No. 737 of 2010

	<u>£ 000's</u>
Arrivals from UK	8,609
Arrivals from Spain	15,452
TOTAL	24,061
	<u>Numbers</u>
UK Arrivals at Hotels (2009)	23,684
Arrivals from Spain at Hotels (2009)	40,901
TOTAL	64,585

Continued Answer to Question No. 746 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 742 of 2010

2008 Excursionist Expenditure Analysis

	<u>Number</u>	<u>£ 000's</u>
Coach Park	316,733	6,594
Frontier	7,789,014	189,740
TOTAL	8,105,747	196,334

Answer to Question No. 743 of 2010.

2009 Excursionist Expenditure Analysis

	<u>Number</u>	<u>£ 000's</u>
Coach Park	266,315	7,606
Frontier	7,974,424	194,257
Ferry	48	1
TOTAL	8,240,787	201,864

Answer to Question No. 746 of 2010.

Visitor Expenditure

	<u>£ 000's</u>
Arrivals from UK (2009)	8,609
Arrivals from Spain (2009)	15,452
TOTAL	24,061

	<u>Numbers</u>
UK Arrivals at Hotels (2009):	23,684
Arrivals from Spain at Hotels (2009):	40,901
TOTAL	64,585

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 736 TO 746 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No 744 of 2010, the division between the people who depart on a cruise ship and on a yacht. The breakdown of the number of people who depart Gibraltar on a cruise ship or on a yacht in 2008 and the 2009 surveys, can he say where in the Tourist Survey Report that information is?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes I can. If he bears with me a moment, it is shown in the introduction to the reports.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I was waiting for the precise information, the breakdown, the precise breakdown. What it says here is that eight people were interviewed at the Marina, 189 at the Port, so many at the frontier and at the coach park. So the assumption is that all those people then, for example, in relation to point (e) which is the Port, 189 people were interviewed there, the assumption is all those 189 came on a cruise ship and departed on a cruise ship? Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The way I understand it... We are talking about the 2009 report. The number of persons interviewed who departed Gibraltar on a cruise ship was 189 and those who said they would be departing on a yacht was eight, and in terms of the 2008 the number of persons interviewed who departed Gibraltar on a cruise ship was 505 and the ones who said would be departing on a yacht was 32.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

But is it possible or is not possible that somebody, for example, was interviewed at the Marina who had departed Gibraltar by air?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably, if they changed their minds after answering the question of the interviewer, yes. But this is based, like all interviews, on what the person says to the interviewee. But of course it is possible for the person to change his mind.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I am asking is whether the location at which the person is interviewed, in this case the port or the marina, is actually directly related to the mode of departure and whether in these figures it is not possible for these people to have left Gibraltar any other way.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably, they were asked how they were going to depart Gibraltar. The answer here is whatever was said irrespective of where the interview took place.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That is what I mean. If somebody is interviewed at the Marina for example and they say that they will be departing Gibraltar by air, they would be listed under Marina. They would not be listed under airport. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Without digging up the report itself and looking at it in more detail, I am not sure if I can answer the question. The information that I have been given is that it is available. The answer to the question the hon Member asked is available in the report. If he wants further clarification, I suggest he writes to me and then I will get somebody to look at it and go to how the interviews are conducted. I am not familiar with the interview proceedings.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I am saying is that the five locations at which people are interviewed do not have a direct bearing on the mode of departure and what I am asking is whether it is possible that somebody, for example, is interviewed at the marina who is actually departing Gibraltar by air or by land or something else rather than ... or are those eight people who were interviewed at the marina all the people who departed Gibraltar by yacht. Is there scope for that kind of discrepancy in this or not? That is what I want to know.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course it is possible because the place for the interview is not an automatic answer to how they are departing Gibraltar. The person is asked how are you leaving. They may have been interviewed on arrival or they may have been interviewed having dinner in one of the restaurants at the marina. So, of course it is possible.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So then really the answer is not in the survey because we do not really know whether the 189 people all left Gibraltar on a cruise ship or the eight people left Gibraltar on a yacht. The original answer the hon Member gave, which was that the answer is in the introduction to the survey, therefore, is incorrect. Is that the position?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not agree it is incorrect. The question the hon Member asked is, how many persons who were interviewed for the purpose of the Tourist Survey Report said that

they were departing Gibraltar by a cruise ship or on a yacht. The introduction to the report says ... that a total of 16,000 interviews were completed as follows and as follows ... The locations given in this introduction, presumably, say the way in which they were leaving. That is the information given to me by the people who compiled the questionnaire. The hon Member asks if it is possible that someone interviewed at the marina to have left by air. Of course it is possible. If after having been interviewed, the person decided to give up his intention of going in a particular way and going some other way, of course it is possible. Unlikely I would think but of course it is possible. But the information given by the Statistics Office, who compiled this, is that that is the way they were intending to depart Gibraltar, as given in the introduction.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

My point is that whereas the survey lists visitors... It says by mode of departure but then it does not actually go on to mention the mode of departure. In other words, it does not say (a) they left by air, (b), (c), (d) they left on a cruise ship, (e) they left on a yacht. It gives you the location rather than the mode of departure and that was the reason for the question. In other words, how can you determine whether the 189 people all left on a cruise ship and how do you know that 100 did not go by air or by land or ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have told him. As shown in the introduction to the 2008 Report, the number of persons interviewed who departed Gibraltar on a cruise ship were 505 and who said they would be departing on a yacht were 32. This is what the people said when they were asked. Fine, it is not as explicit as the schedules I normally give him but I have told him it is available there. Departing at the airport so many, departing on a cruise ship so many, departing from the port so many. The marina ones are the yacht and the port ones are the cruise ships. To me the answer seems clear enough.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there not a difference between the mode of departure and the location where the people were interviewed? Is there not a difference there?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

From the information that I have been given, the people were interviewed as given in this introduction, given at the moment of departure. It certainly would have been wrong if they had been interviewed at a restaurant. Looking at the way that this is made out it is obvious that they were interviewed as they were departing. So, if they were in the airport lounge they were flying out. Agreed, that they could still turn round after having done the interview, come back and gone off on a yacht, highly unlikely. But that it does not say they departed by air, I agree. That it says they were interviewed at the airport as they were departing, that seems fairly implicit from the report. But if the hon Member is not satisfied. Write to me. Explain to me what it is that he would like to know for certain and I will write back and tell him.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It is not a question of being satisfied or not. What I want to make sure is that, and that is why this question was tabled with this wording, because obviously the survey does say eight people were interviewed at the marina. What it does not say is that those eight people left on a yacht and when I asked the hon Member whether it is possible that of the eight people who were interviewed at the marina, which is the location at which they were interviewed rather than the way in which they left Gibraltar, whether there can be any discrepancy between the two or whether in fact the eight people who left at the marina all left on a yacht. At the moment it is a matter of interpretation. Rather, there is a possibility that, for example, one of the 189 people who were interviewed at the port did not actually leave Gibraltar on a cruise ship.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. Subject to the person changing his mind at the last minute, the paragraph ahead of the figures spells it out. The 2009 Tourist Survey and I assume the wording is the same for the 2008 one. The 2009 Tourist Survey was conducted on a stratified random basis and these are the key words "dividing groups of visitors by mode of departure". So the interviews were carried out by mode of departure. Obviously, the easiest way to find out who is travelling by air is to go to the airport and interview the guy with the suitcase moving towards the immigration point and similarly with the port. If you stop him in Main Street and you say, how are you going, then there is no reliability in the answer but it seems to me fairly clear that people were interviewed by mode of departure that they were actually in the process of departing. So, I think it is clear.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the hon Member accept that the categories which are listed in the introduction to the survey... the categories which are listed, airport, coach park, frontier, marina and port particularly are not actually modes of departure in themselves, they are locations by which people are interviewed.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure whether I am being slow at this time of the evening or whether the hon Member is being slow. Of course, airport does not mean mode of departure but my colleague tells me that interviews at the airport are actually carried out inside the departure lounge. So, if the guy is inside the departure lounge, it is even more certain that he is flying out and less possible that he will change his mind. So, although those words indicate a location and not a mode of departure but it is implicit if one takes the paragraph as a whole, that people who are being interviewed at that location because it is the best way of ensuring that that is the way they were departing.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I accept that, if for example, in the airport, coach park and frontier, it is relatively clear. But that is why the question really was about cruise ships and about yachts. I

wanted to make absolutely clear that what the hon Member is saying is that where it says port and there are 189 people interviewed, it means those 189 left in a cruise ship and where it says marina and there are eight people interviewed, it means those eight people left on a yacht and that it is not possible for somebody to have been interviewed at that location giving a different mode of departure because they happen to be in the marina eating in a restaurant are never going to catch a plane.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

My understanding of this is that people were interviewed literally as they were approaching the cruise ship or literally as they were in the marina getting near to a yacht. That is my understanding of the way this is explained. I am surprised that he has not homed in to the ... possibly the Leader of the Opposition is going to do that, homed in to the answer of Question No. 736 of 2010. If he wants a better explanation on the way the figures work then he can either ask me the questions and I will give it or I will give him the information. He can ask the question first I think.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the figures that are used to deduct the people that are assumed to be coming in to work. The 4011 and 3877 for these two specific years are based on what source? Is this the people registered with the Employment Board?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Let me go back to the first answer. The reality is that these statistics are not available. People are not counted as frontier workers. The counting is done physically by the Immigration Authorities but the way the count is carried out is that Gibraltarians or the people who are recognised as Gibraltarians either because people know them or because of their card registration number or whatever are not counted. So the Gibraltarians do not come into the picture at all. We are only talking about UK British and other nationalities. Now, those UK British and other nationalities appear in the total figure of visitors in the ... I have not got it here in front of me, the total land arrivals taken in 2008 of 9.66 million, right. Now, I am told by the Statistics Office that they have been doing this since 1988 and that date is purely coincidental. That is what they have told me. I do not know, they might have been doing it before then.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They might have been doing it before.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They might have been doing it before then, so this is not new science. It just happens that when I took over I had heard Members opposite and I had heard the Chamber and I had heard other people say, this figure of ten million visitors over the frontier is not reliable. That five million could be frontier workers. So I asked and I was told, to my surprise, that not only are the figures available but they have been available all the time. So we took a policy decision to extract the figures which is

what we have done for the last two years, 2008/2009. Now, let me carry on, that total figure includes the UK British and other nationalities. What the Statistics Office then do is they go to the Employment Survey Report and, obviously, from the Employment Survey Report they get the information from the employers of nationality and place of residence. So, for 2008 the Employment Survey Report identified 1,705 UK British nationals and 4,011 other nationalities. The Statistics Office, for reasons best known to themselves, presumably, some travel in cars and others are walking, the Statistics Office in their wisdom decided that the UK British figure of 1,705 was on average likely to be double that because the odds are that there will be more than one person in each car. So they doubled that figure to 3,410. But they do not in the case of other nationalities they keep that at 4,011 and have always done so. So, that provides a figure of, as the hon Member will see from the example, 1.48 million who are then classified as frontier workers. From there it is deducted and netted off and that is how the net figure for visitors is arrived at. Have I made it clear enough or ... that is my understanding on the way it is done. By the way, before I sit down, when I started asking about this and commenting on the reliability of the calculation with so many assumptions to it, the Statistics Office led by the Chief Statistician actually went down to the frontier and over a period of a couple of weeks actually did a physical hand held counter count and I am told, I will read the supplementary for you, a formula has been applied for tourist entry calculations since 1988 because that is primarily what it was used for, for tourist expenditure. Since this methodology could only have been to provide a rough estimate, Statistics Office staff were deployed to the land frontier in 2008 at relevant times throughout the day. The times selected were related to worker rather than to visitor movement. That is from 7.00 am to 9.00am et cetera. With the assistance of Immigration personnel and hand held counters the result of the field work showed that the traditional formula estimate was in fact quite accurate. That is the information that was given to me by the Statistics Office and on which thinking the split up is based.

HON J J BOSSANO:

With all due respect to the Statistics Office, the last sentence in that explanation must be a complete nonsense because I could understand if they said that the check that they did was consistent with the total number crossing. But I do not see how by standing at the frontier and clicking, unless the guy has got a label here that says "frontier worker", one is going to know which it is. The clicking clicks the nine million. It does not click the 4,000. Am I correct? Because that is the answer that he has given us.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not think the hon Member is. My understanding is ... he is right the clicking done by the Immigration Authorities identifies the total figure of nine million.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But the exercise done by the staff of the Statistics Office was done more on looking at people and... I do not know whether they ... My assumption is that they tried to identify people who looked like frontier workers as opposed to visitors. The hon Member knows that in statistics ... but I can assure him that this exercise was carried out by the Statistics Office without any political involvement of any kind. In fact, I did not know they were doing it until after they had done it, to be perfectly honest, in 2008.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, what the Statistics Office is saying if I have understood the hon Gentleman right, which would have been an extraordinary feat of statistical analysis which would deserve a place in the Guinness Book of Records, is that by standing at the frontier they were able to confirm the results of the Employment Survey, not the results of the Tourist Survey. That is to say, by clicking they confirm that the 4,000 forms that they sent out to employers which employers fill up saying how many frontier workers they have got and how many are UK and how many are not UK. By virtue of clicking at the frontier, they came up with the result which confirmed that the figure in the survey was correct.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is my understanding. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Wow. That is rocket science. And how did they confirm that there were two of what was only registered as one in the survey?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That was given to me as an assumption that the logic would be that people did not travel alone in cars and that at least on average, there would be at least one second person. But what happens if it is the wife coming in for shopping rather than to work, we will forget about that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figure of 4,011 is the figure given in the Employment Survey Report as reported by employers. That is the information and that by doing an exercise and being at the frontier and clicking anybody that looked like a worker and was foreign, they actually came up with the same figure of 4,011. Now, the survey claims that there are 1,705 UK workers. So, how could the Statistics Office by clicking produce 3,410 UK workers and deduct it from the total. What sort of statistical methodology ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I did not arrange the formula or invent the formula. But I was assured by the Chief Statistician that this is the formula that has been used since 1988, and again there is no relevance to that figure, I am just quoting what I was told, that has been used as an assumption because quite simply there was no accurate statistical information available, so they made these assumptions and have been using these assumptions for the last 20 years. Because I was pushing they said, well let us go and try it. Why they chose the figure of two... I take the hon Members point, if the Employment Survey shows 1,705 people employed but all I can say is that this seeks to answer those critics of Governments, not just this Government but previous Governments as well, the criticism of Governments that the figure for visitors was inflated and by doubling the 1,705 in fact what they have done is, if anything, reduced it by more than they should have done.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Absolutely.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But at the end of the day we are talking about a substantial figure. But I am just offering this information so that it is easier for the hon Members to understand how it has been worked out and how it has always been worked out. I have been assured that ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the hon Member enquire why they thought that workers that come across the frontier only work forty weeks a year?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think the figure of 200 working days is the standard figure they take as the working year is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is either a four day week or a forty week year. You cannot get 200 days any other way.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As I said, I did not invent the formula. I just asked whether it was possible to extract the workers from the total figure and I was told it was not only possible but it had always been done and I said, well how is it done, they described how it was done and I did not think there was a need to reinvent the wheel. This is what had always been done. We will carry on doing it the way you have done it before and show it not

just for the expenditure side of the statistics but also for the visitors. I cannot vouch for the accuracy for obvious reasons.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The importance of this is, of course, that this affects everything not just the Employment Survey but all the other statistics of the economy produced by the Government. In fact, surely the hon Member must be aware that after 1988 there were no surveys. That is, after 1988 the statistics on employment numbers and earnings were based on income tax returns because the policy that was introduced by the GSLP was that we thought it was more reliable or that the deficit that was created was that it took longer because you have to wait for the tax year to end in July for employers to make their returns and so on. But as opposed to the statistics on which this is relying today, which is what an employer puts in the form in October, the other was based on annual PAYE returns and consequently I cannot see how the formula that you use for annual PAYE returns is transferable to a completely different source of information which is Employment Surveys. Given that this is a figure for October only, that is to say the frontier workers are the October only. Was the test done in October as well or was it done in a different month of the year? The hon Member does not have ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know when the test was done. I am not told when the test was done.

HON F R PICARDO:

For the purpose of understanding the answer that the hon Gentleman has given in the debate, what does a frontier worker look like?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think we should ask the people who did the clicking. I was not there. All I can say, I will say once again that the Statistics Office said that clearly they did not have the information. The information was not available. That they had some years ago worked out this formula and have been using it ever since and because I was now going to publish in the Tourism Report an actual figure of frontier workers they, for their own satisfaction, decided to go and do a physical check which they did on their own volition as I have said. I heard about it after they had done it and according to their comment to me at the time and repeated here in the information that the estimates, the traditional formula estimate was in fact quite accurate. In their words.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, before this particular survey was done by them, of going to the frontier and checking for themselves, what the hon Member is saying is that the deduction that has been made in all the previous years we should be able to work out by getting the Employment Survey of the relevant year and applying the same multiplier that has been used and that should produce the difference between the visitor expenditure figure for frontier visitors and the total number of visitors.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is my understanding and I went down that route because it seemed to me logical if we had had the figures for so many years back that we should produce a new column. But I was advised against it because of the consequential effect on the Expenditure Survey and as they gather other statistics as well. So, on their advice we said, we will start a new figure as from 2008 and that is why it is produced as a footnote and not as an additional column in order not to..., because I was told it would be a massive exercise to go back to the beginning.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But what I am saying is, based on the explanation that he has given us, if we were to do that exercise then we ought to be able to come up with the results that have been printed previously, if we apply this same formula.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

NO. 747 OF 2010

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. 734, 735 and 762 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 748 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CITY UNDER SIEGE EXHIBITION

Have the repairs to the City Under Siege exhibition now been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Yes Sir.

ORAL

NO. 749 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF TOURIST SITES ON UPPER ROCK

Can Government say when was the last contact with each of the three private entities with regards to the proposals that have been submitted for the running of the tourist sites on the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 750 of 2010.

NO. 750 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF TOURIST SITES ON UPPER ROCK

Can Government say whether the possible involvement of private entities in the running of the tourist sites on the Upper Rock has been discussed by the Tourism Advisory Council in 2010 and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Tourism Advisory Council has not discussed this matter in 2010 and the situation, otherwise, remains as explained in answer to Question Nos. 936 of 2009, Nos. 194, 195 and 196 of 2010 and in answers to supplementary questions to these main questions.

NO. 751 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How many meetings of the Tourism Advisory Council have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

One meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council has been held on 2nd March 2010.

NO. 752 OF 2010

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

Once to attend the UK GTA meeting in London and the remainder of the information is given in the schedule that is now being handed over to him.

Answer to Question No. 752 of 2010

DATES	EVENT/FUNCTION	VENUE	CITY	COUNTRY
01/06/10 TO 02/06/10	MEETING OF THE UKGTA	GIBRALTAR OFFICE, LONDON	LONDON	UK

NO. 753 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £5602.25 spent on hospitality and the £485.50 on miscellaneous expenditure at the Manchester Road Show in December last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 754 to 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 754 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON/BRIGHTON ROAD SHOWS

Can Government list the posts of those who attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in (a) London and (b) Brighton, from either the GTB office in Gibraltar or the GTB office in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 and 755 to 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 755 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON ROAD SHOW

Can Government confirm whether the 107 agents who attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in London were also the same number who attended the dinner, and what was the cost of the dinner with a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 753, 754, 756 to 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 756 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BRIGHTON ROAD SHOW

Can Government confirm whether the 73 agents who attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in Brighton were also the same number who attended the dinner, and what was the cost of the dinner with a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 to 755, 757, 758 and 763 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 757 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON ROAD SHOW

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the road show held by the Gibraltar Tourist Board at the Strand Palace Hotel in London on 16th February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 to 756, 758 and 763 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 758 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Can Government say whether, and if so how, they monitored the number of visitors to the Gibraltar stand at the World Travel Market this year and on previous occasions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 to 757 and 763 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 759 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VISITOR INFORMATION PATROL OFFICER

How many persons have applied for the posts of part-time Visitor Information Patrol Officer, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were selected for the posts and how many were Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 760 and 761 of 2010.

NO. 760 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – INFORMATION OFFICER

How many persons have applied for the post of Information Officer at the Gibraltar Tourist Board (Grade 1) which was advertised in May 2010 and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 759 and 761 of 2010.

NO. 761 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BEACH LIFEGUARD

How many persons have applied for the posts of summer Beach Lifeguards, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were selected for the posts and how many were Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

60 persons applied for the 12 vacant posts of temporary part-time Visitor Information Patrol Officer.

49 persons applied for the post of Information Officer (Grade 1) at the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

70 persons applied for the 31 vacant posts of summer Beach Life Guards.

At the time that the answers to these questions were drafted, the interview and selection process was still underway so no applicants had yet been selected for the posts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 759 TO 761 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the hon Member say how many posts of Information Officer were vacant? I did not catch at that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

49 persons for one post.

NO. 762 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government say how many applications have been received in respect of the tenders for “Beach Concessions Facilities” and “Beach Concessions Kiosks”, have these now been awarded, to whom and for what financial consideration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which has been handed over to him.

Answer to Question No. 762 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 734 of 2010

Upper Rock Admission Fees

MONTH	UPPER ROCK REVENUE RAISED
JANUARY	£85,449.27
FEBRUARY	£124,508.10
MARCH	£220,990.75
TOTAL	£430,948.12

Continued Answer to Question No. 762 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 735 of 2010

Coach Arrivals

2007	347,708
2008	316,733
2009	266,315
2010 (up to March)	50,141

Answer to Question No. 747 of 2010

(a) Stayed at hotel:

	Total No of Interviews	Stayed At Hotel	Airport	Average Length of Stay	Frontier	Average Length of Stay	Elsewhere	Average Length of Stay
Jan 2010	1,260	None	-	-	-	-	-	-

None of the 1260 persons interviewed had stayed in an hotel.

(b) Not stayed at hotel:

	Total Interviews Not Stayed At Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Jan 2010	1,260	-	-	1,260	-	-	-

Information on the subsequent months in 2010 is not yet available.

Answer to Question 762 of 2010

BEACH CONCESSION APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2010

	Applicant	Beach	Proposed Venture	Specific Location
1	El Chiringuito	Western Beach	Beach Kiosk (Bar/Restaurant)	Enclosed area at south end of beach
2	Little Bay Kiosk	Little Bay	Beach Kiosk	Adjacent to beach facilities
3	Willy's Return	Camp Bay	Beach Kiosk	Camp Bay South Promenade (Next to retaining wall)
4	Latinos on the Beach	Eastern Beach	Beach Concession Hiring of beach umbrellas and sun loungers	Area directly in front of Latinos on the Beach premises
5	Sunrise Beach Bar Restaurant Ltd	Eastern Beach	Beach Kiosk (Bar/Restaurant)	Adjacent to playground
6	Sunrise Beach Bar Restaurant Ltd	Eastern Beach	Beach Concession Hiring of beach umbrellas and sun loungers	Area directly in front of Sunrise Kiosk premises
7	Private Individual	Camp Bay/Little Bay	Beach Kiosk	No specific location indicated
8	Summer Sun Leisure	Eastern Beach & Catalan Bay	Beach Concession Hire of padding boats with slides (2 at each beach)	No specific location indicated

Five Beach Concessions Kiosk applications were received. Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 above were awarded. Number 7 above was rejected.

Three Beach Concessions Facilities applications were received. Numbers 4, 6 and 8 above were awarded.

Financial consideration arrangements remain as detailed in answer to Questions 538, 539 and 540 of 2008.

NO. 763 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BRIGHTON ROAD SHOW

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the road show held by the Gibraltar Tourist Board at the Grand Hotel in Brighton on 17th February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The same 107 agents who attended the road show in London and the same 73 agents who attended the road show in Brighton also attended the dinner at these venues.

The number of visitors who attended the Gibraltar stand at The World Travel Market was not monitored in any particular counting system this year nor has it been on previous occasions. It was the consensus view of all the co-exhibitors and of the Gibraltar Tourist Board that there were more visitors this year than on previous years and that this was mainly due to the location of the Gibraltar stand.

Business cards are taken by the Gibraltar Tourist Board and by the co-exhibitors from all visitors to the stand and, in the case of the Gibraltar Tourist Board, they are then sent a full information pack on Gibraltar or any other relevant information that is requested.

The remainder of the information requested by the hon Member is statistical and is now given to him in the schedules that are being provided.

Answer to Question No. 763 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 753 of 2010

MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

DECEMBER 2009

HOSPITALITY

DINNER	£3640.00
BEVERAGES	£1962.25
TOTAL	£5602.25

MISCELLANEOUS

LONDON OFFICE POSTAGE COSTS	£ 1.80
LONDON OFFICE STAFF REFRESHMENTS	£ 2.20
LONDON OFFICE POSTAGE COSTS INVITATIONS	£208.38
LONDON OFFICE PRINTING LETTERHEAD INVITATIONS	£273.12
TOTAL	£485.50

Continued Answer to Question No. 763 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 756 and 763 of 2010

BRIGHTON ROAD SHOW 17TH FEBRUARY 2010 – COST BREAKDOWN	
FLIGHTS	£405.00
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	£460.00
SUBSISTENCE	£45.33
TRANSPORT	£80.70
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	£5,183.55
AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT	£1,053.04
MISCELLANEOUS	£721.64
TOTAL	£7,949.26

DINNER CATERED FOR 110 PERSONS @ £35.00 PER PERSON =	£3850.00
TOTAL BEVERAGE COST ON CONSUMPTION OF THE 85 PERSONS ATTENDING =	£1333.55 = £15.68 PER PERSON

The 73 agents were joined by 12 co-exhibitors and members of staff making a total of 85.

Answer to Question No. 754 of 2010

(a) London Road Show 16th February 2010 – Attendance

The Hon E M Britto, Minister for the Environment and Tourism.
Mr Albert Poggio, Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London.
Mr N Guerrero, Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board.
Mr Daniel Lerner, Sales & Marketing Assistant, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Mr Ian Leyde, Sales Manager, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Ms Tracey Poggio, Marketing & PR, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.

(b) Brighton Road Show 17th February 2010 – Attendance

Mr Albert Poggio, Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London.
Mr N Guerrero, Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board.
Mr Daniel Lerner, Sales & Marketing Assistant, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Mr Ian Leyde, Sales Manager, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Ms Tracey Poggio, Marketing & PR, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.

Continued Answer to Question No. 763 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 757 of 2010

LONDON ROAD SHOW 16TH FEBRUARY 2010 – COST BREAKDOWN	
FLIGHTS	£1,564.00
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	£870.00
SUBSISTENCE	£204.86
TRANSPORT	£53.50
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	£5,794.50
AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT	£1,092.48
MISCELLANEOUS	£812.55
TOTAL	£10,391.89

DINNER CATERED FOR 140 PERSONS @ £30.00 PER PERSON =	£42000.00
TOTAL BEVERAGE COST ON CONSUMPTION OF THE 120 PERSONS ATTENDING =	£1594.50 = £13.29 PER PERSON

The 107 agents were joined by 13 co-exhibitors, members of staff and myself making a total of 120.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 753 TO 758 AND 763 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 763, does the hon Member have a breakdown of the £5,183.55 in relation to the food and beverages at the Brighton road show?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sorry, a breakdown of which figure did he say?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Of the £5,183.55.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Ah, Question No. 763 of 2010, if he can repeat the figure? I do not see a figure of ...

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This is the one relating to the Brighton road show.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. What is the figure he is asking for a breakdown of?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The figure I have here is the Brighton road show breakdown and it says food and beverages £5,183.55.

MR SPEAKER:

The breakdown is contained in the same page.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But it is here on the same schedule ...

MR SPEAKER:

At the bottom of the schedule.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

At the bottom of the schedule.

MR SPEAKER:

It adds up to £5,183.55.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Oh right. Yes. It is all one function and one dinner. Yes. Okay.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Say that again Mr Speaker.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I see it is all one function and one dinner.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is all one function and one dinner.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Sometimes there are other events organised at the same time.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 764 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say what was the cost of refurbishing O'Hara's Battery, when did this project start, on what date was it completed and who carried it out?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 765 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 765 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government confirm whether the operation and management of the visitor attraction at O'Hara's Battery was put out to tender, and if so on what date and how many tenders were received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 and 766 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 766 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say why the daily operation and management of the tourist site at O'Hara's Battery has been licensed to Let's Go Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764, 765 and 767 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 767 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say what are the terms and conditions of the licence agreement between the Government and Let's Go Limited for the operation and management of the tourist site at O'Hara's Battery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 766 and 768 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 768 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say whether the separate fee which will be charged for the visitor attraction at O'Hara's Battery will be for the Government or for the operator?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 767, 769 and 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 769 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Who will operate and pay for the complimentary bus that will take visitors from the access road to O'Hara's Battery to the visitor attraction?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 768 and 770 of 2010.

NO. 770 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR OPERATION OF THE ROCK AND FORTRESS WWII TUNNELS ATTRACTION

Is it still the policy of the Government to place the operation of the Rock and Fortress WWII Tunnels visitor attraction out to tender following its allocation of the site to Let's Go Limited on a temporary basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The refurbishment of O'Hara's Battery was carried out by various UK Territorial Army units who offered to do this between May and August of 2009, at no cost to the Government other than £896.24 for materials supplied to these military units that carried out the refurbishment. The remainder of the works were more recently carried under their own initiative and again at no expense to the Government by the company licensed by the Government to manage the site.

O'Hara's Battery has not been open to the public as an official tourist attraction on a permanent basis for many years. A proposal was made by a local company Let's Go Limited to manage and operate the Battery as a tourist attraction.

This company has carried out this task in respect of the Rock and Fortress tourist attraction adding an excellent product to Gibraltar's tourism industry. In view of these credentials, in view of the fact that there had never been any other expressions of interest or proposals to the Government in respect of O'Hara's Battery and because this company had taken the initiative to make such a proposal, a policy decision was made to extend the Rock and Fortress licence to cover O'Hara's Battery.

The terms and conditions of the licence are commercial-in-confidence and therefore cannot be disclosed. However, I can say that the licence to operate and manage O'Hara's Battery is on the same terms and conditions as the Rock and Fortress licence agreement that the fees charged are shared by the Government and the operator and that the complimentary bus service will be operated and paid for the operator.

The Rock and Fortress World War II Tunnels visitor attraction is licensed to Let's Go Limited by the Government. The policy decisions on the manner in which this visitor attraction will be operated and managed on expiry of the public licence and how such an operator will be selected will be made and implemented at the appropriate moment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 764 TO 770 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say what percentage of the funds raised will go to the Government and what percentage will go to the company?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I consider that commercial-in-confidence and I am not prepared to release that figure publicly.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say... I recall in the past when other sites... I remember Rosia Bay was one of them. The Government invited expressions of interest from developers or the public in general. Can he say whether expressions of interest were invited in this particular case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. Expressions of interest were not invited. Normally, if the initiative comes from the Government to decide to repaint this Chamber, then the Government, because no one has expressed an interest, would invite either expressions of interest or go out to tender. In this case, no expressions of interest had been forthcoming. No one had shown an interest in the Battery. The company concerned has proved, as I said in my answer, its expertise and provided an excellent product in the World War II Tunnels. Were very knowledgeable, which is very important about the Batteries at O'Hara's and Lord Airey's which is next to O'Hara's and therefore had the right credentials. Therefore, the Government made the policy decision not to go to tender but to extend the contract to cover O'Hara's Battery.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that there was no invitation, in terms of expressions of interest, to the community at large, how does the Government know that nobody else was interested in this venture?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is a hypothetical question. No, the Government does not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government not willing to reveal what money was charged for the extension, for extending the original contract to include O'Hara's Battery? Is there a sum of money that was paid that will appear in the estimates of revenue of the Government or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. There is no consideration as such. It is an extension of the licence and the revenue to the Government will come from the share of the fees charged by the company.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So the whole operation is based on the Government getting a share of the income or a share of the profits?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

A share of the income, I think. Yes, of the revenue received which is the same as the current arrangements for the World War II Tunnels which have always existed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the part of the Government, of the GTB that monitors the movement of people up the rock, are they involved in any way in issuing tickets to this site so that they know how many people are coming in or is that based on what the operator sets.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. The GTB are not directly involved in the running of the site or in the sale of tickets. The GTB retains an overall responsibility for what is happening. Has the ability to come in and inspect the books at any given time and check out the procedure, checks out what is being done. The financial control is exercised in an audit role by the Treasury and is based on the information produced by the company on an on-going basis from its records.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, are the Government in a position ... For example, when we ask about how many visitors have gone to the Upper Rock periodically, are they in a position to say how many of those have visited either of these sites or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It will be. If it seeks the information or goes out and checks it for its own, the Government will be able to obtain that information.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand the hon Member to say earlier that the terms which had been agreed were commercial-in-confidence. If there is no consideration payable for this licence, what is it that is commercial-in-confidence in relation to these terms? What type of

terms are we talking about which are the ones that the hon Member is not willing to reveal?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Financial consideration is only what the share of the licence... the share of the revenue is. But the terms and conditions as a whole, the agreement that was reached, if the Government decides in one or two years time or next week to revoke the licence and go out to open tender or whatever, if it is known publicly what the conditions are, it sets a benchmark. So, it has always been my policy not to reveal the content of commercial agreements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I got the impression that the only payment that the Government received was a share of the turnover.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well that has just been made public. Surely, if there is nothing else to be paid and if the Government are not paying the operator anything, there is no more money moving in either direction, then the only thing is whether the licence is for a fixed period or annually renewable or ... can be terminated by the Government giving notice. Is that the information that the hon Member says is commercial and cannot be revealed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The question was, can Government say what are the terms and conditions of the licence agreement? I am not willing to stand up here and make public the agreement. I have indicated that the revenue from the sale of tickets is shared. I have also given the hon Member the information that the bus will be operated at the expense of the operator. But apart from that, giving the percentage figure of the revenue that the Government will receive or giving more details of the conditions, I do not think it is appropriate to make public in what is a purely commercial arrangement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I simply assumed that it was... that the thing was split 50:50 for the Government and 50:50 for the operator. It is not. I am wrong in that assumption and the hon Member is not willing to tell us what the ratio is.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

He is wrong in that assumption. It is not a 50:50 split and he is correct that I am not going to say what the split is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has confirmed that this appears as revenue in the estimates of revenue and expenditure. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. The hon member has not confirmed that. That was the assumption that the Leader of the Opposition made. But if he asks me where the revenue will appear, at this moment in time I do not know, to be perfectly honest. That it will have to appear as revenue either through the GTB or direct to the Government, I would need to go and check. But the ... whatever the system is that has been agreed will be the same as already exists and has existed for some time for the World War II Tunnels because it is just an extension of the licence. So, wherever the revenue is appearing for the World War II Tunnels it will now be, I was going to say incremented, but shown separately, I presume, for the O'Hara's Battery.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, although the Government are not willing to tell us what the share of the revenue that the Government get is, presumably they will be willing to tell us what the sum is because the sum has to be shown as public funds.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government willing to tell us for how long the lease or the licence or whatever it is, is, or is that something that ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The current licence for the World War II Tunnels of which O'Hara's is now an extension and therefore the same date, is due to expire in May next year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In May next year! Then, presumably, the Government can renew it? It is a renewable licence?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. It is a renewable licence which has already been renewed.

NO. 771 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST – BLOCKING OF ACCESS TO TRAFALGAR CEMETERY

Can Government confirm that the Gibraltar Heritage Trust were not consulted or informed prior to pedestrian access to Trafalgar Cemetery being blocked when the pavement was dug up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

No Sir. I cannot confirm that. Before access to the Trafalgar Cemetery was closed, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust were informed that this would take place as from the 26th May 2010. In addition, they were also told that if access was required, escorted parties through the worksite could be arranged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 771 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were the Trust informed before the works had started and before access was denied.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I just said that, before access to the cemetery was closed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I wanted the hon Member to confirm that. I had not got it. So, can he say then why the Trust or the Chairman of the Trust is under the impression that the Trust were not informed in advance.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think he should ask the Chairman of the Trust the question, not me. The Trust were informed by the Works Manager through ... Yes. I have an idea but I would not like to make it public but I will tell the hon Member privately afterwards. They were

advised by the site manager via telephone to the Trust offices in the John Mackintosh Square.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I just say again, if he has got the dates when they were informed and the dates when the work started.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have the date on which they were informed. But they were informed before it happened and the blockage took place on the 26th May 2010 and has by now been reinstated. Access has been reinstated.

NO. 772 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SANDY BAY – REPORT ON DANGER OF ROCK FALLS IN THE SANDY BAY AREA

Have Government had brought to their notice any technical reports indicating a danger of rock falls in the area of Sandy Bay and if so when was the matter brought to their attention?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The area of Sandy Bay has been prone to rock falls for a long time. This well known and a self evident reality has been reflected in several reports over recent decades.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 772 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say when is the most recent of that report?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The most recent are in connection with, as far as I understand it, the rock falls in Dudley Ward Way Tunnel and more recently with a rock fall near the south end of the area that we are talking about, at the south end of Both Worlds.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So we are talking about a report within the last twelve months, in 2009?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, reports commissioned by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Commissioned by the Government.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This last one, if again I remember rightly when I was told, this last one is still in draft form. It has not been finalised.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If it is still in draft form, does it mean that no specific recommendations have yet been made for the Government to consider as to what might need to be done to stabilise the area to try and ensure safety in that area?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have not seen the report. This is a technical report for the technical people. I am not aware of its contents. It is in relation to a particular rock fall and how to make remedy to that particular rock fall.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So it deals then with the specific incident and not the stability of the whole area.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the hon Member is not aware of a report dealing with the wider issue of how stable that area is or where there is a danger of drift of that slope and not just of rock falls?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We are moving into territory where the Government are not keen to discuss publicly the issues involved. There are on-going, some of which the hon Member may be aware, and maybe even is prompting this question... There are on-going building applications extensions relating to this area. There is the fact that there has been a direct referral by a would-be developer in the area to the EU in relation to the sand slopes. So the Government do not consider it appropriate to go into this matter publicly in any greater detail at this moment in time because... Well, it does not consider it appropriate of what may happen in the long term.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am certainly not talking about any developments. I am talking about the safety. Is the hon Member able to tell me how long ago this referral to the EU was and was that a matter of safety or something else?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This refers to what?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The referral to the EU that he has mentioned? Is that something that has happened recently or...?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Early this year or late last year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So there has been no comeback from the EU on this referral then?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not at far as the Government are aware. This was a direct contact by... direct with the EU not by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government know the content of what was sent to the EU and is it something to do with safety or is it something completely different because my question is about the safety of the area?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government are aware of the contents. The Government were copied into the referral to the EU which seeks further development in the area in a way that would seek to improve or lessen the risk of rock falls. Mitigate is the word that has been whispered in my ear. Correct. But it is very much conceptual. There is nothing definite.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But independent of what anybody might want or not want to do in the area, presumably if the Government are satisfied that there is some kind of risk, they have, presumably they would want to do something about it given that there are people who live there.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government are always conscious of areas where there are rock falls. We live on a rock and it is an undisputable fact that rock falls occur throughout Gibraltar. In

the area of Sandy Bay, there are three distinct lines of rock fall protection on the east side slopes immediately above Sandy Bay in the form of catchments. The Government are advised by its technical people when there are problems with rock falls and if needed, measures are designed to counteract those xxx. This is not something new. This has happened for years and years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that there are those kind of problems in that area and that there have been for many years and we have had some nasty incidents but the hon Member is telling me that there is nothing new in the context of the stability or the safety of that area that is different from what it had always been in the past. Is that the position?

HON LT-COL EL M BRITTO:

That is the position as far as I am aware. In the recent past, going back to that tragic incident at Dudley Ward Way Tunnel, a very comprehensive report on the area of the tunnel and then more recently, in recent months a particular rock fall and a study has been made on what has happened and what measures and, if I am not mistaken, measures are already being put into place to counteract what actually happened. I am not aware and neither have I been made aware of any other report other than that.

ORAL

NO. 773 OF 2010

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 774 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 774 OF 2010

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. 773, 775 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 775 OF 2010

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. 773, 774, 776 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 776 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS ON MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to persons currently on the Medical Housing Lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C”, can Government provide the number of applicants on each category grouped by date of joining the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 775, 777 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 777 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 219 of 2010, 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. 773 to 776, 778 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 778 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 220 of 2010, 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 777, 779 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 779 OF 2010

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. 773 to 778, 780 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 780 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to persons currently on the Housing Social Category “A” List, can Government provide the dates when each of these persons joined the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 779, 781 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 781 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 222 of 2010, 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. 773 to 780, 782 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 782 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 223 of 2010, 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. 773 to 781, 783, 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 783 OF 2010

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 Nos. 773 to 782, 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 784 OF 2010

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 783, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 785 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DWELLINGS FOR REFURBISHMENT BY BUILDINGS AND WORKS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 786 and 787 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 786 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING ATTENTION OF BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Can Government state how many jobs are currently listed as requiring the attention of the Buildings and Works Department within the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 and 787 of 2010.

NO. 787 OF 2010

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

The number of flats currently with Buildings and Works requiring refurbishment is 23.

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of Buildings and Works, as at 11th June 2010, is 3761.

The number of tenants currently awaiting works or repairs by the Housing Department, as at 11th June 2010, is 1355.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 785 TO 787 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the outstanding jobs, is the Minister aware of any problems that there may have been in the Buildings and Works Department on account of no materials being available recently because we have had reports in the Opposition and I have mentioned this in the past, in general, but some reports very specifically mentioned two or three days when there were no materials and workers could not do a single days work on account of that.

HON F J VINET:

No. What I am aware of is of some other mischievous rumours that tend to the rounds every few weeks or so. I can assure the hon Member and indeed the general public that there is no issue, no problem whatsoever in terms of the availability of materials. In fact, just a few weeks ago, additional funding was made available precisely to ensure that there were materials available. So, honestly, there is no issue there.

ORAL

NO. 788 OF 2010

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. 229 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 789 to 792 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 789 OF 2010

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. 230 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 788 and 790 to 792 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 790 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 231 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 788, 789, 791 and 792 of 2010.

NO. 791 OF 2010

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. 232 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 778 to 790 and 792 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 792 OF 2010

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. 233 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question No. 792 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 788 of 2010

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

FEBURAY 2010 (as from 11/02/10)	-	9 (5 active)
MARCH 2010	-	5 (4 active)
APRIL 2010	-	1 active
MAY 2010	-	4 (2 active)
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	2 active

Answer to Question No. 789 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	815
MARCH 2010	-	688
APRIL 2010	-	647
MAY 2010	-	634
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	614

Answer to Question No. 790 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	96
MARCH 2010	-	77
APRIL 2010	-	74
MAY 2010	-	64
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	60

Answer to Question No. 791 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	1
MARCH 2010	-	21
APRIL 2010	-	8
MAY 2010	-	6
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	12

Answer to Question No. 792 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	34
MARCH 2010	-	6
APRIL 2010	-	9
MAY 2010	-	8
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	11

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 788 TO 792 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the hon Minister for the information as usual. Just one question in relation to the problems that some tenants have in paying the rent, I suppose rent relief is considered where there are social difficulties, financial difficulties. But is there a cut-off point when the debt reaches a certain point. Because some people have come to me with enormous debts and I would have thought that the Housing Department should be monitoring the way that these things might get out of control in terms of thousands of pounds.

HON F J VINET:

In a way the answer is included in the premise to the next question because those tenants who are in debt have the ability to enter into an arrears agreement with the Ministry for Housing. In fact, we have taken the policy decision some two years ago or so of actually being more flexible in those agreements and I seem to recall, I may be wrong, but I seem to recall that the term of those agreements used to be fixed at six years, I believe, and now we have taken the view that it is better to get something, whatever it may be, than nothing at all and obviously we look, we assess the economic means of the applicants but we are certainly being far more flexible in terms of the length of term of those agreements to enable those in debt to pay off those debts.

HON C A BRUZON:

With all due respect, I do not think the Minister has answered my question. If a tenant owes £1,000, for example, would that warrant some kind of action being put into place so that the person is contacted or do you have to wait until the person owes £5,000 or £500. Do you see what I am getting at?

HON F J VINET:

The tenants, in fact, as from just one year ago are fully aware of what their debts may be because we introduced a new system of sending out statements of accounts which I think started, I think it may have been June last year or thereabouts, which was not the case previously. I am aware that in the past there were people who actually turned up at the Housing Department and paid whatever they felt they could afford or whatever they felt was what they owed but did not really have an idea of the historic debts they may have had and now every single tenant receives a statement of account. So they are aware of whatever debts they may have incurred.

HON C A BRUZON:

I do appreciate that. But your staff... is there a system in place whereby your staff can say to you or whoever is in charge of collecting the money, that this tenant the debt has now reached a particular red line and we had better get in touch with them. We had better send them a letter. I know that they get monthly statements which I do and I am grateful for that. I think that is a good move but what worries me and

this does not only happen with housing it happens with credit companies where they are allow debts to increase to such an extent that it makes the position of the individual user almost untenable. I know that it is the fault of the individual. But some individuals have no idea how to manage their finances and therefore with regards to housing and Government tenants, I am just asking does the Minister have any system in place whereby if a tenant owes a specific amount of money like £1,000 or £3,000, does that set the bells ringing? Does something happen then or do you just simply wait for people to come and pay the rent when they choose to? I think the Minister knows what I am getting at.

HON F J VINET:

I am not aware as to whether anyone in my department spoon feeds applicants to that extent. It may happen or it may not ... I would not like to mislead the House by saying yes or no because I am not aware of that. But if there is a system in place, I am thinking on my feet but I am assuming it may be more in terms of the staff at the housing desk that come to know who particular individuals are and may build some sort of rapport with them rather than a formal process but I will certainly find out if that is the case or not.

HON F J VINET:

Just looking at the supplementary notes I have before me, I have just seen, in fact, the monthly billing system which includes the statement of account I mentioned, actually started in January 2009 and not in June.

NO. 793 OF 2010

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. 234 of 2010 giving a monthly breakdown, and what is the total of arrears covered by such agreements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested has been provided in a schedule.

Answer to Question No. 793 of 2010

The total number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent is 25.

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

	Total agreements	Amount
February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	3	£ 6,018.42
March 2010	5	£17,823.03
April 2010	6	£26,563.13
May 2010	10	£41,325.66
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	1	<u>£ 3,297.46</u>
		<u>£95,027.70</u>

ORAL

NO. 794 OF 2010

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. 235 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 784 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 795 OF 2010

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. 237 of 2010, providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes. The information requested is now being passed on in schedule format.

Answer to Question 795 contd

Answer to Question 773

The Housing Department is currently dealing with 38 homeless cases.

Answer to Question 774

There are 58 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended, as follows:

Medical A+ - 3
Medical A - 18
Medical B - 14
Medical C - 23

Answer to Question 775

There are 198 applicants, to date, who are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List as follows:

Medical A+ - 28
Medical A - 66
Medical B - 43
Medical C - 61

Answer to Question 776

The number of applicants in each category joining the medical list by date is as follows:

Medical A+

August	2006	-	2
September	2006	-	1
October	2006	-	1
July	2007	-	1
September	2007	-	1
April	2008	-	2
May	2008	-	1
July	2008	-	1
December	2008	-	1
April	2009	-	3
May	2009	-	6
August	2009	-	3
September	2009	-	1
October	2009	-	2
November	2009	-	1
February	2010	-	3
March	2010	-	1

Answer to Question 795 contd

Medical A

March	1997	- 1
March	1999	- 1
March	2001	- 1
November	2001	- 2
October	2002	- 1
January	2003	- 1
June	2003	- 2
August	2003	- 1
November	2003	- 1
March	2004	- 3
February	2005	- 1
March	2005	- 1
April	2005	- 1
June	2005	- 1
October	2005	- 1
November	2005	- 1
December	2005	- 2
March	2006	- 2
April	2006	- 4
May	2006	- 1
August	2006	- 2
September	2006	- 1
November	2006	- 1
January	2007	- 1
February	2007	- 1
June	2007	- 1
July	2007	- 1
September	2007	- 2
October	2007	- 1
November	2007	- 2
February	2008	- 2
April	2008	- 5
May	2008	- 2
July	2008	- 4
October	2008	- 1
February	2009	- 4
March	2009	- 1
May	2009	- 3
July	2009	- 1
August	2009	- 1
September	2009	- 7
October	2009	- 1
November	2009	- 1
December	2009	- 1
February	2010	- 1
March	2010	- 3
April	2010	- 2
May	2010	- 2

Answer to Question 795

Medical B

September	1995	-	1
January	1996	-	1
January	1998	-	2
February	1998	-	1
May	1999	-	1
July	1999	-	2
November	1999	-	2
October	2000	-	1
November	2000	-	1
November	2001	-	1
December	2001	-	2
December	2002	-	1
August	2003	-	2
March	2004	-	1
August	2004	-	1
September	2004	-	1
October	2004	-	1
February	2005	-	3
March	2005	-	2
July	2005	-	1
September	2005	-	1
October	2005	-	4
March	2006	-	1
April	2006	-	1
September	2006	-	2
February	2007	-	2
June	2007	-	3
September	2007	-	1
December	2007	-	2
February	2008	-	2
December	2008	-	1
September	2009	-	2
October	2009	-	1
December	2009	-	1
February	2010	-	1
March	2010	-	4
April	2010	-	1

Answer to Question 795 contd

Medical C

December	1994	-	1
January	1996	-	1
January	1997	-	1
July	1997	-	1
November	1997	-	1
January	1998	-	1
March	1998	-	2
April	1998	-	1
October	1998	-	3
November	1998	-	5
January	1999	-	2
March	1999	-	3
May	1999	-	2
June	1999	-	3
May	2000	-	2
October	2000	-	1
November	2000	-	2
March	2001	-	3
May	2001	-	1
August	2003	-	1
September	2003	-	1
January	2004	-	1
August	2004	-	1
October	2004	-	1
February	2005	-	1
April	2005	-	1
June	2005	-	1
November	2005	-	2
December	2005	-	1
January	2006	-	1
March	2006	-	1
April	2006	-	4
May	2006	-	1
June	2006	-	2
August	2006	-	2
September	2006	-	2
October	2006	-	1
November	2006	-	1
March	2007	-	1
June	2007	-	1
December	2007	-	3
February	2008	-	1
April	2008	-	3
July	2008	-	2
February	2009	-	1
September	2009	-	3
October	2009	-	2

November 2009 - 1
 December 2009 - 1
 February 2010 - 1
 March 2010 - 1

Answer to Question 777

Since the answer given to question No. 219 of 2010, a total of 14 applicants have been placed on the various medical Housing list as follows:

DATE	A+	A	B	C
February 2010 (up to 13.2.10)	-	-	-	-
March 2010	1	3	4	1
April 2010	-	2	1	-
May 2010	-	2	-	-
June 2010 (up to 10.6.10)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 778

Since the answer given to question No. 220 of 2010, a total of four 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
February 2010 (up to 13.2.10)	-	-	-	-
March 2010	1	-	-	1
April 2010	-	-	-	-
May 2010	-	1	1	-
June 2010 (up to 10.6.10)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 779

There are 78 persons currently on the Housing Social "A" List.

Answer to Question 780

The dates when each person jointed the Social "A" List is as follows:

October 2003 - 1
 December 2003 - 1
 June 2004 - 1
 November 2004 - 1
 May 2005 - 1
 November 2005 - 1
 December 2005 - 1
 February 2006 - 1
 April 2006 - 1

Answer to Question 795 contd

June 2006	-	1
November 2006	-	1
December 2006	-	2
April 2007	-	1
July 2007	-	1
August 2007	-	1
September 2007	-	2
November 2007	-	3
December 2007	-	3
January 2008	-	1
February 2008	-	1
March 2008	-	3
April 2008	-	3
May 2008	-	1
June 2008	-	3
October 2008	-	3
December 2008	-	7
March 2009	-	1
April 2009	-	3
July 2009	-	2
August 2009	-	1
September 2009	-	3
October 2009	-	2
December 2009	-	1
January 2010	-	3
February 2010	-	4
March 2010	-	2
April 2010	-	5
May 2010	-	5

Answer to Question 781

Fifteen applicants have been removed because a suitable dwelling has been found for them as follows:

February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	-	1
March 2010	-	5
April 2010	-	3
May 2010	-	2
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	-	4

Answer to Question 782

Thirteen applicants have been placed on the Housing Social "A" Category List as follows:

February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	-	1
March 2010	-	2
April 2010	-	5
May 2010	-	5
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question 795 contd

Answer to Question 783

There are currently 1178 applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists as follows:

1RKB	-	651
2RKB	-	72
3RKB	-	274
4RKB	-	162
5RKB	-	19

Answer to Question 784

There are currently 353 applicants on the Housing Pre-List as follows:

1RKB	-	269
2RKB	-	10
3RKB	-	49
4RKB	-	21
5RKB	-	4

Answer to Question 794

Four pre-war housing units have been allocated.

Answer to Question 795

Twelve post-war housing units have been allocated as follows:

February 2010 (as from 13.2.10)	-	1
March 2010	-	4
April 2010	-	2
May 2010	-	1
June 2010 (up to 10.6.10)	-	4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 773 TO 784, 794 AND 795 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 773 of 2010 concerning homeless cases, does the figure 38, does it consist of the same people reference the answer I got in February or could there have been a movement of... is it just a coincidence?

HON F J VINET:

I really have no way of knowing because I am not provided with the details of each and every applicant currently on the social list. Certainly, as the hon Member will see in answer to a separate question, there have been quite a number of allocations made to applicants on the social list. I would assume that some of them are homeless persons but I would not be able to confirm with the information I have before me this morning.

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the answer given to Question No. 779 of 2010 concerning the Social "A" list, I have not usually asked the question in the past concerning other categories within the social listing, but are there any other categories and if so, has the Minister any information? I mean "B" or "C" as in medical?

HON F J VINET:

The short answer is I believe yes in theory but not in practice. I believe there is in existence the possibility of including people or being categorised as Social "B" but in practice I am not aware that actually happens. Everyone is actually categorised as Social "A". For The sake of clarification, I do recognise that sometimes the information provided, especially with regards to say Question No. 776 and 778 of 2010 which is basically a list of number of applicants in each category of the medical list by date in which they actually joined the medical list and I think looking at that list by itself can actually be misleading and does not paint the whole picture. I am concerned simply because sometimes I am aware that the press may simply print the information that has been passed on but without really having regard to the factors behind that information. I will briefly explain. If the hon Member looks at the answer to Question No. 776 of 2010 which are the applicants currently on the Medical "A" list and he will see that there are some applicants there who have been on the list since 2006, for example. Now, I think one has to understand how the medical and indeed the social lists work as opposed to the normal waiting lists. The normal waiting lists are points based and therefore your position on the list is based on how many points you are given which is in itself based on a formula and a criteria based on the number of people and how much overcrowding there is in the property. The size of the property and so on and therefore because it is points based you can go up the list and you can also go down because it may happen that today someone joins the list who is in a worse off position than someone who joined two years ago and leap frogs over the xxx. The medical lists and the social lists work in a completely different way. It is sort of a first come, first served basis. So, whoever joins the social list or the medical list today joins the back of the queue, as it were, and the allocation is

made to whoever is number one on the list and then everyone else moves up one place. Now, the hon Member will know that there are quite a high number, I think actually a record number of allocations being made to applicants on the medical list and on the social list and the majority of those are to applicants who actually joined the list after 2006, after 2007 and 2008. The reason for that is that there are ... well, there are a number of reasons. One of them is that there may be... In other words, those persons who joined in 2006 are necessarily at number one on the Medical "A" list but they, for whatever reasons, have not chosen to accept whatever flat has been offered to them. It may be because they want a particular flat in a particular estate. I know there was a case in the past when someone was hanging on to a flat with sea views even though they were on the Medical "A" priority list. So I would not like to give the impression that they are there for four or five years and they have not been offered a flat. It is just that they have chosen not to accept the flat and in fact I can tell you that those applicants who are on the Medical "A" list and joined in 2006/2007 actually have offers of accommodation as either Albert Risso House or at the new rental estate and they have actually chosen to wait for those new properties and do not want to accept anything else. I would like to reiterate that because I know there was a press release issued by the hon Member some weeks ago where he said and I quote from an article in Panorama which actually quotes the hon Member saying that "it is absurd that the Government should claim in their defence that there are 28 plus medically categorised people waiting for a flat in new developments who are happy to wait for such an allocation. The reality is that these people are waiting because they have to. They cannot possibly be happy to continue with the hardship posed by their medical condition." Just to clarify that they have been given a very clear choice. If they either get to number one and they have an offer in Albert Risso House or in a new estate, they are told, look there is a flat available for you today, do you want it or do you want to wait for the new estate or Albert Risso House and it just so happens that some of them want to wait for the new estate or Albert Risso House.

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the Minister for the information that he has given me. Our position is the same, we are still critical of the Government because the bottom line is stock, housing stock availability. For as long as there is not enough housing stock, the medical listings, the people who are categorised Social "A" or Medical "A", their problems are almost impossible to resolve. My question to the Minister would be in connection with the medical categories "A" and "A+", had I been on the Medical "A" in 2005 when the new category was produced "A+", I would have felt that the urgency to the "A" listing in 2005 would suddenly have dropped in merit because the "A+" overtook the others in terms of urgency and of course those people who are now on the category "A+" whether they choose to wait or not, that is a matter for conjecture. I accept that what the Minister says is true. I have not seen what kind of homes the people on the Medical "A" list have been offered which they have rejected. If they have been waiting for so long, they may choose to wait another six months or a year. Fair enough. But the fact is that they still have to wait for a very, very long time until all the "A+" categories have been catered for. Is that not correct?

HON F J VINET:

No. It is not correct and self-evidently not so because, in fact, in answer to Question No. 778 of 2010 when I am asked to specify how many applicants have been removed from the various medical lists because a flat has been offered to them and to actually specify from which medical list they have been removed... For example

today, the hon Member will see that there was one allocation to an applicant on the Medical "A+", one allocation to someone on the "A" list, one allocation to someone on the "B" list and even one allocation to someone on the "C" list. So I certainly accept, and rightly so, that those on the "A+" list have a far more urgent need than those who are on the "C" list and that is not decided by me. That is decided by a doctor who looks at a case and assesses their needs and comes to the conclusion that person's "A" condition is far more serious and necessitates a degree of priority that person "C" does not. So yes, there are more allocations made to those on a plus than to those in "A" or "B" or "C" but there are allocations happening, taking place through everyone on each of the medical lists. Of course, I agree that the question of the availability of housing is paramount. Of course, and I think, in fact in the coming weeks, the look and shape of the Medical "A" list and the Social "A" list will be very different to what it is today. But the fact also is that there are more allocations happening today to those on the Medical "A+" list and on the Social "A" list than I think there have been ever in the past. If I can just, for example, in answer to Question No. 781 of 2010 which is in relation to Social "A" list and not the Medical "A" list, just to give an idea, fifteen applicants have been removed from the Social "A" list since this question was last asked in Parliament. So, in about four months, fifteen applicants have been removed. In fact, if we look at Hansards in the past four or five or six years, there were occasions where in those four or five months only two people were removed from the Social list. So there has been a conscious effort to prioritise those on the Social "A" and the Medical "A+" list. Therefore, if it is true that there are more allocations being given to those in the Medical "A+" and those on the Social "A" than there have ever been in the past, the only way of ensuring that even more allocations take place, short of their being more houses available, is either we do not take regard of a particular ailment a person is suffering from and we just offer them whatever flat is available which obviously cannot be the case because people have specific medical needs and the flats that we offer them are those that are suitable for those needs, or we ask the Housing Allocation Committee and a particular doctor who forms part of it to be stricter in their assessment and not categorise as many people in Medical "A" as has been the case up to now which I assume is not what the hon Member would wish. Similarly, I would not wish that either. So, of course I want more allocations to take place but the fact is that there are more allocations to those in the Medical "A" list and the Social "A" list happening now than there have been in the past.

HON C A BRUZON:

If I may ask another supplementary. In connection with the waiting lists, the pre-list and the waiting list, answers to Question Nos. 783 and 784 of 2010, the figures that are given to me here, do those two figures include people who are buying a home in either Waterport Terraces or in the South District but have not yet had completion?

HON F J VINET:

No. I think it has been explained in the past. When someone expresses an interest in purchasing one of the... whether Waterport Terraces or the former OEM developments, they are temporarily suspended from the lists and if the sale does not go through for whatever reason they are reinstated and they find themselves in whatever position they would have been had they not been removed.

HON C A BRUZON:

Would the same apply to somebody who has to pull out because they cannot get a mortgage, for example? That would be ...

HON F J VINET:

Yes. The reason is ...

ORAL

NO. 796 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee since Question No. 238 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 797 of 2010.

NO. 797 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee, since the answer to Question No. 239 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Thirty four Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Authority on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee.

Three Government flats have been allocated, without the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 796 AND 797 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

That as usual... I have often enough asked the same question. That would have been either by yourself or the Chief Minister or...?

HON F J VINET:

The actual allocation itself, the physical and formal allocation is made by the Housing Authority who is the Housing Minister. So I am the one who sort of signs off the allocation but how it is actually arrived at that point, may be via the Chief Minister or myself.

NO. 798 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REINSTATEMENTS INTO THE HOUSING WAITING LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 241 of 2010, 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

Yes. In fact, this answers the supplementary on the waiting lists. A total of ten applicants have been re-instated in the Housing Waiting lists since the answer to Question No. 241 of 2010.

NO. 799 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 242 of 2010, 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 16 applicants have been offered an existing Government flat since Question No. 242 of 2010 and 11 have accepted. I think in the past I have qualified my answer by explaining that those who have not accepted have not necessarily at that time, or declined the offer, because there have been occasions in the past when they have been under offer, as it were, and have not decided whether to accept or otherwise. But on this occasion, in fact 11 have accepted and the remaining five have actually declined. So there are no flats under offer at the moment.

ORAL

NO. 800 OF 2010

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. 243 of 2010, how many applicants have 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. 801 of 2010.

NO. 801 OF 2010

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. 244 of 2010, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None is the answer to both questions.

ORAL

NO. 802 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS REJECTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were rejected on the grounds that they were homeowners who had chosen to sell their homes, giving a breakdown by month, since the answer to Question No. 245 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 803 of 2010.

NO. 803 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month since the answer given to Question No. 246 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None were rejected.

A total of five applicants were accepted, as follows:

April 2010	-	3
May 2010	-	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 802 AND 803 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Five in total?

HON F J VINET:

Yes.

NO. 804 OF 2010

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. 247 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 805 of 2010.

NO. 805 OF 2010**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. 248 of 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

In answer to Question No. 804 of 2010:

- (a) 191 phone calls have been received.
- (b) 92 of these were found to be correct.

The breakdown of the past few months is as follows:

Month	Calls	Correct	Incorrect	Pending further Investigation
February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	2	-	1	1
March 2010	1	-	1	-
April 2010	1	-	1	-
May 2010	1	-	1	-
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	1	-	-	1

In answer to Question No. 805 of 2010, none, no repossessions have taken place.

ORAL

NO. 806 OF 2010

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. 249 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Allocation Committee has met four times and I believe they are actually meeting again on Monday.

ORAL

NO. 807 OF 2010

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. 250 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 808 of 2010.

NO. 808 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING TRIBUNAL

How many decisions of the Housing Tribunal requiring action by the Housing Department have not yet been implemented by the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In answer to Question No. 807 of 2010, I am informed by the Secretary of the Housing Tribunal that since the answer given to Question No. 250 of 2010, the Tribunal has not dealt with and completed any case and is currently dealing with 25 cases.

In answer to Question No. 808 of 2010, none. All have been dealt with.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 807 AND 808 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the last answer which was none. Can the Minister throw any light on the time it takes for the implementation of a directive from the Housing Tribunal? When a decision is made, the hon Member says that all have been implemented, does that happen quickly or does it take three months on average?

HON F J VINET:

I really, really have no idea. It is not that whatever decision or referral from the Tribunal may be... It certainly does not get to me. It is dealt with at administrative level. Perhaps it may revert to the Housing Allocation Committee or some other entity in the department but if the hon Member wishes to specify that question next time we meet I will be more than happy to find out the answer.

NO. 809 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Since the answer given to Question No. 251 of 2010, 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

Ten flats have become available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 809 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

The answer I got a year or two ago in connection with how many flats would become available to people on the housing waiting list when all the purchases at Waterport Terraces had completed and had moved in was fifty. So, I imagine we are now coming close to the end of those fifty flats. In other words, in total, does the Minister know how many? Out of those fifty that would become available and have now become available or would he need notice, may be he would need notice of that question?

HON F J VINET:

I have not been provided with any additional information whatsoever but I know there is another question on the order paper which is being answered by the Chief Minister in terms of number of flats that are still to be made available to purchasers at Waterport Terraces. Perhaps we may be able to deduct some further information from that but I do not have the answer with me at the moment. I am sorry.

HON C A BRUZON:

How optimistic is the Minister for Housing that there will be a substantial drop in the overall housing waiting list figures when everybody that is attempting to buy a home in the affordable housing schemes would have moved into their new homes? I know you are on record as having said that eventually there will be many, many Government flats available when all the purchasers of Waterport Terraces and the

South District purchasers move into their homes. How optimistic is the Minister that there will be a substantial drop in the housing waiting list figures?

HON F J VINET:

I am extremely optimistic that come the, not just the full completion of Waterport Terraces and all the purchasers moving in and so on but, in particular, the completion of Albert Risso House which I think is even more important in terms of what it means to the return to housing stock of flats, I am very optimistic that there will be a very, very noticeable positive effect. Particularly on the Medical "A+" and on the Social "A" lists but also on the normal waiting lists and I think we will start to see that in the coming weeks. But of course it is not just the case, if we look at Albert Risso House, for example, which are 140 homes. There is a difference between Albert Risso House and Waterport Terraces in that Waterport Terraces are being... flats are being bought mainly by young couples and so on who currently live with their parents. So although they are buying a new home, their old or their current house, as it were, does not become available because the parents or siblings may still be living there. So as you rightly said, fifty or so flats are becoming available as a result of people moving to Waterport Terraces but it is a small percentage of the total number of flats there. Whereas with Albert Risso House, the vast majority of those 140 persons moving there are actually leaving behind Government flats. It is a continuing process. We have actually tried to maximise the effect of this. So it is not just a question of people moving to Albert Risso House and however many of those 140 flats left over are then allocated, in fact, the persons who those empty flats are then allocated to may themselves leave, make available some other flat. So it is an on-going process. I know there has been a lot of work done by the Housing Manager and others in identifying that process and to summarise I am very optimistic that there will be a very noticeable effect on the waiting list in the not too distant future.

HON C A BRUZON:

In fact, I seem to remember that I asked the question about Albert Risso House a few sessions ago. The answer was 92 flats would become available out of a hundred and xxx. That was reasonably high compared to the thirteen flats that will become available when the 408 purchasers in the South District move into their new homes. Of course, eventually, when the rental estate is ready and I know there are some delays being incurred already on that, there will be a drop of... in the region of 400 maybe or 500. But because the housing waiting lists plus those medical cases that are not necessarily included in the housing waiting lists... These figures keep creeping up. I do not think that the Minister's optimism is as justified as maybe he thinks it is.

HON F J VINET:

Well, we shall see.

HON C A BRUZON:

We shall see.

HON F J VINET:

That is why I referred earlier to the fact that we cannot just look at the waiting lists in isolation. For example, in the normal waiting lists there are many people there who have offers for the new estate and who have indicated to us very clearly, do not offer me anything else, I do not want to accept whatever is available today, I want to wait for the new estate. But they are still on the waiting lists and they will remain on the waiting lists until they actually move to the new estate. So the current waiting lists do not really paint the whole picture although, of course, I do recognise that they are increasing in size.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the people that are expecting to and preferring to wait for the new estate been given any indication of the rental levels or is it that the rental levels are going to be the same as in the existing estates? Because there may be people who are looking forward to that and then they may find that the rent is not what they thought it would be.

HON F J VINET:

The truth is that I have not been given any indication that the rental levels will be any different to other estates which is not to say that they will not be. I am just not aware and I do not think that, frankly, a decision has been taken. But I am not aware that they will be different to existing properties.

ORAL

NO. 810 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PAINTING OF ENTRANCE AREAS OF CONSTITUTION HOUSE

When does the Ministry for Housing plan to complete the work of painting the entrance area and stairways of Constitution House in Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 811 of 2010.

NO. 811 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – INSTALLATION OF NEW LIFT AT REFERENDUM HOUSE

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The painting of both stairwells at Constitution House is complete and similarly, the entrance areas should be completed this week. In fact, if I am not mistaken they may have already been completed.

The installation of the remaining new lift at Referendum House was completed in May this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 810 AND 811 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

The actual painting of the entrance area and the stairways, when the Minister for Housing says that it has now been completed, does he mean the whole stairways going right up to the top floor because all that should be the responsibility of the Minister for Housing. Does he not agree?

HON F J VINET:

I certainly agree that it is responsibility of the Minister for Housing. Of course it is. I was there, maybe three weeks ago or so, I actually went inside the building to look at the new lifts and so on. I saw painting being carried out and I would not be able to say to what level it actually reached. I have to say that when we debated this in the past I took it to mean that we are talking about the entrance to the stairways as opposed to the entire stairways but I stand to be corrected on that. Can I add, in fact, apart from the painting that has been carried out, brand new letter boxes have been installed in both tower blocks. Although not at ground level where they have been up to now and which have been the subject of extreme vandalism in the past, but now that all the lifts have access to all the floors, they have been moved to the first floor and hopefully that will alleviate the problem.

ORAL

NO. 812 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government confirm who is responsible for the contract to maintain and repair the lifts at Government housing estates providing the full name of the company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 813 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 813 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government say how many lifts are included in the contract held by Otis for the repair and maintenance of lifts in Government housing estates, with a breakdown showing where the lifts are located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 and 814 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 814 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

On what date did the contract with Otis for the repair and maintenance of the lifts in Government housing estates commence, what is the duration of the contract and what are its financial terms and conditions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812, 813 and 815 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 815 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government say how much has been paid to Otis for the repair and maintenance of lifts in Government housing estates in each financial year since they undertook responsibility for this?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 814 and 816 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 816 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government state whether the three Otis personnel who are based permanently in Gibraltar are registered with the ETB?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 815 and 817 to 822 of 2010.

NO. 817 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government state whether the three permanent Otis personnel who are based permanently in Gibraltar are employed by a Gibraltar company or whether they are employed directly by Otis in Spain, and indicate where in Gibraltar they are based?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 816 and 818 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 818 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government confirm whether the tenants of its housing estates who have lifts that are maintained by Otis have the option of reporting the fault either to the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office or to Otis in Spain directly?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 817 and 819 to 822 of 2010.

NO. 819 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government say on how many occasions the lifts at Referendum House have been reported to the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office, on a monthly basis, in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 818 and 820 to 822 of 2010.

NO. 820 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have faults been reported with the lifts in Government housing estates in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 819, 821 and 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 821 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have the lifts in Government housing estates required corrective maintenance/repairs in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 820 and 822 of 2010.

NO. 822 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have the lifts in Government housing estates required preventive maintenance in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question No. 822 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 812 of 2010

There exists a contract with Zardoya Otis (Gibraltar) Ltd to maintain and repair the most recently installed lifts within Government Estates. Also GJBS Ltd are responsible for the two lifts at Bishop Canilla House.

Answer to Question No. 813 of 2010

There are 30 lifts as follows:

Alameda Estate	-	5
Varyl Begg Estate	-	18
St John's Court	-	1
Knight's Court	-	1
Glacis Estate	-	5

The four lifts at the Tower Blocks and one at Penney House remain under warranty and are, therefore, not yet within the Otis contract.

Answer to Question No. 814 of 2010

The current contract for the repair and maintenance of lifts commenced on the 21st January 2009. The contract period will initially operate for two years up to a maximum of five years. The current contract sum is £59,160 per annum, paid in regular instalments. This sum will be updated as and when required when new lifts are added to the schedule after the expiry date of respective warranty periods.

Answer to Question No. 815 of 2010

Since Otis undertook responsibility for the repair and maintenance of lifts in Government Housing Estates, the Government has paid £273,345, as follows:

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Sum</u>
2004-2005	£25,425
2005-2006	£33,752
2006-2007	£40,552
2007-2008	£50,528
2008-2009	£49,138
2009-2010	£59,160
Up to June 2010	£14,790
TOTAL	<u>£273,345</u>

Answer to Question 816 of 2010

Yes.

Continued Answer to Question No. 822 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 817 of 2010

The three permanent locally based staff are employed by Zardoya Otis (Gibraltar) Ltd and based at S3F, ICC, 2A Main Street.

Answer to Question No. 818 of 2010

The tenants of housing estates with lifts maintained by Otis channel all reporting of faults through the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office during working hours. They in turn report this directly to Otis in Spain. After working hours, tenants report faults to the after hours emergency number. Again, they will in turn report this to Otis in Spain.

Answer to Question No. 822 of 2010 continued

Answer to Question 819

The number of occasions the lifts at Referendum House have been reported to the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office, on a monthly basis, since 2007 to date is as follows:

JANUARY 2007	2
FEBRUARY 2007	2
MARCH 2007	2
APRIL 2007	1
MAY 2007	5
JUNE 2007	4
JULY 2007	1
AUGUST 2007	4
SEPTEMBER 2007	1
OCTOBER 2007	0
NOVEMBER 2007	2
DECEMBER 2007	2
JANUARY 2008	5
FEBRUARY 2008	3
MARCH 2008	1
APRIL 2008	3
MAY 2008	4
JUNE 2008	3
JULY 2008	2
AUGUST 2008	3
SEPTEMBER 2008	2
OCTOBER 2008	4
NOVEMBER 2008	3
DECEMBER 2008	4
JANUARY 2009	2
FEBRUARY 2009	4
MARCH 2009	2
APRIL 2009	2
MAY 2009	2
JUNE 2009	1
JULY 2009	2
AUGUST 2009	1
SEPTEMBER 2009	1
OCTOBER 2009	0
NOVEMBER 2009	1
DECEMBER 2009	0
JANUARY 2010	1
FEBRUARY 2010	0
MARCH 2010	0
APRIL 2010	2
MAY 2010	4
JUNE 2010	2
TOTAL	90

Answer to Question 820

The number of faults that have been reported with regards to the lifts in Government housing estates in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate is as follows:

Location	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	TOTAL
Alameda Estate	14	13	15	27	21	17	3	110
Glacis Estate	26	14	17	22	30	50	34	193
Varyl Begg Estate	15	8	25	38	42	61	8	197
St John's Court	0	0	3	6	5	1	2	17
Knight's Court	0	0	9	0	1	3	1	14
Penney House	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	55	35	69	93	99	133	48	532

Answer to Question 821

The number of times the lifts in Government housing estates that have required corrective maintenance/repairs in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate is as follows:

Location	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	TOTAL
Alameda Estate	14	13	15	27	21	17	3	110
Glacis Estate	26	14	17	22	30	50	34	193
Varyl Begg Estate	15	8	25	38	42	61	8	197
St John's Court	0	0	3	6	5	1	2	17
Knight's Court	0	0	9	0	1	3	1	14
Penney House	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	55	35	69	93	99	133	48	532

Answer to Question 822

The lifts in Government housing estates have had regular preventative maintenance done to them in accordance with the contract that is currently in place, although there is no record of the number of times that this occurs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 812 TO 822 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

The question of reporting faults with lifts is always done directly within Gibraltar to the actual Reporting Office, never directly to Spain?

HON F J VINET:

No, because obviously the contract is between the Ministry for Housing and Otis not between Otis and the individual tenants and obviously we have a vested interested in closely monitoring Otis's performance. So, if calls are made directly to housing and housing in turn contact Otis.

HON C A BRUZON:

The Minister can guarantee that when there is an emergency that there will always be somebody to answer the phone call. That there is no question ... That the situation does not arise... You see I am just thinking in terms of, as I am sure the hon Member would be, of being as helpful as possible to people who are panicking and worried with regards to lifts breaking down. There is a system whereby you phone the Reporting Office in Gibraltar. If it is outside working hours, you say there is an emergency number and that will not fail. Can the Minister confirm that?

HON F J VINET:

The person or persons in fact, depending on the time of day or night, who answer the phone are the same persons who answer the phones when someone is calling for any emergency, any repair work. It is not that we have got a particular different number just for lifts. Reports of work defects and emergencies are made to the same numbers whether they are lifts or otherwise. I would certainly hope that the persons who are employed to answer the telephone calls do so as quickly as possible because that is what they are employed to do but it would take... In the particular case which we had an exchange on some weeks ago, I think the hon Member will see that despite what he was allegedly told by some tenants, in fact the response period was actually very good indeed. As I explained in a press release several weeks ago at the end of April, the response period in that case which was the only one that we have actually had a debate on was very good.

ORAL

NO. 823 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state how many flats are currently empty at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There are currently three empty flats at Bishop Canilla House.

ORAL

NO. 824 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government say who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of cracked balconies at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 825 of 2010.

NO. 825 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government confirm whether they have carried out a survey into water ingress at Bishop Canilla House, on what date the survey was commissioned, from whom, at what cost and what are the results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In answer to Question No. 824 of 2010, the Ministry for Housing is ultimately responsible for the repair and maintenance of Bishop Canilla House, inclusive of balconies.

In answer to Question No. 825 of 2010, the Government can confirm that the Ministry for Housing has carried out a survey into damp-related problems at Bishop Canilla House. A general survey was conducted in February of this year at no cost to Government. This was carried out in-house and I am advised that the results of the survey are currently being evaluated.

NO. 826 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS MOVED BECAUSE OF ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

How many Government tenants have had to be moved from Government properties as a result of electrical failures or problems with the electrical installation since 1st January 2010 and what has been the time that it has taken to make such installations safe enough to allow tenants to move back into their properties?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

One tenant had to be moved for the reasons detailed in the question and it took three working days to make the electrical installation safe, that is, totally safe as opposed to safe enough, in order to allow the tenant to move back into the property.

ORAL

NO. 827 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

How many Government tenants have been decanted by Government in each calendar year 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date and what were the reasons for each case of tenants being decanted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 828 and 829 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 828 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

How many Government tenants who have been decanted in the calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date have appealed the Decanting Notices and are any such appeals still outstanding?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 827 and 829 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 829 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

On what condition or conditions have tenants agreed to be decanted from their homes by Government since 2008 and has Government now fulfilled all of those conditions in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question No. 829 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 827 of 2010

2008 – Four Government tenants have been decanted as follows:

- 1 tenant decanted due to a Government Project.
- 2 tenants due to poor condition of flats.
- 1 tenant due to fire.

2009 – Nine Government tenants have been decanted as follows:

- 7 tenants due to Government Projects.
- 2 tenants due to poor condition of flats.

2010 – Seven Government tenants have been decanted as follows:

- 2 tenants due to Government Projects.
- 5 tenants due to poor condition of flats.

Answer to Question No. 828 of 2010

One tenant has appealed the Decanting Notice and no appeals are outstanding.

Answer to Question No. 829 of 2010

There are no formal conditions set by the Government when dealing with tenants that have to be decanted. Each case is considered on an individual basis where the onus is for the Housing Department to provide alternative and entitled Government accommodation. Every effort is made to help Government tenants by refurbishing the new property through Buildings and Works and further assistance provided for transportation of belongings.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 827 TO 829 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Once again I thank the Minister for the information. Reference Question No. 827 of 2010, we are told that one tenant was decanted due to a Government project, then 7 in 2009 due to Government projects, two tenants in 2010 due to Government projects. Does the Minister have any information which will enable me to know where these projects are or what projects are being referred to?

HON F J VINET:

Yes and no. Not entirely. I have not been given a breakdown of which Government projects are being alluded to in the questions. I certainly know, in fact, in answer to the following question that two tenants at least in 2009 were moved as a result of the new airport and new roads project and I believe one or more may have been moved from the Calpe Barracks area which as was announced some time ago are being redeveloped into affordable housing. But I am afraid I do not have specific details of this. I would need notice for that.

NO. 830 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

Have Government agreed to pay compensation to any Government tenant as a result of having to be decanted and if so, how much compensation was payable in each case, if a surveyor was employed, who was the surveyor, how was any such compensation assessed and when has it been paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government does not generally pay compensation to Government tenants who are being decanted. However, in the public interest, the Government has exceptionally paid compensation towards two Government tenants, formerly resident at British Lines Cottages, who needed to be reallocated urgently, because their properties were in direct line of the new airport and frontier road projects. These were unusual tenanted Government properties in that they were villa type houses. The sums were respectively £30,000 and £88,000 to each Government tenant and this was paid in 2009. Costs were based on the surrender of their tenancies, for the replacement of furniture and the upgrading of their new Government flats to the standard they formerly enjoyed at British Lines Cottages.

ORAL

NO. 831 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions under which the caretakers are employed at Bishop Canilla House and does Government have any say in determining what these terms and conditions should be?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 832 and 833 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 832 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government say how much they pay the company that employs the caretakers at Bishop Canilla House for the service they provide?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 831 and 833 of 2010.

NO. 833 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government say which company provides the employees that carry out the service of caretaker and related duties at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes. I was going to hand over a schedule but in fact it is in narrative format so I may as well read it out but I am happy to give the hon Member a copy.

The terms and conditions are set by the private contractor employing the caretakers and not the Government. Similarly, the Government does not intervene in determining such terms and conditions. Government's role is to ensure that proper services are provided.

The Government pay £14 per hour per caretaker to the company that employs them for the services provided at Bishop Canilla House.

The Government have commissioned GJBS Ltd to carry out the services of caretaker and related duties at Bishop Canilla House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 831 TO 833 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So in fact what the hon Member is saying is that the 100 per cent Government owned company employs the people who provide the service. The Government pays its own company £14 but has no control over what its company pays the workers. Well, that seems a ... Everything that he has read out would only make sense if he was talking about a company which was privately owned. But in fact the company is Government owned.

HON F J VINET:

When I read the answer as drafted for me and in particular the reference to terms and conditions, I did not assume that that referred to the salary of the individuals. I have automatically assumed, perhaps wrongly so, that what Government pays to the company which is £14 per hour per caretaker is what the caretakers received. I have

not been informed to the contrary but I stand to be corrected. Perhaps the hon Member ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure what they have received, but I doubt they would have been complaining to me if they were getting £14 an hour given that I think that the labouring rate in the industry in the CATA agreement is around £7 an hour and I believe that the normal rate in GJBS Ltd is in fact the rate in the public service. That is, my understanding of the situation is that a number of years ago, in fact, the Government, agreed in the case of GJBS Ltd, that instead of being covered by the construction industry pay, they would be covered by the Gibraltar Government Building and Works pay. So, employees of GJBS Ltd would be getting the pay of the Government and the £14 is more. Is that not the case? Well, I am happy to be corrected.

HON L MONTIEL:

GJBS Ltd is a construction company and therefore it is analogued to CATA terms and conditions of employment. The reality, however, is that being a company which negotiated xxxx, it negotiates terms above the minimum which is the CATA rate. So, CATA or rather GJBS Ltd has better terms and conditions than CATA because it is negotiated directly with Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is exactly what I have said. They are not being paid according to the CATA rate. They are being paid according to the Gibraltar Government rates of pay and it was the TGWU that negotiated it.

HON L MONTIEL:

The Buildings and Works has a parity agreement with the UK. GJBS Ltd does not have a parity relationship with any UK ... That is the difference.

HON J J BOSSANO:

GJBS Ltd has parity with the Public Works and Public Works has parity with UK. That is the difference.

HON L MONTIEL:

It is not true. GJBS Ltd has no parity relationship with Buildings and Works.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, maybe the agreement was done after he stopped being the District Officer and that is why he does not know it because that is the information provided

to me by the people who work there. So they ought to know what they are getting paid. But anyway, I am grateful for the hon Member because if the information I have got is incorrect then I am grateful to him. Presumably, he is working on the basis that he knows what the contracts of employment registered with the ETB is saying, in the case of employees of GJBS Ltd. That must be the source of his information.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have negotiated many years for GJBS Ltd and I know what are the negotiations that took place for GJBS Ltd.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. That is why I am suggesting that perhaps the negotiations when they were put on Gibraltar Government rates of pay happened after he was no longer negotiating for them. If he is relying on the contracts of employment that they are registered with at the ETB, then I accept that he has got more up to date and accurate information that I have. But in any event, what is clear is that the assumption that the £14 that the Government pays GJBS Ltd is the £14 that the employees get cannot be correct because the £14 is well above either of the two rates of pay. Either the Buildings and Works pay or the other one. So, does the Government in arriving at the £14 that they pay... That is, the £14 comes out of the hon Member's budget I take it, right. So, does the Government take into account what the actual employees are being paid in arriving at an agreement, presumably, with GJBS Ltd? This is not something that has gone to tender because, of course, it has gone to the Government owned company and the policy of the Government is that they can chose to use their own company. So it is not a question that it has gone to GJBS Ltd because other people would charge more. It has gone to GJBS Ltd because they have decided to give it to them. If they do not know what people are getting paid, how do they arrive at considering this to be a reasonable hourly rate to pay?

HON F J VINET:

I wish I could be more helpful and I apologise for the fact that I cannot because I have not got any more information before me and I admit fully that I had not focussed my mind on it even the possibility of the pay received by the caretakers being any different to what the Government pay the company. I had assumed, perhaps naively, that the two would be exactly the same. But certainly, if the hon Member wishes to have more detailed information on the contract, may I invite him to write to me and I will provide him with as soon an answer as I can. I simply do not have the information before me. I apologise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My understanding is that when the Government give a contract, although I accept that in the case of GJBS Ltd it does not really matter because if the Government choose to pay more money to GJBS Ltd and want GJBS Ltd to make a profit on it, it is still the money that, at the end of the day, belongs to the Government. But nevertheless, the normal thing is that when one negotiates in Government, from my understanding of this xxxx, an hourly rate, it is because one knows that there is so much and a premium on top which is what you expect the company to make as

profits and overheads. That is, it certainly would not be normal if it was a private company that, for example, the employee should be getting a £5 and the Government should be charged £15 and I think if there was that kind of disproportionate difference and it was a private company then we would be entitled to question in the House from the point of view of public spending. Why does the Government allow such a big margin? In this case it is not quite the same consideration because at the end of the day it is one hand paying the other hand. But of course from the point of view of the employees, the employees would wish to know how it is that the value of their work for the customer is identified as being £14 if what they actually receive for performing that work is considerably less and I think, certainly, it is something that I would invite the Minister to look into.

NO. 834 OF 2010**THE HON S E LINARES****GEA – REPAYMENT OF ELECTRICITY ARREARS**

In each financial year 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, what was the longest period agreed by the Electricity Authority for the repayment of arrears by any (a) residential user; and (b) business user?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The longest periods are as follows:

	(a) Residential Users	(b) Business Users
Financial Year 2007/2008	72 Months	68 Months
Financial Year 2008/2009	142 Months	72 Months
Financial Year 2009/2010	728 Months	67 Months

NO. 835 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

GEA – REPAYMENT AGREEMENT POLICY

Can Government state whether the Electricity Authority has adopted a policy of not entering into repayment agreements in respect of arrears?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No such policy has been adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 835 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, if somebody has been refused the opportunity of entering into a repayment agreement on the grounds that the Electricity Authority is no longer entering into such agreement that would have been misinformation, that is a mistaken answer by whoever provided it.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, I think the previous question and answer actually shows the flexibility that the Authority has in granting a particular consumer 728 months to pay the bill, that is over 60 years. So, I think...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Several generations.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the Electricity Authority are actually quite lenient in agreeing to any arrears agreement.

HON S E LINARES:

Residential.

NO. 836 OF 2010

THE HON S E LIINARES

NEW POWER STATION

Can Government state when will works commence for the installation of the new electricity generating station and what is the estimated cost for imported materials and the cost of the construction?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government are unable to provide a date for the commencement of the works or the estimated cost of imported material because the tender for the new power station has not been awarded yet.

NO. 837 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

POWER CUTS

Can Government give an explanation as to why Gibraltar was plunged into total darkness due to the power cut on 28th April 2010 and whether there are any backup systems in place and if not are any backup systems going to be put in place in order to avoid this happening again?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

One of the GEA interconnector high voltage cables between Jumpers Bastion Distribution Centre and Orange Bastion Distribution Centre suffered a failure. The subsequent earth fault tripped the three power stations. Waterport Power station tripped on earth fault and OESCO and MOD power stations on under voltage that was caused by the massive earth fault.

This type of occurrence is rare and was attributed to the massive size of the earth fault experienced and the limitation of our electrical distribution network to handle large earth fault currents.

The network system is designed to trip generators in order to protect equipment and machinery from further damage that can be caused by an earth or other type of electrical fault. This is what happened at Waterport when the protection relay in the earthing transformer detected the cable earth fault and tripped the generator. Unfortunately, the fault was so massive that it broke down the network system voltage causing the other power stations to trip on under voltage.

Both OESCO and Waterport have black start capabilities, that is back up, to restart engines in the event of a total black out. The delay in restoring electrical power was due to the problems with the pneumatic system that supplies the black start capabilities at Waterport and the need to pressure test adjustment interconnectors' cables in the vicinity that showed external signs of heat and smoke damage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 837 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

What the hon Member has said about the back up system, it seems as if the back up system that was in place was not adequate enough for it to have avoided the power cut. Correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really give you a technical explanation because I really do not know how to wire up a switch let alone any of this. But what I can tell you is that when it did happen I did actually focus on the idea of having adequate back up facilities to avoid this sort of thing. The explanation I was given was that it is quite rare that all these circumstances come together at the same time and that one cannot have a system which is 100 per cent full proof even though the system should have been able to react to something like this. Unfortunately, a series of circumstances happened at the same time which has made the whole thing come to the situation we found ourselves on the 28th April. It is not something that is a regular occurrence and hopefully it will not happen for many years to come.

NO. 838 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

POWER CUTS

Can Government state whether there are any compensation schemes provided by Gibelec or Government itself to consumers of electricity to cover the damage caused by power cuts such as the one that occurred on 28th April 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There are no compensation schemes to cover any damage caused by power cuts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 838 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not realise that when these things happen which I understand was a one-off, it does cause a lot of damage not only to residential because it is even in residential where you have a washing machine running and suddenly it stops and there are consequences to that but for businesses where they rely totally on electricity especially when we are using more and more computers, computer systems and all that. Does the Minister think then that there should be some sort of compensation scheme when, like the Minister has just stated, on the very, very rare occasions that this happens, that at least the consumer is not jeopardised in any way?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I do not think that we can have a compensation scheme which is so open ended. I am fully aware of the consequences of circumstances as happened on the 28th April and representations were actually made to the Gibraltar Electricity Authority by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of members who claimed to have suffered serious financial losses as a result of the power cut. Nevertheless, what I can say is that those companies that are almost totally dependent on electricity supply like the gaming companies et cetera, do have back up facilities. I remember the day in question and my office being in Europort, one went down to the basement and one actually found oneself very much inside a generating station itself with all the back up system being triggered and coming into effect. So there is an element of cover for those that find themselves totally relying on electricity to conduct their business.

Having said that, I know retailers in Main Street suffered as a result of it with tills, computers et cetera. The ability to be able to go through and conduct sales with credit cards et cetera. I know that there was an element of loss there. But I do not think that the Government can actually have an open ended compensation scheme for such events.

NO. 839 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS DISCONNECTED

Can Government state how many, if any, of the 588 domestic customers who had not paid their October 2009 electricity bills by the 31st December 2009 were disconnected following the issue of a disconnection advice letter in January 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Out of the 588 letters issued to domestic customers, a total of 144 disconnections were effected. The remainder of the customers had either settled their arrears or agreed payment dates with repayment arrangements.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 839 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In taking the decision to proceed, in the case of the 144, does the Government or the department, the people that have to take that decision, actually look into the circumstances of the individual. Whether it is a person living on their own or a pensioner or somebody on social assistance or once the trigger of the letter goes out warning them if they do not react, it is automatic?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. There is a very safe laid down criteria before... There is a process which the consumer is taken through before disconnection. Disconnection is really the xxxx of every opportunity. If anybody was to come and say, look I want to do an arrears agreement, in the case of the 728 months of paying say 50p a month, the people would not be disconnected and also the fact that the circumstances of the consumer himself, that is, pensioners who live on their own et cetera. All these things are taken into consideration plus the fact that there is close liaison with the Department of Social Security as well to ensure that no hardship is being caused to people who really cannot genuinely afford to do that. I think the hon Member can rest assured that these disconnections are happening when there is total disregard or sometimes that people are consumers that do not react to anything and until they actually get disconnected, some of them actually come, then settle or enter into an arrears agreement and are connected two days later or a day later. So I think it is the act of

disconnection that actually triggers them and provokes them to coming in and actually doing an agreement.

NO. 840 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS DISCONNECTED

Can Government state how many, if any, of the 244 commercial customers who had not paid their October 2009 electricity bills by the 31st December 2009 were disconnected following the issue of a disconnection advice letter in January 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The number of letters is actually 246. It may be a typo but out of those 246 letters issued to commercial customers, a total of 39 were disconnected. The remainder of the customers had either settled their arrears or agreed payment dates with repayment arrangements.

NO. 841 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC – DIGITAL TRANSMISSIONS

When does the Government expect that GBC Television will be transmitting digitally?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is an EU obligation for all television transmissions to be digital by the year 2012. The Government is working towards meeting this deadline and in fact has committed itself publicly to do so.

NO. 842 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC – NEW PREMISES

Have Government now earmarked premises for GBC Television and Radio to move to from South Barracks Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government has not earmarked new premises for GBC Television and Radio. The matter is currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 842 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman expect to be able to announce new premises during the course of this calendar year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

NO. 843 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GOVERNMENT COMPUTER SYSTEMS

What arrangements are in place for the licensing of software on Government computer systems?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government has in place an enterprise agreement, which includes the Gibraltar Health Authority that covers the following:

1. Microsoft products;
2. Anti-virus software;
3. Internet content filtering; and
4. IBM System software for their I-Series Machines.

Any other specific specialised software is licensed when purchased.

All other software is Open Source and therefore it is free.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 843 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can Government confirm whether it is aware of any Government machines or any Government PCs operating on the basis of unlicensed software in the past, for example, three or four years?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not aware that there is any but I would not be able to ... It is really a supplementary that I have not done research for. There may be and the IT Department may be aware of such cases but it is not something that has been brought to my attention.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it something that the hon Gentleman could follow up and perhaps write to me on?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful.

ORAL

NO. 844 OF 2010

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 February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 845 and 846 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 845 OF 2010

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 February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown between heavy roads and other roads?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 844 and 846 of 2010.

NO. 846 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were granted during the months of February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this Schedule which I hand over to him.

Schedule to Question No. 846 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 844 of 2010

In May 2010 one application for an exemption of a weight restriction was turned down.

Answer to Question No. 845 of 2010

Fifteen companies have been issued with monthly weight exemption certificates between the months of February 2010 to May 2010 for heavy traffic roads. One company has been issued with monthly weight exemption certificate between the months of February 2010 to May 2010 for other roads.

Answer to Question No. 846 of 2010

Year 2010	Trucks	Cranes	Motor Vehicles designed for excavation or shovelling works	Total
February	15	2	1	18
March	16	10	-	26
April	8	9	2	19
May	11	2	1	14

NO. 847 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to state when the replacement of the bus shelters will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government will announce the implementation of its policy to replace all bus shelters when it is in a position to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 847 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

This seems to be a sign of things to come in terms of further questions which will be asked in terms of implementation. Can the hon Minister explain why there has been, in respect of this particular issue bus shelters, ... appears to be a reversal of policy or retrenchment of the Government's position because when we have asked questions about bus shelters in the past the hon Member has been very open about what the position was, whether maintenance has been carried out, the contacts with the manufacturer, the identification of criteria which was necessary to meet Gibraltar's needs, the fact that all this was going to happen within a certain timescale. What has caused the Government to change its policy and now be totally refusing to provide any information at all on this to the public?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As I explained to the hon Member at the last Question Time, we are in final negotiations in respect of the contract for this provision of bus shelters and I think it would not help if I made public as to where or when these bus shelters are going to be in place because it would only be an indication to those that we are negotiating with as to what Government's thinking is on the matter and therefore I do not think it would be helpful for us to be able to make this information publicly available. If he is so concerned about it, all I can say is that there has been significant progress since the last Question Time in the House and I am quite happy to brief him privately if he so wishes. But all I can say is that the matter is progressing well and new bus shelters will be in place shortly.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure we can accept that, because discussions are taking place with whoever, the Government is not able to say, I intend to have new bus shelters by 2010 or during this term of office. It certainly does not work with us that because any discussions, in fact any works which are carried out by Government involve discussions, involve negotiations and if no information at all could be given by the Government as to what it plans to do in the next three or four years, this party in Government would simply not be able to produce a manifesto. How on earth can he produce a manifesto setting out a programme for four years if he cannot say what he proposes to do or when he proposes to do it because it will jeopardise negotiations or discussions. It is, with respect, an argument which simply does not hold any water. It is not an argument that has been deployed in the past and what we detect is really a change of policy, an entrenchment of position by the Government in refusing to provide information which should be publicly available. Can I ask the hon Member to simply reconsider the policy and simply to be a little bit more open with the public?

HON J J HOLIDAY:

No. I think we are being very open. We have a manifesto commitment to deliver new bus shelters and these bus shelters will all be in place before the end of our term of office and that is for sure. But what I am not willing to do at this specific time is to give information as to when these will be in place exactly because I would be sending signals to the supplier as to what my preference is in terms of who I finally select as a supplier and therefore I do not think it is in the public interest for us to make that information available. I have told him that if he is so concerned about it, I am happy to brief him privately and that is as far as I am going.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not a question of being briefed privately. This is not information that I want for my private purposes. This is information that the public should know about because they have been suffering with these bus shelters for a long time and the hon Member knows that it is an issue that we have debated in the past in this Parliament. I certainly cannot understand at all why indicating a timescale, as to when the Government wants bus shelters to be in place, gives any sort of signal to anyone. It simply tells people, we are serious about this and we want to do this particular project. At the end of the day, it is a matter for the Government but if they refuse to provide information then the public will see them for what they are becoming which is a completely opaque and lack of transparent Government.

MR SPEAKER:

There is no question there as the hon Member can appreciate. I would appreciate it if the hon Member would not take opportunities to make statements in the guise of supplementaries that do not exist.

NO. 848 OF 2010**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 February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of paying passengers transported and the value of the fares is as follows:

	No. of Passengers	Amount £
February 2010	82,656	53,707.00
March 2010	100,931	65,381.00
April 2010	100,593	66,530.00
May 2010	101,826	66,271.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 848 OF 2010**HON G H LICUDI:**

Can the hon Member repeat the figure for February?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The number of passengers was 8,256. Sorry it must be 82,656. The comma has been placed in the wrong place. My apologies.

HON G H LICUDI:

Eighty two thousand, six hundred and fifty six, with a value of £53,707. My apologies again.

ORAL

NO. 849 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – ROUTE 4 RED SANDS ROAD

Can Government state when bus route 4 will resume a normal service along Red Sands Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 850 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 850 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – ROUTE 4 RED SANDS ROAD

Can Government state why bus route 4 is not operating a normal service along Red Sands Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Bus route No. 4 is not operating a normal service along Red Sands Road because of road works in the area. A normal service will be resumed once the current works are completed.

The expected completion date is 25th June 2010.

NO. 851 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – NEW BUSES FOR ROUTE No. 2

Can Government state whether it has now considered the recommendations of the Procurement Office Board with regard to the purchase of new buses for route No. 2?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government accepted the recommendations of the Procurement Office Board and has already placed an order for these buses. These buses should be arriving in Gibraltar in August.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 851 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that mean that as soon as the buses arrive they will be operational? I am assuming that no modifications need to be made once they arrive.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. They should be operational shortly thereafter.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member give any indication of the type of improvements that we can expect because currently, as I understand it, we have buses which carry nine passengers? Does the hon Member have any details of the buses so that people can know what the improved service will be like?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The buses will now carry 15 passengers. My understanding is that the engine power is actually more powerful and therefore will be able to manoeuvre around the Upper Town in a better way. Apart from that, I think it has all the other specifications

that the current buses have in terms of air conditioning et cetera, as we have had up till now.

NO. 852 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

NORTHVIEW TERRACE CAR PARK

Can Government state whether it has closed or has the intention of closing to members of the public the area behind Northview Terrace which is used as a car park?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have no plans to close the area behind Northview Terrace which is currently being used as a car park informally and at the risk of the persons parking there, as has been the case for a number of years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 852 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

So the position is that, as far as the Government are aware, there is no impediment in those people who use that as an informal car park continuing to use that as an informal car park?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct. The area is known to be an area of possible rock fall. There has not been a rock fall there for many, many years. It is not something that the Government wish to encourage but people are aware of this and still continue to park in that area and we will continue to allow them to do so.

NO. 853 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS RECEIVED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RESTAURANT SITE AT EUROPA POINT

Can Government say how many tenders have been received to develop a restaurant site at Europa Point which was advertised on 30th April 2010 with a closing date of 11th June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The information requested by the hon Member is commercially sensitive and cannot be put in the public domain at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 853 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member saying the number of tenders is commercially sensitive? That is what the question has asked.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. It is commercially sensitive.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say whether there has been more than one tender without giving a precise number?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have said it is commercially sensitive.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member explain what makes this particular one commercially sensitive because I do not think they have ever had any difficulty in telling us whether there is one or ten or twenty? Or is it that they do not want the person that has applied to know how much competition there is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That might be the case. I think we need to understand that the tender closed last week. We know how many tenders there are because obviously we know because the tender box has x numbers in there, whatever x is. We still have not opened the tenders. There has not been a meeting of the Tender Board, right, but for sake of argument if there was one and the Government was to have to enter into... It is not bound to accept that tender but it may be open to negotiation. If they know they are on their own, then the negotiating ability on the part of the Government is undermined by the fact that they know that they are the only ones and what we are trying to do is not to put this in the public domain until a decision has been taken.

ORAL

NO. 854 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Can Government confirm whether they have received any proposals for the redevelopment of Sacred Heart School (the old Grammar School) in the area of Arengo's Palace?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government have not received any proposals for the redevelopment of this site.

NO. 855 OF 2010

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 Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester;
- (e) Madrid until flights ceased,

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. 856, 857, 859 to 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 856 OF 2010

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 Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester;
- (e) Madrid until flights ceased,

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. 855, 857, 859 to 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 857 OF 2010

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 Madrid to Gibraltar until flights ceased 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. 855, 856, 859 to 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 858 OF 2010**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 ran between Gibraltar airport and La Linea until flights to Madrid ceased 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 of a GibAir Service Agent on the inbound bus, equates to £65.50 per round trip, that is from the La Linea bus terminal to the Gibraltar airport and back to the La Linea bus terminal.

The breakdown of cost is as follows:

February	£1,572.00
March	£1,506.50

ORAL

NO. 859 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS FROM LA LINEA FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many departing passengers on the flights from Gibraltar to Madrid until flights ceased 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. 855 to 857, 860, 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 860 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS ON GIBRALTAR/MADRID ROUTE

What was the total number of passengers carried on the Madrid/Gibraltar route until flights ceased, 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. 855 to 857, 859, 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 861 OF 2010

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 until flights ceased 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. 855 to 857, 859, 860 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 862 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX/LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say how much is owed in passenger tax and landing charges by the airlines which fly between Gibraltar and the following airports:

- (a) London Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Madrid until flights ceased;
- (e) Manchester?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As stated in my answer to Question No. 332 of 2010, the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide details of sums due by individuals, named commercial entities or citizens.

Between the airlines that use Gibraltar Airport, £59,955.43 is due in respect of Landing and Parking Fees and £175,840 in respect of Departure Tax.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 862 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether those figures include the sums owed by Andalus or not? He says using Gibraltar airport.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Those sums include all operators that have used Gibraltar airport so it does include Andalus as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that Andalus is no longer operating and therefore it is not an ongoing thing in their case, what action is the Government taking to collect the money because in the other cases the people are still coming in.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The company has given us an undertaking that they will settle what is owed to us and we are waiting for these funds now to be received.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The last time, if I recall correctly, Andalus had actually done some kind of arrears agreement that they were going to pay monthly sums in respect of the amount outstanding. Can he say whether they are now paying it all in a lump sum or whether this will be a new arrears agreement?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. They will be paying the total amount in a lump sum.

ORAL

NO. 863 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX

Can Government confirm the level of passenger tax per passenger which is due from persons travelling to or from Gibraltar airport?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this Schedule which I now hand to him.

Schedule to Question No. 863 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 855 of 2010

	LHR	LGW	LTN	MAN	MAD
Feb 10	3	9	2	1	7
Mar 10	2	7	1	0	5
Apr 10	1	5	5	0	0
May 10	3	9	4	2	0

Answer to Question No. 856 of 2010

	LHR		LGW		LTN		MAN		MAD	
	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX
Feb 10	28	1	28	1	13	0	8	0	24	2
Mar 10	31	3	31	1	14	0	13	0	23	6
Apr 10	30	6	30	6	19	5	13	3	0	0
May 10	31	3	31	0	25	0	15	0	0	0

Answer to Question No. 857 of 2010

Madrid to Gibraltar

February 2010	0
March 2010	0

Answer to Question No. 859 of 2010.

Gibraltar to Madrid

February 2010	0
March 2010	0

Schedule to Question No. 863 of 2010 continued

Answer to Question No. 860 of 2010

	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Departures</u>
February 2010	310	417
March 2010	278	261

Answer to Question No. 861 of 2010

	<u>Staying in Gibraltar</u>	<u>Transit to Spain</u>	<u>Total</u>
February 2010	36	274	310
March 2010	47	231	278

Answer to Question No. 863 of 2010

The level of passenger tax is £10 per departing passenger.

NO. 864 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX/LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say whether the payments of landing charges and passenger tax owed by Andalus airlines are now up to date before the airline terminated their flights between Gibraltar and Spain?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As stated in my answer to Question No. 332 of 2010, the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide details of sums owed by individuals, named commercial entities or citizens.

In the circumstances, I am unable to provide the hon Member with the information he has requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 864 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

But has not the hon Member already provided that information in answer to the previous question.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

To a certain extent that is the case. I have been trying to be as helpful as possible without ... To be honest with you, when we have given information in the House before by different airlines, at meetings I have had with current operators, they have said to me, look I am not very... we keep up to date with all our payments, I see no reason why we should be exposed publicly and then in the press in print as to what we owe, we do not owe because that is information that is then available to competing operators. So they really felt, obviously I can do as I please later, but they have asked me and in two circumstances they both said to me, I see no reason why we should expose to the public information on what we owe and what we do not owe, we are totally abiding by what we are told to do, I see no reason why it should be exposed. That is why the Government took the view that we should supply the information holistically but not by individual operators. Obviously, I have been trying to be as helpful as possible in trying to ensure that whatever Air Andalus owes, I

have now a commitment from the new Chief Executive, because there has been a complete change of Board of Directors, that this money is now going to be settled. Therefore, I think that in all fairness to them we ought to respect the agreement that I have entered into with them in order for them to put this behind them and settle whatever is due to the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, when and if it is settled, the hon Member will be able to tell us what it is that had to be paid and has been paid.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. I see no reason why not and I am happy to give it to the hon Member privately if he wants but what I do not want to do is for it to appear tomorrow or on Monday or whatever in the front page of one of the daily newspapers having another go at the airline and then find that they may take the decision, well now we are not going to pay. I would rather not risk those circumstances.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that Andalus are no longer an operator, what interest or pressure is there on them to pay?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is such a thing as commercial honesty and when the new ... Well it does exist in some places. But when the new Chief Executive was appointed I made contact with him and had a meeting with him in Gibraltar and we discussed the future way going forward and he gave me his assurances that the matter would be dealt with and it is still within the time frame that he asked me to consider in order to put this behind them and I hope that they will comply with their commitment. Otherwise the Government will take whatever action it needs to take in order to pursue the outstanding bill in the same way as we would do with anybody else. We are not just going to take it on the chin and they know about it. I have brought it to their attention.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member tell the House why ... I know that he cannot give the amount but can he say why they were allowed to build up such a debt in the first place? After the arrears agreement was entered into they obviously did not honour it otherwise the debt would not still be there.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well because the outstanding amount, obviously, has built up over a period of time but the amounts involved were not significant. They were in the process of injecting new capital into the company and they were explaining to us, look we need time because we are in the process of injecting capital into the company and these

arrears will be paid et cetera, et cetera and for the sake of giving them some form of support, we agreed to allow them to continue operating without actually ... and they entered into an arrears agreement and that eventually did not happen or they did not deliver on that and there was a change in Air Andalus. I think shareholdings apart and a new director being appointed et cetera and now they are... in fact they are even considering Gibraltar again as a possible route.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether the Government are aware whether the airline is part-owned or subsidised by the Junta de Andalucia or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is some involvement. I am not quite sure what. I think some of these investments in Spain are undertaken by banks that actually represent some of the local Governments and really to get down to the bottom of exactly who owns what is not easy. We have done some research to try and establish and prepare ourselves for a possible claim against them and it is not clear. But there is some form of involvement and definitely they have been supported by the Junta de Andalucia somehow and they continue operating today. They continue operating most of the routes they were operating last year. So it is not an airline that has disappeared or has gone into liquidation or anything like that. The company continues to operate out of a number of routes that they successfully operate.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In answer to questions in the Parliament of Andalucia in April I think it was, it emerged that the Junta had a 2 million euros shareholding and that they also subsidised 116,000 euros in terms of advertising on the airline. Given that situation, would it not be easier to recover the money which is owed given the shareholding that the Junta seems to have in the airline. That it is not simply a private venture. That it seems to be backed up by the regional Government.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I assume that is why they have confirmed to me that they will be settling what is owed to us. What is owed to us is not great money. Do not think that we are going to be richer as a result of it or poorer if they do not pay. But on a point of principle obviously the debt has to be pursued and settled.

NO. 865 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

Can Government provide a breakdown showing how much of the £50,000 marketing budget allocated to Andalus airlines has been spent and how much of the matching £50,000 which the airline was supposed to put forward has been spent and on what?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

However, we are waiting for final confirmation from the airline on how the funds were spent on their side. However, we are aware the campaign included media advertising and roadside billboards and we have no doubt that they have spent their share of that but we are actually waiting for chapter and verse of it. However, there have been big changes in the airline's structure in terms of employees et cetera and we are just getting now to the bottom as to what this campaign was about and how they have spent it.

Schedule to Question No. 865 of 2010

Andalus Marketing	
Cost of Workshop in Madrid	£4,880.87
Cost of Press Visit to Gibraltar	£2,856.48
Cost of Travel Agents Visit to Gibraltar	£203.35
Adverts in the Press and On-Line	£36,996.07
TOTAL	£44,936.77

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 865 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How does the Government monitor that the airline has fulfilled its side of the bargain?
How does it monitor the airline's expenditure?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, in the normal course of business what happens is that there is a joint campaign that is agreed between us and in the case of Andalus what we did was we focussed on a number of activities, for example, some of the cost of the workshops in Madrid, some of the press trips to Gibraltar, adverts in the press and online and they concentrated on other forms of activity because they were able to procure some of these initiatives on a far more competitive level than we could. In the same way as we could acquire some of the activities that we did and so instead of doing it jointly, we decided that we would do our own thing and send each other the information. That information although we have it generically, we have not got it specifically to be able to provide it to you in the House today.

NO. 866 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

On what date did the Government become aware that there was a creditor who had commenced legal action for the arrest in Gibraltar of a leased aircraft operated by Andalus airlines and that an attempt would be made to arrest the aircraft?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government became aware of this matter on 25th March 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 866 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was that after the matter became public or before?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My office became aware of this the night after the lawyers turned up at the airport to try and prevent the aircraft from taking off. But I think the lawyers arrived late and the plane was actually taking off already when they turned up. So they could not stop it. The matter was reported to me the following morning. That is how I came to know about this. But let me say that the creditor involved had nothing to do with Gibraltar in the sense that this was an external creditor that was trying to pursue its claim over the company and happened to have picked Gibraltar for the arrest as such but never managed to achieve it.

NO. 867 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES INTERESTED IN FLYING TO GIBRALTAR

Can Government say with how many airlines, interested in flying to Gibraltar, they are currently in contact with?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government continues with its contacts and discussions with a number of airlines. However, in common with my response to previous Parliamentary questions, for reasons of commercial confidentiality it would not be appropriate for me to provide further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 867 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I can understand perhaps how that would apply in relation to a commercial tender where there is only possibly one tenderer but in relation to airlines where there could be more than one and where there is no special deal in terms of..., that the deal established, the landing charges subsidy and whatever else the Government offer has already established and will be the same to everyone presumably. Why would that commercially sensitive? This information has always been supplied.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

One could be talking to two airlines who are interested possibly in a same catchment area and one does not want to be seen to be talking to one and the other and they could be conflictive in their own... I am quite happy to give the hon Member a list of people that we are in contact with, on a confidential basis, but we find ourselves in a situation where there could be two specific airlines looking even at the same route, particularly and we are trying to negotiate with both because we are trying to get one of them in. If one finds out that we are negotiating with the other they could lose interest or they could say, we are not going to enter into this new route because we are being undermined by a possible other operator that is going to come in and therefore we need to ... There is also the fact that there are some of these low cost airlines who tend to try and find out, in anticipation of what others are doing, to plan to come in and try and undermine other operators or low cost operators to come in to

the same route. So there is an element of sensitivity and it is not in the interests of Gibraltar to be able to make this information public.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I can understand what the hon Member has said if I was asking for routes or for catchment area but I am only asking for numbers, so really, we are only asking for the number not for the route or the catchment area.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In the route conference which he publicly said I was wasting my time on, I actually had meetings with 12 potential operators.

NO. 868 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – MANDATORY OCCURENCE REPORTING

Can Government confirm whether the mandatory occurrence reporting data from Gibraltar airport, which the UK started to transfer to the European Co-ordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems in September 2009, can be identified separately to that of the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government can confirm that the mandatory occurrence reporting data from Gibraltar, which is transferred to the European Co-ordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems via the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority, can be identified separately from those of the United Kingdom as all Gibraltar reports feature the unique ICAO identifier for Gibraltar airport, which is LXGB.

NO. 869 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – ICAO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS ON GIBRALTAR

Can Government say whether the recommendations on Gibraltar airport contained in the ICAO audit into the UK and the UK's Overseas Territories have now been published and list the recommendations that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and the Gibraltar Government respectively?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The recommendations on Gibraltar airport contained in the ICAO audit into the UK and the UK's Overseas Territories have been published. They are listed in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

Schedule to Question No. 869 of 2010

GIBRALTAR ACTIONS

LEG/02 – Gibraltar should promulgate the measurements to be used in air and ground operations in Gibraltar airspace.

AIR/03 – Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft – a policy should be established for determining an appropriate number of ramp inspections to be conducted on foreign registered aircraft and include these random inspections as part of the surveillance programme.

ANS/08 – Information contained in the UK AIP (Air Information Publication) – Gibraltar should coordinate with the United Kingdom Department for Transport to clearly distinguish in the United Kingdom Air Information Publication the portions which are applicable to Gibraltar as well as to include appropriate information pertaining to Gibraltar.

AGA/03 – Fire Extinguishing Equipment – a mechanism should be established to ensure that fire fighting equipment and trained personnel are available during the ground servicing of aircraft at the aircraft stand.

MOD ACTIONS

AGA 01 – The United Kingdom should establish a mechanism to ensure that safety oversight is performed on military aerodromes that are used for international civil operations by including these military aerodromes in the aerodrome certification process.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 869 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether any of these recommendations have now been implemented?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The LEG/2 has now been completed. The AIR/03, the corrective action plan is in place and is anticipated to be completed by the 30th June 2011. The ANS/08, again the corrective action plan is in place and anticipated to be completed by the 31st December this year and the AGA/03 has already been completed. As far as the MOD's action required on AGA01, the corrective action plan is in place and is anticipated to be in place by the 30th September 2011. That gives you an update not just on the completed ones but the timescale for the completion of the rest.

NO. 870 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TRANSCOMA FERRY – ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF PERSONS**

Can Government say how persons arrived at and departed from Gibraltar on the Transcoma Algeciras ferry to Algeciras, on a monthly basis, since February 2010 inclusive?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of passengers that have arrived and departed from Gibraltar on the Transcoma Algeciras ferry since February 2010 is as follows:

	Arrivals	Departures
February	66	70
March	315	267
April	282	436
May	580	565

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 870 OF 2010**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it the case that the service that the ferry was operating, with a view to providing an alternative route for workers to come in, has not been successful and they have had to discontinue that? Is the Minister aware of anything like that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, obviously, I think in their business plan they had an element of workers that would be making use of the ferry and I do not think that much use is being made by the actual workers themselves. I believe that Transcoma has even entered into some form of agreement with the municipality of Algeciras to incentivise workers to use the ferry at a very nominal rate and my understanding is that it has not really taken off in the way that they anticipated. So they are obviously targeting other markets, tourism et cetera, to try to make the service viable.

NO. 871 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA FERRY – PORT FEES/PASSENGER TAX

Will Government state whether the operators of the Algeciras ferry are up to date in the payment to Government of port fees and passenger tax?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Well, the hon Member will be pleased to know that the operators of the Algeciras ferry are up to date in the payment of fees.

NO. 872 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA FERRY – SUBSIDIES

Can Government say whether they provide any subsidies to the Transcoma ferry that operates the Gibraltar-Algeciras route?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government does not subsidise the Gibraltar/Algeciras ferry service provided by Transcoma.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 872 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether there is any agreement or any subsidy in relation to marketing or advertising or any issue of that nature?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that when the service was initiated I know that I made contact with the Gibraltar Tourist Board so that we could look at possible opportunities in order to promote the route. I really do not know if anything has been done. I have not seen anything that looks like a joint marketing campaign to promote the route but I would not be able to confirm if something has actually happened in this respect. But I know initially we did offer the possibility of promoting the route in the same way as we try and promote all operators into Gibraltar, in providing the service that they offer.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister for Tourism perhaps enlighten us on this issue? Can the Minister for Tourism say whether anything has happened or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I know there have been contacts. I know there have been proposals and I know that we have put the GTB logo on some brochure. There were also proposals of an environmental nature to promote from an environmental angle but no definite arrangements have been made on any marketing proposals except that.

NO. 873 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SEATRADE CRUISE SHIPPING CONVENTION IN FLORIDA**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida in March, who represented Gibraltar and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The cost of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Sea Trade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida in March was £21,676.34.

The breakdown is as follows:-

Airfares	£4,135.20
Hotel Accommodation	£4,545.08
Conference Passes	£927.84
Graphics	£94.00
Freight of Exhibition Material	£267.46
Travel Insurance	£37.05
Subsistence	£352.70
Meals, Local Transport & Contingencies	£1,713.12
Booth Space and Stand	£9,603.89
Total	£21,676.34

Gibraltar was represented by:

Captain Peter Hall	-	Captain of the Port/GPA
Mr Albert Poggio	-	Director, London Office
Ms Edwina O'Mahoney	-	Marketing Department, London Office

NO. 874 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SEATRADE CRUISE SHIPPING CONVENTION IN FLORIDA

Can the Minister for Transport list the cruise lines with which individual meetings were held during the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The meetings were held in the week before the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida. I held meetings with the following:

1. Yachts of Seabourn
2. Royal Caribbean
3. Celebrity Cruises
4. Azamara Cruises
5. Oceana Cruises
6. Regent Seven Seas Cruises
7. Silverseas Cruises
8. Carnival Cruises
9. Norwegian Cruise Lines

NO. 875 OF 2010

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**

Mr Speaker, I always get lumbered with this question. My Ministry has not sponsored or co-sponsored in Gibraltar or elsewhere any conferences since the last Question Time in this Parliament. I have asked my colleagues and they do not seem to have sponsored anything either. But I... something may have been overlooked. What I am saying is that I am replying on behalf of my Ministry and not on behalf of the Government. But I keep on being passed this question for answer.

NO. 876 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SOUTHWEST EUROPEAN SPACE TERRITORIAL COOPERATION
PROGRAMME CONFERENCE IN GIBRALTAR**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of hosting the Southwest European Space Territorial Cooperation Programme (SUDOE) Conference in Gibraltar on 7-8 April 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Please note that this is not a Southwest European Space Territorial meeting conference. It was the first Programme Monitoring Committee Meeting for the 2007-2013 South West Europe (SUDOE) Programme under Gibraltar's year of presidency of this Programme, which historically was the first time that a Spanish delegation was able to attend (with the Spanish Government's approval) a monitoring meeting on EU Structural Funds, at Programme level, in Gibraltar.

The costs incurred were made up as follows:-

• Hire of conference facilities and meals	£2,981.90
• Hire of translation facilities, translators, sound and recording system	£7,995.00
• Conference dinner	£ 749.38
• Transport for tour of Gibraltar	<u>£ 45.00</u>
	£11,771.28

It should also be noted that a minimum of 50 per cent of these costs will be claimed and paid for by the SUDOE Programme itself under its Technical Assistance budget. Therefore the actual cost to the Government of Gibraltar has been £5,885.64.

NO. 877 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****5TH EDITION OF THE ROUTES EUROPE FORUM IN TOULOUSE**

What was the cost with a breakdown of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the 5th Edition of the Routes Europe Forum in Toulouse, France in May 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The costs of the Gibraltar participation at the 5th Edition of the Routes Europe Forum in Toulouse were as follows:

Flights:	£1,916.00
Hotel:	£1,563.00
Subsistence:	£ 585.96
Delegate Fees:	£2,883.42
Total	£6,948.38

NO. 878 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HILTON HOTEL GROUP

Can Government confirm whether negotiations continue with the Hilton Group with a view to setting up a hotel in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Negotiations with Squarestone Ltd which are the investors... I have explained the relationship before in the House, and through them with Hilton Group continue, with a view to setting up a Hilton Hotel in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 878 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the nature of the arrangements that are being looked at one where Hilton would actually own the hotel or that they would have a contract to run it as a Hilton because I know that there are two versions of the way Hilton operates, one is that they run somebody else's hotel and another one is where they have it as part of the chain.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that for a number of years now Hilton itself do not own any of the hotels. Squarestone and Hilton actually have a relationship that has been going on now for a number of years and have previously opened up hotels on the same basis as they intend to do in Gibraltar. But, basically, the investment is done by Squarestone Ltd and they then have a franchise contract with Hilton for a period of, I think, 25 years and therefore for all intents and purposes it becomes a Hilton Hotel. The hotel is being designed according to Hilton's specifications. In fact, Hilton have had a very leading role in designing the hotel and making sure that they comply with all the requirements that they put in place with any franchise agreement as the minimum specification and that is the relationship that exists. Our relationship is obviously with Squarestone initially but our meetings are really tripartite. Whenever we have meetings Hilton comes along as well and listens in and makes sure that they are satisfied that they are going to be signing a franchise agreement with Squarestone which is back to back with what they are arranging and negotiating with the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the company has been so involved in what the hotel is going to look like and so forth, they have got now a definite site in mind where it is going to go?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say where that site is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The area that has been identified is the area where the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club is at present. It is the area between the Rooke, Kings Wharf and the Rental Housing Scheme, taking into account that there is a road and a roundabout in that area and it is that plot of land there which is an area which they identified as one of their preferred areas when they first came to Gibraltar to survey the possibility of them investing in Gibraltar. The surveys were done by Squarestone and surveys were done by Hilton at the time in order to ensure that they were both satisfied that whatever decisions they were taking were to their satisfaction.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Government the owner of the sites?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will this involve the consortium paying a premium to the Government for the land.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely.

NO. 879 OF 2010

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**

Since the information supplied at the last Question Time in the Parliament, the Port Advisory Council met on the 29th April 2010. The Business and Commerce Advisory Council and the E-Business Advisory Council have not met.

NO. 880 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU/GOVERNMENT 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**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO.880

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	PS	Purpose of Grant
19	Cupcake	Active	£8,246.97p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£19,242.93p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment, Freight and Import Duty, Website and Advertising and Rent and Subsidy Scheme
20	Nebbiolo Limited	Active	£19,817.46p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£48,518.60p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment and Import Duty (12%)
21	Government of Gibraltar	Active	£89,700.00p (30%)	£209,300.00p (70%)	£0.00p (0%)	Hardware requirements and Software applications
22	Patton Limited	Active	£18,348.01p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£42,812.03p (70%)	Building Work, Equipment, furniture, advertising and Rent Subsidy Scheme
23	Evensong Limited	Active	£19,559.10p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£45,627.90p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment, furniture, advertising and Rent Subsidy Scheme
24	Anglo Hispano Company Limited	Active	£47,272.81p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£110,303.23p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment, Furniture, Advertising & Rent Subsidy Scheme
25	Ministry for Transport	Active	£125,376.00p (40%)	£188,064.00p (60%)	£0.00 p (0%)	Three mini buses
26	Cafe Rojo	Active	£18,683.40p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£43,594.60p (70%)	Building Works & Equipment

ORAL

NO. 881 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Development Aid Advisory Committee met 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 met once, on the 27th April 2010.

NO. 882 OF 2010

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**

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

Schedule to Question 882/2010

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 18/2/10 AND 8/6/10

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11358	Essarco Ltd	Proposed amendments to shopfront.	Approved	122 Main Street
11359	Watergardens (Management) Ltd	Proposed installation wrought iron fence along the length of the Ocean Village sleeper planter.	Pending	Block 1 Watergardens
11360	Mr & Mrs M Yome	Proposed re-filing of roof.	Approved	16/20 Vista Alegre Europa Road
11361	Start 2000 Ltd.	Proposed alterations and refurbishment.	Approved	5-6 Britannia House Bayside Road Marina Bay
11362	Pood Limited	Proposed internal alterations and external illuminated letters.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11363	Mr Kishin Alwani	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11364	Mrs Yvette Ignacio	Proposed change of use into bar/café/restaurant and internal alterations.	Approved	Cornwalls Centre Cornwalls Lane
11365	Mr P Curcio	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	12-13 The Island Queensway Quay
11366	Lirrus Ltd.	Proposed demolition of fourth floor structure and third floor south wall.	Approved	3-5 Cornwalls Lane
11367	Ocean Village Luxury Suites	Proposed change of use from Class A1(retail) to class A3 (food and drink) and internal fitting out.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11368	Anglo Hispano Ltd	Proposed internal and external alterations.	Approved	Eurotowers
11369	Almond Holdings Ltd.	Proposed replacement of umbrellas.	Pending	194/196 Main Street
11370	Wilkie Ltd	Proposed construction of additional floor to provide extra stores, workshops and offices.	Pending	12/14 Flint Road
11371	Catalan Gardens Management	Proposed replacement of existing timber palisade fencing party walls.	Pending	8,9,10 Catalan Gardens Sir Herbert Miles Road
11372	Mr A Bakkali Kasmi	Proposed cladding of dome and reconstruction of honeycomb slab with a solid slab.	Approved	King Fahad Mosque Europa Road

Contd....

App No	ApplicantName	Description	Decision	SiteAddress
11373	Cathedral of the Holy Trinity	Proposed renovation of external pedestrian access from Cathedral Square.	Approved	12/14 Cathedral of the Holy Trinity Cathedral Square
11374	Richard Samuel Beards	Proposed new door opening in party wall between	Approved	1101 & 1102 Europlaza
11375	M E Beillo & Partners	Proposed demolition of Theatre Royal.	Government Project	5 Bishop Rapallo's Ramp
11376	Ms Maria P. Johnson	Proposed internal alterations to convert from shop to bakery.	Approved	8 Bell Lane
11377	Anthony Barcelo	Proposed conversion of existing bar premises into take-away and fritters unit.	Pending	Maidstone House Laguna Estate
11378	E. L. Davies	Proposed construction of detached villa .	Refused	7c Engineer Road
11379	John Durrante	Proposed extension to balcony and associated works.	Approved	5 Woodford Cottage Europa Road
11380	Anglo Hispano Co Ltd	Proposed replacement of roof tiles	Approved	Piccadilly Gardens Rosia Road
11381	Hassans	Proposed Demolition	Pending	6/8 Library Street
11382	Mr M McElwee	Proposed modification of fixed glass into open type for ventilation.	Approved	4 Lord Napier Mews Rodger's Road
11383	Linrus Ltd	Proposed demolition of upper roof and alterations.	Approved	3-5 Cornwalls Lane
11384	M J Hassan & Co	Proposed remedial measures to masonry and replacement of pedestrian access ramp.	Government Project	Queensway Montagu Crescent
11385	Mr J Licudi	Proposed internal alterations to office.	Approved	Block 6 Watergardens
11386	Ocean Village Commercial	Proposed internal fit out of unit including lighting, bathrooms, airconditioning.	Approved	Leisure Island Business Centre Ocean Village
11387	Mr Albert J Brugada	Proposed change of use from residential to offices.	Pending	6/2 Parliament Lane
11388	Government of Gibraltar	Proposed part demolition.	Government Project	Public Market Fish Market Road
11389	Debon Air Ltd	Proposed rental units.	Approved	West Place Of Arms
11390	Fairthomes Gibraltar Limited	Proposed demolition of entrance arch.	Pending	Ocean Village

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Contd....

App No	ApplicantName	Description	Decision	SiteAddress
11391	GC Architects	Proposed façade refurbishment of residential property including replacement of windows.	Approved	20 Naval Hospital Road Admiral's Place
11392	Kit (Gibraltar) Ltd	Proposed change of use from restaurant to offices.	Approved	Cornwalls Lane
11393	Juan Xavier Chincotta	Proposed internal alterations and replacement of external windows.	Pending	13 Mount Road
11394	Garwil Catering Services	Proposed conversion of vacant unit into a catering facility.	Pending	Europa Business Centre
11395	Mr and Mrs Perez	Demolition of existing garage. New extension to the East and West of the property. New vehicle entrance to the site from the South (transport road)	Pending	St Slevant's Centre Pavillion Road
11396	Richard Abrines	Proposed alterations.	Pending	6/2 Gavino's Passage
11397	Mr O Torres	Proposed internal alterations to flat.	Pending	23 Amayyllis House North Mole Road Waterport Terraces
11398	Taylor Woodrow (Gibraltar) Ltd.	Proposed demolition.	Pending	Redroofs Devils Tower Road
11399	Joseph Rocca	Proposed installation of air conditioning unit above the shop entrance and new sign.	Pending	4 City Mill Lane
11400	Allied Traders Ltd.	Proposed alterations.	Pending	New Harbours
11401	Marek Ratajczak	Proposed installation of glass curtains on balcony	Approved	Eurolaza
11402	Shoe Ltd	Proposed façade refurbishment, new signage and internal refurbishment.	Approved	226 Main Street
11403	Andrews Kent and Stone	Amalgamation of two apartments into one and construction of internal staircase.	Approved	The Sails Queensway Quay
11404	Mr & Mrs S Quim	Proposed replacement of windows.	Pending	75 Prince Edward's Road
11405	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed replacement of central pier with glazed opening.	Approved	The Sails Queensway Quay
11406	Ten Pin Bowling Ltd.	Proposed installation of satellite dish.	Pending	King's Bastion Leisure Centre Queensway
11407	Environment & Waste Mgt.	Proposed change of use.	Pending	66 Ex MOD NFTX Shelter Devils Tower Road
11408	GC Architects	Proposed conversion of one office units into two	Approved	Hadfield House Library Street

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Contd....

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11409	GC Architects	Proposed replacement of windows and balcony doors.	Approved	8/4 Buena Vista Road
11410	Mr Charles Gomez	Proposed extension to building and construction of pool in garden area.	Pending	9 Withams Road
11411	Black Back Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	6 Police Barrack's Lane
11412	Black Back Ltd	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	4 Police Barrack's Lane
11413	Ocean Village Commercial	Proposed erection of signs.	Pending	Waterport Road Ocean Village
11414	Mr F Becerra	Proposed removal of partition wall between bathroom & WC.	Pending	26A Elliot's Battery
11415	Isia Farrington	Proposed cafeteria.	Pending	9/11 Corral Road
11416	Queensway Quay Marina	Proposed construction of two rock spurs and a rock slope to reduce wave swells within the marina.	Pending	Queensway Quay Marina
11417	Nicholas Cruz Esq	Proposed extension to property by adding extra floor & internal alterations.	Pending	19-21 Scud Hill
11418	Gibraltar Port Authority	Concrete slab to be situated west side Windmill Hill site to act as a base for a radar container housing.	Approved	Windmill Hill
11419	Mr Wilfred Lavagna	Proposed loft extension to the existing property	Pending	5 Prince Edward's Road
11420	Mr Darren Cassano Esq	Proposed construction of new two-storey house and swimming-pool	Pending	6A & B North Pavilion Road
11421	Albert Isola	Internal modifications to provide interview, boardroom, seminar/Approved room and kitchen facilities.	Approved	Portland House Glacis Road
11422	Mr and Mrs Hinchcliff	Widening of existing structural opening.	Pending	15/2 Gardiner's Road
11423	Paskcallingham Consultants	Proposed replacement of selected windows and doors.	Pending	Cable Car Top Station
11424	Paskcallingham Consultants	Proposed replacement of windows and general façade refurbishment.	Pending	Cable Car Base Station Grand Parade
11425	AKS Architects & Engineers Ltd	Proposed alterations to church.	Government Project	St Theresa's Church Devils Tower Road
11426	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed demolition of front entrance porch & removal of existing iron gate to cemetery via car park.	Pending	St Theresa's Church Devils Tower Road

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Contd....

App No	ApplicantName	Description	Decision	SiteAddress
11427	C & J Holdings Ltd	Proposed change of use from shop to restaurant.	Pending	Eurotowers
11428	Seniter Ltd	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	The Anchorage
11429	The Manager	Proposed alterations to gymnasium.	Pending	Mediterranean Rowing Club Europort Road
11430	Parade Developments (001)	Proposed conversion into hotel: 5,7 & 9 Town Range - 29,31 & 33 Governor's Parade.	Pending	5,7 & 9 Town Range
11431	L Sacarello	Proposed cladding of façade.		96 Main Street
11432	Miss Sushila Gangaramani	Proposed removal of wall between units.	Pending	Casemates Arcade
11433	Government of Gibraltar	2 temporary billboard structures.	Pending	British Lines Road
11434	Ms K Lucas	Proposed minor alterations to flat.	Pending	718 Cumberland Terraces Cumberland Road
11435	Anglo Hispano Ltd.	Proposed new window installation.	Pending	Unit 15 New Harbours
11436	Mr K Cunningham	Proposed minor alterations to flat.	Pending	24 Anmarylls House Waterport Terraces
11437	Cathedral of St Mary Crowned	Replacement of roof terrace slab.	Pending	Cathedral of St Mary Crowned
11438	Grant Thornton	Proposed fitting of infra-red Laser link unit at top of Richmond Close on the exterior wall of lift machinery room.	Pending	Richmond Close Montagu Crescent
11439	Nature Port Reception Facilities	Proposed top office/laboratory extension over existing building.	Pending	Western Arm North Mole Road
11440	Mr C Galea	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Cumberland Terraces Cumberland Road
11441	Cosmopolitan Kids	Proposed fitting out of retail unit 13.0.2	Pending	Waterport Terraces
11442	Icom House Limited	Proposed Alteration & Refurbishment	Pending	1/5 Icom House Irish Town
11443	Gibraltar Residential Properties	Proposed office unit.	Pending	Honeysuckle House Waterport Terraces
11444	Linda & Duncan Paul Sykes	Proposed replacement of windows.	Pending	6 Britania House Marina Bay
11445	Michael Felice	Proposed installation of glass curtains to balcony.	Pending	204 Europlaza Harbour Views Road
11446	Liberty Electronics Ltd	Proposed external roller blinds.	Pending	63/65 Main Street

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App No 11448 **Applicant Name** Mr M El Ouahabi **Description** Proposed replacement of existing ceiling with new roof **Decision** Pending **Site Address** Public Market

NO. 883 OF 2010

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 last Question Time in this Parliament, there have been five meetings of the Development and Planning Commission, on the following dates:

- 25th February 2010
- 25th March 2010
- 23rd April 2010
- 6th May 2010
- 27th May 2010

NO. 884 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS BEFORE PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED BY DPC

On how many occasions since the financial year 2005/2006 have the Government been paid premiums in respect of property before planning permission has been granted by the DPC, with a breakdown giving the name of the property, the date of payment and the amount paid in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

There have been 19 occasions where premiums have been paid in respect of property before planning permission has been granted by DPC.

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 884

DATE PAID	TENANT	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	AMOUNT PAID GOG	DPC
04.10.06	KOALA HOLDINGS LTD	10% OF PREMIUM IRO SALE OF MOUNT BARBARY, MOUNT ROAD	190,507.00	02/04/2008
19.03.07	KOALA HOLDINGS LTD	90% BALANCE IRO SALE OF MOUNT BARBARY	1,714,563.00	
05.02.07	D & J FEETHAM	10% DEPOSIT IRO SALE OF 2 OLD QUEEN'S ROAD, INCES FARM	52,600.00	12/01/2007
09.07.07	D & J FEETHAM	90% BALANCE IRO SALE OF INCES FARM, 2 OLD QUEEN'S ROAD	473,400.00	
21.01.10	D A CASSANO	10% DEPOSIT IRO TENDER FOR HUMPHREY'S HUT, 6A NORTH PAVILION ROAD	21,000.00	No decision yet taken
23.04.10	D & K CASSANO	90% BALANCE IRO TENDER FOR HUMPHREY'S HUT, 6 NORTH PAVILION ROAD	189,000.00	
DATE PAID	TENANT	COMMERCIAL ADDRESS	AMOUNT PAID GOG	DPC
03.07.06	COMMERCIAL DEV INC LTD	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL LAND AT "THE ANCHORAGE" DEV (EX RSFCA)	505,000.00	28/10/2006
27.07.06	LIVING HERITAGE LTD	SALE OF EX ST PETER'S SCHOOL, CATALAN BAY	750,000.00	05/07/2007
29.08.06	COOL BLUES LTD	2nd(FINAL) INSTALMENT (50%) IRO UNIT 12 CASEMATES SQUARE	30,000.00	29/09/2006
14.09.06	TAYLOR WOODROW (GB) LTD	PREMIUM IRO SALE OF 30 DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD	600,000.00	24/09/2007
16.11.06	CEPSA (GIBALTAR) LTD	SALE OF 1C WATERPORT WHARF	200,000.00	24/09/2007
05.12.06	QUEENSWAY QUAY MARINA LTD	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AT QUEENSWAY QUAY (THE SAILS)	1,026,000.00	30/03/2010
21.03.07	ANGLO HISPANO CO LTD	PREMIUM IRO NEW 99 YEAR LEASE FOR PICCADILLY BAR ROSIA ROAD	170,000.00	No decision taken
27.03.07	OCEAN VILLAGE INVESTMENTS	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL LEASED AREA AT MARINA BAY (BOAT HOUSES & BERTHING)	1,400,000.00	05/02/2008
27.03.07	OCEAN VILLAGE INVESTMENTS	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL DEV RIGHTS AT 8 BAYSIDE ROAD (MULTI STOREY CAR PARK)	500,000.00	15/06/2007
17.05.07	GARDENS OF BEAUTY	PREMIUM IRO 150 YEAR LEASE FOR 7 EUROPA ROAD (CASINO)	1,600,000.00	No decision taken
17.05.07	SHARROCK SHAND	10% DEPOSIT IRO TENDER FOR 91 QUEENSWAY	10,600.00	
06.08.07	SHARROCK SHAND (HOW LTD)	90% BALANCE IRO SALE OF 91 QUEENSWAY	95,400.00	
01.06.07	STONEFLINT LTD	PREMIUM IRO SALE OF 15 CATALAN BAY ROAD (LA MAMELA)	178,000.00	24/07/2009
10.06.09	CAMELOT HOLDINGS	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT 7 CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD		08/07/2009
11.08.09	PAITON LTD	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT 8 CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD		11/02/2010
21.08.09	EVENSONG LTD	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT 5 CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD		11/02/2010
19.10.09	GARWILL CATERING SERVICES	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT F15 EBC		10,000.00 10,000.00 8,000.00 10,000.00 To be issued this week

ORAL

NO. 885 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY DPC – CONVERSION INTO HOTEL OF 5, 7,
9 TOWN RANGE AND 29, 31, 33 TOWN RANGE**

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the Development and Planning Commission in relation to the application by Parade Developments (001) Ltd and Parade Developments (002) Ltd to convert two buildings into one hotel at 5, 7 and 9 Town Range and 29, 31 and 33 Governor's Parade?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There have been four written representations from the public to date.

The expiry date to submit written representations is the 17th June 2010 which was yesterday so they may have been others after the question was drafted.

NO. 886 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY DPC – STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE
AT UNIT 2, 67 DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD**

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the Development and Planning Commission in relation to the application from Environment and Waste Management Services Ltd for the storage of hazardous waste at Unit 2, 67 Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No representations have been received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 886 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member in a position to explain what the nature of the hazardous waste that is going to be stored actually is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Environment and Waste Management Services Limited undertakes a number of activities in terms of environmental storage of hazardous waste and they intend to relocate some of their current facilities to this area in Devil's Tower Road and there is nothing more that I can add to that.

ORAL

NO. 887 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD VAULTS

Is it the policy of the Government that the five vacant commercial units at Chatham Counter guard will be put out to tender and if so when?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There are currently six unallocated units at Chatham Counter guard. The Government have not yet made a policy decision in respect of these units.

NO. 888 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT/WATERGATE HOUSE COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government say how many commercial units are empty either in the Casemates development or in Watergate House with a breakdown showing the date since each unit has been empty, the reason why each unit is vacant, and the number of the unit in question?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

On the ground floor of Casemates Barracks there are three vacant premises within the arcade.

Units 6E & 6F were surrendered by the previous tenant on 30th June 2009.

Unit 7F was surrendered by the previous tenant on 27 December 2009.

On the first floor of Casemates Barracks there is one unit vacant, 23A, which was repossessed from the previous tenant on 23rd March 2009.

At Watergate House, Unit 2/11 on the top floor is vacant. This was surrendered by the previous occupier on 8th May 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 888 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will these units be put out to tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the hon Member have an idea when that is likely to happen given that I understand there are people who are interested in applying.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I cannot give him confirmation of when this will happen.

NO. 889 OF 2010

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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 890 and 891 of 2010.

NO. 890 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – GOOD 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 Nos. 889 and 891 of 2010.

NO. 891 OF 2010

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 information requested by the hon Member is set out in this schedule which I now hand over to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTIONS 891 of 2010

ANSWER TO QUESTION 889/2010

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since November 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ thousands)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ millions)</i>
November 2009	28	57.9	429	9.0
December 2009	13	37.8	248	4.5
January 2010	14	55.9	502	9.7
February 2010	17	29.2	396	8.3
March 2010	29	54.8	477	10.0

ANSWER TO QUESTION 890/2010

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since November 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Good Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ thousands)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ thousands)</i>
November 2009	1	0.2	6	55.4
December 2009	-	-	5	45.2
January 2010	-	-	3	33.5
February 2010	-	-	8	63.2
March 2010	-	-	5	18.5

ANSWER TO QUESTION 891/2010

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since November 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Value of Computers (£ thousands)</u>
November 2009	736
December 2009	1,072
January 2010	2,281
February 2010	1,193
March 2010	1,127

NO. 892 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINES – PASSENGER TAX DISCOUNT

Can Government say how the discount in passenger tax to cruise lines depending on the calls that they make is actually applied in practice in terms of when the payment of the tax due is actually calculated and paid?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The reduction in respect of every fare paying passenger travelling on a vessel that calls at Gibraltar between 2 and 4 times in a calendar year is 10 per cent; from 5 to 10 times it is 35 per cent; 11 to 19 times is 50 per cent; and over 20 times is 75 per cent. The reduction in respect of every fare paying passenger travelling on a vessel that commences and terminates its journey in Gibraltar will be 100 per cent. The payment of passenger tax is calculated by adding the total number of passengers arriving and the total number of passengers departing multiplied by £2 (in respect of every fare paying passenger on arrival £1 and departure £1 in Gibraltar by cruise ship) then the corresponding discount is applied depending on the number of times the vessel under the same company has arrived in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 892 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When does the vessel actually make the payment? Is it before the ship departs? At the end of the year? How is it physically paid?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The payment of this is done through the local agent. Every vessel calling at Gibraltar has a local agent and they act on behalf of the ship. What happens is that at the beginning of the year, for example before a first call of say P&O, we know how many calls are expected in Gibraltar throughout the year and what discount rate applies and that is applied on every call. If at the end of the year there has been a discrepancy in that figure as a result of the fact of a cancellation or a change of schedule or whatever, that is adjusted and is settled by the agent at that time.

NO. 893 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINES – PASSENGER TAX DISCOUNT

Can Government list the different cruise lines whose vessels call at Gibraltar and who would qualify for the passenger tax discount because these are operated by the same company or marketed under the same company brand, showing the names of their respective vessels?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Information requested is supplied in the schedule, which I now hand over to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 893 OF 2010

Company	Name of Vessel
Airtours	Sundream
Annek Lines	El Venizelos
Azamara Cruises	Azamara Journey
CDF Croisieres de France	Bleu de France
Celebrity Cruise Lines	Celebrity Centur
	Celebrity Galaxy
	Celebrity Equinox
Classic International Cruises	Arion
	Funchal
	Princess Danae
	Athena
Classical	Panorama
Club Cruise	Van Gogh
Club Med	Club Med 2
Compagnie des Iles du Ponant	Le Diamant
Costa	Costa Alegra
	Costa Marina
	Costa Romantica
	Costa Europa
	Costa Tropicale
	Costa Victoria
	Costa Fortuna
	Costa Mediterran
	Costa Atlantica
	Costa Concordia
	Costa Classica
	Costa Serena
	Costa Luminosa
	Costa Magica
Crystal Cruises	Crystal Symphony
	Crystal Serenity
Cunard Line	Queen Elizabeth II
	Queen Mary II
	Queen Victoria
D & P Cruises	Paloma
	Paloma I
Delphin Seereisen	Delphin Renaissan
Disney Cruise Line	Disney Magic
Festival Cruises	Bolero
	Flamenco
First Choice	Ausonia

Fred Olsen	Black Prints
	Black Watch
	Braemar
	Boudicca
	Balmoral
Hal	Maasdam
	Noordam
	Rotterdam
	Amsterdam
	Oosterdam
	Prinsendam
	Westerdam
	Veendam
Hansa Kreuzfahrten GMBH	Delphin
Hapag Lloyd	Bremen
	C. Columbus
	Europa
	Hanseatic
Hebridean International Cruises Ltd	Hebridean Spirit
Holiday Kareuzfahrten (Cruises) GMBH	Mona Lisa
Island Cruises	Island Escape
	Island Star
Kristina Cruises	Kristina Regina
KYMA Ship Management	The Topaz
Leisure Cruises	Switzerland
Linblad Expeditions	National Geograp
Linblard Special Expedition	Endeavour
Louis Cruise Lines	Coral
	Louis Majesty
Louis Cruises	Carousel
	Sunbird
Marline	Vistamar
MSC	MSC Lirica
	MSC Armonica
	MSC Melody
MSC Crociere	MSC Orchestra
MSC Cruises	MSC Fantasia
Noble Caledonia	Caledonian Star
Norwegian Cruise Line	Norway
	Norwegian Dream
	Norwegian Jewel
	Norwegian Gem
	Norwegian Jade
Ocean Village	Ocean Village
	Ocean Village 2
Oceanian Cruises	Regatta
	Insignia
Orient	Marco Polo
P & O	Arcadia

	Aurora
	Oriana
	Victoria
	Oceania
	Artemis
	Ventura
	Azura
Page & Moy	Ocean Majesty
Peter Deilman	Lili Marlen
Peter Deilmann	Berlin
Peter Deilmann Reederei	Deutschland
Phoenix Seereisen GMBH	Albatross
	Alexander Von Hu
	Amadea
	Maxi Gorkiy
Plein Cap Croisieres	Adriana
Princess Cruises	Crown Princess
	Dawn Princess
	Pacific Princess
	Ruby Princess
	Royal Princess
	Golden Princess
	Star Princess
	Sea Princess
	Grand Princess
	Emerald Princess
	Tahitian Princess
Pullmantur Cruises	Atlantic Star
Pullmantur SA	Empress
	Pacific Dream
Pulmantur SA	Zenith
Quark Expeditions	Clipper Adventur
Radisson Seven Seas Cruises	Radisson Diamond
Regent Seven Sea Cruises	Seven Seas Naviga
	Seven Seas Voyag
Renaissance	R Five
	R Seven
	R Six
	R Two
	R One
Residensen	The World
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd	Legend of the Seas
	Brilliance of the Seas
	Navigator of the Seas
	Voyager of the Seas
	Independence of the Seas
Royal Caribbean	Grandeur of the Seas
Royal Carribbean Cruises Ltd	Splendour of the Seas
Royal Olympic	Iason
	Triton

	World Renaissance
	Olympic Voyager
	Odysseus
SAGA	Caronia
SAGA Shipping Company	SAGA Rose
	SAGA Pearl
	SAGA Ruby
	Spirit of Adventure
	SAGA Pearl II
Sea Cloud Cruises	Sea Cloud
	Sea Cloud II
Seabourn Cruise Lines	Seabourn Goddess
	Seabourn Legend
	Seabourn Pride
Seadream Yacht Club	Sea Dream I
	Sea Dream II
Silversea Cruises Ltd	Silver Cloud
	Silver Whisper
	Silver Shadow
	Silver Spirit
Spesial Isten Cruises	Nordnorge
Star Clippers Monaco	Royal Clipper
Sunbay Cruises	Sunbay
Swan Hellenic Ltd	Minerva
Thomson Cruises	The Emerald
	Thomson Spirit
	Thomson Celebrity
	Thomson Destiny
	The Calypso
TMR	Nautica
Transocean Tours	Astor
	Astoria
	Arielle
Travel Dynamics International	Corinthian II
	To Callisto
V Ships Monaco	Song of Flower
Voyages of Discovery	Discovery
Windstar Cruises	Wind Song
	Wind Spirit
	Wind Star
	Wind Surf

NO. 894 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINES – PASSENGER TAX DISCOUNT

Can Government say how many cruise lines benefited from the discount in passenger tax in 2009 and 2010 to date in respect of the number of calls that they make showing the name of the cruise line and which category of discount they fall into?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested is supplied in this schedule, which I now hand over to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 894/2010

<u>Passenger Tax Discount Scheme:</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010 (so far)</u>
a) 2-4 cruise calls 10% discount	11	7
b) 5-10 cruise calls 35% discount	9	1
c) 11-19 cruise calls 50% discount	3	1
d) 20 or more calls 75% discount	3	0
e) Turnaround calls 100% discount	0	0
Total:	35	26

2009

Azamara Cruises	3 calls	Category "b"
CDF Croisieres	13 calls	Category "c"
Celebrity Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Classic International	6 calls	Category "b"
Ponant Cruises	1 call	No discount
Costa Cruises	9 calls	Category "b"
Cunard Line	9 calls	Category "b"
Fred Olsen Cruise Line	8 calls	Category "b"
Holland America Line	2 calls	Category "a"
Hapag Lloyd	2 calls	Category "a"
Island Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Kristina Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Lindblad Expeditions	1 call	No discount
Louis Cruise Lines	28 calls	Category "d"
MSC	9 calls	Category "b"
Norwegian Cruise Line	5 calls	Category "b"
Ocean Village	1 call	No discount
Oceania Cruises	1 call	No discount
P & O	37 calls	Category "d"
Phoenix Seereisen	3 calls	Category "a"
Princess Cruises	15 calls	Category "c"
Pullmantur Cruises	33 calls	Category "d"
Quark Expeditions	1 call	No discount
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	1 call	No discount
Royal Caribbean International	11 calls	Category "c"
Saga Shipping	6 calls	Category "b"
Sea Cloud Cruises	3 calls	Category "a"
Seabourn Cruise Line	1 call	No discount
Seadream Yacht Club	3 calls	Category "a"
Silversea Cruises	1 call	No discount
Swan Hellenic	1 call	No discount
Thomson Cruises	8 calls	category "b"
Travel Dynamics	2 calls	Category "a"
Voyages of Discovery	2 calls	Category "a"
Windstar Cruises	4 calls	Category "a"

2010 (so far)

Azamara Cruises	1 call	No discount
Classic International	2 calls	Category "a"
Ponant Cruises	1 call	No discount
Cruise & Maritime Voyages	1 call	No discount
Cunard Line	1 call	No discount
Crystal Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Disney Cruise Line	1 call	No discount
Fred Olsen Cruise Line	2 calls	Category "a"
Island Cruises	1 call	No discount
Kristina Cruises	1 call	No discount
Lindblad Expeditions	1 call	No discount
Louis Cruise Lines	1 call	No discount
MSC	1 call	No discount
Oceania Cruises	1 call	No discount
P & O	12 calls	Category "c"
Phoenix Seereisen	1 call	No discount
Princess Cruises	4 calls	Category "a"
Pullmantur Cruises	3 calls	Category "a"
Royal Caribbean International	1 call	No discount
Saga Shipping	3 calls	Category "a"
Seabourn Cruise Line	1 call	No discount
Silversea Cruises	1 call	No discount
Star Clippers	1 call	No discount
Thomson Cruises	8 calls	category "b"
Travel Dynamics	2 calls	Category "a"
Voyages of Discovery	1 calls	No discount

ORAL

NO. 895 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE VISITORS – PASSENGER TAX

Can Government confirm the level of passenger tax per cruise passenger arriving at Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Passenger tax is £1 per person. This tax has not changed since the last legislation, that is the Licensing Fees (Amendment) Act No. 34 of 1998.

ORAL

NO. 896 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE VISITORS – EXCURSIONS TO LA LINEA

Can Government say whether, and if so when, they have held discussions with the La Linea City Council with a view to offer shore excursions in La Linea to cruise visitors to Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government has had no discussions with the La Linea City Council on this issue.

NO. 897 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GTB – REVENUE RAISED BY CHARGING COACHES THAT USE COACH PARK**

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 by charging coaches that use the coach park?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The revenue collected on a monthly basis is as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>
	<u>£</u>
February 2010	3,292.30
March 2010	9,985.47
April 2010	8,437.62
May 2010	7,528.02
1 st – 9 th June 2010	<u>2,031.38</u>
Total	<u>33,139.87</u>

NO. 898 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – VACANCY FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Electronic Communications Officer with the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority that was advertised in March, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, has anyone been selected for the post and if so is the successful applicant Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 899 of 2010.

NO. 899 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – VACANCY FOR TEMPORARY RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AND IT ADMINISTRATOR

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Temporary Radiocommunications and IT Administrator with the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority that was advertised in March, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, has anyone been selected for the post and if so is the successful applicant Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

By the closing date, the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority had received 24 applications for the post of Electronic Communications Officer and 11 applications for the post of Temporary Radiocommunications and IT Administrator. The GRA cannot provide accurate figures on how many of the applicants were Gibraltarian as this information is not requested from the applicant. However, based on the name of the applicant and their place of education, the GRA estimates that most of the applicants could be Gibraltarians. The successful applicant for the post of Electronic Communications Officer was Gibraltarian, and for the post of Temporary Radiocommunications and IT Administrator, British.

NO. 900 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – VACANCY FOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Administration Officer with the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority which was advertised in May 2010, and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

By the closing date, the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority had received 138 applications for the post of Administration Officer. A person has been selected for the post.

NO. 901 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VACANT POSTS

How many persons applied for the following vacancies in the Gibraltar Port Authority, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, has anyone now been selected for the posts and in each case is the successful applicant a Gibraltarian;

- (a) Administrative Supervisor;
- (b) Senior Port Officer (Quality Manager);
- (c) Administration and Finance Officer;
- (d) Port Officer?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

- (a) Administrative Supervisor - Applicants 14; Gibraltar applicants 13; selected 1 Gibraltarian;
- (b) Senior Port Officer (Quality Manager) – Applicants 2; Gibraltar applicants 2; selected 1 Gibraltarian;
- (c) Administration and Finance Officer – Applicants 27; Gibraltar applicants 26; selected 1 Gibraltarian;
- (d) Port Officer – Applicants 8; Gibraltar applicants 8; selected 3 Gibraltarian.

NO. 902 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VACANCY FOR MARINE SURVEYOR

Can Government say how many persons applied for the vacancy of Marine Surveyor which was advertised in April, how many positions were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, whether anyone has been selected for the post and if so is the successful applicant a Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A total of 120 applications have been received for the vacancy of Marine Surveyor that was advertised in April 2010. Out of the 120 applications received, only 20 met the requirements stated in the advert and were accepted. There is only one vacant post and two of the applicants are Gibraltarian. The recruitment process is still ongoing and therefore no appointment has been made.

NO. 903 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – LIST OF PERSONS WAITING FOR BOAT BERTH

Can Government confirm whether the Port Authority holds a list of the number of persons waiting for a berth for their boat and if so say how many people are currently on that list?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is a survey report (list) with a total of 186 boat owners who are waiting for a berth.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 903 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the hon Member say 186?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

A total of 186.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say whether there is an additional list of people who would like to ... I assume that list is the list of people who have boats already in Gibraltar and the boats are on land or somewhere else or does it include people who want to import a boat as well?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. It includes people who want to import a boat and do not have a berth.

NO. 904 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SHIP CALLS**

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament on a monthly basis for:

- (a) bunkering;
- (b) cargo;
- (c) repairs,

and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of ships that have called at Gibraltar since the last Question Time in Parliament is as follows:

	January	February	March	April
Bunkers	472	414	511	517
Cargo	16	26	11	8
Repairs	9	6	14	15

Bunker fuel sold since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

January 2010	295,540 tonnes
February 2010	279,971 tonnes
March 2010	329,898 tonnes
April 2010	369,299 tonnes

NO. 905 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No bunkering licence applications have been received since the last Question Time in this House.

NO. 906 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LICENCES

Can Government say how many licences are currently in existence in each of the following categories:

- (a) Bunkering Licence;
- (b) STS Operator's Licence;
- (c) Stevedoring Licence;
- (d) Ship Repair Licence;
- (e) Ship Agency Licence;
- (f) Ship Chandlery Licence;
- (g) Mooring and Rigging Licence;
- (h) Tug Operator's Licence;
- (i) Tug and Barge Operator's Licence;
- (j) Waste Management Licence;
- (k) Diving Operator's Licence;
- (l) Recovery of Debris from Sea;
- (m) Skip Hire and Waste Removal Operator's Licence;
- (n) Oil Pollution and Response Operator's Licence;
- (o) Any other Operator Licence;
- (p) Ancillary Service Provider;
- (q) Dolphin Boat Operator's Licence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information sought is being handed over to the hon Gentleman in written format even though I intended to read the thing originally, I think it is a bit long so I am passing the information to him.

Answer to Question No. 906 of 2010

(a)	Bunkering licence	7
(b)	STS Operator's Licence	2
(c)	Stevedoring Licence	1
(d)	Ship Repair Licence	3
(e)	Ship Agency Licence	22
(f)	Ship Chandlery Licence	8
(g)	Mooring and Rigging Licence	3
(h)	Tug Operator's Licence	1
(i)	Tug and Barge Operator's Licence	2
(j)	Waste Management Licence	1
(k)	Diving Operator's Licence	3
(l)	Recovery of Debris from Sea	1
(m)	Skip Hire and Waste Removal Operator's Licence	3
(n)	Oil Pollution and Response Operator's Licence	2
(o)	Any Other Port Operator Licence	11
(p)	Ancillary Service Provider	1
(q)	Dolphin Boat Operator's Licence	2

NO. 907 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSFER OF BUNKER FUEL SUPPLIER TO MOROCCO

Have Government been notified by any supplier of bunker fuel from Gibraltar that they intend to move part or all of their operation to Morocco?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government is aware that Aegean have established an operation in Morocco. However, Aegean do not intend to move part or all of their local operations to Morocco.

NO. 908 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

APPLICATION FOR GIBRALTAR'S INCLUSION IN THE LONG RANGE AND TRACKING SYSTEM FOR SHIPS CONTROLLED BY EMSA

Can Government say on what date the application was made for Gibraltar's inclusion in the Long Range and Tracking system for ships controlled by EMSA, has the application been approved and when is it expected to be operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government has been involved in the discussions and implementation of the LRIT since 2007. The data base operated by EMSA, which will collect the data from Gibraltar registered ships, went live on 3rd June 2009. The agreement between EMSA and Gibraltar was signed on 13th April 2010. The ship and geographical data has been entered into the system and this is under test. It is expected to become operational in the next few months.

NO. 909 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MANAGER

Can Government say whether the post of Vessel Traffic Service Manager with the Gibraltar Port Authority which was advertised in October 2009, offered to an applicant and was declined, has now been filled?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The post of Vessel Traffic Service Manager is still going through the process of being re-advertised.

NO. 910 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say whether the VTS system for the Port Department is now fully operational and if so from what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The VTS installation is nearing completion and almost fully operational. There is one aspect in the system that currently needs to be installed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 910 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member in a position to say what that is that has to be added on and when it is expected to be complete?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am unable to provide the hon Member with this information.

HON N F COSTA:

Does the hon Member mean that he does not have this information before him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member means that he is not physically, personally doing it and does not want to spend the next three months answering questions why there has been a fifteen minute delay.

HON N F COSTA:

Fair enough. But does the Minister have the information before him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question is when will it be ready? The answer is we do not know when it will be ready.

NO. 911 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO ON THE EAST SIDE

Is it the policy of the Government to allow bunkering operations and ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers to take place on the East Side once the VTS system is fully operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

It is the Government's intention, subject to the outcome of any Environmental Impact Assessment that may be required, to allow operations under strictly controlled conditions to take place at the Eastern anchorage site.

The criteria to be considered when allowing individual operations to proceed are detailed below. These are in addition to the general criteria that are already considered, as well as any others that may be required by any Environmental Impact Assessment.

Weather

Initially, operations will only be undertaken during daylight hours and if a suitable weather window is available. All operations will be subject to the Gibraltar Port Authority's adverse weather procedures, where operations are suspended if certain levels of wind and swell or other adverse conditions are experienced or expected soon.

The daylight requirement will be reviewed once operations are established and routine but will be no less stringent than that already applicable to West side operations.

The weather limitations will continue.

Pilotage

Pilotage will be compulsory as a minimum during trial operations and initially when routine operations commence. The necessity for compulsory pilotage in the future will be reviewed when operations are properly established, although the Gibraltar Port Authority's (GPA) current belief is that compulsory pilotage gives the greatest control and maximises the use of the area. The GPA has undertaken to direct the pilotage on the East side as and when required.

Counter-pollution equipment

Further trials are to be arranged and assessed before routine operations commence. During these trials each vessel involved will have their complete counter-pollution kit available for immediate deployment, while their oil containment booms will be fully deployed. Additionally, at least during the trial period, an oil pollution response vessel will be stationed close to the vessels involved during each operation.

On completion of the trials the counter-pollution equipment requirements for future operations will be reviewed.

NO. 912 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO IN THE BAY OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government confirm that it is their policy that the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo in the Bay of Gibraltar takes precedence over bunkering activities?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is no specific policy. Decisions are based on operational considerations although, in general, bunkering operations take precedence over STS operations involving foreign ships, in order not to delay vessels transiting the Strait of Gibraltar. STS operations involving delivery of oil/fuel cargo to local storage vessels are usually allowed as soon as both vessels are ready for the operation, subject to a safety inspection and weather conditions. Other operations are undertaken on a first come first served basis but again dependent on operational considerations such as weather conditions and the space available.

NO. 913 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL IN THE BAY AND TERRITORIAL WATERS OF GIBRALTAR IN BAD WEATHER

Can Government say whether the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel in the Bay and territorial waters of Gibraltar is allowed in bad weather?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Gibraltar Port Authority operates a quality control system under the ISO 9001: 2008 standard. As part of this management system, various approved procedures have been drawn up incorporating and formalising the operational procedures that existed previously. Procedure number 11, The Adverse Weather and Strong Wind Warning Procedure, details the steps to be taken by the Duty Port Operations staff in the event of deteriorating weather conditions. There are various levels at which different actions are taken, from warning all vessels of the possibility of severe weather to stopping all bunkering, STS and other operations as appropriate to the final step which is instructing vessels to heave up their anchors and move out from the Bay of Gibraltar and/or the Eastern anchorage.

NO. 914 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVENUE FROM SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government confirm that the revenue that it makes in respect of ship to ship transfers in the territorial waters of Gibraltar is based on an amount per tonne of fuel and what is the amount charged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Charges for external STS operations are formulated on bands which are dependent on the amount of the cargo involved. For example, £5,000 for cargoes of less than 50,000 mt, £9,000 for cargoes of between 50,001 and 100,000 mt, £13,000 for the band 100,001 to 150,000 mt and £17,000 for the band 150,001 to 200,001 mt. For local bunker operations the charge of £1,000 per STS for inbound STS transfers to the bunker storage vessels.

NO. 915 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN IN SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO IN BAY OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government say whether vessels carrying out the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo in the Bay of Gibraltar are required to take safety precautions in the event of a spill and if so what are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

For incoming fuel oil cargoes, a containment boom must be placed fore and aft. All vessels carry oil spill response equipment in order to meet international requirements such as MARPOL, the Marine Pollution Prevention Convention. All vessels are required to maintain a radio watch on VHF radio channel 12 and immediately notify the Gibraltar Port Authority in the event of any incident, no matter how small. Prior to cargo operations commencing, all STS vessels are inspected to ensure that the precautions for safety and spill prevention detailed in various international guidelines, such as those promulgated by ISGOTT, the International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals, are in place. There are also international guidelines that have been specifically drawn up for STS operations and vessels are required to comply with these also.

ORAL

NO. 916 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO (NOT BUNKERING) IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say how many ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers (not bunkering) have been carried out, on a monthly basis, in the territorial waters of Gibraltar in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

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

Schedule to Question No. 916 of 2010

	No. of Operations in territorial waters
Jan-08	9
Feb-08	5
Mar-08	13
Apr-08	18
May-08	20
Jun-08	14
Jul-08	18
Aug-08	15
Sep-08	10
Oct-08	13
Nov-08	10
Dec-08	17
Jan-09	11
Feb-09	10
Mar-09	15
Apr-09	7
May-09	9
Jun-09	10
Jul-09	9
Aug-09	9
Sep-09	10
Oct-09	14
Dec-09	9
Jan-10	11
Feb-10	17
Mar-10	9
Apr-10	3
May-10	10

ORAL

NO. 917 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVENUE FROM SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO (NOT BUNKERING) IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say how much revenue they have obtained on a monthly basis, from the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo (not bunkering) in the territorial waters of Gibraltar in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

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

Schedule to Question No. 917 of 2010

2009		2010	
MONTH	AMOUNT	MONTH	AMOUNT
October	£2,635.18	January	£91,000.00
November	£59,600.65	February	£35,000.00
December	£30,145.87	March	£46,000.00
		April	£44,000.00
		May	£64,000.00
		June	£7,000.00
TOTAL	£92,381.70	TOTAL	£287,000.00

NO. 918 OF 2010

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 since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

January	£49,814.43
February	£29,360.34
March	£26,267.59
April	£28,812.53
May	£5,876.20
June to date*	<u>£672.47</u>
Total	£140,803.56

*It says June to date but it must have been more or less the 9th June when we did the questions.

NO. 919 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INCIDENT INVOLVING TWO BUNKERING MOTHER SHIPS

Can Government confirm that there was an incident involving two bunkering mother ships on or around 5th April which resulted in damage to one of the vessels and advise the extent of the damage, how it was caused and whether this is being investigated and if so by whom?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government can confirm that on the 5th April 2010, the Gibraltar registered tanker “Europa Venture” came into contact with the Panama registered taker “Leader” while at anchor in the Western anchorage. “Europa Venture” suffered hull damage in way of 5 starboard ballast water and 5 starboard fuel storage tank. The “Leader” suffered structural damage to her bulbous bow. There were no injuries and no pollution.

The Gibraltar Maritime Administration is carrying out the investigation in accordance with the Gibraltar Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2006. When completed the report will be considered by the ship owners and the flag ships and then published in the normal manner.

NO. 920 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ACCIDENTS IN BAY OF GIBRALTAR REPORTED TO PORT AUTHORITY

How many accidents have been reported, to the Port of Gibraltar as occurring in the Bay of Gibraltar since 1st January 2010 and what was the nature, date and effect of any such accident and the name of the operator and of any vessels involved?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this schedule which I now pass over to him.

Schedule to Question No. 920 of 2010

Description of Accident

12/01/10 "Saga Rose"	At 1730 hrs the MPR "Saga Rose" on departing from No. 3 West expelled one of the fenders and made contact with the quay side, which was damaged.
20/01/10 "Moscow Kremlin"	At 1400 hrs the vessel "Moscow Kremlin" disembarked a crew member on an off limits position with broken fingers.
08/02/10 "Europa Venture"	Suffered an oil spill as a result of servicing her port ballast tank.
16/02/10 "Agia Theodora"	One crew member had to be disembarked suffering from food poisoning. Port Launch collected the patient.
07/03/10 "Maria O"	Arrived to disembark crew member suffering from ruptured appendicitis.
11/03/10 "Teisaro"	Suffered engine problems and drifted towards the rocks. Tug dispatched and towed her back to her berth.
12/03/10 "MV Anna"	M/V "Anna" – man overboard reported. Man was recovered safely.
05/04/10 "Europa Venture"	Collision between "Europa Venture" under way and "Leader" at anchor.
12/04/10 "Vanda"	Crew member suffered an accident onboard.
14/04/10 "Nordstern"	Whilst coming alongside Extension Jetty, vessel hit corner of Jetty and punctured ballast tank.
12/05/10 "YT Socrates"	Reported man overboard off Punta Carnero. Crew member was recovered safely with minor injury to his leg. Port launch deployed to assist. Port launch escorted the yacht to Gibraltar (Queensway Quay Marina).

NO. 921 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND ADJACENT TO CABLE CAR TOP STATION SOLD TO MH BLAND & CO

What is the surface area of the land adjacent to the cable car Top Station sold for £50,860 (as provided in answer to Question No 463 of 2010) by Government to MH Bland & Co, how was the premium calculated, for what use has the Government leased or assigned the land and for what period of time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The total land area sold for £50,860 was 348.35 square metres, and the premium was based on market value, but also considering that royalties are receivable. This additional land was made available by way of a supplemental deed for a term co-terminus with the existing lease which still has 106 years remaining.

The additional land that was made available was for the construction of the following:

- (i) A lift for the disabled passengers;
- (ii) A shed to house and store refuse van;
- (iii) An electricity generator;
- (iv) A terrace for the Mons Calpe suite; and
- (v) An extension to the Apes Terrace,

All for the expansion of this complex to allow for improved service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 921 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The hon Member said something about royalties being receivable, if I heard him correctly. Can he say what that is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Could the hon Member repeat the question?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The hon Member said something about royalties receivable. Can he say what that is, what royalties?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. There is the lease that the cable car has. Government enjoys the royalty per passenger that goes up in the cable car and therefore that needs to be taken into account because obviously these improvements will hopefully enhance the usage which in turn will increase the return to the Government.

ORAL

NO. 922 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRAND OCEAN PLAZA – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Are Government now willing to state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Grand Ocean Plaza remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 923 and 924 of 2010.

NO. 923 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MAJESTIC PLAZA – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Are Government now willing to state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Majestic Plaza remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 922 and 924 of 2010.

NO. 924 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

THE ANCHORAGE – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Are Government now willing to state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in the Anchorage remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government are not privy to the information requested directly from the developer as all three developments mentioned in these three questions are private and commercial developments.

However, the Government have checked the records available from the Gibraltar Electricity Authority as we discussed at the last time in the House, which may serve as a guidance to the apartments occupied in the developments, and these are as follows:

- Anchorage 92 Domestic Consumers
- Majestic Ocean Plaza 57 Domestic Consumers
1 Commercial Consumer
- Grand Ocean Plaza 84 Domestic Consumers
1 Commercial Consumer

NO. 925 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT AUTHORITY – POST OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Can Government state the grade of the newly created post of Personal Assistant in the Port Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Given that the post is a direct employee of the Port Authority it does not have a grade.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 925 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, the person is not supposed to work for nothing so how is the salary scale determined?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, but the hon Member has asked for information on the grade. There is no such thing as a grade. There are terms and conditions but not actually assimilated to any grade or classified as a grade.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the structure of the employees of the Port Authority different from the structure of, say the GHA or the GDC or anything else that is independent of the civil service?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The Gibraltar Port Authority actually has its own Port Authority wage structure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, presumably, the posts in that structure have got different grades or salary scales or numbers of letters or something. So it is either... Otherwise how does one decide who is where?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is a salary structure but it is not based on a grade. I do not know whether I am explaining myself properly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not really. Presumably, if there is a salary structure then graded in that structure there would be Personal Assistants and typists and telephonists and ...

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think a valid question would be to ask what is the salary of the PA? In other words, the Personal Assistant to the ... whatever it is in the Port Authority, has a salary scale and it starts at x amount of pounds and finishes down the scale to xxxxx. But there is no such thing as a grade. That is a wage structure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member saying that on that particular salary there is no other post in the Port Authority? That is, it is a salary that only exists for a Personal Assistant.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that would be the salary of the grade of Personal Assistant?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is no such thing as a grade. There is a salary structure for the PA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say then what the salary structure for the PA is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. It starts at £22,082 and moves up the scale to £29,605.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say in how many steps? Presumably, these are annual increments in between those two figures.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are nine steps in getting to the top.

NO. 926 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT AUTHORITY – POST OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Can Government state whether the post of Personal Assistant in the Port Authority has been filled and if so whether the position is a post in the Civil Service or on employment terms as a direct employee of the Port Authority?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The post of Personal Assistant to the Captain of the Port is as a direct employee of the Port Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 926 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it now the policy that recruitment is direct into the Port Authority? Presumably, there are a number of employees there that are seconded from the Civil Service when the Port Authority started. When the Port Department became the Port Authority, the people who were working there were what seconded to the Port Authority as there have been in other areas or were they transferred and left the Civil Service?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, when the employees of the Port Department signed up with the Gibraltar Port Authority they became members or employees of the Gibraltar Port Authority and this post is part of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So, in fact, from the moment the Port Authority commenced all the people employed within it ceased to be civil servants and were now Port Authority employees, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, because the Port Authority came in 2003/2004 as a statutory body but the employees remained as civil servants, right, but they all signed up to move away, to give up the Civil Service and move into ... as employees of the Port Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This move took place when in the last financial year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think it may have happened last year. This time last year more or less.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In that case for example, if there are vacancies in the Port Authority what happens if people apply from within the Government Service? Are they treated the same as people applying from outside the Government?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

NO. 927 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – COST OF REVIEW

What was the cost of the external review of the Customs Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Assuming the hon Member is referring to the “Root and Branch” review carried out on the Gibraltar Government’s behalf by two officers from HM Revenue and Customs in the UK in 2006. The cost was £10,041.21.

ORAL

NO. 928 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what will the demolition of the Theatre Royal cost and when will it happen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 929 to 931 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 929 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can the Minister for Culture state when it decided to have a commemorative event in relation to the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 928, 930 and 931 of 2010.

NO. 930 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what sort of commemorative event it will stage and how much it envisages to spend on such event, in relation to the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 928, 929 and 931 of 2010.

NO. 931 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the commemorative event will take place before or after the demolition of the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The demolition of the remains of the Theatre Royal will cost £241,354.25, and will make way for a new urban square and green area.

The Government have no current plans, and therefore has made no decision to have a commemorative event in relation to the Theatre Royal.

Drama groups have suggested to the Government the possibility of some sort of commemorative event in relation to the history of the performing arts in Gibraltar generally. Any such event would of course include the Theatre Royal. The Government are favourably disposed to these suggestions as part of its policy of bringing performing arts to the fore of our community. The idea remains under discussion.

ORAL

NO. 932 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can the Minister of Culture state whether he has had a meeting with his staff members in relation to the conversion of the Ministry into an Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 933 of 2010.

NO. 933 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can the Minister state whether he has had any meetings with any Union official or member representing the staff in relation to the possibility of converting the Ministry of Culture into an Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government does not consider it appropriate to comment publicly about ongoing internal restructuring proposals affecting staff and requiring discussions with Unions. When the Government is in a position to make an announcement it will do so. The Government is committed to the establishment of a dedicated Heritage and Culture Agency, so that heritage and culture in Gibraltar can benefit from the same organisational changes and focus that is bringing so much benefit to sport and leisure in Gibraltar with the establishment of the Sport and Leisure Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 932 AND 933 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Then the Chief Minister is confirming that there is going to be an Agency or that Government want an Agency ultimately?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have made it clear that its policy objective and desire is precisely to do that. So I am entirely xxxx to the hon Member in this House for a statement of what the Government's policy and objectives are and we have said so in the past and I think in this House as well. The mechanics of how to get there and discussions with staff and Unions, in other words, the implementation phase of the Government's announced policy, is not something that the Government are willing to give a blow by blow account of thereby making the process unnecessarily more difficult.

NO. 934 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Can Government state how many employees who were at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre on the same terms as teachers have been transferred to other parts or places within the Department of Education giving a breakdown by school that they have been transferred and number in school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The employees referred to by the hon Member are Classroom Aides and this grade of employees do not enjoy the same terms and conditions as teachers contrary to the false premise of his question. Their conditions are set in their letter of appointment and in General Orders. Three full-time Classroom Aides were transferred to the Education Department on the 24th June 2010.

One each to:

1. St Martin's Special School;
2. St Joseph's Primary School;
3. One is shared between Notre Dame and Westside Comprehensive.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 934 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister confirm that these three are under the teaching regime where they have the same type of holiday entitlements?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are and remain Classroom Aides with the same terms and conditions of employment in terms of their entitlement and rights as Classroom Aides everywhere else. Their deployment to the Department of Education does not alter that fact. However, the Department of Education may deploy them during the days and at the times that they wish and if the Department of Education has no need for Classroom Aides on a certain day, they can make management arrangements as they like. But that is very different to this being the terms and conditions of them as individuals. They have no such rights to be distinguished from what concessions may be made to

them in the context of the working hours and working needs of the departments where they may be deployed.

ORAL

NO. 935 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state when it will have the new sewage treatment plant up and running and is it still envisaged to be located at Europa Point?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 936 to 938 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 936 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state the estimated cost of the new sewage treatment plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 935, 937 and 938 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 937 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW INCINERATOR

Can Government state when the new incinerator will be ready for it to deal with all of Gibraltar's refuse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 935, 936 and 938 of 2010.

NO. 938 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW INCINERATOR

Can Government state what will be the cost of the new incinerator?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No date can yet be given for the commencement or therefore for the completion of the either of these projects.

The estimated costs of the projects cannot be made public as they will be subject to a future competitive tender.

The Brewery Crusher site which is located at Europa Point is still the Government's preferred site for the construction of the new sewage treatment works subject to the necessary consents being granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 935 TO 938 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman confirm therefore that it is unlikely that the plant will be operational before the end of 2011?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give him any such indication on the basis of anything that I have been told by anybody and I have no sufficient technical knowledge myself to give him a personal guess about whether I think it is likely. Subject to both those caveats, I think that date is probably ambitious. I do not know how long it takes to build one of these plants but from what I see of other sorts of projects, 18 months which is what is left, did he say December 2011, did he?

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It seems unlikely to me personally but I am not an authoritative source to express that view.

ORAL

NO. 939 OF 2010

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. 940 to 942 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 940 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND 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. 939, 941 and 942 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 941 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – RESERVE LIST 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, Nelson's View, Cumberland Terraces and Bayview Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 939, 940 and 942 of 2010.

NO. 942 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF 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 per cent 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

Construction at Albert Risso House is expected to be completed in July or August this year. It is expected that these flats will be ready for occupation in September.

Completion Notices were issued to all purchasers at Cumberland Terraces earlier this year. Purchasers are currently completing the legal transaction to finalise their purchases. Nelson's View and Bayview Terraces are currently estimated to be completed by September.

There are 54 applicants on the reserve list for a property at any of the three ex-OEM developments.

I will now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests in Question No. 942 of 2010.

Answer to Question No. 942 of 2010

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

Development	Purchaser Share											Total
	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	78%	80%	85%	88%	100%	
Nelson's View	29	2	15	0	22	4	1	6	1	0	50	130
Bayview Terraces	6	1	10	2	21	2	0	2	0	0	39	83
Cumberland Terraces	54	2	28	1	30	4	0	5	1	1	34	160
Total	89	5	53	3	73	10	1	13	2	1	123	373

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 939 TO 942 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the Chief Minister for the information. With reference to Cumberland Terraces, did the Chief Minister mention anything about Cumberland Terraces in terms of completion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is implicit that if purchases are being completed and every purchaser has received a Completion Notice, it is implicit that the building is complete already.

ORAL

NO. 943 OF 2010

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. 944 to 946 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 944 OF 2010

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. 943, 945 and 946 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 945 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government specify what further work is required to be carried out in the Waterport Terraces estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 943, 944 and 946 of 2010.

NO. 946 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government say whether a certificate of fitness has now been issued in respect of any of the blocks in Waterport Terraces estate and if so which ones?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All of the 18 affordable homes blocks (that is 396 properties) at Waterport Terraces have been completed already.

The remaining construction work relates to the completion of Albert Risso House, that is the elderly person's rental flats, which will be in July or August, plus also the usual post completion snagging works throughout the whole estate during the contractors' defects liability period. There is also a small amount of, what has been described to me as tidying up work, to be done on the boundary of the estate by the sea facing promenade.

With regards to the Certificates of Fitness, the practice is that a Contract Administrator does not issue a Certificate of Practical Completion without the contractor first having obtained a Certificate of Fitness from the Building Control Department of the Government. This practice has been followed in the case of Waterport Terraces and I can, therefore, confirm that Certificates of Fitness have been issued in respect of all of the blocks in Waterport Terraces affordable homes scheme.

ORAL

NO. 947 OF 2010

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 per cent share of co-ownership homes since the answer to Question No. 427 of 2010, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I am very happy to give the hon Member the information he seeks in a schedule which is now being handed to him.

Answer to Question No. 947 of 2010

Sales of Government – Co Ownership share of Properties

		SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Totals
Feb-10	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£38,122.38	£38,122.38
Mar-10	Monies Received	£53,504.00	£34,658.78	£0.00	£8,341.75	£0.00	£96,504.53
Apr-10	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
May-10	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£55,140.73	£55,140.73
Totals		£53,504.00	£34,658.78	£0.00	£8,341.75	£93,263.11	£189,767.64

NO. 948 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOUTH DISTRICT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES

How many purchasers of flats within the Government's home ownership schemes in the South District have had to pull out, during the financial year 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to date, because they have been unable to obtain a mortgage?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This information is not available to the Government although the Government are informally aware that a few purchasers are having difficulty raising mortgage finance to complete at Cumberland Terraces. This could be due to any one of several factors including banking lending caps on particular projects and also homeowner status issues or rather borrower status issues.

ORAL

NO. 949 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT – MANNING LEVELS

What negotiations are ongoing in respect of manning levels in the Building and Works Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 950 of 2010.

NO. 950 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT – PRIVATISATION

Have any proposals been brought to Government for the privatisation of part of the Buildings and Works Department and if so, what are these and what consideration has been given to them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As the House knows, the Government does not consider it helpful or appropriate to comment publicly about ongoing industrial relations discussions or reorganisation negotiations. I can confirm that the Government are engaged with the Union Unite, and staff representatives about wide ranging reform of the Buildings and Works Department, in the interests of its staff, Government housing tenants and the taxpayer. This is part of the Government's ongoing programme to modernise and improve the public sector and public services.

The Government have not been presented with any proposal to privatise any part of the Buildings and Works Department, nor does the Government see that as a way forward.

NO. 951 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

FINING IN SPAIN OF AMBULANCE OPERATED BY ST JOHN'S

Can Government confirm whether they have taken up the question of the fine imposed on an ambulance operated by St. John's with the relevant authorities in Spain and indicate on what date, to whom the representations were made and by whom they were made and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have taken up the matter with the Spanish Government the wider issue of a Gibraltar ambulance being stopped in Spain by the Guardia Civil in the circumstances affecting that particular incident rather than just the narrower question of the imposition of a fine. There are wider issues that arise than the fact that a fine was imposed. But the Government does not consider it appropriate to give chapter and verse because it is just not the way that inter-governmental business is conventionally dealt with between Governments to give chapter and verse about the person to whom this was said, the date, the letter and all of that and it is not the way Governments conduct business. But I am happy to confirm to him that it has been done and the matter has not yet been concluded in its handling.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 951 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Without wishing to ask for the detail of those conversations. To what extent are the Government now satisfied that that particular incident will not be repeated?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As with all incidents that occur in or in relation or with Spain that we in Gibraltar disapprove of, the Government can never be satisfied whatever happens, whatever clarification is given. There can never be 100 per cent certainty that it will not reoccur. The United Kingdom goes around the rest of Europe reminding other Member States that they have got to recognise Gibraltar Identity Cards. It does not stop officials even at UK airports from time to time declining to accept Gibraltar Identity Cards. So one thing is to raise matters when they arise with the proper authority in the hope and expectation indeed that things will be put right. But that does not mean that there can be any guarantee that it will not reoccur, particularly,

when what happens may not be a matter of central Government policy but rather the individual discretion of any one of thousands of officials who may or may not know, care or indeed do as they are told. So, that regrettably is the position.

HON G H LICUDI:

I acknowledge that the Government can never be satisfied as to what one individual official may do. Are the Government though from the conversations that have taken place, with the contacts that have taken place so far, at least reasonably satisfied that whatever problem, if it every existed from a central Government point of view, that that problem no longer exists.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, adding the word "reasonably" to his previous questions ... I am completely satisfied that there is no central Government policy to harass Gibraltar ambulances. Indeed, the informal sources of information suggest that this incident may have had more to do with some internal Spanish issue about which authority thinks that emergency vehicles in Spain should carry yellow and which should carry blue and which should not carry blue and which should not carry yellow, and that this was caught up in that. In other words, this might not even have been because it was a Gibraltar ambulance. This might respond to a more domestic Spanish debate going on about that. But if the hon Member's question is, am I reasonably satisfied that there is no central Government policy, then I think he could delete the word "reasonably" from that. I think I am entirely satisfied that there is no Spanish central Government policy to unnecessarily harass ambulances conveying sick people without regard to the consequences for the health of the passenger in the back of the ambulance. I do not think any civilised Government in the world could possibly have that as a policy. Or indeed as something of which they would approve.

NO. 952 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Can Government state whether it has now concluded its review of the options it identified concerning changes to health and safety legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains unchanged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 952 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member, I assume he anticipates the supplementary, have an indication of where the processes are? Let me just remind the hon Member that we were, I seem to recall back in April 2008 was when the hon Minister mentioned that the Government was carrying out the review and more recently we have been told that certain options have been identified. So, from a general review we are now reviewing the options. I would like to get the sense from the Government that this is not an endless review of issues from the general issue to the options, to the implementation and that we will see finality at the end of the day.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I will try to be as helpful as possible to the hon Member's very reasonable articulation of his interests. The Government are engaged and have a desire to bring about modernisation and reform across a broad front of public sector activities and necessarily flags these up, sometimes in answers to questions, sometimes it leaks because members of the staff get to hear and go ... The Government devotes to each of these reform agendas, if we could call it that, resources and time as it is able to but in competition with all the other areas. So, the answer to his question is, I do not think this is imminent. The Government are interested in doing it. There will certainly be finality but if he asks me are the Government, sort of, expeditiously working on this as something that it wants to bring about as soon as possible in preference to other things that it is engaged in, then in fairness I should say to him that the answer to that is "no" and therefore it will emerge from the pipeline of public sector reforms. Sometimes they get overtaken. A pipeline as we order things in it, get overtaken because staff and Unions encourage us to give priority to other areas

and therefore we drop that file for now, put it to one side and pick up another one. The Government does not have the capacity or the resources to deal with all these issues at the same time. So I think it will emerge, indeed I think it needs to emerge but I do not want the hon Member to keep the impression from anything that we might say that this is something that is now days or weeks away. It is not. This could easily take many more months.

THE HON G H LICUDI:

The reason for the impression we have is that we had expected that this was something that was being given priority. In fact, in exchanges in this House in the past, we were given the distinct, as I recall, the distinct impression that this was something that the Government was actively pursuing...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. The position, as I recall it, is that at some point after we had the initial exchanges in this House about this matter, there was an advert for the recruitment of an officer for the Health and Safety Department, Health and Safety Officer. That advert was withdrawn and as I seem to recall nobody was engaged. The reason, again as I understand we were given, was that there was going to be a general restructure, there was consideration of the various options available and therefore, in effect, there was a freeze on recruitment. So, all along the department has been operating, essentially short of staff. If the Government's position and I understand the words of the hon Member, neutralising the effect of anything that he may have given in the past about urgency, if that continues to be the position, what practical steps are being taken to make sure that the department is functioning properly? Because if it is true that it is under staffed, that there are actual vacancies and those vacancies are not being filled, then this is a matter that affects not just issues of policy, but practical considerations in respect of the enforcement of health and safety legislation. The hon Member will I am sure agree with me that in terms of health and safety issues, enforcement measures to make sure that the employers do comply with the legislation is absolutely paramount and therefore the work of the department must be encouraged with full staffing levels across the board.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure it is not necessary for me to tell any Member of this House that sits in it, with the party that he sits with, that the fact that there are vacancies in public offices does not mean that the departments are understaffed and the reason why I say that is that because quite rightly when they were in Government, many vacancies were not filled, were allowed to go unfilled and indeed were cancelled. So, the hon Member should not now create the impression that the existence of a vacancy means that a department is understaffed. It may or may not be as a result of the vacancy. But the Government does not slavishly follow numbers and fill posts simply because they have always existed, without some attempt to discern whether the tax payer has a continuing need for that post. That said, I am not saying that that applies

to this area, the Government are satisfied that this department in due course will need more resources but more resources perhaps of a different kind and located in a different place, perhaps with different skills. We do not think that it will be helpful simply to add more resources of the same kind as we have now to the existing ... Of course, if we thought that there was some great danger to the public, being xxxx upon the public as a result of that view that I have just finished expressing, then of course we would have to give, mitigating that public danger, a priority over our view that it would not be helpful to recruit more of what we have got at the moment in the context of the forthcoming review. So, it is implicit in the fact that the Government does not fill the vacancy, that it is willing to continue to function as it is today. But that willingness to continue to function as it is today should not be read, to think that the Government thinks that Gibraltar can always carry on with the existing level of functions. It just means that the balance between the advantages of waiting for the new structure and what the hon Member describes as the undesirable consequences of being understaffed in terms of public safety, that that balance has not swung in favour of the view that we should press ahead with more recruitment of the same.

NO. 953 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government state the total amounts and provide a breakdown of the amounts that have been spent to date in respect of works for the new airport, new airport access roads, the "tunnel" under the airport, new frontier access road including but not limited to

- (a) Consultants' fees;
- (b) Architects' fees;
- (c) Building contractors;
- (d) Any sub contractors paid directly by the Government;
- (e) Relocation of MoD buildings or services;
- (f) All and any other fees (specifying exactly what such fees relate to),

and what fees remain to be paid in respect of these matters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total paid to date is £46.3 million. I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the breakdown requested. A total of £3,648,639 remains to be paid in respect of fees (architect: £133,185; project management and other consultants: £3,515,454). I should, however, if the hon Member will allow me, just to correct his question, in that the new road, it is not a new airport access road, it is a new road to the whole of the north front area including the frontier and the other facilities. In other words, the new road and the tunnel are not being built just to get people to the air terminal. They are being built as part of improving traffic fluidity out of Gibraltar and to the northern and eastern side.

Answer to Question No. 953 of 2010

Costs in respect of the new airport, new airport access roads, the tunnel under the airport and the new frontier access road:

	Paid to Date £
1) Airport and Frontier Access Road (including Tunnel)	
Building Contractor	2,141,857
Consultants Costs	<u>3,936,822</u>
	<u>6,078,679</u>
2) Devil's Tower Road	
Building Contractor	2,158,381
Consultants Costs	539,652
Architect Fees – Landscaping	<u>81,265</u>
	<u>2,779,298</u>
3) Airport Terminal and related facilities	
Building Contractor	15,895,097
Consultants Costs	3,138,908
Architect Fees	<u>2,481,710</u>
	<u>21,515,715</u>
4) MOD Relocations (British Lines)	
Building Contractor	13,081,664
Consultants Costs	1,477,101
Architect Fees	<u>1,387,950</u>
	<u>15,946,715</u>
Grand totals:	<u>£46,320,406</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 953 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

So what the hon Member is saying is that the new airport access road and the new frontier access road are essentially the same. They are not different roads?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a very small bit of road, very small, eventually you will be turning off the current bit of Winston Churchill Avenue and you will be turning into a little slip road. But it is nothing. If he means, all the works going on from the sundial roundabout. The doubling up of Devil's Tower Road. The new roundabout between Devil's Tower Road and the Aerial Farm. The new four lane road through the Aerial Farm through to the tunnel running parallel to Eastern Beach Road. The tunnel under the runway. The road that leads out of the tunnel parallel to the frontier. That is not what I call, that is not the term, that project is the one that this question answers and that is what I was describing to him is not fairly called the new airport access road.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure that I have heard or have the answer to the last part of the question in terms of the fees that remain to be paid.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will just repeat the numbers for him. A total of £3,648,639 remains to be paid in respect of fees of which architects' fees account for £133,185 and project management and other consultants' fees accounts for £3,515,454.

ORAL

NO. 954 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Waterport Terraces has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 955 to 958 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 955 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF CUMBERLAND TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Cumberland Terraces has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 954, 956 to 958 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 956 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF BAYVIEW TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Nelson's View has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 954, 955, 957 and 958 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 957 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF BAYVIEW TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Bayview Terraces has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 954 to 956 and 958 of 2010.

NO. 958 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – NEW
ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING SPACES**

Can Government state why the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan provides for 1,600 “new, additional car parking spaces” when the draft Plan envisaged 2,300 “new, additional car parking spaces” and explain how 700 “new, additional car parking spaces” have been lost between the draft and the final Plan published in April 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The answer to the first four questions is given in the excellent Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in which I am happy to see the hon Member is taking a keen interest, namely, and I quote from it as follows:-

“Although parking in these estates are for residents of those estates (for whom they provide a parking solution at home), they also lead directly to better parking facilities for everyone else around Gibraltar because these residents of the estates will no longer compete for street parking in the areas where they previously lived. They thus contribute a full net gain to the overall parking availability in Gibraltar”.

The final version of the plan differentiates between

- (1) Parkings already built;
- (2) Parkings currently under construction; and
- (3) Proposed future parking projects

Hence the different figures used in the different parts. There is no reduction of the overall totals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 954 TO 958 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer that has been given with regard to the inclusion of Waterport Terraces, Cumberland Terraces, Bayview and Nelson's View, is by reference to what is said in the plan, that these facilities lead to better parking facilities for everyone else because those residents no longer compete. Will the hon Member not agree that if that argument is correct then it holds true also for any other development which includes a parking space. It holds true for the Anchorage. It holds true for Ocean Village. So, by that logic the Government could have included in this traffic plan all the parking spaces that had been seen in Gibraltar and will be seen in Gibraltar in the last two years and in the next two years and therefore the figure appears to be inflated, erroneously in our view, to achieve political purposes rather than because these matters were thought of as being part of a traffic plan. Will the hon Member not agree with that analysis?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Neither I nor probably he when he has heard my answer could possibly agree with that analysis. The obvious distinction between what he has just said is that this is a plan of what the Government does. Not what private developers do and therefore what is in it is what the Government are doing. Not what private developers do and therefore it is entirely logical to include in the Government's plan and explanation of what the Government have done, is doing and will do in the future, everything that impacts on parking and that contributes to improving parking in Gibraltar that it is doing. He could have criticised the Government, I think it would be unnecessary for him... I understand that the hon Members have to try and find a way of tarnishing everything that the Government does including Gibraltar's first ever integrated traffic, parking and transport plan. To do so on the basis that he would have written it differently when he had no manifesto commitment to write one at all is taking their obsession, their pathological need to criticise and tarnish everything the Government does to new degrees. But his analysis is not right because, by the same token, the Government could not include what is done in the Anchorage, which is the example he gave, because the Anchorage is a private development and it is not something that the Government are doing. All these other estates, in contrast, are things that the Government are doing and therefore legitimately includable in what the Government are doing that has an impact on parking. I would have thought that that distinction was do blindingly obvious that it would not have merited the hon Member seeking to tarnish this plan on the basis of quite so irrational an analysis as that.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, not only is that distinction not blindingly obvious, the opposite is the case because these developments, apart from Waterport Terraces, did not start as Government developments. They started as private developments. So they could not possibly have been conceived by this Government as part of an integrated parking and transport plan. All the Government is doing is now trying to reap the benefits of additional parking spaces which are going to be in Gibraltar and add up the numbers because the figures simply did not add up before. One of the questions that I have asked relate to what was in the draft previously, 2,300 new additional car

parking spaces which, and I still maintain, has now been downgraded to 1,600 new additional car parking spaces. Certainly, since April when I last asked the question about the 2,300 and asked the Government to account to it, we have not seen 700 parking spaces being completed. So those now move to another category, the completed 700, leaving 1,600 new additional car parking spaces to be completed. Does the Government not agree that what, in fact, has happened is that the Government has been caught out? When they were asked in April how do they account for the 2,300 new additional car parking spaces, they could not give an answer. They refused to give an answer as to how they accounted for that. The figures simply did not add up and therefore is it not correct that what some bright spark has done, between April and now, is to think, well how can we boost up the figures, and somebody has said, well 450 parking spaces in Waterport Terraces. That is a good idea. It was not in the draft. It certainly was not conceived as part of any traffic or integrated parking plan. But it is a good idea. Let us include it now. Boost up the figures. And somebody then said, hang on a second, the numbers still do not add up, so let us add 182 parking spaces at Cumberland Terraces. And is it not correct that then that bright spark said, still the numbers do not add up, let us add 88, let us add 138. And that is how the Government have tried to spin this matter and tried to come up with figures which are purely fictitious.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we should get to a question now.

HON G H LICUDI:

What I am asking is if the Government agrees with this analysis. Does the Government not now accept that by doing this sort of playing around with figures, it does not achieve any objective? It does not fool the people any longer. That the noose around the Government's head, the collective necks of this Government is getting tighter and tighter and the more they try to fool people, the tighter that noose will get and eventually, politically, they will end up hanging themselves?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I am glad the hon Member has alluded to misleading people and pulling the wool over the eyes of ... He may have read me in the Chronicle yesterday making clear that in my view their time is up because that is about the full extent of their political project, ... involves systematic misleading, misrepresenting and trying to deceive the people of Gibraltar into thinking that black is white and white is black. No. By the way, I know he has recently xxx membership of this House and therefore he may not know that according to the party of which he is a member, the noose has been tightening politically around the neck of this party since the 17th May 1996.

HON G H LICUDI:

Getting tighter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Well, it is not getting tighter fast enough for them. I remember a prominent member of the party of the GSLP that had been a Minister up to 16th May 1996 confidently predicting immediately after the 16th May 1996 that the GSD would not last in Government 12 months. Well, 12 years later the GSD is still in Government and if their political performance does not improve considerably between now and the date of the next elections, then I think it is going to be a fifth term and I think that they take excessive confidence from opinion polls entirely at the same peril as they have incurred in each of the last four electoral terms. The hon Member honestly does not know what he is talking about and it is a matter of considerable personal disappointment to me that he should be willing to obfuscate and to talk nonsense for the purposes of continuing to give the impression to listeners that the Government have somehow, fiddling the figures to deliver more or less or square the books or square the circle of car parkings. Look, there have been no additional car parks announced. There have been no car parks that had been previously announced, cancelled. If he knew how to deal with the figures that he has in front of him and if he were properly comparing the presentational differences between the original draft plan published and the final version plan published, he would know that there is no difference in the figures. There is no 700 fewer parking spaces involved but as usual he has not done his homework. It is the same superficial dealing with whatever issue he deals with in this House because he is not interested in getting to the bottom of the matter. He is interested only in standing up waffling in a way that gives people listening, the impression that he has somehow discovered some sort of political scoop. Well, he is entirely wrong. What was in the Government's... he said, how could this have been in the Government's mind? The Government conducted a consultation process and then published its plan. This is its plan as published and that has got all the projects in it. Nothing has been removed. The Government have not realised that the numbers did not add up and started subtracting and multiplying and applying the square root of one car park and subtracting from it, the cube of another one. No, we are not that good at mathematics. No. It is just complete and utter nonsense. All he has to do is compare the list of projects which are identified by name and address and the numbers which are there in both versions and see that the numbers are effectively the same. All that changes, is the presentational subdivisions in which subtotals are summarised. It is blindingly obvious and I believe, regrettably, that it is probably blindingly obvious even to him. But his purpose it is not to find out whether the Government are intending to build 700 spaces less than it was going to build. His purpose is, uniquely, to try and give the impression that the Government are misleading the people of Gibraltar. Look, the Government does not need to mislead the people of Gibraltar because I am very proud to say that this is the first Government ever, in the democratic history of Gibraltar, to seriously take on board the political challenge of dealing, in a wholesale and once and for all basis, with Gibraltar's historical parking and traffic problems, that is building car parks and car parking facilities in numbers that the hon Member might, under the days of the GSLP administration, have mistaken for a telephone number, for the number of car parks that they built. Therefore, this Government does not have to hide, or manipulate statistics, or deceive, or trick because people can see for themselves that for the first time ever Government is building car parking facilities on a whole scale basis and will continue to do so. So, in future when I give the list of silly attempts to tarnish Government's obvious achievements, it will not now be just that the buses are too big and that the hospital is in the wrong place and that the airport is too big and too luxurious and that the prison is two inches to the left and that the other thing is two inches to the right, in future, it will also be that the Government somehow made 700 non existent parking spaces disappear. If that is the best that the hon Member can do politically. To politically argue against this

unprecedented focussed and co-ordinated approach at dealing with Gibraltar's traffic, parking and transport plan, I will choose to interpret it as a complete ratification by the Opposition of the merits and virtues of the plan.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am glad that I have made the blood start to run through the Chief Minister's veins. Not that it takes very much to do that. But let us analyse the figures which according to the hon Member we say we distort, we fabricate, we invent, we mislead, we do all that, and according to the Chief Minister it is simply a case of adding up numbers. Well, we agree. It would be a case of simply adding up numbers if we were given the right information. If the Government was transparent. If the Government was not increasingly opaque about its business. If they were open in giving answers to questions in this House which we have asked in the past and let me give the hon Member a couple of examples and ask him to deal with this particular issue. I have asked in relation to these 2,300 parking spaces which were in the draft plan, how are they accounted for as new additional car parking spaces. So I asked additional to what and the answer was obviously additional to existing complement. So then I ask, do we take into account the 200 car parking spaces that are going to be lost in Devil's Tower Road? Do we take into account whatever parking spaces because they have not given us the numbers and I have asked and they have refused to give us the numbers, the numbers that are going to be lost in Engineer Lane, in Old Naval Hospital, in Arengo's Palace, in South Barrack Road, in South Pavilion, in Flat Bastion Road. Do we take all those numbers into account and if we do what are those numbers? Because if we had those numbers, then it would be a question of simply adding up, but they refuse to give us the information, we simply work almost blind and when we challenge them they accuse us of distorting the position. So can the hon Member now account for these 1,600 new additional car parking spaces by being open with this House, being open with the people of Gibraltar and telling us exactly how many car parking spaces which currently exist will be lost in all these new developments which will happen and we will find out in a few minutes, hopefully, when they will happen, when we come to those questions. So will the hon Member now be open which they were not prepared to be in April of this year and give us that information so that we can conduct the simple mathematical exercise with a simple calculator, not by taking square roots, by simply using the addition sign and add up the number which will become new additional car parking spaces. If the Government are so confident of its position, let it put up or shut up and let it give us the information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This document was drafted obviously with the hon Gentleman in mind because it even goes to the trouble so that he does not confuse new additional with things that are not new additional by simplifying his ability to understand the document by a colour code. Things that have already been done are in one colour. Things that are in the process of being done are in another colour and things that are intended to be done but have neither yet been done nor yet started are in yet another colour. So there is no scope even for the hon Member to be under any erroneous misbelief about what is new additional and what is not new additional and I am not going to further engage with the hon Member in his ridiculous little dance around numbers which is a completely fictitious and unnecessary dance. Look, how the hon Member can justify starting prefacing his question by suggesting that the Government are being increasingly opaque is yet another example of the hon Member's regrettable

debating style. The Government publish in draft its proposed plan, receives lots of representations for which it has expressed its gratitude, none helpfully of course, from the hon Members, woe betide that they should assist the Government in doing anything that might be positive for Gibraltar. So lots of people send in replies to the consultation process but not the hon Member that is now so concerned about divisions and multiplications.

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxx. That is what I did.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government publish a consultation document and then publish the most detailed plan ever published by any Government of Gibraltar on any subject. Naming projects, putting numbers next to each project, saying what is history so that no one should think that we are not acknowledging that it is already past. Saying what we are doing. Saying what we are not yet able to start and the hon Member's assessment of that is that it represents increasing opacity. Well look, I am not entertaining any longer the hon Member's ridiculous attempts to immerse this excellent Government policy initiative in the GSLP's inimitable bickering political style. All I am willing to say to the hon Member is that this plan represents the Government's policy plan. If he likes it he should support it. If he does not like it he should propose something better, assuming that he has got any policies on the matter at all and that is what there is to it and this is what the Government are doing and his ridiculous Bossanesque, which he is not up to, attempts to, sort of, obfuscate the debate with referring to historical figures and this comparison and then confusing things so that the statistical comparison allegedly reveals some dastardly political conspiracy to deceive the people of Gibraltar, not even the Leader of the Opposition tries that anymore and he certainly is not up to starting to try it now.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Does he have a question? He makes a statement but does not ask xxxx.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. I was going to say, it has to be a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. The hon Member now is... I would not suggest that he should sit up here to control these proceedings but I had a question in the previous supplementary which the hon Member had all but ignored. So when I told him to put up or shut up, he certainly did not shut up but he did not put up either because he did not answer the

question that I had asked. It is not up to us to produce the figures. It is up to us to analyse the information that is given by the Government. So let us continue with that analysis and hopefully at some point during the course of today we will get some answers on these figures. It is their figures and they have to justify those figures. The Government produce a list of parking schemes, Grand Parade, Engineer Lane, et cetera, et cetera. Then at the end of that list these projects will provide over 1,600 new additional car parking spaces in Gibraltar. The list they have provided actually adds up to 1,325 although at the end it talks of widening pavements or making pavements that are too wide narrower so that there is extra parking spaces without any indication of where that will happen or when that will happen or how many car parking spaces will be produced. But the actual figures that are produced by the Government add up to 1,325. The number that they say collectively it adds up to is 1,600 of new additional car parking spaces. So the question is very simple. How does one account for those 1,600 new additional car parking spaces within the figures that have been given if one does not take into account the number of car parking spaces which will actually be lost and which are currently available on the street and which will be lost during the course of construction. My question quite simply is, for each of these projects how many car parking spaces will actually be lost so that we can ascertain and we would be able to give Government credit by doing the simple arithmetic and saying, yes, by jove, the Government are producing 1,600 new additional car parking spaces. Well done. But they are well short of that because they simply do not provide that answer. Will they give us that information now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have just realised what the hon Member's problem is. He does not read what he has in front of him and he ignores public statements that the Government have made. There is no netting to be done of lost street parking. The Government have already made clear that where there are lost free street parking spaces as a result of anything that the Government does in respect of these multi-storey car parks, the Government will make alternative re-provision of those free parking spaces. There are no losses to be netted off against the gains. The Government have said this. But the hon Member because he only flits in politics between one meeting of the House to the other, probably does not even bother to keep up to date with what the Government say in between and therefore comes to this House in blissful ignorance of what the Government actually say on matters. I will repeat it to him again for his benefit. The Government have made clear and I am making clear to him again, that where anything that it does in terms of building these car parks and providing these car parks results in a reduction of street parking, it will re-provide those street parkings in either what it is building or elsewhere in the area where they have been lost. So, therefore, all his diatribe about opacity of not telling us what the number of lost parkings we have got to deduct from the new additional ones, simply does not arise. On his second point that the 1,600 do not coincide with the tally of listed car parks, that is simply not correct. He is just comparing the wrong figures. Yes, he is assuming, for the purposes as always of coming to the wrong conclusion, that the reference to these projects will provide over 1,600 car parks, new additional car parking spaces in Gibraltar, refers only to the car parks conveniently listed in bullet points before that with numbers in brackets. So what he has done is he has added the number in brackets next to each car park where it is given there in that list and he said, oops it does not add up to 1,600. But the phrase, these projects will provide over 1,600 car parks does not refer just to those. It refers to those and the ones which are currently under construction which

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and I think that he will find that they add roughly, they add to more than 1,600. I think it is about 1,623. But he can do the mathematics himself and he can continue to ask questions on this vein. It is perfectly plain that the hon Member is determined to try and find things to criticise where there are no things to criticise. Why does he not criticise the substance of the plan? Why does he not look at the traffic plan and instead of this ridiculous obsession with the false handling of numbers? Why does he not say, the plan is inadequate because it does not do this. It does not do this. It does not do this and it does not do that which we the Opposition think need to be done and why does he not criticise it by saying the plan is inadequate because the Government are proposing to do (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) and we the Opposition think that (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are bad things to be done for Gibraltar. This is the equivalent of their other... their political project is limited to nitpicking on numbers and getting it wrong to boot and time keeping on the Government. They do not criticise what the Government do. They say it is taking too long. Why has this taken so long? It is just alleged delay. It is alleged delay, sometimes real, sometimes not. Things take too long. Things are in the wrong place. Things are the wrong size or numbers. But there is no criticism of the underlying policy. So I repeat. I accept the hon Member's limited..., the fact that he has limited his attack on this plan to... well the fact that he has focussed on this issue.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is only on this question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We will see. But there are no other questions that criticise the plan. I will take as very welcome confirmation that on the substance of the plan the hon Members believe that it is indeed as the Government alleges an integrated traffic parking and transport plan for Gibraltar.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. Before the hon Member arises. May I simply remind the hon Member. The purpose of question time is to elicit information. Unlike a court of law, it is not the object of question time to seek admissions, concessions or confessions. So, this is not a cross examination session. A question must be aimed at eliciting information.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, much as I would cherish the opportunity of cross-examining the hon Member opposite, I will resist that temptation and certainly comply with all the rules of this House and the directions of Mr Speaker. We are trying to elicit information,

painstakingly so unfortunate to say. In trying to elicit information, we have to refer to the limited answer that is given and seek then some clarification of the position and some information which the hon Member appears not to be able or willing to provide for their own political reasons or simply because they do not have answers. Now the hon Member says ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, on a Point of Order. I cannot allow him to continue to repeat that lie. It is not true that the hon Member has asked for information that the Government have not provided. What is true is that he thinks that there is a statistic around which I have told him does not exist because there is no loss of street parking that is not going to be reprovided.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is what the hon Member says and that is what I am going to question him on to see whether it is in fact accurate or not accurate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a xxxx of cross-examination.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not a question of cross-examination. It is a question of eliciting facts and the hon Member says that when I have added up these numbers and they come up to 1,325, I have not taken into account the number of car parking spaces under construction. The reason we have not done that is because the number of car parking spaces under construction are dealt with separately in this plan. Not as part of that list which adds up to the 1,600 and let me read what the integrated plan says. After listing Waterport Terraces and all that that I have dealt with, these schemes have already added 1,200 parking spaces in recent years. A further 1,250 are currently under construction. So how can the hon Member say that in the 1,600, that includes car parking spaces under construction, when the number of spaces under construction is 1,250 additional car parking spaces? So what I am trying to ascertain is this question of additional ... let me try and be as specific as I can because the hon Member says that the Government will reprovide that these are net figures. The Government will reprovide, for example, that where there is loss ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that. Xxxxx net figures.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is where there is loss ... If they are new additional car parking spaces, they have to be net figures. Because they cannot be additional to what exists but not be net ... It has to be net of what already exists. So if the Government are going to

reprovide existing car parking facilities and one of the instances that the hon Member gives is, will reprovide in what it is building. So, for example, will the hon Member agree that if it is building 207 parking spaces in Engineer Lane and 100, for the sake of argument, are lost there and it reprovides those lost street parking spaces in this, then the only new additional parking spaces have to be 107 and not 207. So these necessarily by definition, by calling them new additional car parking spaces, have to be net figures. Does the hon Member agree with that statement?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member does not agree with that statement. The hon Member ratifies and confirms all the information that he has given him before now and has nothing to add to them.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member simply refusing to provide additional information as to the net effect of this car parking plan? That is what we are trying to find out. The net effect of this parking plan and if the hon Member has said and he has just said across the floor, these are not net figures, can the hon Member then provide us with the net figures?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has already given the answer to the point about whether there may or may not be any lost parking spaces as a result of this plan and I have no intention of repeatedly giving the same information in one form and in another and first generically and then numerically. He has had the answers, the information that he has sought and I will have nothing to add or to subtract from the information that I have given him, all of which I stand by and ratify and I would urge the hon Member to properly read this document.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, I must draw a line under that line of questioning. The Hon Fabian Picardo.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just start by, on a Point of Order, saying that when the hon Gentleman earlier made a Point of Order, he referred to something that Mr Licudi had said as a lie. I do not think there was a call for you to rule on the Point of Order but I think it is inappropriate to refer to statements of any party in this House as a lie other than in the very defined circumstances that of bringing a motion as we have already established for some time. My question to the hon Gentleman in respect of this matter is specific and relates to one of the things he has said. He said that we do not listen to what he says. So listening to the statements he has made today about the reprovisioning of free car parking spaces in areas where free parking is affected by the developments of the Government's new car parks, can I ask him when it is intended and where it is intended to reprovision the 15 parking spaces lost on Willis's Road outside the car park developed in that area?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The car park built in Willis's Road is described here as a historical, something that has already been done. It is not in this plan as something that it is proposed to be done in the future which is what we have been debating.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept that of course, but when that car park was developed, we were told in Government statements at the time about that car park. That the free parking spaces lost in the area of the development of that car park would also be reprovided as free parking spaces. Is it that that position no longer holds true and the 15 to 20 parking spaces lost on Willis's Road on the hill, I am sure he knows exactly what I am referring to, are not going to be reprovided ?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot remember whether there were 15 or less. My recollection is that they were less, but considerably less, I think it was not more than a handful but I do not want to debate that point with him because I have got no present recollection of what the figure is. But I do not think that there are 15 lost spaces. He may be referring to the consequences of ... No, even the making of the road one way, I do not think that removed any parking spaces ... I do not think that the car park itself removed 15 spaces because we are talking about basically the entrance to the car park on which I do not think there was very much parking before. There may be a couple of parking spaces across the street from the entrance of the car parking to give cars room to manoeuvre in and out but I do not think it is 15. My recollection of it is that it was not more than a handful and I do not know whether they have been reprovided yet or not or whether there are so few of them that it was at that time decided not to ... But I am happy to check that for him if he wants to.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. In fact, the position is that the hon Gentleman is right. It is the areas which relate to the entrance to the car parks. The areas which relate to the new road being provided just below the car park and the area which relates to the re provisioning of the bus stop and if the hon Gentleman looks at the whole of the number of spaces and not just those but the consequential move, then it does come to between 10 and 15 car parking spaces, all of which is aggravated by the fact that and I accept that this is temporary, the redevelopment of the Married Quarters in that area has resulted in all the car parking at the top of Calpe Road also being, at least on temporary basis, not available, putting considerable pressure on the people who live in that area that have to park their vehicles. Have the Government got any plans to consider what to do in that area now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We were debating the number of street parkings that were lost as a result of parking not as a result of parking and half a dozen other things which might also have separately contributed. The Government take the view that it has significantly enhanced the parking offerings in that part of Gibraltar and that if there have been

the loss of a handful, even if it were 10 street parkings, there are more than compensated for by the hugely greater number that have been provided in the street car parking. For example, an area of Gibraltar where that statement would not be true is, for example, nothing to do with parking but with a road project that is also referred to in this document, the doubling up of Devil's Tower Road. Making Devil's Tower Road two lanes in both directions eliminates a very significant number of street parkings along the whole length of Devil's Tower Road. I think, although please do not hold me to this figure, I think it is about 200. There, the Government could not say what I have just said about Willis's Road, that the number lost is so insignificant compared to the much larger number provided at the sacrifice, it I could call it that, is worthwhile. Because it is 200 and it affects intensely and mainly shop businesses along Devil's Tower Road and residents of the Devil's Tower Road area, the Government will not be taking the same view of that and will be making specific alternative provision to reprovide the lost street parking in Devil's Tower Road. So, fine, we were talking slightly at cross purposes then, I just had in mind the number in Willis's Road as a result of the car park and he had in mind a slightly bigger number which was as a result of the car park and as a result of the road and as a result of the bus stops. That may be true. If there is space up there, if anybody wants to identify a piece of land up there that can be made into a little car parking area, of course the Government has no difficulty in dedicating land to that area. But the Government cannot wave a magic wand and create ten spaces where there is no room physically.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course the bus stop was moved as a result of the creation of the car park et cetera, et cetera. So that is why I think they are all connected. Is it not actually the case that before the car park was completed the hon Gentleman was giving the same copper bottomed guarantee that free parking spaces lost as a result of the car park would be reprovided as he is giving now in respect of the other car parks in respect of which my Learned and hon Friend was asking him earlier and that therefore that copper bottomed guarantee will now have to be seen by the people of Gibraltar as being one which is subject to change on the basis that the hon Gentleman has indicated today happened at Willis's Road, that you know at the end of the day the Government will make a decision and might think again and if it is not 200, and you know 200 might cost us a bit at the election, then we may just decide that those free parkings will not be reprovided and that is the sort of pledge or the value of the pledges that this Government are giving.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course the opposite is also possible. That instead of reproviding 200 street parkings at Devil's Tower Road, because we are in an election year, we might provide 400. So you see, flexibility can work in both directions and in this case, flexibility is much more likely to work in the direction of providing more than in providing less. The hon Member can clutch at straws if that is what he is reduced to do. But I do not think that the characterisation that he has just made is an accurate or fair one to level at the Government. But of course if he wants to launch it in whatever forum he wants as something that is speculatively possible and ignore the Government's stated position that that is not what is going to happen, then of course it is a free country and I cannot stop him saying whatever it is. However untruthful it might be.

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think they deserve it.

HON F R PICARDO:

I certainly think you do not.

ORAL

NO. 959 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – IMPROVEMENT
TO CROSS FRONTIER TRAFFIC FLUIDITY**

Can Government state what measures it expects to take as part of its Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan to improve cross frontier traffic fluidity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 960 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 960 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Roundabout in Glacis Road”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 and 961 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 961 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Roundabout at Regal House junction”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959, 960 and 962 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 962 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “New road linking Rosia and Queensway”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 961 and 963 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 963 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Residents permit holder only’ parking areas throughout Gibraltar”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 962 and 964 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 964 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “‘Pay and Display’ areas throughout Gibraltar”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 963 and 965 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 965 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Engineer Lane (207 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 964 and 966 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 966 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “South Pavilion (141 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 965 and 967 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 967 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Arengo’s Palace (215 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 966 and 968 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 968 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Midtown (under the park) (100 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 967 and 969 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 969 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Midtown Development (120 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 968 and 970 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 970 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “South Barrack Road (128 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 969 and 971 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 971 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Flat Bastion Road (104 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 970 and 972 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 972 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Old Naval Hospital Road (100 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 971 and 973 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 973 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Waterport area”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 972 and 974 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 974 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Grand Parade (230 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 973 and 975 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 975 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “New Airport car park”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 974 and 976 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 976 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Catalan Bay Beach car park”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 975 and 977 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 977 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Eastern Beach car park”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 976 and 978 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 978 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Maximise use of ARP shelters”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 977 and 979 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 979 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “More parking by narrowing pavements that are too wide”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 978 and 980 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 980 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Removal/management of derelict vehicles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 979 and 981 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 981 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Provision of more motor cycle parking”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 980 and 982 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 982 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “No motorcycles in between or in car spaces”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 981 and 983 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 983 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Better enforcement of residents’ only parking”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 982 and 984 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 984 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Appointment of Parking & Traffic Officers”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 983 and 985 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 985 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “‘On the spot’ fines for foreign vehicles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 984 and 986 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 986 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Raising of parking penalty fines”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 985 and 987 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 987 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Use of tow away when obstructing traffic flow”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 986 and 988 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 988 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Clamping of persistent offenders”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 987 and 989 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 989 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Use of parking CCTV cameras”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 988 and 990 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 990 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Better policing of cleaning days”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 989 and 991 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 991 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Driving licence ‘points’ penalty system”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 990 and 992 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 992 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Traffic Officers to support RGP”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 991 and 993 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 993 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Raise fines to increase deterrence”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 992 and 994 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 994 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Traffic CCTV cameras and speed cameras”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 993 and 995 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 995 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “High penalties for obstructing traffic flow in ‘hot spots’”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 994 and 996 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 996 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Better road signage to guide visitors?”

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 995 and 997 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 997 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improve pavement”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 996 and 998 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 998 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Provide pavements where possible”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 997 and 999 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 999 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Target blocking of access to pavements”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 998 and 1000 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1000 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Target blocking to houses”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 999 and 1001 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1001 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Calming measures to protect pedestrians”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1000 and 1002 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1002 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Tax concessions for motor cycles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1001 and 1003 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1003 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Bicycle ‘take, ride and leave’ scheme”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1002 and 1004 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1004 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improved taxi service”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1003 and 1005 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1005 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improved bus service and routes”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1004 and 1006 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1006 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Eliminate noisy motor cycles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1005 and 1007 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1007 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Tax induce cleaner motor cycles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1006 and 1008 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1008 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state the estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Tax induce electric and hybrid cars”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1007, 1009 and 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1009 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Structured parking schemes (Park n Ride, Multi storey car parks in residential areas, Residents permit holder only parking and ‘Pay and display’ short-term street parking will reduce traffic in search of parking)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1008 and 1010 of 2010.

NO. 1010 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improved public transport to facilitate reduced car use”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Of course, I know that the hon Members opposite put great store by the fact that they ask 600 questions. But those forty odd questions really were one. The hon Member could have simply asked whether the Government can state what estimated date the public can pencil in under completed in the implementation checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to each of the commitments that it has entered into in the Traffic Plan which the Government conveniently and helpfully listed in the implementation checklist attached to the plan. That of course would have meant that he could have asked one instead of 40 questions. But I suppose it allows them to put out a press release saying that they have asked 600 questions.

Cross frontier fluidity is not a matter for the Gibraltar Government unilaterally. It requires to be the subject of agreed measures with Spain, discussion of which is provided for within the Trilateral Forum in accordance with the Cordoba agreements.

It is not appropriate or desirable to give “estimated dates that the public can pencil in”, even attributing the colloquial meaning to the phrase pencilling in, “under Completed in the plan’s implementation checklist”. Indeed, if the Government had wanted to estimate dates that could be pencilled in it would have done so. Instead, the implementation checklist which is a novel way that the Government has devised to allow citizens to keep track of the progress that it makes in the implementation of this excellent plan, we would have done so. What we have chosen to do instead is to draw up the implementation checklist in a way that allows the public to put in, in pen rather than in pencil, when things have been done so that they can see for themselves what is on-going and what is not on-going, what is completed and what is not completed. The Government have no intention of guessing completion dates for works so that the hon Members can spend the next three years, which is what the plan says this is a programme for the implementation of, so that they can fill Question Time in Parliament for the next three years asking whether there has been any delay in the completion date. When is the completion date? Why is it 15 minutes late or 5 minutes early? This is the Government’s plan. Not the Opposition’s plan. It is the Government’s plan and the Government have said to the people of Gibraltar that it is a plan which will take around three years to implement and it has also said, I think in

the plan, that many of the measures will be up and running within two years and that is the extent of the commitment that the Government have decided to make in respect of the timing and the sequence of this very wide ranging package of measures. The Government are certainly not minded to provide necessarily speculative dates, which I presume is what he means by pencilling in. By his use of the phrase pencilling in, he himself is tacitly acknowledging that any answer would necessarily be tentative. That is what the phrase pencilling in means in colloquial English. Therefore it calls for speculation. It calls for expressions of opinion on the Government's part which are not appropriate for a wide ranging, long ranging in the long-term sense, package of measures.

The Government's position is that measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon and the Government may or may not, depending on the nature of each measure, give an estimated duration of implementation of each measure as and when it announces that it is embarking upon that measure and that I think is a much more sensible, much more reasonable... Of course, I understand that it deprives the Members opposite of their favourite past time of acting as time keepers for the Government in respect of the implementation of the Government's own policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 959 TO 1010 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

What it does is deprive the public of information to which they are entitled because this..., according to the Government, these would be tentative answers. Well fine, give us tentative answers. Information is we expect this to be completed in 2010. Can the Government tell us that? Can they tell us which of these items in this list they expect tentatively to be completed in 2010? If they cannot tell us that, can they tell us which of all of these items in their wish list or implementation checklist will be completed in 2011 or are expected to be completed in 2011 and it does not call for speculation. Does the Government not agree that what this question does is call for political commitment which this Government seems to be running away from? Because all this is and the public can see now for themselves because they are not prepared to commit themselves to anything, is that it is simply a wish list. Somebody has drawn up a list of anything that we could think of that we could possibly do sometime in the future from now to eternity and that is all they have done and without putting dates, without putting their name and their stamp on it, it will remain as that, simply a wish list. Does the Government not agree that the better thing to do, the more honourable, honest and politically astute thing to do, is to do what we did at the time of the last elections which is to produce a checklist, an implementation checklist which we called a contract with the electorate and each of those items in that contract had a specific date. Not a wish list. Not a year, a specific date. Why does not the Government do the same? Why does it not have the political ... what it takes politically in order to put their seal on this implementation checklist and tell us exactly whether, in fact, they do have the commitment to do this or whether it is all simply as we suspect pie in the sky?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I regret to note that the luncheon adjournment has not served to improve the quality of the hon Member's debating style. Look, I can give him at least one obvious reason why the Government might not want to give a series of commitments with

specific dates attached, as he claims he so impressively did in his manifesto at the last election, which the electorate did not appear to prefer to my approach. As I recall, we won the last election, without a manifesto with specific dates attached, and he who appears to attach such store by such ridiculous time keeping tactics, was not able to persuade the electorate either with his tight timetable which he calls a contract with the electorate or indeed by the other package of last minute bribery that he threw at the electorate. So, he will forgive me if we prefer our own style of doing politics which the electorate have for four elections in a row, say that they regard as more clear and more honest and more politically mature and reasonable than cheap devices designed to persuade electorates that they are more trustworthy than their political opponents. I do not know whether... Not... I cannot imagine a political debate of this type taking place anywhere else in the mature democratic world. Look, normally what happens in mature democracies is that Governments publish plans of what they want to do and Oppositions do not normally come out 15 minutes later saying, unless you give me a precise date by which you are going to do each and every one of these things, it is all a cheap trick designed to con the electorate into some wish list that you have really got no intention of doing because you see it is different to the way I did it in my manifesto. I mean, this is reducing the practice of politics and the quality of the political debate to the infantile. I do not know if there is anybody out there who feels cheated by the fact that the Government have not only published in detail its traffic plan but has gone to the trouble of distilling each commitment, from which he has drawn for his 45 quite unnecessary questions, so that they can follow whether we are making progress and how much. I do not know how many people out there feel cheated by that approach. All I can tell him, in case he finds it of any forensic value in answering that question, is that in the consultation process... Of course, in the eight years that they were in office, the GSLP did not carry out one single consultation process about any legislative measure or policy. So I can understand that they are not familiar with the physics of consultation processes. But in the consultation process that this Government did in relation to this plan, not one single citizen of this community, of all the ones that he now thinks are feeling cheated, not one single one answered the consultation process in draft to say, we think that this is a political fraud unless you tell us exactly the date in which you are going to start and the year in which you are going to finish or the date on which you are going to finish. Not one. I think on that basis, coupled with the fact that this is a most unconventional approach to politics that the hon Member not only recommends to the Government but goes further and says that if the Government does not adopt, it is simply engaging in systemic obfuscation with the electorate because this is information that the electorate is entitled to. I am not aware of any democracy in Europe where electorates demand to know or even want to know from the Government precise dates by which they are going to do everything that they undertake to do. Only here in this House, with this Opposition. The hon Member cannot even be truthful in the things that he says. Forget about the ridiculousness of them. They cannot even be accurate. It is not true that this is an open-ended document, a wish list with no dates or with no light at the end of the tunnel. Why does he say things that are not true? Of course, unless all he has read is the implementation checklist. Has not bothered to read the whole document and has not seen the paragraphs headed "Implementation Issues" and all that it says there about implementation timescales and the Government's estimate that this is a three year programme but many of the issues of which will be conducted... Well, I do not know if he thinks the Government are expressing the view that it thinks it will take about three years to complete this. I do not know whether he thinks that that is open-ended and I do not know whether, by his standards of assessment and judgement, he thinks that what he has said about this can fairly be said and truthfully be said in the light of a document that clearly does not contain an open-ended date commitment. It is typical, typical of the manner in which he chooses to conduct political debate in this

House. That is a matter entirely for him. But I want to make it perfectly clear that what he has said is not true and that what he claims to be what people demand without which there is some sort of democratic deficit when we are talking about the Government's policy which has gone to consultation, which is carefully explained and the democratic deficit he says, the fraud of the electorate is that we do not give dates because we cannot give dates, because a lot of these things are not for immediate implementation and that is the democratic deficit. If that is the definition of democratic deficit, all I can say is that it was just as well he was not in this House between 1988 and 1996. He would then know what democratic deficits really are.

HON G H LICUDI:

We will see about that. We will see what the future holds and when we are on that side of the House we will be talking about the democratic deficit when that party was in Government during these 14 years. Because there is a very large democratic ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, we are talking about it now. Because there is in fact a very huge democratic deficit in respect of lack of accountability in particular and that is what this is all about. The hon Member says we are reducing this to the infantile. Well, let us have a more mature debate. We can only have a mature debate with specific information and as the hon Mr Speaker said this morning, the purpose of Question Time is to elicit information. We have listed a series of questions based on the Government's, not information that we have thought of for ourselves, based on the Government's own document with a checklist, an actual checklist and all we want is for the public to be aware when the Government expects each of these items to be in place. Because it does not just say completed, it says in progress only also, and all the questions that I have asked are in respect of those items which are not even in progress. So is it that the Government does not even know when they are going to commence these matters and the hon Member has talked of a three year programme. Does the hon Member not agree that it should not be too difficult, if all we are talking about is a three year programme with such a huge list to be implemented, to say, well in the first year we intend to do this batch. In the second year we intend to do this batch and in the third year we intend to do this batch. That should not be beyond the realms of political imagination. So why do we want precise dates? Because otherwise this will be taken for what we believe it is and we are giving them an opportunity to disprove us. We believe this is a cheap political trick. We believe this is a massive deception on the public. We believe this has been published shortly before the elections even though the Government said at the time of the last elections they would give priority to this matter and they have not. This has been published now to give the public the impression that things are being done now. Shortly before the elections and they are not prepared to commit to specific dates. If we are wrong, let the hon Member prove us wrong simply with information. The public have a right to know. Will the hon Member review his policy of lack of transparency, of opaqueness which has been evident in the last few months in the answers to the questions that have been given in this House? We have seen quite clearly a sea change in the attitude of this Government. What this Government has

seen already out there in the street, is a sea change in terms of political opinion because this Government have been found out. They have been found wanting and will the hon Member now come clean and give us the information that we seek?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all, the hon Member does not seek information. Estimated dates the public can pencil in is not information. Secondly, the Government will not do so. But I will tell you what I will do. I will continue to correct the inaccuracies of his statements. It is a litany of successive, miss statements that he makes. It is not true that the question asks for work in progress and commencement date. The questions read, for goodness sake he has read it out 42 times, you would have thought that after 42 times he would at least have know what his own questions asked. Can the Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under completed. You see because the implementation checklist is divided into "in progress" and "completed". Well completed means "finished" in the English language and therefore it is no good him waffling and mumbling on about the questions also asking for commencement and when he is going to start and what is in progress. The questions ask for an estimated completion. I think he might at least try to accurately and truthfully recite his own questions, even if he does not want to accept my answers. Whether this report is a cheap political trick, premeditatedly designed by the Government as a massive deception of the electorate, does not fall to be determined by whether I give the hon Member the entirely unreasonable information that he now seeks from me but rather by the electorates judgement of whether we are getting on with it and whether we have made sufficient progress in it to satisfy their expectations of us, the next time they come into a polling booth to decide whether they vote for us or whether they want to vote for the hon Member opposite instead. That is the test of whether the public feels cheated and not the glib, simplistic, absurd, little political accusations that the hon Member conjures up for lack of anything better to say in this debate. Oh and by the way before I sit, eighteen months is hardly shortly before the election. I know the hon Members are waiting nervously at the starting block and that the one and a half opinion polls that they have read in the newspaper ...

HON F R PICARDO:

Point of Order. Not nervously, with great expectation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, with the same great expectation that he announced before the last election.

HON C G BELTRAN:

And the one before that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Shortly before the last election. Well, we shall see. It is much better just for the Government and the Opposition to get on with their work and just allow the electorate

to make these judgements. At the end of the day, it is not what he says now in this Question Time or indeed what I say now in this Question Time that decides who wins the election. It is the electorate at the right time, stopping, assessing performances, assessing relative visions and relative programmes, deciding whether they have had enough of the GSD Government and more significantly for them, deciding whether if they have had enough of the GSD Government, whether they can still afford to vote for the GSLP Government. Because, of course, the electorate could have a very bad choice. We do not think they are going to have a bad choice. We think it is going to have a good choice from the GSD. The problem for them is that even when our time has expired ...

HON F R PICARDO:

On a serious Point of Order, Mr Speaker, this is Question Time and as you often rule Question Time is a place for us ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

Can you not take it? Can you not take it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

You see I was right, it was nervous after all. Not xxxx ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

He jumps up.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Very well, let us hear the Point of Order, I suppose.

HON F R PICARDO:

This is Question Time Mr Speaker and in Question Time we are here to elucidate information and questions should not be a pretext for a debate. Similarly, Mr Speaker, answers should not be a pretext for a debate and talking about whether or not we should take his advice about what is going to happen before or after the next election and the choices that the people will have at the next election does not go to the issues that we are dealing with in Question Time which relates to the questions that my Learned and hon Friend has put. Could the hon Gentleman therefore be asked to stick to answering questions?

MR SPEAKER:

Can I say what I think about Question Time. I will refer to Erskine May. The purpose of a question is to obtain information or press for action. It should not be framed primarily so as to convey information or so as to suggest its own answer or convey a

particular point of view and it should not be in effect a short speech. We have had every transgression in the questions emanating from this side. By the same token, answers must be directed to the matters in issue and should be directly based on the question asked. The only leeway allowed is that Ministers of the Crown are allowed a certain amount of latitude. That is the difference. So both sides have transgressed in the purpose of the question and the answers emanating. There have been statements made, for example, and I am not being critical, words used as “a cheap political trick”. When there is going to be a statement of that nature from the questioner, one would expect a political response from the other side. So really, both sides are indulging in this. I will ask both sides to refresh your minds as to what the purpose of a question is and to confine the answers to the accepted practice.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I will of course be delighted to comply with Mr Speaker’s eminently sensible and I believe entirely correct ruling. But of course, as Mr Speaker himself says, it was not I who introduced the concept of, shortly before the election, which is the point that I was speaking to when I was so suddenly cut in my prime by those who accuse the Government of opacity. Not wanting to give information. Not wanting to exchange views. So, Mr Speaker, as far as I am concerned, I have answered the hon Members supplementary and out of respect and in acknowledgement and in acceptance of the hon Mr Speaker’s ruling, I will now resume my sedentary position.

MR SPEAKER:

I am grateful. Can I make one more point. Questions are not in order which renew or repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused in that session of Parliament. So when the hon Member is phrasing the next supplementary please bear in mind my earlier comments and this last comment.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker I am grateful for that. It is something that we ... I do acknowledge that sometimes we transgress and we do have a little bit of leeway from the chair.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

And very enjoyable it is too.

HON G H LICUDI:

And it is something that ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It makes for good parliamentary xxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely. It encourages the use of the Parliamentary time that we have. But I acknowledge that it must be constrained...

MR SPEAKER:

That is why I do allow a certain amount of latitude.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

For which we are very grateful Mr Speaker. But we do acknowledge that certainly there have to be some constraints. This is not a motion on traffic and therefore it is not a full debate on all matters. But I did notice Mr Speaker that in the extract that you read it said "obtain information of press for action". So it is not just a question of Question Time being eliciting information but pressing for action. So, to the extent that we are asking about completion dates and we are pressing for action on matters of public importance, that in our view would come within the confines of Question Time subject to of course, not when ...

MR SPEAKER:

Not renewing and repeating the same thing.

HON G H LICUDI:

Of course, not renewing and repeating and not making political speeches which I acknowledge we both take the advantage of doing. The hon Member has in answer to the last supplementary said that the questions all relate to the heading "completed". So we are asking for completion dates. But, naturally, the hon Member will realise that for something to be completed, it must be started. So implicit in the question as to when something is going to be completed, we are asking, well what progress has been made and when you are going start it. That is something which I would suggest is implicit to the extent that no progress has been made at all when the Government talks of sufficient progress being made in all these questions, the ones that I have read out, all of them are ones where there is no tick under the heading "in progress" and therefore I have assumed, because that is the case and this has been published recently, that these are all matters in respect of which no progress at all has been made and therefore we are asking what progress is being made. Let me be a bit more specific in my questions. The first two items, which are the subject of the questions under this batch, relate to the roundabout in Glacis Road and the roundabout in Regal House junction. These are matters that we have raised previously and it has been confirmed in this House that a decision has been made to undertake these works. Can the Government now tell us since that Question Time, the traffic plan has been published and, one assumes, further progress has been made and further decisions have been made, whether what progress has been made

on these matters on which we have been told previously, decisions have been made. So can the Government tell us when we are about to see work starting with respect to the roundabout in Glacis Road and the roundabout at Regal House junction?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think the hon Member even reads his own questions. Why is he asking me that in supplementary when the very next two questions on the order paper are “Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Queensway at Regal House junction to commence?” and the one after that is “Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Glacis Road to commence?” He surely knows his own questions. Why is he pre-empting them in a supplementary to a previous question?

HON G H LICUDI:

I am happy for those particular questions to be left to the ones in the order paper. Unfortunately, I have taken the trouble of reading so many questions that I was not sure whether those two questions had already been read out or not. But I am happy to leave those specific questions for the supplementary in the other questions. In respect of “residents permit holder only parking” areas throughout Gibraltar. Can the hon Member tell us which areas are envisaged where it is suggested that residents only, permit holder only parking will be allowed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will repeat what I said in my first reply. Measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon.

HON G H LICUDI:

I take that as being an answer, we will not tell you, we just refuse to tell you.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has asked the question six times. Xxxxx because you repeat it.

HON G H LICUDI:

One would have thought that where they are committed to putting “residents permit holder only parking” throughout Gibraltar that they would at least have identified those areas where “residents permit holder only” can be placed. If they have not even done that, then it begs even greater questions than I have chosen to ask in these supplementaries. In respect of Engineer Lane, which is one of the other items on the list of questions, there is envisaged a car park there with 207 car parking spaces. To what extent have the Government looked at issues of traffic management which arise in respect of the car park and following the completion of the car park. I say that because I am informed that construction at Engineer Lane of a building with additional public parking spaces is something that has been

considered some years ago by the Development and Planning Commission. There was, as I understand, an application made many years ago and the Government took advice from its own experts. I am told that the advice the Government was given was that by creating that additional parking space in that area, it would simply create traffic chaos because the only area of access to that is through Cornwall's Lane and does the Government not agree that at the moment there is access to that car park at Engineer Lane through Cornwall's Lane. There is traffic light system which operates, because it is only wide enough for one road and if the car park is built with these number of spaces, it may only contribute to greater traffic strain on the road system around that area. Is that something that the Government are aware of and have they considered that this is an issue which was considered by the Development and Planning Commission some years ago?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Firstly, the fact that the Government does not want to make announcements until measures are ready to be embarked upon does not entitle the hon Member to conclude, as he has chosen to do, that the Government have therefore done absolutely no work and have not even picked up the papers. Why he makes that *non sequitur* of a judgement, I simply do not know. The fact that the Government's position is that measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon does not necessarily and inevitably mean that the Government therefore has not even started work on it. I think most people who are objectively approaching this matter might come to the same conclusion as I on that. The second thing that I should comment on is that clearly the residents of that part of town, Engineer Lane and all those areas, who have been pressing the Government to build a multi-storey car park there, should now all take note that the hon Members opposite in the Opposition think that this is a bad idea which means presumably that they would not do it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, on a Point of Order, I have not said that the Opposition think it is a bad idea. I have asked the Government whether they have considered this given that, as I understand it, it is already being considered by the Development and Planning Commission and whether it is something that they are taking into account. We clearly xxxx carried it out.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With respect, it is a disingenuous response. He has pointed out to what he believes is an adverse judgement of the desirability of this project, presumably to indicate to the Government caution about the fact that it may not be a good idea and the moment I say to him, well be careful because the residents are the ones who are asking for it and they should take note and he does not think that... Oh I see, so he thinks it is a good idea but it is cautioning us to look at the report. Well, I doubt there are many listeners out there who think that that was the purpose of the hon Member saying what he has said. But please he should rest assured that, unlike he, the Government does consider matters with a slightly less degree of superficiality and all those questions have been carefully considered and the conclusion is that building a multi-storey car park there is an eminently sensible thing to do which will not in any way add to what he chooses to call, traffic chaos.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member's attempts to distort our views for political purposes clearly carry no weight and do not achieve their purpose. What we have done is, in fact, do precisely what the hon Member was accusing us of not doing only a few minutes ago. By trying to be constructive and by trying to suggest to the Government, well in respect of this particular project have you considered this? Have you considered whether it would lead to a massive traffic problem? We are simply being constructive and asking the Government whether it has considered that and if the answer is, yes we have carried out a detailed assessment and we have concluded that it is okay and it will not lead to a massive traffic ... then that answers the question. But by being constructive and us being criticised, well at the end of the day it is difficult to know what to do from this side of the House. It is either, we criticise the Government and we are criticised for doing that. We ask for information and we are criticised for doing that. We ask the Government constructively whether they have considered something, we are criticised for doing that. I am not suggesting we are going to stay home. We are certainly going to carry on with the work which is what we are paid to do and hold this Government to account whether they like it or not. In respect of maximising the use of ARP shelters, which is another item on the ... Can the Government say which ARP shelters have been identified for this purpose and where they are?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not watch football matches and I have no intention of watching tonight's or any other match but I understand if there is anybody in this House that wants to watch it any football match tonight, the hon Member can ask the same question 40 times and get the same answer 40 times. I have answered his last question because it called for a slightly different form of information but on as many occasions in relation to each of these planned elements he asks me details, I will tell him the same. Measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon member is clearly in the mood of not answering any questions. Can he confirm in respect of any other questions I may ask about this, his answer will be the same and he will refuse to provide the public with information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not regard it as refusal to provide the public with information. As to the more sensible part of his last question, that is what I had just finished saying before I sat down and he popped up to ask me what I just said before sitting down.

HON G H LICUDI:

The electorate will clearly judge for itself as to this Government's behaviour and that is not a question. It is a xxxxx.

ORAL

NO. 1011 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRANSPORT ROAD

Can Government state why works to repair or improve Transport Road are not envisaged as part of its Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1012 to 1014 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1012 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

QUEENSWAY ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Queensway at the Regal House junction to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1013 and 1014 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1013 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GLACIS ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Glacis Road to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1012 and 1014 of 2010.

NO. 1014 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ROSIA TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state when it expects the work on the road linking the Rosia area with Queensway via the Dockyard to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As to the Transport Road question, the Plan does not list individual roads that need repairs or improvement. This is part of the Government's normal annual road maintenance programme and I cannot say why the maintenance and resurfacing of Transport Road has not yet been done but I suppose it will be done. There is an annual budget and it is for others, not me, to select the particular roads to which the budget is applied. I suppose that at a given point in time they might have said, we want to wait for all the works to finish in the area before resurfacing the roads. If that was the explanation then, of course, that has now occurred. So I do not suppose there is any reason why it cannot be done. There is a vote there and it is up to those who administer that vote to decide whether it is Transport Road or some other road that they wish to give priority to.

As to the other schemes that he asks about which are mentioned in the Plan, as the Plan makes clear, the schemes mentioned in these three other questions are still at what the plan calls the design and viability working stages, and so, all the more it is inappropriate to indicate when, or indeed whether, works will start.

The road linking Rosia to Queensway is very likely to be the first of the three since it is a major manifesto commitment, and indeed it is part of the concept underlying the Trafalgar Interchange scheme. In other words, the Trafalgar Interchange scheme is driven mainly by a desire to decongest traffic coming out of the South District, north into town. The road in question, that is, the project for a road linking the Rosia area with Queensway through the Dockyard, is part of that because it would siphon some of the traffic that used to come down Trafalgar Hill and will now still have to come through the Trafalgar Interchange. It would have siphoned it directly from Rosia Road somewhere in the Rosia Road/New Mole House area down below and out directly to Queensway through the Dockyard without having to pass through the Trafalgar Interchange. So, this is something that the Government are keen to get on with and is likely to be the first of the three. But I cannot give him any details about the other two which are still at the design and viability stage, as is this one. But in the case of this one, I can tell him that from what I know the design and viability phase of work is more advanced than in respect of the other two.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1011 TO 1014 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that. In respect of Transport Road, the hon Member may recall that this is a matter that I have raised in the past in this House. The reason that we have done that and the question asked about, not just works to repair which talks about resurfacing, but to improve because reports have been made to us about ... and concerns about the state of the road, particularly when it rains and particularly the fact that there is no pavement in that road. So the reason I am asking this again now is because at the time there were works being carried out and therefore I had anticipated that once those works were carried out then perhaps the Government would take a decision. Can I urge the Government to consider it as part of its maintenance programmes for roads generally, the issue of Transport Road because it is an issue that residents in the area have raised with us on a number of occasions. On the roundabout in Queensway, Glacis Road, I note that the answer given by the hon Member is that this is..., work is being done on design and viability and that Government are considering when or indeed whether, those were the words I heard. Can I remind the hon Member that this is a matter again that we have raised in the past in relation to this particular issue and in particular in answer to Question No. 187 of 2010, the Minister for the Environment said the Government would make announcements as to this policy initiatives as and when it considers it appropriate to do so which is essentially the same answer. But after ten questions of debate, of supplementaries ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well after that, at the very end, the Hon the Minister for the Environment said and these are his words "But the commitment is there. The decision to do it is there. If for some reason it becomes impossible, then the decision to do it will have to change but the decision has been made". Can I just ask the hon member to comment on that given the slightly different answer that he has given now which is that a decision has to be made as to when or indeed whether it is to be made? It is suggested that there is a slight conflict between that answer and what we have previously been told.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With respect it was an eminently sensible answer by the Minister for the Environment, one which I would have commended to him myself because there is no difference between what he said and what I have just said. Both reflect a commitment to it. He said it and I put it in the plan. Both acknowledge that there are potential obstacles to its viability. In the case of the Glacis Road roundabout, not least the fact that we would need to repossess land which currently is privately owned and either the owner is willing to sell it to us or not and when the hon the Minister said that if it became impossible for any reason, the Government would have to say that it had become impossible, he had precisely that situation in mind. So in respect of the Glacis Road roundabout, this is something that the Government very

much thinks would be good for traffic flow enhancement in Gibraltar. It would prevent, for example, vehicles coming out of Bayside Road and vehicles coming out of Glacis Estate on Glacis Road having to go all the way to the Waterport roundabout, I nearly used its colloquial name in Spanish, in order to head back north again which is an unnecessary injection of traffic into that particular roundabout. So the Government very much want to do this but unfortunately does not currently own all the land that it would need in order to do so. I do not mind identifying the land in question. It is the car park near what used to be the Mediterranean Rowing Club or indeed on what used to be the Mediterranean Rowing club. Without that land, there is not enough room there to do the sort of roundabout that would be needed. I have told him as much as I can in respect of the other one. The roundabout at the Queensway to Regal House junction raises questions about the necessary turning cycle of large lorries. It raises questions about the relocation of the school or at least one of them because the roundabout at the junction of Queensway and Europort Avenue opposite Regal House cannot be done without using what is effectively now most of the land occupied by the two tennis courts which are used in connection with the schools as well. So, there are issues there. The Government are committed to the projects. It thinks that they would both be a jolly good thing which it would like to do but does not presently have the xxxx with all with which to do it because there are potentially blocking factors which may or may not be resolvable, and that is what I have meant and that is what I think the hon Minister meant.

ORAL

NO. 1015 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR CAR PARKS LIMITED

Can Government state what is the remuneration agreed by Government for the person employed to manage the Gibraltar Car Park Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. Assuming that “the person employed to manage the Gibraltar Car Parks Limited” is intended to refer to the Chief Executive Officer, his remuneration is £50,000 a year.

ORAL

NO. 1016 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK

Can Government state whether the car park at Devil's Tower Road is still on course to open in June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1017 to 1020 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1017 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD – REPROVISION OF LOST PARKING SPACES

Can Government state whether it has now made a decision on how the 200 parking spaces which will be lost at Devil's Tower Road will be reprovided?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016 and 1018 to 1020 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1018 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to give details of how the car park at Devil's Tower Road will operate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016, 1017, 1019 and 1020 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1019 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK – “PARK AND RIDE” FACILITIES FOR VISITORS

Can Government explain why the “park and ride” facilities from the Devil's Tower Road car park are described in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan as being “for visitors”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016 to 1018 and 1020 of 2010.

NO. 1020 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK – BUSES FOR “PARK AND RIDE” FACILITIES

Can Government state whether it has now purchased the buses which will operate the “park and ride” from the Devil's Tower Road car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Phase one of the Devil's Tower Road 'Park n Ride' multi-storey car park is now scheduled for completion by the end of July 2010 and it is expected, obviously, that a Certificate of Practical Completion will be issued.

The Government expect to conclude soon its coordination of, and make public announcements relating to, street parking, nearby residents only parking scheme and general operating matters relating to this large facility, which will also make provisions for visitors to Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1016 TO 1020 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I note that there has been some slippage in the date and I do not say that simply to hold them to the date they had previously said. There has been a months slippage but the purpose of the question now is that we were previously told that the completion date was June. Now it is going to be July which is of no particular consequence for this purpose but we were also told that details of how the car park will operate will be given nearer the date of its opening for business and therefore given that it was due to open for business in June, we thought it was appropriate to ask that. Does the Government not consider that given that it is going to be ready in a month, that it is sufficiently close to the date of its opening for business for the Government to have ironed out all these issues and therefore to be able to make an announcement as to the 200 parking spaces and in relation to the park n ride facilities and also with regard to the buses. The park n ride presumably just cannot operate without the buses and are the buses there or is the Gibraltar Bus Company going to be used for this purpose?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All of these issues are precisely the ones which have just been finalised. I think it is true to say but I cannot be drawn into making a public announcement just yet. All of these..., I mean the major underlying policy decisions have been made and now the operators are just putting the finishing touches to the practical arrangements. Whether it is necessary to say these things six or seven weeks before they become relevant to people wanting to park their car is a matter for judgement by him and by us. Obviously, we have a different one. I think it is completely unnecessary for it to have happened yet. Indeed, it cannot happen yet because the Government are not yet in a position. There are still issues left to resolve and that is where we are and this months delay is regrettable. On this occasion we cannot even blame the dastardly Spanish construction companies because this delay is down to our very own champion GJBS, about which we are all so proud. So there you are. It just goes to show that not all delay in building sites is either down to the terrible Ministers or down to the terrible Spanish construction companies.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member in a position, at the very least, to say whether a policy decision has been taken in respect of the 200 parking spaces which will be lost in Devil's Tower Road, whether those will in fact be reprovided within the car park?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not want to say because anything that I say will necessarily give away some of the details of the things which will not make sense without the rest of it because it all has to be regarded in the context of the whole package of issues. Suffice it to say, just assume that I am now repeating what I said earlier in the answer to the question when we were discussing, at the intervention of his colleague, Mr Picardo, in relation to the spaces lost in Willis's Road, that the Government has no intention of allowing 200 parking spaces in Devil's Tower Road to disappear without making alternative equivalent quantum arrangements. As for the detail of how what precisely that means and in what form these places will emerge and how, I would urge him please just to await, to respect the fact that the Government need to announce these things when it is ready to announce them all and it is not yet in a position. This is not one of those cases in which I do not want to tell him now because I am going to say it publicly tomorrow. The Government are not in a position yet to fill in all the details that would have to be ready before it was sensible and prudent to say anything at all.

NO. 1021 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EUROPORT TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

In respect of the new road linking Europort to Queensway which Government has contracted at a cost of £1,476,000, can Government state whether these works went out to tender, how many tenders were received, who the successful contractor was and what the amounts of the other tenders were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The works associated with the new road linking Europort to Queensway were contracted as part of the Mid Harbour Government Rental Housing project tender. In other words, they were included in those works. The cost element of the road, in other words the portion of the overall contract cost for the building of the houses and building the road attributable to the building of the road is £1,476,000. Tenders were received from three contractors. The winner was, they know now, Brues y Fernandez (Gibraltar) Ltd failed and therefore the project and the contracts have now been taken over by GJBS Ltd who is finishing both the houses and the road scheme. But it is not the Government's usual practice to attach a number to a name of the other tenderers and indeed in this case I do not think the Government want to say even the numbers because I am not sure that we have yet finished our contractual negotiations with GJBS Ltd to fix the final price. There may be an increase in the price over the above contracted price and I just do not know whether that has been completed or not yet or whether it is still in progress.

NO. 1022 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTERS' – TRAVEL COSTS PAID FOR BY THIRD PARTY

Can Government confirm if any Minister has, since May 2008, had his or her costs of travel (whether on official business or otherwise) paid for by any third party (who is not a family relative) and if so, whether the travel was on personal or Government business and who paid the expenses of any such travel, accommodation and related expenses and what was the purpose of the trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, as in previous years, the Chief Minister and the Minister for Enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport were invited by Mansion, a Gibraltar on-line betting company owned by foreign interests, to an all expenses paid trip to the United Kingdom from 12-14th December 2008 to watch a football match between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, which is sponsored by Mansion, the aforementioned Gibraltar company.

NO. 1023 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTERS' – USAGE OF VIP LOUNGE AT HEATHROW AND GATWICK AIRPORTS

What has been the total cost, giving a breakdown by trip, of each occasion on which the VIP lounge at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports has been used by the Chief Minister and/or any other Government Minister since charges were introduced for this previously free service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Only the Chief Minister is allowed to use the VIP lounges. In answer to Question Nos. 630 and 1064 of 2009, the hon Member was provided with details of the occasions and cost of the use of the VIP lounge at Gatwick Airport up to the 2nd June 2009. The situation continues to be that only the Chief Minister uses the facility. I now hand the hon Member a schedule relating to the use of the lounges from both Heathrow and Gatwick Airport from June 2009.

Answer to Question No. 1023 of 2010

Labour Party Conference (27 th & 28 th September 2009)	
VIP Suite Heathrow	£414.00
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
Chief Minister UN – New York (6 th & 8 th October 2009)	
VIP Suite Heathrow	£414.00
VIP Suite Heathrow	£414.00
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
Trilateral Forum/Gibraltar Day (15 th & 20 th October 2009)	
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
Meeting with FCO Officials (22 nd & 24 th February 2010)	
VIP Suite Heathrow	£423.00
VIP Suite Heathrow	£423.00
TOTAL	£6745.50

NO. 1024 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the £1,532.50 charged in respect of subsistence and other costs incurred in respect of the Chief Minister's travel for the trip to the Trilateral Forum talks of 15th to 20th October 2009 referred to in answer to Written Question No. W87 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1025 to 1028 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1025 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government provide a full and detailed breakdown of the accommodation costs of £2,909.05 charged in respect of the travel for the trip for the Trilateral Forum talks of 15th to 20th October 2009 referred to in answer to Written Question No. W87 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1024 and 1026 to 1028 of 2010.

NO. 1026 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government now give a full breakdown of the £2,430.17 of subsistence and other costs incurred in respect of the Chief Minister's travel to New York on 6th to 8th October 2009 and referred to in answer to Question No. 441 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1024, 1025, 1027 and 1028 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1027 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government now give a full breakdown of the £1,500 listed as subsistence and other costs in respect of the attendance by the Chief Minister at the Labour Party Conference?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1024 to 1026 and 1028 of 2010.

NO. 1028 OF 2010**THE HON F R PICARDO****CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS**

Can Government now explain the discrepancy between the costs incurred for accommodation at the Conservative Party Conference last year which was £1,000 and that incurred for accommodation at the Labour Party Conference which was £360?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The £1,532.50 referred to in answer to written question W87 of 2010 relates to the use of the VIP Suite at Gatwick Airport.

The breakdown of the accommodation costs of £2,909.05 is as follows:

Room (Hire of)	£2,375.00
Room Service	£ 177.80
Room Taxes	<u>£ 356.25</u>
	<u>£2,909.05</u>

The breakdown of the subsistence and other costs of £2,430.17 is as follows:

Heathrow VIP Lounge (6 th & 8 th October)	£1,604.25
Car Hire – New York	<u>£ 825.92</u>
	<u>£2,430.17</u>

I take it that the hon Member is referring to the amount of £1,553.84 provided in answer to Question No. 441 of 2010, in his Question No. 1027 of 2010 not identified, but our assumption is that that is what he is referring to. The breakdown therefore is as follows:

Use of VIP Suite at Gatwick	£776.25
Use of VIP Suite at Heathrow	£414.00
Car Hire	<u>£363.59</u>
	<u>£1,553.84</u>

There is no discrepancy although there is a difference in relation to the difference in room costs between the two party conferences.

The reason for the difference is that the cost of the hotel for the Conservative Party Conference has to be booked in advance for a minimum period of four nights, even if the accommodation were required for a shorter period and I do not actually stay for

that long. I cannot be certain but I think the accommodation is then used either for other members of the Gibraltar delegation or made available to others, friends of Gibraltar who might be there at the Conference.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1024 TO 1028 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

From the information that has been provided, it would appear that £1,604 is a very large amount of pay for the Heathrow VIP lounge for the trip to New York because the cost is about £414.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I said 6th and 8th October. Xxxx.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes. So how come ... If it is in both directions, it is £400 when you are there the first time and it is £400 when you come back.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I see what you mean. I do not know.

HON F R PICARDO:

The VIP suite Heathrow has been given to me as £414 in each direction.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is £1,604.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is the total the hon Gentleman has given me for his use of the lounge between the 6th and the 8th October on the way up and on the way down. But I am told from his answer to Question No. 1023 of 2010 that the lounge costs £414 each way.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was the last Question No. that I mentioned, 1,023.

HON F R PICARDO:

But in the remarks that the hon Gentleman has made in answer to Question No. 1026 of 2010, he said it is the VIP lounge at Heathrow that totals £1,604.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Could it be ... I have not done xxxx ... Could it be that the answer perhaps should be 6th to the 8th Heathrow and Gatwick.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is what it is. Alright. Fair enough.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have xxxx when added together and xxxx. Yes, I think the answer is probably wrong in that it is £1,604.25 Heathrow and Gatwick VIP.

HON F R PICARDO:

Right. That makes sense.

ORAL

NO. 1029 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

**MEETINGS BETWEEN CHIEF MINISTER AND COMMISSIONER OF
POLICE/ATTORNEY GENERAL**

On how many occasions has the Chief Minister met with both the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney General together at No. 6 Convent Place, providing a list of the dates when such meetings were held, the purpose of the meetings being convened and the names of any other attendees since 1st January 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I do not think that it is appropriate to provide an account of my meetings with senior Government officials, nor the purposes of such meetings.

ORAL

NO. 1030 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW PRESS SECRETARY

What are the terms of the employment of the new Press Secretary employed by the Government, providing salary, period of employment, any trial period, any pension provision and whether the employment is as a civil servant on permanent and pensionable terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1031 of 2010.

NO. 1031 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW PRESS SECRETARY

What process of advertisement of post, application and interview was followed for the post of Press Secretary?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

An officer has been engaged on a three year contract with effect of 4th May 2010, on a salary of £52,000 per annum subject to review in accordance with pay increases awarded to administrative and executive grades within the Civil Service. The contract also provides for payment of a tax free gratuity of 25 per cent of the basic salary for each year of completed service. The duties of this officer include some press secretary functions and also the provision of general support to the Chief Minister as one of his private secretaries within my office.

In accordance with the past practice of such posts in the Chief Minister's office this was a direct appointment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1030 AND 1031 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Sorry I did not hear the last ... because the door was closing. A direct ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A direct appointment.

HON F R PICARDO:

And, therefore, it is not a Civil Service post.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a Civil Service permanent and pensionable post. Every officer of the Crown, whether engaged on permanent and pensionable terms or on contract terms is a

public officer. The term civil servant does not actually exist in law as such. You are a public officer if you are an employee of the Crown. You are an employee of the Crown whether you are employed on permanent and pensionable terms or whether you are employed on contract terms. This person therefore together with all other civil servants, just to use his phrase, but subject to the explanation that I have just given, like all other Government contract officers is regarded as a civil servant in that he is an employee of the Crown. He is not employed by ... individually. He is employed by ... I am not sure who the contracting party is. I suppose it xxxx with the civil servants. But he is not a civil servant in the same sense as the main body of civil servants are. The difference being that the latter are on permanent and pensionable terms, are subject to General Orders. Contract officers are on contract for a term. Not permanent. Not pensionable under the Pensions Act. Pensionable under the contractual terms which is 25 xxxx business but subject to General Orders, the clauses of General Orders of which are stated in the contract. That is the standard form of contract for contract officers.

ORAL

NO. 1032 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – PROVISION OF SERVICES

On what date were the services being provided to the Government by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited put out to tender, how many tenders were received and why was Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited chosen to provide the service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1033 of 2010.

NO. 1033 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – PROVISION OF SERVICES IN RESPECT OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

On what dates were the services presently being provided to the Government by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited in respect of:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) the new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) the Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) the relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) the Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) the new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) the simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road;
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue; and
- (xvi) the revetment repair works to the West View Promenade?

I note that that question does not seem to have an object and that must be my fault in drafting it. But the hon Gentleman seems to be about to answer it.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited is a wholly owned Government company which is not providing services to the Government. The defect in the question, if there is one, which I suppose is inadvertent, is not in the absence of an object. It is in the first two lines.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1032 AND 1033 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes. The hon Gentleman is right and the question in fact is in respect of Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited which is providing services to Gibraltar Investment Holdings Ltd. Can the hon Gentleman give that answer or does he not have it with him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I do not have it with me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, let me apologise to the House for the error in that question and I will put the question again.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member will write to me, I will provide him with the information. It is just I think we should be allowed to hold him to the question that he asks but if he wants the information, if he drops me a note, I will reply to him with it.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. I do note that the question is improperly drafted. It is my own error I am sure and therefore I will make sure the question is either put again in the proper manner or I write to the hon Member and get the answer from him. I am just concerned if I do that it will not be in Hansard. That is the only issue.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh. Alright, I see.

NO. 1034 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – SALARY/FEE PAID TO GIBRALTAR LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY LIMITED AND LAND PROJECTS CONSULTANTS LIMITED

What further amounts in respect of salary or fee has since the date of the last answer in this House to date been paid to date by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited on the basis:

- (a) of the “on account formula”; and
- (b) of that part of the composite fee which comprises 20 per cent of the costs of the services to be provided by all project design consultants and the 1 per cent of the agreed project value,

referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited in respect of any of the following contracts individually:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) the new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD’s joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) the Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) the relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) the Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) the new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) the simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car parks at Devil’s Tower Road;
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue; and
- (xvi) the revetment repair works to the West View Promenade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. The amounts paid under the "On Account" formula total £400,000, broken down between projects as appears in the schedule I have just handed to the hon Member. The amount paid under the "Composite" formula totals £495,195, but due to a temporary administrative reason, I am not able to provide the projects breakdown at this time. I will send the breakdown to the hon Member as soon as it becomes available. So if he looks at the schedule he will see that he has the two totals at the bottom under each formula and the total of those two. Vertically, in the middle column, the breakdown by project of the "on account formula" payments. But it has not been possible, mainly due to staff absences, which is the temporary administrative reason that has been given to me, to provide him with a breakdown of the £495,195. So n/a means not available. Not, not applicable. But I will have somebody write to him with the information as soon as it can be accessed basically.

Answer to Question No. 1034 of 2010

Payments made by Gibraltar Investments (Holdings) Limited on the basis of the 'on account' and 'composite' formulae since February 2010:

	Composite Formula payments £	On Account Formula payments £	Total £
Mid Harbour Phase I	n/a	0	0
Mid Harbour Phase II	n/a	0	0
GoG Relocations	n/a	20,000	20,000
Terminal Building	n/a	120,000	120,000
New road	n/a	80,000	80,000
MoD Relocations	n/a	30,000	30,000
Infrastructure	n/a	60,000	60,000
GoG Housing	n/a	60,000	60,000
Power Station	n/a	20,000	20,000
Car Parks	n/a	10,000	10,000
Simple Approach Lighting System	n/a	0	0
Sewage Treatment	n/a	0	0
Energy to Waste	n/a	0	0
Revetement repairs	n/a	0	0
Total	<u>£495,195</u>	<u>£400,000</u>	<u>£895,195</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1034 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sticking to the list of sixteen. Because that is the list that the hon Gentleman gave me so that we could continue to read forward the amount per project. But I note that what the answers I am getting are not following that list of sixteen. Is it that there are items on this list of sixteen which are amalgamated for the purposes of some of the payments or ... Because I see in some instances when nothing has been paid that that is still said. Zero has been paid et cetera.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because we know what his area of interest is. The projects and the parties providing the services and this is how they are accounted for in the contracts and in the Government's arrangements. So for example, Mid Harbour Phases I and II I think are finished. I think that is the reclamation work in the Mid Harbour for Phases I and II. GOG relocations are all the relocation headings which do not involve the MOD. MOD relocations are all the relocation items that involve the MOD. So for example, Items (iii), (vii), (viii) are all MOD relocations. Items (vi) and (ix) are both GOG relocations and the others are projects which I think describe themselves individually. If he has any difficulty correlating the two lists I will be happy to provide him with a further breakdown.

HON F R PICARDO:

For example, if he could deal with (iv) and (v), are those Mid Harbour Phase I and Mid Harbour Phase II or are they covered anywhere else. Because GOG housing is there as well.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Because Mid Harbour Phase I and Phase II, both relate to (iv) which is the Mid Harbour reclamation works which are finished. The project is now, the on-going project is (v), the Government Rental Housing Project which now includes the road and that is ...

HON F R PICARDO:

GOG housing.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly.

HON F R PICARDO:

Right.

NO. 1035 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT – PFI CONTRACT

Have discussions now commenced in respect of the terms of any new PFI contract for the new proposed “Waste to Energy” plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, they have not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1035 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman anticipate that this will be in the current financial year? Perhaps that is something he wants to tell me during the course of another debate that we will have later on this session.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh, the budget.

HON F R PICARDO:

Small matter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the small matter of the budget debate. No, that would not be the reason for not telling him and I am not sure if anybody is going to deal with this in their budget address but I think the more likely explanation for the answer no is that this project has given way in the priority in terms of officials dealing with it to the new power station where I know there have been conversations of that sort. I do not think there is any reason other than the fact that it is not yet ready or is not yet ...

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not to read into that that it is not to be a PFI any longer. It is just that whether it is to be a PFI or not a PFI, is not yet a matter that has been determined.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The Government would like it to be PFI'd in some form or another and the Government want to proceed with this. There are actually technical issues under consideration and this much I do know about whether a waste to energy plant in Gibraltar is capable of complying with EU rules on the matter about waste recycling. In other words, the things that ..., there are discussions ongoing between the experts about whether the sort of the things that we want to burn, to deliver the calorific values and the quantities, are things that we are free to burn under another set of EU Directives or whether we are obliged to deal with them in another way. I think the preponderance of opinion is that the answer is that we are but I do not think that that aspect of the debate has yet been closed. Of course, it would affect the whole viability of a waste to energy plant if the position were that we are not allowed to burn paper and cardboard and all the other things that are recyclable.

ORAL

NO. 1036 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Have any applications for banking licences been refused in the past two years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1037 to 1039 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1037 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

How many 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. 1036, 1038 and 1039 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1038 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Has the Government since the last answer in this House 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1036, 1037 and 1039 of 2010.

NO. 1039 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Has the Government since the last answer in this House 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

No application for banking licences have been refused in the past two years.

No new banking licences have been issued since the last answer in this House.

The Government has not refused consent for any application made under section 74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, since the last answer in this House.

The Government has not made any decision in exercise of its power under section 23(3)(i), (j) or (3A) of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, since the last answer in the House.

NO. 1040 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW TAX LEGISLATION

When does Government now expect to publish the new tax legislation?

Mr Speaker, of course, as the hon Gentleman knows, since putting this question the publicly available information has changed.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I have also taken note of the hon Member's published view that it was rushed out in order to pre-empt the answer to his question. I hope the hon Gentleman will accept although of course I understand that politically he may not wish to do so. But at least personally he will accept my assurance that there is no such thing. Indeed, if he is interested in really knowing why it was published on Wednesday morning or Thursday morning, can I suggest that he asks one of his partners. However, I think the important thing is and I read the hon Member's comments about the timing. I will express no view on that except to disagree with him. Of course, the publishing has taken longer than the Government had anticipated and I think that that has been as a result of the extent of the detail into which the legislation has gone. The huge amount of drafting effort and policy discussions that have gone. I am not trying to embarrass him by referring him to his partners. They will tell him why it has taken so long and indeed I hope they will also tell him that it has been worth waiting longer to publish the Bill in the form that it has been published rather than have rushed it out to no one's real gain in a different form. So, I would like to take this opportunity publicly to thank all those members of the legal and accountancy profession that have assisted the Government, not just with brainstorming debates about the proposed content of the Bill but who then indeed have collaborated closely with the Government on the drafting of the Bill itself. So, if we can just separate questions of timing and dates and delay from the substance of it, I hope he will allow me to use this opportunity to speak about the latter.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course, I will not go beyond the personal assurance of the hon Member. I will not accept his invitation that I should take this matter up with my partners. As I have told him in the past, I think it is better for me to keep that relationship that I have with my partners and the political issues separate. The hon Gentleman must know, as must everybody in the Finance Centre, that the Opposition has criticised for some time the fact that this documentation has not been made available for the reasons that I have already indicated in my press release and which I know the hon Gentleman

disagrees with them. There is no need to go into that any further. But that the Opposition considers itself, like every other member of this community, a stakeholder in the future success of the Finance Centre and that we will be a constructive party in ensuring that the Bill passes all its stages in this House with such amendment as we may, if necessary, bring to the attention of the Government and of the House in the debate to ensure that Gibraltar's Finance Centre continues to prosper as it has for many years, regardless of who has been in charge of the administration of our affairs.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, perhaps I could just add. I do not by this mean to suggest that it was available or could have been published earlier. But I think the hon Member may be interested in knowing that there have elements in the Finance Centre who actually advised the Government not to publish it sooner even if it was free to do so. They thought that there were disadvantages of that. I am not saying I agreed with the reasons that they proffered for giving that advice but the advice was proffered. So even within the Finance Centre there were two schools of thought about whether doing it a bit later, it was a bad thing or indeed a better thing than doing it earlier. But I do not want him to misinterpret that to suggest that we held it back because we took that advice. It was not held back. It was published when it was ready.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just acknowledge that from the hon Gentleman and say that, of course, he will know is it not ever thus that those who wished it published sooner were the ones probably approaching us, whilst those not wanting it published sooner were probably the ones approaching him and that it very probably was two schools, two very divided schools of thought in the Finance Centre. Those who wanted it published sooner were very, very eager with us that we should push for it to be published earlier.

ORAL

NO. 1041 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES IN LIQUIDATION

How many companies have gone into liquidation in each financial year since 2007/2008 owing the Government in excess of £25,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1042 to 1044 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1042 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, TRADING ENTITIES OWING PAYE

How many companies, partnerships or other trading entities or traders owed the Government more than £50,000 in PAYE in each financial year since 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1041, 1043 and 1044 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1043 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, TRADING ENTITIES OWING SOCIAL INSURANCE

How many companies, partnerships or other trading entities or traders owed the Government more than £50,000 in Social Insurance in each financial year since 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1041, 1042 and 1044 of 2010.

NO. 1044 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ARREARS OF PAYE AND SOCIAL INSURANCE IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

What is the total amount of arrears of PAYE and Social Security due from employers in each of the following industries in the financial years 2009/2010 and in 2010/2011?:

- (a) Ship-repair (whether active or in liquidation or receivership);
- (b) Online gaming industry (whether active or in liquidation or receivership);
- (c) Non-Gibraltar contractors working for the Government or its wholly owned companies in the construction industry (whether active or in liquidation or receivership); and
- (d) Financial Services and the legal profession (whether active or in liquidation or receivership),

giving a breakdown by contributions due from the employers themselves and from employees (who are likely to already have had their share of contributions deducted by the employer at source)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 1044 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1041 of 2010

The companies that have gone into compulsory liquidation by order of the Supreme Court with debts to Government exceeding £25,000 are as follows:

Financial Year	No. of Companies	£
2007/2008	1	0.18M
2008/2009	4	0.14M
2009/2010	4	0.67M
2010/2011	1	0.22M
	10	1,21M

Answer to Question No. 1042 of 2010

The statistical data requested by the hon Member in Question Nos. 1042, 1043 and 1044 is only available for the financial year 2009/2010, since I am advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that prior to this date, their data was not available in the requested format.

There are 35 employers that owed the Government more than £50,000 in PAYE Tax for the financial year 2009/2010.

Answer to Question No. 1043 of 2010

There are 14 employers that owed the Government more than £50,000 in Social Insurance for the financial year 2009/2010.

Answer to Question No. 1044 of 2010

Furthermore, I have also been advised that a breakdown in respect of both, contributions due from the employers themselves and from the employees, is not available in financial years.

In addition, no statistical data can currently be provided for the financial year 2010/2011.

The total amount of arrears of PAYE Tax and Social Insurance due from employers in each of the following industries for the financial year 2009/2010 is as follows:

Industry	PAYE Tax £	Social Insurance £
Ship repair	-	61K
Online Gaming industry	168K	2K
Non-Gibraltar Contractors	-	64K
Financial Services and the Legal profession	174K	152K

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1041 TO 1044 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for the information contained in the schedule. I note that the answer to Question No. 1042 of 2010 includes a preface that says the statistical data requested by me in Question Nos. 1042, 1043 and 1044 of 2010 is only available for the financial years 2009/2010 since the hon Member appears to have been advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that prior to this date, their data, the Commissioner of Income Tax's data was not available in the requested format. Can I, just for the purposes of understanding this, press the hon Gentleman to tell me whether in fact that means that the Government does not know or did not know who owed it more than £50,000 in terms of PAYE or Social Security for the years prior to 2009/2010, because that does not ring true to me. Not to suggest that anybody is lying. It just does not ring right to me.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My interpretation of that is that it is not available in the format, that is, in the breakdown that he has asked for it. But I suppose the Government does know how many tax payers owed it money and how much. I suppose it must know that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well exactly...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But I think the interpretation is because of the breakdown.

HON F R PICARDO:

Oh I see, because of the financial year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. In other words, by reference to PAYE in that year as opposed to cumulatively...

HON F R PICARDO:

Well I see. I see the way that my question has been interpreted. I did not, for one moment, think it could be interpreted to mean PAYE accrued in those years. I intended it to mean and perhaps we can agree a wording for the future, PAYE owed by that year in excess of £50,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh, cumulatively?

HON F R PICARDO:

Exactly. A cumulative debt to the Government of over £50,000. That information must be available to the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would ... Yes, that information must be available to Government. I agree. In respect of cumulative debt as opposed to broken down by the year to which it relates. Yes, and if he wants I can try and get the information for him.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would be very grateful if he could so that we can then have the answer which we appear already to have in respect of the year 2009/2010.

ORAL

NO. 1045 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

DOLPHINARIUM AT ROSIA BAY

Are Government in favour or against the establishment of a “dolphinarium” at Rosia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1046 of 2010.

NO. 1046 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DOLPHINARIUM AT ROSIA BAY

Have Government concluded their negotiations with the entity that has made a formal proposal for the establishment of a dolphinarium and other related leisure activities in Rosia Bay and if so with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A project proposal for a dolphinarium and other leisure facilities in the area of Rosia Bay has been submitted to the Government by a company called Europa Point Marine Village Ltd. No negotiations have taken place, let alone been concluded. The Government are not currently considering this proposal. The Government would not publicly express its view about any proposal received until it had been considered and accepted or rejected by the Government. The Government assess all proposals received against a number of criteria, including the availability of the site for the proposed purpose, (the Government is considering the Rosia site for other local leisure purposes) the social or economic value of the proposal to Gibraltar and the acceptability of the proposal from an environmental (in this case including animal welfare) and heritage perspective.

The Government are not, per se, against the existence of a dolphinarium, subject to a number of animal welfare considerations. Under no circumstances would the Government even contemplate agreeing to a dolphinarium that involves the training and keeping in captivity of dolphins caught in the wild at sea.

ORAL

NO. 1047 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MID-TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Will Government give an update over the commencement of works of the Mid-Town Development explaining why works have not yet commenced and whether they have agreed any changes to the original commencement and completion dates of the project (and if so what are they)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Works have not yet commenced.

There has not yet been any formal changes to the original agreement, but the Government is minded to be sensitive to the general unavailability of bank funding in the international and local banking market for speculative property development.

ORAL

NO. 1048 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Can Government state whether there is a requirement to demolish any existing building in order to build the new proposed Catholic Community Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1049 and 1050 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1049 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Can Government state what the projected cost of the new Catholic Community Centre will be, when is it scheduled that works will commence and whether it will be equal in size to the existing one?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1048 and 1050 of 2010.

NO. 1050 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Can Government say what will be the projected cost of the demolition of the present Catholic Community Centre, when is it scheduled to take place and whether it intends to put the Zoca Flank Battery to a different use?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is no requirement to demolish any existing building in order to build the new proposed Catholic Community Centre at the rear of Engineer House, predominantly on the site of the ex-Diabetes Society premises.

It is too early, at this stage, to project the cost of the new Catholic Community Centre. It is not in the Government's interest to intimate an approximate cost, as the project has not yet been contracted.

The size and configuration of the new Centre is currently under review with the Roman Catholic Church.

The demolition of the existing Centre has not yet commenced. Zoca Flank will not be rebuilt on. The whole purpose of the demolition and relocation is a further uncluttering and removal of buildings from the City Walls.

NO. 1051 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THE MOUNT

Can Government say on what date they received a joint letter written by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and GONHS containing proposals for the future use of the Mount, and on what date they replied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I do not consider it appropriate to account publicly for correspondence between the Government and other entities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1051 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Member whether it is the policy of the Government to change the use of the Mount?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I think that the answer to that question is not that it is the policy of the Government to change it but that the Government is open to a potential change as is implicit by the fact that we have been out to tender, at least once possibly twice I do not know, but at least once inviting tenderers to designate an alternative use for the site. So, the Government are just conscious of the fact that the site is there, that the buildings are there. That they are, in a sense, dilapidating. There is not anything obvious that the Government can do there in terms of public amenity except perhaps in relation to the gardens which are more or less open and available for public use as a green space and therefore the Government from time to time tests the market to see whether there is anybody there that wants to make a proposal to the Government for something that might be useful to Gibraltar. But that is not to say it is a policy to change. But if somebody came up with a use which applied the site to a more productive and I think a purposeful use than it is being put to at the moment, then I think the Government would consider such a proposal. Indeed ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any restriction on what the place may be put to? I think originally the MOD position when they still had it, before they released it, was that the place could not be put into the market for development. That it had to be kept for a public purpose. Is that the case any more or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member's recollection is impressive in that respect but not quite accurate. There is something to a similar effect but not to that effect. There is a provision in the contract which may or may no longer be enforced by the MOD which says that if the Government puts it to a public use, it has to make no further payment to the MOD. But if it puts it to some use that is not a public use, then the MOD may be entitled to a share of any proceeds therefrom. Bearing in mind that this was not a normal MOD property covered by the Lands Memoranda, this was specifically owned by the Navy, rather than the Ministry of Defence.

ORAL

NO. 1052 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN THROUGH UK

Can Government list the communications between Gibraltar and Spain, 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 1053 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1053 OF 2010

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1053

Answer to Questions 1052 and 1053

February 2010 to June 2010 (Incoming)

Post Box Ref and Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
(1)PB/18/10 07-Apr-2010	Junta de Andalucía	Environmental Agency	Notification.
(1)PB/23/10 12-Apr-2010	High Court, Cadiz	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Request for information.
(1)PB/24/10 12-Apr-2010	High Court, Cadiz	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Request for information.
(1)PB/30/10 13-May-2010	Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda	Financial Services Commission	Notification.
(1)PB/31/10 13-May-2010	Juzgado de Primera Instancia	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Notification.
(1)PB/35/10 07-Jun-2010	Juzgado de Primera Instancia	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Request for information.
(1)PB/38/10 09-Jun-2010	Ministerio de Justicia	HM AG's Chambers	Request for information.

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1053

Contd Answer to Questions 1052 and 1053

February 2010 to June 2010 (Outgoing)

Post Box Ref and Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
PB/11/10 10-Feb-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/12/10 19-Feb-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/14/10 19-Feb-2010	Financial Services Commission	the Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones.	Notification.
PB/17/10 23-Mar-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/19/10 30-Mar-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/20/10 06-Apr-2010	Financial Services Commission	Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones, Ministerio de Economia y Hacienda	Notification.
PB/28/10 29-Apr-2010	Financial Services Commission	Banco de España	Notification.
PB/30/10 03-May-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/36/10 19-May-2010	Financial Services Commission	Comision Nacional de Mercado de Valores	Notification.
PB/44/10 25-May-2010	Environmental Agency	Servicios de Residuo y Control de la Contaminacion, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Notification.
PB/45/10 25-May-2010	Environmental Agency	Director General de Prevencion y Calidad.	Notification.
PB/46/10 01-Jun-2010	Financial Services Commission	Fondos de Pensiones	Notification.
PB/47/10 04-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/49/10 07-Jun-2010	The Chief Secretary	Ministerio de Justicia, Subdireccion General de Cooperacion, Madrid.	Notification.
PB/50/10 08-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/52/10 08-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.

NO. 1054 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ODYSSEY MARINE EXPLORATION – APPLICATION BY SPANISH JUDGE TO EXAMINE OBJECTS

Can Government confirm whether a request has been received from the Tribunal Superior de Andalucia for a judge in La Linea who wanted to examine objects left behind in Gibraltar by Odyssey Marine Exploration, and if so on what date was such a request received, who was it addressed to and what has been the response?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A request “to examine objects left behind in Gibraltar by Odyssey Marine Exploration” and indeed seeking other assistance was received from the Tribunal Superior de Andalucia and transmitted at the request of the Judge of Examining Court No. 3 of La Linea de La Concepcion. The request was dated 24th September 2008 and was addressed to the Attorney General for Gibraltar. There was an earlier request, direct from the same Judge, dated 6th August 2007.

Clarification was sought to ensure that the factual and legal basis of the request would not prejudice our exclusive jurisdiction and exclusive British sovereignty of British Gibraltar territorial waters. As this has not been forthcoming, the request has not been processed in full accordance with the provisions of the Schengen Convention.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1054 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the hon Member says not processed in full, does he mean that they have not been able to come and examine the object?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Sorry I misread that. I thought I had corrected myself in time but obviously I had not. I just paused after the word in the wrong place. “Has not been processed in full compliance with the provisions of the Schengen Convention”. In other words, the Schengen Convention allows you to reject these applications when they are not in the public interest to do so and the Government wanted to be absolutely certain that the request was formulated in terms that were not justifiable only if these were

Spanish waters as the Spanish state alleges rather than British waters and because satisfaction was not given in that respect, the Government judged that acceding to the request would have at least acquiesced it if not aided and abetted the view that these are Spanish waters and therefore the Spanish courts have jurisdiction in them.

ORAL

NO. 1055 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FRONTIER STATISTICS

Can Government supply a copy of the latest frontier statistics tables for 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1055

PERSONS 2009

MONTH	TOTAL RESIDENTS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL OTHERS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	123,410	111,007	282	12,121	(766)	687,098	513,420	9,591	164,087	(3,668)	810,508	(4,434)
FEBRUARY	115,242	102,196	449	12,597	(907)	709,722	531,377	15,217	163,128	(3,945)	824,964	(4,852)
MARCH	129,643	115,205	786	13,652	(943)	796,876	579,619	25,043	192,214	(4,423)	926,519	(5,366)
APRIL	138,643	124,140	976	13,527	(805)	793,352	572,848	23,698	196,806	(4,285)	931,995	(5,090)
MAY	134,189	118,949	1,361	13,879	(878)	815,991	594,907	26,578	194,506	(4,091)	950,180	(4,969)
JUNE	152,333	132,789	1,415	18,129	(1,045)	823,050	589,262	24,237	209,551	(4,595)	975,383	(5,640)
JULY	164,518	131,401	1,504	31,613	(851)	889,061	633,913	22,794	232,354	(4,538)	1,053,579	(5,389)
AUGUST	148,411	131,226	1,141	16,044	(737)	950,450	662,229	19,401	268,820	(4,173)	1,098,861	(4,910)
SEPTEMBER	128,650	113,846	1,466	13,338	(955)	876,643	619,846	32,872	223,925	(4,488)	1,005,293	(5,443)
OCTOBER	141,060	123,907	2,411	14,742	(876)	849,154	593,416	35,173	220,565	(4,541)	990,214	(5,417)
NOVEMBER	123,227	108,489	1,435	13,303	(956)	802,565	592,477	19,833	190,255	(4,547)	925,792	(5,503)
DECEMBER	138,329	124,759	998	12,572	(838)	784,350	586,341	11,878	186,131	(3,988)	922,679	(4,826)
TOTALS	1,637,655	1,437,914	14,224	185,517	(10,557)	9,778,312	7,069,655	266,315	2,442,342	(51,282)	11,415,967	(61,839)

VEHICLES (2009)

MONTH	G - PLATES	C/G	OTHERS	C/G	COACHES	COMMERCIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	45,159	(834)	187,737	(3,120)	301	83	233,280	(3,954)
FEBRUARY	40,264	(865)	190,392	(3,507)	447	69	231,172	(4,372)
MARCH	46,848	(952)	210,071	(3,914)	660	133	257,712	(4,866)
APRIL	47,623	(861)	206,506	(3,789)	679	165	254,973	(4,650)
MAY	47,466	(768)	216,161	(3,450)	786	281	264,694	(4,218)
JUNE	52,228	(857)	208,732	(4,010)	737	465	262,162	(4,867)
JULY	50,327	(906)	224,269	(3,896)	745	269	275,610	(4,802)
AUGUST	52,220	(767)	227,467	(3,539)	623	28	280,338	(4,306)
SEPTEMBER	45,701	(896)	216,451	(3,847)	985	41	263,178	(4,743)
OCTOBER	49,724	(880)	220,880	(3,879)	1,077	41	271,722	(4,759)
NOVEMBER	44,495	(875)	215,633	(3,912)	616	47	260,791	(4,787)
DECEMBER	49,633	(717)	207,531	(3,645)	442	63	257,669	(4,362)
TOTALS	571,688	(10,178)	2,551,830	(44,508)	8,098	1,685	3,113,301	(54,686)

NOTE

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS IN COLUMNS MARKED C/G OR TOTAL C/G REFER TO STATISTICS TAKEN AT THE COMMERCIAL ENTRANCE GATE AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICS FOR THE LAND FRONTIER.

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1055

PERSONS (2010)

MONTH	TOTAL RESIDENTS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL OTHERS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	125,953	113,478	512	11,963	(845)	737,673	564,379	8,383	164,911	(3,698)	863,626	(4,543)
FEBRUARY	117,815	102,995	656	14,164	(1,018)	728,085	546,204	14,677	167,204	(4,678)	845,900	(5,696)
MARCH	144,800	130,018	613	14,169	(885)	900,678	637,808	27,081	235,789	(5,660)	1,045,478	(6,545)
APRIL	148,172	132,158	1,430	14,584	(722)	929,329	665,440	31,739	232,150	(5,431)	1,077,501	(6,153)
MAY	154,299	137,343	1,124	15,832	(871)	895,251	640,640	31,234	223,377	(4,913)	1,049,550	(5,784)
TOTALS	691,039	615,992	4,335	70,712	(4,341)	4,191,016	3,054,471	113,114	1,023,431	(24,380)	4,882,055	(28,721)

VEHICLES (2010)

MONTH	G - PLATES	C/G	OTHERS	COACHES	COMMERCIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	44,876	(869)	202,327	295	20	247,518	(4,015)
FEBRUARY	42,393	(841)	194,826	472	11	237,702	(4,513)
MARCH	53,202	(898)	229,406	787	44	283,439	(5,998)
APRIL	52,168	(810)	231,530	956	22	284,676	(5,528)
MAY	55,586	(848)	227,267	886	17	283,756	(5,259)
TOTALS	248,225	(4,266)	1,085,356	3,396	114	1,337,091	(25,313)

NOTE

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS IN COLUMNS MARKED C/G OR TOTAL C/G REFER TO STATISTICS TAKEN AT THE COMMERCIAL ENTRANCE GATE AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICS FOR THE LAND FRONTIER.

ORAL

NO. 1056 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LEGISLATION FOR THE REGULATION OF ANGLING AND DIVING IN BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say whether the drafting of the legislation for the regulation of (a) angling and (b) diving in British Gibraltar territorial waters has now been finalised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1057 of 2010.

NO. 1057 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

USE OF COMMERCIAL FISHING NETS IN BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government confirm whether it is their policy to ban the use of commercial fishing nets within British Gibraltar territorial waters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. As the Government announced in its Press Release No. 142 of 2010 dated the 4th June, it will shortly issue a public consultation paper covering a comprehensive range of measures relating to fishing, diving and other marine sport and leisure activities.

Once the consultation process has concluded, it will then be in a position to finalise the proposed legislation and action plan.

It is not appropriate to pre-empt the consultation process by stating Government policy on any issue. But the issue of the use of fishing nets is included in the consultation paper.

ORAL

NO. 1058 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER AWARD FOR THE DEMOLITION OF PART OF OLD ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Can Government say whether the tender for the demolition of parts of the old St. Bernard's Hospital has now been awarded, and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It has not yet been awarded.

NO. 1059 OF 2010

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 1934 persons were employed by 19 remote gambling companies as at 15th May 2010.

The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule which I now hand him.

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 15TH MAY 2010

	Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (International) Limited	32	66	3	10	111
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	56	162	21	40	279
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	17	192	16	35	260
Bwin International Limited	27	37	18	107	189
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	5	13	1	0	19
Carmen Media Group Limited	6	3	2	3	14
32 Red Plc	3	25	1	3	32
St Minver Limited	27	38	15	50	130
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	10	11
888 Holdings Plc	39	83	17	92	231
Globet.com Group Limited	2	2	1	7	12
PartyGaming Plc	31	93	10	65	199
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	14	48	3	45	110
Prosperads Ltd (formerly Futuresbetting)	1	9	0	0	10
Partouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	3	3	2	7	15
WHG (International)/Trading Limited	7	104	2	29	142
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	7	57	3	16	83
Peffre (Gibraltar) Limited	11	45	5	10	71
Entertaining Play Limited	6	9	0	1	16
Overall Total	294	990	120	530	1934

Source: Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

ORAL

NO. 1060 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENTIAL TENDERS AWARDED

Can Government list the residential tenders they have awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament showing the name and the amount paid by the successful tenderer the name of the property in question and the date on which the payment was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1061 and 1062 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1061 OF 2010

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 of property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1060 and 1062 of 2010.

NO. 1062 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what property or land sales, if any, there have been in the current financial year, resulting in the receipts of the Improvement and Development Fund since the answer to Question No. 462 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No residential tenders have been awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time.

I now hand the hon Members schedules with the other information requested.

Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Feb-10	Dr & Mrs Maskill	Premium 10% 1ro construction of Car Port at Gardiner's Road	£12,500.00
Mar-10	R Benzaquen & C Briquet	10% Deposit 1ro sale of 14-16 George's Lane	£17,000.00
Apr-10	D & K Cassano	90% Balance 1ro sale of 6 North Pavilion Road	£189,000.00
May-10	N & L Cruz	90% Balance 1ro sale of 19-21 Scud Hill	£658,125.00
May-10	R Benzaquen & C Briquet	90% Balance 1ro sale of 14-16 George's Lane	£153,000.00
			<u>£1,029,625.00</u>

contd..

Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Westside Two Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Mar-10	Mr & Mrs Francis	10% Sale of 34 Durban Court, Harbour Views	£8,341.75
<u>Gibraltar Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Feb-10	Mr & Mrs Davis	35% Sale of 19 Pimlico Close, Montagu Crescent	£38,122.38
Mar-10	Mr & Mrs Baker	40% Sale of 3 Aspen Lodge, Montagu Gardens	£34,658.78
May-10	Bado - Pilcher	50% Sale of 1 Richmond Close, Montagu Crescent	£55,140.73
<u>Gibraltar Residential Properties Co Ltd</u>			
Feb-10	C & J Chichon	90% Balance iro tender for Garage 132, Vineyards	£27,090.00
Feb-10	Messrs Debono	90% Balance iro tender for Garage 117, Vineyards	£19,800.00
Feb-10	A T Vella & G Y Reyes	50% Sale of 1 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£53,001.00
Feb-10	D Horrillo & A M Lopez	70% Sale of 16 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£70,001.00
Feb-10	J C Dean	60% Sale of 20 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£60,001.00
Feb-10	C Mason	70% Sale of 24 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£70,351.00
Feb-10	I & K A Nasseti	60% Sale of 8 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£70,681.00
Mar-10	J & M Tavares	Sale of Flats 4 & 5, Poca Roca	£41,250.00
Mar-10	J & J Sayers	Sale of 6 Rosia Ramp	£50,937.00
Mar-10	W & A Clancy	Sale of 13 Rosia Steps	£35,737.00
Mar-10	P J Xiberras	Sale of 22/4 New Passage	£17,000.00
Mar-10	Cavilla & Olivero	50% Sale of 06.06.01 Almond Court, SWJG	£53,504.00
Mar-10	Manuel & Violet Ruiz	50% Sale of 2 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£48,251.00
Mar-10	Douglas Segovia	50% Sale of 17 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£49,851.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Mar-10	N L Ramos & MA Vecino	100% Sale of 23 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£121,000.00
Mar-10	Robert Dellipiani	50% Sale of 4 Candy Tuft House, Waterport Terraces	£49,251.00
Mar-10	Ruben & Lynette Elizabeth R	70% Sale of 23 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£77,001.00
Mar-10	Patrick & Lourdes Payas	60% Sale of 3 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£70,201.00
Apr-10	F Chipolina	100% Sale of 6 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£97,300.00
Apr-10	A Cruz & S Kiernan	50% Sale of 10 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£49,051.00
Apr-10	Mrs C Durante	50% Sale of 21 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£55,001.00
May-10	A Sacramento	Sale of Flat 4, 57 Flat Bastion Road	£36,400.00
May-10	M & A Rodriguez	Balance 1/3 of Flat 8 & Garage 8, 6 Sandpits	£247,000.00
May-10	Michael Gerada	50% Sale of 5 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£48,651.00
May-10	E Navarro	50% Sale of 9 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£49,051.00
May-10	Ms Busuttli	50% Sale of 1 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£49,001.00
May-10	S McMahon & M Travis	50% Sale of 2 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£53,001.00
May-10	M A Khan	50% Sale of 5 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£49,401.00
May-10	Mr Alvez & Miss Jones	55% Sale of 6 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£58,741.00
May-10	A Reyes & A Attias	50% Sale of 7 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£53,401.00
May-10	S & R Bellio	50% Sale of 10 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£53,801.00
May-10	Mr Pitto	55% Sale of 17 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£55,001.00
May-10	I & N Cruz	70% Sale of 18 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£76,441.00
May-10	N Adamberry	100% Sale of 20 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£100,500.00
May-10	K Cunningham	100% Sale of 24 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£100,500.00

Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10 C	Devencenzi	51% Sale of 3 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£48,451.90
May-10 S	Gadd & K Westlake	50% Sale of 4 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£53,001.00
May-10 I	Gomez & K A Gonzalez	60% Sale of 5 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£64,081.00
May-10 K	C Jones	70% Sale of 7 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£67,061.00
May-10 H & S	Catania	50% Sale of 8 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£53,401.00
May-10 D & L	Sheriff	60% Sale of 12 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£64,561.00
May-10 A	Berlaque & D M Melenhez	60% Sale of 15 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£60,001.00
May-10 A & LB	Olivares	50% Sale of 17 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£54,601.00
May-10 S L	King & J King	55% Sale of 19 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£55,276.00
May-10 E	Edsel Aleman & EJ Seruya	100% Sale of 28 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£110,800.03
May-10 S F	Origo	50% Sale of 31 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£50,501.00
May-10 K	Chipolina Bentaleb & Mohai	70% Sale of 15 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£75,881.00
May-10 T	Federico & O Torres	100% Sale of 23 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£110,000.00
May-10 N	Anakkar & C Takahashi Shi	50% Sale of 11 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£50,001.00
May-10 N & N	Cruz	60% Sale of 25 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£66,481.00
May-10 M	Bottino	100% Sale of 30 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£101,000.00
May-10 A B	Tahayekt & I Alarni	50% Sale of 101 Cumberland Terraces	£56,410.00
May-10 A A	Debono	100% Sale of 112 Cumberland Terraces	£112,020.00
May-10 G	Gomez & H Goodchild	80% Sale of 203 Cumberland Terraces	£91,096.00
May-10 A L	Caruana & T M Wachenf	100% Sale of 207 Cumberland Terraces	£162,000.00
May-10 C G & D	Dawsprn	50% Sale of 213 Cumberland Terraces	£40,715.00
May-10 L	Azzopardi	50% Sale of 215 Cumberland Terraces	£47,030.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	C Zammit	50% Sale of 318 Cumberland Terraces	£48,615.00
May-10	K Mifsud & G Payas	80% Sale of 323 Cumberland Terraces	£93,560.00
May-10	S Finlayson	70% Sale of 408 Cumberland Terraces	£63,525.00
May-10	D A Love	50% Sale of 421 Cumberland Terraces	£48,715.00
May-10	D P J Danino	70% Sale of 422 Cumberland Terraces	£68,341.00
May-10	F Carreras	100% Sale of 501 Cumberland Terraces	£116,520.00
May-10	C Santos & M Cavilla	100% Sale of 606 Cumberland Terraces	£161,100.00
May-10	E J Gomez & M S Gomez	100% Sale of 610 Cumberland Terraces	£117,570.00
May-10	T L Rogers & D M Rogers	70% Sale of 611 Cumberland Terraces	£80,759.00
May-10	K Garcia	70% Sale of 614 Cumberland Terraces	£70,700.00
May-10	J A Lennane & C H Madden	100% Sale of 706 Cumberland Terraces	£161,300.00
May-10	M Adeline Raiffo Cardoso	70% Sale of 710 Cumberland Terraces	£82,649.00
May-10	K Lucas	100% Sale of 718 Cumberland Terraces	£97,830.00
May-10	L Danino	100% Sale of 104 Cumberland Terraces	£110,620.00
May-10	J Gillingwater Pedersen	60% Sale of 305 Cumberland Terraces	£51,774.00
May-10	L Saltariche & S Golt	50% Sale of 309 Cumberland Terraces	£55,910.00
May-10	T Tonna & C A Taylor	50% Sale of 402 Cumberland Terraces	£56,635.00
May-10	D Cabezutto & M C Guirado	60% Sale of 411 Cumberland Terraces	£67,722.00
May-10	N A Gaiviso	50% Sale of 412 Cumberland Terraces	£57,535.00
May-10	J Saidiva	50% Sale of 414 Cumberland Terraces	£50,200.00
May-10	D A & F A Hemmi	70% Sale of 423 Cumberland Terraces	£82,600.00
May-10	D Balloqui & Ms M Balloqui	80% Sale of 502 Cumberland Terraces	£91,456.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10 B Tosso		70% Sale of 508 Cumberland Terraces	£63,805.00
May-10 B Parody		100% Sale of 510 Cumberland Terraces	£116,520.00
May-10 N Celecia & J Jurado		60% Sale of 605 Cumberland Terraces	£52,134.00
May-10 D Ellul		50% Sale of 609 Cumberland Terraces	£57,685.00
May-10 J A Pecino		60% Sale of 617 Cumberland Terraces	£58,818.00
May-10 N Conroy		70% Sale of G15 Cumberland Terraces	£65,562.00
May-10 R & G Acris		70% Sale of 106 Cumberland Terraces	£112,070.00
May-10 A & P D'Cruz		50% Sale of 108 Cumberland Terraces	£45,075.00
May-10 G Tonilia & G Mercieca		70% Sale of 110 Cumberland Terraces	£78,414.00
May-10 A Debono		70% Sale of 113 Cumberland Terraces	£56,861.00
May-10 B Shoesmith		100% Sale of 119 Cumberland Terraces	£114,220.00
May-10 J Chichon & A Perez		60% Sale of 202 Cumberland Terraces	£67,002.00
May-10 C De La Rosa		60% Sale of 205 Cumberland Terraces	£51,654.00
May-10 M A Bosio & N M Lakhilia		50% Sale of 209 Cumberland Terraces	£55,535.00
May-10 N Massetti		50% Sale of 214 Cumberland Terraces	£50,000.00
May-10 E A Triay & J L Santos		50% Sale of 304 Cumberland Terraces	£56,110.00
May-10 N M Bagu & J Payas		75% Sale of 310 Cumberland Terraces	£85,515.00
May-10 D Garcia & S Parker		50% Sale of 311 Cumberland Terraces	£55,910.00
May-10 C Mifsud & J Victory		50% Sale of 312 Cumberland Terraces	£57,010.00
May-10 K J Valarino		50% Sale of 321 Cumberland Terraces	£48,615.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	J J & M G Lavagna	100% Sale of 401 Cumberland Terraces	£115,470.00
May-10	L & N Apap	60% Sale of 407 Cumberland Terraces	£97,440.00
May-10	N Gafan	60% Sale of 413 Cumberland Terraces	£49,098.00
May-10	L Martinez & R Mannin	60% Sale of 420 Cumberland Terraces	£70,362.00
May-10	A Liambias & N Cruz	70% Sale of 504 Cumberland Terraces	£80,024.00
May-10	A Lopez	100% Sale of 506 Cumberland Terraces	£160,900.00
May-10	K Triay	60% Sale of 517 Cumberland Terraces	£58,698.00
May-10	F X Bado & C Bacarisa	60% Sale of 519 Cumberland Terraces	£71,112.00
May-10	J R Kay & N R Francis	50% Sale of 520 Cumberland Terraces	£59,260.00
May-10	D Galliano	70% Sale of 521 Cumberland Terraces	£68,481.00
May-10	C & G Lowe	50% Sale of 523 Cumberland Terraces	£59,625.00
May-10	J Borg	100% Sale of 601 Cumberland Terraces	£117,570.00
May-10	S Mascarenhas & E Davis	70% Sale of 604 Cumberland Terraces	£80,759.00
May-10	C Sacramento	100% Sale of 702 Cumberland Terraces	£115,870.00
May-10	R J Imossi & J Gomez	70% Sale of 703 Cumberland Terraces	£82,649.00
May-10	C N Gill	100% Sale of 712 Cumberland Terraces	£118,070.00
May-10	R Fa	85% Sale of 721 Cumberland Terraces	£83,325.50
May-10	D Soussi Avelliano	75% Sale of 723 Cumberland Terraces	£90,750.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	W E Duarte & J Azzopardi	50% Sale of G02 Cumberland Terraces	£54,785.00
May-10	K Bruzon	70% Sale of G10 Cumberland Terraces	£77,539.00
May-10	N Alvarez	60% Sale of G18 Cumberland Terraces	£57,858.00
May-10	G & T Acris	75% Sale of G21 Cumberland Terraces	£85,275.00
			<u>£8,850,591.43</u>
			<u>£8,986,855.07</u>

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Commercial Property Sales from 1 February 2010 to 31 May 2010 (Improvement and Development Fund)

Date	Tenant	Address	Amount Paid
Feb-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Mar-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Apr-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
			<u>£2,946.00</u>

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Commercial Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Gibraltar Commercial Property Co Ltd</u>			
Mar-10	B Staunton to P Bonutti	Premium iro assignment of Unit 1/6A Casemates	£2,070.00
			£2,070.00
<u>Gibraltar Residential Properties Ltd</u>			
		Sale of Commercial Unit at 6 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£345,400.00
May-10	Cosmopolitan Bazaar Ltd	Sale of Commercial Unit at 2 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£228,400.00
May-10	A Mateos & Sons Ltd		£573,800.00
			£575,870.00

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1062

Residential Property Sales for the Period 1st February 2010 to 31st May 2010

Feb-10	Premium ired construction of Car Port at Gardiner's Road	£12,500.00
Mar-10	10% Deposit ired Sale of 14-16 George's Lane	£17,000.00
Apr-10	90% Balance ired Sale of 6 North Pavilion Road	£189,000.00
May-10	90% Balance ired Sale of 19-21 Scud Hill	£658,125.00
May-10	90% Balance ired 14-16 George's Lane	£153,000.00
		<u>£1,029,625.00</u>

Commercial Property Sales for the Period 1st February 2010 to 31st May 2010

Feb-10	Part Payment ired 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Mar-10	Part Payment ired 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Apr-10	Part Payment ired 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
		<u>£2,946.00</u>

ORAL

NO. 1063 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES PENDING TRANSPOSITION

Can Government list the EU Directives which are pending transposition in Gibraltar, showing the name and number of the Directive and the date by which they were to have been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1064 to 1066 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1064 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES – INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say how many infraction proceedings are currently open against the United Kingdom for the failure to implement EU Directives in Gibraltar, showing the name and number of the Directive and the stage of the infraction proceedings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1063, 1065 and 1066 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1065 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVE – TRANSPOSITION

Can Government say at what stage is the transposition of the EU Public Procurement Directive, given that the deadline for transposition has now passed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1063, 1064 and 1066 of 2010.

NO. 1066 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES – CASES IN THE EUROPEAN COURT FOR NON-IMPLEMENTATION IN GIBRALTAR

Can Government say how many cases are currently open in the European Court against the United Kingdom for the non-implementation of EU Directives in Gibraltar, giving the name and number of the Directives in question and the stage of the proceedings in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information relating to the Directives pending transposition.

There are ten infraction proceedings currently open against the UK for the failure to implement EU Directives in Gibraltar. Seven of these infractions are open against both the UK and Gibraltar, out of the ten. Two of these infractions are at Reasoned Opinion stage and eight are at Article 258 of the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union stage. Four of these infractions have been opened only very, very recently.

Legislation has already been drafted to transpose the EU Public Procurement Directive. It is being finally checked before it is submitted to the Minister for approval.

There are no cases currently open in the European Court in relation to measures which have not already been implemented in Gibraltar.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1066

Answer to Question 1063

Title	Transposition date
Directive 77/486 education of children of migrant workers.	6 Aug 1981
Directive 89/104/EEC first directive on trademarks. See now codification carried out by Directive 2008/95/EC to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks.	28 Dec 1991
Directive 97/26/EC on driving licences (amends Directive 91/439).	1 Jun 1992
Directive 96/47/EC (amends Directive 91/439).	1 Jul 1996
Directive 2000/56 (amends Directive 91/439)	30 Sep 2003
But see Directive 2006/126/EC on driving licences (recast).	
Directive 2008/65 (amends Directive 91/439/EC)	19 Jan 2011
Directive 2009/112/EC (amends Directive 91/439)	30 Sep 2008
Directive 2009/113/EC (amends Directive 2006/126).	
Directive 92/6/EC on installation and use of speed limitation devices in certain categories of motor vehicles.	1 Oct 1993
Directive 2002/85/EC amending Council Directive 92/6/EEC.	1 Jan 2005
Directive 96/53/EC on maximum dimensions/weights in traffic amended by Directive 2002/77/EC.	17 Sep 1997 9 Mar 2004 9 Mar 2005
Directive 98/59/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies.	1 Sep 1998
Directive 97/36/EC on television broadcasting activities (see Directive 89/552 on broadcasting).	31 Dec 1998
Directive 97/67/EC on liberalisation of postal services as amended by Directive 2002/39/EC on the further opening to competition of Community postal services and by Directive 2008/06/EC.	10 Feb 1999 31 Dec 2002
Directive 97/81/EC concerning the Framework Agreement on part-time work concluded by UNICE, CEEP and ETUC, extended to the United Kingdom amended by Directive 98/23 (on the extension of Directive 97/81/EC).	20 Jan 2000 7 Apr 2000
Directive 98/6/EC on the pricing of goods.	18 Mar 2000
Directive 98/84/EC on legal protection of services on conditional access (linked to Directive 89/552/EC broadcasting and Directive 98/34/EC information society services).	28 May 2000
Directive 97/77/EC on distance contracts.	4 Jun 2000
Directive 98/27 on consumer injunctions.	31 Dec 2000
Directive 2001/11/EC adapting to technical progress Directive 96/96 on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers functional testing of commercial vehicles' speed limitation device.	9 Mar 2003
Directive 2001/23/EC safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses.	17 Jul 2003
Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market.	27 Oct 2003
Directive 2003/26/EC on speed limiters and exhaust emissions of commercial vehicles.	1 Jan 2004

Cont'd

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1066

Answer to Question 1063

Directive 2003/27/EC on testing of exhaust emissions from motor vehicles.	1 Jan 2004
Directive 2003/73/EC amending Annex III to Directive 1999/94/EC (Fuel economy x CO ₂ emissions).	25 Jul 2004
Directive 2002/87/EC on supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate and amending Directives 73/239/EEC, 79/267/EEC, 92/49/EEC, 92/96/EEC, 93/6/EEC, 93/22/EEC 98/78/EC and 2000/12/EC.	11 Aug 2004
Directive 2004/72 implementing Directive 2003/6/EC as regards accepted market practices, the definition of inside information in relation to derivatives on commodities, the drawing up of lists of insiders, the notification of managers' transactions and the notification of suspicious transactions.	12 Oct 2004
Directive 2002/8/EC to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes	30 Nov 2004 (30 May 2006 for Art 3(2)(a))
Directive 2005/1/EC amending Directives 73/239/EEC, 85/611/EEC, 91/675/EEC, 92/49/EEC and 93/6/EEC and Directives 94/19/EC, 98/78/EC, 2000/12/EC, 2001/34/EC, 2002/83/EC and 2002/87/EC in order to establish a new organizational structure for financial services committees.	13 May 2005
Directive 2002/74 amending Directive 80/987/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer. See now codification carried out by Directive 2008/94/EC on the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer.	8 Oct 2005
Directive 2004/101 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for a greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community, in respect of the Kyoto Protocol's project mechanisms.	13 Nov 2005
Directive 2004/80/EC on compensation to crime victims.	1 Jan 2006
Directive 2004/17/EC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2005/51/EC amending Annex XX of Directive 2004/17/EC and Annex VIII of Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2004/18/EC on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2003/58 amending Directive 68/151 as regards disclosure requirements in respect of certain types of companies.	31 Dec 2006
Directive 2003/110/EC on assistance in cases of transit for the purposes of removal by air.	6 Dec 2006
Directive 2006/103/EC adapting certain directives in the field of transport policy, by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.	1 Jan 2007
Directive 2006/115/EC on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property.	16 Jan 2007
Directive 2006/116/EC on the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights.	16 Jan 2007
Directive 2004/109/EC on the harmonization of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market and amending Directive 2001/34/EC.	20 Jan 2007
Directive 2007/14/EC laying down the rules for the implementation of certain provisions of Directive 2004/109/EC.	8 Mar 2008
Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	15 Feb 2007
Directive 2006/114/EC concerning misleading and comparative advertising.	12 Jun 2007
Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks and amending Directive 2002/58/EC.	15 Sep 2007 15 Mar 2009
Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures for granting and withdrawing refugee status.	13 Dec 2007

Cont'd

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1066

Answer to Question 1063

Directive 2005/56/EC on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies.	15 Dec 2007
Directive 2007/16/EC implementing Directive 85/611/EEC on the condition of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to UCITS as regards the clarification of certain definitions.	23 Mar 2008
Directive 2006/68/EC amending Directive 77/91/EEC on the formation of public limited liability companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital.	15 Apr 2008
Directive 2004/40 on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields).	20 Apr 2008
Directive 2006/66/EC on waste batteries and accumulators (repeals Directive 91/157/EEC).	28 Sep 2008
Directive 2006/117/EURATOM on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel.	25 Dec 2008
Directive 2007/63/EC on the requirement of an independent expert's report on the occasion of merger or division of public limited liability companies.	31 Dec 2008
Directive 2008/43/EC setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses.	5 April 2009
Directive 2008/68/EC on the inland transport of dangerous goods.	30 June 2009
Directive 2007/36/EC on the exercise of certain rights of shareholders in listed companies	3 Aug 2009
Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market.	28 Dec 2009
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks.	26 Nov 2009
Directive 2009/4/EC on counter measures to prevent and detect manipulation of records of tachographs, amending Directive 2006/22/EC on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations 3820/85 and 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities and repealing Council Directive 88/599/EEC.	31 Dec 2009
Directive 2009/5/EC amending Annex II to directive 2006/22/EC on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations 3820/85 and 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities.	31 Dec 2009
Directive 2008/101/EC amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to include aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community.	2 Feb 2010
Directive 2008/112/EC amending Directives 76/768/EEC, 88/378/EEC, 1999/13/EC and Directives 2000/53/EC, 2002/96/EC, 2004/44/EC in order to adapt them to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.	1 Apr 2010
Directive 2006/25/EC on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (artificial optical radiation) (19 th individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).	27 Apr 2010
Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.	10 June 2010

ORAL

NO. 1067 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government confirm whether Gibraltar Identity Cards (the red card) are issued to British citizens resident in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1068 and 1069 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1068 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government say how many Gibraltar Identity Cards have been issued in each year since the existing format was agreed in April 2000, with a breakdown showing each different category of card?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1067 and 1069 of 2010.

NO. 1069 OF 2010

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government say how many Gibraltar Identity Cards (the red card) have been issued each year since 1998 to British citizens not resident in Gibraltar, with a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar identity cards (the red card) can only be issued to persons who are registered under the provisions of the Civilians Registration Act and who are either British Overseas Territories citizens by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar, registered Gibraltarians or British citizens who have permanent residence in Gibraltar. So the answer to his first question is that they can only be issued to British citizens who are resident in Spain if they are British by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar or are Gibraltarian.

Identity cards issued to such persons reflect the address which they have confirmed as being the address at which they actually reside at the time the application for the cards are made.

British citizens who do not have permanent residence in Gibraltar and who are neither (i) British Overseas Territories citizens nor (ii) registered Gibraltarians, are not entitled to any type of card whatsoever, if they do not reside in Gibraltar, are not entitled. In other words, a British citizen resident in Spain or anywhere else, not resident in Gibraltar, is not entitled to such a card unless it is you or me, British citizen by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar, BOTC Gibraltar or a registered Gibraltarian which I suppose, I am just trying to think, no it is possible to be a registered Gibraltarian without being in that first category.

I now hand the hon Member a schedule set containing the statistical information that they have asked for.

Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1068 of 2010

CARDS ISSUED EACH YEAR SINCE THE EXISTING FORMAT OF THE GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD WAS INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 2000.

YEAR OF ISSUE	CARD TYPE	
2000 (DEC)	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	12
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	8
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	44
	TOTAL	64
<hr/>		
2001	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	283
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	174
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	1265
	TOTAL	1722
<hr/>		
2002	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	259
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	115
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	1003
	TOTAL	1377
<hr/>		
2003	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	271
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	176
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	3973
	TOTAL	4420
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Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Continued Answer to Question No. 1068 of 2010

YEAR OF ISSUE	CARD TYPE	
2004	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	424
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	116
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	4116
	TOTAL	4656
<hr/>		
2005	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	519
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	174
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	4783
	TOTAL	5476
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2006	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	740
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	668
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	3328
	TOTAL	4736
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2007	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	865
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	254
	GIBRALTAR IDNETITY CARD	2972
	TOTAL	4091
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Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Continued Answer to Question No. 1068 of 2010

YEAR OF ISSUE	CARD TYPE	
2008	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	1027
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	166
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	2898
	TOTAL	4091
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2009	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	1697
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	430
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	3103
	TOTAL	5230
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2010	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	840
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	391
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	1724
	TOTAL	2955
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Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED SINCE 1998 TO PERSONS NOT
RESIDENT IN GIBRALTAR

YEAR OF ISSUE

1998	5
1999	5
2000	12
2001	57
2002	72
2003	106
2004	104
2005	97
2006	66
2007	89
2008	105
2009	100
2010	24

TOTAL 842

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1067 TO 1069 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, somebody that is Gibraltarian by decent but is born outside Gibraltar can obtain a card wherever he is. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I get a distinct feeling that they are asking questions around a specific case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, my understanding is, and this is the answer that I have been sent here to give you, that if you are a registered Gibraltarian, by whatever means, if you are a registered Gibraltarian you are entitled to a Gibraltar Identity Card, regardless of where your reside.

ORAL

NO. 1070 OF 2010

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. 1071 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1071 OF 2010

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

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1071 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1070 of 2010

February 2010	£74,234.32
March 2010	£219,173.48
April 2010	£44,630.54
May 2010	£103,813.32

Answer to Question No. 1071 of 2010

February 2010	£13,474.30
March 2010	£19,538.85
April 2010	£13,819.51
May 2010	£14,096.03

NO. 1072 OF 2010

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

Twelve by fee paying commercial members of the business community. The total amount received has been £3,195. It has obviously been used many more times by non-fee paying users, including Government departments.

NO. 1073 OF 2010

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 the travel, the destination, the airline, the category of seat paid for and the travel agent used to make the booking?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1073

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
London	22 -24 February 2010	£909.20	British Airways	Business	N/A Online
Rome	6 - 9 May 2010	£122.83	Vueling Airlines	Tourist	N/A Online

MINISTERS' AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
The Hon F Vinet	Manchester	10 - 14 March 2010	£585.70	British Airways	Business	Bland
the Hon J Holliday	London	25-Feb-10	£365.20	British Airways	Business	Toutrafrica
the Hon J Holliday	Miami	09-Mar-10	£2,415.50	British Airways	Business	My Vacations
the Hon J Holliday	Toulouse	09-May-10	£1,256.00	British Airways	Business	Blands
the Hon J Holliday	Athens	06-Jun-10	£1,209.00	British Airways	Business	My Vacations
the Hon D Feetham	London	29 March - 1 April 10	£755.00	British Airways	Business	Blands
The Hon E Britto	London	1 - 2 June 2010	£1,161.00	British Airways	Business	Blands
The Hon E Britto	Swaziland	7 - 14 May 2010	£6,393.10	BA & South African Airways	Business	Blands
The Hon E Reyes	Isle Of Man	10 - 14 May	£1,075.40	Easyjet & Flybe	Economy	Blands
The Hon L Montiel	Isle Of Man	10 - 14 May	£1,075.40	Easyjet & Flybe	Economy	Blands

ORAL

NO. 1074 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

KING'S LINES FUEL STORAGE DEPOT

Can Government say whether it is their policy to place the King's Lines fuel depot out to tender given the interest that has been expressed by the bunkering operators locally?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not yet decided how it will deal with the possible exploitation of the King's Lines Depot.

ORAL

NO. 1075 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – NUMBER OF FLIGHTS AND PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many flights and passengers per day and per year the new air terminal is designed to handle?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1076 and 1077 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1076 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government confirm how many commercial units there will be in the new air terminal building, how many will be allocated to existing commercial entities in the current air terminal and whether the additional units will go out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075 and 1077 of 2010.

NO. 1077 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – DUTY-FREE FACILITIES

Can Government confirm how many of the commercial units in the new air terminal building will be allowed to retail goods on a duty-free basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The new splendid, not too big and not too grandiose air terminal is designed to accommodate a design peak hour capacity of four aircraft movements per hour which translates into approximately 500 passengers per hour on the basis of three flights out and one flight in (or vice-versa) which is how these things are calculated, I am told.

The number of passengers per year amounts to 980,000 a year. So you can see by comparing it to the current statistics that we are allowing a reasonable amount of growth room but not an excessive amount of growth room in the design.

Operating during 12 hours per day, the number of daily movements amounts to 24, corresponding with 2,688 passengers per day.

There will be 19 commercial units in the new air terminal building. Of these, nine will be allocated to existing commercial entities in the current air terminal, assuming that they accept the conditions applicable in the new terminal and the remainder will be put out to tender.

The Government are unable to confirm how many of the commercial units in the new air terminal building will be allowed to retail goods on a duty free basis, as this policy is currently under review.

I am not going to formulate supplementaries for him. He will have to ask them if he wants them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1075 TO 1077 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the implication of the last three or four words that the Government are considering doing away with duty free sales?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are considering it for the following reason. Passengers flying from Gibraltar are likely to be going either to the UK or to Spain or to some other European country where the price difference between the sale price in Gibraltar air terminal and the price at their destination, which is what would encourage them to buy or not to buy, is so big that whether it is duty paid or duty free at the Gibraltar end, is irrelevant to the elasticity of demand. In other words, nobody who is flying to England where cigarettes cost three times more than Gibraltar will decide not to buy because they have got to pay a few more pence where the price difference is pounds between Gibraltar and the UK. So, as a way of maximising revenue, the Government are considering just collecting revenue on the tobacco and other products. Representations have been made by those who presently engage in this which the Government are considering with a view to deciding whether to proceed with its possible idea or not. So the policy is under review.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Government also take into account in that review that we are in the unique position of being the only airport that is permitted under EU rules to have duty free which makes us different from all the Spanish airports and that makes it something that can be used as a marketing strategy because you can actually say to people, the only airport where you can buy duty free goods is in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The difference between Gibraltar/Spanish and Gibraltar and all other European Union airports except the Canary Islands and Melilla is that it is free of VAT, which will continue to be the case and it is free of European Excise Duty on tobacco which will continue to be the case. We are talking about Gibraltar import duty freedom. At the end of the day, the Government believe that what determines whether people buy in the terminal or not is price difference between the terminal and where they are flying to. I think those that have made representations, namely the duty free shop operators in the terminal, do not dispute that proposition but are concerned about loss of a competitive advantage over shops elsewhere in Gibraltar. In other words, I think their principal concern is that if there is no difference in price between the air terminal shop and Main Street, that tourists may buy it in Main Street and not wait until they get to the terminal and the Government need to consider whether that is a legitimate consideration or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Government also consider the fact that according to the statistics produced in the Government reports, 60 per cent of the arrivals go straight into Spain and do not go into town?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. So the opportunity is to buy there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes exactly. Yes, the Government will take that into account and indeed that in the future many of the departures may not come from Gibraltar but may come into the terminal from Spain.

ORAL

NO. 1078 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – FUNDING

Can Government confirm how much funding was provided to Community Care in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1079 and 1080 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1079 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – FUNDING

Can Government state what funding, if any, has been provided to Community Care in each month of the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1078 and 1080 of 2010.

NO. 1080 OF 2010**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY HOLDING BY GIBRALTAR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government confirm that Gibraltar Residential Property Company purchased the property holdings of Gibraltar Community Care?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The funding provided to Community Care in the last financial year was £1.5 million.

Funding provided to Community Care in the current financial year is as follows:

Funding to Gibraltar Community Care	
April 2010	£340,000
May 2010	£340,000

On the 3rd August 2009 Gibraltar Residential Properties purchased Gibraltar Community Care's property holding in Sir William Jackson Grove comprising of 110 flats and 34 car parking spaces for a consideration of £2,446,880.

NO. 1081 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUSSIAN NATIONALS – ENTRY INTO GIBRALTAR VIA TRANSCOMA

Can Government state whether they have provided, or promised to provide, the Algeciras ferry operator Transcoma, with an undertaking in respect of visitors of Russian nationality which are in any way different from the obligation that the Government already has in respect of any non-EEA visitors to Gibraltar who may arrive via any other route than the Algeciras ferry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1082 and 1083 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1082 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUSSIAN NATIONALS – ENTRY INTO GIBRALTAR

Does Government have a policy of providing multi-entry or any other type of visitor visas to Russian nationals which are not readily available to other non-EEA nationals who may wish to visit Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1081 and 1083 of 2010.

NO. 1083 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUSSIAN NATIONALS – ENTRY INTO GIBRALTAR VIA SPANISH TOUR OPERATOR BRAVO GROUP

Can Government confirm whether it has provided, or promised to provide multi-entry visas for Russian tourists brought to the Iberian Peninsular by the Spanish tour operator Bravo Group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not provided, or promised to provide, multiple-entry visas for Russian tourists or any other visa-requiring non-EEA nationals brought to the Iberian Peninsula by a Spanish tour operator.

The Government have allowed the Gibraltar/Algeciras ferry operator, Transcoma, who is also a licensed ship agent in Gibraltar, to transport controlled groups of non-EEA passengers with multiple-entry Schengen visas to visit Gibraltar on a day trip via the Ferry Terminal.

Non-EEA visitors travelling aboard cruise ships already visit Gibraltar on day trips via the Cruise Terminal, without visas and have done so for many years.

This scheme is therefore an extension to the ferry of that which is already in operation for cruise ships.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1081 TO 1083 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, therefore, groups with Schengen visas not arriving by ferry would not be allowed in?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is not necessarily implicit in the answer. There is an existing policy relating to day visitors by boat. It used to be cruise and that has been extended to ferry. So, if the question is, is the Government presently doing it for people who come other than by ferry or cruise, in other words, overland, I suppose... I do not know what the answer to that is... But let us assume it is no. It is not happening at the moment.

That is not to say that if an appropriate application were made, it would not be considered on its merits and perhaps allowed or perhaps disallowed, depending on the advice that the Government got from the Civil Status and Immigration Department. The Government does not have a policy not to allow it. It just has not been put in a position of having to decide any such thing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the fact that it is being given to Transcoma just happens to be because they have asked for it not because it is something that only they are entitled to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have asked for it and it has been considered and given it.

NO. 1084 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION INCREASE – EFFECT ON MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government state whether the increase in Social Security Pensions from 1st April has had any effect on the threshold income for the Minimum Income Guarantee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The increase of 2.8 per cent in the Old Age Pensions with effect from 1st April 2010 will be taken into account in the threshold income for Minimum Income Guarantee payments as from 1st July 2010. However, this will be compensated by a similar increase to be applied to the Minimum Income Guarantee payments also with effect from 1st July 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1084 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in effect one will cancel out the other, is that it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1085 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RELOCATION COSTS GIBRALTAR BOAT SQUADRON

Can Government state what has been the relocation cost of the Gibraltar Boat Squadron and provide a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1085 of 2010

<u>Boat Squadron Building and related costs</u>			
	<u>Costs to Date</u>	<u>Estimated remaining Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
1) Boat Squadron Building			
Building Contractor	1,299,750	1,100,250	2,400,000
Consultants Costs	89,857	6,643	96,500
Architect Fees	61,705	-	61,705
	1,451,312	1,106,893	2,558,205
2) Finger Jetty			
Building Contractor	1,653,581	1,821,419	3,475,000
Consultants Costs	99,918	87,683	187,601
	1,753,499	1,909,102	3,662,601

NO. 1086 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR DEFENCE POLICE

Can Government confirm if it has now reached an understanding with the MOD on the future of the Defence Police and if so are there any proposed changes in the context of its relationship with the RGP due to be implemented in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No we have not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1086 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it considered likely that within the current financial year the situation will change or not? I am thinking in terms of the effect that this might have or not have on the sums that we vote in Parliament when we approve this year's estimates.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In consultation with the Gibraltar Defence Police Association, the Government are about to embark with the Ministry of Defence to explore possible ways of bringing about something which would fit within the words used in this question. But I am not in a position to speculate about whether it may be achieved at all and if it is achieved whether it might be achieved on time to have any effect on this financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1087 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – LEASE

Can Government state when it was originally envisaged that the Eastside developers would sign the lease for the area and explain why it has not yet been signed and whether there is a time limit by which it has to be signed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1088 and 1089 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1088 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR DEPOSITING RUBBLE

Have Government identified an alternative site to deposit rubble in case they are required to stop using the Eastside area as happened in 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1087 and 1089 of 2010.

NO. 1089 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – NOTICE TO GOVERNMENT TO STOP DEPOSITING RUBBLE

Can Government state how much notice has to be given to the Government by the Eastside developer if they require the Government to stop using the site to deposit rubble?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The agreed timeline envisages the landlord granting the lease to the developer not later than 20 business days after the date which is 14 weeks from the date that a permit is granted to the developer under section 17 of the Town Planning Act. The lease has not yet been executed by the developer notwithstanding the fact that such a permit has already been obtained or rather granted. On the basis that a substantial part of the premium has been paid to the landlord, the latter has not sought to enforce the original timeline yet.

The Government have not identified an alternative rubble tip site, and does not envisage that one will be needed. The Government will shortly commence the removal of the rubble mountain, and future rubble will be crushed and recycled as it arises.

There is no formal or legal notice period in respect of permission to use the Eastside.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1087 TO 1089 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I have understood the hon Member correctly, then what he is saying is that there will be an alternative site to which the rubble will be moved to be processed and that that will be the site to which new rubble is delivered. Is that the correct position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but not expected to accumulate. In other words, we have to for the future make arrangements which do not involve simply mounting up rubble as it arises and that is what we are doing. But obviously there is a site with the rubble crushing equipment to which builders will deliver rubble.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it envisaged that what will happen is that the current rubble will be taken to that site so that it does not have to be moved again, presumably?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The intention is for the current rubble mountain to be crushed and processed. It is not just crushing. You have got to crush it and separate out the contaminated material. There are machines that do this. What comes out at the other end of this machine is material that is lawfully usable for reclamation purposes. In other words, to tip into the sea and therefore what the Government intends to do is precisely that, to put two machines, one at either end of the rubble mountain. Eat up the rubble mountain where it is and as the stuff comes out at the other end of each of these two machines, it will be transported by lorry to reclamation sites which will have been prepared to receive it and receive it being tipped, in other words, as reclamation material. It could not be used for that purpose in its present condition because you are not allowed under EU rules to tip contaminated material into the sea. But you can use uncontaminated material as land fill for reclamation purposes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And in the process of that going on, the new rubble that is being produced will go where ...?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It will not be taken to that site. It will go to another site with another machine.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

ORAL

NO. 1090 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SALARY SCALES OF GRADES ANALOGUED TO UK NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Can Government state since the answer to Question No. 491 of 2010 whether it has reached an agreement on identifying the appropriate UK analogues which apply post April 2006 to non-medical GHA staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains the same as communicated to the hon Member in answer to Question No. 491 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1091 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BRUESA – EMPLOYEES ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Given the BRUESA is no longer trading in Gibraltar, are Government now willing to provide the total number of employees that the company had on Government contracts in October 2009 and give a breakdown of this figure by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1092 of 2010.

NO. 1092 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BRUESA – PARENT COMPANY GUARANTEE

Can Government state whether there is a parent company guarantee in place from BRUESA in Spain in respect of work undertaken by its subsidiary in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total number of employees that BRUESA had registered with the Employment Service as at 30th October 2009 is made up of 83 Spanish nationals, one Portuguese national and one American national. I can confirm that there is indeed a parent company guarantee in place.

ORAL

NO. 1093 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GJBS – TAKEOVER OF RENTAL HOUSING ESTATE PREVIOUSLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY BRUESA

Can Government state how much has been paid to GJBS in respect of the takeover of the rental housing estate previously under construction by BRUESA and how much GJBS has paid sub-contractors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government has paid GJBS £1,866,541.14 of which it has paid £1,294,659.52 to sub-contractors.

NO. 1094 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – FUNDING FOR STAFF PAY REVIEW

Can Government confirm whether the pay review of the GBC staff is met by the Government from the supplementary funding vote approved by the Parliament and if so can Government provide the amount paid from this Subhead in 2009 and 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The contribution payable to GBC under the Broadcasting vote is increased annually by way of supplementary funding in order to meet the annual pay review.

The supplementary funding provided to pay awards during the year ending 31st March 2009 was £18,925 and supplementary funding in respect of the year ended 31st March 2010 was £22,916.

ORAL

NO. 1095 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS

Can Government state the cost of the Civil Service pensions expressed as a percentage of the Civil Service payroll in each of the financial years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1096 to 1098 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1096 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSION SCHEME/PROVIDENT FUND PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state the number of civil servants in employment as at the end of the financial year 2009/2010 covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and the number of public servants covered by the Provident Fund Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1095, 1097 and 1098 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1097 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Civil Service pensioners there were in the year ending March 2010 and of those how many were in receipt of a Widow's Pension?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1095, 1096 and 1098 of 2010.

NO. 1098 OF 2010**THE HON J J BOSSANO****CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS**

Can Government state how many Civil Service pensioners excluding those receiving a Widow's Pension in the year ending March 2010 were receiving less than £8,000 per annum and how many were receiving more than £20,000?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

In 2008/2009, Civil Service pension costs represented 15 per cent of the Civil Service payroll compared with 14 per cent in the previous financial year 2007/2008.

The number of civil servants in employment covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and other public servants covered by the Provident Scheme are as follows in respect of 2009/2010:

	Civil Service	Other Public Servants	Total
2009/2010	2,859	942	3,801

At the end of March 2010, there were 1,996 Government pensioners and 62 of these were pensions payable to Widows under the Widow's and Orphan's Pension Scheme.

Around 1037 pensioners were in receipt of a pension of under £8,000 during the year 2009/2010 and around 212 were in receipt of a pension of more than £20,000 in the same year.

ORAL

NO. 1099 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how many entities were contributing to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund as at the end of March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1100 to 1103 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1100 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the entities that were contributing to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund as at the end of March 2010 and, in respect of each, state the number of eligible employees on that date and the number that had elected to join the Provident Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099 and 1101 to 1103 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1101 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state in respect of the entities in the Public Service that participate in the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund whether there is a period of employment which has to be fulfilled before an employee is eligible to join the Fund and if so what this period is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099, 1100, 1102 and 1103 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1102 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state as at the end of March 2010 how many employers in the Private Sector, other than construction companies, were participating in the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099 to 1101 and 1103 of 2010.

NO. 1103 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO.3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether any new employer in the construction and allied trades industry has joined the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund since the answer to Question No. 540 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at the end of March 2010 there were 19 entities contributing to the No. 2 Scheme.

I now hand the hon Member a statement giving the information that he has requested in Question No. 1100 of 2010.

Several of the entities in the Public Service require a period of employment to be fulfilled before the employee is eligible to join the No. 2 Scheme.

I now hand the hon Member a statement giving the qualifying period of employment required by each such entity. However, the Pension Scheme Rules allow for retrospection of contributions as from the commencement of the date of employment.

As at the end of March 2010 there were 26 employers in the Private Sector, not including construction companies, participating in the Provident No. 3 Scheme. That is 26 excluding construction companies.

There have been no new employers in the construction and allied trades industry joining the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Scheme since the answer to Question No. 540 of 2010.

Continued Answer to Question No. 1103 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1100 of 2010

Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Scheme

Breakdown of active members by Employers

Employers	Employees eligible to apply	Active Members as at 31st March 2010
Citizen's Advice Bureau	4	4
Europa Incinerator Ltd.	5	4
Gib. Defence Estates & General Services Ltd.	1	1
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	14	14
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd.	46	38
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.	82	80
Gibraltar Development Corporation	153	124
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	76	75
Gibraltar Health Authority	101	98
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd.	16	16
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services Ltd.	115	95
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	18	17
GRP Investments Ltd.	7	3
Land Property Services Ltd.	9	9
The Office of the Ombudsman	5	4
The Care Agency	455	279
Sports & Leisure Authority	30	29
Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd.	31	20
Women in Need	2	2
	1170	912

Continued Answer to Question No. 1103 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1101 of 2010

Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Scheme

Breakdown of Qualifying Period by Entities

Entity	Qualifying period
Citizen's Advice Bureau	None
Europa Incinerator Ltd.	None
Gib. Defence Estates & General Services Ltd.	None
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	6 Months
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd.	6 Months
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.	12 Months
Gibraltar Development Corporation	6 Months
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	None
Gibraltar Health Authority	12 Months
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd.	None
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services Ltd.	None
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	6 Months
GRP Investments Ltd.	6 Months
Land Property Services Ltd.	6 Months
The Office of the Ombudsman	6 Months
The Care Agency	6 Months
Sports & Leisure Authority	6 Months ⁴
Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd.	None
Women in Need	None

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1099 TO 1103 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the breakdown provided to Question No. 1100 of 2010, I take it that the column that shows eligible employees, that would be the employees that had been past the qualifying period. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

For example, if in community projects it says twelve months, it would ... They would not become eligible until they have gone past that date?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but then they can join retrospectively.

ORAL

NO. 1104 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 which were written-off because the arrears were statute barred, what was the account with the highest amount owing, what period it covered and what steps were taken to collect the arrears before they became statute barred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1105 to 1107 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1105 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 which were written-off because the company was in liquidation, what was the account with the highest amount owing, what period did it cover and what steps were taken to collect the arrears before the company went into liquidation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104, 1106 and 1107 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1106 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the 84 commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 how many were written-off because the company was in liquidation and how many were written-off because the arrears were statute barred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104, 1105 and 1107 of 2010.

NO. 1107 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the 197 domestic accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 what was the account with the highest amount owing, what period it covered and what steps were taken to collect the arrears before they became statute barred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The commercial account with the highest statute barred amount written-off totalled £82,405.24. These arrears were accrued during the period 1st January 1990 to 30th September 1999. A repayment agreement was signed in September 1993 but was defaulted in 1994. Various debt pursuance letters were sent during 1995 to 1997. The directors left the jurisdiction and there was no other possible avenue for recovery.

The commercial account with the highest amount written-off because the company was in liquidation totalled £34,192.50. These arrears were accrued during the period 1st July 2001 to 30th June 2003. Debt pursuance letters were sent during 2001. In October 2002 the company went into liquidation and there were no assets for distribution. Therefore, the amounts were written-off.

Of the 84 commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010, 25 were written-off due to companies being liquidated, 29 due to the arrears being statute barred and 30 had the penalties written-off upon settlement of arrears in a lump sum payment.

The domestic account with the highest amount owing totalled £30,892.09. These arrears, inclusive of penalties, were accrued during the period 1st October 1993 to 30th June 1998. So we are roughly equally to blame on that. Debt pursuance letters and a Summons were issued. An Order to Pay was granted on 15th December 1995 by the Magistrates' Court. However, the tenants had left the jurisdiction therefore the Court Bailiff was unable to recover any assets.

In the case of the other remaining arrears that were written-off... I beg your pardon I nearly read to him from my little note given to me in preparation for supplementary, which he has not yet thought to ask.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1104 TO 1107 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not got a supplementary because I think the hon Member has actually given me all the information that is actually asked for in the questions.

ORAL

NO. 1108 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the GDP figure for 2008/2009 and give the breakdown by income and expenditure methods of calculation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer together with Question No. 1109 of 2010.

NO. 1109 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the gross trading profit of companies in the GDP figure for 2007/2008 was the grossing up rate of 19 per cent, as in 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will reveal the GDP figure for 2008/2009 in my forthcoming budget address to this House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1108 AND 1109 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a particular reason why the hon Member is being so coy about revealing it this year which he has not been in previous years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is just that one is trying to create a tradition of giving information of this sort as part of the budget address. I do not mind saying to him that if he wants to have a figure in mind when he is doing his own thinking and preparation, the figure is not too far off the estimated figure that I gave him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I suppose the hon Member appreciates that it is more difficult to give him a reasoned reaction if I have to do it immediately he sits down and I am seeing the figures for the first time. That is the only reason why I ask for them earlier.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, this is a disadvantage to which he is well used to have been putting his political opponents when he was on this side of the House which is not why I do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But my figures were never up to date.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly! Your figures were never available to inform the Opposition.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or me!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, never a truer thing said in jest. I have given him the indication that he would need. In other words, he does not have to prepare on any basis that accommodates or that needs to accommodate a worsening position, worse than indicated, than flagged in the past.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or better?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said, more or less the same. I do not think the debate will turn on the difference one way or the other.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Okay.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, if I can just revert, can the hon Member remind me of what the last figure he thinks I flagged up was in percentage?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think it was 19 per cent, ... was the last figure he gave me in a question but the way

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. On the GDP for the year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

For the GDP for the year I think it was something like 5 per cent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is a little bit better.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am glad to hear this.

ORAL

NO. 1110 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the gross trading profit of companies in the GDP for 2007/2008 the grossing up rate was 19 per cent, as in 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1111 to 1114 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1111 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether in the profits of Gibtelecom were included in 2005/2006 GDP figure of gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 22 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1110, 1112 to 1114 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1112 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether the profits of AquaGib were included in 2005/2006 GDP figures for gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 22 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1110, 1111, 1113 and 1114 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1113 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether the profits of Gibtelecom were included in 2006/2007 GDP figures of gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 19 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer this question together with Question Nos. 1110 to 1112 and 1114 of 2010.

NO. 1114 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether the profits of AquaGib were included in 2006/2007 GDP figures of gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 19 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can confirm that the grossing up rate was at 19 per cent in respect of the two years that he asks.

The grossing up of corporation tax collected in any financial year to arrive at an estimate of the Gross Trading Profit of Companies for that year is applied to the aggregate amount of tax collected as shown in the Government's Annual Accounts. It is not arrived at by the summation of the grossed profits of each individual company.

So, on the assumption that Gibtelecom and AquaGib paid corporation tax in the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 their profits would indeed be included in the estimates of Gross Trading Profits of Companies for those years grossed up at 22 per cent for 2005/2006 and at 19 per cent for 2006/2007.

In other words, in short and minus the explanation, yes if they paid tax in those years because the figure which is grossed up is derived from the revenue from corporate tax figure which will include tax paid by these two companies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1110 TO 1114 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the hon Member not agree therefore that on that basis given the previous information he has provided me with in respect of the GDP for those two years, it would appear that if they have been included and almost certainly Gibtelecom would have been, AquaGib may not because I think they had quite a lot of allowances still pending and they may have exhausted them by now, that in fact we are having an element of double counting here in the calculation of the GDP because the dividends paid to the Government are shown in a separate component of the GDP which shows the income of Government trading entities. If the hon Member looks at the last breakdown that he gave me which I may have here. Where the Savings Bank

and the Electricity Authority and the Post Office and all those are shown, the dividend is shown as a contribution to the GDP.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would hope that the Statistician strips it out from one place or from the other, nor do I know whether Gibtel in which the Government has only a 50 per cent interest is included as a Government trading enterprise. I cannot recall the list of Government trading enterprises that feature but it is a 50:50 enterprise so it may be either that it is not included as a Government trading enterprise, because it is not a wholly owned Government trading enterprise, or otherwise if it is, that the Statistician will have stripped it out from one or the other so that it does not result in a double count. But I cannot as I speak either confirm or deny his suggestion that there might have been some double counting. I would hope not and I think it would be too simple, too obvious a mistake for the Statistician to have made.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, not in the light of the explanation that the hon Member has provided because he has just told me that in reaching the figure of gross trading companies, what is done is he grosses up the receipts. So if you have got Gibtelecom paying tax and the tax has been included in the collection of company tax in a given year and that tax is then grossed up by 22 per cent then clearly Gibtelecom is included in the profits of companies. That is the answer he has just given me. But in a previous breakdown in a previous question, when I asked about a breakdown for the make up of the gross trading surplus of Government enterprises which was in 2007/08, £4.68 million, in there he included the dividend received in the Government receipts from Gibtelecom. I do not have the breakdown with me. I have got the figure but I can tell him that he did give me that answer and it is easy to obtain. There was a question specifically asking for a breakdown of the figure and it struck me, frankly, it may be something that has been overlooked in the past, but it struck me in the information that he has given me in the previous meeting about how the figure was being worked out, that it might be that this has been overlooked. Perhaps it has not been.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will certainly ask the Statistician to look into it and to check that it has not been or otherwise to confirm that it has been and restate figures accordingly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 1115 OF 2010

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. 547 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1116 and 1117 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1116 OF 2010

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. 548 of 2010 from the Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1115 and 1117 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1117 OF 2010

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. 549 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon gentleman a statement giving the information he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1117 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1115 of 2010

Stamp Duty collected in each month since February 2010 is as follows:

February 2010	£625,195.15
March 2010	£246,983.86
April 2010	£304,419.78
May 2010	£333,871.12

Answer to Question No. 1116 of 2010

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues in each month since February 2010 is as follows:

February 2010	£1,400.00
March 2010	£2,020.00
April 2010	£1,870.00
May 2010	£1,520.00

Answer to Question No. 1117 of 2010

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sales since February 2010 is as follows:

February 2010	24
March 2010	19
April 2010	12
May 2010	54

NO. 1118 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NEW POWER STATION – MANNING AND OPERATION

Can Government clarify that the answer to Question No. 550 of 2010 implies that the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will manage but not man and operate the recently announced £100 million power station?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

If I thought the hon Member watched football on television, I would conclude that he had drafted this question while the goal was being scored and his attention is distracted.

The answer to Question No. 550 of 2010 requires no clarification to make it clear that it does not imply that the GEA will manage but not man and operate the new power station. Indeed, the answer clearly states the contrary.

In Question No. 550 of 2010, the hon Member asked whether Government can confirm that the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will man and operate the new power station. In his absence the answer given by me was; “Yes”. I do not see how he might think that “Yes” implies “No”.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1118 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would need to do a bit more research to explain the anomaly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask the hon Member, in terms of the size and the commitment to invest in a station, I take it that effectively what the hon Member is saying is that the facilities now operated by the MOD and by OESCO will cease to exist and that the MOD will become a Government customer? Presumably, in the light of that consideration, it

would be wise to sort out the complications in the manning and the merging of work forces before committing to a facility first and then finding there are problems later. Would that be the approach of the hon Member or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member's supplementary presupposes that there will be a merger of the work forces. Certainly, any transfer of service, of electricity... In other words, if what the hon Member has described were to occur, which it is fully envisaged that it will occur, negotiations are almost at a conclusion now, the MOD will cease to be a generator and indeed a distributor of electricity and will become a customer of the GEA in both respects. Certainly, the Government and the MOD ..., but the Government will make sure that the work force currently engaged in those areas in the MOD, are fully taken care of. But that does not necessarily... Fully taken care of, by which I do not just mean just paid off, if they do not want to be just paid off, if they want to carry on working on terms that respect their situation, that is part of the arrangements. But it does not, necessarily, come in for everybody in the form of a merger of work forces. There are steps that can be pursued but certainly continuing job security for those who want it with the Government is assured. I assume that the question was not so cryptic that that is what the original question was aiming at. Was it?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The supplementary that I am putting is. Are the Government in fact at a point where it is now confident that the labour side of the equation is satisfactorily settled before going down the road of investing in something which might at a later stage create problems? That is the whole point that I am really making.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Gibraltar needs to invest in a new power station regardless of anything to do with the MOD.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

These machines in both the OESCO and the Waterport Power Station are reaching, in some cases, surpass their intended life. They are located in areas of increasing residential density. The need for a new power station does not arise and is not linked to the deal with the MOD. That arises from the fact that the MOD would need to do its own new power station and I think in an increasingly environmentally conscious Gibraltar, it seems silly to build two power stations. So it is not a question of sorting out the labour issues before proceeding with the power station. The staff understand what is intended to be done by way of protection of their interests and I think they welcome the job securities that those who want it will have because, particularly in the context of the new defence spending reviews and all of that, employment with the

Ministry of Defence is increasingly uncertain going forward. So, you know, for them it is something to be welcomed. They have not yetI am sure they will want to see the terms and the details and the structure, of course, and I am sure they will be reserving final judgement. But on the whole, they see it as a positive development for the assurance of their personal economies into the future. Of course, the Government are being careful in its deal with the MOD not to be saddled with cost, with transferred cost, should the MOD's demand for electricity suddenly whittle away and we find that we have accepted a transfer of labour. So all that is protected in the agreement with the MOD as well.

ORAL

NO. 1119 OF 2010

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. 552 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1120 to 1122 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1120 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE/CORPORATION TAX PAYABLE BY EMPLOYERS IN RETAIL AND WHOLESALE INDUSTRY SECTOR

Can Government state what was the amount of a) PAYE and b) Company Tax, payable in the tax years 2008/2009, by employers in the retail and wholesale industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119, 1121 and 1122 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1121 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX COLLECTED

What was the amount of company tax collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 553 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119, 1120 and 1122 of 2010.

NO. 1122 OF 2010

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, and the numbers employed by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned/Joint Venture companies; and
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Gentleman a schedule containing the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1122 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1119 of 2010

The PAYE tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No. 522 of 2010 is:

	£M
February 2010	9.20
March 2010	9.90
April 2010	7.95
May 2010	7.81

Answer to Question No. 1120 of 2010

The amounts of PAYE and Corporation Tax payable in the tax year 2008/2009, by employers in the retail and wholesale industry sector was as follows:

	PAYE Tax	Corporation Tax
2008/2009	£7.24M	£5.17M

Answer to Question No. 1121 of 2010

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No. 553 of 2010 is:

	£M
February 2010	10.55
March 2010	2.87
April 2010	0.97
May 2010	0.77

Answer to Question No. 1122 of 2010

Based on the 2008/2009 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted to date, the information sought is as follows:

	£M	Approximate No. of Employees
(a) MOD	4.0	2,400
(b) Gibraltar Government	26.9	6,500
(c) Government owned & JV companies	3.9	650
(d) Private sector employment	<u>63.2</u>	<u>21,900</u>
	<u>98.0</u>	<u>31,450</u>

ORAL

NO. 1123 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of May 2010, how many companies in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2008/2009 had been assessed for Company Tax and what were the amounts of tax payable and paid in respect of each tax year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1124 and 1125 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1124 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS/TAX PAYABLE

Can Government state, as at the end of May 2010, how many employers had submitted an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2008/2009 and what was the total amount of tax payable and paid in these submissions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1123 and 1125 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1125 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of May 2010, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2008/2009.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1125 of 2010**Answer to Question No. 1123 of 2010**

	1995/96 £M	1996/97 £M	1997/98 £M	1998/99 £M	1999/20 £M	2000/01 £M	2001/02 £M
Assessed	15.9	15.8	20.1	26.2	90.6	29.4	32.0
Discharged	6	5.4	9.6	11.7	77.0	16.1	17.4
	9.9	10.4	10.5	14.5	13.6	13.3	14.6
Paid	9.9	10.4	10.5	14.5	13.6	13.3	14.4
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
No. of Companies	1448	1421	1470	1465	1553	1594	1557
	2002/03 £M	2003/04 £M	2004/05 £M	2005/06 £M	2006/07 £M	2007/08 £M	2008/09 £M
Assessed	38.2	42.7	37.7	49.9	54.8	50.8	40.7
Discharged	21.8	20.1	16.8	24.9	29.7	23.3	9.9
	16.4	22.6	20.9	25.0	25.1	27.5	30.8
Paid	16.0	22.4	20.5	23.2	24.5	25.6	28.0
Outstanding	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.8	0.6	1.9	2.8
No. of Companies	1553	1621	1631	1588	1544	1410	1415

Continued Answer to Question No. 1125 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1124 of 2010

As at 7th June 2010, 1910 employers had submitted their 2008/2009 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions was £98.0M and £95.6M respectively.

Answer to Question No. 1125 of 2010

As at 7th June 2010, 287 employers had not yet returned their 2008/2009 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates.

NO. 1126 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFIT

As at the end of May 2010, how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profit:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000,

in each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2008/2009 and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1127 of 2010.

NO. 1127 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS ON DECLARED TAXABLE PROFITS

As at the end of May 2010, how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000,

in each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2008/2009, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1127

Answer to Question 1126

COMPANIES ASSESSED WITHOUT HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Under £35,000						
No of companies assessed	667	461	149	139	127	140
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	1.3M	0.8M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M
Total paid	1.3M	0.7M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M
Over £35,000						
No of companies assessed	39	30	2	4	15	12
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	2.7M	2.5M	0.02M	0.1M	0.4M	0.3M
Total paid	2.7M	2.5M	0.02M	0.1M	0.2M	0.3M

Year of Assessment	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Under £35,000					
No of companies assessed	159	196	242	262	1
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.4M	0.5M	0.6M	0.6M	0.8K
Total paid	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M	Nil
Over £35,000					
No of companies assessed	10	18	35	47	12
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.4M	0.4M	0.8M	1.3M	1.1M
Total paid	0.3M	0.3M	0.5M	0.9M	1.0M

Contd ANSWER TO QUESTION 1127

Answer to Question 1127

COMPANIES ASSESSED HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Under £35,000						
No of companies assessed	231	317	382	447	448	476
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.1M	1.1M
Total paid	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.1M	1.1M
Over £35,000						
No of companies assessed	78	102	137	155	157	169
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	6.3M	9.7M	12.1M	13.6M	15.3M	22.2M
Total paid	6.3M	9.7M	12.1M	13.4M	15.3M	22.2M
Year of Assessment	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Under £35,000						
No of companies assessed	455	492	448	347	185	
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	1.1M	1.1M	1.0M	0.9M	0.4M	
Total paid	1.1M	1.1M	1.0M	0.9M	0.4M	
Over £35,000						
No of companies assessed	170	151	142	137	106	
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	22.3M	22.5M	21.2M	21.6M	17.9M	
Total paid	21.2M	21.2M	21.2M	20.6M	17.8M	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1126 AND 1127 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I correct in thinking that the last year 2008/2009 is the last year when company tax was on the preceding year basis and 2009/2010 is when it changes? Or is it 2010/2011 that it changes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Assuming that the legislation passes in this House in the terms in which it is being published in the pre-legislative process briefing paper, it comes into effect with effect of 1st January 2011 which means that in respect of the tax year 2010/2011, which is straddled by that date which is cut in half by that date, it is six months under one basis and six months under another. There are quite complex transitional arrangements designed to accommodate precisely this situation. With examples, if he wants to see how it works. Towards the end... I think at the end of the pre-legislative briefing paper there are examples with numbers and fictitious companies showing how the transition works between one system and the other.

ORAL

NO. 1128 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VALUE OF IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Can Government now state the value of imports of petroleum products in 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1129 and 1130 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1129 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Can Government now state the value of exports of petroleum products in 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1128 and 1130 of 2010.

NO. 1130 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM EU COUNTRIES EXCLUDING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Can Government now state the value of imports from EU countries, excluding petroleum products, in 2009 and give a breakdown by country?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Imports stood at £1,170 million.

Exports stood at £1,129.2 million.

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the value of imports broken down by EU countries excluding petroleum.

Answer to Question No. 1130 of 2010

Imports from E.U. Countries (excluding Petroleum Products), 2009.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>2009</u>
United Kingdom	121,686
Spain	110,995
Germany	12,538
Netherlands	12,576
Denmark	2,871
France	3,026
Italy	887
Cyprus	125
Belgium	890
Ireland	400
Portugal	75
Austria	445
Greece	417
Hungary	159
Poland	66
Sweden	139
Finland	66
Luxembourg	2
Bulgaria	10
Malta	1
Czech Republic	5
Romania	5
Slovenia	3
Latvia	-
Slovak Republic	-
Estonia	-
Lithuania	59
TOTAL	267,446

Note: C.I.F. – Carriage, Insurance, Freight i.e. these costs are included in the import figures.

ORAL

NO. 1131 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES/BONDS

Can Government state what sales of Government bonds or debentures to the public have taken place each month since the answer to Question No. 579 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1132 to 1134 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1132 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LEVEL OF AGGREGATE AND NET PUBLIC DEBT

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 575 of 2010, 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. 1131,1133 and 1134 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1133 OF 2010

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. 576 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1131, 1132 and 1134 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1134 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – PUBLIC DEBT

Has there been any change in the level of public debt held by Gibraltar Community Care Limited since the answer to Question No. 577 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a statement containing all the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question 1134

Answer to Question 1131

Government has issued the following Debentures to the public:

	Total Issues (Sales)
February 2010	£4,648,300
March 2010	£7,213,400
April 2010	£3,884,200
May 2010	<u>£26,451,900</u>
	<u>£42,197,800</u>

Answer to Question 1132

	£'M	£'M	£'M
February 2010	384.4	245.0	139.4
March 2010	388.7	249.0	139.7
April 2010	391.4	244.7	146.7
May 2010	392.4	235.0	157.4

Answer to Question 1133

The amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loans from local banks in each month since February 2010 is as follows:

Date	Barclays	Natwest	Total
February 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
March 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
April 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
May 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000

Answer to Question 1134

Gibraltar Community Care currently holds no Government of Gibraltar Debentures.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1131 TO 1134 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it the answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010, the second column is the amount of cash that is deducted from the gross to arrive at the net and the net is the third column.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry. I was just noticing myself that the headings appear to have been missed out of the columns. The first column is the aggregate public debt. The second column is the cash reserves held by the Government and therefore the third column is the net public debt which is the middle column deducted from the first one.

ORAL

NO. 1135 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEPOSITS

Can Government say what was the level of (a) non-Government deposits and (b) Government deposits, in the Savings Bank Fund at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 578 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I give the hon Member a statement showing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1135 of 2010

The level of Savings Bank Deposits stood as follows:

	Non-Govt Deposits (tentative) £M	Govt Deposits (tentative) £M
February 2010	83.2	223.9
March 2010	83.7	224.6
April 2010	83.0	220.0
May 2010	82.2	211.1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1135 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the figure in answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010, we see in the months that the cash reserve goes up and in the past, in fact, that has almost been paralleled by the movement of Government deposits in the Savings Bank. But this does not appear to be the case in ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. The answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010 shows as the borrowing increases but has not used obviously the available cash also increases in column two. In the past, this money was going into the Government deposits in the Savings Bank and there was the similar movement in the level of Government deposits. But I see that it does not seem to have been the same thing happening... For example, in the months of February and March, the cash goes up and yet on the other side of the equation we do not see the same movement. Is it that the Government have been putting some of this cash other than in the Savings Bank?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Between February and March, the cash did not go up by very much. It went up by £4 million. True it is that there is no increase in cash. That could simply be explained by the fact that it could have been used ... There is a ... The cash element went up without increasing the net debt and without being deposited, it can only be that it was spent. I cannot think of any other explanation. I do not think... I think all cash holdings ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is still going through the Savings Bank.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. There has been no change in xxxx and from there much of it goes into a Bank of England account that the Government has opened.

ORAL

NO. 1136 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WITHHOLDING TAX REGIME

Can Government now state the amount of tax paid to the UK as a result of the Withholding Tax Regime option under the EU Tax Directive in respect of the UK tax year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount of tax paid to UK for the period 2008/2009 was £383,797.37.

NO. 1137 OF 2010

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 payments, compared to residents, since the answer to Question No. 555 of 2010 and if so by whom and when were the representations made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. The position remains as stated in previous answers to similar questions or to the same question.

ORAL

NO. 1138 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure of full-time employment in wholly-owned Government companies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1139 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for full-time employment in statutory authorities and agencies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 and 1140 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1140 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for full-time employment in the Government Departments in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138, 1139 and 1141 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1141 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in wholly-owned Government companies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1140 and 1142 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1142 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in statutory authorities and agencies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1141 and 1143 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1143 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in the Government Departments in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1142, 1144 and 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1144 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in respect of Table 12 of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1143 and 1145 of 2010.

NO. 1145 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for full-time employment in respect of Table 12 of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at this time, the position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 57 of 2010, but the figures requested are being included in the 2009 Employment Survey Report in respect of 2009, consistently with my indication in the House that even though the Government are not willing to provide backdated information in a different form, that if it could be done, we would modify the way information is given in the surveys to reflect the sort of information that they express an interest in having.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1138 TO 1145 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that the hon Member has provided the same information for October 2007 and is going to provide it for October 2009...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I gave him the explanation for why this was not quite as irrational as he thought. It has been given in the past despite not being held in that form by the deployment of a considerable amount of manpower resources at re-crunching numbers. I have asked the Statistics Office whether that same degree of effort is necessary in respect of the next year 2008/2009 and he has said, yes. I have asked him whether it requires a disproportionate effort to write up the 2009 report in giving that breakdown and he has told me that the latter is much easier to do because it does not involve revisiting and re-crunching and re-calculating and putting to a different use raw material that they have in different years. So, I have instructed the Statistics Office to provide the information systematically, without the need for the hon Member to ask for it, as a permanent variation in the format of those tables in the Employment Survey. So, in future he will receive the surveys with all that breakdown in it. But I am sticking to the advice that I am getting from the Statistics Office that it does require a disproportionate effort which although has been invested in the past, I explained to

the hon Member in the answer to Question No. 57 of 2010 the Government felt should no longer continue to be deployed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think I did ... the last time in my supplementaries and I thought the hon Member had acknowledged that that could not possibly be true of some of these things. For example, 1,140 is the figure of full time employment in Government departments. So, if I come back and get ... For example, in Question No. 1138 of 2010, if for the next meeting of the House I get each Government company that is in that table and I ask for information on each Government company I am pretty sure the Government are going to tell me, no I am not going to give you the figures in Government companies because of the number crunching. I have difficulty in understanding what the problem is because, in fact, some of the information because of the format that has been changed means that I can no longer compare one year's results with another because ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The existing information will continue to be there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. What happened in 2008 changed things from the presentation in 2007 and in some respect there was more information and in another respect there was loss of some information and therefore when I asked for a breakdown... For example, of the full-time in Government departments and the full time in Government companies, it is because for the first time they were showing Government companies and Government departments before. From 2007 backwards, I have it for every other year without it being included in the tables at all. I have finished up getting less information because it had been included in the table than I was getting before it was included in the table and I cannot really see how the Government can say, well look it takes too much of an effort to give you the number of full-time employment in Government departments. What is to stop me from getting department by department and company by company and putting a question in one of each and getting the information in another way? I really think if the hon Member goes back to the department and tells them to at least focus on the one that is obviously available to them, full-time and part time employment in Government companies and full-time and part-time employment in I can always go back to the previous year and ask them whether there has been any change between 2007 and 2008 in each one of those.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that might be what they are worried about. I will ask them. There is no political reason for not providing this information. Indeed, I have decided to institutionalise it for the future.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But the hon Member does have a tendency to delve and delving is fine so long as the Government does not have to stop for a week to do the delving for him and really... of course some of this information has been provided in the past but every time more and more and more is asked for and whereas the paralysis used to be a day, the paralysis is now for the whole week. So, either we are selective in what we give him or what we do not give him by way of representation of existing data or we say, look we stop doing that and where possible, in future, we provide the information in that form. Fine and during the transition year he is able to say the very things that he has said just now. But if it is true that there is some of this information which is more readily to hand than the one that requires the number crunching that brings about the paralysis like, what is the breakdown of part-time and full-time workers in Government departments. If that information is readily available somewhere and does not require number crunching, I do not see any good reason why it should not be provided to him and I will ask if that is so.

ORAL

NO. 1146 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1147 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1147 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of part-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 and 1148 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1148 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of full-time Spanish female workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146, 1147 and 1149 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1149 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of part-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1148 and 1150 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1150 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the comparable breakdown for October 2008 of all the full-time employee jobs by industry, sex and nationality as given in Table 12 of the Employment Survey Report in respect of the 836 employers or such lesser number as returned filled questionnaires for October 2007 having also done so for October 2002 and 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1149 and 1151 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1151 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the information in Table 16 of the October 2007 Government owned joint venture companies included as part of the private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1150 and 1152 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1152 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of Government Departments employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1151 and 1153 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1153 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of statutory authorities and agencies employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1152 and 1154 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1154 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of wholly-owned Government companies employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1153 and 1155 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1155 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of MOD employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1154 and 1156 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1156 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in Table 16 of the Employment Survey Report in respect of private sector employment excluding Government owned joint venture companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1155 and 1157 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1157 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide a breakdown of the 548 employers who made a nil return in respect of the October 2008 Employment Survey showing how many of these (a) made a nil return in October 2007; (b) made no return in October 2007; (c) made a return with employees in October 2007 showing the total number of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1156, 1158 and 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1158 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to state whether all the 548 employers which recorded a nil return of employees in October 2008 were sent a questionnaire in October 2007 and if not how many were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1157 and 1159 of 2010.

NO. 1159 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to state what was the number of employers who were sent a questionnaire in October 2007 who were included in the 548, who made a nil return in October 2008, and of those employers in 2007, how many made a nil return and how many failed to answer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 57 of 2010. In other words, as before but these are not going to be provided in the 2009 survey.

However, in respect of Question No. 1155 of 2010, the hon Member appears to have overlooked the fact that this very information was provided in answer to the very same question when asked as Question No. 403 of 2008 which in a sense makes the point that he was making before. That he has had it in the past.

ORAL

NO. 1160 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to say when it anticipates it will be able to Table the report of the 2009 Employment Survey in Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1161 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1161 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to say when they expect the returns from the 2009 Employment Survey to close?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 and 1162 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1162 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the total and a breakdown by industry of the questionnaires sent in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160, 1161 and 1163 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1163 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the total and a breakdown by industry of the questionnaires returned to date in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1162 and 1164 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1164 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to state how many of the questionnaires returned to date in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey showed a nil return?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1163 and 1165 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1165 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide a breakdown by industry of the employers, if any, included in the 2008 Employment Survey, who had not been sent questionnaires in October 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1164 and 1166 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1166 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide a breakdown by industry of the employers, if any, included in the October 2009 Employment Survey, who were not included in the October 2008 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1165, 1167 and 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1167 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to state whether there are any new employers who have been sent questionnaires for the October 2009 Employment Survey who were not included in October 2008, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1166 and 1168 of 2010.

NO. 1168 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to say whether any of the employers included in the 2008 Employment Survey, have not been sent questionnaires in October 2009, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member can expect the Survey to be published before the budget debate as has occurred in previous years.

Returns for the 2009 Survey have obviously now closed already.

In so far as concerns Question Nos. 1162 to 1168 of 2010, the position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 54 of 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1160 TO 1168 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well here, the problem is not a number crunching but the argument used before was that this was something that was in process and not completed. The hon Member has just told me that the survey has closed so there is nothing in process and not completed any more which was the excuse he used the last time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. What he calls an excuse and I prefer to call a reason, last time, was that the Government did not consider it appropriate to provide information in respect of a survey, the results of which had not yet been published. There are things there about the methodology of the 2009 survey and I basically said to him, look it is not appropriate to answer questions about the methodology of the 2009 survey when the 2009 survey itself has not yet been tabled or published. It is not to say that if he asks some of those questions after the survey has been published, the information presumably will be forthcoming. If I then refused to provide the information, he could say, well you must now be relying on a different reason or excuse that you gave me last time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Subject to correction, I do not think he used the word published, I think he used the words that it was in progress and not completed. The report is now completed, the hon Member talks about making it available as in previous years by which he means as in last year because in previous years, in fact, this has not been the case. The whole rationale that he defended for moving the system from the tax to the employment surveys asking employers, was the availability of the information earlier. But of course ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, if the Government think that it is better to debate what is happening in 2010/2011 on the basis that one side knows what happened in 2009 and the other side knows, except for the last five minutes, what happened in 2008 and that that provides for better debate in the House, that is fine.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would not wish to end a very amicable spirit in which our Question Time has elapsed. I would not wish to spoil it at ten to seven on a Friday evening when England is playing in the World Cup by pointing out to the hon Gentleman that he really must not use arguments of that sort. He cannot. He knows that the position now is a huge, huge, huge improvement on anything that used to exist before in terms of the timing, the historical relevance and the currency of the information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not dispute that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Now, and I know that he said, well the fact that you did not have it from me, it does not mean that I cannot have it from you and I agree, and I agree because we make available a lot of information to him much earlier. So, it is not being held from him because he did not give it to me. That is not the Government's position. That is not the Government's position. In fact, the Employment Survey is not yet ready. I do not want him to think that it is sitting on some desk, not being produced to him in order to frustrate his expectation or his desire to use the content of it for his budgetary speech. In that vein, and I think I have offered this to him in the past and I think I may have done it last year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not here last year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Or the year before perhaps, in which I said to him, I would send it to him a few days sooner, in confidence, so that he did not have to wait until it was physically laid on the table and I am happy to do that this year if that is of any help to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not expect the hon Member to provide it before he has it and the whole point that I am making is is not that I had before he did, it is that it took a very long time and that neither side had it because it was based on PAYE returns.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx. Yes, it was on a different basis.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, the tax year finished in June. They waited for the returns of the PAYE and the reality is that although there was an argument for saying that was more accurate because if it says there are 1,000 persons paying PAYE, there are 1,000 persons paying PAYE. There is no question about that. But, of course, it took so long that we were getting it 18 months after the relevant year. Everybody was getting it 18 months after the relevant year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

All I am saying is, if the hon Member interprets the figures of 2009, I will be talking about the figures for 2008 and I am not sure that that is ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I agree. I do not mind making it available to him confidentially. But tabling it before the budget debate, formally, means now, because the House may now adjourn until the budget debate and it is not ready. There is no other opportunity. So it will have to be on some informal side basis. But can I just say to him which is on this occasion normally when we are debating in Question Time, he pulls out Hansard from a previous question to demonstrate to me that I cannot remember what I am talking about and I cannot normally argue against him because I am not similarly prepared. This time the boot is on the other foot. I am prepared. I have Hansard here of Question No. 54 of 2010 and I did indeed say and this is the principle answer, not supplementary, "the Government does not consider it appropriate to provide information relating to the 2009 Employment Survey questionnaire process until the 2009 Employment Survey Report is published. Contrary to his assertion that in the employment survey he did not think I had said published and that is exactly what I

had said. I have not focussed on the exact questions but I do not suppose there is any objection to the questions themselves or to providing the information. It is just to putting the cart before the horse of telling the hon Member how we have done something before he has had the thing. So, I suppose if he asks the same question after the survey report has been published, either we have to provide the information or come up with some other, in his terms, excuse, in my terms, perfectly good reason for not providing it.

ORAL

NO. 1169 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

FINING OF EMPLOYERS USING ILLEGAL LABOUR

Can Government say what fines have been issued to employers during 2010 for using illegal labour?

ANSWER

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

Twenty nine fixed penalty notices have been issued during 2010 to date for using unregistered labour.

ORAL

NO. 1170 OF 2010

UNALLOCATED QUESTION

ORAL

NO. 1171 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED IN SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY

Can Government state the number of Gibraltarians employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar as at the end of August 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The number of Gibraltarians employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar as at the end of August 2010 was 99.

ORAL

NO. 1172 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY APPRENTICES

Can Government state the number of apprentices currently undergoing training in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There are currently 27 apprentices undergoing training in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar.

NO. 1173 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – PERSONS REGISTERED AS BEING EMPLOYED IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

Can Government say how many persons were registered with the Employment Service as being employed in the local hotel industry as at the end of June 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The number of persons registered with the Employment Service as being employed in the local hotel industry as at the end of June of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

2007	-	315
2008	-	318
2009	-	325
2010	-	278

NO. 1174 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS EMPLOYED

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 591 of 2010, 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 statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 1174/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

June 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				6	95	101
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	2	118		4	10	134
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		1				1
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	3	7				10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	5	126	0	10	106	247

Cond't Answer to Question 1174/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

July 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				6	115	121
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	9	130		3	10	152
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		1				1
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	3	7				10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	12	138	0	9	126	285

Cond't Answer to Question 1174/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

August 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				5	105	110
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	8	144		3	7	162
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		1				1
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	3	7				10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services		6				6
Total	11	158	0	8	112	289

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1174 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I note that in the retail trade where there had been a regular number of ten for virtually one whole year which I questioned and the hon Member, in fact, may remember that he said he was going to look into it in more detail as to what exactly these ten people were doing. It seems that since the matter has been raised on several occasions in the House, these detached workers have disappeared. Was it the case that they were actually doing work that did not mean coming in and doing a job and then going and that that has now been stopped?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes. If you will recall I did explain that there were a number of employees who for particular reasons, like trained drivers or heavy equipment persons, used to come for a short period of time, then used to go and then used to come back again. Some people are here, others are not. Apparently now they are not here, except one.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But did the hon Member actually check those ten persons. It could have been that they were ten different ones every month but it was very peculiar that it was the one figure that never seemed to change and then after the matter was raised several times the ten simply disappeared. Did he actually check the ten or not?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. I should have checked them but I have not. I will of course give him the information as soon as I get it.

NO. 1175 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality of the frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 589 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1176 of 2010.

NO. 1176 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government state the total number of frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 588 of 2010?

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, together with corrected copies in respect of the answer provided to Question Nos. 588 and 589 of 2010.

The explanation for such a correction is that whilst the information provided in respect of numbers and breakdown by nationality is correct, the totals did not account for the number in the first of the two sheets making up the report.

To avoid any similar future error, it will be noted that sheets now include carry over and/or brought forward totals as necessary.

Answer to Question 1176/2010**Answer to Questions 1175/2010 and 1176/2010****Frontier Workers by Nationality (June to August 2010)**

Nationality	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10
American	8	9	9
Argentinian	3	3	3
Australian	3	3	3
Austrian	9	10	12
Belgian	10	10	11
Brazilian	4	4	4
Bulgarian	15	16	16
Canadian	3	3	3
Chinese	0		
Colombian	1	1	2
Czechoslovakian	29	29	30
Danish	37	37	37
Dutch	41	38	34
Estonian	3	3	3
Finnish	5	7	7
French	71	75	77
German	115	113	114
Gibraltarian	133	136	133
Greek	25	26	25
Greek Cypriot	7	7	7
Guyanese	0	0	1
Hungarian	44	48	45
Indian	3	3	3
Irish	55	55	55
Israeli	6	6	6
Italian	58	57	62
Japanese	2	2	2
Latvian	7	7	7
Lithuanian	27	42	46
Luxembourg	0		
Macedonian	1	1	1
Maltese	1	1	1
Totals C/F	726	752	759

Contd...Answer to Question 1176/2010
Answer to Questions 1175/2010 and 1176/2010

Nationality	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10
B/F Totals	726	752	759
Mexican	1	0	0
Moroccan	3	3	3
New Zealander	4	4	4
Norwegian	2	3	4
Other British	2018	2053	2052
Peruvian	1	1	1
Philipino	0	1	1
Polish	132	156	157
Portuguese	354	326	317
Romanian	77	78	74
Russian	3	3	3
Slovakian	15	16	16
South African	1	1	1
Spanish	3598	3761	3736
Swedish	13	17	15
Swiss	11	11	10
Ukranian	5	5	5
Totals	6964	7191	7158

Cond't Answer to Question 1176/2010
Answer to Questions 588/2010 and 589/2010

Frontier Workers by Nationality since Dec 2009

Nationality	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
American	11	11	10	8	8	8
Argentinian	2	3	3	3	3	3
Australian	4	4	5	5	5	5
Austrian	7	6	7	7	7	8
Belgian	11	11	11	11	13	12
Bolivian	1	1				
Brazilian	4	4	4	4	4	4
Bulgarian	12	10	20	15	14	13
Canadian	2	2	3	3	3	3
Chinese	1	1	1	1	1	
Colombian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Czeckslovakian	27	29	31	32	29	26
Danish	39	38	35	35	35	36
Dutch	50	45	43	44	45	44
Estonian			1	2	3	3
Finnish	6	7	7	6	6	5
French	69	66	65	69	70	71
German	118	119	120	116	115	115
Gibraltarian	130	127	128	129	127	127
Greek	15	16	17	18	19	24
Greek Cypriot	9	9	8	8	7	8
Hungarian	32	31	33	37	40	42
Indian	3	3	4	4	4	4
Irish	53	54	56	56	55	55
Israeli	6	6	6	6	6	6
Italian	43	46	48	52	55	55
Japanese	2	2	2	2	2	2
Latvian	6	8	7	8	7	8
Lithuanian	19	18	25	21	22	20
Luxembourg	2	2	2			
Macedonian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maltese	2	2	2	1	1	1
Totals C/F	516	517	531	534	537	544

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 1176/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Questions 588/2010 and 589/2010

Frontier Workers by Nationality since Dec 2009

Nationality	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
B/F Totals	516	517	531	534	537	544
Mexican	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moroccan	4	4	4	4	4	4
New Zealander	3	3	3	3	3	3
Norwegian	2	2	1	2	2	2
Other British	2040	2030	2029	2035	2028	2047
Peruvian					1	1
Polish	114	118	122	127	123	134
Portuguese	347	345	364	354	365	371
Romanian	66	74	77	76	76	74
Russian	2	2	2	2	2	2
Slovakian	15	16	16	18	18	17
South African	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spanish	3288	3200	3349	3413	3472	3558
Swedish	16	15	15	13	13	13
Swiss	10	10	9	10	11	11
Ukrainian	4	5	5	5	5	5
Totals	6429	6343	6529	6598	6662	6788

NO. 1177 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NATIONAL DAY 2010

What has been the cost incurred by Government, with a breakdown, of National Day 2010?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 1187 of 2010.

NO. 1178 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

MINISTER FOR CULTURE – USE OF GOVERNMENT CAR

What was the cost to the taxpayer of a chauffer driven Government car collecting the Hon Minister for Culture from the coach park after the National Day Eve Rock Concert on 9th September to take him to his home at Harbour Views and why did the Minister not walk?

ANSWER

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

A vehicle was requisitioned by the Ministry of Culture for the evening of 9th September 2010 in connection with a series of duties the Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sports and Leisure had to undertake at different locations around Gibraltar.

These duties included, but were not restricted to, attendance at the Rock Concert which took place at Waterport Coach Park. Therefore, it would be incorrect to assume that an official Government car was used just to convey the Minister to and from his residence at Harbour Views to the very nearby Rock Concert venue.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1178 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister say how much it cost for the whole day?

HON E J REYES:

My understanding is that these costs are absorbed by my ministerial colleague who has there ... But if I want to be perhaps pedantic and legalistic, if the vehicle finished its duties in all the things I had to attend and when the concert closed at just gone two o'clock in the morning at Waterport Coach Park, that vehicle had to return to its depot because I was satisfied that the preparations in other venues, John Mackintosh Square being one example, were now complete. That vehicle should have returned to its depot which is probably fifty/one hundred metres away by the nearby roundabout garage. With my home being so close by, if one takes the cost from the depot to my home and back I think we are talking of well over one pound sterling.

NO. 1179 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

CHILDREN'S PARK AT CATALAN BAY

When does Government anticipate that the children's park which is to be reprovided at Catalan Bay will be ready?

ANSWER

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

The children's park at Catalan Bay is contractually required to be reprovided by the developers of the Little Genoa project. It is expected that the park will be completed within this current financial year.

NO. 1180 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – RECRUITMENT OF DEPUTY CEO

Can Government state whether it has now recruited the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority?

ANSWER

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

I am very pleased to report that the new Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sports and Leisure Authority was appointed with effect from 13th September 2010.

NO. 1181 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – VACANCIES

Can Government state whether it has now filled the vacancies for the posts of Sports and Leisure Officer following the interviews which took place in June 2010?

ANSWER

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

The two vacancies for the posts of Sports and Leisure Officer, for which interviews took place during the month of June 2010, were filled with effect from the 1st July 2010 and the second one with effect from the 1st August 2010.

NO. 1182 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of 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 August 2010 giving a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

The information requested is contained in the written schedule that I now hand over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 1182/2010

**PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY
AS AT 31st AUGUST 2010**

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

NO. 1183 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

GASA SWIMMING POOL

Can Government state whether the overhaul and upgrade to the air treatment system of the 25 metre pool run by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority has now been completed?

ANSWER

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

The overhaul and upgrade to the 25 metre pool air treatment system has not yet been completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1183 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister have an idea when it might be completed or at least commenced?

HON E J REYES:

I am informed that we are well advanced in the stage of obtaining and analysing technical specifications for what is a rather complex air treatment system. We in the Sports Authority believe that it is essential to get these specifications correct in order to avoid the problems which we have experienced with the existing system and which, unfortunately, has proved was not the ideal one to be installed for this purpose.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who are doing these technical supervisions or looking at it technically, for the Government to be in a position to tender out or whatever, the works for the treatment system?

HON E J REYES:

I am afraid that I do not have accurate information. I do know there has been contact with the original advisors and installers of the system which was carried out prior to this party being in administration. Whether they have actually, physically, come over or there has just been some sort of correspondence and so on with them to get certain specifications, I do not know. I would be misleading the House if I were to pinpoint anyone. I know experts have been engaged. If the hon Member wants he can write to me and I can find out the details and give him a breakdown of who is advising the Sports and Leisure Authority.

ORAL

NO. 1184 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 5th June 2010?

ANSWER

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

The previous Heritage Action Committee meeting was held on 1st June 2010. It could be a simple typographical error and, since that date, one further meeting has taken place and that was on the 14th September 2010.

NO. 1185 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR MUSEUM – ADMISSION FEES

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 in admission fees to the Gibraltar Museum?

ANSWER

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

Further to Question No. 619 of 2010, the revenue raised in admission fees for the Gibraltar Museum on a monthly basis is as follows:

June 2010	£972.60
July 2010	£1105.78
August 2010	£3437.70

NO. 1186 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Can Government say how many entities have submitted tenders for the "Organisation, Production and Staging of the New Year's Eve Celebrations at Casemates Square 2010" which was advertised on 27th July 2010 with a closing date of 20th August 2010, has the tender now been awarded and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

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

Two entities submitted tenders for the organisation, production and staging of the New Year celebrations at Casemates Square for 2010.

The tender has been awarded to Events Unlimited in the sum of £36,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1186 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA

Did the tender go to the lowest bidder?

HON E J REYES:

Yes. The tender did go to the lowest bidder.

NO. 1187 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES

NATIONAL DAY 2010

Can Government give a breakdown of the cost of all events related to National Day from the beginning of the fair week up to National Day?

ANSWER

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

All invoices pertaining to the Gibraltar Fair, National Week and National Day 2010 events have not been received so, therefore, I am unable at this stage to provide the hon Member with any accurate details.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1177 AND 1187 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister know when he envisages to have all these invoices collected and know exactly how much each item has cost.

HON E J REYES:

Round about this date last year, the hon Member also asked me the same question and, unfortunately, I had to give him a reply concurrent to what I have given him today. I would hope that now that the month of September is nearly over, that invoices still pending will be submitted by those who delivered goods, supplies or whatever. Some companies actually prepare invoices at the end of the month of September and that is when National Day lies. So, hopefully, within the month of October is when the details should arrive. If the hon Member does not wish to wait as long as whenever the next Question Time comes along, I would not think it is out of order if he wrote to me and I can make that information available. But I would dare say that during October, perhaps early November, it would all be processed through payment vouchers to Treasury and so on. I will be as helpful as I can but when I have accurate information.

NO. 1188 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

ST BERNADETTE'S ADULT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE – VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT MANAGER

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Assistant Manager – St Bernadette's Adult Occupational Therapy Centre which was advertised on or around 19th August 2010 with a closing date of 3rd September 2010, how many were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Eight applicants have applied for the post of Assistant Manager at St Bernadette's Adult Occupational Therapy Centre. Three of the applicants are Gibraltarians. Interviews are likely to be held within the next two weeks.

NO. 1189 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

CARE AGENCY – VACANCY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Social Worker in the Care Agency which was advertised on 14th September 2010 with a closing date of 28th September 2010, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and has the post now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

To date one application has been received for this post. However, please note that this figure may change since the closing date was only yesterday. The nationality of the only applicant to date is Gibraltarian. There are two vacant posts and, obviously, they have not been filled since we are now at the stage of accepting applications until the 28th September.

Perhaps for the benefit of clarity for the hon Member opposite, when the actual department received notice of the question, I think it was about a week ago, round about the 23rd ... At the time when we gathered the information, there was only one applicant but given that the closing date was only yesterday, it may well be that there are more applicants. I am saying, may well be, because Social Workers are civil servants and therefore the collection and the processing of the applications are not handled directly by the Care Agency but rather the centralised Human Resources Department. So please bear that in mind.

NO. 1190 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

MOUNT ALVERNIA – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are presently waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital or in John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I suppose I will not have to answer the next question given that it is a replica of this one.

Answered together with Question No. 1191 of 2010.

NO. 1191 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

MOUNT ALVERNIA – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are presently waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital or in John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

There are 551 persons in the waiting list for Mount Alvernia out of which 42 are occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital and 29 in John Cochrane Unit.

ORAL

NO. 1192 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm the number of staff employed at the Shopmobility Centre with a breakdown by post and say which of these vacancies were advertised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1193 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1193 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm how much has been spent on the Shopmobility Centre (a) for the refurbishment works (b) scooter purchases (c) other costs (with a breakdown by item)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 and 1994 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1194 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm the names of all companies, trusts or charities involved and their financial contribution to the Shopmobility Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192, 1193 and 1195 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1195 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm what system, if any, they have in place to ensure that all possible users of the Shopmobility Centre can and will use the scooters/wheelchairs safely and that they will pose no risk to the public?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1194 and 1196 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1196 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm whether the scooter users using scooters from the Shopmobility Centre will be insured when using them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1195 and 1197 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1197 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm whether a service, repair and maintenance contract has been put in place to service the scooters or wheelchairs of the Shopmobility Centre, and what accreditation has been sought from those companies invited to quote?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1196 and 1198 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1198 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm the names of the companies which (a) carried out the office refurbishment (b) supplied all the electrical mobility scooters/wheelchairs for the Shopmobility Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1197 and 1199 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1199 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm whether all supplies and services for the Shopmobility Centre have been put out to tender and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1198 and 1200 to 1204 of 2010.

NO. 1200 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government state how many quotations were obtained in each financial year since 2007/2008 to supply equipment to the Shopmobility Centre with a breakdown showing who was the successful tenderer, the name of the equipment in question, the name of the supplier and indicating in each case whether the successful tenderer was the lowest bid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1199 and 1201 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1201 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Can Government confirm when the Shopmobility Centre will re-open to the public?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1200 and 1202 to 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1202 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Does the Care Agency have arrangements for private parties to sell mobility scooters from the Shopmobility Centre at the ICC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1201, 1203 and 1204 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1203 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of the Hon N F Costa

SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE

Is the Care Agency selling mobility scooters from the Shopmobility Centre at the ICC, and, if so, how many such scooters have been sold, at what price and for what profit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1192 to 1202 and 1204 of 2010.

NO. 1204 OF 2010**THE HON C A BRUZON****On behalf of the Hon N F Costa****SHOPMOBILITY CENTRE**

What arrangements have the Care Agency put in place for the supply of equipment to it for the Shopmobility Centre at the ICC?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS****Answer to Question No. 1192 of 2010**

There is one shop attendant currently employed in the Shopmobility Centre. This post was transferred to the Care Agency when it took over the responsibility of the Centre.

Answer to Question No. 1193 of 2010

The amount spent on the Shopmobility Centre is as follows:

- (a) £7,000 was spent on the refurbishment and associated works on the Shopmobility Centre;
- (b) With regard to the scooters, these were acquired by a donation given specifically for this purpose;
- (c)
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| All in one computer | £785.98 |
| Laser printer/fax/scanner | £609.87 |
| Filing cabinet | £185.00 |
| Aids | £712.28 |
| Office kettle/mugs/tea towels | £ 51.53 |
| Printer and cable | £ 80.00 |
| Office Décor | £446.95 |
| Shop chairs | £523.10 |
| Revolving desk stand | £239.90 |
| Shelves and frames | £332.76 |
| No Smoking signs | £ 45.00 |
| Counters | <u>£2,517.27</u> |
| | <u>£6,529.64</u> |

Answer to Question No. 1194 of 2010

The Gibraltar Red Cross Society has contributed financially towards the Shopmobility Centre.

Answer to Question No. 1195 of 2010

All service users will be required to fill in a registration form which includes declaration of issues, surrounding visual, mental, physical condition and weight.

Additionally, before loaning a scooter, the service user will be required to undergo a driving performance test to ensure that they are acquainted with the use of the scooter.

A Safety Consideration Leaflet of Do's and Don'ts will also be issued to the service user and they will be required to duly sign this prior to the loan of any equipment.

Answer to Question No. 1196 of 2010

The Shopmobility Centre will ensure that all functions of the scooter are in good working condition prior to the loan of any equipment and this will be provided by a maintenance and log book record of daily checks. Shopmobility will have an all risks insurance in situ.

- (a) All equipment is covered for all risks by insurance;
- (b) Insurance is in place for liability caused by the scooter of which the Care Agency is liable for. Nobody can insure other persons' liabilities.

Answer to Question No. 1197 of 2010

A maintenance contract has been entered into with the company supplying the scooter and electric wheelchair which also includes a recovery service.

Answer to Question No. 1198 of 2010

The names of the companies are as follows:

- (a) Gibraltar Joinery and Building Services Ltd carried out the refurbishment of the Shopmobility Centre at the ICC;
- (b) Car Care Centre supplied the mobility scooter and electric wheelchairs.

Answer to Question No. 1199 of 2010

Four quotations were sought from the suppliers of the items required and consideration was taken with regard to the price/reliability/experience and number of personnel within the firm who would provide maintenance.

Answer to Question No. 1200 of 2010

Government did not take the responsibility until the creation of the Care Agency in May 2009.

Between the financial year 2009/2010 to date, the Care Agency has only requested quotes on one occasion.

Four Quotations were requested:

- (a) From a UK firm;
- (b) From a UK firm Shopmobility based in Spain;
- (c) From two local suppliers

UK Firm	UK Firm based in Spain	Local Supplier 1	Local Supplier 2
Proved to be more expensive than a local company which was unable to meet maintenance needs	Were more expensive than the local suppliers but unable to meet the maintenance needs	Quote not like for like	Quote not like for like but provides a team of mechanics and a recovery service.

The name of the equipment purchased:-

One Shoprider Paris Mobility Scooter GK.
Four Shoprider Cadiz Mobility Scooters 5889SL.
One Shoprider Valencia Mobility Scooter.
One Pride Go Chair Power chair bat loaded.

The three quotes received were not like for like as equipment varied.

The Local Supplier 2 quotes were in line with the Local Supplier 1. However, the preferred model, following advice on reliability from other UK charity run mobility shops, were the ones purchased. Local Supplier 1 was making suggestions on how to run the shop and also suggested how he would like to sell the products in the shop and requested that a display information was advertised in the shop for persons who frequent this facility. The Care Agency opted for Local Supplier 2, which is, as I said, the Car Care Centre.

Answer to Question No. 1201 of 2010

The Shopmobility Centre will open to the general public when the recruitment of a Shopmobility Attendant is processed.

Answer to Question No. 1202 of 2010

The Government's Shopmobility Centre has no arrangements with private parties to sell mobility scooters from its premises and this will not be a consideration either.

Answer to Question No. 1203 of 2010

The Shopmobility Centre is not open to the public and no mobility scooter has been sold from the Shopmobility Centre in the ICC at any price or for any profit.

Answer to Question No.1204 of 2010

At present, no arrangement has been put in place for further supply of equipment to the Shopmobility Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1192 TO 1204 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the hon Member say that Local Supplier 2 was selected because of their previous experience of providing these things or did I lose that with the long answer?

HON J J NETTO:

What I did say was that Local Supplier 2 was selected on the basis that it provided a team of mechanics in terms of maintenance of the electric scooters and a recovery service while Local Supplier 1 was more or less the same price in the selling, but did not provide the maintenance or the recovery service. So the difference was that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is the hon Member saying that Local Supplier 2 had previously been selling and repairing scooters or not?

HON J J NETTO:

My understanding is that they have been doing that for many years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, and is that on the basis that when they submitted the bid they claimed to have been doing it for many years?

HON J J NETTO:

I think that is the case and, in fact, I would say that it is a well established fact that this is the case, not necessarily at the time when the quote was sought, but it is a fact.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, is the hon Member not aware that the entity that was supplying the scooters to them did not have a trade licence to do so and that they were told by the DTI that they could not do it and that they gave an undertaking not to do it, notwithstanding the fact that they had broken the undertaking and continued doing it. Is he aware of those things?

HON J J NETTO:

No. I am not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, would the hon Member agree with me that if it is indeed the case, that they have not been in this business before, and that, in fact, they did not have a trade licence to do it, then that needs to be taken into account?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes. It definitely has to be taken into account but my recollection of ... or rather my information is that the garage, the Car Care Centre which is Local Supplier 2, does have a number of mechanics who have been doing this kind of work, apart from other general maintenance work for cars, motorbikes and electric scooters, for many years. That is a fact and that is the issue that we considered at the time. It was not just a question of same price as Local Supplier 1 but also could do the maintenance side which is also extremely important to us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not normal ... that the Government requires the suppliers who put tenders to have the licence to sell what they are offering to sell? The trade licence?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, obviously, I am not aware whether at the time they had a trade licence or not. Obviously, for some reason it may be that the Leader of the Opposition is aware of this whereas I am not aware of this. I assume that my staff at the time when they purchased the equipment from the donation given, they would have considered that. But I am not in a position to confirm that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it then that the hon Member is not aware either that another Government department, the DTI, received a complaint that these people were supplying scooters without a trade licence to sell them and that they told the Car Care Centre that they could not do it and that the Car Care Centre gave a commitment in writing that they would not continue supplying them because they did not have a trade licence. So he is not aware of any of that?

HON J J NETTO:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well perhaps the hon Member will welcome that that information is provided to him.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, certainly. I can look into that and provide that information.

NO. 1205 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

MOUNT ALVERNIA – SCAFFOLDING

Can Government state when the scaffolding presently at Mount Alvernia was first erected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The scaffolding presently at Mount Alvernia was first erected on the 23rd June 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1205 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister tell us what was the purpose of the scaffolding being placed there?

HON J J NETTO:

The scaffolding was erected at the time to provide fans around the scaffolding for the purpose of ... whenever a piece of masonry fell. We had an experience back then that a few pieces of masonry had fallen and it was more of a safety issue. In the interim period, of course, what we have done is we requested the Technical Services Department to provide us with a survey and to provide us with some kind of a contract so that we can actually put it out to tender and this is something that we are pursuing in terms of getting the money in the usual way that most Government departments do in any given financial year. So at the moment the purpose of having the scaffold with the fan is just in case, as a precautionary measure, in case a piece of masonry falls. We have done the survey. We have got the contract and we are now waiting to see whether we are lucky enough in this financial year to get the necessary funds to do the works or whether we will have to wait for the next financial year.

HON C A BRUZON:

Thank you. The Minister may remember that just over two years ago I asked him a question concerning the possibility of having awnings placed outside the windows which were exposed to the sun for many hours affecting people who were room bound and could not therefore go to the areas, the leisure areas in the centre of Mount Alvernia which were protected from the sun. The answer he gave me two years ago was, if I remember rightly, that they were at present doing repair work concerning the balconies, that consideration

would be given to the placing of awnings when that work was done. Can the Minister confirm that?

HON J J NETTO:

The question of the awnings is a separate question for which I have not had notice. As I am standing and recollecting from the time, yes, I remember that the hon Member opposite did raise that question and I think I said at the time that the Managing Director, the Chief Executive of Mount Alvernia had been providing awnings for some of the flats and it is an ongoing process. That is, from my recollection as I am standing right now. But it is a separate issue and, obviously, if he would have given me notice we could have looked into that in much greater detail.

ORAL

NO. 1206 OF 2010

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 to Question No. 631 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1207, 1212 and 1213 of 2010.

NO. 1207 OF 2010

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. 630 of 2010, from the Statutory Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners, showing the number of Gibraltar/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1206, 1212 and 1213 of 2010.

NO. 1208 OF 2010

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. 626 of 2010, have been employed since, and how many are still receiving Social Assistance, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1209 and 1210 of 2010.

NO. 1209 OF 2010

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. 627 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1208 and 1210 of 2010.

NO. 1210 OF 2010

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 to Question No. 628 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown by their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1210 of 2010

Answer to Question 1208

Persons in receipt of social assistance for the months of June to August 2010.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
June 2010	220	324	544	99	139	141	165
July 2010	223	329	552	101	143	145	163
August 2010	223	321	544	99	146	139	160
As at 23 Sept 2010	225	322	547	103	147	141	156

Persons employed during the months of June to August 2010.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60.
June 2010	7	4	11	4	2	2	3
July 2010	3	2	5	5	0	0	0
August 2010	5	7	12	4	2	5	1

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 1210 of 2010

Answer to Question 1209

Persons receiving social assistance for the months of June to August 2010 by month, sex and age.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
June 2010	220	324	544	99	139	141	165
July 2010	223	329	552	101	143	145	163
August 2010	223	321	544	99	146	139	160

Answer to Question 1210

Persons receiving disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements for the months of June 2010 to August 2010 giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex.

	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
June 2010	26	33	25	25	17	14	4	144	101	43
July 2010	26	32	25	26	17	14	4	144	101	43
August 2010	26	32	25	26	16	15	4	144	101	43

ORAL

NO. 1211 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – VACANCIES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Can Government state whether the posts advertised in September 2009 for part-time and full-time Administrative Officers in the Elderly Care Agency have now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I can confirm that the Administrative Officer vacant posts have now been filled.

ORAL

NO. 1212 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of 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 2010 to August 2010 in respect of employment injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos.1206, 1207 and 1213 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1213 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

On behalf of 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 2010 to August 2010 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1213 of 2010

Answer to Question 1206

The monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund from June to August 2010 is as per the following tentative statement:

(*For the purpose of this statement the contribution from the Consolidated Fund has been calculated pro-rata although the contribution will be effected at the end of the financial year).

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>30-Jun-10</u>	<u>31-Jul-10</u>	<u>31-Aug-10</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£18,305,538.38	£18,086,842.48	£18,090,509.96
<u>Add</u>			
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	£625,000.00	£625,000.00	£625,000.00
Contributions collected in cash (Insurance contr.)	£1,443,521.71	£1,598,471.65	£1,236,990.71
Misc Receipts	<u>£27,992.94</u>	<u>£24,935.15</u>	<u>£6,431.39</u>
	£20,402,053.03	£20,335,249.28	£19,958,932.06
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	<u>(£2,315,210.55)</u>	<u>(£2,244,739.32)</u>	<u>(£2,281,761.97)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£18,086,842.48</u>	<u>£18,090,509.96</u>	<u>£17,677,170.09</u>

Cont'...

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1213 OF 2010

Answer to Question 1207

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the months of June to August 2010.

	Jun 2010	July 2010	Aug 2010
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	241	236	230
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nationals)	5719	5751	5791
Moroccan Pensioners	2048	2054	2057
Other Nationalities	710	729	739
Total	8718	8770	8817

Cont'...

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1213 OF 2010

Answer to Question 1212

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund from June 2010 to August 2010 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows :-

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND - TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	June 2010	July 2010	August 2010
Payments:			
Employment Injuries	£48,865.71	£45,154.87	£42,979.54

Answer to Question 1213

The following payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Funds from June 2010 to August 2010 from the employers' insolvency:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
June 2010	£4,012.81
July 2010	£52,660.68
August 2010	£35,592.32

NO. 1214 OF 2010

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 August 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 1215 of 2010.

NO. 1215 OF 2010

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. 635 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I will now hand the hon Member the lists of the information being requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1215 of 2010

Answer to Question 1214

The 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 the end of August 2010 is as follows:

				SINGLES	COUPLES	TOTAL
FROM	£161.00	TO	£165.00	0	2	2
FROM	£156.00	TO	£160.00	0	0	0
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	30	0	30
FROM	£116.00	TO	£120.00	3	0	3
FROM	£111.00	TO	£115.00	0	0	0
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	1	1
FROM	£91.00	TO	£95.00	0	1	1
FROM	£86.00	TO	£90.00	0	0	0
FROM	£81.00	TO	£85.00	1	0	1
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	15	0	15
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	0	0	0
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	3	0	3
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	0	4	4
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	12	1	13
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	11	1	12
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	11	2	13
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	19	0	19
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	9	1	10
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	15	1	16
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	20	0	20
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	29	1	30
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	215	3	218
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	12	3	15
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	15	7	22
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	10	0	10
TOTAL				430	28	458

Cont'...

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1215 OF 2010

Answer to Question 1215

The number of persons who have been granted the Minimum Income Guarantee, receiving the single and married couple rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount during the period June to August 2010 is as follows:

				SINGLES	COUPLES	TOTAL
FROM	£161.00	TO	£165.00	0	0	0
FROM	£156.00	TO	£160.00	0	0	0
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	0	0	0
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	0	0	0
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	1	0	1
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	0	0	0
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	0	0	0
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	0	0	0
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	2	0	2
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	0	0	0
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	0	0	0
			TOTAL	3	0	3

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1214 AND 1215 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I believe I was told in answer to a question, I think it might have been at Budget time, that the figure of the Minimum Income Guarantee was being increased, I think it was by 2.8 per cent and the threshold was being increased by 2.8 per cent. Can the hon Member tell me whether that change came into effect in June or was it backdated to the 1st April?

HON J J NETTO:

I would have to look it up and provide the information. I cannot remember now off the top of my head whether it was on 1st June or 1st April. I remember mentioning it myself but I cannot remember now which of the two dates it was. Does the hon Member wish to have ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am assuming, perhaps the hon Member will confirm, that these figures, in fact, are with the change. So that it would definitely be from the 1st June.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am not clear is whether the change was introduced on the 1st June or was made on the 1st June but backdated three months. That position was not clear from the answer I got the last time.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I would have to go and check it out and provide the information.

NO. 1216 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – COMMITTEES

Can Government list the different Committees which come under the auspices of the Department of Education and Training showing the date on which each Committee was established and its composition in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The information requested is set out in the schedule which I am now handing over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 1216 of 2010

List of Committees of the Department of Education & Training:

Committee	Date Established	Composition
Commonwealth Scholarship Committee	1959	Director of Education & Training, an Education Adviser and two established members of the community.
Educational Awards Committee	1990	Director of Education & Training, Senior Education Adviser plus two members from the private sector, one of which chairs.
National Curriculum Advisory Committee	1991	Director of Education & Training, Senior Education Adviser, two Headteachers from the Primary sector and the two Headteachers of the Secondary sector.
Consortium Committee	2006	Director of Education & Training, Senior Education Adviser, Headteachers from the two Secondary schools and the Principal of the Gibraltar College. Senior staff responsible for examinations also attend.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1216 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether the Commonwealth Scholarship Committee is still active?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. It is.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister know how much money we get from the Commonwealth in order to give these scholarships?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I do not have that before me.

HON S E LINARES:

But is there a fund that the Commonwealth gives in order to have these Commonwealth scholarships awarded?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, I think the way it works is that candidates identified here as being candidates deserving of receiving such an award are then forwarded over to the United Kingdom, the central office as it were, the Commonwealth Office, for their consideration. I do not think that we allocate, I think, those scholarships directly ourselves as we do with Gibraltar Government scholarships. They are recommended, people who are recommended.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Department of Education handles it because you have got to be ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

The Director and the Education Adviser?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Correct.

HON S E LINARES:

And therefore any student who would like to apply for a Commonwealth scholarship will have to go through the Department of Education and is the Minister aware of how many awards are given on an annual basis?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I am not ... standing here as I do now, but from memory, I think not many because they do not seem to attract a lot of applicants over the last few years. So, not many.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it because many students are not aware of this because it is an old ... It is a 1959 thing. I remember in my time that people knew about certain monies being awarded to students from the Commonwealth but few applied. Is it that the students are not aware of it or are the schools aware of it and can publish it in order for students to be in a position to apply for them?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. Schools are aware of this and an advert comes out every year, certainly in the media generally. I think that what has happened is that over the last maybe fifteen years the practice has tended to be from the UK end to award this type of scholarship to applicants who intend doing Masters and PhD's. Not for first degrees. So, hence it is not that relevant to schools and I think that is why the practice of only those who already have a first degree and wish to do higher degrees tend to go for this. But it is advertised in the media generally and the schools, of course, know about it.

HON S E LINARES:

And are these scholarships similar to the type of scholarships that we give in the Department of Education as in funding or is it just a one off payment that the student might obtain, for example if the course is £10,000, they get a £5,000 flat fee or is that the whole course is being paid for by the Commonwealth xxxxx.

HON C G BELTRAN:

As I understand it, yes, tuition fees and maintenance allowance and the flights and so on.

NO. 1217 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Education 14 to 19 Committee (referred to in the profession as the “Consortium”) met since it was established?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1218 and 1219 of 2010.

NO. 1218 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 COMMITTEE

Can Government give the present composition, and I think it has already been answered within the paper that you have already given me, the composition of the Education 14 to 19 Committee (referred to in the profession as the “Consortium”)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1217 and 1218 of 2010.

NO. 1219 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 COMMITTEE

On what date was the Education 14 to 19 Committee (referred to in the profession as the “Consortium”) established? I think two of the questions have already been answered in the schedule that he gave me before.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1217 of 2010

In the circumstances, if the hon Member is willing I will just give the answer to Question No. 1217 of 2010 and if he takes the other answers as having been given, that is the information requested in terms of the meeting dates of the 14 to 19 Committee, the Consortium, are set out in the schedule that I am handing over to him now.

Answer to Question No. 1218 of 2010

The present composition of the 14 to 19 Committee (referred to in the profession as the “Consortium”) is as follows:

The Director of Education and Training
The Senior Education Adviser
An Education Adviser
The Headteacher, Bayside School and a Deputy
The Headteacher, Westside School and a Deputy
The Gibraltar College Principal and a senior member of staff

Answer to Question No. 1219 of 2010

The Education 14 to 19 Committee (referred to in the profession as the “Consortium”) was established on 19th January 2006.

Answer to Question No. 1219 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1217 of 2010

The following are the dates when the Education 14 to 19 Committee (referred to in the profession as the "Consortium") have met since it was established.

19th January 2006
1st February 2006
15th February 2006
15th March 2006
30th March 2006
19th April 2006
3rd May 2006
17th May 2006
9th June 2006
12th October 2006
22nd February 2007
28th February 2007
27th June 2007
2nd October 2007
20th November 2007
12th December 2007
5th February 2008
21st August 2008
9th October 2008
24th March 2009
29th August 2009
8th February 2010
21st April 2010
6th May 2010
23rd September 2010

NO. 1220 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GIBRALTAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Can Government confirm whether the criteria for obtaining a Gibraltar Scholarship remains three grade A passes at A-level and say whether there have been any changes to this requirement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1221 to 1223 of 2010.

NO. 1221 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GIBRALTAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Can Government list the number of Gibraltar Scholarships that have been awarded in the academic years 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 and state what was the criteria for the award in each academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1220, 1222 and 1223 of 2010.

NO. 1222 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GRADE ‘A’ PASSES AT A-LEVEL

Can Government say how many Gibraltar students obtained three grade A passes at A-Level in this past academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1220, 1221 and 1223 of 2010.

NO. 1223 OF 2010**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – HIGHER THAN GRADE ‘A’ PASSES AT A-LEVEL**

Can Government say how many Gibraltar students obtained higher than three grade A passes at A-level in this past academic year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING****Answer to Question No. 1220 of 2010**

As a consequence of the introduction by the Examination Awarding Bodies this year of the A* grade as the new top grade at GCE Advanced Level, the criteria for excellence in the award of a Gibraltar Scholarship were accordingly adjusted from three passes at the previous top grade A to three passes at the new top grade of A* and the other criterion being in one sitting.

Answer to Question No. 1221 of 2010

The breakdown is as follows:

AAA	2007/08	18	Gibraltar Scholarships
AAA	2008/09	17	Gibraltar Scholarships
A*A*A*	2009/10	2	Gibraltar Scholarships
	2010/11	Has just started and no awards have been given yet.	

Answer to Question No. 1222 of 2010

Seven students obtained three grade A passes at A-level this past academic year.

Answer to Question No. 1223 of 2010

Thirteen students obtained higher than three grade A passes at A-level this academic year.

NO. 1224 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £25,000 2009/2010 Consolidated Fund forecast outturn in Head 1-A, Sub-Head 2(2) (c), Refreshments in Schools, indicating who the sum was paid to and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1225 to 1228 of 2010.

NO. 1225 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £2000 2009/2010 Consolidated Fund forecast outturn in Head 1-A, Sub-Head 2(2) (e), Visits of School Children from Abroad, providing details of who the sum was paid to, when and for what purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1224, 1226 to 1228 of 2010.

NO. 1226 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £20,000 2009/2010 Consolidated Fund forecast outturn in Head 1-A, Sub-Head 2(2) (g), Educational Field Trips, providing details of who the sum was paid to, when and for what purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1224, 1225, 1227 and 1228 of 2010.

NO. 1227 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £1,000 2009/2010 Consolidated Fund forecast outturn in Head 1-A, Sub-Head 2(7), Intensive Language Courses, providing details of who the sum was paid to, when and for what purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1224 to 1226 and 1228 of 2010.

NO. 1228 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Can Government provide a breakdown of the Improvement and Development Fund expenditure forecast outturn for 2009/2010 shown in Head 101, Sub-Head 1(a) Education, for £800,000, showing who the sum was paid to, when and for what purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedules which are now before him.

Answer to Question 1228 of 2010

Answer to Question 1224

The following is the breakdown of Head 1A Item 2(2)(c) (Refreshments in Schools) for financial year 2009/10, indicating when and to whom the payments, totalling £26,877.10 were made to.

Payments made to	Amount (£)	Date	
Fastafood	194.80	15/4/09	
	35.04	23/4/09	
	181.20	28/4/09	
	46.72	1/5/09	
	87.60	8/5/09	
	292.00	14/5/09	
	116.80	22/5/09	
	35.04	2/6/09	
	175.20	11/6/09	
	11.68	18/6/09	
	35.04	22/6/09	
	23.36	23/6/09	
	107.20	3/7/09	
	35.04	7/7/09	
	589.84	1/9/09	
	525.60	1/9/09	
	40.88	15/9/09	
	46.72	16/9/09	
	35.04	21/9/09	
	35.04	29/9/09	
	350.40	9/10/09	
	233.60	22/10/09	
	116.80	22/10/09	
	64.24	19/11/09	
	46.72	19/11/09	
	29.20	19/11/09	
	58.40	23/11/09	
	116.80	12/1/10	
	397.12	12/1/10	
	35.04	17/2/10	
	221.92	25/2/09	
	35.04	4/3/09	
	175.20	11/3/10	
	146.00	23/3/10	£4,676.32
Saccone & Speed	304.00	15/4/09	
	199.50	16/6/09	
	237.50	14/7/09	
	54.00	26/8/09	
	108.00	30/9/09	
	450.00	9/10/09	

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Contd Answer to Question 1224 of 2010

Payments made to	Amount (£)	Date	
Saccone & Speed	180.00	27/10/09	
	198.00	26/11/09	
	288.00	7/1/10	
	108.00	22/2/10	
	270.00	23/2/10	
	558.00	11/3/10	£2,955.00
Anglo Hispano	61.65	1/5/10	
	89.28	8/5/10	
	35.43	23/6/10	
	18.42	1/9/10	
	102.06	15/10/10	
	73.68	19/11/10	
	55.26	17/2/10	£435.78
GHA	1,615.00	April 2009	
	1,710.00	May 2009	
	855.00	June 2009	
	1,430.00	September 2009	
	2,420.00	October 2009	
	2,310.00	November 2009	
	1,800.00	December 2009	
	1,955.00	January 2010	
	2,185.00	February 2010	
	2,530.00	March 2010	£18,810.00
Total Expenditure 2009/10			£26,877.10

Answer to Question 1225

The following is the breakdown of Head 1A Item 2(2)(e) (Visits of School Children from Abroad) for financial year 2009/10 indicating when, to whom and for what purpose the payment of £1,800 was made.

Payment made to	Amount	Date	Purpose
Globe Travel	£1,800	22/2/10	Hiring of 2 minibuses on 12/2/10 for a tour of places of historical and institutional interest to school children. Hiring of 2 minibuses on 15/3/10 for a tour of places of historical and institutional interest to school children.

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Answer to Question 1226

The following is the breakdown of Head 1A Item 2(2)(g) (Educational Field Trips) for financial year 2009/10 indicating when the payments totalling £15,942.91 were made to whom and the purpose of these payments:

Payments made to	Amount (£)	Date	Purpose
Dipronautica	1482.07	15/4/09	Gibraltar College trip to Tajo del Aguila, iro site surveying & construction, accommodation and meals.
Westmed Insurance	155.00	27/7/09	Bayside - Insurance for Geography trip
Calypso Tours	120.00	15/10/09	St Bernard's First – hiring of coach for field trip to Chiclana Archaeology Centre
	135.00	23/11/09	Gibraltar College – hiring of coach for field trip to Marbella Business Retailing Applied Unit.
	240.00	20/1/10	St Mary's First – hiring of coach for field trip to Chiclana.
	420.00	15.2.10	Gibraltar College trip to Tajo del Aguila, iro site surveying & construction.
Masbro Insurance Brokers	135.00	20/10/09	Westside – insurance iro Geography trip to Surrey
Blands Travel Services	1560.00	12/11/09	Westside – air fares for Geography trip to Surrey visit.
	325.00	2/12/09	Gibraltar College – air fare, familiarisation
Elite Travel	6743.28	2/12/09	Westside – flights and insurance for Biology trip
	1804.00	20/1/10	Gibraltar College – flights, accommodation & insurance for travel and tourism trip.
Field Studies Council	200.00	19/1/10	Westside Biology trip to Dorking.
Eurolinx	300.00	20/1/10	Gibraltar College insurance renewal in respect of field work.
Tajo del Aguila	1129.02	15/2/10	Gibraltar College accommodation iro site surveying & construction
Bank Charges	15.00	15/2/10	Gibraltar College – bank charges iro payment for Tajo del Aguila, site surveying and construction, familiarisation visit
D Benrimoj	1083.32	30/11/09	Gibraltar College – reimbursement of expenses iro trip to Barcelona
V Hermida	88.89	24/3/10	Gibraltar College – reimbursement of expenses iro trip to Tajo del Aguila

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2009/10 £15,942.91

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Answer to Question 1227

The following is the breakdown of Head 1A Item 2(7) (Intensive Language Courses) for financial year 2009/10 indicating when, to whom and for what purpose the payment of £1,800 was made.:

Payment made to	Amount	Date	Purpose
Supply Teacher	£805.56	13/11/09	Home Tuition
Supply Teacher	£191.80	14/12/09	Home Tuition (Pupils not fit to attend school for health reasons)

Answer to Question 1228

Payment made to	Amount (£)	Date	Purpose
GJBS	43,641.98	20/4/09	General repairs at various schools
	11,173.08	7/5/09	General repairs at various schools
	10,459.07	29/5/09	General repairs at various schools
	32,965.27	10/6/09	General repairs at various schools
	11,852.75	22/6/09	General repairs at various schools
	9,085.27	25/6/09	General repairs at various schools
	8,714.98	8/7/09	General repairs at various schools
	8,801.79	28/7/09	General repairs at various schools
	6,671.88	4/8/09	General repairs at various schools
	18,361.30	5/8/09	Minor Works at St Anne's Middle and St Joseph's First Schools
	9,980.57	14/8/09	General repairs at various schools
	96,035.39	8/9/09	Minor Works at Westside School
	40,390.41	23/9/09	General repairs at various schools
	10,383.12	24/9/09	Minor Works at Westside School
	3,016.59	24/9/09	Minor Works at Hebrew School
	4,036.00	5/10/09	General repairs at various schools
	24,814.29	22/10/09	General repairs at various schools
	15,823.16	2/11/09	General repairs at various schools
	120,155.85	4/11/09	Minor Works at Westside School
	41,290.75	9/11/09	Minor Works at St Bernard's School
	26,939.28	17/11/09	General repairs at various schools
	20,646.36	9/12/09	General repairs at various schools
	9,649.41	22/12/09	Minor Works at Notre Dame School
	38,555.08	22/12/09	Minor works at Westside School
	32,725.66	11/1/10	General repairs at various schools
	5,962.37	14/1/10	Minor Works at St Joseph's First School
	19,767.62	28/1/10	General repairs at various schools
	6,398.30	10/2/10	General repairs at various schools
	14,250.00	9/3/10	Minor Works at St Anne's Middle School
	13,034.25	9/3/10	Minor Works at Westside School

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Payment made to	Amount (£)	Date	Purpose	
	4,999.76	26/3/10	Minor Works to St Anne's Middle School	£734,621.29
Gibral Flora	2,627.80	21/4/09	Relocation of trees in connection with the Minor Works at Westside School	
Sign Design	250.00	16/6/09	Gibraltar College "school" sign	
Westex (Gib) Ltd	55.20	24/6/09	Purchase of spares	
EDG	422.89	24/6/09	Purchase of building materials	
	814.52	4/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	6,97.60	27/11/09	Purchase of electrical spares	
	173.52	20/1/10	Purchase of electrical spares	
A A Sheriff	66.00	24/6/09	Purchase of electrical spares	
Hire U Shop	14.30	24/6/09	Purchase of electrical spares	
	215.30	23/2/10	Hiring of Vax Water and Transformer	
TTS Group Ltd	162.39	22/7/09	Purchase of furniture	
	1902.53	21/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	209.00	18/9/09	Purchase of furniture	
A to Z Supplies	83.90	22/7/09	Purchase of furniture	
	539.80	7/9/09	Purchase of furniture	
	342.85	1/10/09	Purchase of furniture	
	1225.71	23/10/09	Purchase of furniture	
	825.22	2/12/09	Purchase of furniture	
	547.40	17/12/09	Purchase of furniture	
Findel Education	2,404.85	22/7/09	Purchase of furniture	
	359.90	4/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	3,402.44	11/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	8,639.49	21/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	536.22	25/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	349.95	28/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	2,238.81	14/9/09	Purchase of furniture	
	2,863.21	25/9/09	Purchase of furniture	
	764.62	1/10/09	Purchase of furniture	
	1,002.00	15/10/09	Purchase of furniture	
	15.98	23/10/09	Purchase of furniture	
	99.95	4/11/09	Purchase of furniture	
	145.22	20/11/09	Purchase of furniture	
	54.90	20/11/09	Purchase of furniture	
	8.16	2/12/09	Purchase of furniture	
CES Holdings	5,426.84	22/7/09	Purchase of furniture	
	2,004.89	10/8/09	Purchase of furniture	
	59.00	15/9/09	Purchase of furniture	
	453.15	11/12/09	Purchase of furniture	
	650.56	11/1/09	Purchase of furniture	
R& J	155.00	23/7/09	Purchase of water heater	
	165.00	20/10/09	Purchase of water heater	
	155.00	17/3/10	Purchase of water heater	
Cemats	1,003.90	4/8/09	Purchase of furniture	

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Contd Answer to Question 1228

Payment made to	Amount (£)	Date	Purpose
Abecasis Gonzalez	626.00	4/8/09	Purchase of furniture
	246.50	20/10/09	Purchase of furniture
Gresswell	615.19	25/8/09	Purchase of furniture
Helmsman	935.90	15/9/09	Purchase of furniture
Beacon Press	183.00	18/9/09	Purchase of furniture
	1,587.00	23/9/09	Purchase of furniture
	95.00	17/11/09	Purchase of furniture
	398.00	25/11/09	Purchase of furniture
	820.49	27/11/09	Purchase of furniture
	1607.45	15/1/10	Purchase of furniture
Icon Business Systems	899.25	6/10/10	Purchase of furniture
Charles Trico	1,110.00	9/10/10	Purchase of furniture
	185.00	20/10/10	Purchase of furniture
Mobihofi (Gib) Ltd	856.00	20/10/10	Purchase of furniture
	39.00	16/12/10	Purchase of furniture
Emmerich	697.50	27/10/09	Purchase of furniture
Cold Aire	955.00	28/10/09	Repairs to air conditioning
	40.00	12/11/09	Repairs to air conditioning
AquaGib	1,965.96	28/10/09	Tests/repairs underground leak
	1,965.96	8/12/09	Tests/repairs underground leak
	1,965.96	10/2/10	Tests/repairs underground leak
Teacherboards (1985)	3,238.77	5/11/09	Purchase of furniture
	980.90	15/1/10	Purchase of furniture
Fire Security	4,653.00	16/11/09	Supply and install intruder alarm
Officemart	299.99	18/11/09	Purchase of furniture
Car Care Centre	199.50	5/1/10	Purchase of solar tint
Rumagas	270.00	3/3/10	Repairs to gas system
GEA	1,177.80	March	Works carried out by GEA
A L Sacarello & Sons	42.70	11/11/09	Purchase of furniture

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2009/10 - £799,423.48

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1224 TO 1228 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister say why, in relation to Question No. 1224 of 2010, Refreshments in Schools, the item which is £25,000 or £26,000, there are GHA invoices. Can the Minister explain those? I think it is £18,810, where these Refreshments for Schools go to the GHA?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, I will give him more than that. I can tell him that Fasta Food provide milk and Saccone and Speed provide milk. Anglo Hispano refreshments, that is, squash and the meals are GHA meals for the pupils at St Martin's Special School.

NO. 1229 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MANDATORY GRANTS

Can Government say how many mandatory grants have been awarded this academic year giving a breakdown by subject and institution chosen by the students?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

One hundred and eighty seven mandatory grants have been awarded this academic year and I am handing the hon Member a breakdown by subject and by institution. The hon Member will notice there has been an increase of mandatory awards compared to last year. I am very glad to report to this House that our students are doing extremely well as are our teachers at schools.

Answer to Question 1229 of 2010

BREAKDOWN OF MANDATORY COURSES 2010/11

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE	6
APPLIED SPORT	2
ARCHITECTURE	5
ART	12
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	6
BUILDING & SURVEYING	2
BUSINESS RELATED COURSES	12
CHEMISTRY WITH FORENSICS	1
CHILDHOOD STUDIES	1
CHILD HEALTH NURSING	1
COMPUTING	11
CRIMINOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY	17
DANCE & DRAMA	4
ECONOMICS	3
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES	7
ENGINEERING	4
ENGLISH LITERATURE	2
ENVIRONMENT RELATED COURSES	3
FORENSIC STUDIES	2
GEOGRAPHICAL STUDIES	1
HEALTH RELATED COURSES	18
HISTORY	6
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	1
LAW	18
MATHEMATICS	5
MEDIA STUDIES	6
MODERN LANGUAGES	11
MUSIC	2
PHARMACEUTICAL STUDIES	1
PHILOSOPHY/POLITICS	1
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1
SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY	1
SOCIAL SCIENCE	1
SOCIAL WORK	4
SPORT RELATED COURSES	6
TOURISM	1
TRANSPORT DESIGN	1
VETERINARY SCIENCE	1
	187
187 IN TOTAL	

Contd

BREAKDOWN OF MANDATORY AWARDS 2010/11 BY INSTITUTIONS

ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY	2
ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY	1
ASTON UNIVERSITY	1
BANGOR UNIVERSITY	2
BATH SPA UNIVERSITY	1
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY	2
CANTERBURY CHRISTCHURCH UNIVERSITY	3
DE MONT FORT UNIVERSITY	1
EUROPEAN BUSINESS SCHOOL LONDON	1
GLYNDWR UNIVERSITY	1
GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE LONDON	1
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON	1
KINGS COLLEGE LONDON	3
KINGSTON UNIVERSITY	9
LABAN UNIVERSITY	1
LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC	1
LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY	15
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY	1
LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY	1
LONDON COLLEGE OF THE ARTS	1
LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY	3
LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY	1
MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY	2
MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY	7
NORTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY	1
NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY	6
NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY	3
OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY	5
OXFORD UNIVERSITY	2
ROEHAMPTON UNIVERSITY	3
ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	2
SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY	5
SOUTH NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE	1
ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	2
ST MARY'S COLLEGE	4
STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY	2
TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY	1
THAMES VALLEY UNIVERSITY	2
UNIVERSITY CENTRE PETERBOROUGH	1
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN	1
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	1
UNIVERSITY FOR CREATIVE ARTS ROCHESTER	1
UNIVERSITY OF BATH	2
UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE	1

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1229

UNIVERSITY OF BOURNEMOUTH	2
UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON	3
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL	4
UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF	5
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE	1
UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER	3
UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA	1
UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE	1
UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM	1
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA	2
UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON	1
UNIVERSITY OF GLAMORGAN	2
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW	1
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH	3
UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD	1
UNIVERSITY OF KENT	8
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL	2
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER	2
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE	3
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON	2
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM	1
UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH	6
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH	2
UNIVERSITY OF READING	4
UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD	1
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD	1
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY	4
UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE CARDIFF	3
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK	2
UNIVERSITY OF WEST OF ENGLAND BRISTOL	2
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER	1
UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON	2
UNIVERSITY OF YORK	2
	187
187 IN TOTAL	

NO. 1230 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Forty four discretionary grants were given this year.

NO. 1231 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Can Government state how many applications have been received for discretionary grants giving a breakdown by subject which the applicant wanted to study?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Fifty two applications for discretionary grants have been received. I am handing over to the hon Member a breakdown by subject.

Answer to Question No. 1231 of 2010

Health Related Courses	9
Law	8
PGCE	3
Accounting and Finance	1
Business related courses	2
ICT	4
Air Traffic Control	1
VET	1
Technology	1
Music and Performing Arts	1
Central Heating Specialist Course	1
Counselling	1
Engineering	1
Journalism	1
Social Work	1
Politics	1
Languages	4
Environmental Studies	2
Fashion & Beauty Stylist	2
Media Studies	1
Quantity Surveying	1
Geography	1
Tourism	1
Health and Safety	1
Anthropology	1
Psychology	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1231 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

In the breakdown by subject, I have not added it up but I presume it adds up to what, forty four or to the fifty two?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The question asks for the number of applications received by subjects. So it would be fifty two.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay.

NO. 1232 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES FOR BAYSIDE AND WESTSIDE PUPILS

Can Government state what vocational training courses have been introduced in Bayside and Westside for pupils who do not opt to do GCSE examinations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

At Bayside School, all students are offered the opportunity of opting for GCSE and other Level 2 courses. However, those who are unable to follow a fully academic GCSE package are offered vocational courses. The hon Member may have seen a very extensive vocational course recently put out in the press. You will have seen that. This course consists of English and Mathematics Functional Skills, Applied Science, an IT award in digital applications, a Level 1 Certificate in Engineering and Technology or Business Enterprise, Accredited Diploma Course in Sports Leadership, Food Hygiene and First Aid as well as Spanish, RE, PSHE and PE/Games. There is a full curriculum for those who cannot aspire to do the fully academic GCSE course.

At Westside, there is provision for a repeat Level 2 course with a vocational slant which includes subjects such as Child Studies, Computer Literacy, Literacy and Numeracy, as well as Spanish, RE, PSHE and PE/Games.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1232 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

This talks about Level 2 in whatever. Is it the NVQ we are talking about, the National Vocational Qualifications, Level 2?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Some are. NVQ's are set at Level 2 but so are GCSE and Vocational GCSEs. Level 2 indicates a number of possibilities in the national grid of qualifications that they have in UK and which we follow. For your information and for future reference, Level 3 would be the equivalent of Advanced Level.

HON S E LINARES:

So it would be like actually getting a GCSE?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Something like that, yes.

NO. 1233 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state how many teachers who have been on a supply basis for more than two years have been given permanent and pensionable status this academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A total of fourteen teachers who have been on a supply basis for more than two years have been given permanent and pensionable status this academic year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1233 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Have there been any that have been less than two years and have got permanent and pensionable status?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I would not be able to tell him. I do not think so. I do not think so. Off the top of my head, I would have heard that because it would have been a case of a specialist, for example, I do not know. For arguments sake “A” Level physics teacher being needed and only one being available and that person has returned from University, sort of, last year and, of course, the Director of Education legally has to make sure that all courses in schools are catered for. But I do not know off the top of my head, I would say, no.

HON S E LINARES:

The fourteen teachers that are being given permanent and pensionable status who have been teaching for two years or more, have they been going through an induction course or any induction or any probationary year or will they have to fulfil any probationary year after they get P&P?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I think that is what the department does, the Senior Education Adviser and his advisory group take care of NQTs. That is, the newly qualified teachers who are required to undertake and yes they do see to them. Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm that those fourteen teachers are replacing teachers that have retired, generally?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I would surmise so, yes.

HON S E LINARES:

That is, not over and above the complement?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, we cannot have more. I do not think that the Treasury would be very happy if I started employing more teachers than I am supposed to.

ORAL

NO. 1234 OF 2010

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 2010 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Four in June.
Two in July.
One in August.

NO. 1235 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between June 2010 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1236 to 1238 of 2010.

NO. 1236 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

Can Government state how many keyhole surgery operations have been cancelled since June 2010 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 Nos. 1235, 1237 and 1238 of 2010.

NO. 1237 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LISTS FOR OPERATIONS

Can Government say how many people are on the GHA waiting lists for operations at St Bernard's Hospital with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1235, 1236 and 1238 of 2010.

NO. 1238 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LISTS FOR OPERATIONS

How long has the person, who has been waiting for longest on the GHA waiting list for a surgical operation, been on the list with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1235 of 2010

The information requested is contained in the attached schedule that I will hand over to him.

Answer to Question No. 1236 of 2010

There have been no cancelled keyhole operations.

Answer to Question Nos. 1237 and 1238 of 2010

Due to the unexpected illness sustained by the officer responsible for the management of the waiting list, I am told that at this moment it is impossible to provide validated numbers to the hon Member opposite.

I shall provide answers to both questions as soon as the individual has returned and has had time to validate the names and their planned procedures in the waiting list database.

Continued Answer to Question No. 1238 of 2010
Answer to Question No. 1235 of 2010

Cancellations June 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Patients Medical Condition	1	1		1	1		2	6
Bed availability				1				1
Per patient			2	4	(1)	1	2	9 (1)
Patient DNA					(2)	1		1 (2)
Due to emergency or prolonged elective complex cases					2			2

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 1238 of 2010
Continued Answer to Question No. 1235 of 2010

Cancellation July 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Total
Patient Medical Condition	1			3	2 (2)		6 (2)
Per patient	1			1			3 (2)
Patient DNA	1			1	1(2)		3 (2)
No longer required	1			1	1(2)		2
Surgeon sick						5	5
Dept staff sick			7				7
Anaesthetist Sick				4			4

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 1238 of 2010
Continued Answer to Question No. 1235 of 2010

Cancellation August 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Pain	Total
Patient Medical Condition		1		4			5
Per patient				2			2
Patient DNA				1			1
Doctor sick						7	7
Bed availability					5		5

ORAL

NO. 1239 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LIST FOR TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Can Government say how many people are on the GHA waiting list for Ultrasound test, CT scan or MRI scans?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1240 and 1241 of 2010.

NO. 1240 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LIST FOR MAMMOGRAMS

Can Government say how many persons are on the GHA waiting list as waiting for a mammogram and from what date has the person who has been on the list for longest been waiting?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1239 and 1241 of 2010.

NO. 1241 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LIST FOR RESULTS OF MAMMOGRAMS

Can Government say how many persons are on the GHA waiting list for the results of a mammogram and for how long has the person who has been waiting for results for longest been waiting?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1239 of 2010

Ultrasound	250
CT	0
MRI	0

Answer to Question No. 1240 of 2010

There is no waiting list for patients who need mammograms.

Answer to Question No. 1241 of 2010

There is no waiting time for mammogram results.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1239 TO 1241 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister give an explanation as to the reason for the waiting list in relation to the Ultrasound tests?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. The hon Member will note that it has not changed much from the last time that he asked this question.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Previous to that ... the greatest demand from GP referrals and other sources is for Ultrasounds. There is an average I think of, it is the sheer volume of people being referred, an average of 358 per month. So basically, it is just a question of the demand exceeding the supply and I think I have pointed out to him in the past that there are periodical initiatives to catch up on the Ultrasound waiting list and one is due very shortly.

HON N F COSTA:

With Mr Speaker's indulgence, I would like to return to a question I asked previously, in respect of mammography which is Question No. 1240 of 2010.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

My question to the Minister there was whether the hon Lady could indicate to me now whether the routine structured mammography has started or whether it has not yet?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. I am pleased to say that it has.

NO. 1242 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – INFORMAL AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS**

Can the Minister for Health provide the number of informal and formal complaints lodged against the GHA since June 2010 to date, on a monthly basis?

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

Month	Formal	Informal
June 2010	5	14
July 2010	3	6
August 2010	7	3

NO. 1243 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

Can Government now say how much it has paid out to claimants against the GHA for the settlement of complaints/disputes out of court in each of the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1244 of 2010.

NO. 1244 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

Can Government say how many cases of complaints/disputes against the GHA which involved a payment by the GHA to the complainant to settle the matter out of court, there were in the current financial year 2010/2011?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1243 of 2010

The information requested, which was also requested in Question No. 669 of 2010, is still not readily available. The GHA is engaged in an extensive manual exercise to retrieve the information requested and once this is completed the information will be provided to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 1244 of 2010

Two.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1243 AND 1244 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

As the hon Lady has pointed out, I did ask this question at the last Question Time precisely because the hon Lady informed me that the information would be made available to me at a different point because it was not yet ready. The hon Lady says and I note that it is a manual exercise which is being carried out ... Would she have an indication of when the figures will be available? Have her officials been able to indicate that to her?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. I actually check on a fortnightly basis to see whether I could have provided the hon Member with that information before having to come to this House to give him the same answer and there is no indication. Apparently, it is a very extensive exercise and there is no indication of when it will be ready.

HON N F COSTA:

Given the answer that the hon Lady has given me and the fact that she says that it is a manual exercise which is being conducted, am I to assume from that that there has been no central database, or central archiving system, where these matters would have been archived or filed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. It is obvious, by the answer that I have given him, that they are being retrieved manually. There is no such database. Something which we will be looking, obviously, to develop. Not that we need it for our own purposes but it will be easier for the administrative staff to be able to answer the questions of the Opposition.

NO. 1245 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS

Can Government say what is the earliest available date at present 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1246 and 1247 of 2010.

NO. 1246 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SEEN BY GPs AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government say how many patients were seen by GPs at the Primary Care Centre each month since June 2010 on a monthly basis and indicate how many of those patients were children aged 16 or under?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1245 and 1247 of 2010.

NO. 1247 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – HOUSE CALLS LOGGED BY GPs**

Can Government say the actual number of house calls logged by GPs in respect of June 2010 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION****Answer to Question No. 1245 of 2010**

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 1246 of 2010

	June 10	July 10	Aug 10
NO. OF PATIENTS SEEN BY GPs	7791	6281	7275

	June 10	July 10	Aug 10
NO. OF CHILDREN AGED 16 OR UNDER	2246	2041	2203

Answer to Question No. 1247 of 2010

	June 10	July 10	Aug 10
HOUSE CALLS	195	153	163

The table shows calls logged while the GP clinics are in session.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1247 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 1245 of 2010

Dr Robles	6 weeks
Dr Cortes	4 weeks
Dr Fitzpatrick	4 weeks
Dr Gupta	9 weeks
Dr Galloway	14 weeks
Dr Mena	14 weeks

Dr Chichon	14 weeks
Dr Ferrera	9 weeks
Dr Penrice	4 weeks
Dr Pinto-Ocana	14 weeks
Dr Pincho	0
Dr Poyatos	10 weeks

Dr Negrette	6 weeks
Dr Nerney	14 weeks
Dr Jones	14 weeks
Dr Montero	4 weeks
Dr Thoppil	6 weeks

NO. 1248 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT

Can Government say how many prescriptions have been provided to patients by the Prescription Advisory Unit at the Primary Care Centre on a monthly basis since June 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

June 2010	-	133
July 2010	-	250
August 2010	-	84

NO. 1249 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NEW PATIENTS REFERRED BY GPs TO CONSULTANTS

How many new patients are referred (on average in each calendar year since 2008) each week to Consultants at the GHA by Practitioners at the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1250 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1250 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NEW PATIENTS REFERRED BY GPs TO CONSULTANTS

Can the Government say how many new patients were referred by Practitioners at the Primary Care Centre to Consultants, on a monthly basis, in each month of 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information requested is contained in the schedules that I now hand over to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1250 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 1249 of 2010

The average number of new patients referred per week to Consultants at the GHA by Practitioners at the Primary Care Centre is as follows:-

Year	Average No. of Patients per week
2008	91
2009	97
2010 to end August	103

Cont ...

CONTINUED ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1250 OF 2010

2008	No. of Patients per month
January	340
February	440
March	380
April	440
May	390
June	366
July	276
August	489
September	398
October	513
November	376
December	318

2009	No. of Patients per month
January	444
February	306
March	425
April	354
May	485
June	520
July	555
August	368
September	480
October	409
November	305
December	378

2010	No. of Patients per month
January	490
February	537
March	463
April	407
May	447
June	328
July	519
August	414

NO. 1251 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU CASES CONFIRMED

How many laboratory tested cases of Swine Flu have been confirmed in Gibraltar to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1252 to 1255 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1252 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU HOTLINE

How many calls have been received by the Swine Flu hotline since June 2010 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1251 and 1253 to 1255 of 2010.

NO. 1253 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF PERSONS PRESCRIBED TAMIFLU

How many persons have been medically assessed and tested positive for Influenza A and have been prescribed Tamiflu by the Flu Clinic since June 2010 on a monthly basis with a breakdown showing the number of patients and contacts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1251, 1252, 1254 and 1255 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1254 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED AGAINST SWINE FLU

Can Government give the total number of people who have been vaccinated against Swine Flu since the process commenced on 16th November 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1251 to 1253 and 1255 of 2010.

NO. 1255 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can Government say how many Swine Flu vaccinations have been administered on a weekly basis at the Primary Care Centre since June 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION****Answer to Question No. 1251 of 2010**

The total to date is 116.

Answer to Question No. 1252 of 2010

June 2010	July 2010
7	2

Answer to Question No. 1253 of 2010

As I informed the hon Member in the last and second last session of Parliament, the Flu Clinic ceased operation on Friday 18th December 2009.

Answer to Question No. 1254 of 2010

2,882.

Answer to Question No. 1255 of 2010

None.

NO. 1256 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

Can Government say how many females were administered the vaccination against cervical cancer since June 2010 with a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

This programme is continuous throughout the year, that is, initial dose starts in September, second dose in November and final dose in May. Each girl has three doses.

However, there are cases where the girls postpone their final dose until after their exams, therefore:

- Ten doses of the final dose were administered in June 2010.
- Six doses administered in July 2010.

The new programme for all Year 8 Westside Girls has commenced as from 23rd September 2010 with an expected 220 girls being offered the HPV Vaccine.

NO. 1257 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ZERO TOLERANCE LETTERS

Can Government say how many zero tolerance letters have been issued by or on behalf of the GHA to members of the public on a monthly basis since June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1258 of 2010.

NO. 1258 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SECURITY IN GHA PREMISES

Can Government say on how many occasions members of the public have been escorted out of the GHA premises by security staff when instances of verbal or threatened physical abuse have been recorded, on a monthly basis since June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1257 of 2010

One zero tolerance letter was issued in June 2010 and none in July or August.

Answer to Question No. 1258 of 2010

As regards to persons being escorted out, once, in August 2010.

NO. 1259 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HYPERBARIC TREATMENT

Can Government say how many patients have been referred by the GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere outside Gibraltar since June 2010, with a breakdown showing the dates, the cost and the centre where the treatment was administered in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1260 of 2010.

NO. 1260 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HYPERBARIC TREATMENT

Can Government say of the persons referred by the GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere outside Gibraltar since June 2010, what was the level of the atmospheric pressure at these centres in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There were no patients referred by GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere since June 2010.

NO. 1261 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER

Can Government say whether their plans for the establishment and operation under the GHA of a recompression chamber on a 24/7 basis envisages the use of any equipment not owned or operated by the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Assuming the hon Member is referring to a decompression chamber, the GHA has no plans to establish or operate such a chamber.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1261 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The wording of the question was taken from the consultation paper issued by the Government in relation to diving and at the back it lists a series of plans or projects and one of them is this recompression chamber on a 24/7 basis under the GHA. It was not sure whether it was going to be private equipment or GHA equipment. But it is certainly listed as one of the plans of the Government in that paper.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As far as I am aware, as Minister for Health, I am not aware that there are such plans under the GHA. I do not know whether the hon Member has read the information correctly or it could be under some sort of other organisation. I am certainly not aware of a decompression chamber being operated by the GHA.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify, remember when we discussed this question internally, somebody asked the same question and going back to the paper it actually says a recompression chamber under the GHA. So that was why the question has come up. This was in the consultation paper in relation to diving and fishing. This obviously was related to the diving part of it.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have had no part in the internal proceedings that the hon Member is referring to. I have not had that conversation with anyone in this Parliament.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think the thing has to be put into context. There is a consultation paper out in the public domain and it is exactly that, a consultation paper. The plans that the Government may develop or not develop, subsequent to that consultation paper coming back, are plans that are not yet in existence. So the answer to the hon Member's question is not possible at this stage until the plans are developed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand what the hon Member has said. It is just that this came from the consultation paper. It was not something said in this House by anyone. That was the point that I was trying to make.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have the consultation paper in front of me. I am a qualified BSAC diver myself and it has always been known as a decompression chamber. If now that is modern jargon that calls it something else, I am not aware. It probably means the same thing but, be that as it may, whatever plans are developed subsequently, are not yet in existence. So GHA obviously, from my hon Colleague's reply, have not been in the picture and therefore have not studied whether this is equipment that is needed. So the answer is not possible. It is not possible to give an answer to this question, Mr Speaker.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Mr Speaker, while my colleague looks at that, can I come back to the question of the diving and the recompression chamber.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I happen to have the actual consultation paper with me for a different question on diving which comes later on in the Order Paper and this was at point 6. It says, establishment and operation under the GHA of the recompression chamber, the word is recompression, available on a 24/7 basis. Now, obviously, it has been put here and the GHA was not even aware of it. I take it that is the answer to the question. But that is what it says in the paper.

NO. 1262 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MIDWIFERY SISTER/CHARGE NURSE

Can the Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Midwifery Sister/Charge Nurse in the GHA which was advertised on 13th September 2010 with a closing date of 24th September 2010, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and has the post now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1263 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1263 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PHYSIOTHERAPIST - ROTATIONAL SEN II

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Physiotherapist – Rotational Sen II in the GHA which was advertised on 13th September 2010 with a closing date of 24th September 2010, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, why is the contract only up to 3rd June 2011 and has the post now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 and 1264 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1264 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REGISTERED MENTAL NURSE

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Registered Mental Nurse which was advertised on 18th August 2010 with a closing date of 27th August 2010, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and have the posts now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262, 1263 and 1265 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1265 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REGISTERED GENERAL NURSE

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Registered General Nurse which was advertised on 20th August 2010 with a closing date of 31st August 2010, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and have the posts now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1264 and 1266 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1266 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REGISTERED SICK CHILDREN’S NURSE

Can the Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Registered Sick Children’s Nurse with the GHA that was advertised on 30th July 2010 with a closing date of 13th August 2010, how many vacancies were there, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1265 and 1267 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1267 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REGISTERED SICK CHILDREN’S NURSE

Can the Government explain why the post of Registered Sick Children’s Nurse with the GHA that was advertised on 30th July 2010 is for a short-term contract of 44 weeks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1266 and 1268 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1268 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOSPITAL OPTOMETRIST

Can the Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Hospital Optometrist which was advertised at the end of August 2010 with a closing date of 13th September 2010, how many were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1267 and 1269 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1269 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER

How many persons have applied for the post of Operating Department Practitioner with the GHA which was advertised on 23rd July 2010 with a closing date of 30th July, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1268 and 1270 to 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1270 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER

Can Government say why the post for Operating Department Practitioner with the GHA which was advertised on 23rd July is for a short-term contract of 44 weeks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1269, 1271 and 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1271 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – AMBULANCE CARE ASSISTANT

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Ambulance Care Assistant with the GHA which was advertised on 26th July 2010 with a closing date of 6th August 2010, how many vacancies there were, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 to 1270 and 1272 of 2010.

NO. 1272 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – AMBULANCE CARE ASSISTANT

Can Government say why the post of Ambulance Care Assistant with the GHA which was advertised on 26th July is for a short-term contract of 44 weeks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1262 of 2010

One Midwifery Charge Nurse post is vacant and no applications have been received up to 23rd September 2010 although I must update the hon Member. I have just heard news today that one local applicant applied on the 24th September 2010. No interview dates have been set as yet.

Answer to Question No. 1263 of 2010

One Physiotherapist Senior II post is vacant and to date only one Gibraltar candidate has applied. The contract is only until 3rd June 2011 because the post is to cover a period of maternity and unpaid leave.

Answer to Question No. 1264 of 2010

Two RMN posts are vacant and no applications have been received.

Answer to Question No. 1265 of 2010

Two RGN posts are vacant, no Gibraltarians have applied and interviews are to be carried out shortly.

Answer to Question No. 1266 of 2010

No applications have been received for the post of Registered Sick Children's Nurse.

Cont ...

Answer to Question Nos. 1267, 1270 and 1272 of 2010

The GHA policy is to advertise and offer contract positions with a probationary period which may require satisfactory completion of specific additional training for the post. A period of 44 weeks is used to assess the individual's performance prior to offering a contract of longer duration, an indefinite or permanent contract.

In some cases also, as I have referred to earlier, contracts are offered for this time period to cover maternity leave absence or interim periods during which a Gibraltarian is in training abroad for a specific position.

Answer to Question No. 1268 of 2010

No applications were received for the post of Hospital Optometrist.

Answer to Question No. 1269 of 2010

No applications were received for the post of Operating Department Practitioner.

Answer to Question No. 1271 of 2010

With regard to the Ambulance Care Assistant position, two posts were vacant, twelve applicants were Gibraltarian and two candidates have been appointed.

NO. 1273 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS ON SHORT-TERM RENEWABLE CONTRACTS

How many Consultants at the GHA are on short-term renewable contracts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Mr Speaker, twelve.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1273 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Member say the exact period after which the contract will need to be renewed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Three year fixed-term contract.

NO. 1274 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – LOCUM COVER FOR ENT SPECIALISATION

What is the cost of providing locum cover (calculated per hour and per week) in respect of Ear, Nose and Throat specialisation after the retirement of the person previously holding the Consultant position in that post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Our current Consultant ENT Specialist retired three days ago, on 25th September 2010.

The cost of our current coverage plan is dependent on the nature of the locum cover obtained and will be approximately £46 per hour and therefore approximately £7,700 per week.

The Department of Medical HR is exploring options for short-term contract if following the recruitment there is a period of notice for the successful candidate.

NO. 1275 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can Government say how many children are on the GHA waiting list for a preventive dental check-up with a breakdown by the children's age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1276 to 1281 of 2010.

NO. 1276 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can the Government say how many school children were entitled to free dental care with the GHA in non-emergency cases as at the end of the last school year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1275 and 1277 to 1281 of 2010.

NO. 1277 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can Government say how many school children received free dental care with the GHA in non-emergency cases on a monthly basis in each month of 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1275, 1276 and 1278 to 1281 of 2010.

NO. 1278 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can Government confirm the number of dentists working for the GHA and state whether any of these are dedicated to care for school children?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1275 to 1277 and 1279 to 1281 of 2010.

NO. 1279 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can Government say whether children are entitled to free dental treatment with the GHA in non-emergency cases?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1275 to 1278, 1280 and 1281 of 2010.

NO. 1280 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can Government say why a child who was registered with the GHA dental service in 2007 has not yet been called to see a dentist in 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1275 to 1279 and 1281 of 2010.

NO. 1281 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – DENTAL SERVICE**

What is the procedure for the provision of dental care for children within the GHA?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION****Answer to Question No. 1275 of 2010**

There are currently 526 children on the GHA's paedontic waiting list. The current waiting list is not organised as to age of patient but the date placed on the waiting list.

Answer to Question No. 1276 of 2010

Approximately 7,500 children are entitled to free dental care with the GHA at the end of the last school year. This includes children in schools and students undergoing further education.

Answer to Question No. 1277 of 2010

The information requested as to how many children received free dental care in non-emergencies. This information is not available. However, there is information which relates to the number of appointments given to school children for dental care with the GHA as follows:

2009

January	-	1,419
February	-	1,182
March	-	1,596
April	-	1,284
May	-	1,142
June	-	1,432
July	-	1,165
August	-	1,114
September	-	1,649
October	-	1,649
November	-	1,247
December	-	1,294

Cont ...

Continued Answer to Question No. 1277 of 2010

2010

January	-	1,510
February	-	1,351
March	-	1,448
April	-	1,256
May	-	1,332
June	-	1,357
July	-	1,308
August	-	1,227

Answer to Question No. 1278 of 2010

I can confirm that there are six dentists working for the GHA. There are two dentists exclusively dedicated to care for schoolchildren. However, all six deal with school children for other dental needs.

Answer to Question No. 1279 of 2010

All schoolchildren are entitled to free dental treatment with the GHA.

Answer to Question No. 1280 of 2010

The Government cannot give an informed reply to this question without having further details of this particular case. It is unclear from the question whether the child had been placed on the waiting list or not. If the hon Member wishes to provide me with the details of the patient, in confidence, I will certainly look into it.

Answer to Question No. 1281 of 2010

The procedure for the provision of dental care for children is as follows:

All children requiring emergency dental care are treated immediately either in a routine clinic or by the on call dentist after hours. If the patient is not already being seen by a dentist for routine treatment, he/she is placed on the paediatric waiting list following management of the acute condition. However, if the patient is seen as an emergency and the dentist feels that there is an urgent need for treatment the patient is not placed on the waiting list but the elective treatment is commenced.

Children referred by a practitioner or self referred for elective dental treatments are placed on the paediatric waiting list.

Once the child is under the care of a dentist he/she is normally regularly reviewed every 6-12 months dependent on the dental need of the patient and any treatment required is carried out.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1275 TO 1281 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA:

In relation to Question No. 1280 of 2010, as the Hon Minister has rightly assumed, I am referring to a particular case and the dates referred was because registration did take place in 2007 and I will, of course, speak with the person concerned and ask whether they have any problems in providing you with the details, in confidence, so that she may look into that and I am grateful to her for that suggestion.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Lady, the number of appointments that she gave per month, is that for emergency cases or for routine treatment?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The question asks non-emergency cases.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would she be able to say how many people are on the waiting list for non-emergency cases? How many children?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. That is the first thing I said, 526.

NO. 1282 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DIGITISING OF MEDICAL NOTES

Can the Government say what progress has been made in digitising medical notes at the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The answer remains the same as that provided in answer to Question No. 702 of 2010.

NO. 1283 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say how often and on what dates the Medical Registration Board has met since June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1284 of 2010.

NO. 1284 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can the Government say how many complaints have been heard by the Medical Registration Board since June 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1283 of 2010

The MRB has met once on 14th September 2010.

Answer to Question No. 1284 of 2010

No complaints have been heard by the Board since June 2010 to date.

ORAL

NO. 1285 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF LONG-STAY ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS AT ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Can the Government provide the number of long-stay elderly care patients in each ward of St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1286 and 1287 of 2010.

NO. 1286 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CONVERSION OF WARDS FOR THE CARE OF LONG-TERM PATIENTS

Can the Government confirm whether a policy decision has been taken to convert any medical or surgical wards in St Bernard's Hospital into non-medical and non-surgical wards for the care of long-term patients instead, and, if so, which wards have been converted and for what reason?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 1285 and 1287 of 2010.

NO. 1287 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MANNING OF CONVERTED WARDS

Can Government confirm whether it is their policy that any ward which has been converted into a non-medical or non-surgical ward at St Bernard's Hospital should continue to be manned by the same nursing staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1286 of 2010

The medical and surgical designation of the general wards at St Bernard's Hospital remains the same.

The focus of the medical wards has been divided into acute and rehabilitative, with John Ward being designated as the acute ward and Victoria Ward focussing on medical rehabilitation.

Similarly, Dudley Toomey Ward continues to be the acute surgical ward and Captain Murchison will focus on the post surgical rehabilitation.

The primary reason for this change is to enable the GHA to further develop the rehabilitative emphasis, thereby allowing for a quicker recovery and more timely discharge of patients who have passed the acute stage, and to concentrate the acute patients together. As a result eight patients have been xxxxx between John and Victoria Ward.

Answer to Question No. 1287 of 2010

No general wards in St Bernard's Hospital have been converted into non-medical or non-surgical wards. Changes in clinical programming may be associated with changes in skill-mix and redeployment of staff.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1285 TO 1287 OF 2010

HON N COSTA:

Unless I have missed it, the hon Lady has not replied to Question No. 1285 of 2010.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I apologise. The number of long-stay elderly by ward as follows:

Captain Murchison Ward	8
Victoria Ward	13
John Ward	0
Dudley Toomey Ward	0

A total of twenty one.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member saying that the rehabilitation was not taking place before or was it that the people that were there for rehabilitation were mixed in the same ward as other people?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct. They were mixed and the rehabilitation process was not as effective as I would have liked it to be. The hon Member will recall the last time that he asked me whether I was satisfied that people, he was actually talking about people with dementia, were receiving the motivation and the rehabilitation that they require and I replied that if they were not, I would certainly be looking into it. They were receiving but not to the extent that one would have liked. The bottom line is that we have twenty one patients who are going nowhere until a bed is provided for them in, hopefully soon, the new residential unit for the elderly and I felt that these people needed a bit more motivation and keeping them together is the best way of providing that rehabilitation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And is it that the people that are employed now in their wards with their rehabilitation, are they getting, sort of, any special training so that they specialise in that aspect as opposed to what they were doing before or not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

There will be an element of retraining of staff. A very small ... not something that needs to go very deep into looking at the logistics of training or ... because at the end of the day when the elderly people who have been there for some time now were in different wards, they had to be cared for by the nursing staff anyway. So there will be, what is envisaged if necessary and that is what I mean when I say by clinical programming, for example, if the acute ward, which is John, is full of acute patients and they need more staff, obviously,

staff from the rehabilitation ward will be moved as and when necessary to the acute ward and also the ... Well, as I say, I have already mentioned the retraining of staff. There is a skill-mix review also underway and obviously this will be taking into account depending on what needs are needed in each ward at a specific time.

HON N F COSTA:

If I am allowed to pick up on some of the comments made by the hon Member in respect of the comments she made as to persons suffering from Alzheimers and Dementia. She said that following some exchanges in this House she looked into the issues raised and she said that whereas in her view matters were taken care of, they were not to the extent that she would have liked. Could she now indicate what has now changed for her to make those comments that things have changed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, precisely what I explained.

HON N F COSTA:

Well, it was a very general statement asking for specifics as to what she said before that it was not to her satisfaction. What changes have taken place so that she now considers it xxxxx?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not want to leave this House with the impression that these changes have taken place because I was not satisfied with ... That was only part of it. I mean, there were already plans being mooted because of the fact that we have twenty one long-stay elderly people and the number does not seem to move either one way or the other. This was something that was being considered anyway and I must say that the hon Member's question on Alzheimers prompted me personally to look at the situation and I personally was not completely satisfied with the way that these elderly people xxxxx. Not only because of their personal quality of life but also because I was then told by clinicians that if they received even more rehabilitation and motivation, or what they call reactivation, which is a word I do not like to use, there was even a chance that more people could be discharged from hospital, home or either, with domiciliary care. So that is the way we are focussing this problem at the moment.

HON N F COSTA:

So then it is fair to say that those people that had expressed their concern at the time that not enough was being done in order to enable those persons suffering from Dementia and Alzheimers to have a better quality of life, was not being met at the time. That would be a fair comment on the basis of what the Hon Minister has said?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, because I am talking about elderly people, not only those with Alzheimers, and the comment that was made at the time, and I received the person who had made the comment in my office and talked to him. People do not seem to understand when they obviously find themselves in this situation with a loved one with this terrible illness, that these cases are looked at individually, the Alzheimers cases. There are some that benefit from rehabilitation and there are some that have reached a stage where no sort of rehabilitation can be offered because at the end of the day it is an illness which is caused ... or rather the illness is memory loss, basically, and you cannot teach a person who has not got any short-term memory how to do certain exercises and things like that. So basically, it would not be fair to say, xxxxx the situation at the time, that this person was right. He was right in some respects but not in all.

HON N F COSTA:

A partial admission in this House is a first time for me anyway.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

NO. 1288 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TREATMENT OF STROKE PATIENTS AT A & E

What protocols are in place for the treatment of stroke patients at the A&E at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1289 of 2010.

NO. 1289 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – STROKE VICTIMS REFERRED TO UK

Since 1st January 2010, how many stroke victims have been referred to UK as a sponsored patient for treatment, giving a breakdown of the hospitals or other establishments to which they were referred, the costs charged to the GHA as a result and the treatment received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answer to Question No. 1288 of 2010

The GHA follows standard assessment and treatment plans for each discipline in stroke management. It uses a multidisciplinary team approach in rehabilitation.

Answer to Question No. 1289 of 2010

There have been no stroke victims referred to the UK as a sponsored patient for treatment since 1st January 2010.

NO. 1290 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

How many of the nursing staff in the acute and long-stay wards at the KGV Hospital are bi-lingual in English and Spanish?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The following is a breakdown of the number of staff in KGV who are bi-lingual.

Acute Ward – 13

Long-Stay Ward – 19

NO. 1291 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS REQUIRING AIR-LIFTING BY AIR AMBULANCE, PRIVATE AIRCRAFT OR HELICOPTER

How many patients from St Bernard's have required air-lifting by air ambulance, or private aircraft (including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by helicopter) for specialist treatment outside of Gibraltar in the calendar years since 2005, giving a list which particularises the conditions for which they transferred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I will hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 1291 of 2010

Year	UK	Spain
2005	1 Cardiac Failure	
	1 Unstable ischemic heart disease	
	1 Terminally ill Cancer patient, repatriation home.	
	1 Unstable cancer Patient	
Total	4	0
2006	1 Cardiac Failure	1 Head injury patient.
	1 Renal failure and acute pancreatitis.	
Total	2	1
2007	1 unstable Cancer patient	
	1 unstable cancer patient	
	1 unstable cardiac patient	
Total	3	0
2008	1 Brain injury patient	
	1 Spinal surgery patient	
	1 Terminally ill cancer patient, repatriation home.	
	1 Unstable aortic aneurysm	
Total	4	0
2009	1 Adolescent brain tumour unstable	
	1 unstable cancer patient	
Total	2	1
2010	1 Terminally ill cancer patient, repatriation home.	1 Road traffic accident, head injury and liver failure.
	1 3 month old baby bowel obstruction	
	1 unstable cancer patient	
	1 Terminally ill cancer patient, repatriation home.	
	1 Unstable gastric bypass patient	
	1 Spinal surgery patient	
	1 Spinal surgery patient	
	1 unstable Cardiac failure	
	1 5 week old baby Acidosis.	
Total	9	0

NO. 1292 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOSPITAL INFANTIL DE MALAGA

Can Government confirm that the Hospital Infantil de Malaga are now refusing to see patients from Gibraltar under the E-112 Form – other than emergency patients?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Province of Cadiz and not Malaga is the referral zone in Spain for access to the Spanish National Health system. The tertiary referral centre is Cadiz. At times there are bed availability problems in Cadiz (surprise, surprise) and therefore the other tertiary centres in Andalucia may be used. Also, there may be direct referrals to Sevilla or Cordoba for highly specialised services.

In addition, the GHA has a direct referral relationship with Hospital Infantil de Malaga which may accept referrals for tertiary care Obstetrics/Paediatrics and Neonatology. They are under no obligation to provide that service but when they can, do so under the E112 Form.

NO. 1293 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO DE PAMPLONA

For how many patients have the GHA paid for any treatment, investigations or other costs associated in receiving care at the Hospital Universitario de Pamplona?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Three patients.

NO. 1294 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – AMOUNTS DUE TO HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN SPAIN**

What amounts are due from the Gibraltar Health Authority as at the end of August 2010 to hospitals and clinics in Spain, with a breakdown by clinic?

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

The amounts are as follows:

Hospital/Clinic	Amount in sterling due £	Amount in Euros due €
Xanit Hospital	£88,565.79	€8,527.00
Clinica Radon		€75,464.87
Centro Diagnostico Pet scan		€995.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1294 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

Out of curiosity, could the Minister explain why there are payments due in pounds and in euros and only in pounds in the other clinics?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Because the amount in sterling is for a contract that we have with Xanit entered into some time ago for cardiac procedures and at the time that we entered into a contract because we are both free to negotiate whatever we wanted, it was the time when the pound was very, very low and we managed to negotiate a deal in sterling. As to the amount in euros, this is not a contract that we have with Xanit. These are cases that we send, for example, for specialist diagnostic services on one-off occasions.

NO. 1295 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government say whether the new policy on sponsored patients which require the patient to obtain clearance through a GHA Consultant before proceeding with pre-arranged appointments in the UK has now been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 1296 of 2010.

NO. 1296 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can the Government say how many sponsored patients who have been receiving treatment in the UK have been notified by the GHA that they will be unable to arrange appointments to continue that treatment without clearance from a GHA Consultant first?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As I explained the last time that a similar question was asked and in fact the Hon the Leader of the Opposition asked various supplementaries, there has been no change in the policy with regard to referrals under the sponsored patient programme. What I did say is that the GHA is applying greater rigour in enforcing the policy to ensure that patients that can be followed up in Gibraltar are not sent to the UK unnecessarily.

And in answer to Question No. 1296 of 2010, all sponsored patients require a GHA Consultant's approval for their UK appointments and treatment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1295 AND 1296 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

But did the hon Member not explain that this was a tightening up of the system because some people might be abusing it, although it is difficult to think of people wanting to pretend to be sick when they are not, and therefore, is the hon Member saying that it is applied to everybody even in cases where it is known that nothing can be done for the person here?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not in all cases are we aware that nothing can be done for the person here. The hon Member has to realise that this has been going on for a great number of years. There are cases where a patient has been going and coming to the UK based on a UK appointment by the Consultant over there and they have not come through the GHA. So basically, obviously, they have been through the Sponsored Patients Department. But there has not been communication between one Consultant and the other. So, therefore, what the GHA is doing at the moment is as and when people need to go to the UK for this continuous referral, they go to the Sponsored Patients Department and whereas before they were

automatically given a ... whatever it is ... the tickets to fly over or whatever, now the Consultant is checking with the UK Consultant to see whether the treatment can be followed up here or the patient has to go to the UK.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, and my question is, if you are dealing with an illness, the nature of which requires specialist treatment which we know is not available here then, presumably, the checking is a nominal thing because you know the answer before you put the question? If you have got the medical records of the person and you know that the person requires the kind of treatment that is not available then, presumably, if they are requiring people to go through that system, it can only be to see if the person has got better or is cured or whatever. Because if the answer is the person is not cured, then you know you still cannot do it because otherwise you would have done it already.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I think this answer has been drafted with new cases in mind because the hon Member is right. If we are already dealing with a patient whose Consultant at the GHA has conferred with the Consultant in the UK and they have agreed a course of treatment, then these patients obviously are not going to be subjected again to the GHA Consultant's approval. I think the answer relates to new patients where there has not been a previous consultation between the UK and Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can understand that difference and I would say in cases where, for example, the position is known, would the hon Member not agree that it is undesirable that, for example, treatment that is due on a certain date might not be taken up because of the operation of the system and be prejudicial to the patient because when the Consultant here is available, the Consultant there might not be. Would the hon Member not agree that there is a need to ensure that the system does not delay treatment that is required through mismatch of availability over there and over here?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I agree with the hon Member 100 per cent. I have not heard of such a case happening and I certainly hope that it never does.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Can I just clarify a point because I do not want to mislead the House, on the question about sponsored patients and the referrals by Consultants?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

When I said that I assumed that the answer had been drafted bearing in mind that it was only for first referrals, that is nonsensical because first referrals ... I mean, we are only doing this because of the number of times that people who routinely go to the UK have been going without them having being checked, basically. So it cannot be for first referrals. What I meant was that they will be checked the first time in those cases that there has not been consultation for quite some time between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom and once it is established that that patient needs the treatment and they are both in agreement then they will not be checked again. That is what I meant when I said just for the first referral or for new referrals.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask in respect of that answer? Presumably, when the hon Member told me the last time that what they were doing was, if you like, enforcing the system more rigidly than in the past, it does not mean it was not being enforced at all in the past. So there must have been, even before the tightening up, shall we say, for want of another word of describing it, even before that, there was still some mechanism which actually started off the process, surely. People did not just go off on their own without being sent there in the first instance by somebody who felt that there was a need for them to go for treatment or for them ... because they had tried here and not got to the bottom of whatever was wrong. So, in all cases there must have been a first referral, surely?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. That is correct. There was some sort of procedure in place to try and monitor this. There was a net but there were quite a number of people that slipped through that net.

NO. 1297 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

How many fires have been reported at the KGV Hospital since 1st January 2000, giving a date for each report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Since 1st January 2000 there have been two fires reported at the KGV Hospital site; one within the hospital in December 2004, and we are obviously referring to the tragic incident at the time, and one more recent in a refuse bin in the grounds outside the hospital in April 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1298 OF 2010

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

Answered together with Question No. 1299 of 2010.

NO. 1299 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say whether any of the three cases before the Development Appeals Tribunal that were pending in June have now been determined and, if so, have they been resolved in favour or against the DPC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Tribunal has not met since this question was asked at the last Question Time in this Parliament.

None of the three cases that were pending in June have been resolved.

ORAL

NO. 1300 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – STAFF ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT FUND NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government provide a breakdown by grade and post of the 101 GHA employees eligible to join the No. 2 Provident Fund Trust as at the end of March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information requested is contained in the attached schedule which I now hand over to him.

Answer to Question No. 1300 of 2010

MEDICAL GRADES

<u>POST</u>	<u>No. of Officers</u>
Clinical Psychologist	1
Consultant Anaesthetist	6
Consultant General Surgeon	1
Consultant Gynaecologist	2
Consultant Ophthalmologist	1
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon	2
Consultant Paediatrician	2
Consultant Pathologist	1
Consultant Physician	3
Consultant Psychiatrist	2
Consultant Radiologist	2
Consultant Clinical Psychologist	1
Dental Officer	1
Director of Public Health	1
General Practitioner	2
NCHD – A&E	4
NCHD - Medicine	4
NCHD - Surgery	4
Occupational Therapist Senior I	1
Occupational Therapist Senior II	2
Radiographer Senior I	3
Senior Dental Officer	1
SMLSO	1
Speech and Language Therapist	1
Technical Instructor Grade III	1

NURSING GRADES

<u>POST</u>	<u>No. of Officers</u>
Director of Nursing & Patient Services	1
Charge Nurse	5
Diabetes Nurse Specialist	1
Midwife	4
Nurse Practitioner	1
Nursing Assistant	2
Operating Department Practitioner	5
Principal Nurse Lecturer	1
Registered Mental Nurse	7
Registered Sick Children's Nurse	3
Staff Nurse	14
Theatre Nurse	2

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 1300 of 2010

ADMINISTRATION AND CLERICAL GRADES

POST	No. of Officers
Chief Executive	1
Director of Human Resources	1
Catering Director	1
GHA Clerk	1
Personal Secretary	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1300 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I correct in thinking that the posts and the grades in the lists the hon Member has provided are persons who came in initially on contract and then moved to this. Is that the correct interpretation or not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not think that that is necessarily the case. It could also be people who have taken posts above the Civil Service complement and who have become GHA employees and become entitled to the Provident No. 2 Fund.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but how can that happen? For example, if there are five Charge Nurses, surely somebody who was a Nurse in the Civil Service and got promoted to Charge Nurse, would not leave the Civil Service because you have got promoted.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He is correct. I was thinking globally within the GHA about the administrative grades. I have just realised that we are talking about medical grades and nursing grades. So it must be as the hon Member has described. I believe, although I would not want him to hold me to it 100 per cent, that they are contract officers. The others would be civil servants entitled to the non-contributory pension fund.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in interpreting the information that the hon Member has given me, it would be correct to assume that all the people who are here were people who initially came in as contract officers and then they were given permanent employment on the No. 2 Pension Fund. Is that the position?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe that is the case. But I will check and confirm it to the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful.

NO. 1301 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – GROSS EARNINGS OF STAFF ABOVE GRADE OF CHARGE NURSE

Can Government provide a breakdown by grade of all senior staff above the grade of Charge Nurse or equivalent in the Health Service showing the gross earnings in the last financial year and whether in each case the whole of these earnings were taxable?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information requested is contained in the attached schedule that I now hand over to him.

Answer to Question No. 1301 of 2010

Grade Description	Gross Pay	Whole Earnings Taxable
NURSE PRACTITIONER	£46,839.97	
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER	£46,783.10	
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER	£46,499.40	
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER	£58,146.91	
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER	£52,204.79	
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER	£60,308.17	
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER	£56,323.91	
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES	£46,423.05	Yes
PRINCIPAL NURSE LECTURER	£80,458.02	
DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES	£82,163.31	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1301 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The list the hon Member has supplied has a column with a Gross Pay and a column which says Whole Earnings Taxable and in respect of one it says yes. Is it that all the rest is no?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then in the other cases, the whole of the earnings are not taxable?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, perhaps you will be kind enough to tell me what is not taxable then?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, as far as I am aware, the information that I have sought, because I had to obviously ask the same question ... There are some non-taxable earnings, for example, gratuity, allowances such as rented accommodation, mobile phone allowance and mileage allowance and obviously all those people that are under the "no" category are in receipt of some of these allowances or gratuities.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, for example, if we take a Clinical Nurse Manager, the amounts that refer to what the hon Member has just identified for us, would be included in the £60,000? Or is the £60,000 the taxable element?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe that the £60,000 is the taxable element. But I am not 100 per cent certain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Because it says gross pay and the question is gross earnings ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And it may be that gross pay means one thing and gross earnings means something else. If that is indeed the case, the question has not been answered.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. So, basically, the hon Member wants to know whether under the column headed "Gross Pay" the gross pay indicated there are taxable earnings.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well my question was, showing the gross earnings. Now, given that the column is headed "Gross Pay", I am not sure whether that means that this is the pay as opposed to the earnings and that the pay is the taxable element and the earnings would be the taxable plus the non-taxable.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA;

I would not be able to say. I will find out and write to the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask, the hon Member mentioned the gratuity in the things that she listed. Would that gratuity be what contract officers get which was 25 per cent of their contract? Is that what she was referring to?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, presumably people are either on the list that she gave me earlier or on this list but they would not be getting both things. Is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Does the hon Member mean people with a pension? Obviously, they would not be under the Provident Fund No. 2 as well. Is that what he is referring to?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. What I am saying is if somebody is eligible for the ... is entitled to join the No. 2 Pension Fund, presumably, they are not entitled to the gratuity in lieu of a pension. Is that right?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, therefore, anybody that is here, that has an element of gratuity, cannot be on the other list?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That should be the case.

NO. 1302 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CLEARING/CLEANING OF ENGINEER'S LANE DRAINS

When was the last time that the drains in the area of Engineer's Lane were cleared or cleaned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The road gully drains along Engineer's Lane were last cleaned in July 2010.

NO. 1303 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

SURVEY INTO THE DUMPING OF RUBBISH IN THE TOWN AREA

Can Government confirm whether a survey has been carried out in respect of the dumping of rubbish in the town area, when was it completed, what were the conclusions and what action has been taken as a result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

No survey in respect of “the dumping of rubbish in the town area” has been carried out.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1303 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Has any other survey in relation to rubbish collection or any other survey been conducted?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. A survey has been carried out, generally speaking, about the identification of collection points throughout Gibraltar in order to try and regularise those that can be regularised. Remove those that cannot and accommodate appropriate facilities and to determine the best collection practices together with setting times for the disposal by the public of its refuse.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when this survey started and whether it is now complete and whether there have been conclusions to it and what actions have been taken on the survey that he has just mentioned?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The survey started in its original form back in 2007. It has gone through a number of revisions since then. I took it over when I became Minister with responsibility for the Environment. I changed the terms ...not the terms of reference, but elaborated on it. The

survey itself has now been finished. The Government are currently in discussions with the Union on it and therefore I do not consider it appropriate to comment further on either the content or what those discussions are at this moment in time.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state what were the changes that he has introduced since he came in, as in the terms of reference which he mentioned?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I corrected the words terms of reference but basically I expanded what the work was and asked them to look at a wider picture.

HON S E LINARES:

What were these wider issues because we are talking about collection points? What other issues are involved here?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I forget exactly but the initial work that was done was based on a couple of routes and I said, extend it to the whole of Gibraltar and all routes and all aspects of the collection of refuse.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who conducted the survey and how much the survey itself cost or was it done in house?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It was done in house and there was therefore no additional cost other than the wages of the people who would have been paid anyway and it was conducted internally by members from the Department of the Environment and with assistance from the Environmental Agency.

NO. 1304 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether there have been any further delays to the opening of the Dudley Ward Tunnel and, if so, what has been the cause of these delays?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

There have been no further delays to the Dudley Ward Tunnel project and, subject to unforeseen circumstances in the interim, it remains on programme for completion in October 2010.

NO. 1305 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

SMITH DORRIEN BRIDGE

Can Government state who is responsible for paying the costs of repairs to Smith Dorrien Bridge following the damage caused earlier this year when lorries became stuck under the bridge?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Payment for the costs of the damages caused to the bridge are the responsibility of the owners of the vehicles causing them and their respective insurers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1305 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether any owner has already paid for the damages or its insurers?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

When something like this happens, the department gets on with carrying out the repairs, making the bridge xxxxx or junctions functional and then setting out on the track of recovering costs. The administrative actions are currently happening in collating all the costs. Remember there is an involvement by the utility company, one utility company because parts of its services were also damaged, and the process is ongoing. No costs have yet been recovered but the process is ongoing.

NO. 1306 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Does Government now have a date by when it will actually receive the results of the epidemiological study that it expected would be completed by the last quarter of this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The epidemiological study is progressing well and is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

ORAL

NO. 1307 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

RUBBISH DUMP IN AREA OF PLATER YOUTH CLUB

When will the new refuse holding facility (or “rubbish dump”) in the area of the Plater Youth Club, which was due to be operational in July this year, now be made operational and what has caused the delay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 1308 and 1309 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1308 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

RUBBISH DUMP IN AREA OF PLATER YOUTH CLUB

What has been the final cost of the new refuse holding facility (or “rubbish dump”) in the area of the Plater Youth Club?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 1307 and 1309 of 2010.

NO. 1309 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

RUBBISH DUMP AT CASTLE STEPS

Given that the rubbish dump at the foot of Castle Steps, opposite the entrance to St Bernard's School, appears to have been demolished in recent works, where does the Government intend to re-provide this facility?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Construction of the new refuse holding facility in the area of the Plater Youth Club to replace the "rubbish dump" provided by the previous GSLP administration was completed on schedule in July 2010 and became operational in September. The delay was caused by technical matters that prevented the supply of electricity being available.

The final cost of the new refuse holding facility in the area of the Plater Youth Club has been £44,328.04.

The Government has no plans to reprovide the rubbish dump created by the previous GSLP administration at the foot of Castle Steps.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1307 TO 1309 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Is this part and parcel of the survey that he has been conducting in order to relocate different parts of the, should I say, where the refuse is now collected?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it not advisable to have waited for the survey to have been completed and, therefore, after the survey had been completed, to then say that the "rubbish dumps", the previous administration apparently constructed, should not now be looked at within the survey?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would encourage the hon Member opposite to ask that question of his colleague the Hon Fabian Picardo who is absent from the House today because the Hon Mr Picardo has been pressing me for a considerable amount of time to construct the collection point at the Plater Youth Club. One thing has nothing to do with the other. This is an isolated issue. There needed to be replacement facilities in the area and the site near the Plater Youth Club was chosen. It impinges on the overall review but it would have been carried out anyway irrespective of the review.

NO. 1310 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

ENVIRONMENT – ENERGY CONSUMPTION FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES TARGETS

Does Government anticipate that it will reach its new target producing 15 per cent of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The UK is required to meet a mandatory target of 15 per cent of its energy production from renewable sources by 2020. Although it has not yet been established, between the UK and Gibraltar, what Gibraltar's contribution will be, the Government of Gibraltar is, as a matter of domestic policy, aiming at a target of 15 per cent of Gibraltar's energy production from renewable sources.

As has previously been stated in response to the many similar Parliamentary questions on this issue, several renewable energy options remain under active consideration with Wind Generation remaining the preferred option when the many factors are taken into consideration such as:

- (a) Reliability and sustainability
- (b) Site availability
- (c) Environmental considerations
- (d) Compatibility with our generation and distribution systems, et cetera.
- (e) Cost.

Government does not consider it appropriate to further publicly discuss the progress of internal work that is ongoing. The Government will make announcements on this matter as and when it considers it appropriate to do so.

NO. 1311 OF 2010

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

I have been away on one day, the 16th of July this year, for a meeting of the UK/GTA held in the Gibraltar House in London.

NO. 1312 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE FROM UPPER ROCK ADMISSION FEES

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, in admission fees to the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 1313 of 2010.

NO. 1313 OF 2010

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

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is now being handed over to him.

Answer to Question No. 1312 of 2010

MONTH	UPPER ROCK REVENUE RAISED
APRIL	£322,701.17
MAY	£327,859.05
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST	Not yet available.
TOTAL	£650,560.22

Answer to Question 1313 of 2010

a) Stayed at Hotel:-

	Total No. of Interviews	Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Average length of Stay	Frontier	Average Length of Stay	Elsewhere Interviews	Average length of Stay
Feb 2010	1,302	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar 2010	1,272	2	-	-	2	2.5	-	-
Apr 2010	1,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May 2010	1,252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jun 2010	1,511	28	28	4.2	-	-	-	-
Jul 2010	1,271	1	-	-	1	4.0	-	-

b) Not stayed at Hotel

	Total Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Feb 2010	1,302	-	-	1,300	-	-	2
Mar 2010	1,270	-	-	1,243	-	-	27
Apr 2010	1,200	-	-	1,200	-	-	-
May 2010	1,252	-	-	1,252	-	-	-
Jun 2010	1,483	78	103	1,254	-	-	48
Jul 2010	1,270	9	14	1,245	-	-	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1312 AND 1313 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say why the June and July figures for the Upper Rock revenue are not yet available?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. That is an administrative matter. I asked for the figures and I was told they were not yet available. Presumably, they have not been worked out yet.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is money that the Government receive, presumably on a daily basis, from the Upper Rock? So how can it be that they do not know how much they have received since May?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Making a statement in this House, I have to vouch for the accuracy of it. If they have not yet reconciled the figures, presumably, they are not yet in a position to certify them. I tend to agree with the hon Member. I would have thought from June this year, it was time enough for them to be available but I did not query it. I did not notice it so I do not know the answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When we are given other figures in answers to questions and they are not final, we simply get the note saying subject to eventual correction, or subject to eventual reconciliation or whatever, but at least we get a figure that shows whether it is still more or less the same. Does the hon Member have any reason to believe that there is any reason why it should be out of tune with April and May which are £320,000?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have received no indications at all of anything. I have just received the schedule and I did not pick it up. Normally, I go through the answers with a fine tooth comb but I did not pick this one up. Let me reassure the hon Member that, as far as I am concerned, there is no reason why the figures should not have been provided today. I will find out and I will make sure that the figures are made available to the hon Members as quickly as possible unless there is some reason and then I will give him the reason why.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

With reference to the answer to Question No. 1312 of 2010, in my exchanges with the Leader of the Opposition, he was querying the fact that the figures for June, July and August were not available. I have made use of the time during the recess to find out why they were not available and I am told by my officials that it has been normal, throughout the answers to these questions, for the answer to always be two to three months out of step. The reason for that is that it is not just cash sales but it is also credit sales that need to be reconciled. Of course, the Department sends out the bill then the cheque comes in and if there are queries they need to be reconciled and it takes between two and three months for the accurate figures to be produced. For example, I am told that when I answered this question in June, I only gave the figures up to March. I am told that has been the practice. I would just like to reiterate what I said in the supplementaries that it is not a question of not supplying the answer, it is a question of the firm figures not yet being available and they will be made available the next time the question is asked.

NO. 1314 OF 2010

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

No meetings of the Tourism Advisory Council have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament.

NO. 1315 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Can Government state how many persons left the employment of Gibraltar Community Projects in each financial year since the answer to Question No. 313 of 2009 and state whether the employment was terminated by the company or the employee, and whether the person transferred to employment elsewhere within the Government sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 1316 of 2010.

NO. 1316 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Can Government state how many employees joined Gibraltar Community Projects in each financial year since the answer to Question No. 312 of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Since the answers to Question Nos. 312 and 313 of 2009, sixteen persons have left and two have joined the employment of Gibraltar Community Projects. Of those who have left, seven have left at their own request, two for alternative employment, one was dismissed, five retired and one passed away. The two who left for alternative employment, one went to Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners and the other one to the Elderly Care Agency.

NO. 1317 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUBBLE TIP REMOVAL EXPENDITURE

Can Government identify what the £165,000 expenditure for the Rubble Tip Removal in 2009/2010 was for and to whom it was paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The expenditure incurred was related to the hire of plant and machinery to handle the construction rubble being deposited at the tip and for the supply and laying of materials. There were also minor costs for the provision of technical consulting services and operational requirements. I now hand over a table to the hon Member with the details of that answer.

Answer to Question No.1317 of 2010

1. Plant Hire	
Chandos Ltd	£29,145.00
Monteverde Ltd	£24,811.50
CK Transport	£28,380.00
Leed Transport	£560.00
Sub-total	£82,896.50
2. Materials	
GJBS	£62,394.74
Sub-total	£62,394.74
3. Services	
Apex Mapping	£4,700.00
Environmental Gain	£5,704.40
Golder Associates	£5,154.50
Sub-total	£15,558.90
4. Operational	
AquaGib	
Sub-total	£ 1,515.63
Total	£162,365.77

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1316 AND 1317 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member perhaps clarify what the Operational, the rest of it is self-evident I think from the titles, but the Operational AquaGib £1,500, how was AquaGib involved in this?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I seem to have handed the hon Member all copies of the breakdown including those that were meant for myself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can hand him one back then.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If one could make its way back to me, it would be easier to ... I have it here. I beg his pardon. I am afraid not with a guarantee of total accuracy, because the supplementary notes I have mention several other things but do not mention AquaGib. I can only assume that in these days of much greater environmental concern, there is an imposition, a duty on contractors and that includes the Government, when carrying out major works of this nature to dampen down and control the emission of dust or the raising of dust when moving rubble and when working on rubble. So I would hazard a guess that it is in this dumping down exercise that the AquaGib involvement would have taken place. I cannot, off the top of my head on my feet, I cannot think of any other involvement by AquaGib.

NO. 1318 OF 2009

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TOURIST SITES RECEIPTS

Can Government confirm whether the estimated receipts of £3.5 million from Tourist Sites in the current financial year includes any increase over the last financial year in respect of the World War II Tunnels contract?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The receipts from Tourist sites in total and therefore including the World War II Tunnels, are estimated for any forthcoming financial year by relating them mathematically to the actual receipts in the previous financial years, taking into account any overall increases or decreases in revenue during the previous financial years.

There was an increase in the level of entry fees to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve in January 2010 and this increase is reflected in the estimated receipts of £3.5m but that increase does not affect the level of entry fees or the contract of the World War II Tunnels. So I was not quite sure what the hon Member wanted to know but in a nutshell, in terms of revenue and fees and so on, there have been no changes to the contract of the World War II Tunnels. The increase in the estimates is because of the increase in fees for the Upper Rock Nature Reserve as a whole, not including the Tunnels.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1318 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think at the budget time we were given the figures and we were told that, in fact, there had been an addition, I think for the Rock Gun, to the original contract of the World War II Tunnels, which was not there before and therefore I would assume that if you extend the contract to somebody to include a new facility, then you would pencil in a sum of money that you expect to receive for what was not there before.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, in that sense the hon Member is correct. The 9.2 gun facilities were granted as an extension of the contract and therefore the estimated revenue from those facilities would be part and parcel of the £3.5 million. But I think I saw a note somewhere saying that they were ... No. I beg his pardon Mr Speaker, what I have just said is wrong. I have a note here that tells me that no increase was built into from extra revenue that may be generated

from O'Hara's Battery, as there was no certainty at the time of the estimates whether or not this attraction would be up and running for the current financial year. So the short answer is no, it was not provided.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, is the hon Member in a position to tell me whether any new revenue has come in as a result in the current financial year even though it was not originally predicted for the reason that he has given me, that he was not sure that it was going to happen?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, on the assumption that there have been people going and I know there have been, there has to be revenue and obviously that revenue is coming in. I cannot at this moment give any indication of what those figures are but, obviously, all the people who are visiting the 9.2 gun complex are paying for the privilege and therefore there is additional revenue.

NO. 1319 OF 2010

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 Nos. 1320 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1320 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS ON THE PRE-LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1319 and 1321 to 1330 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1321 OF 2010

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. 1319, 1320 and 1322 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1322 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to persons currently on the Housing Social Category “A” List, can Government provide the dates when each of these persons joined the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1319 to 1321 and 1323 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1323 OF 2010

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1319 to 1322 and 1324 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1324 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 781 of 2010, 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. 1319 to 1323 and 1325 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1325 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 782 of 2010, 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. 1319 to 1324 and 1326 to 1330 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1326 OF 2010

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. 1319 to 1325 and 1327 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1327 OF 2010

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. 1319 to 1326 and 1328 to 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1328 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS ON MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to persons currently on the Housing Medical Lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C”, can Government provide the number of applicants on each category grouped by date of joining the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1319 to 1327, 1329 and 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1329 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 777 of 2010, 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. 1319 to 1328 and 1330 of 2010.

NO. 1330 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 778 of 2010, 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

The information requested is contained in the schedule I have now passed on to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 1330 of 2010

Answer to Question 1319

There are currently 1312 applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists, as follows:

1RKB	-	755
2RKB	-	75
3RKB	-	278
4RKB	-	183
5RKB	-	21
6RKB	-	Nil

Answer to Question 1320

There are currently 268 applicants on the Housing Pre-list, as follows:

1RKB	-	179
2RKB	-	11
3RKB	-	54
4RKB	-	20
5RKB	-	4
6RKB	-	Nil

Answer to Question 1321

There are 85 persons currently on the Social Category 'A' List.

Answer to Question 1322

The dates when each of the persons currently on the Housing Social Category 'A' List, joined the List is as follows:

December 2003	1
May 2005	1
December 2005	1
February 2006	1
April 2006	1
June 2006	1
November 2006	1
December 2006	2
April 2007	1
July 2007	1
August 2007	1
September 2007	2
November 2007	3
December 2007	3
January 2008	1

February 2008	1
March 2008	3
April 2008	3
May 2008	1
June 2008	3
October 2008	3
December 2008	7
March 2009	1
April 2009	2
July 2009	2
August 2009	1
Spetember 2009	3
October 2009	2
December 2009	1
January 2010	3
February 2010	4
March 2010	2
April 2010	4
May 2010	5
June 2010	10
July 2010	1
August 2010	2

Answer to Question 1323

A total of 37 homeless cases are currently being dealt with by the Housing Department.

Answer to Question 1324

Six applicants have been removed from the Housing Social Category 'A' List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

June 2010 (as from 11.6.10)	-	1
July 2010	-	2
August 2010	-	3
September 2010 (up to 23.9.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question 1325

Thirteen applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category 'A' List, as follows:

June 2010 (as from 11.6.10)	-	10
July 2010	-	1
August 2010	-	2
September 2010 (up to 23.9.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question 1326

Seventy-two housing applicants on the housing waiting list, to date, are medically recommended as follows:

A+	-	6
A	-	22
B	-	19
C	-	25

Answer to Question 1327

119 applicants to date are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the housing waiting list. Medical Category as follows:

A+	-	19
A	-	39
B	-	24
C	-	37

Answer to Question 1328

191 persons currently on the Housing Medical lists.

Medical A+	
August 2006	1
September 2006	1
October 2006	1
July 2007	1
September 2007	1
April 2008	2
May 2008	1
July 2008	1
March 2009	1
April 2009	1
May 2009	2
August 2009	1
September 2009	1
November 2009	1
June 2010	4
July 2010	5

Medical A	
March 1997	1
March 1999	1
March 2001	1
October 2002	1
January 2003	1
June 2003	1
March 2004	2
February 2005	1
March 2005	1

Medical A Contd..	
June 2005	1
July 2005	1
November 2005	1
December 2005	2
March 2006	2
April 2006	2
August 2006	1
September 2006	1
January 2007	1
July 2007	1
November 2007	1
February 2008	1
April 2008	4
July 2008	3
October 2008	1
February 2009	3
March 2009	1
May 2009	3
July 2009	1
August 2009	1
September 2009	7
November 2009	2
December 2009	1
February 2010	1
March 2010	2
April 2010	1
May 2010	1
June 2010	1
July 2010	3

Medical B	
September 1995	1
January 1996	1
February 1998	1
May 1999	1
November 1999	2
December 1999	1
August 2004	2
October 2004	1
February 2005	2
March 2005	1
September 2005	1
October 2005	1
March 2006	3
April 2006	1
September 2006	1
February 2007	1
June 2007	2
September 2007	1

Medical B Contd...	
December 2007	2
February 2008	2
April 2008	1
December 2008	1
July 2009	1
September 2009	2
October 2009	1
December 2009	1
February 2010	1
March 2010	3
April 2010	1
June 2010	3

Medical C	
December 1994	1
January 1996	1
January 1997	1
January 1998	1
March 1998	1
November 1998	4
January 1999	2
March 1999	2
May 1999	2
June 1999	1
May 2000	1
October 2000	1
March 2001	3
May 2001	1
August 2003	1
September 2003	1
January 2004	1
October 2004	1
February 2005	1
June 2005	1
October 2005	1
December 2005	1
January 2006	1
March 2006	1
April 2006	3
June 2006	1
August 2006	1
September 2006	1
October 2006	1
February 2007	1
March 2007	1
June 2007	1
December 2007	4
February 2008	1
April 2008	3

Medical C Contd..	
July 2008	1
February 2009	1
September 2009	3
October 2009	1
November 2009	1
December 2009	1
February 2010	1
March 2010	1
June 2010	1
August 2010	1

Answer to Question 1329

Since the answer given to Question No. 777 of 2010, 18 applicants have been placed on the various medical housing lists as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
June 2010 (Since 11/06/10)	4	1	3	1
July 2010	5	3	-	-
August 2010	-	-	-	1
September 2010 (Upto 23/09/10)				

Answer to Question 1330

Since the answer given to Question 778 of 2010, 88 applicants have been removed from the various medical lists because a suitable dwelling has been found for them.

Date	A+	A	B	C
June 2010 (Since 11/06/10)	-	-	-	-
July 2010	1			
August 2010	-	-	-	-
September 2010 (Upto 23/09/10)	17	27	22	21

ORAL

NO. 1331 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DWELLINGS FOR REFURBISHMENT BY BUILDINGS AND WORKS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1332 and 1333 of 2010.

NO. 1332 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING ATTENTION OF BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Can Government state how many jobs are currently listed as requiring the attention of the Buildings and Works Department within the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1331 and 1333 of 2010.

NO. 1333 OF 2010

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

Answer to Question No. 1331 of 2010

The number of flats currently with Buildings and Works requiring refurbishment is 22.

Answer to Question No. 1332 of 2010

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of the Buildings and Works Department is 3,995.

Answer to Question No. 1333 of 2010

The number of tenants currently requiring work to be done in their homes by the Housing Department as landlords is 1,457.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1331 TO 1333 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Just to make sure that the answer to Question No. 1332 of 2010 was 3,995?

HON F J VINET:

Yes.

HON C A BRUZON:

Thank you.

NO. 1334 OF 2010

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. 788 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1335 to 1338 of 2010.

NO. 1335 OF 2010

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. 789 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1334 and 1336 to 1338 of 2010.

NO. 1336 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 790 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1334, 1335, 1337 and 1338 of 2010.

NO. 1337 OF 2010

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. 791 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1334 to 1336 and 1338 of 2010.

NO. 1338 OF 2010

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. 792 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested is contained in the schedule I now hand over.

Answer to Question No. 1338 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1334 of 2010

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

June (as from 10.06.10)	-	5 (4 active)
July	-	1 (1 active)
August	-	7 (4 active)
September (up to 22.09.10)	-	4 (3 active)

Answer to Question No. 1335 of 2010

The number of households that have received Rent Relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 789 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown:

June (as from 10.06.10)	-	615
July	-	608
August	-	590
September (up to 22.09.10)	-	583

Answer to Question No. 1336 of 2010

The number of households that were on full Rent Relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 790 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown:

June (as from 10.06.10)	-	71
July	-	72
August	-	72
September (up to 22.09.10)	-	72

Answer to Question No. 1337 of 2010

The number of households on Rent Relief that have had this benefit terminated, to date, since the answer to Question No. 791 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown:

June (as from 10.06.10)	-	3
July	-	15
August	-	12
September (up to 22.09.10)	-	7

Answer to Question No. 1338 of 2010

The number of households that have had the level of Rent Relief reduced, to date, since the answer to Question No. 792 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown:

June (as from 10.06.10)	-	13
July	-	13
August	-	13
September (up to 22.09.10)	-	12

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1334 TO 1338 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask, in the answers that the hon Member has given on rent relief, does he know what effect, if any, on the eligibility for rent relief, the 1st July increases in Minimum Income Guarantee could have had? Has the threshold been altered because of the increase or would some people have been taken out or had their rent relief reduced as a result. I see that there has been a decline since July. That is why I am asking. Since the increase came in July, I wondered if there was a connection between the two.

HON F J VINET:

That is entirely possible but I have not been provided with a certainty that that is the case. I will certainly look into it. But I have not got that information before me.

NO. 1339 OF 2010

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. 793 of 2010, 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 No. 1339 of 2010

The total number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent is 17.

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

	Total Agreements	Amount
June (as from 10.06.10)	5	£14640.25
July	2	£23624.53
August	2	£12625.75
September (up to 22.09.10)	8	<u>£10998.78</u>
		<u>£61889.31</u>

NO. 1340 OF 2010

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 to Question No. 794 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1341 to 1343 of 2010.

NO. 1341 OF 2010

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. 795 of 2010, providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1340, 1342 and 1343 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1342 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – FLATS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee since Question No. 796 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1340, 1341 and 1343 of 2010.

NO. 1343 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – FLATS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants, other than by the Housing Department, on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee, since Question No. 797 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 1340 of 2010

One pre-war housing unit has been allocated.

Answer to Question No. 1341 of 2010

Six post-war housing units have been allocated to applicants in the social list as follows:

June 2010 (as from 11.06.10)	-	1
July 2010	-	2
August 2010	-	3
September 2010 (up to 23.09.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question No. 1342 of 2010

One hundred and forty-five flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Department, strictly speaking the Housing Authority to use the correct term, on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee.

Answer to Question No. 1343 of 2010

None. No flats have been allocated without the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee.

NO. 1344 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 799 of 2010, 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

Three applicants have been offered an existing Government flat in this period and two have accepted.

NO. 1345 OF 2010

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. 800 of 2010, how many applicants had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1346 of 2010.

NO. 1346 OF 2010

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. 801 of 2010, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None is the answer to both questions.

No. 1347 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REINSTATEMENTS INTO THE HOUSING WAITING LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 798 of 2010, can Government state how many persons, if any, have in fact been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists because of a genuine inability to complete the purchase within any of the Government's home ownership schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1348 of 2010.

NO. 1348 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month since the answer given to Question No. 803 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 1347 of 2010

None.

Answer to Question No. 1348 of 2010

Four applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary. The breakdown is:

June 2010 (as from 11.06.10)	-	1
July 2010	-	2
August 2010	-	1
September 2010 (up to 23.09.10)	-	Nil

NO. 1349 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS REJECTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were rejected on the grounds that they were homeowners who had chosen to sell their homes, giving a breakdown by month, since the answer given to Question No. 802 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None.

NO. 1350 OF 2010

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. 804 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No.1351 of 2010.

NO. 1351 OF 2010**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. 805 of 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING****Answer to Question No. 1350 of 2010**

- (a) 200 phone calls have been received.
- (b) 93 cases of these were found to be correct.

The breakdown is as follows:

Month	Calls	Correct	Incorrect	Pending further investigation
June 2010 (since 11.06.10)	3	1	1	1
July 2010	3	-	2	1
August 2010	2	-	1	1
September 2010 (up to 23.09.10)	1	-	1	-

Answer to Question No. 1351 of 2010

No flats have been repossessed in this period of time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1350 AND 1351 OF 2010**HON C A BRUZON:**

So there were 200 phone calls received and 93 were correct. So the difference were all incorrect phone calls. Is that what you are saying?

HON F J VINET:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1352 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the Housing Allocation Committee has met since the answer given to Question No. 806 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Allocation Committee has met five times.

NO. 1353 OF 2010

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. 807 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1354 of 2010.

NO. 1354 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING TRIBUNAL

Since the answer to Question No. 808 of 2010, how many decisions of the Housing Tribunal requiring action by the Housing Department have not yet been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 1353 of 2010

I am informed by the Secretary of the Housing Tribunal that since the answer given to Question No. 807 of 2010, the Tribunal has not dealt with and completed any case and is currently dealing with 33 cases.

Answer to Question No. 1354 of 2010

None. All have been dealt with.

NO. 1355 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Since the answer given to Question No. 809 of 2010, 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

Two further flats have become available.

ORAL

NO. 1356 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Since the answer given to Question No. 820 of 2010, how many times have faults been reported, to date, in connection with the lifts in Government housing estates, giving a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1357 to 1359 of 2010.

NO. 1357 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have the lifts in Government housing estates required corrective maintenance or repairs since Question No. 821 of 2010, giving a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1356, 1358 and 1359 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1358 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have the lifts in Government housing estates required preventive maintenance, to date, since the answer to Question No. 822 of 2010, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1356, 1357 and 1359 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1359 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – INSTALLATION OF NEW LIFT AT REFERENDUM HOUSE

Can Government confirm that the installation of the remaining new lift at Referendum House, Glacis Estate, has now been completed and, if so, give the date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested is contained in the schedule format and is now being passed on to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 1359 of 2010

Answer to Question No.1356 of 2010

ESTATE	FAULTS REPORTED
Alameda Estate	8
Penney House	2
Varyl Begg Estate	21
Glacis Estate	61
St John's Court	2
Knight's Court	1

Answer to Question No. 1357 of 2010

All the defects shown in the schedule have required corrective maintenance or repairs (some due to tenant misuse).

Answer to Question No.1358 of 2010

All the lifts in Government housing estates have preventative maintenance as part of the Lift Maintenance Contract.

Answer to Question No. 1359 of 2010

The remaining new lift at Referendum House was completed on the 20th May 2010 and has been in operation since then.

NO. 1360 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PAINTING OF STAIRWAYS OF CONSTITUTION HOUSE AND REFERENDUM HOUSE

When does the Ministry for Housing plan to complete the work of painting the entire stairways of Constitution House and Referendum House, Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I am unable to say.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1360 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Will the Government be looking into this because I think last time we discussed the point you acknowledged that it was indeed your responsibility as landlords.

HON F J VINET:

Yes. Regardless of whether I acknowledge or not, of course it is the Government's responsibility as landlords. What I did indicate last time and I have Hansard in front of me, is that the debate that we had on previous occasions had related to the, not the entire stairways, but to the lower levels of the stairways which have in fact been painted up to now. I am not saying that the entire stairways will not be painted at some point but there is no firm date for that to happen which is why I am unable to say when that will be the case.

NO. 1361 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

With reference to the answer to Question No. 825 of 2010, can Government now say what was the outcome of the survey into the damp related problems at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1362 of 2010.

NO. 1362 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state how many flats are currently empty at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 1361 of 2010

The survey has identified that there is an element of water filtration on parts of the façade of the building. The survey does highlight, however, that there are no major health and safety concerns and that at present, immediate remedial repairs are not necessary.

Answer to Question No. 1362 of 2010

There are currently three empty flats at Bishop Canilla House.

NO. 1363 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE

Can Government state how many of the proposed tenants of Albert Risso House have now moved into their new homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of six tenants have now moved into their new homes at Albert Risso House although I expect that figure to increase drastically in the next week or two.

ORAL

NO. 1364 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

Since the answer to Question No. 827 of 2010, how many Government tenants have been decanted, to date, and what are the reasons in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1365 of 2010.

NO. 1365 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

Since the answer to Question No. 828 of 2010, how many Government tenants who may have been decanted, to date, have appealed the decanting notices and are any such appeals still outstanding?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None is the answer to both questions.

ORAL

NO. 1366 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE

Can Government state how many Government flats have now become available for applicants on the Housing Lists as a result of some of our senior citizens moving into Albert Risso House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1367 of 2010.

NO. 1367 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

Can Government state how many Government flats have now become available for applicants on the Housing Lists as a result of purchasers moving into Cumberland Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 1366 of 2010

Six flats, the same six that I referred to earlier. That is to say, although there have been far more who have taken physical possession of their new flats, only six are currently already living there and have returned their flat to Government stock.

Answer to Question No. 1367 of 2010

Two flats.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1366 AND 1367 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

These six are people who have moved xxxxx to Albert Risso House, have left empty flats. There will be cases where these senior citizens who are moving into Albert Risso House leave a son or daughter in a Government flat which means that they will not be available.

HON F J VINET:

Although I do not have the information before me today, I do understand that there have been specific questions on this in the past in terms of how many flats will be returned to housing stock once Albert Risso House has been completed. I do not have figures in front of me but I do recall that unlike the flats at Waterport Terraces and the former OEM developments and so on which are geared for the younger families, the vast majority of tenants moving to Albert Risso House are leaving behind and vacating their current flats.

NO. 1368 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

COST OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY TO CONSUMERS

Can Government list the dates since 2007 on which the cost of water and electricity to consumers in Gibraltar has been increased, showing the old price, the new price and the margin of the increase in each case?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1368

	Date of Change 1st July 2008				Date of Change 1st July 2010			
	Tariff	Standing Charge	Increase Tariff	Increase Standing Charge	Tariff	Standing Charge	Increase Tariff	Increase Standing Charge
	pence per 100 litres	£ per calendar month	Percent	Percent	pence per 100 litres	£ per calendar month	Percent	Percent
Potable Water Tariffs and Standing Charges								
SHIPPING	66.7		15.0%		69.0		3.4%	
HOTELS	47.1	5.00	14.9%	0.0%	48.7	5.00	3.4%	0.0%
HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS	66.7	5.00	15.0%	0.0%	69.0	5.00	3.4%	0.0%
DOMESTIC (PRIMARY)	24.1	3.00	14.8%	0.0%	24.9	3.00	3.3%	0.0%
DOMESTIC (SECONDARY)	59.8		15.0%		61.9		3.5%	
PUBLIC FOUNTAINS	16.6		14.5%		17.2		3.6%	
SWIMMING POOLS	133.4	5.00	15.0%	0.0%	138.1	5.00	3.5%	0.0%
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL	52.9	6.00	15.0%	0.0%	54.8	6.00	3.6%	0.0%
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (INCLUDING MOD)	66.7	5.00	15.0%	0.0%	69.0	5.00	3.4%	0.0%

Contd.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1368 (contd)

The Gibraltar Electricity Authority

Effective Date from	Tariff 1-Commercial				Tariff 2-Residential				Tariff 3-Tariff for Domestic Consumers				Tariff 4-Commercial			
	Tariff 1-Commercial Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	Power Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	
1.7.2010	12.8	10.34%	£4	11.3	9.71%	£8	8.8	4.76%	£4	8.5	10.39%	£6				
1.7.2009	11.6	0.00%	£4	10.3	0.00%	£8	8.4	0.00%	£4	7.7	0.00%	£6				
1.7.2008	11.6	14.85%	£4	10.3	14.44%	£8	8.4	13.51%	£4	7.7	14.93%	£6				
17.3.2005	10.1		£4	9		£8	7.4		£4	6.7		£6				

Effective Date from	Tariff 5-Industrial Max Demand Tariff				Tariff 6A-Restricted				Tariff 6B-Restricted				FCA			
	Primary Charge £/month/KW	%Increase	Standing Secondary Charge Pence/Unit	Power Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	Hours Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	Hours Consumption Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	FCA Pence/Unit	%Increase	Standing Additional Charge Pounds £	
1.7.2010	£7.59	10.00%	7	£8	9.80%	£6	5.6	10.53%	£6	6.3	10.53%	£6	4	0.00%		
1.7.2009	£6.90	0.00%	6.4	£8	0.00%	£6	5.1	0.00%	£6	5.7	0.00%	£6	4	22.70%		
1.7.2008	£6.90	15.00%	6.4	£8	13.33%	£6	5.1	14.00%	£6	5.7	14.00%	£6	3.26	0.00%		
17.3.2005	£6.00		5.6	£8		£6	4.5		£6	5		£6	3.26			

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1368 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of interest, the public fountains, the prices per hundred litres, it is stating 16.6 whilst Government Departments including MOD is 66.7. Are not the public fountains being run by a Government Department, one would think, and why are the prices different?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

These have been the established different categories of rates that have been established for a long, long time. There have not been any changes in that and that has always been the norm xxxxx to the differentiation between both categories.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay.

NO. 1369 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RESTAURANT SITE AT EUROPA POINT

Can Government say whether the tender to develop a restaurant site at Europa Point which was advertised on 30th April with a closing date of 11th June has now been awarded and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The tender to develop a restaurant site at Europa Point which was advertised on 30th April 2010 with a closing date of 11th June 2010 has not been awarded as there was only one submission which has subsequently been withdrawn.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1369 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the intention of the Government to put the project out to tender again or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. What the Government has decided to do is that it is going to put in an alternative scheme which the Government is going to fund and then that will be put out to tender but it is on a slightly ... Well, it is on a significantly lower scale to what we had envisaged originally. I might remind the hon Member, this is why I did not want to make the information available last time in the House as there was only one submission and we were negotiating at that point with them. I did not want them to have the information that they were the only ones because they were informed that they were preferred bidders. Nothing else.

ORAL

NO. 1370 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of 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 2010 to August 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1371 and 1372 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1371 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of 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 2010 to August 2010 giving a breakdown between heavy roads and other roads?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1370 and 1372 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1372 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of 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 2010 to August 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The information sought by the hon Member is set out in this schedule which I now hand over to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 1372 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 1370 of 2010

No applications for weight exemption certificates were turned down during the months of June to August 2010.

Answer to Question No. 1371 of 2010

A total of 18 companies have been issued with monthly weight exemption certificates between the months of June to August 2010.

Answer to Question No. 1372 of 2010

A total of 180 weight exemption certificates were granted during the months of June to August 2010.

The following is a breakdown by month, of which type of vehicle the exemption certificates were issued for:

Month	Trucks	Cranes	Exc./Shove	Total
June	44	13	5	62
July	27	24	5	56
August	37	24	1	62
				180

NO. 1373 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state whether it has now concluded negotiations in respect of the contract for the provision of bus shelters?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The Government has now concluded the negotiations in respect of the contract for the provision of the bus shelters.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1373 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who was the successful tenderer and what amounts are being paid in order to do the maintenance or at least the contract for the provision of bus shelters and does it include a maintenance programme?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The contract has been awarded to a company called BROXAP. The final pricing has not yet been concluded as such because there is a lot of work that needs to be carried out, not just the manufacturing of the bus shelters but also civil works that need to be carried out when these arrive in Gibraltar and this is the process we are going through at the moment. But for all intents and purposes, the agreement is now in place and manufacturing is ongoing.

HON S E LINARES:

It is envisaged that they will also do the maintenance of these bus shelters or is it just the construction of the bus shelters and then there will have to be a different contract for the maintenance and cleaning and general maintenance of the bus shelters?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The maintenance will be something that we will contract locally.

NO. 1374 OF 2010**THE HON S E LINARES****On behalf of 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 2010 to August 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares are as follows:

Month	Revenue	Passengers
June	£68,987.46	138,804
July	£77,193.32	154,115
August	£88,177.66	172,048

NO. 1375 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – NEW BUSES FOR ROUTE NO. 2

Can Government state whether the buses which will operate route No. 2 have now arrived in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The buses which will operate route No. 2 have now arrived in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1375 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister tell us what kind of buses these are, as in what are the specifications, and ... because, if I remember correctly we had a debate with the previous Minister about testing it, going up to the top of Willis's Road and all these issues.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the vehicles are three Mercedes Benz chassis model providing for fifteen seated passengers, six standing, or wheelchair and two standing, depending on the option and there are three of them.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay. As a matter of interest can the Minister state how much these three buses have cost the taxpayer?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I do not have that information available for the hon Member but off the top of my head, you are talking in the region of just over £100,000 each. But I can give you a

more accurate figure if you wish, by writing to him. But I really do not have an exact figure with me.

HON S E LINARES:

I am sure Mr Licudi will be writing to you in order to get that information.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Fine. No problem.

NO. 1376 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POLICING OF SHIP WASTE DECLARATIONS

Can Government state what authority is responsible for policing ship waste declarations prior to entry in port?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

There is a responsibility for all vessels to report information to the Gibraltar Port Authority and to facilitate through shipping agents waste management services. The policing authority for waste management is the responsibility of the Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA).

Whenever the Gibraltar Port Authority consider that there is a declaration that is not consistent, it is brought to the attention of the Gibraltar Maritime Administration which will then investigate the matter under the normal Port State Control inspection regime.

ORAL

NO. 1377 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PAYMENT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF SHIP WASTE

Can Government confirm that vessels are required to pay for waste discharge and if so is the payment made to the Port Authority or to a private contractor?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Vessels that choose to discharge waste at Gibraltar pay a private contractor for this service.

NO. 1378 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****DISCOUNTS FOR SHIP WASTE DISCHARGED AT GIBRALTAR**

Can Government confirm the number of vessels being serviced in the Port by all licensed waste operators with a breakdown by month since 2007?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

These statistics have only been kept since May 2009, when a discount in Port Charges was granted to ships that discharged waste in Gibraltar in accordance with EU Directives.

The number of ships that discharged waste from May 2009 to date is as follows:

Month	2009	2010
January		10
February		4
March		8
April		14
May	7	31
June	15	23
July	23	16
August	22	36
September	17	40
October	23	
November	7	
December	6	
Year Totals	120	182

As far as the actual answer, this was drafted some time round about the 20th September or twenty something of September.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1378 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The reference the hon Member made in his answer to the EU requirement in May 2009, is he saying that there is an EU requirement to give a reduction in port charges or an EU requirement that people should discharge the waste?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. Under MARPOL there is a directive by which ships are given a discount for actually discharging in a particular port. In other words, the whole purpose of the philosophy behind it is to encourage ships to actually discharge waste and not actually throw it overboard or doing it ... so they encourage them to do that. Then ports around the world actually encourage the ships that call at their port to discharge waste there by offering certain discounts and we have to give them a discount out of their port dues. The discount is not very much. I can give you ... I think I have got a table here in terms of the vessel. But you are talking of a vessel, for example, of say 50,000 gross tonnes, having a discount of £120 when we charge port fees of £963. A ship that is greater than 150,000 GRT we would charge them a full rate of £3,000 and give them a discount of £600. Basically, the philosophy is to encourage people. We are not a very competitive port in that respect. We do not really want to see a lot of waste coming off the ships but we do want to make sure that we comply with our international obligation of ensuring that ships that have to a certain level of waste on board, are actually forced to discharge in Gibraltar. If, for example, their next port of call were to be Cyprus or wherever it is and we know what sort of time scale it will take the ship to get there, the possible waste that it is going to generate from the time it leaves Gibraltar to the time it arrives at the next port of call and it could be over the amount that is the limit in which the ship can actually hold all that and therefore we make them do it in Gibraltar. But our discounts are not discounts that encourage them and therefore if you look at the numbers that I have just given to the hon Member opposite of the number of ships that actually discharge in Gibraltar, the numbers are not very great. In the month we could have twenty, thirty of these ships discharging. Maybe one or two a day maximum. But we do not really want to end up ... We have got our own problems with waste without having to take ship waste as well. But that is not something that we like to sort of shout about from the rooftops but that is the thinking behind what we are actually ... We actually do the minimum that we have to in order to meet our international obligations in this respect.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these ships that come here for some other reason and then because they happen to be here, they discharge or they come specifically to discharge?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I would say that in 99 per cent of the time they actually come here for other purposes like bunkering and then they have to make a report and the report may trigger the Port Authority to realise that, look this ship has to discharge because the next port of call that we have information on, is maybe too far away for them to be able to do it and therefore they have to. They are made to do so in Gibraltar. There are those that take up the option of doing it because of their waste management on board but it is not ... it is very rare that

a ship actually calls into Gibraltar just for the disposal of waste and if they did, it is because they are really running up to a level which they really cannot sustain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And how does the discount that we give compare with what they pay the contractor?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The contractor ... We do not really get involved in terms of what the contractor actually charges because remember that it is not just ... There are ten waste contractors, authorised waste contractors in Gibraltar. They do not all deal with the same type of waste. Some of them are sort of rubbish, others are xxxxx water, others are different sort of waste that actually gets disposed. They have all got different areas of specialisation and, basically, they have a published rate which they then take up and it is an added sort of trading opportunity for these local companies to operate in the port.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but what I am trying to find out is to what extent we are contributing to the cost of the ship? If the ship pays us £600, is that ship likely to be paying £6,000 or ...?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that ... No, they would pay more in most cases than they would receive in terms of discount. It would cost them money. It is not an advantage for them to do so locally in Gibraltar. There are ports that actually do encourage vessels to come because they have wastage opportunities for them and they see that as an opportunity to increase their waste. But our discount rates ... it will actually cost them money to dispose because it would cost them more to pay than they actually get in terms of discount.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the hon Member has no notion of the comparison between the two, of the order of comparison for example. Is it twice as much or three times as much or?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I could not really justify an answer with figures in front of me. I have not got the information of what they pay in terms of, for example, the collection of waste oil and the collection of hazardous waste. I mean there is a list of things that are possible products that they could off load in Gibraltar and it is not ... Let me put it this way, they would rather go elsewhere because the discount that they get would be much greater than we give them here and, for the time being, that is how we would like to leave it. I do not think it would make sense for us to import waste.

NO. 1379 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP GENERATED WASTE DELIVERY FIGURES

Can Government confirm ship generated waste delivery figures with a breakdown by month and volume for the last six years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government does not have figures readily available in respect of ship generated waste delivery figures, with a breakdown by month and volumes in the last six years. It would be a massive exercise to extract this information in the time allowed for the preparation of the question. However, if this information is of great interest to the hon Member, I am happy to instruct the Gibraltar Port Authority to go through all the records and produce the figures for them. But I think it is something for you to judge whether it is something that is of real importance. It just means going through all the records but not necessarily having a great number of ships because, for example, in the numbers that I have given you, in a month there may be ten or twenty but we may have to go through a thousand reporting sheets because not all ships, although they report the waste that they have on board, they do not necessarily off load it here. So we would have to go through every single ship call documentation. There are specified forms which are supplied to the port twenty four hours before arrival which have the details of everything that is on board in terms of waste, in all the different categories et cetera. But they may say, but we do not want to off load anything and the Port Authority will look at those figures and say, look there is nothing untoward about this and they just allow the ship to call and leave. As far as we are concerned, we would have to look at that record, not necessarily to find that they have left anything behind. We are happy to do it but in slow order because I really tried to force them to try and do it in the time that was available and, to be honest with you, it was really out of all proportion.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1379 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I take it then the information is not computerised in any way?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The information can be obtained for you since May, whatever it was, 2009 because all that has been computerised. Prior to that, if you are asking for six years back, we did not keep the record. We did not have an obligation on the wastage issue. It became an obligation in May 2009 under MARPOL and therefore if you wish us to go into those sort of details, I am happy to do so but it will take some time to do. If you want us to start from May 2009 and work forward that may be a more realistic view to take in terms of ..., it would give you an indication of the sort of waste that we are getting in the last year and a half or whatever. But not necessarily have to make people go through the records, one by one, of ships that called at Gibraltar. So I leave it to you to either write to me and tell me what you prefer or you tell me now and I take it on board, literally.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Could he supply the information then from May 2009?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I will.

NO. 1380 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP WASTE MANAGEMENT REGIME

Can Government state how many vessels arriving in the Port of Gibraltar have been inspected or monitored to check compliance with EU Directive and Regulations on ship generated waste management, on a monthly basis since 2007?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

There are no separate inspections carried out on the waste management regime on board ships. As I have said before, the Port State Control regime includes the waste management regime on board ships as necessary. In other words, when a ship is detained for Port State Control by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration, part of the inspection includes the inspection of waste management and not only on what they have on board but all their records that they have to make sure that they have not misled anybody by giving false information not just to the Port of Gibraltar but from previous calls at other ports.

NO. 1381 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE IN RELATION TO LEGAL NOTICE NO. 93 OF 2010

Why were the Building (Energy Performance) Regulations 2010 (made by Legal Notice No. 93 of 2010) made by an Extraordinary Gazette of Monday 17th May 2010 and what was the cost of the publication of that said Extraordinary Gazette?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

An Extraordinary Gazette was issued in relation to Legal Notice No. 93 of 2010 in order to avoid an infraction procedure being processed by the European Commission. The additional expense to Government of publishing by way of an Extraordinary Gazette was £60.

NO. 1382 OF 2010

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 Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 1383 of 2010.

NO. 1383 OF 2010

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 Heathrow (British Airways);
- (b) London Gatwick (Easyjet);
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester,

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 over to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 1383 OF 2010

Answer to Question No. 1382 of 2010

	LHR	LGW	LTN	MAN
June	2	12	2	0
July	6	8	7	3
August	2	7	3	0

Answer to Question No. 1383 of 2010

	LHR		LGW		LTN		MAN	
	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX
June	30	0	30	0	30	0	13	0
July	31	0	31	0	31	0	13	0
August	31	0	31	0	31	0	13	0

NO. 1384 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX/LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say how much is owed in passenger tax and landing charges by airlines which fly between Gibraltar and the following airports:

- (a) London Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

As stated in my answer to Question No. 332 of 2010, the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide details of sums due by individual, named commercial entities or citizens and obviously even though you are not asking in terms of names of airlines, but by the fact that British Airways is the only one that flies from Heathrow and Easyjet is the only one that flies from Gatwick, I would be identifying the name of the company.

Between the three companies that use Gibraltar Airport, £78,309 is due in respect of Landing and Parking fees, and £154,520 in respect of Departure Tax.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1384 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Without giving the names, can he provide a breakdown in terms of airline 1, airline 2, airline 3, of those two figures.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can give the Hon Member the Departure Tax. I cannot give him the Landing and Parking fees because I do not have the actual breakdown. But airline 1, which has nothing to do with (a), let me tell you, could be a coincidence, but is £35,970. Airline 2 is £46,740 and airline 3 is £71,810. Let me tell him that all the three airlines that operate from the UK are quite regular in their monthly payments of both aspects of it. So we are talking of literally one month and a few days because they are consistent with their payments. So they get their bills at the end of the month and within a short period of time they settle. So there is

no issue. It does not always apply to other airlines but in respect of the UK ones, we do not have any problems.

NO. 1385 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX/LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say whether Andalus Airlines has now settled the arrears of passenger tax and landing charges fees owed which were outstanding and if so how much was paid and on what dates?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

As stated in my answer to Question Nos. 332 and 864 of 2010, the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide details of sums due by individuals, named commercial entities or citizens.

In the circumstances, I am unable to provide the hon Member with the information he has requested. However, if in private you wish to be briefed on what the situation is, I am very happy to do so but I do not think it is in our interest that we should make this information available across the floor and when I explain it to you, you will understand why and this has nothing to do with political or whatever. It is purely commercial in wanting to get paid.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1385 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I take it then they have not paid the amount.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, you can interpret what I have said in whatever way you want. All I am saying is that I am quite happy to explain it to you in private. But, obviously, if I am willing, if I am telling you that making it public may prejudice our position, by implication you can interpret that, the way you wish.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This policy that the Government was toying with of naming and shaming those who do not pay, would not affect Andalus. That is only the local persons?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Sorry, could you repeat your comment again please.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sure the hon Member is aware that his Government have said in the context of taking a tougher line and doing away with the benign regime of collecting money from debtors which was announced in the Budget. In the Budget we were told the regime of collecting PAYE, social insurance and company tax and so forth, had been benign so far and that benignness is due to disappear at the end of this year and, in the less benign climate, naming and shaming those who do not pay is one of the things that is being factored in. Presumably if that materialises, it would cover Andalus or does it only apply to the residents?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I think that the issue is not one of and I can perfectly understand. Let me tell you that the regime has not started yet, for starters, right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Absolutely.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

But even if it had, we have a situation where the representations that were made to me by airlines at the time was that, as you can see, right, they are totally up to date and fully compliant with the terms and conditions under which they operate. By giving information away on debts and figures, they can find out about competitors' information easily, about departure tax, they know the number of passengers, for example, et cetera, and they felt that it should not be something that should be made public for people to compare. So there is a commercial view or a commercial stand in respect of why they wanted ... Now, I assume that we can take the stand that if somebody has not paid it should be made public and be embarrassed by it. But we do not want to offend those that are complying with the situation. So therefore, Andalus could very well fit in to the category which you have just described, going forward.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The hon Member said last time that Andalus had a new Board and a new Chief Executive and they were considering restarting flights to Gibraltar. Is that still the position or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, what I said was that there was a chance that this may happen. I had the Chairman of the company here. There was a new Board appointed and the Board was looking at ways of refinancing the business and restarting. I have had very little communications with them, not because I have not made contact with them, it is because they have not replied

to my contact. But from what I understand, they do have serious problems and I honestly do not believe they are operating anywhere. I think their operating licence has now been withdrawn by the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority, but we still need to find out. Having said that, and I think it is in the Order Paper later on in another question, there are people that have not been paid, for example, for tickets they booked and then the flight was cancelled and they seem to be honouring them because people are getting paid. So they must have some money somewhere. So, I do not think they are sort of running away but I think they are, at the moment, in a situation where they either cannot get started yet or they are going to abandon xxxxx altogether. But I have not had any official feedback. All I hear are the rumours in the industry and I do not base my assumptions on rumours.

NO. 1386 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

Are Government aware of how many prospective passengers of Andalus Airlines are waiting for refunds in respect of flights which they had paid for which were subsequently cancelled?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The Government are not aware of the total number of passengers of Andalus Airlines awaiting refunds in respect of flights cancelled. However, the Department of Consumer Affairs in Gibraltar has received a total of three requests for assistance which they have referred to us and we have made representations to the airline on the matter and my understanding is that one has been settled and two are still outstanding. But that is as far as I can give you. If there are other instances, there must be people who are dealing directly with the airline on the matter and have not either made representations to ourselves or the Department of Consumer Affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1386 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this an area where there is any kind of safety net that has to be provided so that if an airline does not pay the passengers, like there is in UK, for example, with travel agents. Are the people that travel with Andalus covered by anything like that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It depends how you bought your ticket. I think if you have bought your ticket from a travel agent who is a member of IATA, then there is an insurance cover which, basically, you get your refund for that. If you have bought your ticket on the internet and directly from the airline then it is really a commercial transaction between you and the airline and I do not think that you are in any way ... but this is across, it is not Andalus or anything, this is across the whole airline industry. So there is a difference as to how you buy your ticket and what sort of recourse you have to be able to get the refund.

NO. 1387 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

Have Government now obtained confirmation from Andalus Airlines as to how much of the matching £50,000 put up by the airline has been spent on marketing the route?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

In a report received from the Marketing Manager of Andalus Airlines in June of this year, it was confirmed that the airline had spent over €231,000 in promoting their routes to Gibraltar, since June 2009.

This included the cost of advertising in the press, billboards, familiarisation trips and press and travel agent trips. However, what we have not been able to establish was whether the window in which the Gibraltar Tourist Board participated, in a marketing drive totalling £44,936 which is information that I have already made available to the House previously, whether we can match the one to one that we have as an agreement. I think that, possibly, the state of the airline at that point was, here I will send you everything that we have done since June last year and if you want to go through it yourself. It is not very easy for us to identify exactly the point in time into which the marketing activity that was carried out for the Tourist Board coincides with them chronologically. But there is justification on that. We have been privy to adverts in the press in Madrid, for example, even in Barcelona when they did not actually fly a second time. They actually were advertising it two months before. We have seen billboards. In fact, there are billboards still up, along the coast, advertising the flight to Madrid and therefore, although not satisfactorily handled in terms of matching funds on a one to one basis, I think they exceeded their advertising budget and, as I said, from June 2009 to June this year, which is a year, they spent over €231,000 on the route.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1387 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the hon Member know whether the €231,000 was only for the Gibraltar route or for all the routes?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. It was promoting the route from Gibraltar to Madrid and, as I said, Barcelona which never restarted.

NO. 1388 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES INTERESTED IN FLYING TO GIBRALTAR

Can Government say how many airlines, interested in flying to Gibraltar, they are currently in contact with?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

As stated in my answer to Question No. 867 of 2010, the Government continues with its contacts and discussions with a number of airlines. However, in common with my response in previous Parliamentary Questions, for reasons of commercial confidentiality it would not be appropriate for me to provide further information. But I can assure the hon Member that we are at it.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1388 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say why the number would be something commercially in confidence, the number of the airlines, not the names the numbers?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The number of airlines, I think I gave you that last time, did I not? At the Routes Conference you were talking about?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No. The question asks how many airlines. It does not say which ones they are.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are seven active ones.

NO. 1389 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – CEO OF GIBRALTAR AIR TERMINAL LIMITED

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Chief Executive Officer of Gibraltar Air Terminal Ltd which was advertised on 19th August with a closing date of 15th September, how many applicants were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

A total of eleven persons applied for the post of Chief Executive Officer of Gibraltar Air Terminal Limited which was advertised on 19th August 2010. Of these, ten were Gibraltarians and one is a British national who is a long established resident of Gibraltar.

Interviews for this post have not yet been conducted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1389 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say when they require the person to be in post? By when?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As soon as possible.

NO. 1390 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TRANSCOMA FERRY – ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF PERSONS**

Can Government say how many persons arrived and departed from Gibraltar on the Transcoma Algeciras ferry, on a monthly basis, since June 2010 inclusive?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The following number of persons have arrived and departed on the Transcoma Algeciras ferry, on a monthly basis:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Departures</u>
June	787	661
July	1074	1019
August	982	1901
September (up to 18 th)	540	1062

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1390 OF 2010**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does the hon Member know whether that level of turnover is considered sufficient by the company to make it a viable operation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not think that that is the case. I think the figures have to be much higher than that. But as we can see from the figures, they are on the increase and the company is still hopeful that they will reach that level as soon as ... They started in the month of December last year which was not a particularly good month to start. Weather conditions at the beginning of the year were not the best we have ever had in Gibraltar and, therefore, they basically did not really start until about April and the business is starting to grow. They would like to see much higher figures than that. But they fully understand that to launch this route and make it commercially viable will take them time and, as long as they can sustain that, they will continue on the route.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How many crossings are they doing per day?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe they are doing ... On weekdays I think they are doing four crossings a day and I think on Saturdays they are doing two and on Sunday they are not doing any. They do not operate on Sunday. But that is just off the top of my head. I am not ... because they have had changes to their schedule done in order to accommodate the FRS daily service to Tangier as well and they had to do certain changes to their daily programme.

NO. 1391 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA FERRY – PERMIT OR EXPORT LICENCE FOR TOBACCO

Can Government say whether the Transcoma ferry which operates between Gibraltar and Algeciras has a permit or export licence for tobacco?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The Transcoma ferry does not have a permit or export licence for tobacco.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1391 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that mean they cannot buy tobacco and sell it on board the ferry?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, after actually reading the answer to the hon Member I thought to myself, anybody can come to Gibraltar on a yacht or whatever and buy supplies of whatever goods xxxxx and to do that they need an Export Licence which Customs give them or does not give them. So they must have some form of licence because they do buy tobacco from a local supplier/wholesaler for sale on board. But let me tell you and I say this in order to clear up what a lot of people talk about and that is that they have a very strict regime as to the quantity of tobacco they are able to buy and it is very much geared towards the number of passengers that are on board. So, the purpose of buying tobacco by the ferry is geared very much to on board sales, like you have in any tourist ferry or whatever. But the idea of them buying and taking tobacco to Spain, as has been commented locally, is not the case. Customs have a very strict control over that.

NO. 1392 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COSTA CRUCEROS – VESSELS DIVERTED

Can Government confirm whether Costa Cruceros have diverted away any anticipated calls by their vessels to Gibraltar this year and, if so, how many, on what dates were the vessels due to have come in and what are the names of the ships in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Costa cancelled two booked calls to Gibraltar. One was the COSTA VICTORIA which was cancelled 9th October 2008 and the other was the COSTA CONCORDIA which was cancelled on 24th August 2009. Both these cancellations would have been made before the 2010 Costa brochure was published and so while technically there were “cancellations”, as far as the Port is concerned, they are not so from the public’s point of view as they were never featured in any marketing material. In other words, in 2008 when they were looking at possible schedules for 2010 they did x number of bookings and we find that this is now more and more common because we have set days when we do not have berthing facilities. So what a lot of companies are doing is that they send us a booking form with a list of possible booking dates but then actually as we get nearer the time they start to make changes and all they are trying to do is get a slot so when somebody else puts in a request we have to say we are sorry but we are over subscribed on that particular day and in this case this is what happened. They actually had two calls that they had booked with the Port Authority that actually never materialised when it came to the actual selling of this.

Cruise companies are continuously amending their itineraries every year and Costa is no different. Their published schedules for 2010 now shows calls by COSTA SERENA on 29th November and COSTA CONCORDIA on 23rd December and we look forward to seeing both ships arrive as planned. Additionally, COSTA ALLEGRE called on 16th September but on a charter to a French operator TMR. In other words, it is just changes in their itinerary and nothing to do with actual cancellations.

NO. 1393 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****POSIDONIA EXHIBITION IN GREECE**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Posidonia Exhibition in Greece in June 2010 and who made up the official Gibraltar delegation?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The cost of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Posidonia Exhibition in Greece in June 2010 was £9,882.25. However, this is the final figure after deducting the sponsorship contributions by industry players of £26,426.70, from the total expenditure of £36,308.95.

The breakdown of this expenditure, that is the £36,308.95, is as follows:

	£
Stand space	9,526.66
Stand bill and dismantle	11,373.46
Air fares, hotels, incidental expenses	12,339.94
Reception and Invitations	1,962.89
Freight	<u>1,106.00</u>
	36,308.95

The official Gibraltar Delegation included:

Minister J J Holliday – Minister for Enterprise, Development, Technology & Transport
 Mr Peter Canessa – Principal Private Secretary
 Captain Peter Hall – Captain of the Port
 Mr Albert Poggio – Director, London Office
 Miss Edwina O'Mahoney – Marketing Executive, London Office

NO. 1394 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POSIDONIA EXHIBITION IN GREECE

Can Government say how much was paid in sponsorship by each of the Gibraltar based industry players who part-sponsored the Gibraltar stand at the Posidonia Exhibition in Greece in June 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this schedule which I now hand over to him which basically lists the different companies and their sponsorship. There were basically two levels of sponsorship. There was the £5,000 sponsorship which gave them entitlement to inviting a number of guests to the reception, their participation on the stand, some logos and some of the stand background was used to promote their company. Then there was the £750 sponsorship which was a second tier of sponsorship which was just for the display of literature. Basically, we had five companies who accepted tier A which was the more expensive one and two companies that opted for the second tier.

Schedule to Question No. 1394 of 2010

POSIDONIA 2010

SPONSORSHIP

Vemaoil	£5000
Aegean Bunkering	£5000
Gibunco	£5000
Steelmac	£5000
Gibdock	£5000
Nature Port Reception Facilities	£750
A Mateos & Sons	£750

NO. 1395 OF 2010

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**

As I have said in the House before, I do not know why I get lumbered with this question every time but my Ministry has not sponsored or co-sponsored in Gibraltar or elsewhere any conferences since the last Question Time in the House. I am sure that some of my colleagues may be able to, for example, the Calpe Conference comes to mind.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1395 OF 2010

HON E J REYES:

Yes. Only very recently this month there was the annual Calpe Conference.

NO. 1396 OF 2010

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**

Since the information supplied at the last Question Time in Parliament, the Port Advisory Council met on the 19th August 2010. The Business and Commerce Advisory Council and the E-Business Advisory Council have not met.

NO. 1397 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU/GOVERNMENT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Can Government list the parties who have applied for:

- (a) EU funding;
- (b) Gibraltar Government funding,

since the last Question Time in this Parliament, indicating the amount of funding requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

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

Schedule to Question No. 1397 of 2010

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	PS	Purpose of Grant
27	Montaditos Bar	Active	£19,156.65 (30%)	£0.00 (0%)	£44,698.85 (70%)	Building works and equipment
28	Play Centre	Active	£47,052.15 (30%)	£0.00 (0%)	£109,788.35 (70%)	Building works, equipment and furniture, advertising and website, freight and import duty (12%) and Rent Subsidy Scheme
29	Holographic 3D	Active	£80,255.37 (30%)	£0.00 (0%)	£187,262.53 (70%)	Equipment and software
30	Ocean Café	Active	£19,917.00 (30%)	£0.00 (0%)	£46,473.00 (70%)	Building works and equipment

NO. 1398 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Development Aid Advisory Committee met since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

There have been no meetings of the Development Aid Advisory Committee since the information supplied at the last Question Time in Parliament.

NO. 1399 OF 2010

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 at the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Since 17th June 2010, there have been four meetings of the Development and Planning Commission:

- 27th May 2010
- 25th June 2010
- 12th August 2010
- 26th August 2010

NO. 1400 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES / WATERGATE HOUSE / CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government say whether the following commercial units will be put out to tender and if so when:

- (a) the one vacant unit on the first floor of Casemates Barracks (not in the arcade);
- (b) the one unit on the top floor of Watergate House;
- (c) the six unallocated units at Chatham Counterguard?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 1401 of 2010.

NO. 1401 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD COMMERCIAL UNITS – WATERPROOFING

Can Government say whether the Government are carrying out or have commissioned any waterproofing works at the commercial units in Chatham Counterguard and if so at what cost?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The one vacant unit on the first floor of Casemates Barracks will not be put out to tender for the time being.

The one unit on the top floor of Watergate House will not be put out to tender either.

The six unallocated units at Chatham Counterguard will be put out to tender shortly.

Waterproofing works are being carried out along the external area of Chatham Counterguard at a cost of £71,806.95. I believe the works have now been completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1400 AND 1401 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say who carried out those works and whether they went out to tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think they were carried out by GJBS. But I am not absolutely certain because that was a matter that was tackled by the Technical Services Department and is not something that I would get involved in. But I think, having seen the scaffolding on my way to work, I think is GJBS.

NO. 1402 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS RECEIVED FOR RE-DEVELOPMENT OF BUENA VISTA BARRACKS

Can Government say how many entities have submitted a tender for the re-development of Buena Vista Barracks which was advertised on 29th June 2010 with a closing date of 24th September 2010 and can they say who is the successful bidder and in what amount?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

When the answers to questions for this session of Parliament were being compiled this tender was still open. Therefore, I am unable to supply the information requested. Now since that, then obviously there has been. The tender closed last Friday and I am aware that there have been a number of applications but I am not aware of the details as yet. It is still being compiled by those that open the tender boxes and prepare the analysis and things.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1402 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say how many there are or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I am not aware.

NO. 1403 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY DPC – CONSTRUCTION OF OIL STORAGE TANKS WESTERN ARM NORTH MOLE

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the DPC in respect of the application for planning permission by Nature Port Reception Facilities to construct oil storage tanks as an extension to the sillage plant at Western Arm North Mole?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

There has only been one written representation from the public concerned with the extent of works via-a-vis an encroachment into adjacent land belonging to the member of the public. In other words, it is the next door neighbour complaining about the fact that they were going to get too close to them.

NO. 1404 OF 2010

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**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1404

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 17/6/10 AND 21/9/10

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11461	Hassan's International Law Firm	Internal reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing meeting rooms.	Approved	57/63 Line Wall Road
11462	Dept. of the Environment	Proposed modifications to roof, insulation to external walls & general refurbishment.	Pending	Old Mole Head Waterport Wharf
11463	Mr D Mifsud	Proposed internal modification to flat.	Approved	19 Sea Daifodil House Waterport Terraces
11464	Moti Viroomal	Proposed conversion of shop to takeaway and alterations to shopfront.	Approved	249 Main Street
11465	Mr S Gross	Proposed internal modification to flat.	Approved	406 Cumberland Terraces
11466	Alan D Gravett	Proposed installation of glass curtains on balcony.	Pending	332 Watergardens
11467	Jonathan & Eva Golding	Proposed Conversion of Two Flats into One.	Approved	29 & 30 Bridgetown Court Harbour Views
11468	Mrs P Cantos	Partial extension at 1st floor level (rear), refurbishment of ground floor and existing area at first floor level (rear)	Pending	11 Town Range
11469	Ocean Village Investments Ltd.	Proposed access gates to pontoons.	Approved	Pontoon Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village
11470	The Office of the Governors	Proposed widening of doorway onto Main Street (goods entrance) and install lift for disabled access.	Approved	The Convent Main Street
11471	John Golt	Replacement of an existing window.	Pending	16c Elliot's Battery
11472	Ocean Village Commercial	Internal fitout of office.	Approved	Leisure Island Business Centre
11473	Darren Cassano Esq	Proposed demolition of single storey hut.	Approved	6A & B North Pavilion Road
11474	Gilbert Licudi Esq.	Proposed permanent above ground swimming pool.	Approved	9 Catalan Gardens
11475	Mr & Mrs Stagnetto	Proposed conversion.	Pending	9 Mount Road
11476	Christine Pons	Proposed extension to terrace & internal alterations.	Approved	17 Shorthorn Estate

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11477	R Benzaquen	Proposed alterations and refurbishment of building.	Approved	16 George's Lane
11478	Mr Shawn Gulraj	Proposed conversion of retail shop into coffee shop/delicatessen.	Approved	275 Main Street
11479	Fiduciary Property Services Ltd.	Proposed conversion of shop units.	Approved	404 & 405 Eurotowers
11480	International Franchises Ltd	Proposed replacement of internal doors with fire doors in shop unit.	Approved	ICC Casemates Square
11481	Land Holdings (1988) Limited	Proposed conversion of one flat into two self contained flats.	Approved	37/5 Line Wall Road
11482	Janice Cruz	Proposed change of use into a hair salon.	Approved	Ocean Village Promenade
11483	Albert Isola	Proposed replacement of air conditioning unit.	Pending	3 Bell Lane
11484	J J De La Paz Consulting	Proposed demolition of single storey masonry structure.	Government Project	S10 Substation Winston Churchill Avenue
11485	PricewaterhouseCoopers	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	ICC Casemates Square
11486	Rock Motors Retail Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations, vehicular access and lay-bys.	Pending	2/4 Queensway
11487	Millard Holdings Ltd	Fit-out of commercial premises for nursery.	Approved	Rock Rose House Waterport Terraces
11488	Mr J Canepa	Proposed construction of conservatory on existing terrace.	Approved	8/12 Buena Vista Road
11489	Gibcorp Ltd	Proposed replament of the current automatic swinging doors with automatic sliding doors & relocating the fire exit door.	Approved	57/63 Netwest House Line Wall Road
11490	Paola Bonutti	Proposed opening between two units.	Approved	Casemates Arcade
11491	MPLC LTD	Proposed office toilet refurbishment.	Approved	Regal House Queensway
11492	The Light and Power Shop Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations to shop and replacement signage.	Approved	325A Main Street
11493	Barrow Hills Ltd.	Proposed enclosure for valetting.	Approved	Car Wash Waterport Coach Park

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11494	Keleden Holdings Ltd.	Proposed change of use of first floor from residential to office use. Refurbishment of second and third floors for residential, small extensions to inner patios, provision of lift, rear extension to roof terrace and provision of terraces to front and rear roofs.	Approved	138 Main Street
11495	Emma Azopardi	Proposed internal modification to property.	Approved	607 Cumberland Terraces
11496	Armando Cohen	Proposed replacement of roof tiles.	Pending	12 Governor's Lane
11497	Bari Properties Ltd.	Proposed replacement of roof.	Approved	Don House Arcade
11498	Alrite Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	616 Watergardens
11499	The Estate of Baruj Serfaty	Conversion of existing studio flat into a three bedroom maisonette by adding one floor to the existing building.	Approved	1/4 Naval Hospital Road
11500	Mr R Lomax	Proposed replacement of windows.	Approved	18c Elliot's Battery
11501	Mr A Perez	Proposed change of window.	Approved	24A Elliot's Battery
11502	Care Agency	Proposed air conditioning units.	Government Project	St Bernadette's O/T Centre
11503	Ashok Rupani	Sun and wind screens.	Pending	909 / 702 Royal Ocean Plaza
11504	Mr & Mrs Perry	Conversion of Terrace to 2 Bedroom/1 Bedroom. Door from Terrace to Lobby.	Pending	Apt 2 The Sails
11505	Christian Laguea	Proposed installation of air conditioning unit.	Approved	75 Rosia Dale
11506	Ralph Lima	Proposed conversion into a mini market.	Pending	Fish Market Road
11507	Mr D A Orfilla	Replace existing sheeted roof with a flat terrace accessible through a new doorway at the top stair landing.	Approved	13 Governor's Street
11508	I & F Massias	Proposed refurbishment of façade.	Approved	10 City Mill Lane
11509	Flamenco Holdings Ltd.	Proposed change of use from shop to restaurant.	Pending	2 Casemates House Casemates Square
11510	Property Partners (International)	Proposed internal alterations from one unit into original two units.	Pending	Watergardens

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11511	Gibraltar Squash Association	Proposed two new squash courts, gymnasium and internal refurbishment.	Pending	South Pavilion Road
11512	Emilio Gomez	Proposed replacement of roof tiles and replacement of lower terraces and car port with existing type.	Approved	1C/4B Engineer Road Maida Vale
11513	Jotsun's Ltd	Proposed refurbishment of shop front.	Pending	119 Main Street
11514	Rodman Properties	Proposed refurbishment of flat.	Pending	25/6 Hospital Ramp
11515	Mr M Mifsud	Proposed additions and alterations to block 2.	Pending	Casemates House Casemates Square
11516	James Hughes	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Royal Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11517	Rotunda Holdings PLC	Proposed refurbishment of existing building to reopen as a supermarket	Pending	4-16 La Rotunda Winston Churchill Avenue
11518	Messrs Fenan Ltd	Proposed conversion/refurbishment of flat.	Pending	263/5 Main Street
11519	Mr S Vaughan	Proposed retention of existing bungalow, demolition of extension and construction of a 4 bedroom detached house.	Pending	7 Humphrey's Bungalows Engineer Road
11520	Charnwood Construction Ltd	Proposed conversion of club into workshop	Pending	41A Europa Road
11521	G.O.N.H.S	Proposed construction of two aviaries.	Pending	Lathbury Barracks Lathbury Barracks
11522	Alan Perez & Gail Prior-Perez	Proposed alterations to flat.	Pending	503 Nelson's View
11523	Government of Gibraltar	Proposed demolition.	Pending	Ex - Royal Naval Hospital Europa Road
11524	Gibraltar Subaqua Club	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Victualling Yard Rosia Bay
11525	Government of Gibraltar	Proposed relocation of Sea Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh facilities.	Pending	North Mole Road
11526	Government of Gibraltar	Relocation of New Gibraltar Government Marine Station	Pending	North Mole Road
11527	Mr S Vinales	Proposed new shop frontage and signage.	Pending	Alameda Video Club/Alameda Kiosk Grand Parade
11528	Margaret Cross	Proposed awning.	Pending	121/122 Mauretania Both Worlds

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11529	Government of Gibraltar	Proposed demolition of building.	Pending	Old St Bernard's Hospital Hospital Hill
11530	Kim Soiza	Proposed repairs and alterations.	Pending	10 Hospital Ramp
11531	Calpe Rowing Club	Proposed alterations and refurbishment.	Pending	Calpe Rowing Club Europort Road
11532	Robert Hatton	Proposed extension to garden wall.	Pending	3A Fiat Bastion Road
11533	Tiberius Holdings Ltd.	Proposed re-development of existing building.	Pending	6/8 Library Street
11534	Cynthia Limited	Proposed alterations to accommodate a supermarket.	Pending	Waterport Terraces
11535	Mr Zane Bennenworth (& Others)	Proposed extension to flats 1 & 3 to rear of building (F-Block) on one side.	Pending	2 F Block Naval Hospital Hill
11536	David Duarte	Internal alterations.	Pending	4 Sea Lavenderr House Waterport Terraces
11537	Currency Centre	Alterations to shop front.	Pending	Eurotowers
11538	Mr B Murphy & others	Proposed minor works to terrace areas and proposed construction of a pool to unit 7.	Pending	Lord Napier Mews Rodger's Road
11539	Prime Suites	Proposed internal alterations to fit-out first floor as offices and second-third floor as residential.		Pending 218/220 Main Street
11540	Endless Limited	Proposed shop front and internal alterations.	Pending	321 Main Street

NO. 1405 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – CONVERSION INTO HOTEL OF 5, 7, 9 TOWN RANGE AND 29, 31, 33 GOVERNOR’S STREET

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to Parade Developments (001) for the proposed conversion into a hotel of 5, 7 and 9 Town Range and 29, 31 and 33 Governor’s Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Outline planning permission with conditions was granted by the Development and Planning Commission on the 3rd September 2010.

NO. 1406 OF 2010

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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1407 and 1408 of 2010.

NO. 1407 OF 2010

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 Nos. 1406 and 1408 of 2010.

NO. 1408 OF 2010

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

Schedule to Question No. 1408 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1406 of 2010

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since April 2010 was as follows:

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ millions)
April 2010	24	69	456	9.1
May 2010	24	75	561	9.1
June 2010	29	83	349	6.3

Answer to Question No. 1407 of 2010

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since April 2010 was as follows:

	<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ thousands)
April 2010	-	-	5	76.2
May 2010	-	-	1	7.3
June 2010	-	-	2	6.5

Answer to Question No. 1408 of 2010

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since April 2010 was as follows:

	Value of Computer (£ thousands)
April 2010	712
May 2010	799
June 2010	905

NO. 1409 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GTB – REVENUE RAISED BY CHARGING COACHES THAT USE COACH PARK**

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 by charging coaches that use the coach park?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The Coach Park revenue from 10th June to 19th September 2010 is as follows:

Month	Revenue Amount
10 th June to 30 th June	£4,200.00
July	£4,130.00
August	£4,050.00
1 st to 19 th September	£4,190.00

Now, for the sake of clarity and making sure that nobody gets the wrong end of the stick at a future meeting of the House, these figures are the book figures. In other words, when a coach comes in it has to pay £10 and that is recorded and that adds up to £4,200, right. But they can actually pay in euros and always making a profit and therefore the actual money that is deposited could alter by a few pence or a few pounds in the market. So instead of say, £4,200 in a particular month, it could be £4,287. But that would mean going through, reconciling of the books. But that is what is declared in terms of, in the books. But the actual money deposited includes the exchange rate gain.

NO. 1410 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – REPLACEMENT OF PORT OFFICE WINDOWS

What has been the cost of replacing the windows at the Port Office, which company was contracted to do the work, how many tenders were received and was the successful bidder the lowest tenderer?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The cost of repairing the windows at the Port Office was £32,165. There were two submissions and the works were awarded to Paul Lewis Ltd who submitted the lowest price.

NO. 1411 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VACANCY FOR BUNKERING SUPERINTENDENT

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the vacancy for Bunkering Superintendent which was advertised on 18th August 2010 with a closing date of 31st August 2010, how many were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

There have been seven applications. There were no Gibraltarian applicants but one is a resident of Gibraltar.

No applicant has been selected for the post as yet, as the selection process has not been finalised.

NO. 1412 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued, or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

No new bunkering licences have been issued and no applications for such licences have been made since the last Question Time in this House.

NO. 1413 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP CALLS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament on a monthly basis for:

- (a) Bunkering;
- (b) Cargo;
- (c) Repairs,

and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 1418 of 2010.

NO. 1414 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****NUMBER AND REVENUE RAISED FROM SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL / FUEL CARGO (NOT BUNKERING) IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS**

Can Government say how many ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers (not bunkering) have been carried out on a monthly basis, in the territorial waters of Gibraltar, since June 2010 inclusive and how much revenue has been raised as a result, also broken down by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers (not bunkering) that have been carried out on a monthly basis since June 2010 together with the revenue raised is as follows:

Year/Month 2010	STS Motherships	STS Commercial	STS
June	10	0	£10,000.00
July	7	3	£22,000.00
August	9	9	£55,000.00

NO. 1415 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING OPERATIONS ON THE EAST SIDE

Have any bunkering operations already occurred on the East Side (including supply of water or lube oils) before 1st September 2010, when did these operations take place and what consents were put in place to authorise them?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1416 and 1417 of 2010.

NO. 1416 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING OPERATIONS ON THE EAST SIDE

What is the timetable for opening up the East Side for bunkering operations and what provision is being made for pilotage, tugs and other services including bunker inspections?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 and 1417 of 2010.

NO. 1417 OF 2010**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 servicing of vessels on the East Side with water, crew changes, small quantities of lube oil and spares has been going on for many years. However, a trial was carried out for a fully fledged bunkering operation on the 27th July 2009. At the last Question Time, the House was informed about the controls put in place for this trial and the status of bunkering operations as on the East Side and therefore I would refer the hon Member to Question No. 124 of 2010.

It is the Government's intention that an Environmental Impact Assessment be carried out prior to any bunkering taking place on the East Side. The timetable for this assessment is as follows:

An environmental screening study and appropriate assessment is currently being undertaken and this is due to be completed by the end of October. This assessment informs the requirements for the Environmental Impact Assessment which will commence as soon as possible after that. A draft timetable indicates that this process may be completed by February 2011. It is only after the completion of the Assessment that the matter of mitigation and services can be fully considered.

The revenue collected from vessels using the East Side anchorage on a monthly basis, since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

MONTH	£
MAY	5,876.20
JUNE	22,394.15
JULY	30,628.36
AUGUST	30,413.85
SEPTEMBER (TO DATE)	33,977.77

I am not sure whether the figure for May is actually part of a month or not because it seems pretty low compared to the norm.

In September, up to the date of the formulation of this answer which was somewhere around the 21st September.

NO. 1418 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****ACCIDENTS IN BAY OF GIBRALTAR/TERRITORIAL WATERS REPORTED TO PORT AUTHORITY**

How many accidents have been reported to the Port of Gibraltar as occurring in the Bay of Gibraltar or the territorial waters of Gibraltar since May 2010, and what was the nature, date and effect of any such accidents, the name of the operator and of any vessels involved?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of ships that have called at Gibraltar for (a) bunkers, (b) cargo and (c) repairs since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Bunkers	607	595	604	600
Cargo	15	16	12	15
Repairs	12	10	13	10

Bunker fuel sold since the last Question Time in Parliament is as follows:

May	431,404 tonnes
June	428,933 tonnes

The number of accidents that have been reported to the Port of Gibraltar as occurring in the Bay of Gibraltar or the territorial waters of Gibraltar since May 2010 and their nature, date and effect is set out in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member and I also include an extract from the Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2006 where you have the definition of "accident" because obviously accident is a very wide word and everything that is included in that definition is included in the report that I have given the hon Member. So, for example, a ship may break down and have an engine failure, that is classified as an accident but strictly speaking it has not been an accident. It could have been an accident but it could have developed into an accident. But if we responded to it adequately, it does not actually become an accident per se. So I have given the hon Member the definition so that the hon Member can understand that everything that is listed there is based on that definition.

Schedule to Question No. 1418 of 2010.

Date	Incident/Vessel Name	Incident Details
5.8.10	Crackers	Yacht broke down 2.5 miles of Europa point. Port launch towed yacht into Gibraltar.
8.8.10	Wonderful	Yacht owner called VTS to inform the master was drunk and had to be locked in a cabin after threatening crew members with a knife. RGP went onboard upon arrival and arrested the master
9.8.10	See More Business	Yacht in trouble position 36° 11'N 005° 19 'W upon arrival of Port launch to location they found yacht being towed by Spanish trawler into Spanish fishing Port "Ayunara"
11.8.10	Dead Bodies	RGP assisted the GPA in retrieving two bodies from the sea (illegal immigrant).
15.8.10	Missing Diver	Pilot Breen informed GPA that there was a missing diver off Rosia Bay, Port launch attended and diver was found safe.
17.8.10	G1198	As port launch was conducting routine patrol they spotted G1198 in trouble (Engine) and towed them in.
22.8.10	Grand Venetico	As she was approaching pilot position vessel lost her starboard anchor.
27.8.10	Rescue	Port launch dispatched to assist a local boat off Catalan Bay.
31.7.10	Aegean XI/Vema XXIII	Report of near miss collision
28.7.10	Nisyros	DPO reported that vessel had M/E failure while departing from D/Mole
21.6.10	Small Boat	Port launch assisted and towed local boat in trouble G122 - taken to Coaling Island
20.6.10	Port Launch	Attended yacht in distress and towed her safely to Coaling Island
14.6.10	Bracken	Fouled anchor - recovered by Steelmac
9.6.10	Kalith	Experienced engine problems as she was coming in to Bay - Vessel instructed to anchor on east side until engines repaired – standby tug in attendance
7.6.10	Mont Carlo	Requested medical assistance for vessel's Master
20.5.10	Small Yacht	Port launch towed yacht to D/Mole with engine problems
19.5.10	BW Herdis	Loss of engine power - Pilot managed to anchor safely - tug placed on standby
15.5.10	Vemabaltic/Sea Rambler	STS operation - due to very high sulphur levels (over 500ppm) vessel instructed to proceed east away from BGTW to vent tanks safely - once levels acceptable at 20ppm vessel was allowed to carry out STS
12.5.10	YT Socrates	Reported man overboard off Punta Carnero - Port launch deployed to assist - man recovered with minor injuries - Yacht escorted to Queensway Quay Marine
1.5.10	Vanda	Suffered engine problems
1.5.10	Prince of Sound	Dragged anchor - Pilot re-anchored vessel
1.5.10	BBC New York	Problem with crew member - Port Launch/RGP attended - agent disembarked crew member
1.5.10	Irene SL	Anchor problems - instructed to proceed to East Side until she could repair anchor – tug on standby

Continued Question No. 1418 of 2010

Within the Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2006 an accident is defined as follows:

Meaning of “accident”.

3.(1) For the purpose of these Regulations and of section 91 of the Act, “accident” means any occurrence on board a ship or involving a ship whereby –

- (a) There is loss of life or major injury to any person on board, or any person is lost or falls overboard from the ship or one of its boats; or
- (b) The ship –
 - (i) Causes any loss of life, major injury or material damage,
 - (ii) Is lost or is presumed to be lost,
 - (iii) Is abandoned,
 - (iv) Is materially damaged by fire, explosion, weather or other cause,
 - (v) Grounds,
 - (vi) Is in collision,
 - (vii) Is disabled, or
 - (viii) Causes significant harm to the environment; or
- (c) Any of the following occur –
 - (i) A collapse or bursting of any pressure vessel, pipeline or valve,
 - (ii) A collapse or failure of any lifting equipment, access equipment, hatch-cover, staging or boatswain’s chair or any associated load-bearing parts,
 - (iii) A collapse of cargo, unintended movement of cargo or ballast sufficient to cause a list, or loss of cargo overboard,
 - (iv) A contact by a person with loose asbestos fibre except when full protective clothing is worn, or
 - (v) An escape of any harmful substance or agent, if the occurrence might have caused serious injury or damage to the health of any person.

NO. 1419 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW FLAME ACCIDENT REPORT

Are Government in a position to say whether and, if so, when it is going to adopt the recommendation in the report into the New Flame accident that there should be outbound pilotage in respect of vessels leaving our waters?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The New Flame report recommends that the Gibraltar Port Authority encourages Masters to engage the services of Pilots when outbound from the Western anchorage.

This process is currently being carried out and has been in operation shortly after the report was issued.

The management of departing vessels has been further enhanced by the introduction of the new VTS Traffic Organisation service which was introduced in June this year.

NO. 1420 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say whether the VTS system for the Port is now fully operational and if so as from what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The VTS system is operational, with radar, AIS and CCTV coverage. The installation of radar and met-station at the MOD Windmill Hill site is still not completed. The necessary infrastructure works are currently in process with this part of the system becoming operational later this year.

NO. 1421 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – DUTY FREE FACILITIES

Can Government say on what date they first considered or discussed, formally or informally, the possible abolition of duty free shopping at the new air terminal building?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 1422 of 2010.

NO. 1422 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – DUTY FREE FACILITIES

Can Government say on what date existing shop owners in the present air terminal were first consulted over their review of duty free shopping in the new air terminal?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

The Government cannot pinpoint a date when they first considered or discussed, formally or informally, the possible abolition of duty free shopping at the new air terminal building. However, the matter was raised during meetings with shop owners in the departure lounge in the present air terminal building on 8th, 9th and 17th February 2010.

NO. 1423 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SPONSORSHIP/SUBSIDY/MARKETING ASSISTANCE TO GIBRALTAR TRAVEL COMPANIES

What criteria does the Government apply when deciding whether or not to make payments to Gibraltar companies in the travel industry in respect of sponsorship or subsidy or marketing assistance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 1424 of 2010.

NO. 1424 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SPONSORSHIP/SUBSIDY/MARKETING ASSISTANCE TO GIBRALTAR TRAVEL COMPANIES

What payments of any nature (other than for payment of invoices for travel services provided to the Government) and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, in particular sums in respect of sponsorship or subsidy or marketing assistance, have been made by the Government to Gibraltar companies in the travel industry in the financial years since 2005/2006 giving a breakdown of the nature of the payment, the name of the company paid, the date the payment was made and the amounts paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government have never provided any sponsorship, subsidy or marketing assistance to the Gibraltar travel industry. In fact, Members might wish to know that when I received the question, I rang up Dr Garcia to enquire whether I was misreading the question or not because I really did not understand what the hon Member was trying to achieve. But to my knowledge, nobody has ever been sponsored or subsidised or given any marketing assistance.

NO. 1425 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – INCREASE IN COST OF PURCHASING ELECTRICITY FROM OESCO

Can Government explain why they are budgeting an increase in the cost of purchasing electricity from OESCO in the current financial year of £1.5 million?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

There was an increase in the budget for the cost of purchasing electricity from OESCO in the current financial year of approximately £1.5 million to cater for an expected increase of approximately £0.8 million in the cost of purchase due to fuel price increases and an expected increase of £0.7 million due to a higher number of units purchased as a consequence of an expected increase in the number of units sold.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1425 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the price at which they sell the units the same as the price that we pay for buying them or is there a margin of difference between the two?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think there is a margin of difference. What that margin is, I would not be able to tell you. But I am sure there must be a margin.

HON J J BOSSANO:

For the Government I mean?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Oh I see, for Government. Yes, there is but in some cases we have, obviously, a rate which we charge consumers in the different categories and yes there is a margin for us when we buy from OESCO and we produce ourselves. Sometimes actually the cost of

producing is higher than it is xxxxx that is why we sometimes have to subsidise the Gibraltar Electricity Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am trying to establish is since almost half the amount is increased volume ... The hon Member has told me £800,000 is fuel and £700,000 is increase, anticipated increase in sales. I am assuming that what they expect is that there will be a higher demand for electricity which they will not be able to meet from their own generating capacity and therefore they are buying it from OESCO. On the basis of that assumption, my supplementary is, will they make a profit of the electricity they buy from OESCO or do they break even or do they pay more than what the consumer is charged?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We would pay more than what the consumer is being charged. In most cases the electricity in general is subsidised by the Government, as you know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware of that.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

And therefore when we buy, it is part of the stock that we buy in. I am not sure whether we are at cross purposes here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that there is a deficit in the running of the Authority but that does not necessarily mean that there is a deficit in the generation of electricity. The accounts which we get provided with in this House do not quantify to what extent the revenue from the sale of electricity covers the cost of generation because the Authority has distribution and other things which would not be applicable in the case of ... If one buys x number of units of electricity from OESCO and you sell those same units, is it the position that for every unit you buy your loss is bigger or for every unit you buy your loss is smaller, depending on whether there is a margin in your favour or a deficit. That is what I am trying to find out given that the answer the hon Member has given to the original question is that half the extra budget is the purchase. So if one is spending £700,000 more on buying, are you going to get £700,000 by selling that or are you going to get more or less?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are going to get more.

HON J J BOSSANO:

You are going to get more. Yes.

NO. 1426 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – SHARE OF ELECTRICITY SOLD GENERATED BY AUTHORITY/OESCO/MOD

Can Government state the share of the electricity sold by the Authority provided by a) on production b) generated by OESCO and c) from MOD in the last financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

In the last financial year 2009/2010 the share of the electricity sold by the Authority was as follows:

(a) Internally Generated	44%
(b) Generated by OESCO	53%
(c) Generated by the MOD	3%

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1426 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the light of the previous answer, are the implications that the OESCO share will be higher this year then?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, that is correct.

NO. 1427 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon G H Licudi

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK – COMPLAINTS REGARDING ALARMS

How many complaints have been received by Gibraltar Car Parks Limited in respect of the operation of the alarms at the Willis's Road car park during the silent hours and what is the Government doing about these complaints?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORT**

Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd has received a number of calls in respect of the alarms at Willis's Road car park. However, the exact number is not known as Gibraltar Car Parks Limited does not keep a log of incoming calls.

However, the fire alarm system that was initially installed by the contractor was found to be inadequate and this was replaced in July 2010. Since then there has been no indication of any faults with the new system.

ORAL

NO. 1428 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE PROJECT – GRANTING OF PERMIT UNDER SECTION 17 OF TOWN PLANNING ACT

Can Government state on what date the permit under section 17 of the Town Planning Act was granted to the developer of the Eastside project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The permit was issued on 18th April 2008.

NO. 1429 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – COST OF WORKS DONE BY GJBS LTD IN SOUTH DISTRICT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES AND MID HARBOUR RENTAL ESTATE

What has been the cost of works done by GJBS Limited to remedy defects in the following projects which it took over from insolvent contractors in:

Waterport Terraces (including Albert Risso House);
Nelson's View;
Bayview Terraces;
Mid Harbour rental scheme,

giving a breakdown by project and per item?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

GJBS Limited took over the building of these projects before they had been completed when their respective contractors failed. The total final costs of completing these projects is not yet known, and the Government does not intend to provide partial information in the meantime.

The Government will make a statement of the final cost of these projects including, if the hon Member is interested in that aspect particularly, any costs that were incurred to redo or rectify any work that may already have been done including the additional costs that may have resulted from having to change contractors half way through a project which itself generates additional costs. We will provide the House with a full statement, broken down as much as possible, when they are complete and several of them are due to be completed very soon. So, perhaps, it may be possible to do that at the next Question Time in this House which will be before the end of the year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1429 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Will it be necessary to ask the question again or will the Chief Minister provide the information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it would help to prompt and remind me if the hon Member would ask the question. But I will certainly make sure that people start preparing for the need to have to answer it.

ORAL

NO. 1430 OF 2010

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 per cent share of co-ownership homes since the answer to Question No. 947 of 2010, giving a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes I can and I will and I now hand the hon Member a statement giving that information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1430

Sales of Government - Co Ownership share of Properties

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Brympton	Totals
Jun-10 Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Jul-10 Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£36,906.40	£61,151.40	£98,057.80
Aug-10 Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,272.01	£0.00	£0.00	£10,272.01
Totals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,272.01	£36,906.40	£61,151.40	£108,329.81

NO. 1431 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MID HARBOUR TENDERER

Can Government confirm that their original preferred tenderer to construct the Mid Harbour rental estate was Acciona?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I cannot confirm it because it is not the case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1431 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Which was the preferred option?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As far as I am aware and I think I am aware, Acciona was not a tenderer at all, let alone the preferred. They were not invited to tender. They did not tender of their own accord when the tender emerged under the EU procurement procedures. I just do not know what has put the thought of Acciona in the hon Member's mind. I cannot now recall whether Bruesa was the original preferred bidder or whether the original preferred bidder dropped out during the negotiation and then they went to Bruesa the second time. I am 95 per cent certain, from memory as I stand here, that Bruesa won the contest outright in their own right. But I cannot recall that unsighted. I cannot recall the details of that tender process from memory.

NO. 1432 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOINT DEVELOPING OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

With what construction company is the Government in discussion to jointly develop affordable housing?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government has received a proposal from a Gibraltar construction company to convert the old Police Barracks in Castle Road into affordable housing in joint venture with the Government. It would not be appropriate to identify the company unless and until a decision to proceed is made and if it were made, of course, the Government would put that information in the public domain. But that is the project to which the initiative relates.

ORAL

NO. 1433 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - DAMAGE TO SEWER

Can Government confirm that the construction of Cumberland Terraces resulted in one of the piles being driven into the ground going through a sewer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1434 of 2010.

NO. 1434 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON’S VIEW - WINDOWS

Can Government confirm whether the windows at the Nelson’s View development can be opened completely or whether their operation is somehow restricted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1433 of 2010

Yes, Mr Speaker, I can confirm that the penetration of a sewer was the unhappy result of a pile being driven into the ground during the early stages of the construction of Cumberland Terrace. This incident occurred in the autumn of 2006.

Answer to Question No. 1434 of 2010

As presently installed, the outward opening windows have a restrictor in place which limits very significantly the extent to which they can be opened. A replacement programme is underway to make windows inward opening for those property owners that wish to take up the offer, thus eliminating the need for the restrictors.

ORAL

NO. 1435 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES, NELSON’S VIEW -
REPLACEMENT DOORS**

Can Government say whether the contract for the replacement of front doors for Cumberland Terraces, Bayview and Nelson’s View went out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1436 to 1446 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1436 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government supply the technical specifications of the old front doors for Cumberland Terraces and those of the new replacement doors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 and 1437 to 1446 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1437 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government say what were the specifications it required for the replacement front doors at Cumberland Terraces and state how many different suppliers were able to supply these doors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435, 1436 and 1438 to 1446 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1438 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government say which company was chosen to supply the replacement front doors for Cumberland Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1437 and 1439 to 1446 of 2010.

NO. 1439 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government say how many suppliers were contacted and asked to provide samples of replacement front doors for Cumberland Terraces, how many provided samples, and how many of these were sourced in Spain and how many elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1438 and 1440 to 1446 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1440 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

On what date was the new replacement front door for Cumberland Terraces selected and on what date was the successful supplier informed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1439 and 1441 to 1446 of 2010.

NO. 1441 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES, NELSON’S VIEW -
REPLACEMENT DOORS**

Can Government confirm whether all bar one of the different samples of front doors that were examined for installation in Cumberland Terraces, Bayview and Nelson’s View failed the water test and can they explain why the supplier of the sample that passed the water test was not selected as the successful supplier of the actual new replacement doors for these developments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1440 and 1442 to 1446 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1442 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government say whether the replacement front doors which are being installed in Cumberland Terraces have passed the water test?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1441 and 1443 to 1446 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1443 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government state how many front doors have been replaced at Cumberland Terraces to date and how many remain to be replaced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1442 and 1444 to 1446 of 2010.

NO. 1444 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government say what was the cost, with a breakdown, of removing the old front doors from the flats at Cumberland Terraces and installing the new ones?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1435 to 1443, 1445 and 1446 of 2010.

NO. 1445 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, NELSON’S VIEW - REPLACEMENT DOORS

Can Government say whether any front doors at Bayview and Nelson’s View have had to be physically replaced or whether the new replacement front door has been installed from the outset?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos.1435 to 1444 and 1446 of 2010.

NO. 1446 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW - DOORS IN COMPLIANCE WITH BRITISH STANDARDS

What standard of intumescent strips are fitted to the doors at Cumberland Terraces, Bayview and Nelson's View and who certified the said doors as complying to British Standards?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Well Mr Speaker, here is a set of penetrating and interesting questions which might easily have come from the pen of a disgruntled unsuccessful tenderer or perhaps even from a politician with a history in working in a building supply firm or even a combination of the two, but still. The answer to the hon Member's questions are these:

The replacement doorsets are not being procured by the Government. Under the prime cost contractual arrangements, the contractor (in this case GJBS) is obliged to market test with no less than three different suppliers. In fact five were obtained.

The original building contract between OEM and Haymills was a design and build contract which provided the contractor with a performance guidance. It is not appropriate to publish these, which in any event were overtaken by Haymills' own specifications, before they failed, which in turn are now overtaken by the Government's own specifications.

The contractor, with Government approval, has selected a door that meets its specifications. All suppliers are able to provide a door that meet such specifications. It is not appropriate to name individual suppliers in this way, but it is a leading, that is the one that they have chosen, is a leading international supplier and brand of door. The doors were selected in late July and ordered shortly thereafter.

The selected door, and also the manner of its installation will of course ensure full weather and other applicable performance specifications.

It is meaningless to assess the water performance of doors until they are fully, finally and completely installed because, regardless of the characteristics of the door itself, water would penetrate the thresholds if it is not properly installed.

No doors have yet been replaced at Cumberland Terraces. Around 182 apartment front doors will be replaced if the flat owners so wish.

The cost of removal of existing doors, the new door itself and its installation is £456 per door set. Remember we are not just talking about the door itself but the frame and all the accoutrements and things that go with it.

The above also applies to Bayview and Nelson's View. The total cost for all three estates is £294,000 procured and installed.

The installed doors at Cumberland Terraces achieved the required fire rating, a fact which is implicit in the issue of a certificate of fitness by the appropriate Authority in the usual manner.

NO. 1447 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES AND NELSON’S VIEW COMPLETION

With reference to Bayview 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. 1448 to 1450 of 2010.

NO. 1448 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF 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 per cent financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1447, 1449 and 1450 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1449 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NUMBER OF FLATS SOLD AT CUMBERLAND TERRACES

Can Government confirm that all the flats at Cumberland Terraces have now been sold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1447, 1448 and 1450 of 2010.

NO. 1450 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – RESERVE LIST 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 lists for the purchase of a flat at each of Nelson's View, Cumberland Terraces and Bayview Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1447 of 2010

The current estimation of completion of Nelson's View and Bayview Terraces is the end of October 2010.

Answer to Question No. 1448 of 2010

I am happy to hand the hon Member a schedule setting out the information that he sought in Question No. 1448 of 2010.

Answer to Question No. 1449 of 2010

Not all of the flats at Cumberland Terraces have been sold.

Answer to Question No. 1450 of 2010

There are ten applicants on the reserve list for a property in any of these ex-OEM developments.

Answer to Question Nos. 1447 to 1450 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1448 of 2010

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

Development	Purchaser share					Purchaser share						Total
	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	78%	80%	85%	88%	100%	
Nelson's View	30	2	14	0	20	4	1	6	1	0	50	128
Bayview Terraces	7	1	10	2	21	2	0	2	0	0	38	83
Cumberland Terraces	55	3	27	1	30	3	0	5	1	1	35	161
Total	92	6	51	3	71	9	1	13	2	1	123	372

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1447 TO 1450 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

If I understood the Chief Minister correctly, in answer to Question No. 1449 of 2010, there are still ten flats not sold at Cumberland Terraces. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a question of understanding it. That is what I said, yes.

HON C A BRUZON:

Thank you. Does the company that handles these matters share with the Chief Minister the reasons for the fact that these ten flats have not been sold. Is it that people have had to pull out because they have been unable to procure mortgages?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know if that is the case of all ten. Indeed, it may be the case of some of the ones that have been sold but have not yet been completed. In other words, he has asked me how many are unsold. Unsold means unallocated. So it is unlikely that the scenario that he is highlighting in his supplementary actually applies to those ten, because these are ten that have no designated buyer. The thing that he is referring to, in other words, the difficulty that we have had with the fact that the banks may have reached their cap of exposure to a particular development and that therefore some of the buyers that had got designated flats to them and that are therefore not in these ten because they are "sold", is a problem which the Government is aware of in a handful of cases and are being dealt with sensitively and given appropriate amounts of time to see how they can be assisted in obtaining the finance that they need to complete. But that does not arise out of this figure.

NO. 1451 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NATIONAL DAY 2010

Can Government say whether they invited any UK MPs to Gibraltar for National Day 2010, how many were invited, how many attended and who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I assume he meant who were they if the answer to his first question were yes. We did invite, but given that he is asking me whether we have invited any, he cannot ask me how many and who were they. So, I am happy to say to him, as he knows, that the Government no longer invites politicians from outside Gibraltar to our National Day celebrations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1451 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister say since when this new policy has come into place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a policy. It is just a practice. The view is now taken that National Day is a civic celebration and therefore there is no need for doing that. In any case, as he well knows, the climate of UK MPs travelling abroad at the invitation and at the expense of others, is a matter that has been of some controversy in the United Kingdom of late and, certainly, the Government will not wish to have done anything that might have put our friends in an awkward position. As it is, he may not be aware, that at the time of the last election I had to write a letter to several local newspapers in the UK to protect the incumbent MP of all parties against allegations arising from their acceptance of Gibraltar hospitality to ensure that no one that had come to Gibraltar to support us was made to pay an electoral price by their opponents for doing that in the context of the expenses thing that arose. But I do not want the hon Member to think that that is the reason why they are not invited. It is another reason. But, certainly, we take that view and the view that we take is that the day when politicians in the UK demonstrate their support for Gibraltar in every aspect of Gibraltar's life is Gibraltar Day in London which is coming up now in the middle of October and which I am happy to say is hugely supported by Gibraltar's many friends and supporters in the British Parliament.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has not answered the question about the policy or the practices as he prefers to call it. When did it start? Is this year the first time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. This is not the first year. It has gone back several years. Certainly, I am just trying to remember whether it coincided with the first year in which it did not take place in Casemates or whether it started even before that. I just cannot remember whether on the last occasion that we were in Casemates there were MPs on the stage with us or not. He is nodding which suggests that he recalls that there were. Well, I am very happy to take him at his word on that because I do not recollect. I do not think we invited any formally in the context of the changed arrangements. Whether there were any in Gibraltar, I cannot say.

ORAL

NO. 1452 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE – TANGIER FERRY

What arrangements have been put in place for customs clearance for the Tangier ferry which now arrives daily?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1453 of 2010.

NO. 1453 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE – ALGECIRAS FERRY

What arrangements have been put in place for customs clearance for the Algeciras ferry which arrives several times a day?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Officers in the Outfield Unit of Customs are tasked with the clearing of the Tangier and Algeciras ferries. On Sundays, additional officers are deployed to accommodate the higher passenger volumes on those days.

NO. 1454 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Can Government state if there has been any progress in relation to the relocation of St Bernard’s School and is it still the Government’s intention to relocate the said school to the site of the old St Bernard’s Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It remains the Government’s intention to relocate St Bernard’s School, and Sacred Heart School at the site of the old St Bernard’s Hospital. The project remains at the design stage.

NO. 1455 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can Government state whether there has been any meeting with the staff or any representatives of the staff side in relation with the intention to create an agency to run cultural events?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As stated before, the Government do not consider it appropriate to comment publicly on those aspects of public sector reform issues that require discussion with the staff and unions, until those discussions end.

NO. 1456 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Have Government now taken a policy decision for the commemorative event in relation to the history of the performing arts in Gibraltar which would include the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains the same as set out in the answer given to this question when it was last asked.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1456 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does that mean that nothing at all has been organised for this commemorative event which the Government announced?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member can ask the same question in as many different ways as he pleases. The answer remains the same. The position remains the same as set out in the answer given to this question when it was last asked.

HON S E LINARES:

The last time I asked this question it was that nothing had been done. So nothing to date has been done. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He may be willing to stand up to repeat himself three times. I am not.

HON S E LINARES:

Well he has done so just now. Thank you.

NO. 1457 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Who conducted the “comprehensive structural survey” of the Theatre Royal referred to by the Government in answer to Question No. 422 of 1999, at what cost and what were the conclusions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1458 of 2010.

NO. 1458 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether it has awarded the tender for the demolition of the Theatre Royal and when will this be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I believe that the information requested in Question No. 1457 may have been given to this House before and may thus already be available to the hon Member. In any event, it has not been possible to locate and retrieve from files a copy of the survey report in the time available.

In answer to his other question, the demolition of the remains of the Theatre Royal will cost £241,354.25, and will make way, as I have said before in Question No. 928 of 2010, for a new urban square and green areas.

The contract was awarded to Wilkie Ltd and works commenced on site on the 14th April 2010.

The hon Member must by now be aware, unless he has asked this question without visiting the site, that the demolition is all but complete. The only works presently outstanding are the removal of some rubble and this is expected to take a further couple of weeks. The works as currently defined should therefore be completed during the first week in October 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1457 and 1458 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the comprehensive structural survey which the Chief Minister said he had not been given time to retrieve, is it possible xxxxx to give him more time to be able to retrieve and publish it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all, I am not the retriever of historical records from the Government's historical filing system. So I would certainly give him no undertaking or assurance to retrieve it. If the document can be retrieved by those junior civil servants who are paid by the tax payer to

do that sort of thing, I will be happy to answer the hon Member's question on the next occasion that he asks it. As to its publication, the answer is that the Government see no value whatsoever in publishing a document or even indeed spending time in the House discussing something which is now many years old. If the hon Member wishes to debate in this House the prudence or otherwise, the need or otherwise, the good sense or otherwise of the Government's decision to demolish the Theatre Royal, I will be very happy to participate with the hon Member in a debate if he wants to take the trouble to bring a motion in this House on this subject.

HON S E LINARES:

This is Question Time and therefore I do not think a motion is necessary. What I have asked the Chief Minister for is the information on the comprehensive structural survey and therefore by putting the question now ... I could put the question twenty times and the hon Member will still be able to come back to this House and tell me that he has not had time in a week, which is the time that I posed the question and the time that the hon Member answers the question and therefore there is a week. I am putting the question now and if the hon Member says that he cannot retrieve it and that he has not had time now, the same answer is going to come back to me when I put the question next time that the hon Member only had one week. So, it would be prudent and responsible of the Chief Minister who says that he can get his juniors to retrieve it, I would appreciate then that he does get his juniors. He does get all these people to try and retrieve it and if the hon Member does not want to publish it because he feels that it is not of public interest, could we in the Opposition have a copy because it is in my interest to have a copy of that report.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, fortunately for Gibraltar, the Government do not take a steer from that side of the House as to what is prudent or responsible and this issue is not an exception. When the Civil Service tells me that they have been able to retrieve a copy of the file, it will be ... the question is based on the information then it will be answered. If at the time that he asks them the Civil Service has managed to retrieve the information source and as for the publication I have already answered his question. He is not entitled to see Government documents simply because they are of interest to him. He has a material misunderstanding of the rights that being a member of the House give him.

HON S E LINARES:

The answer is just incredible. Be that as it may, it is subjective whether it is in the public interest. It is not he who decides what is in the public interest. He might decide what he feels might be in his public interest. But on this side of the House, we believe that it is in the public interest to know why this Government have gone spending £6 million in the Theatre Royal when at the beginning it seemed as if it was a good idea and he had a structural survey done of which he must have got some information from, in order to do the big, wonderful, grand theatre that he was going to do, the vision thing, and now he has got the audacity to come here and say to us that it is not in the public interest about this construction structural survey. So, it is subjective and the people of Gibraltar would like to know why this Government have thrown into a hole £6 million and that is why I am posing the question here and now because it is in the public interest. It has been money thrown down the drain and we want to know from the very beginning and it goes back to 1999, why all this fiasco has happened and it is legitimate for this side of the House to ask these sort of questions and be answered and if he feels that it is not in the public interest, we do

believe it is in the public interest and if he does not want to publish it, give it to us and we will publish it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is almost impossible to debate with the hon Member because I think thoughts just enter his mind as he is on his feet and he attributes to the previous speaker things that the other speaker has not said or to listen to himself utter whatever he wants to utter. Far from being interested in hiding from an explanation of what he regards as a monumental waste of public funds. We could have long debates in this House about monumental waste of public funds mind you. But anyway, sticking just to this particular alleged source of a monumental waste of public funds, very far from having any instinct or inclination or feeling any need to hide behind any proverbial bushes on this subject, I have offered to debate it with him in excruciating detail in a motion and I will go further. If he thought that this matter has the importance that he now says he believes it to have, why has he not exercised his parliamentary right to bring a motion which is the usual way that Opposition members have to signify importance and I will tell him now. If he does not bring a motion in this House to debate the fate of the Theatre Royal soon, I will bring a motion in this House about the Theatre Royal soon to force him out of his comfort zone on the matter and to debate it with me. So he can decide whether he wants to be the mover of the motion or whether he wants me to be the mover of the motion. You see, he invents things for his own purpose. When have I said that I do not think it is in the public interest to publish the report? I have told him that he is not entitled to see the report. Opposition members of Parliament are not entitled to see every document that the Government have and that the Government collates and that the Government have on its files. That is a material misunderstanding of the rights that being on the Opposition benches of this Parliament give him. So, he does not have a right to every document in the Government's possession even if it relates to a matter that is or may be in the public interest and that is his misconception. Even if it is in the public interest to debate whether the Government has recklessly wasted public money, the proper course for him is to bring a motion of censure even, against the Government. But it does not entitle him to all the information that the Government have. Now, he repeats again, and I am not going to explain it to him a third time. The Government have not declined to give him the information that he sought in Question No. 1457 of 2010 about the cost and its conclusions. It is just that the Civil Service have not been able to retrieve the document to provide me with the information to give him. He can continue to distort that candid disclosure that I give to him and suggest that I have not had time to find it and suggest that this is just some sort of smokescreen because it contains some dreadfully, prejudicial thing that I am anxious to suppress. He can if he wishes continue to abuse the information that I candidly give him to that end. It is not true. There has been an administrative lack of possibility to retrieve this document. In short hand, they have not found it since he asked this question to this date and, therefore, I am not in a position to give him the answer which is not to say that I would agree to publish it, but certainly I would have agreed to give him the information that he requests in the question. It has not been possible. Now, he can believe that or he can think, in contrast, that I am on my feet lying to this House for whatever reason and motive he wants to attribute to me.

NO. 1459 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO MOD

Are Government currently providing any medical services to the MOD through the GHA and, if not, does it expect to be providing any in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

From time to time in emergency situations the GHA has been on standby to provide or has indeed provided medical services to the Ministry of Defence in circumstances such as the refurbishment of their facility, equipment failure, illness or absence of medical staff or even planned equipment maintenance.

The Government and the MOD are currently in discussion regarding the possible provision of certain medical services to the MOD by the GHA on a systematic basis.

ORAL

NO. 1460 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

TENDER FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT BY GIBRALTAR LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY LIMITED AND LAND PROJECT CONSULTANTS LIMITED

On what day were the services being provided to the Government by Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Project Consultants Limited put out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1461 of 2010.

NO. 1461 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

**GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – SALARY/FEE PAID TO
GIBRALTAR LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY LIMITED AND LAND PROJECTS
CONSULTANTS LIMITED**

What further amounts in respect of salary or fee have, since the date of the last answer in this House to date, has been paid to date, by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited on the basis:

- (a) of the “on account formula”; and
- (b) of that part of the composite fee which comprises 20 per cent of the costs of the services to be provided by all project design consultants and the 1 per cent of the agreed project value, referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited in respect of any of the following contracts individually:
 - (i) Mid Harbour Phase I;
 - (ii) Mid Harbour Phase II;
 - (iii) GoG Relocations;
 - (iv) Terminal Building;
 - (v) New Road;
 - (vi) MoD Relocations;
 - (vii) Infrastructure;
 - (viii) GoG Housing
 - (ix) Power Station;
 - (x) Car Parks;
 - (xi) Simple Approach Lighting Systems;
 - (xii) Sewage Treatment;
 - (xiii) Energy to Waste; and
 - (xiv) Revetment repairs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1460 of 2010

Save as may be required by EU legislation, it is not the Government’s practice to put the procurement of professional services out to tender – this includes the services of lawyers, accountants, architects, project managers and other such like.

Answer to Question No. 1461 of 2010

I now hand the hon Member, on behalf of Mr Picardo who is absent, a schedule of the information that he has asked on Mr Picardo's behalf.

Answer to Question No. 1461 of 2010

Payments made by Gibraltar Investments (Holdings) Limited on the basis of the 'on account' and 'composite' formulae since June 2010:

	Composite Formula Payments £	On Account Formula payments £	Total £
(i) Mid Harbour Phase I	3,764	0	3,764
(ii) Mid Harbour Phase II	3,764	0	3,764
(iii) GoG Relocations	22,193	20,000	42,193
(iv) Terminal Building	75,147	100,000	175,147
(v) New road	62,158	80,000	142,158
(vi) MoD Relocations	53,672	20,000	73,672
(vii) Infrastructure	30,280	40,000	70,280
(viii) GoG Housing	46,760	60,000	106,760
(ix) Power Station	45,858	60,000	105,858
(x) Car Parks	27,401	20,000	47,401
(xi) Simple Approach Lighting System	0	0	0
(xii) Sewage Treatment	0	0	0
(xiii) Energy to Waste	0	0	0
(xiv) Revetement repairs	400	0	400
Total	<u>£371,397</u>	<u>£400,000</u>	<u>£771,397</u>

ORAL

NO. 1462 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government provide a list of the consultants referred to in respect of the four areas of work referred to in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010, providing the names of any ultimate beneficial owners of such consultant who may be a corporate body?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1463 to 1466 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1463 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the consultants costs totalling £3,936,822 referred to in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1462 and 1464 to 1466 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1464 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the consultants costs totalling £539,652 referred to in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1462, 1463, 1465 to 1466 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1465 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the consultants costs totalling £3,138,908 referred to in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1462 to 1464 and 1466 of 2010.

NO. 1466 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the consultants costs totalling £1,477,101 referred to in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The shareholders of such of these consultants as are corporate entities are available on public registers. Government deal with corporate entities and their directors and employees and not with their shareholders.

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the list of consultants referred to in respect of the four areas of work, in turn referred to, in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1466

Answer to Question 1462

Consultant(s) per project

Airport & Frontier Access Road

Jardine Lloyd Thompson Limited
NACO
Gifford
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd
J. J. De La Paz Consulting Engineers Ltd
Environmental Gain
Capita Lovejoy
Apex Mapping Ltd
Wildlife Gibraltar Ltd
GLRC

Devil's Tower Road

Gifford
WSRM Architects
JB Engineering Consultants
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd
Entec Ltd
GLRC

MOD Relocations (British Lines)

Gifford
J. J. De La Paz Consulting Engineers Ltd
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd
ME Belilo & Partners
Lovelock Mitchell
E&M Consultants
GLRC

Airport Terminal

3D Reid
NACO
Jardine Lloyd Thompson Limited
Environmental Gain
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd
Capita Lovejoy
Speirs and Major Associates
Bblur Architecture
Buro Happold
TPS Consult Ltd
J. J. De La Paz Consulting Engineers Ltd
Montagu Pavilion Ltd
AMA Services Ltd
Gifford
Lovelock Mitchell
Ian Miles
GLRC

CONFIDENTIAL ANSWER TO QUESTION 1460

Answer to Question 1463

Airport & Frontier Access Road

Jardine Lloyd Thompson Limited	-
NACO	213,437
Gifford	2,032,064
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd	231,133
J. J. De La Paz Consulting Engineers Ltd	195,458
Environmental Gain	118,112
Capita Lovejoy	28,500
Apex Mapping Ltd	8,450
Wildlife Gibraltar Ltd	1,750
Sergeyco	277,913
Corbett & Co	41,212
Triay Stagnetto Neish	42,206
Greenarc	1,452
Servitopo	339
GLRC	532,796
LPC	212,000

£ 3,936,822

30/09/2010

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1466

Answer to Question 1464

Devil's Tower Road

Gifford	268,004
JB Engineering Consultants	76,340
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd	36,386
Aquagib	60,972
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	23,974
Sergeyco	20,976
LPC	53,000
	<hr/> <hr/>
	£539,652

30/09/2010

COVID ANSWER TO QUESTION 1460

Answer to Question 1465

Airport Terminal

3D Reid	
NACO	1,180,455
Jardine Lloyd Thompson Limited	37,500
Environmental Gain	149,268
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd	244,111
Capita Lovejoy	35,003
Speirs and Major Associates	48,950
Bblur Architecture	21,169
Buro Happold	299,252
TPS Consult Ltd	15,800
J. J. De La Paz Consulting Engineers Ltd	83,729
AMA Services Ltd	25,920
Gifford	29,350
Lovelock Mitchell	80,750
Ian Miles	3,010
Callaghan Insurance	12,500
PB Power	54,042
Met Office	4,600
OBRIST Interior	12,000
GLRC	546,499
LPC	255,000

£ 3,138,908

30/09/2010

CONFIDENTIAL ANSWER TO QUESTION 1466

Answer to Question 1466

MOD Relocations (British Lines)

Gifford	453,090
J. J. De La Paz Consulting Engineers Ltd	20,438
Daniel Barton Surveyors Ltd	
ME Belilo & Partners	63,405
Lovelock Mitchell	476,548
E&M Consultants	293,481
Apex Mapping	1,575
Sound Research Laboratories	3,475
GLRC	99,089
LPC	66,000

£ 1,477,101

30/09/2010

NO. 1467 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

SEWAGE IN WATERS OFF WESTERN BEACH

What action did Government take or what representations were made by Government after the reports in May that a storm drain was to be diverted in La Linea and which could result in sewage being deposited at Western Beach?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not clear why the hon Member is asking this question. He has already said publicly that what the Government have done is to quote him, well not quote him, to quote Mr Picardo, "too little too late". This indicates that he must already know what the Government have done, unless of course, for political opportunistic reasons, he issued his press release without knowing what the Government have done, whether it was too little or too late and now asks to find out.

The Environmental Agency has monitored and continues to monitor the condition of the waters throughout this period and has issued advice and assurances about public health to the public, as is its statutory function. At no time has the water quality been found to be non-compliant with the EU Bathing Waters Directive.

The Government have also taken steps and sought advice in Spain to establish the exact nature of the works and if they involved sewage. The Government have also raised the matter with the Junta de Andalucia, who have competence in Spain on such matters.

Other possible sources of the sewage also remain under investigation and I should add, Mr Speaker, that the Government of Gibraltar does not have power to stop Spain building things on its territory and into its territorial waters just as they do not have power to stop us or to require us to do the same thing. If however, it transpires that what the Spanish are doing is in breach of any EU environmental or other Directives, then the recourse open to the Government of Gibraltar is to pursue the matter with the European Commission through the Courts. In no circumstances, does the Government have and it seems odd that anybody in this House should make public statements pretending or suggesting otherwise, that we somehow have the means to physically impede or prevent it from happening in the first place or to somehow protect the bathers of Western Beach as if we could just send our army in, supported by our air force, to stop the Spanish building underground pipes in their own territory. But the hon Member can rest assured that if it is found to be the source in Spain, for example, preliminary reports available to the Government suggest that although this pipe is a storm water drain, that it may be that there are sewers unlawfully in Spain connected into the storm water drain or that, not

unlike us in Gibraltar until it has been gradually remedied, the storm water drain serves as a last resort overflow for the sewage system thereby making it possible in certain weather and tidal conditions for the sewer to contaminate a storm water drain. But there are EU rules about that. There are EU rules about areas of primary, secondary and tertiary dispersion by currents and things and if those rules turn out to have been breached, then the hon Member can rest assured that the Government will not allow any area of Gibraltar's territorial waters to be permanently polluted by our neighbour Spain in violation of EU environmental obligations without trying to hold them to account through the mechanism available which are the European Courts and the complaints mechanism to the European Commission.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the implication of the answer is that the Government are monitoring that to establish whether it is indeed happening or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government's technical people are inching towards a conclusion as to whether it is the Spanish source or perhaps some source not in Spain. I believe it will probably transpire, but I cannot say it to this House with certainty, that it probably is the Spanish source. At that point, our first course of action will be trying to resolve the matter politically through our contacts with the Junta de Andalucia with whom we have already raised this issue because they have competence for drains and sewers in the whole of Andalucia. If it turns out to be the Spanish source and we are unable to resolve it amicably through the Junta de Andalucia, then we will have no option but to pursue the formal EU complaint route because I would share the sentiment that I am sure is held by the other side of the House, that it would not be acceptable for one of our beaches or any part of our territorial waters to be polluted in this unilateral way.

NO. 1468 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

ENGINEER LANE CAR PARK – REMOVAL OF TREES

What provision has been made for the trees in the centre of the existing Engineer Lane car park to remain in the development of a new multi-storey car park in that area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The development of the car park cannot proceed with all the trees remaining in-situ. However, those that have to be removed will be done with their root bowls for them to be re-planted elsewhere.

NO. 1469 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, TRADING ENTITIES OWING PAYE

Further to the answers to Question Nos. 1041 to 1044 of 2010, can Government now state how many companies, partnerships or other trading entities or traders owed the Government a cumulative amount of more than £50,000 in PAYE in each financial year since 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1470 of 2010.

NO. 1470 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, TRADING ENTITIES OWING SOCIAL INSURANCE

Further to the answers to Question Nos. 1041 to 1044 of 2010, can Government now state how many companies, partnerships or other trading entities or traders owed the Government more than £50,000 in Social Insurance in each financial year since 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The statistical data requested by the hon Member is only available for the financial year 2009/2010, since I am advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that prior to this date their data was not available in the requested format.

There were, however, 35 employers that owed the Government more than £50,000 in PAYE Tax for the financial year 2009/2010, and 14 employers that owed Government more than £50,000 in Social Insurance for that same financial year 2009/2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1469 AND 1470 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not 100 per cent sure that I have understood the nature of the answer. Is the hon Member saying that they do not know how many people owe that amount of money or whether any owe that amount of money? Surely, if they have to collect the money they must know whether it is old or not for 2007/2008.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am told that until March 2010 the Income Tax Office's IT system did not have the capability of extracting and storing arrears related data in respect of both PAYE and Social Insurance at any designated time and the question relates to particular dates. Prior to that date, the data extracted merely represented a snapshot at a particular point in time and it cannot be duplicated presently, given the continually changing nature of the data concerned. So, the computers have now been programmed to produce this information in respect of previous years. I suppose it is there in the files but it would need to be manually extracted by a review of the files. It is just the amount of effort that would be required.

NO. 1471 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

AIR CONDITIONING UNITS INSTALLED IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government say how many air conditioning units were purchased in the months of June, July and August 2010, when were the air conditioning units in question ordered, who within the Government placed the order and where have they been installed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am becoming quite an expert on doors, windows and air conditioning units. The hon Members are going to make me a veritable expert on all of these matters. Seven air conditioning units were ordered between June and July and installed at No. 6 Convent Place to replace existing ones which had either broken down or were no longer functioning efficiently and effectively because they were too old and were thought to be beyond a state of economic repair. As far as the records available show, no other air conditioning units were purchased and charged to the Improvement and Development Fund – Subhead 2(a) Government Buildings, Furniture and Equipment during the months of June, July and August.

The order for four of the air conditioning units were placed by the Officer in charge of Furniture and Equipment at No. 6 after having obtained financial approval from the Financial Secretary. The other three were ordered by the contractor who fitted them.

Three of the units were installed in my office where they now keep me terribly cool and comfortable in summer and terribly warm and comfortable in winter and I can tell the hon Gentlemen that they are excellent machines and I am very pleased to have the use of them, hopefully for many years to come. The others were fitted elsewhere in No. 6 to make sure that at least some of my work colleagues in the building share a level of comfort not too dissimilar to my own.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1471 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

That is to say, is the hon Member going to put it in all the Ministers offices now. So that they are cool as well?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think Ministers have enjoyed, at least those that are judged to deserve it, have enjoyed this degree of comfort for some time, as indeed the Chief Minister of the previous administration because the machines we had ... because you see we have been in office for so long now that the machines that were installed when the Hon Leader of the Opposition was then the Chief Minister, have become old now. It is almost sixteen years now. Well, these machines are not designed to last for quite so long and therefore it has been necessary to re-equip No. 6 Convent Place despite the fact that the incumbent is still in occupation of it.

ORAL

NO. 1472 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

BANKING LICENCES

Have any applications for banking licences been refused in the past two years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1473 to 1476 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1473 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

BANKING LICENCES

How many applications for banking licences have been withdrawn since the last question to this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1472 and 1474 to 1476 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1474 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

BANKING LICENCES

How many new banking licences have been issued in the months since the last question in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1472, 1473, 1475 and 1476 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1475 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Have the Government, since the last answer in this House, 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. 1472 to 1474 and 1476 of 2010.

NO. 1476 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Have the Government, since the last question in this House, 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

Answer to Question No. 1472, 1473 and 1474 of 2010

No applications for banking licences have been refused in the past two years and none withdrawn nor any new licences issued since the last answer in this House.

Answer to question No. 1475 of 2010

The Government have not made any decision in exercise of its powers under section 23 (3) (i), (j) or (3A) of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, since the last answer in this House.

Answer to Question No. 1476 of 2010

The Government have not refused consent for any application made under section 74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, since the last answer in this House.

NO. 1477 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT

What conclusion, if any, has been reached in respect of the “technical issues under consideration” which the Hon Chief Minister referred to in his answer to Question No. 1035 of 2010 about “whether a waste-to-energy plant in Gibraltar is capable of complying with EU rules on the matter about waste recycling”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No conclusion has, as yet, been reached.

NO. 1478 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

On behalf of the Hon F R Picardo

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTER'S – USAGE OF VIP LOUNGE AT HEATHROW AND GATWICK AIRPORTS

What has been the total cost to Government, giving a breakdown by trip, of each occasion on which the VIP lounge at Heathrow and Gatwick have been used since the last question in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The VIP lounge was used by me the day before yesterday on the 29th September 2010 at Heathrow for which the invoice has not yet been received but I believe the cost is similar to past occasions at Heathrow Airport.

NO. 1479 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW CAR PARK AT CATALAN BAY

Can Government state whether the new car park at Catalan Bay is expected to be operational before the start of the bathing season next year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Catalan Bay will have a car park next year for the bathing season.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1479 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer does not provide an answer to the question as posed. The question as posed relates to a new car park and that, obviously, relates to a new car park which is envisaged as set out in the Government's Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan which talks of Catalan Bay Beach car park. Now, given that in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan that car park is not stated to be either in progress or completed, the hon Member must have realised, if he had read the question properly, that I was not referring to the existing car park but the new car park which the Government itself has said that it will build. Can Government say whether that new car park will now be ready before the start of the bathing season next year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government will not say one way or the other whether it will be ready because as the hon Member knows the Government does not give him progress reports in relation to the implementation of its traffic plan, as he will discover in answer to another question that he will ask me shortly. Nor should he assume that the new car park referred to at Catalan Bay is a structure which takes a long time to build. So, therefore, nor should he look at his calendar and come to the conclusion that whatever new car park the Government have in mind for Catalan Bay cannot be built just in time for polling day at the next elections.

HON G H LICUDI:

This has nothing to do with polling day. This might be an obsession which the hon Member has in his mind. But we are here to hold the Government to account in respect of

announcements that it has made. The question that has been posed is very specific to Catalan Bay and differs from the questions that the hon Member has referred to and which I will be asking, which is about all the other matters which are related to traffic in the integrated traffic plan which I am asking whether they have now been embarked upon. The reason for this question is that the Government have recently announced that works are underway, as I understand it already, in respect of projects at Eastern Beach which include, and the Government have said, a new car park at Eastern Beach as announced in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan. Now, given that the Government have earmarked that particular project as being worthy of commencement and being ready before the start of the bathing season, we are certainly very interested and the public will be interested. Not interested for ourselves but because the public will want to know, before the hon Member latches on to that once again this morning, because the public will want to know if there is going to be a new car park available at Eastern Beach before the start of the new bathing season. Whatever the form or structure of the new car park which the Government envisages in Catalan Bay, why is it the case that the Government are not able to commit in the same way to those beachgoers as it has committed to the beachgoers at Eastern Beach?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I have told the hon Member many times before and I will tell him on each occasion that he raises the same question, when the Government are ready to and wish to announce that it is embarking upon its excellent range of products and projects in compliance with its integrated, equally excellent, integrated traffic and parking plan, it will do so and we will not anticipate that timetable simply because the hon Member chooses to ask a question about what is a Government policy. It is for the Government to choose the moment that it wishes to announce its policies. This is not public affairs or the business of Government which is an accountability and transparency matter. The Government have a range of policies which are its political initiatives. When it is ready to do it is a matter of its choice and when it wishes to announce it is a matter of its choice and we will not allow the hon Member to drive that announcements agenda by simply asking questions of this nature.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member may or may not allow me to do whatever he may wish. As far as the Government's policy is concerned, although the Government are free to choose when it makes announcements, the Opposition are also free to ask. Not only free, but has an obligation in exercise of our public duty to hold the Government to account and to seek to enquire information about matters which have already been made public by the Government. What we are interested to know today is, given that the Government are refusing to make any announcements in respect of Catalan Bay, why are the Government adopting a discriminatory approach in respect of different beachgoers. Between those beachgoers which are going to benefit from those facilities in Eastern Beach but not those in Catalan Bay. Why are the Government discriminating in this way against our people?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member means as opposed to his people in Eastern Beach? Well, the Opposition are, of course, free to ask this question and I am free to give him the answer that I have given. So, we have both exercised our freedoms and I have nothing to add to the answer that I have given.

ORAL

No. 1480 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TUNNEL UNDER RUNWAY

Can Government confirm which was the company that was awarded the tender for the tunnel under the runway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1481 to 1483 of 2010.

ORAL

No. 1481 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TUNNEL UNDER RUNWAY

Can Government state whether the company that was awarded the tender for the tunnel under the runway has subcontracted the works and, if so, can Government identify the subcontractor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1480, 1482 and 1483 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1482 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TUNNEL UNDER RUNWAY

What will be the dimensions of the tunnel under the runway and what will be the largest vehicles which will be able to use the tunnel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1480, 1481 and 1483 of 2010.

NO. 1483 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TUNNEL UNDER RUNWAY

Can Government state what the final anticipated cost of the works for the airport tunnel will be, including the cost of any removal of contaminates in the soil being extracted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1480 of 2010

Under the tender process the contract was awarded to Obrascon Huarte Lain S.A. commonly known as OHL.

Answer to Question No. 1481 of 2010

As is not unusual, OHL as the main contractor has sub-contracted a number of works packages, supplies and services. Given that the contract is ongoing and that these are in any event contractual arrangements of OHL and not of the Government, it is not appropriate for the Government to publish this information.

Answer to Question No. 1482 of 2010

Tunnel dimensions are as follows:

The Pedestrian Subway Tunnel is 8 metres wide with a clear headroom of 2.7 metres.

The Road Tunnel has a total width of 22.3 metres and a clear headroom of 5.3 metres. The tunnel comprises two bores each 9.3 metres wide, and each bore containing a 7.3 metres dual carriageway with 1 metre verges on either side.

The tunnel has been designed to UK standards, including tunnel dimensions and will thus accommodate all vehicles able to circulate in European motorways, which includes all traffic that circulates in any part of Gibraltar, contrary to the speculative nonsense published in a weekly newspaper that I suspect not many people in Gibraltar bother to read.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1480 TO 1483 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that the hon Member has confirmed that the tunnel will take all vehicles, can the hon Member state whether it is envisaged that all vehicles travelling from that side to the rest of Gibraltar or vice versa will be directed through the tunnel rather than through any other routes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I have already expressed Government's position to the extent that we are willing to express it at this stage. Indeed, to the extent that it is willing to be ... or rather possible to be definitive at this stage. The traffic will go through the tunnel. There will be no general circulating traffic going across the runway and no exception will be made for route buses or for taxis or for anything of the sort. That is absolutely out of the question. However, the road across the runway albeit fenced off will always be retained and serviced for use as an alternative standby vehicular entrance into Gibraltar for the event that there may be an accident or any sort of incident inside the tunnel which prevents it from being used. So, that is as much as we are able to say at this time about how those arrangements will operate. But if there are any particular vehicular road users who are contemplating making a case for exemption and to be allowed to cross the runway at that point, the Government will not contemplate such a proposal.

HON G H LICUDI:

I assume, although the hon Member has not mentioned it specifically, that the traffic which will use the tunnel will not just be the bus operators but also all commercial vehicles, all trucks and vehicles from Spain, all vehicles. In respect of the pedestrian side of the tunnel, does the Government anticipate that all pedestrians that have to make their way towards the airport or towards Spain will be required to go along Devil's Tower Road, Eastern Beach Road or the parallel road to Eastern Beach and through the tunnel rather than the way they currently go now which is across the runway?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government cannot confirm that and does not confirm that. The hon Member is asking me to confirm now whether the case is that all pedestrians will have to go through the tunnel and I cannot confirm that now. The Government are working on a proposal that may give pedestrians an alternative route.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that the only alternative route is across the runway, can we take it from that that ... Is it the case that the Government have not taken a final decision, are still working on that, or that a decision is being worked on in terms of logistics and operational requirements which will allow pedestrians to use the route which is currently available which will mean the same issues which arise at the moment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the scheme is currently being worked on and the Government are very hopeful that it will be deployable. But I can tell him that no one will be allowed to walk across the runway.

HON G H LICUDI:

One of the questions that I asked Question No. 1483 of 2010, related to the final anticipated costs.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I beg your pardon. I was going to read that out.

Answer to Question No. 1483 of 2010

The final costs for the tunnel works, including the ramps at both ends, that is to say, to descend into and ascend from the tunnel under the terms of the contract is currently estimated at £34,287,089.

This does not include any additional claims to which the contractor may become entitled under the contract, since these cannot be estimated or assessed at this stage.

The contamination removal cost element included in that figure is the actual figure incurred to date since the estimated cost of completion of the contaminated soil removal depends on the quantity of contaminated soil conditions and the extent of contamination encountered as works progress, and thus cannot now be estimated.

NO. 1484 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government state what further amounts have been paid since the answer to Question No. 953 of 2010 in respect of works for the new airport and frontier access road, Devil's Tower Road, airport terminal and related facilities and MOD relocations, giving a breakdown between building contractors, consultants' fees and architects' fees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1485 of 2010.

NO. 1485 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

COST OF AIRPORT AND FRONTIER ACCESS ROADS

Can Government state, in respect of the costs paid for the airport and frontier access road as at May 2010, why the costs paid to consultants exceeded the costs paid to the building contractor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1485 of 2010

Yes. To answer the latter question first. The consultants' costs relate to a number of pre-contract design and investigations, surveys and studies that needed to be done as part of the pre-contract stage and before the construction can begin and were therefore paid at that time.

Answer to Question No. 1484 of 2010

The information that he seeks in Question No. 1484 of 2010 is set out in this schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question No. 1485 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1484 of 2010

	<u>Paid to Date</u>
	(£)
1) Airport Access Road	
Building Contractor	4,234,717
Consultants Costs	<u>4,688,209</u>
	<u>8,922,926</u>
2) Devil's Tower Road	
Building Contractor	2,946,190
Consultants Costs	523,873 *
Architect Fees – Landscaping	<u>82,435</u>
	<u>3,552,498</u>
3) Airport Terminal	
Building Contractor	20,295,083
Consultants Costs	3,311,419
Architect Fees	<u>2,957,248</u>
	<u>26,563,750</u>
4) MOD Relocations (British Lines)	
Building Contractor	18,601,005
Consultants Costs	1,610,768
Architect Fees	<u>1,430,812</u>
	<u>21,642,585</u>
Grand Total	£ <u>60,681,758</u>

* From the figure provided in May, the amounts of £60,972 and £23,974, which are payments made to Aquagib & GEA respectively, were reclassified as services providers and not consultants. The revised May figure is £454,706, and the updated figure is £523,873.

NO. 1486 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK

Can Government give details of the operation of the car park at Devil's Tower Road which is due to open imminently? I understand that the car park has opened today which I did not know when I posed the question.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. Nor do I want the hon Member to think that there is any manipulation of timings. It just so happens that the car park was handed over by the contractor to the Government and the Government did not just want to sit on it closed just to give the information in this House and in any case allowed its use on the occasion of a recent well attended funeral in St Theresa's.

So, the Devil's Tower Road car park will have spaces for short-term use, spaces for monthly rental, and spaces which, together with others in the area, will be free for residents of the adjoining areas to compensate for the loss of free street parking as a result of the dualling of Devil's Tower Road and I think the hon Member is right that some of the details about these different configurations are contained in a Government press release.

ORAL

NO. 1487 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ROSIA TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state whether it has now concluded the viability study for the new road linking the Rosia area to Queensway via the Dockyard?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1488 and 1489 of 2010.

NO. 1488 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

OPERATING REGIME FOR CAR PARKS

The Government have stated that the new car parks which will be built in residential areas will be “for residents”. Can Government identify what it means by “residents” by giving the specific catchment areas in respect of each of the following car parks:

Engineer Lane
Old Naval Hospital Road
Arengo’s Palace
South Barrack Road
South Pavilion
Flat Bastion Road
Waterport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1487 and 1489 of 2010.

NO. 1489 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – PROJECTS EMBARKED UPON

In answer to Question Nos. 960 to 1010 of 2010 (which all relate to the implementation of projects announced in the Government's Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan), the Chief Minister stated that measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon. Can Government state whether any of the projects mentioned in these questions have now been embarked upon?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1487 of 2010

The position remains unchanged from that stated in answer to Question No. 1014 of 2010. Government will make announcements relating to its policy initiatives as and when it considers it appropriate to do so. The Government does not consider it appropriate to account publicly for progress in internal preparatory work that is on-going.

Answer to Question No. 1488 of 2010

Government will announce the operating regime for the mentioned car parks at an appropriate time which is a time close to a car park coming into operation, as it has done now with the Devil's Tower Road car park.

Answer to Question No. 1489 of 2010

The answer to the hon Member's question about which projects have been embarked upon is in the question itself. Since Government will announce when it embarks on projects, those upon which it has embarked have been announced, and the information is thus already in the public domain. Similarly, if a project has not been announced then it has not been embarked on.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1487 TO 1489 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member ... I am not sure whether that was his intention in the last part of the answer to try and give the impression that some of these projects have been embarked upon. Certainly, as far as I am aware and I realise this after posing the question, the only project that had not been embarked upon since the answer to the last question and has been announced now is the one which I referred to earlier of Eastern Beach. So, in respect of those other 49 projects, can Government confirm that none of those projects have been embarked upon at all?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member believes that I have inaccurately conveyed to this House that projects have been embarked on when they have not, it can only be because he knows which projects have been embarked on and which have not. In which case his question is wholly inappropriate. I have nothing to add to my previous answers. If projects have been embarked upon, they have been announced. If they have not been announced, they have not been embarked upon which does not mean that they are not being internally worked on by the Government and that represents internal work in progress, pre-embarkation, upon which I am not willing to give the moment ... the hon Member a day to day running commentary.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that we are now still at the pre-embarkation date in respect of these 49 projects which were announced in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan and given that the plan was part of a consultation paper published last year, in October of last year, the Government published the consultation paper in respect of the plan, or rather, published it in a draft form and the Government must have known at that time which of these projects were going to be finally included in the plan. So the Government has had one year in respect of these 49 projects to start progress by embarking upon the projects. The Government announced the specific projects in April of this year. That is six months ago and gave itself a timescale for the completion of all of this, of two to three years. Given that we are now six months down the line and no clearer as to when each of these projects are going to be embarked upon, are the Government now accepting that it is in real danger of missing the train in respect of the timescale that it has provided in this and that this amounts, as I have said previously, to no more than wishful thinking for political purposes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not accept that and the only wishful thinking going on is being done by the hon Member who hopes that the Government will fail, regardless of what impact that has on the interests on the people of Gibraltar because his preference ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, on a Point of Order. On a Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sorry he has asked me a question and I am answering it. No, I will not sit down.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is a Point of Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No Mr Speaker. It is not a Point of Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is a Point of Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a nervous reaction by the hon Member.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not a nervous reaction at all.

MR SPEAKER:

I cannot rule as a Point of Order unless I have heard it. What is the Point of Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Point of Order is that the hon Member ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is the nature of the Point of Order?

HON G H LICUDI:

It is that the hon Member attributes to me a hope of something failing which the hon Member will say it is not in the interest of Gibraltar and therefore he is attributing to me some sort of malicious intent in this House of acting contrary to the interests of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am. Absolutely I am.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is a scandalous comment which ought to be withdrawn because it has no basis whatsoever other than the hon Member's imagination.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No Mr Speaker. I am indeed attributing to the hon Member a politically malicious motive to paint all the Government's policies, all the Government's achievements, whether it is on buses, or the air terminal, or the tunnel, or the car parks. It is indeed in the nature of the hon Member's politically malicious style that they wish to make everything that the Government do at huge expense for the benefit of Gibraltar seem like a failure for their own selfish political reasons, so defined political malice. I believe that the hon Members are systematically, politically malicious and the hon Member is wrong in his belief that no projects have been embarked on and he is wrong in his belief that because six months have passed and we are not yet in a stage of the projects that he can see as he walks down the street on his way to his office, that the Government are in any danger of not complying with the deadline that it established itself as a period for carrying out this project. What the hon Member means is that he thinks that we are not going to do it on time and that he thinks that this is something worth repeatedly pointing out to the electorate for his electoral political advantage. That is the correct analysis of the Member's obsessive type of questioning on these issues and which is why the Government do not provide the answers. Because, frankly, the hon Member should wait and see whether the Government perform or do not and then at the end tell the people of Gibraltar whether they perform or we have not. But if the hon Member thinks I am going to feed him with information so that he could spend eighteen months speculating to the people of Gibraltar that the Government have not, as used to happen with the Trafalgar Interchange, where everybody thought it was going to be a terrible thing, a huge waste of money ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Who said that? Who said that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The jury is out.

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well Mr Speaker. I am saying what I am saying. The Trafalgar Interchange is a considerable success as almost everybody in Gibraltar that is willing to be politically objective and open minded with the Government will recognise and I believe that the same will happen with the air terminal and the same will happen with the tunnels and the same will happen with the new roads and the same will happen with all the visionary projects and investments that this Government are making. Yes, and also with a new theatre for

Gibraltar when the Government corrects its original prioritisation mistake and eventually builds a new theatre as well. Yes, indeed. I am grateful to the Hon Mr Linares for reminding me about that part of the Government's vision and that is the way things normally happen and I do not accept that it is something that the Government have to assist the Opposition in this House. To assist them to be clock keepers of the Government's own projects as opposed to providing the hon Members with all the information that they ask about the Government's business and its statistics and money and how we have handled public money which is, of course, the principal purpose for which they are in this House and for which reason the Government provide them with almost all the information that they ask. But it is not in the Government's view a requirement of the Government's side to feed them prematurely with work in progress about internal work in progress. About the preparatory stages of our own policy manifesto so that they can then ventilate their instinct for obfuscation, for distortion, for misrepresentation, for manipulation. All in pursuit of their obvious political tactics to try and taint either before, during or after, anything and everything that the Government do. The hon Member may want to criticise us, indeed for being naïve and not spotting this much, much earlier, but now that we have spotted this political strategy, we are determined not to aid and abet you. So, when the Government have projects that it is ready to proceed and wish to announce, the Government will do so and the hon Member can ask as many questions as he wants. He can distort the purport and meaning and effect of the answer that I am giving him now as I gave him last time as many times as he wishes. He will not move the Government from its position that it is entitled to choose when it says what it will do and when it says when it will start and when it will finish its own projects.

HON MR SPEAKER:

Before the hon Member rises for the supplementary, may I just rule on the Point of Order that was made. It is not out of order for a Member to attribute to another Member a political motive as long as there is no allegation of dishonesty.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for that. It is difficult to see what else the hon Member was accusing me of when he was suggesting that I was not just distorting or manipulating facts but acting maliciously. If one acts maliciously with honest intent, that certainly is not in my dictionary. If the hon Member meant something else according to what Mr Speaker has ruled, then that is fine.

MR SPEAKER:

I am ruling on the word which was used by the Hon the Chief Minister, which was objected to. The Hon the Chief Minister used the words "the hon Member opposite hopes" and then he carries on. Now, to attribute to some other Member a hope that something will or not happen is not, in my view, a suggestion of dishonesty.

HON G H LICUDI:

What it is, Mr Speaker, and, certainly, the contribution that the hon Member has just made is not just unfortunate but certainly one of the most extraordinary and ill put together

contributions that I have heard since I have been in this House. It is symptomatic of the style of personal attacks ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Is this still the Point of Order?

MR SPEAKER:

I am treating this as a supplementary.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, it is one.

MR SPEAKER:

And a question at the end of all that.

HON G H LICUDI:

There will be one. It is symptomatic of the style, of the personal attacks and type of gutter politics that the hon Member likes to embark upon. It is not a style that I am accustomed to engaging in. It is not a style which I will be tempted, even provoked by the hon Member, to embark upon. It is not my style. It might be his style. It is unfortunate and I will not stoop to his level. I am much more gracious than that. Given that he talks of distortion or manipulation and he has mentioned the Trafalgar Interchange. Having accused me of distorting, manipulating and of acting maliciously and saying, everybody was saying it was a waste of time and it would not work, presumably, those words were also attributed to me. Can the hon Member confirm that, as far as his recollection is concerned, I have never said those words? I have always said that we will need to see how it works. If the hon Member is correct in his analysis now that everybody is very happy with the way it works, then I am more than happy that that is the case. It is certainly true that it has improved the area and improved circulation. Whether it eventually achieves what we all hope it will achieve, will be a matter that will need to be seen. As regards the substance of this question that we are embarked upon, I do not wish to go back and rehearse all the arguments we have had previously about the Government failing to provide answers. The Government are in its prerogative to provide or not to provide answers. But the Government will be held to account for its refusal to tell the public properly, in due time and with the necessary information of whatever progress it is making in regard to policy decisions which it has already announced. Do the Government not accept that, having made these announcements last year and repeated them in April of this year, there is now a serious possibility that none of this, if much, will be achieved within the timescale that the Government have proposed and certainly will not be achieved in time for the next general election. Can the Government at least confirm that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On the very last point, it is not a supplementary, it is a repetition of what he has already asked me and I have already given him the answer. I do not believe any of that. The fallacy of his argument is eventually to be found on his own lips. He has suggested just now that I am refusing to tell the public, publicly, properly and in good time, of the progress of projects it has already announced and the point is that we have not announced that we have embarked, we have started on these projects and that is why there is no announcement. So there is not any failure, still less refusal, to tell the public. I thought the hon Member's complaint against the Government was that we were spin merchants and that we were always too keen to tell the public things that we were doing or were not doing. Now, it transpires that when we do not do it precisely at the time that they want us to do it, that we are refusing to tell the public properly in good time. The Government are telling the public, publicly, properly and in good time, of progress it has made or is making on projects that it has announced. Listening to the hon Members self ulijisation on his grace and his style, leads me to be confirmed in the view that he is much more, sounds to me much more, like the style of the new leader that the GSLP says that it is looking for because precisely what one needs from the Members opposite is much more grace and much more style than we get from them as a matter of political system at the moment.

HON C A BRUZON:

Mr Speaker on a Point of Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No Mr Speaker. I will not give way.

MR SPEAKER:

What is the Point of Order?

HON C A BRUZON:

Relevance, Mr Speaker. Relevance to what the Chief Minister is saying. Is it relevant ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I do not know whether the hon Members just leap to their feet and engage their knee caps before their brains and their jaws. I am answering a statement that he has made about his grace and his style. So, for me to comment about his grace and his style in my answer is hardly irrelevant. If it is irrelevant now, it was irrelevant when it was on the lips of his friend. The hon Member opposite, Mr Licudi, appears, to boot, quite apart from having the instinct of quibbling with the Speaker when he has already made a ruling, not to understand, semantically, the difference between the concept of dishonesty and the concept of malice. There is no link or connection between the two. So, if he wants to apply his lack of knowledge of the meaning of words in the English language to feel aggrieved, this is not something for which he can seek to hold me responsible. Mr Speaker, as to the alleged incursion by this party in Government of bad personal styles of politics, personal abuse and gutter politics. Everybody in Gibraltar now knows that the

accusation of poor GSLP politicians always under personal attack from these terrible, terrible nasty people in the GSD is now always the way that the GSLP tries to bring a political debate to an end when they have run out of steam of merit of their arguments. It does not wear any more and if anybody wants to know who engages in personal attacks, in political malice, in gutter style politics, they need only read the GSLP's weekly rag that goes by the complete misnomer of New People and know who, to what degree and with what intensity of consistency they engage as a matter of political conviction, political instinct, political style, knowing no other way, indeed, of practising politics in Gibraltar than the hon Members opposite who are the recognised master practitioners of gutter politics in Gibraltar.

HON C A BRUZON:

Mr Speaker, I beg your pardon, but I did stand up earlier. The Chief Minister refused to sit down and you have not ruled on my Point of Order.

MR SPEAKER:

The point was about relevance.

HON C A BRUZON:

Yes please, on relevancy.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, the words the Hon Chief Minister referred to as style and grace. Rightly or wrongly, the Hon Mr Licudi put on the issue before the House matters of style and grace. It is not out of order to respond to that matter of style and grace. Having said that, I do feel that the debate has gone way, way far down the road or deep into a tunnel, away from the question first put and I think this is a proper moment when we should move to the next question.

NO. 1490 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

FUTURE USE OF RUNWAY ROAD CROSSING

Can Government state whether it has now decided how the road crossing the runway will be used once the tunnel under the runway opens and what categories of vehicles, if any, will be allowed to cross the road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

MR SPEAKER:

I think it has been answered.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think we can take that as dealt with.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am happy to withdraw the question.

NO. 1491 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to make an announcement in respect of changes to the health and safety legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

When the Government have made decisions that it feels it can put into the public domain, it will do so. We are not yet in a position to do so.

NO. 1492 OF 2010

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

Seven times by fee paying commercial members of the business community. The total amount received has been £1,015. It has obviously also been used many more times by non-fee paying users, including Government departments.

NO. 1493 OF 2010

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

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

Answer to Question No. 1493 of 2010

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
Manchester	26 th September	£262.00	Monarch	Reserved Seat	Bland

NB Invoice from the return journey from London Heathrow has not yet been received.

MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
The Hon E Britto	London	12 th -16 th July	£1,541.00	BA	Business	Bland
The Hon E Britto	Kenya	9 th -19 th Sept	£4,965.90	BA	Business	Bland
The Hon L Montiel	London	6 th -9 th Sept	£254.00	BA	Economy	Globe Travel
The Hon L Montiel	Leeds	6 th -9 th Sept	£131.20	Flybe	Economy	Globe Travel

NO. 1494 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES – PENDING TRANSPOSITION

Can Government list the EU Directives which are pending transposition in Gibraltar, showing the name and number of the Directive and the date by which they were to have been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1495 of 2010.

No. 1495 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES – INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say at what stage is each of the ten infraction proceedings that were opened by the EU Commission for the failure to implement EU Directives in Gibraltar, showing the name and number of the Directive and the stage of the infraction proceedings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Of the ten infraction proceedings that existed as at the last Parliament question and answer session, the Government of Gibraltar has now transposed nine.

The one outstanding directive under infraction is Directive 2008/65/EC on driving licences. This infraction remains at the 'Article 258 Letter' stage.

On 21st September 2010, eight new infractions were opened by the European Commission against the United Kingdom. None of those are Gibraltar specific. The Government of Gibraltar is currently addressing which, if any, of these new infractions whilst not being Gibraltar specific are being addressed generally at the United Kingdom may nevertheless be relevant to Gibraltar's transposition given that on many occasions we follow the practice and guidelines set out in the UK's own transposition. So, if the UK is infringed and we have followed the same approach as the UK, we need to check whether we follow the same infringed route.

I have now had passed to the hon Member a schedule with the more detailed information that he has requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1495**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1494**

Title	Transposition deadline
Directive 77/486 education of children of migrant workers	6 Aug 1981
Directive 89/104/EEC first directive on trademarks. See now codification carried out by Directive 2008/95/EC to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks.	28 Dec 1991
Directive 96/47/EC (amends Directive 91/439)	1 Jul 1996
Directive 2000/56 (amends Directive 91/439)	30 Sep 2003
Directive 2009/112/EC (amends Directive 91/439)	26 Aug 2010
Directive 2008/65/EC (amends Directive 91/439)	30 Sep 2008
Directive 92/6/EC on installation and use of speed limitation devices in certain categories of motor vehicles (Linked to PM 18).	1 Oct 1993
Directive 2002/85/EC amending Council Directive 92/6/EEC.	1 Jan 2005
Directive 96/53/EC on maximum dimensions/weights in traffic amended by Directive 2002/7/EC.	17 Sep 1997
	9 Mar 2004
	9 Mar 2005
Directive 98/59/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies.	1 Sep 1998
Directive 97/36/EC on television broadcasting activities (see Directive 89/552 on broadcasting). (Linked to PM 14).	31 Dec 1998
Directive 97/67/EC on liberalisation of postal services as amended by Directive 2002/39/EC on the further opening to competition of Community postal services and by Directive 2008/06/EC.	10 Feb 1999
Directive 97/81/EC concerning the Framework Agreement on part-time work concluded by UNICE, CEEP and ETUC, extended to the United Kingdom amended by Directive 98/23 (on the extension of Directive 97/81/EC)	31 Dec 2002
Directive 98/6/EC on the pricing of goods.	20 Jan 2000
Directive 98/84/EC on legal protection of services on conditional access (linked to Directive 89/552/EC broadcasting and Directive 98/34/EC information society services). (Linked to PM 9)	7 Apr 2000
Directive 2001/11/EC adapting to technical progress Directive 96/96 on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers functional testing of commercial vehicles, speed limitation device. (Linked to PM 6)	18 Mar 2000
Directive 2001/23/EC safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses.	28 May 2000
Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market.	9 Mar 2003
Directive 2003/26/EC on speed limiters and exhaust emissions of commercial vehicles.	17 Jul 2003
Directive 2003/27/EC on testing of exhaust emissions from motor vehicles.	27 Oct 2003
Directive 2003/73/EC amending Annex III to Directive 1999/94/EC (Fuel economy x CO ₂ emissions).	1 Jan 2004
Directive 2002/87/EC on supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate and amending Directives 73/239/EEC, 79/267/EEC, 92/49/EEC, 92/96/EEC, 93/6/EEC, 93/22/EEC 98/78/EC and 2000/12/EC.	1 Jan 2004
	25 Jul 2004
	11 Aug 2004

Cont....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1495**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1494**

Directive 2004/72 implementing Directive 2003/6/EC as regards accepted market practices, the definition of inside information in relation to derivatives on commodities, the drawing up of lists of insiders, the notification of managers' transactions and the notification of suspicious transactions.	12 Oct 2004
Directive 2002/8/EC to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes	30 Nov 2004 [30 May 2006 for Art 3(2)(a)]
Directive 2005/1/EC amending Directives 73/239/EEC, 85/611/EEC, 91/675/EEC, 92/49/EEC and 93/6/EEC and Directives 94/19/EC, 98/78/EC, 2000/12/EC, 2001/34/EC, 2002/83/EC and 2002/87/EC in order to establish a new organizational structure for financial services committees	13 May 2005
Directive 2002/74 amending Directive 80/987/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer. See now codification carried out by Directive 2008/94/EC on the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer.	8 Oct 2005
Directive 2004/101 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for a greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community, in respect of the Kyoto Protocol's project mechanisms.	13 Nov 2005
Directive 2004/80/EC on compensation to crime victims.	1 Jan 2006
Directive 2004/17/EC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2005/51/EC amending Annex XX of Directive 2004/17/EC and Annex VIII of Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2004/18/EC on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2003/58 amending Directive 68/151 as regards disclosure requirements in respect of certain types of companies.	31 Dec 2006
Directive 2003/110/EC on assistance in cases of transit for the purposes of removal by air.	6 Dec 2006
Directive 2006/103/EC adapting certain directives in the field of transport policy, by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.	1 Jan 2007
Directive 2006/115/EC on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property.	16 Jan 2007
Directive 2006/116/EC on the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights.	16 Jan 2007
Directive 2004/109/EC on the harmonization of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market and amending Directive 2001/34/EC.	20 Jan 2007
Directive 2007/14/EC laying down the rules for the implementation of certain provisions of Directive 2004/109/EC.	8 Mar 2008
Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks and amending Directive 2002/58/EC.	15 Sep 2007 (telephones) 15 Mar 2009 (internet)
Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures for granting and withdrawing refugee status.	13 Dec 2007
Directive 2005/56/EC on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies.	15 Dec 2007
Directive 2007/16/EC implementing Directive 85/611/EEC on the condition of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to UCITS as regards the clarification of certain definitions.	23 Mar 2008

Cont....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1495**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1494**

Directive 2006/68/EC amending Directive 77/91/EEC on the formation of public limited liability companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital	15 Apr 2008
Directive 2004/40 on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields)	20 Apr 2008
Directive 2006/66/EC on waste batteries and accumulators (repeals Directive 91/157/EEC)	28 Sep 2008
Directive 2006/117/EURATOM on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel	25 Dec 2008
Directive 2007/63/EC on the requirement of an independent expert's report on the occasion of merger or division of public limited liability companies	31 Dec 2008
Directive 2008/43/EC setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses	5 Apr 2009
Directive 2007/36/EC on the exercise of certain rights of shareholders in listed companies	3 Aug 2009
Directive 2009/4/EC on counter measures to prevent and detect manipulation of records of tachographs, amending Directive 2006/22/EC on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations 3820/85 and 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities and repealing Council Directive 88/599/EEC	31 Dec 2009
Directive 2009/5/EC amending Annex II to directive 2006/22/EC on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations 3820/85 and 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities	31 Dec 2009
Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy amending and subsequently repealing various Directives	13 July 2010
Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)	15 July 2010
Directive 2009/29/EC amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community	31 Dec 2009 [for Art 1(10) and Art 1(11)]

NO. 1496 OF 2010

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 1,905 persons were employed by eighteen remote gambling companies as at 15th September 2010.

The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule which I now hand him.

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 15th September 2010

	Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (International) Limited	29	67	3	10	109
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	50	159	15	42	266
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	14	187	17	35	253
Bwin International Limited	27	40	18	109	194
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	4	14	1	0	19
Carmen Media Group Limited	6	3	2	3	14
32 Red Plc	3	28	0	3	34
St Mirver Limited	26	37	15	52	130
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	12	13
888 Holdings Plc	31	63	14	88	196
PartyGaming Plc	28	97	10	66	201
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	12	39	4	53	108
Prosperads Ltd (formerly Futuresbetting)	1	9	0	0	10
Partouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	3	3	2	6	14
WHG (International)/Trading Limited	11	114	3	33	161
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	7	58	3	16	84
Petfre (Gibraltar) Limited	16	51	3	11	81
Entertaining Play Limited	6	11	0	1	18
Overall Total	274	981	110	540	1905

Source: Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

NO. 1497 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENTIAL TENDERS AWARDED

Can Government list the residential tenders that have been awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the name and the amount paid by the successful tenderer, the name of the property in question and the date on which the payment was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1498 and 1557 of 2010.

NO. 1498 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government give a breakdown of the revenue collected from land and property sales since the information supplied during the last Question Time in this Parliament, giving the date the revenue was received, the name of the land/property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1497 and 1557 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1499 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FRONTIER STATISTICS

Can Government supply a copy of the latest frontier statistics table for 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1499

FRONTIER STATISTICS 2010

PERSONS

MONTH	TOTAL RESIDENTS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL OTHERS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	125,953	113,478	512	11,963	(845)	737,673	564,379	8,383	164,911	(3,698)	863,626	(4,543)
FEBRUARY	117,815	102,995	656	14,164	(1,018)	728,085	546,204	14,677	167,204	(4,678)	845,900	(5,696)
MARCH	144,800	130,018	613	14,169	(885)	900,678	637,808	27,081	235,789	(5,660)	1,045,478	(6,545)
APRIL	148,172	132,158	1,430	14,584	(722)	929,329	665,440	31,739	232,150	(5,431)	1,077,501	(6,153)
MAY	154,299	137,343	1,124	15,832	(871)	895,251	640,640	31,234	223,377	(4,913)	1,049,550	(5,784)
JUNE	144,029	127,540	2,019	14,470	(903)	951,594	681,237	26,366	243,991	(5,998)	1,095,623	(6,901)
JULY	149,658	126,515	1,704	21,439	(757)	1,020,532	722,956	21,679	275,897	(5,491)	1,170,190	(6,248)
AUGUST	157,118	141,755	850	14,513	(908)	1,140,835	777,485	19,330	344,020	(6,349)	1,297,953	(7,257)
SEPTEMBER	101,444	89,730	775	10,939	(525)	780,955	525,609	22,860	232,486	(4,330)	882,599	(4,855)
						FIGURES UPTO 22/9/10						
TOTALS	1,243,288	1,101,532	9,683	132,073	(7,434)	8,084,932	5,761,758	203,349	2,119,825	(46,548)	9,328,220	(53,982)
TOTALS 2009	1,637,655	1,437,914	14,224	185,517	(10,557)	9,778,312	7,069,655	266,315	2,442,342	(51,282)	11,415,967	(61,839)

VEHICLES

MONTH	G - PLATES	C/G	OTHERS	C/G	COACHES	COMMERCIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	44,876	(869)	202,327	(3,146)	295	20	247,518	(4,015)
FEBRUARY	42,393	(841)	194,826	(3,672)	472	11	237,702	(4,513)
MARCH	53,202	(898)	229,406	(5,100)	787	44	283,439	(5,998)
APRIL	52,168	(810)	231,530	(4,718)	956	22	284,676	(5,528)
MAY	55,586	(848)	227,267	(4,411)	886	17	283,756	(5,259)
JUNE	52,329	(822)	235,812	(5,392)	829	42	289,012	(6,214)
JULY	51,523	(690)	247,557	(4,816)	640	85	299,805	(5,506)
AUGUST	55,782	(837)	264,966	(6,349)	510	93	321,351	(7,186)
SEPTEMBER	37,658	(663)	185,520	(3,825)	602	3	223,783	(4,488)
							FIGURES UPTO 22/9/10	
TOTALS	445,517	(7,278)	2,019,211	(41,429)	5,977	337	2,471,042	(48,707)
TOTALS	571,688	(10,178)	2,531,830	(44,508)	8,098	1,685	3,113,301	(54,686)

NOTE

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS IN COLUMNS MARKED C/G OR TOTAL C/G REFER TO STATISTICS TAKEN AT THE COMMERCIAL ENTRANCE GATE AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICS FOR THE LAND FRONTIER.

NO. 1500 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**CONSULTATION PAPER FOR THE REGULATION OF ANGLING AND DIVING IN
BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS**

Can Government say how many entities have made representations in response to its consultation paper on the regulation of angling and diving in British Gibraltar territorial waters and say who they are?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Twenty two responses have been received. The Government do not consider it appropriate to identify the responders until it publishes its own reaction and response paper in the consultation process. Those responders who for their own reasons particularly wish to be identified publicly have already done so themselves.

NO. 1501 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN THROUGH UK

Can Government list the communications between Gibraltar and Spain, 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. 1502 of 2010.

NO. 1502 OF 2010

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

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1502**Answer to Questions 1501 and 1502****June 2010 to September 2010 (Incoming)**

Post Box Ref and Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
(I)PB/39/10 18-Jun-2010	Juzgado de Primera Instancia	Attorney General	Notification.
(I)PB/41/10 27-Jul-2010	Ministry of Justice	Attorney General	Request for Information.
(I)PB/42/10 27-Jul-2010	Juzgado de Instruccion.	Attorney General	Request for Information.
(I)PB/47/10 16-Aug-2010	Ministry of Justice	Attorney General	Request for information.
(I)PB/54/10 21-Sept-2010	Ministry of Justice	Attorney General	Request for information.

June 2010 to September 2010 (Outgoing)

Post Box Ref and Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
PB/53/10 22-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/54/10 28-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/55/10 30-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/57/10 02-Jul-2010	Attorney General	Ministerio de Justicia	Request for information.
PB/58/10 05-Jul-2010	Attorney General	Ministerio de Justicia	Request for information.
PB/59/10 08-Jul-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/60/10 15-Jul-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/61/10 23-Jul-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/62/10 27-Jul-2010	Financial Services Commission	Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones, Madrid	Notification.
PB/66/10 29-Jul-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/67/10 02-Aug-2010	Environmental Agency	Director General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/70/10 09-Aug-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/71/10 25-Aug-2010	Financial Services Commissioner	Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones, Madrid	Notification.
PB/72/10 02-Sept-2010	Financial Services Commissioner	Comision Nacional del Mercado de Valores, Madrid	Notification.
PB/100/10 21-Sept-2010	Financial Services Commissioner	Banco de Espana, Madrid	Notification.

NO. 1503 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Can Government say for what reason an Acting Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority was appointed by Legal Notice 109 of 2010 with effect from 1st July 2010 until this was revoked by Legal Notice 141 of 2010 with effect from August 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The permanent Chief Executive of the Authority had to undergo scheduled medical treatment.

NO. 1504 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE – FOUR CORNERS COMMERCIAL GATE

What arrangements are in place for immigration clearance at the Commercial Gate at Four Corners on working days between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1505 of 2010.

NO. 1505 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE – FOUR CORNERS COMMERCIAL GATE

What arrangements are in place for customs clearance at the Commercial Gate at Four Corners on working days between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In addition to any general police presence in the area, Security and Immigration Limited has previously over the last few weeks had an officer on duty at the Commercial Gate at Four Corners up to 6.00 p.m. and now has an officer deployed at the Commercial Gate until 9.00 p.m. Clearance by Customs is covered by officers at the Entry Processing Unit until 5.15 p.m. (winter hours) – 3.30 p.m. (summer hours) and thereafter by an on-call officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1504 AND 1505 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member just clarify one point, does this mean there was nobody from Security and Immigration there before? He said in recent weeks.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It has been brought to my attention in the context of putting together the answer to the hon Member's question that there was a period of time during which there was a misunderstanding between Security and Immigration and the Customs about arrangements and there was a period of time during which it appears that there was not Security and Immigration cover there. That has been remedied. But I think it is true that there was a period during which Security and Immigration were not aware of the possibility that people could come in after hours and then did not have their own cover there.

NO. 1506 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COST OF ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES IN CASEMATES

What was the total cost of the Government acquiring properties in the Casemates area as a result of complaints of noise nuisance after the initial implementation of the legislation designating Casemates as a leisure area, with a breakdown by address or flat number and amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The cost to the Government was nil.

NO. 1507 OF 2010

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. 1508 of 2010.

NO. 1508 OF 2010

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

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

Answer to Question No. 1508 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1507 of 2010

June 2010	£21,993.53
July 2010	£17,200.32
August 2010	£18,848.18

Answer to Question No. 1508 of 2010

June 2010	£99,344.13
July 2010	£90,905.99
August 2010	£98,369.72

NO. 1509 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY – BUILDING MATERIALS FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

Can Government confirm that duty has been paid on building materials in respect of imports for :

- (a) the new airport terminal;
- (b) the tunnel under the runway;
- (c) the mid-town rental estate,

in each financial year since 2007/2008, with a breakdown by project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Duty is certainly payable and we assume that it has been paid. I am not in a position to give the hon Member an assurance that there has not been any fraud. I hope there has not been but I cannot sort of give a cast iron guarantee. But it is certainly payable. If the object of the question was to ask whether we had done any contractual arrangement not to, the answer is no. But the Customs say that they do not have the information readily available broken down by a specific project.

NO. 1510 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY NON-EU NATIONALS ON FLIGHTS DIVERTED TO MALAGA

Can Government say whether they have made any representations to the UK or the EU about the problems experienced by non-EU nationals travelling on flights to Gibraltar when that flight is diverted to Malaga?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir.

NO. 1511 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COST OF RELOCATION OF MOD FACILITIES AND INSTALLATIONS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the cost to date of the relocation of MOD facilities and installations as the result of:

- (a) the construction of the new air terminal building;
- (b) the construction of the proposed tunnel under the runway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1512 to 1514 of 2010.

NO. 1512 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COST OF RELOCATION OF MOD FACILITIES AND INSTALLATIONS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the projected cost of the relocation of any MOD facilities and installations that remain to be moved as the result of:

- (a) the construction of the new air terminal building;
- (b) the construction of the proposed tunnel under the runway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1511, 1513 and 1514 of 2010.

NO. 1513 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COST OF RELOCATION OF GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND INSTALLATIONS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the cost to date of the relocation of Gibraltar Government facilities and installations as a result of:

- (a) the construction of the new air terminal building;
- (b) the construction of the proposed tunnel under the runway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1511, 1512 to 1514 of 2010.

NO. 1514 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL AND RELATED FACILITIES

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the architects' costs totalling £2,481,710 referred to in answer to Question No. 953 of 2010 in respect of the air terminal and related facilities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand over to the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1514

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1511

a) The cost to date of the MOD Relocations associated with the new Airport Terminal is;

ASMT £ 1,112,413 *

The above figures relate to Construction costs only. Design fees paid to date are estimated to be £14,613, as it is extremely difficult to provide a precise figure.

* Note the existing MOD ASMT building is being retained by GOG for its use.

b) There are no costs to date for the relocation of MOD facilities and installations associated in the strict sense with "*the proposed tunnel under the runway*".

However the cost to date of the MOD facilities and installations associated with the access roads and approach ramps are estimated to be £6,472,711 which is broken down as follows;

Armoury (North)	43,055
POL Store	36,040
Demolition of AWES locker room	38,857
Demolition of AWES work room & store	7,774
Demolition of AWES control room	7,987
Visiting Air Squadron	553,957
LOX Compound	104,816
MET Equipment	45,845
Demolition of Weigh Bridge	5,493
ATC Building	278,027
Night Flying Store	296
EOD Garage	225,072
New Explosive Store	580,123
London House	968,666
Lerwick House	407,067
Reinstatement of Taxiway E	259,585
Princess Royal hospital entrance	812,297
Building 20A Centralisation of RAF HQ *	2,097,754 *
	<u>£ 6,472,711</u>

* Estimated proportion corresponding to the Road

The above figures relate to Construction costs only. Design fees paid to date are estimated to be £841,452, as it is extremely difficult to provide a precise figure.

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1514

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1512

a)		
ASMT	£	<u>NIL</u>
b)		
Armoury (North)		Nil
POL Store		Nil
Demolition of AWES locker room		Nil
Demolition of AWES work room & store		Nil
Demolition of AWES control room		Nil
Visiting Air Squadron		168,543
LOX Compound		195,184
MET Equipment		Nil
Demolition of Weigh Bridge		Nil
ATC Building		Nil
Night Flying Store		Nil
EOD Garage		14,928
New Explosive Store		19,877
London House		Nil
Lerwick House		Nil
Reinstatement of Taxiway E		13,662
Princess Royal hospital entrance		59,846
Building 20A Centralisation of RAF HQ		Nil
	£	<u>472,040</u>

Cont...

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1514

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1513

a) The cost to date of the Gibraltar Government facilities and installations associated with the new Airport Terminal

Aquagib well pipes infrastructure	12,031
EPU Temp. offices	357,970
Demolish old EPU, Highways depot & Blacktop Yard	333,346
Relocation materials lab	1,905
	<hr/>
	£ 705,252

The above figures relate to Construction costs only. Design fees paid to date are estimated to be £81,104, as it is extremely difficult to provide a precise figure.

b) There are no costs to date for the relocation of Gibraltar Government facilities and installations associated in the strict sense with *"the proposed tunnel under the runway"*.

However the cost to date of the Gibraltar Government facilities and installations associated with the access roads and approach ramps are estimated to be £2,267,725 which is broken down as follows;

Telecom Masts	224,374
Demolish old guard house	83,336
Demolish two GOG Houses & other buildings & removal of trees	172,602
Payments to tenants (inc removal)	120,729
Sunrise View Garages - Eastern Beach	510,000
Demolition of extg garages	50,000
Admiral Security	41,235
Wastage Products	44,835
Latinos on the Beach (Payments to Tenants and Construction of new slab)	102,506
Demolition of Hacienda & Latino's slab	44,021
Temp. Loop - Frontier	357,261
Additional work to East Gate	76,183
TSD Highways Dept. / 1st move	99,185
Police/GSSL secure vehicles >> Lath Barracks	189,690
Demolitions ex aerial farm	131,293
Ex-Aerial Farm fencing (OHL site)	10,360
Demolition store Eastern Beach Road	10,113
	<hr/>
	£ 2,267,725

The above figures relate to Construction costs only. Design fees paid to date are estimated to be £260,788, as it is extremely difficult to provide a precise figure.

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1514

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1514

Airport Terminal Architects

3D Reid (Terminal architecture, structural engineering, façade engineering, fire engineering, mechanical & electrical engineering)	1,728,138
NACO (Special systems, aeronautical studies & civils works)	697,400
Bblur Architects (Lighting)	21,169
Capita Lovejoy (Landscape)	35,003
Total Architect Fees	£2,481,710

ORAL

NO. 1515 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SAFETY CERTIFICATION BY FIRE SERVICE OF BUILDINGS OVER NINE STOREYS HIGH

Can Government confirm whether all buildings over nine storeys high completed in the past five years have been certified as safe by the Fire Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am advised by the Chief Fire Officer that all buildings nine storeys and over constructed in the past five years have been issued with the requisite certificate of fitness and consequently certified as safe.

NO. 1516 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVE

Can Government say whether Gibraltar has a strategic fuel reserve and, if so, where is it located and what is its capacity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar, currently, has no strategic fuel reserve as such.

ORAL

NO. 1517 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THE MOUNT

Can Government confirm that it is considering a more purposeful use for the Mount and, if so, whether it will limit the possibilities to a public purpose and not for private development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1518 of 2010.

No. 1518 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THE MOUNT

Can Government say whether they have received any proposals for the future use of the Mount and, if so, how many and what does each of them entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are always open to proposals in relation to alternative uses for the Mount. No such proposal would be approved without a tender and public consultation process. One specific proposal is currently being considered. If the Government decide that it has sufficient merit another, given that we have already done one, another public tender process would be held to allow others to put forward alternative schemes in competition. There would then be a public consultation process.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS.1517 AND 1518 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I right in thinking that at one stage the policy of the Government was that the Mount should be retained for a public purpose. If I am right, did they change their policy at any time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think there has been any policy quite as set in stone as the hon Member says. Certainly, I have always been of the view and continue to be of the view, and will remain of the view, that the substantial parts of the public grounds of the Mount, the gardens, the sort of green areas, should always remain available to the general public in Gibraltar as an accessible and open green area for them. The hon Member will remember that the Deed of Gift, I think I told him, from the MOD, actually not from the MOD from the Navy, to the Government of Gibraltar had conditions, not conditions, but sort of made provisions for financial consequences depending on whether it was public use or not. Certainly, the Government would not approve of any non-public use that rendered it liable to pay anything that might be payable to the MOD. I think it would be too dogmatic to say that the Government have a policy that the use of the Mount should be a public use as opposed to a private use available to the public. I do not think we would ever, sort of, sell it as a private residence. I think that would be out of the question. But some private sector amenity for Gibraltar, if the right one came along, then the Government I think

would consider it with an open mind. But we think it is a sufficiently important chunk in terms of size and also amenity to require a public tender process, indeed not just for the alienation, but to make sure that we are teasing out, as we did when we last had such a process, a sort of contest to make sure that we are teasing out all the possible uses to which the private sector might be interested in putting it. Then, I think this is sufficiently important to go to the public and say, look the Government have a proposal, we think that this is a viable proposal, what do people think. I think that is as much as we have a policy on.

NO. 1519 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NATS AND AENA

Will Government publish the Air Traffic Control agreement between NATS and AENA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am advised that it is not standard aviation practice to make technical agreements between Air Traffic Control entities public. Nor are the Government a party to the contract. So, I will be publishing a document that is being provided to me as a matter of courtesy. It is a contract between the NATS who are the contractors of the MOD and AENA who control air traffic in the Seville and in the related European International FIR region. But I can tell the hon Member that we have seen it. We had seen it in all its draft versions and we have taken steps to ensure that there was nothing in it which might have an adverse political implication to Gibraltar. So, if the MOD want to provide it to him, that is entirely a matter for them. I do not feel free to publish a document which is not mine ... If his concern is, are there negative political implications for Gibraltar, then I can assure him that in our view it does not and we did not need to propose changes to ensure that.

NO. 1520 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BOAT FISHING IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS – COMPLIANCE WITH EU AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Can Government confirm whether every boat fishing in the territorial waters of Gibraltar is presently required to comply with EU wide regulations, or comparable local laws, relating to prohibited fishing methods, net sizes and fish sizes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, no. Although it is not the function of Ministers to provide legal advice to hon Members opposite across the floor of the House, but in any event I do not mind telling him because it is the position that EU Regulations relating to fishing methods, net sizes and fish sizes are contained in EU common fisheries policy measures that do not apply to Gibraltar. Only measures contained in EU environmental protection measures would apply as a matter of legal obligation to Gibraltar.

Now, in the consultation paper that the Government have issued which appears to dissatisfy some people, what the Government are consulting about is a proposal to adopt as a matter of domestic policy in our legislation, not by way of EU compulsion, some of the or indeed all of the EU provisions about fish sizes and net sizes and that sort of thing. But it does not apply as a matter of EU obligation.

NO. 1521 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MID TOWN PROJECT

Are Government aware as to whether the developers of the Mid Town project were offered arrangements for private financing of the development by selling part of the site or entering into a joint venture with another company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I cannot tell him one way or the other. Ministers are not privy to what may have transpired between the Mid Town developers and third parties and therefore we just do not know. But I can tell him that I am not aware and we are not aware if it has happened but which is not to say that it has not. We would not know if it has not. Or rather, we would not know if it has, if we do not specifically know.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1521 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it something that the Government would have asked in the process of these discussions with the developers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is up to developers to proceed with their developments and the arrangements are matters for them. The Government do not ... The Government have made considerable enquiry of these developers about the availability of funding to them, not specifically in the context of one particular source of funding as opposed to another, and it has never been suggested to us that there might be private sources of funding as opposed to banking sources of funding. I think it is important that the hon Member's question gives me an opportunity to clarify, given that it has been in part obfuscated by public comment by others, the statement that I made in this House at Budget time, that the Government were considering an investment. The Government firmly believe, a judgement with which certainly others are free to disagree, that Gibraltar's macro economic interests, especially as we launch the new tax laws that we all hope will create a bounce of interest in business location to Gibraltar, that there needs to be a supply of office space in Gibraltar, otherwise people will come, look, and go away because Gibraltar cannot accommodate them in terms of adequate office space. Of course, it is the Government's preference by a long mile that the private sector should, as it has always done, supply Gibraltar's private office

space. For reasons that have nothing to do with their willingness to do it, that is the way the banking sector is at present, not just the Mid Town developers but other developers, for example, the office block, I do not know what it has been baptised, Grand something, Majestic something. The Ocean Village related office block next to Trade Winds. They seem to be having the same difficulty because the problem is a banking sector problem, not a willingness on the part of developers in Gibraltar to proceed with developments for which there is generally believed to be demand in Gibraltar. So, the Government can stand idly by and say, well, no, Gibraltar cannot accommodate further business development because the banks will not lend money and just take the consequences of that on the chin, or the Government can say, if the private sector cannot fund itself, then the Government in the macro economic interests of Gibraltar may have to deploy some of our own resources which do not depend on the present state and inclination of the international banking community to provide money. But that should not be confused by any, sort of, positive desire on the part of the Government to do that. So, what the Government are doing is that we are allowing the developers that are around, which are the Hilton Group ... not the Hilton Group, in connection with the Hilton Development down there on Queensway and, as I say, the Ocean Village Group, we are allowing them a period of time to demonstrate to the Government that they can obtain funding for themselves and if they can we will be the first to be relieved by that fact, but if they cannot, we cannot be without office space available in Gibraltar of the right quantity and quality for the next three or four years. Remember it takes two years to deliver once you start, simply because the private sector is, for one reason or another, unable to do so. But I can assure this House that the Government will not embark on this process unless it is absolutely certain, for which I am willing to account for in this House in advance, that the Government are absolutely satisfied that the private sector, whatever it may be promised or whenever it may say it can do, if it cannot by a certain reasonable date then I will come to this House and say so and then the Government will most certainly consider satisfying Gibraltar's needs by other means. I apologise to the hon Members and I am grateful for the Speaker's indulgence for allowing me, on the back of that, just to clarify what the Government's detailed position is on this controversial subject.

ORAL

NO. 1522 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DOLPHINARIUM AT ROSIA BAY

Can Government confirm whether they are in discussions with the entity that has made a formal proposal for the establishment of a dolphinarium and other related leisure activities in Rosia Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1523 of 2010.

NO. 1523 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DIVE CENTRE HUB SUPPORTING FACILITIES AT ROSIA BAY

Can Government say what are the “other waterfront facilities at Rosia Bay” that are intended to support their planned Dive Centre Hub?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not currently in discussions with the entity that has made a formal proposal for the establishment of a dolphinarium and other related leisure activities at Rosia Bay.

The other waterfront facilities at Rosia Bay that are intended to support the Government’s planned Dive Centre Hub have not yet been finalised, as this forms part of the consultation paper entitled “Regulating Certain Aspects of Fishing and Diving in Gibraltar” that was made available to the public for comment recently and, indeed, it may be possible that those facilities to support diving might even be possible to extend them, depending on the outcome of the consultation, to facilities to support fishing too. It remains to be seen but it is, certainly, in the context of the local seafaring, sea using community.

ORAL

NO. 1524 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – POSTS OCCUPIED BY CIVIL SERVANTS AND GHA EMPLOYEES

Can Government state whether there are any posts in the GHA which currently are occupied by both civil servants and GHA employees and, if so, provide a list of such posts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 1524 of 2010

The following are posts in the GHA which currently are occupied by both civil servants and GHA employees.

NURSING

Midwife
TSSU/CSSD Technician
Charge Nurse
Staff Nurse
Registered Mental Nurse
Registered Sick Children Nurse
Enrolled Nurse
Nursing Assistant

MEDICAL

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Consultant Physician
Consultant General Surgeon
General Practitioner
Senior Dental Officer
Dental Officer
Biomedical Scientist II
Speech & Language Therapist
Dietician Senior I
Occupational Therapist Senior I
Radiographer/Mammographer Senior I
Radiographer Senior I
Physiotherapist Senior II
Biomedical Assistant

ADMIN

Senior Electrical Health Technician
Ward Clerk
Typist

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1524 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that at a particular date the Government stopped recruiting people as civil servants in these posts and starting recruiting them as GHA or is there some other reason for the fact that some are in one category and others in the other?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think there is now a policy in the GHA, now rendered academic by a recently concluded agreement, that new recruits in the medical grades, not in the clerical and administrative grades, although even that appears to have become a little bit confused in the past, that new recruits in the medical grades are now recruited as GHA employees. So therefore, if there is somebody that predates that in a similar post, then there will be people working side by side, some of whom are civil servants and some of whom are GHA employees. Then there were certain new types of clerical and administrative jobs like, for example, ward clerks and there was a whole confusion about whether they had been recruited as civil servants or not. So, the position I have to say has been something of a mixed and confused one for a period of time which is one of the reasons why the Government were keen to arrive at a position where everybody could be put under the same employment umbrella. As an employer, we do not make a huge distinction. We regard both GHA and Civil Service both as being the public sector, both as being, what the hon Member sometimes calls, the Government sector. We do not draw a huge distinction but there is this tidying up value in that aspect of the agreement that we have just concluded with the Unions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I do not think it is true that he has never drawn such a distinction if we go back over the years to the answers he has given at different times. But that is not really relevant, as far as I am concerned, to the information that I am seeking. Is the difference between those who are in the Civil Service and those who are not just the Civil Service pension scheme?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, because you could have been recruited as a civil servant on contract terms and you still do not have a permanent and pensionable position. So, you have people who are recruited on contract by the GHA, people who are recruited indefinitely by the GHA. Indefinitely means something different to permanent and pensionable. It simply means that you are not recruited for a particular number of years and then even if your employer was the Government which makes you a civil servant, you could then be of two types, both of which are Crown Officers. You could be permanent and pensionable Crown Officers, like a general body of civil servants or you could be recruited on contract by the Crown and there are some that have been by the Crown and on contract in some of these medical positions. Eventually, they become indefinite not least because of the EU Directive about indefinite rights for people whose contracts are renewed. I think it is four years.

NO. 1525 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government state whether any post in the Civil Service does not have the salary scale of the grade included and listed in Appendix O of the Estimates of Expenditure 2010/2011 and, if so, can Government specify the posts and list the grade and salary scales?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1526 of 2010.

NO. 1526 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**CIVIL SERVICE – GRADES PROVIDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES
CORRESPONDING TO POSTS IN CIVIL SERVICE**

Can Government confirm whether all the grades in respect of which salary scales as at 1st April 2010 are provided in Appendix O of the Estimates of Expenditure 2010/2011 are in respect of posts in the Civil Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I confirm that all the grades in respect of which salary scales as at 1st April 2010 are provided in Appendix O of the 2010/11 Estimates Book are in respect of posts in the Civil Service.

Appendix O does not include three posts in respect of contract officers appointed after 1st April 2010 and two further posts which were omitted from Appendix O in error.

I now hand the hon Member a statement with details of these posts and their corresponding salaries.

So one page, some of them are posts, Chief Executive of the Law Courts, Director Media and Communications and the Private Secretary to the Chief Minister. These are the posts that were recruited after the 1st April and then, by error, the grade of Nursery Officer and Court Clerk were inadvertently omitted, for some reason, from this year's Appendix O, generally, not just in the context of a post holder. It is just that the scale did not appear in the list of grades.

Answer to Question Nos. 1525 and 1526 of 2010

<u>Post</u>	<u>Salary per annum</u>
<u>Contract Officers appointed after 1 April 2010</u>	
1. Chief Executive – Combined Law Courts	£80,000
2. Director, Medical and Communications	£50,000
3. PS to the Chief Minister and Press Secretary	£53,929
<u>Posts Omitted in Error</u>	
4. Nursery Officer – (Officer in charge of Nursery)	£25,488, £26,240, £27,014, £27,777, £28,359
5. Court Clerk	£28,270, £31,368, £32,246, £33,417, £35,681, £36,620, £39,685, £42,596, £44,438, £46,431, £48,424, £50,570, £52,715, £55,015

ORAL

NO. 1527 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Gibraltar Development Corporation in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1528 to 1533 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1528 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Sports and Leisure Authority in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1527 and 1529 to 1533 of 2010.

NO. 1529 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CARE AGENCY – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Care Agency in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1527, 1528 and 1530 to 1533 of 2010.

NO. 1530 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Social Services Agency in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1527 to 1529 and 1531 to 1533 of 2010.

NO. 1531 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT AUTHORITY – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Port Authority in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1527 to 1530, 1532 and 1533 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1532 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Electricity Authority in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1527 to 1531 and 1533 of 2010.

NO. 1533 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRA – GRADE AND SALARY SCALES OF POSTS NOT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX O OF THE ESTIMATES

Can Government provide the salary scales in respect of those posts in the establishment of the Regulatory Authority in the current financial year, the grade and salary scales of which are not included in Appendix O of the Estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am informed that the information cannot be provided at this time without specifically compiling it because it is not maintained in that form. However, coincidentally, I can tell the hon Member that in connection with the statements that I made at Budget time about provisions that the Government was working on for still more transparency in public affairs, that this, precisely this information that he is now asking for, is one of the additions that is being prepared to be compiled and included in the Appendices to the Budget Book as a matter of normal system. At the moment, the Appendices to the Budget Books as a recent innovation gives the establishment of the Agencies but not the information that he is now asking for which is these grades. They will be provided in the future and I have asked those who are working on this to let me have them as soon as possible so that as soon as it is ready he can have them. In other words, he may not have to wait until the next Budget Book. As soon as the information is compiled in preparation, which would normally be sometime January or February at the latest, I will send it to him so that he has it as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1527 TO 1533 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can he say whether the situation that he has just acknowledged, which has been existing in the Health Authority, also happens in any of the other Authorities or Agencies. Is there a mix of Civil Service and non Civil Service in any of the others?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Not for the same reason to the same extent or in the same way as with the GHA which is a genuine pot of mix. There are some Agencies which have grades which have historically been Civil Service grades and which remain Civil Service grades even when new members are recruited to it and they are then seconded to the Agency. One example

are the Social Workers who are civil servants. When we recruit new ones, they continue to be recruited as civil servants because it is a Civil Service grade but they work within the context of the Care Agency and, therefore, they are an integral part of the Care Agency, but Social Workers. So, there are within some of these Authorities, I think probably the Care Agency is the last one. I do not think it happens in the Port Authority or in the Electricity Authority or in the Sports and Leisure Authority. I am almost certain it does not. But in the Care Agency there are and indeed not just, I am not sure it is just Social Workers, I think there are a small number of Classroom Aides left who are, sort of, the tail end of that. So, I think the answer is probably only in the Care Agency as a matter of historical rump.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, for example, when I asked at a previous meeting of the House in respect of the Port Authority about the newly recruited assistant to the Chief Executive which is shown in the book as a HEO, that is not a Civil Service HEO salary scale?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. There were clerks and administrative grades in the Port Authority but they moved when they accepted the arrangements. They moved to the Authority and became Authority employees. So, no, there aren't any. My understanding is that that has all been done and dusted and that what he has just said in his last supplementary is indeed the correct statement of the position, namely that that is not... It may be a salary analogued by the Authority to an HEO salary but it is not an HEO Civil Service graded post or even a Civil Service post.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that I am identifying the posts with the salary scale, where the book says HEO, it is not necessarily the HEO in Appendix O, then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct.

NO. 1534 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – REFORM

Can Government confirm whether it is still its intention to introduce this year significant reforms to the system of Community Care to protect Gibraltar from the possibility of any successful EU challenge, as it said it would in the Budget session of 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It remains the Government's intention to carry out this necessary and desirable reform, although it may suffer delay until next year.

NO. 1535 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – NUMBER OF COMMUNITY OFFICERS IN PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Can Government state the total number of Community Officers in part-time employment with Community Care Limited as recorded in the Employment Survey Report of 2009 as part of the private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1536 of 2010.

NO. 1536 OF 2010**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – FUNDING**

Can Government state what funding, if any, has been provided to Community Care in each month since the answer to Question No. 1079 of 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

There were 665 Community Officers in part-time employment.

Funding provided to Gibraltar Community Care from June to September 2010 is as follows:

	Funding to Gibraltar Community Care
June	£2,840,000
July	£340,000
August	£430,000
September	£3,520,000

NO. 1537 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO PART-TIME COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Can Government confirm whether the conditions attached to the employment of part-time Community Officers by Gibraltar Community Care were as suggested by the Government when the proposal was put to the charity or if they were changed, and, if the latter, what was changed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I think the question correctly implies, Community Care Trust is neither owned nor controlled by the Government. The Government make suggestions to the trustees for them to consider. A variation in their Community Officer scheme in order to prevent the loss of eligibility to the scheme for those employees who have to carry on working because they have no occupational pension and who were otherwise eligible for the Community Care scheme. The Government made proposals which I am happy to say that the trustees, having considered, were minded to adopt the Government's suggestion and that is how the changes have come about.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1537 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question really was whether, in accepting the suggestion of the Government, they had changed anything or what was implemented was, in fact, as suggested?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not looked to check the minute detail but my understanding is that they were able to accept the idea as it was suggested and that is how they have adopted it and implemented it. But if there is a small variation somewhere, I am personally not familiar with it and it has not been brought to my attention.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the Government say in the initial answer that, in fact, it was for people who did not have an occupational pension scheme because I do not think that is, in fact, what is happening?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Amongst the terms is that. But it is not the only term. That is one of the things that the Government suggested to the trustees they might use to differentiate. So, the rules ... the idea as was proposed by the Government was that otherwise eligible persons for the Community Officer scheme who are in employment will remain eligible for appointment as a Community Officer, if their income from other employment or self-employment does not exceed £15,000 per annum. If any such applicant has such income in excess of £15,000, he is still eligible but the amount of the said excess is reduced from the remuneration payable to him as a Community Officer on a monthly basis. So, this is about circumstances... and it does include not having an occupational pension.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It does include ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does. It does. So, this is about circumstances different to circumstances in which eligibility which would previously have been lost, will now not be lost.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure if I am interpreting what the hon Member has said correctly. Is he saying that the occupational pension is not included in the income or is he saying that people with an occupational pension are not eligible? Which of the two is it? He seemed to be saying the first in the original answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is some time since I have looked at this. I think that ... let me just see. I am just checking to see if the note that I have here for supplementary gives me the answer to that. My understanding of it is that there is a level of income above which, whether it is from employment or from an occupational pension, would disentitle. In other words, if you have got an occupational pension but it is insufficient to prevent you from having to stop working, my understanding is, but I do not dare confirm it to him ... If he is keen for me to do it, I will find out. In other words, the essence of his question, as he has just last clarified it for my benefit, is if you have an occupational pension however low, do you then not benefit from the changes? Whereas somebody who has earned income of up to £15,000 can benefit from the changes. That is how I have understood the nuance that he is trying to focus.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Arising from his original answer, I understood him to be saying that the new element was for people who did not have occupational pensions. That is, as I remember the issue ... because there were ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That was the policy. That was the justification.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. Because there were people who were arguing that there were people with occupational pensions who were able to access this and people on lower incomes from employment without occupational pensions who were not, even though their income might be the same, the source of the income determined whether they were eligible or not. And I think those were the representations that were made to the Government and I think that is what prompted the suggestion by the Government to the Committee ... That is my understanding of the situation. So, the original question was to try and establish whether Community Care had actually implemented the scheme suggested or they had altered the scheme in some way and the answer is, as far as the Government are concerned, they have not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. My supplementary, as I understood his latest explanation, is that the threshold of the income is a threshold that can be income from employment, income from pension or a combination of the two because it is the amount of money that is provided to the xxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. But I am not ... I cannot tell him that with sufficient degree of certainty. You see I remember, at the time that the Government was thinking what to suggest to the trustees, of course, the position is that if you do not work, you can have as high an occupational pension as you like and you are still eligible.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

So, I remember thinking at the time, well it is a little bit unfair to ask the trustees to take into account occupational pensions because after all if it does not disentitle it to you if you

do not work, why should it disentitle you to it if you have to carry on working because your occupational pension may be very small. It may be that you have no one. So, I am not just sufficiently certain about how it came out in the end to tell you. If I was obliged to choose here and now, I think it is the latter. I think that the level of occupational pension is irrelevant and probably is not included in the £15,000. But I do not dare subscribe to the proposition categorically because I just do not ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is my understanding of what is happening, but I thought in his original formulation he was not saying that. He was saying that the occupational pension was ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Inclusive. In other words, the £15,000 inclusive of the pension.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Inclusive of the pension. Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If I had to choose now with a pistol to my head, I would say no. But I can find out.

NO. 1538 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVANTS – TRANSFERS TO LOWER PAID POSTS

Can Government state on what date it introduced the policy that any civil servant transferred to a lower paid post would no longer receive his previous salary on a personal to holder basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1539 and 1540 of 2010.

NO. 1539 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVANTS – TRANSFERS TO LOWER PAID POSTS

Can Government state how many civil servants since 1996 have been transferred to a lower paid post and retained their previous salary on a personal to holder basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1538 and 1540 of 2010.

NO. 1540 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVANTS – TRANSFERS TO LOWER PAID POSTS

Can Government state how many civil servants since 1996 have been transferred to a lower paid post and been paid the lower salary attached to this post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1538 of 2010

The policy has now been in place for over five years.

Answer to Question No. 1539 of 2010

A total of three civil servants have been transferred since 1996 to lower paid posts and retain their previous salaries on a personal to holder basis. One of these civil servants was allowed to retain his salary on a personal to holder basis prior to the introduction of the policy. Two, however, have been allowed to retain their salaries on a personal to holder basis after the introduction of the policy as a matter of implementation oversight by the Personnel Department and, of course, the Government have taken the view that it will not be right to retrieve the situation and they get the benefit of the mistake.

Answer to Question No. 1540 of 2010

A total of eleven civil servants have been transferred since 1996 to lower posts. Out of the eleven civil servants transferred, three were allowed to retain their salaries on a mark-time basis until overtaken by the salaries of the lower posts to which they were transferred. A further civil servant was allowed to retain his salary for one year and then assumed the salary of the lower post. Two civil servants reverted to their previous lower paid posts. Interestingly, in their cases, at their own requests.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1538 TO 1540 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

That makes a total of six and the other five out of the eleven?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can only assume that those were dealt with in whatever was the way that this was dealt with before the change in policy. But, certainly, the breakdown does not add up to the total of eleven. My understanding of that is that I have been sent here to give you an explanation of out of the eleven because the eleven is since 1996. There is no policy difference.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My interpretation of the shortfall is that those were dealt with in the way the system used to deal with them before.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the eleven the answer to Question No. 1540 of 2010?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, then it cannot have been the way it was before because the answer to Question No. 1540 of 2010 is that they were paid the lower salary.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, not for everybody. It depends on how the situation arose. For example, I remember that for several years after 1996 and it was not until several years later that in agreement with the Police Association we changed it. Police Officers who were medically boarded out were allowed to transfer to lower posts but were not ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

On a policeman's salary?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. But I cannot assure the hon Member that that is the explanation. But, certainly, that ... If he is particularly interested I will find out and have that communicated to him. So, the full breakdown of the eleven going all the way back to 1996, I will do that. I am afraid I do not have any supplementary information on this one that I can share with him.

ORAL

NO. 1541 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT AUTHORITY – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of Port Authority payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1542 to 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1542 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1541 and 1543 to 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1543 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the Gibraltar Development Corporation payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1541, 1542 and 1544 to 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1544 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the Elderly Care Agency payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1541 to 1543 and 1545 to 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1545 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the Social Services Agency payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1541 to 1544 and 1546 to 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1546 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1541 to 1545, 1547 and 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1547 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the Gibraltar Health Authority payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1541 to 1546 and 1548 of 2010.

NO. 1548 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS – PAYROLL COSTS/NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the most recent estimate of the departmental payroll costs in the last financial year and the numbers in employment at the close of the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the information that the hon Member seeks is in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question Nos. 1541 to 1548 of 2010

The following statement shows actual payroll costs as at 31st March 2010. The number of employees is the latest available information as per the published Estimates.

	TOTAL PAYROLL COSTS £'million	NO. OF EMPLOYEES	
Gibraltar Port Authority	2.13	47	
Gibraltar Sport and Leisure Authority	1.72	45	
Gibraltar Development Corporation	5.55	174	
Care Agency*	10.99	477	
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	7.63	175	
Gibraltar Health Authority	32.76	856	FTE
Government Departments	64.62	2097	

* In addition to the approved complement from the Elderly Care Agency and the Social Services Agency, this includes 19 employees from Bruce's Farm.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1541 TO 1548 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the Health Authority the figure is shown as full-time equivalents. I take it that this means that in the others it can be a mixture of part-time and full-time. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Theoretically yes, although I think the Health Authority has a much higher incidence of job share and part-time workers. But yes there are. The others are on a body count basis and the GHA is on the basis of full-time equivalents. So, there are not that many bodies. I think from memory it is somewhere between 600 and 700 bodies. Or rather there is something like ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The number of bodies must be higher.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. The number of bodies is about a hundred odd higher. From memory, from a figure that I saw recently but he ought to disregard that. If he wants that, he should ask for it separately.

ORAL

NO. 1549 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether any additional Public Sector entities have joined the No.2 Provident Fund Trust since the answer to Question No. 1100 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1550 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1550 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether any additional Private entities have joined the No.3 Provident Fund Trust since the answer to Question No. 1102 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a statement giving the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question Nos. 1549 and 1550 of 2010

Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Scheme

Additional Public Sector Entities since March 2010

Company Name	No. of Employees
*Gibraltar General Support Services Ltd.	41
*Gibraltar Cleansing Services Ltd.	29
Kings Bastion Leisure Centre Company Ltd.	1
Gibraltar Land Holdings Ltd.	1
	72

* Previously shown under Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.

Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Scheme

Additional Private Sector Entities since March 2010

Company Name	No. of Employees
Fidux Trust Company Ltd.	1
	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1549 AND 1550 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

As I understand the note in the explanation, people who were already covered by the scheme under the employment of Community Projects are the ones that are now covered by the scheme in the two new companies mentioned here?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because the question did not ask about new employees. It asked about new entities.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct. That does not represent an increase of 72 people in the scheme.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They were already there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not know whether the odd one in King's Bastion Leisure Centre and in Gibraltar Land Holdings Limited may be new staff, but certainly the other seventy ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are all transferred?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

NO. 1551 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – PAYMENT OF PREMIUM DUE

Can Government state how much of the premium due in respect of the Eastside development has already been paid, what is the actual sum and when was the last payment made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

An amount of £32,985,000 in respect of the premium due for the Eastside Development has already been paid. The last payment was made at the end of March 2007.

NO. 1552 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government state whether on the basis of the rate of construction to date it still expects the expenditure of the Improvement and Development Fund to reach almost £119 million in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes Sir.

ORAL

NO. 1553 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state whether there has been any amount written-off in respect of arrears of rates in 2009/2010, 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

I now hand the hon Member a statement giving the information he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1553 of 2010

Breakdown of Write-offs for Financial Year 2009/2010

Classification	No. of A/C's	Amount Written-off	Range of debt period
a) Domestic	45	£97,356.54	1984 to 2010
b) Commercial	156	£1,324,649.83	1987 to 2009

NO. 1554 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRATUITY PAYMENTS TO CONTRACT OFFICERS

Can Government state whether the 25 per cent payment in lieu of pension rights to eligible contract officers is charged to the Pensions Head of Expenditure in Consolidated Fund charges for 2010/2011?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. The payment of gratuities to eligible contract officers is charged to an item specifically for gratuities in the relevant Departmental Head or Agency.

ORAL

NO. 1555 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RELOCATION COSTS GIBRALTAR BOAT SQUADRON

Can Government state what further payments have been made in respect of the relocation of the Gibraltar Boat Squadron since the answer to Question No. 1085 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 1555 of 2010

Further payments made in respect of the Relocation of the Gibraltar Boat Squadron since the answer to Q1085 of 2010:

	Costs from Q1085 to <u>date</u>	Estimated remaining costs to <u>date</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
1) Boat Squadron Building			
Building Contractor	275,649	824,601	1,100,250
Consultants Costs	43,696	34,256	77,952
Architect Fees	<u>13,622</u>	<u>24,491</u>	<u>38,113</u>
	<u>332,967</u>	<u>883,348</u>	<u>1,216,315</u>
2) Finger Jetty			
Building Contractor	1,272,232	499,187	1,771,419
Consultants Costs	<u>41,532</u>	<u>46,151</u>	<u>87,683</u>
	<u>1,313,764</u>	<u>545,338</u>	<u>1,859,102</u>
3) Pontoons			
Building Contractor	<u>0</u>	<u>515,000</u>	<u>515,000</u>

NO. 1556 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GJBS LIMITED – TAKEOVER OF RENTAL HOUSING ESTATE PREVIOUSLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY BRUESA

Can Government state how much has been paid to GJBS Limited in respect of the takeover of the rental housing estate previously under construction by BRUESA and how much has GJBS Limited paid sub-contractors since the answer to Question No. 1093 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have paid £8,772,696.33 of which it has paid £2,020,081.63 to sub-contractors.

NO. 1557 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what property or land sales, if any, there have been in the current financial year, resulting in receipts to the Improvement and Development Fund since the answer to Question No. 1062 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1497 of 2010

No residential tenders have been awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time.

Answer to Question No. 1498 and 1557 of 2010

I now hand the hon Members a schedule setting out all the other information that they have requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jun-10	A Rose & J Keany	10% deposit 100 tender for 18 George's Lane	£18,000.00
Jul-10	A Rose & J Keany	90% balance 100 tender for 18 George's Lane	£162,000.00
Jul-10	Mr J Broton	Sale of 14 South Barrack Road	£22,150.00
Aug-10	S Danino & K Galia	Premium 100 extension of lease of flats 405/406 Trafalgar Hou	£11,258.92
			<u>£213,408.92</u>

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Westside Two Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Aug-10	M & C J Golt	Purchase of 25 Freemantle Court, Harbour Views	£10,272.01
<u>Brympton Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Jul-10	D P Llamas & G F Danino	50% Share iro 24 Blackwood Tower	£61,151.40
<u>Gibraltar Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Jul-10	Mr & Mrs Davis	35% Share iro 12 Knightsbridge Close & C.P.S 150	£36,906.40
<u>Gibraltar Residential Properties Co Ltd</u>			
Jun-10	Maria de Lourdes Lima	Purchase of 20 Ross House	£45,800.00
Jun-10	J Victor	100% Sale of 8 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£74,050.60
Jun-10	R Chapman & T Waters	50% Sale of 11 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£26,347.00
Jun-10	D Monteverde	50% Sale of 13 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£24,451.00
Jun-10	K Watkins	50% Sale of 16 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£24,951.00
Jun-10	R Artesani	100% Sale of 21 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£100,000.00
Jun-10	J Montegriffo & S Bailey	100% Sale of 24 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£84,199.50
Jun-10	D & D Victor	60% Sale of 29 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£39,005.20
Jun-10	A Barea	50% Sale of 2 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£25,948.00
Jun-10	D & J A Carter	60% Sale of 3 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£37,048.00
Jun-10	A & T L Martinez	50% Sale of 4 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£26,448.00
Jun-10	T & J Wahnon	50% Sale of 5 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£26,147.60
Jun-10	D Garcia & K Crome	60% Sale of 11 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£37,106.20
Jun-10	J Guy	50% Sale of 12 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£26,346.00

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jun-10 M & D Holland		50% Sale of 15 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£27,046.80
Jun-10 M Mills		70% Sale of 16 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£48,726.80
Jun-10 M Cruz & J Ryan		60% Sale of 17 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£38,166.40
Jun-10 D & K Mifsud		70% Sale of 19 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£49,086.40
Jun-10 D & D Peñalver		100% Sale of 20 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£81,345.40
Jun-10 J & L Canepa		60% Sale of 23 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£38,446.00
Jun-10 A & D Crisp		80% Sale of 24 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£59,946.00
Jun-10 S & N Acris		100% Sale of 25 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£83,044.60
Jun-10 C Alecio-Eldridge & E Eldridge		100% Sale of 28 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£82,544.00
Jun-10 G & S Hedley		100% Sale of 29 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£83,644.20
Jun-10 L & X Cerisola		50% Sale of 30 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£27,345.20
Jun-10 P & J Martinez		100% Sale of 31 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£83,644.20
Jun-10 K Atfard & R Martinez		50% Sale of 32 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£27,845.20
Jun-10 J Faragher & Miss B C Hall		Deposit iro 202 Bayview Terraces	£1,000.00
Jun-10 N M Vinent & M Marlow		Deposit iro 101 Nelson's View	£1,000.00
Jun-10 D & M Grambow		60% Sale of G01 Cumberland Terraces	£66,063.00
Jun-10 C McIntosh & C Neale		50% Sale of G04 Cumberland Terraces	£53,786.00
Jun-10 A K Victor & N A Victor		100% Sale of G07 Cumberland Terraces	£160,600.00
Jun-10 M Peñalver & T Apap		50% Sale of G09 Cumberland Terraces	£53,286.00
Jun-10 A Moreno		60% Sale of G14 Cumberland Terraces	£58,761.00
Jun-10 M E & T Benaim		100% Sale of 107 Cumberland Terraces	£160,800.00

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CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jun-10	A Barrat	50% Sale of 114 Cumberland Terraces	£48,901.00
Jun-10	J Hurtado	60% Sale of 118 Cumberland Terraces	£57,099.00
Jun-10	N Galliano	70% Sale of 218 Cumberland Terraces	£66,922.00
Jun-10	G C Gaduzo & K Moss	60% Sale of 220 Cumberland Terraces	£68,283.00
Jun-10	T Lavelle	50% Sale of 221 Cumberland Terraces	£47,516.00
Jun-10	J L Gibney	70% Sale of 222 Cumberland Terraces	£67,062.00
Jun-10	M Netto & D Britto-Lett	60% Sale of 223 Cumberland Terraces	£68,721.00
Jun-10	T & C Victory	100% Sale of 307 Cumberland Terraces	£161,200.00
Jun-10	S M Perez	70% Sale of 313 Cumberland Terraces	£56,142.00
Jun-10	K B Borastero	55% Sale of 314 Cumberland Terraces	£54,111.00
Jun-10	M D Pizarro	60% Sale of 317 Cumberland Terraces	£57,339.00
Jun-10	G & R M Sevilla	50% Sale of 319 Cumberland Terraces	£57,111.00
Jun-10	A Ouarbiaa	70% Sale of 404 Cumberland Terraces	£78,290.00
Jun-10	R L Yeats	60% Sale of 405 Cumberland Terraces	£50,895.00
Jun-10	S & N R Gross	70% Sale of 406 Cumberland Terraces	£111,491.00
Jun-10	I & L Wood	50% Sale of 409 Cumberland Terraces	£55,437.00
Jun-10	E Reyes & M Gomez	50% Sale of 410 Cumberland Terraces	£56,536.00
Jun-10	K Nuza	50% Sale of 418 Cumberland Terraces	£47,716.00
Jun-10	D Hassan	100% Sale of 503 Cumberland Terraces	£115,520.00
Jun-10	A Alsina & J Benyunes	50% Sale of 511 Cumberland Terraces	£56,161.00
Jun-10	A H Mkerref & L'Bari	50% Sale of 512 Cumberland Terraces	£57,261.00
Jun-10	C Santos	50% Sale of 515 Cumberland Terraces	£46,431.00

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jun-10	R Anes	100% Sale of 602 Cumberland Terraces	£114,370.00
Jun-10	J Edery	100% Sale of 603 Cumberland Terraces	£116,570.00
Jun-10	S P Micallef-Eyraud	60% Sale of 608 Cumberland Terraces	£53,811.00
Jun-10	G Alecio	70% Sale of 618 Cumberland Terraces	£67,482.00
Jun-10	N Cavilla	50% Sale of 621 Cumberland Terraces	£48,016.00
Jun-10	W Borastero	50% Sale of 705 Cumberland Terraces	£42,446.00
Jun-10	R & P Mir	100% Sale of 707 Cumberland Terraces	£114,100.01
Jun-10	S A Button	70% Sale of 715 Cumberland Terraces	£65,543.00
Jun-10	K Rose	50% Sale of 717 Cumberland Terraces	£48,016.00
Jun-10	L Games & C Galea	50% Sale of 719 Cumberland Terraces	£59,136.00
Jun-10	N P Victory & J E Gomila	100% Sale of 722 Cumberland Terraces	£97,030.00
Jul-10	S Figueras & J Borg	Reservation fee iro Flat 9, Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Jul-10	Mr & Mrs Pinna	Purchase of 61 Ross House	£45,800.00
Jul-10	L & P J Baglietto	Purchase of 59 Picton House	£45,800.00
Jul-10	J J Bonfante	Purchase of 21 St John's Court	£43,100.00
Jul-10	E & E Gonzalez Maclaren	Purchase of 83 Alameda House, Alameda Estate	£53,100.00
Jul-10	C Neale	50% Sale of 4 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£24,452.00
Jul-10	S Burns & D Benrimoj	100% Sale of 27 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£83,044.60
Jul-10	E Alecio	100% Sale of 28 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£74,800.10
Jul-10	P & T Pereira	50% Sale of 9 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£26,347.60
Jul-10	L Azopardi	60% Sale of 18 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£34,846.15
Jul-10	P & S Courtenay	70% Sale of 20 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£49,086.40

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jul-10	K Negron & J Estella	50% Sale of 1 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£25,948.00
Jul-10	J Estella	50% Sale of 8 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£26,647.60
Jul-10	A & T Caetano	50% Sale of 21 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£27,446.00
Jul-10	J Schembri	100% Sale of 27 Sea Daffodil House, Waterport Terraces	£83,044.60
Jul-10	P Gache & K Gomez	Deposit iro 218 Nelson's View	£1,000.00
Jul-10	E & M Cortes	Deposit iro 606 Nelson's View	£1,000.00
Jul-10	J McIntosh & R A Martinez	Deposit iro G10 Bayview Terraces	£1,000.00
Jul-10	A & F Jatarbi	50% Sale of G06 Cumberland Terraces	£78,951.00
Jul-10	J Greygoose	50% Sale of G08 Cumberland Terraces	£43,976.00
Jul-10	M Garret & S Williams	70% Sale of 109 Cumberland Terraces	£75,875.00
Jul-10	Y & F J Odinius	55% Sale of 210 Cumberland Terraces	£61,299.50
Jul-10	E & G Smart	50% Sale of 302 Cumberland Terraces	£55,111.00
Jul-10	C Cooper	88% Sale of 622 Cumberland Terraces	£85,267.40
Jul-10	F A Imossi	100% Sale of 701 Cumberland Terraces	£117,070.00
Aug-10	Mr N & Mrs D Serra	Reservation fee iro Flat 4, 12 Castle Steps	£500.00
Aug-10	Mr D Collins & Ms C Knock	Reservation fee iro Flat 3, 12 Castle Steps	£500.00
Aug-10	F & E Rocca	Purchase of 80 Alameda House, Alameda Estate	£53,100.00
Aug-10	P M & M C Emmett	Purchase of 44 St Joseph's East Mews	£51,100.00
Aug-10	E Piris	Purchase of 31 Royal Oak House, Varyl Begg Estate	£49,100.00
Aug-10	J D Sene	Purchase of 30 Royal Oak House, Varyl Begg Estate	£49,100.00

Cont...

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Residential Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Aug-10	A & M Suisi	Purchase of 5 Orsovs House, Varyl Begg Estate	£54,200.00
Aug-10	F Cruz & B Calvente	50% Sale of 3 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£25,948.00
Aug-10	D Bell & S Mohamed	51% Sale of 12 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£25,348.15
Aug-10	D & S Broadhust	60% Sale of 26 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£38,725.60
Aug-10	P & T Pereira	50% Sale of 10 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£24,476.95
Aug-10	C G Riley	50% Sale of 122 Cumberland Terraces	£47,516.00
Aug-10	A C Coelho	60% Sale of 505 Cumberland Terraces	£51,015.00
Aug-10	S & K Lopez	50% Sale of 509 Cumberland Terraces	£56,161.00
Aug-10	J Byrne	50% Sale of 514 Cumberland Terraces	£49,401.00
Aug-10	D Borge & E M Azopardi	100% Sale of 607 Cumberland Terraces	£161,800.00
Aug-10	R Piri	50% Sale of 708 Cumberland Terraces	£44,676.00
Aug-10	V Byrne	50% Sale of 709 Cumberland Terraces	£56,936.00
Aug-10	N Victor	2:00:13 Rosemary Court, SWJGrove (Prev Opt C)	£37,364.10
			£6,286,347.86
			£6,394,677.67

Cont...

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Commercial Property Sales from 1 June 2010 to 31 August 2010 (Improvement and Development Fund)

Date	Tenant	Address	Amount Paid
Jul-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road (3 installments)	£2,946.00
Aug-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Aug-10	Zerona Properties Ltd	Premium iro extension of development period for Maida Vale Site	£50,000.00
			<u>£53,928.00</u>

Cont...

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1498

Commercial Property Sales From 1 June 2010 To 31 August 2010 (Government Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Gibraltar Commercial Property Co Ltd</u>			
Jul-10	Giblon Ltd	Premium iro Unit 1A Harbours Yard	£82,030.00
Aug-10	Syvestrine Ltd	Premium iro Unit 11 Harbours Yard	£294,778.05
			<u>£376,808.05</u>

NO. 1558 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ESTIMATED INCREASE IN RECEIPTS FROM SALE OF ELECTRICITY

Can Government confirm whether the £900,000 estimated increase in receipts from the sale of electricity in the current financial year includes the effect of the January increase in electricity and, if so, how much of the increased revenue is attributable to this?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I think the hon Member may have made some fundamental errors in the formulation of this question.

The last increase in electricity tariffs was effective from 1st July 2010 and not January.

Assuming that he is reading from the right place, the estimated increase, the approved estimate in receipts from the sale of electricity in the Budget Book is £2.9 million and not £0.9 million as the question states. This estimated increase of £2.9 million does take into account the increase in tariffs and the element of that increase attributable to the increase in tariffs is £0.7 million. The balance being to other sources of increase, quantity of units, arrears, that sort of thing. No not arrears, that is accommodated separately.

ORAL

NO. 1559 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – LEVEL OF RESERVES

Can Government confirm whether it is Government policy to maintain a given level of reserves in the Statutory Benefits Fund either in cash terms or as a percentage of the Fund's recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1560 of 2010.

NO. 1560 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – ACTUARIAL REVIEW

Can Government state whether it has now taken a decision that a further actuarial review of the Statutory Benefits Fund is required?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is no specific Government policy to maintain a given level of reserves in the Statutory Benefits Fund, either in cash terms or as a particular percentage of the Fund's recurrent expenditure.

As the hon Member knows, benefits payable from the Statutory Benefits Fund are prescribed by statute and the Fund is used by the Government as the vehicle to channel the necessary funding required to meet the payments of these benefits. This funding is provided by way of social insurance contributions and by contributions from the Consolidated Fund.

The balance in the Statutory Benefits Fund represents a cash reserve that is available to the Government to smooth out increases in social insurance contributions and to manage the Fund's cash flows.

As regards the commissioning of a further actuarial review, the Government have not taken a decision in this respect.

NO. 1561 OF 2010

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. 1117 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1562 to 1564 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1562 OF 2010

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. 1116 of 2010 from the Stamp Duty on Share Issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1561, 1563 and 1564 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1563 OF 2010

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. 1115 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1561, 1562 and 1564 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1564 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NUMBER OF PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS WITH A PROPERTY VALUE IN EXCESS OF £350,000

Can Government state how many property transactions with a property value in excess of £350,000 there were in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule setting out the information that he seeks.

Answer to Question No. 1564 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1561 of 2010

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sales since May 2010 is as follows:

June 2010	78
July 2010	100
August 2010	44

Answer to Question No. 1562 of 2010

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues in each month since May 2010 is as follows:

June 2010	£1,570.00
July 2010	£1,620.00
August 2010	£1,270.00

Answer to Question No. 1563 of 2010

Stamp Duty collected in each month since May 2010 is as follows:

June 2010	£351,594.26
July 2010	£431,328.33
August 2010	£243,075.61

Answer to Question No. 1564 of 2010

The number of property transactions with a property value of over £350,000 in the last financial year was 142.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1561 TO 1564 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

May I have your permission to go back to the previous question because we were handed a schedule but I had not had the opportunity of looking at it before we jumped to the present question.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

This is the answer to Question No. 1564 of 2010 which included Nos. 1561, 1562, 1563 and 1564 and all related to Stamp Duty. Can the hon Member confirm whether the numbers given in terms of number of properties and Stamp Duty collected in answer to Question No. 1563, whether those take into account the new thresholds and rates which were announced at budget time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I think that the new threshold and things, as he calls them ...

HON G H LICUDI:

I said rates.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, well things would have been perfectly okay too, that were introduced I think the budget came into effect on 1st July. Was there a date?

HON G H LICUDI:

There is a Bill for this session which is an act to amend the Stamp Duties Act which is stated to be retrospective to 1st July which gives effect to those budget measures but that Bill has not been implemented yet. It is before this session of the House. It is going to have retrospective effect when it is passed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see.

HON G H LICUDI:

What I am wondering is whether these figures take into account the new measures or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, well if somebody has thought it necessary to draft the legislation retrospectively, it must be because they must have been collecting the duty at the higher rate. So, the answer must be yes, in respect of the July figure. No, in respect of the June figure and yes, in respect of the August figure.

HON G H LICUDI:

So is the hon Member confirming that rates are being charged to date for which there is no statutory provision?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if the Bill which I have not looked at myself is retrospective then that suggests that the answer to his question is yes. If it were no, then there would be no need for the Bill to be retrospective, I would have thought.

HON G H LICUDI:

So, if I complete on a property today, hypothetically, I would be charged a rate for which there is no statutory provision. Can the hon Member confirm on what basis that new rate has been charged today?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, given that I see where the hon Member is coming from, I do not think it would be appropriate for us to have a discussion, that might otherwise have to take place in a court room, across the floor of this House. It is not unusual for budget measures to be given implementation, to be implemented before the law is introduced and then the law catches up. Whether that is best practice, good practice, okay practice or bad practice or indeed lawful practice, is not a matter that we should be debating across the floor of the House. But I hear what the hon Member is implying or insinuating.

HON G H LICUDI:

I raise this issue and now I think I am in a court room of politics xxxxx. I raise this issue because these were questions which were going to be raised by me at the time of the debate on the Second Reading of the Stamp Duties Act and I was going to raise these queries and I just wanted, given that we were given this information, to know the factual information so that we could air ... But I hear also what the hon Member has said and that is something that I will take into account.

NO. 1565 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FORECAST OUTTURN – BY HEAD OF EXPENDITURE 2009/2010

Can Government provide a breakdown by Head of Expenditure of the £2.13 million by which the forecast outturn for 2009/2010 was less than originally forecast?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1566 to 1568 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1566 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FORECAST OUTTURN – CONSOLIDATED FUND INTEREST 2009/2010

Can Government confirm that the revised forecast outturn for Consolidated Fund Interest was £200,000 for 2009/2010 as shown in the published Estimates and if not provide the latest figure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1565, 1567 and 1568 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1567 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ESTIMATED REVENUE – HEAD 6(1) CONSOLIDATED FUND INTEREST

Can Government explain the source of the estimated revenue yield of £3 million in the current financial year in respect of Head 6(1) – Consolidated Fund Interest?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1565, 1566 and 1568 of 2010.

NO. 1568 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FORECAST OUTTURN – BY HEAD OF REVENUE 2009/2010

Can Government provide a breakdown by Head of Revenue of the £2.15 million which the forecast outturn for 2009/2010 was exceeded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information sought in the various questions.

Answer to Question 1568 of 2010

Answer to Question 1565

The following is a breakdown by Head of Expenditure:

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	<u>FORECAST</u> <u>OUTTURN</u> <u>2009/2010</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2009/2010</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
Head			
1A - Education	£24,344,000	£24,349,230	(£5,230)
1B - Training	£946,000	£946,621	(£621)
2A - Culture and Heritage	£1,985,000	£1,938,798	£46,202
2B - Sport and Leisure	£2,181,000	£2,250,021	(£69,021)
3A - Housing - Administration	£2,950,000	£2,925,152	£24,848
3B - Housing - Buildings and Works	£7,125,000	£7,131,727	(£6,727)
4A - Environment	£13,271,000	£13,233,584	£37,417
4B - Technical Services	£5,329,000	£5,312,970	£16,030
4C - Tourism	£3,142,000	£3,129,066	£12,934
5A - Family and Community Affairs	£25,665,000	£24,882,846	£782,154
5B - Youth	£385,000	£391,555	(£6,555)
6A - Enterprise	£2,873,000	£2,892,461	(£19,461)
6B - Transport - Port and Shipping	£1,149,000	£1,151,247	(£2,247)
6C - Transport - Aviation	£4,151,000	£4,029,788	£121,212
6D - Transport - Vehicle, Traffic and Public Transport	£1,417,000	£1,411,526	£5,474
6E - Postal Services	£2,774,000	£2,779,946	(£5,946)
6F - Broadcasting	£1,920,000	£1,919,204	£796
6G - Utilities	£11,130,000	£10,930,937	£199,063
7A - Health	£29,778,000	£29,540,000	£238,000
7B - Civil Contingency	£55,000	£50,587	£4,413
7C - Fire Service	£3,583,000	£3,574,509	£8,491
8A - No.6 Convent Place	£7,852,000	£7,740,506	£111,494
8B - Human Resources	£732,000	£725,434	£6,566
9A - Finance Ministry	£475,000	£471,087	£3,913
9B - Treasury	£5,860,000	£5,818,778	£41,222
9C - Customs	£4,704,000	£4,699,206	£4,794
9D - Income Tax	£2,071,000	£2,076,433	(£5,433)
9E - Finance Centre	£1,607,000	£1,615,090	(£8,090)
10 - Employment, Labour and Industrial Relations	£2,319,000	£1,733,361	£585,639
11A - Justice Ministry	£674,000	£651,219	£22,781
11B - Courts - Supreme Court	£716,000	£702,503	£13,497
11C - Courts - Magistrates' and Coroner's Court	£446,000	£443,090	£2,910
11D - Attorney General's Chambers	£616,000	£614,895	£1,105
11E - Prison	£1,390,000	£1,396,723	(£6,723)
11F - Policing	£10,061,000	£10,043,706	£17,294
12 - Immigration and Civil Status	£2,647,000	£2,690,085	(£43,085)
13 - Parliament	£1,314,000	£1,307,045	£6,955
14 - Gibraltar Audit Office	£689,000	£686,451	£2,549
Total	£190,326,000	£188,187,390	£2,138,610

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 1568 of 2010

Answer to Question 1566

The actual Consolidated Fund Interest for the financial year 2009/10 was £272k.

Answer to Question 1567

The estimated revenue provided for under Head 6(1) is in respect of interest earned in the Government's cash reserves.

This also provides for interest payable to the Consolidated Fund on any outstanding advance made to the Government-owned Companies.

Answer to Question 1568

The following is a breakdown by Head of Revenue:

REVENUE ACCOUNT

	<u>FORECAST OUTTURN 2009/2010</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2009/2010</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
<u>Head</u>			
1 - Income Taxes	£143,500,000	£144,175,666	(£675,666)
2 - Duties, Taxes and Other Receipts	£68,955,000	£69,351,322	(£396,322)
3 - Gambling Fees, Taxes and Lottery	£12,320,000	£12,371,554	(£51,554)
4 - Rates and Rents	£16,572,000	£16,765,615	(£193,615)
5 - Departmental Fees and Receipts	£17,911,000	£18,209,431	(£298,431)
6 - Government Earnings	£5,192,000	£5,728,594	(£536,594)
Total	<u>£264,450,000</u>	<u>£266,602,182</u>	<u>(£2,152,182)</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1565 TO 1568 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In Question No. 1568 of 2010, I think there must have been a mistake because it shows the variance as minuses. They are all pluses. Are they not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, because they are shown as variances from the forecasts. So the bracket is to show a ... Well I suppose it is revenue, yes, it were expenditure perhaps. In other words, in all the cases the actual figures were higher than in the forecast outturns, so the revenue all tends to be higher. Yes. I suppose brackets usually show a deterioration rather than improvements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is what it shows on the expenditure side. The figures that are lower ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask in Question No. 1567 of 2010, is this reference to interest payable by the Government owned companies something introduced new this year or was there an element of that in the answer to Question No. 1566 of 2010?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know from my own information and knowledge whether making the companies pay the Consolidated Fund interest is something that has been started this year or not. I would have to find out from the Financial Secretary whether that is in previous years too. I do not know off hand the answer to the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the current year, does the hon Member have any idea of the proportions in the answer he has provided to Question No. 1567 of 2010 which he says is in respect of interest on the reserves and interest on the amount advanced? Does he know how much of each or more or less?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. There is only a token of £100,000 interest in cash reserves. The cash reserves are actually placed with the Savings Bank which actually came to zero to the Government in

the current interest rate climate and the interest on advances to Government owned companies is written in, is pencilled into that figure at £2.9 million from the ... xxxxx £3 million ...

NO. 1569 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PROVISION FOR GRANTS IN 2010/2011

Can Government confirm whether the provision for grants to be awarded in 2010/2011, shown in Appendix N of £700,000, includes the increase announced this year in the level of the grant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The increase in university student grants of 10 per cent, worth an extra £543 to students in London and £441 to students outside London, is not included in the figures shown in Appendix N.

ORAL

NO. 1570 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PURCHASE OF SHARES OF GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT (HOLDINGS) LIMITED BY THE I & D FUND IN 2009/2010

Can Government provide a breakdown of the expenditure financed by the £15 million purchase of shares of Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Limited by the Improvement and Development Fund in 2009/2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1571 and 1572 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1571 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

AMOUNTS ADVANCED TO GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES IN 2009/2010

Can Government confirm that the advance to Government owned companies from the Consolidated Fund as at the end of March 2010 was £69 million, as shown in the Government Estimates for 2010/2011?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 and 1572 of 2010.

NO. 1572 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

AMOUNTS ADVANCED TO GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES IN 2010/2011

Can Government provide the amounts advanced to Government owned companies from the Consolidated Fund at the end of each month in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to question No. 1570 of 2010

The £15 million in Equity Funding was used towards funding the Government Rental Housing Estate.

Capital Expenditure incurred on the Rental Housing Estate up to the year ended 31st March 2010 was £16.4 million.

Answer to Question No. 1571 of 2010

Government can confirm that the advance to the Government owned companies from the Consolidated Fund as at the end of March 2010 was £69 million.

Answer to Question No. 1572 of 2010

The rest of the information that the hon Member seeks is in the schedule now being handed to him.

Answer to Question 1572 of 2010

	Amounts Advanced to Government-Owned Companies from the Consolidated Fund by month			
	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10
	Net (Advances) / Deposits	Net (Advances) / Deposits	Net (Advances) / Deposits	Net (Advances) / Deposits
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd	(£89,601.38)	(£146,894.09)	(£71,472.60)	(£199,402.89)
Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd	(£64,335.79)	(£367,944.75)	(£196,883.92)	(£93,687.36)
Gibraltar Co-ownership Company Ltd	(£348,802.99)	(£297,586.60)	(£680,186.81)	(£69,458.73)
Gibraltar Commercial Property Company Ltd	47,823.24	53,121.52	217,632.44	142,004.60
Gibraltar Defence Estates & General Services Ltd	(£4,331.79)	(£4,331.79)	(£4,331.79)	(£4,344.79)
Gibraltar General Construction Company Ltd	(£28,671.55)	(£2,904.98)	388,381.04	279,425.91
Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Co Ltd	(£123,899.00)	(£288,182.10)	(£323,799.00)	(£125,503.20)
Gibraltar Land Holdings Ltd	(£155,485.96)	(£114,345.19)	(£64,572.77)	(£134,489.02)
Gibraltar Residential Properties Ltd	(£1,687,606.00)	(£3,053,945.52)	3,844,989.61	(£2,346,441.09)
Kings Bastion Leisure Centre Company Ltd	(£174,546.91)	(£86,451.15)	(£294,679.57)	(£94,304.11)
Brympton Co-ownership Company Ltd	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,123.83
Gibraltar M & E Services Ltd	(£6,714.11)	(£141,642.51)	(£23,173.16)	15,457.92
Kijj Parkings Ltd	0.00	0.00	(£14,300.00)	0.00
Gibraltar Air Terminal Ltd	590.00	0.00	0.00	(£10.00)
Giblaundry Company Ltd	10,000.00	(£432.00)	0.00	(£30.00)
Gibraltar Strand Property Company Ltd	204,746.71	(£48,655.27)	(£30.00)	12,790.70
Westside Two Co-ownership Company Ltd	74,565.96	0.00	0.00	(£10.00)
Gibraltar Cleansing Services Ltd	0.00	475.00	0.00	0.00
GCP Investments Ltd	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
Gibraltar General Support Services Ltd	0.00	475.00	0.00	0.00
	(£2,346,269.57)	(£4,489,244.43)	2,777,573.47	(£2,560,878.23)
				(£4,575,211.67)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1570 TO 1572

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member confirm that the interpretation of the information that he has handed to me means that at the end of each column the total is either added to or subtracted from the £69 million depending on whether it is a plus or a minus? Is that correct? So that for example, it means that the advances went up by £2.3 million in April and came down by £2.7 million in June. Is that the correct application of this information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because at the top of the column it says net advances in that column. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right.

ORAL

NO. 1573 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – INVESTMENTS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank at 31st March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1574 to 1577 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1574 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – INVESTMENTS

Can Government explain which of the investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank during 2008/2009 showed a capital gain of £686,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1573 and 1575 to 1577 of 2010.

NO. 1575 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEPOSITS

Can Government say what was the level of (a) non-Government deposits and (b) Government deposits, in the Savings Bank Fund as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 1135 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1573, 1574, 1576 and 1577 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1576 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – INTEREST PAID ON ACCOUNTS

Can Government state the current rate of interest paid by the Gibraltar Savings Bank on On-Call Investment Accounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1573 to 1575 and 1577 of 2010.

NO. 1577 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – NO INTEREST PAID

Can Government explain why the Gibraltar Savings Bank paid no interest in 2008/2009 on Government deposits, and is budgeted to pay no interest in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the information requested is set out in the schedule that I am now handing to the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1577**Answer to Question 1573**

The following statement shows the breakdown of investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank as per the Savings Bank Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2010:

SAVINGS BANK FUND
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS ON 31 MARCH 2010
SHOWING MARKET VALUE ON THAT DATE

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK	NOMINAL VALUE	MARKET PRICE ACCRUED INTEREST %	MARKET VALUE ACCRUED INTEREST	TOTAL MARKET VALUE ON 31 3 10
UBS AG JERSEY FRN 02/07/2010	£7,000,000.00	99.843 0.146	£6,988,987.39 £10,215.53	£6,999,202.92
BZLNZ FRN 06/07/2010	£4,800,000.00	99.878 0.145	£4,794,127.63 £6,980.11	£4,801,107.74
BANK OF AMERICA FRN 02/02/2011	£6,000,000.00	99.591 0.110	£5,975,466.48 £6,611.66	£5,982,078.14
HSBC FRN 11/04/2011	£5,000,000.00	99.636 0.143	£4,981,804.55 £7,169.52	£4,988,974.07
CREDIT SUISSE FRN 14/06/2011	£10,000,000.00	99.492 0.030	£9,949,243.00 £2,958.90	£9,952,201.90
CLYDES FRN 29/06/11	£7,000,000.00	99.360 0.004	£6,955,192.23 £286.59	£6,955,478.82
BANK OF SCOTLAND HBOS FLOAT 07/12/11	£2,000,000.00	99.023 0.044	£1,980,453.08 £875.89	£1,981,328.97
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA FRN 14/12/11	£5,000,000.00	99.326 0.031	£4,966,287.40 £1,545.21	£4,967,832.61
BNS FRN 21/12/11	£1,600,000.00	99.218 0.018	£1,587,480.58 £285.04	£1,587,765.62
CITIGROUP FRN 16/01/2012	£4,000,000.00	98.219 0.138	£3,928,749.04 £5,533.15	£3,934,282.19
KBC FRN 18/01/12	£5,000,000.00	99.238 0.135	£4,961,918.60 £6,768.49	£4,968,687.09
WELLS FARGO CO FRN 25/01/12	£4,000,000.00	99.120 0.126	£3,964,781.24 £5,026.41	£3,969,807.65
Carried Forward	£61,400,000.00		£61,088,747.72	£61,088,747.72

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1577
Contd Answer to Question 1573

SAVINGS BANK FUND
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS ON 31 MARCH 2010
SHOWING MARKET VALUE ON THAT DATE

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK	NOMINAL VALUE	MARKET PRICE ACCRUED INTEREST %	MARKET VALUE ACCRUED INTEREST	TOTAL MARKET VALUE ON 31 3 10
Brought Forward	£61,400,000.00		£61,088,747.72	£61,088,747.72
GE CAPITAL UK FRN 30/01/12	£6,400,000.00	98.813 0.120	£6,324,058.30 £7,660.93	£6,331,719.23
DEUTSCHE BANK FRN 26/04/12	£5,000,000.00	99.196 0.116	£4,959,817.40 £5,824.70	£4,965,642.10
JP MORGAN CHASE FRN 27/06/12	£6,000,000.00	98.614 0.004	£5,916,824.28 £245.65	£5,917,069.93
UK TREASURY BILL 06/04/10	£20,000,000.00	99.991	£19,998,236.26	£19,998,236.26
UK TREASURY BILL 12/04/10	£26,000,000.00	99.985	£25,996,069.32	£25,996,069.32
UK TREASURY BILL 26/04/10	£38,000,000.00	99.967	£37,987,552.87	£37,987,552.87
BANK OF SCOTLAND GBP INTEREST BEARING CURRENT A/C	£2,462,996.27	100.000	£2,462,996.27	£2,462,996.27
CROWN AGENTS BANK	£609.29	100.000	£609.29	£609.29
NATWEST WESTMINSTER OFFSHORE LTD	£23,564,228.66	100.000	£23,564,228.66 £252,843.29	£23,817,071.95
BARCLAYS BANK PLC	£46,789,300.34	100.000	£46,789,300.34 £73,859.33	£46,863,159.67
BANK OF ENGLAND	£73,664,747.66	100.000	£73,664,747.66 £9,212.40	£73,673,960.06
	£309,281,882.22		£309,102,834.67	£309,102,834.67

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1577

Answer to Question 1574

The capital gain of £686,000 refers to the year 2009/10 and not 2008/09 as stated in the question. During 2008/09 the capital gain on the investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank was £641,000.

The capital gain of £686,000 during 2009/10 is made up of net realised gains on the sale of investments during the year amounting to £894,462.78 offset by a net depreciation of £208,495.58 in respect of investments held during the year. The investments held during the year are adjusted to reflect their market value at the year end.

Answer to Question 1575

	Non-Govt Deposits (tentative) £'M	Govt Deposits (tentative) £'M
June 2010	81.70	254.50
July 2010	80.90	266.43
August 2010	80.00	256.60

Answer to Question 1576

On-Call Investment Accounts in the Gibraltar Savings Bank currently attract zero interest.

Answer to Question 1577

In the financial year 2008/2009, the Gibraltar Savings Bank paid a total of £1.2 million of interest to the Investment Call Accounts. No interest has been budgeted for the financial years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 in view that the Bank of England Base Rate has remained at 0.5% since March 2009, and the interest rate payable on Investment Call Accounts is 2% below the Bank of England Base Rate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1573 TO 1577 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the answer to Question No. 1573 which provides a breakdown on the investments. The last five are all deposit accounts. I thought, in fact, the Government had announced at one stage that it was the intention that the Savings Bank should have all its money in cash, not in investments in the stock exchange.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I think that the phrase used in the legislation or which I used was cash or cash equivalent. Short-term notes issued by reputable financial institutions are regarded as cash equivalents. But, obviously, not long-term paper.

ORAL

NO. 1578 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LEVEL OF AGGREGATE AND NET PUBLIC DEBT

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010, 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. 1579 to 1582 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1579 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BANK OF ENGLAND – DEPOSITS

Can Government state the amount on deposit with the Bank of England as at the end of March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1578 and 1580 to 1582 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1580 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES/BONDS

Can Government state what sales of Government bonds or debentures to the public have taken place each month since the answer to Question No. 1131 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1578, 1579, 1581 and 1582 of 2010.

NO. 1581 OF 2010

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. 1133 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1578 to 1580 and 1582 of 2010.

NO. 1582 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC DEBT CHARGES

Can Government state whether the Public Debt charges for the current financial year is still estimated at £15.53 million and, if not, what is the revised figure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, there was a huge amount of numbers here, so I will give it to him in the form of a schedule rather than reading them all out and he may not be able to get them all down. So, the information that he seeks is in the schedule that is now being handed to him.

Answer to Question No. 1582 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1578 of 2010

	Aggregate Public Debt £'M	Tentative Cash Reserves £'M	Tentative Net Public Debt £'M
June 2010	446.6	282.4	164.2
July 2010	449.2	283.9	165.3
August 2010	453.6	279.7	173.9

Answer to Question No. 1579 of 2010

At the end of March 2010, Bank of England deposits stood at £93.8 million.

Answer to Question No. 1580 of 2010

	Total Issues (Sales)
June 2010	£4,057,100
July 2010	£2,691,400
August 2010	<u>£4,435,200</u>
	<u>£11,183,700</u>

Answer to Question No. 1581 of 2010

The amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loans from local banks in each month since June 2010 is as follows:

Date	Barclays	Natwest	Total
June 2010	£150,000,000	£50,000,000	£200,000,000
July 2010	£150,000,000	£50,000,000	£200,000,000
August 2010	£150,000,000	£50,000,000	£200,000,000

Answer to Question No. 1582 of 2010

Revised Public Debt Charges for the current financial year is estimated at £17.5 million.

NO. 1583 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 1B TRAINING – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £52,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 1B Training for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question Nos. 1584 to 1597 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1584 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 3A HOUSING ADMINISTRATION – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £66,000 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. 1583 and 1585 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1585 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 4A ENVIRONMENT – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £12,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 4A Environment for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583, 1584 and 1586 to 1597 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1586 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 4C TOURISM - MAIN OFFICE - BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £88,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 4C Tourism Main Office for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1585 and 1587 to 1597 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1587 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 4C TOURISM - OTHER – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £132,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 4C Tourism Other for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1586 and 1588 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1588 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5A COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £13,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 5A Community Affairs Office for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1587 and 1589 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1589 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 6A ENTERPRISE – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £8,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 6A for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1588 and 1590 to 1597 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1590 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 6B TRANSPORT-PORT AND SHIPPING – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £30,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 6B for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1589 and 1591 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1591 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**HEAD 6D TRANSPORT - VEHICLE, TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT –
BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION**

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £84,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 6D for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1590 and 1592 to 1597 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1592 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 7B CIVIL CONTINGENCY – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £3,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 7B for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1591 and 1593 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1593 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 8A No. 6 CONVENT PLACE – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £45,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 8A for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1592 and 1594 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1594 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 9D INCOME TAX – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £4,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 9D for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1593 and 1595 to 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1595 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 9E FINANCE CENTRE – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £14,000 employers' contribution approved expenditure under Head 9E for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1583 to 1594, 1596 and 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1596 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 10 EMPLOYMENT – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £72,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 10 for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1583 to 1595 and 1597 of 2010.

NO. 1597 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 11A JUSTICE MINISTRY – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS’ CONTRIBUTION

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £2,000 employers’ contribution approved expenditure under Head 11A for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing all the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question Nos. 1583 to 1597 of 2010

Gibraltar Development Corporation
Breakdown of Employers' Contributions

Heads	Approved Estimate 2010/2011	Social Insurance Contributions	Pension Contributions
1B – Training	£52,000	£18,000	£34,000
3A – Housing Administration	£66,000	£35,000	£31,000
4A – Environment	£12,000	£7,000	£5,000
4C – Tourism Main Office	£82,000	£38,000	£44,000
4C – Tourism Other	£123,000	£59,000	£64,000
5A – Community Affairs	£13,000	£6,000	£7,000
6A – Enterprise	£8,000	£6,000	£2,000
6B – Transport – Port and Shipping	£30,000	£16,000	£14,000
6D – Transport – Vehicle, Traffic and Public Transport	£84,000	£39,000	£45,000
7B – Civil Contingency	£3,000	£3,000	-
8A – No. 6 Convent Place	£45,000	£16,000	£29,000
9D – Income Tax	£4,000	£2,000	£2,000
9E – Finance Centre	£14,000	£6,000	£8,000
10 – Employment	£72,000	£30,000	£42,000
11A – Justice Ministry	£2,000	£2,000	-
	£610,000	£283,000	£327,000

ORAL

NO. 1598 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state the total number of self-employed persons assumed to be liable to make a tax return for 2008/2009 to arrive at the 60.8 per cent ratio stated to have been made by June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer this Question together with Question Nos. 1599 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1599 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government confirm that the returns made by self-employed persons in the financial year 2008/2009 related to earnings declared on a preceding year basis and, if so, can they specify the financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 and 1600 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1600 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2008/2009 by end June 2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598, 1599 and 1601 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1601 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2008/2009 by end July 2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 to 1600 and 1602 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1602 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2008/2009 by end August 2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 to 1601 and 1603 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1603 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state, as at the end of April 2010, how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these self-employed persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 to 1602 and 1604 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1604 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state, as at the end of May 2010, how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 to 1603 and 1605 to 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1605 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state, as at the end of June 2010, how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 to 1604, 1606 and 1607 of 2010.

NO. 1606 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state, as at the end of July 2010, how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1598 to 1605 and 1607 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1607 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2010, how many self-employed persons had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing all the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question Nos. 1598 to 1607 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1598 of 2010

The total number of self-employed individuals liable to submit a tax return for 2008/09, as at 24 September 2010, was approximately 200.

Answer to Question No. 1599 of 2010

Self-employed assessments issued in the financial year 2008/09, relating predominantly to earnings declared on a preceding year basis, analysed between years of assessment, as at 24 September 2010, were as follows:

Pre-2002/03	163
2002/03	71
2003/04	136
2004/05	179
2005/06	251
2006/07	338
2007/08	360
2008/09	190

Answer to Question No. 1600 of 2010

On 30 June 2010, 690 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2008/2009. Their total earnings were £15,994,776.

Answer to Question No. 1601 of 2010

On 31 July 2010, 722 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2008/2009. Their total earnings were £16,795,540.

Answer to Question No. 1602 of 2010

On 31 August 2010, 756 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2008/2009. Their total earnings were £17,169,633.

Answer to Question No. 1603 of 2010

On 30 April 2010, 381 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2009/2010. Their total earnings were £12,021,468.

Answer to Question No. 1604 of 2010

On 31 May 2010, 440 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2009/2010. Their total earnings were £13,360,478.

Continued Answer to Question Nos. 1598 to 1607 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1605 of 2010

On 30 June 2010, 473 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2009/2010. Their total earnings were £14,127,491.

Answer to Question No. 1606 of 2010

On 31 July 2010, 509 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2009/2010. Their total earnings were £14,743,259.

Answer to Question No.1607 of 2010

On 31 August 2010, 535 self-employed individuals had submitted tax returns for the tax year 2009/2010. Their total earnings were £15,244,637.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1598 TO 1607 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer that I have been given to Question No. 1598, the first question, refers to the total number of self-employed as at 24th September 2010 for the tax year 2008/2009 being approximately 200. My question was actually referring to the 60.8 ratio as at June 2010 which is when the hon Member made the statement in the Budget and I was trying to make sense of the percentage that he gave. So, does that mean that the 200 figure can be applied to the June 2010 percentage or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The best I can do for the hon Member is to read out what has been prepared for me here for supplementary information which is: it is unclear what the hon Member is specifically requesting in this question. As stated in the answer, the data has been provided in respect of the number of self-employed individuals liable to submit a tax return for 2008/2009 as at 24th September 2010. Is that what he was seeking?

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. I thought the question was perfectly clear. The hon Member informed the House during the Budget that a figure, which he did not specify, was the number of self-employed persons that had made a return by the time he was making his statement in June and he then explained that that number, which we do not know what it is, constituted 60.8 per cent of the total liable to make a return. Now, ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Was this for the purpose of the new methodology of calculating the ...?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Absolutely. Yes. That is why I made the statement. So, I was trying to find out what the number was but I could not calculate it from the 60 per cent without knowing what it was 60 per cent of. So ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

So, how many ... When he said... What the hon Member is asking which, I have to say, is not exactly unclear from his question is ...?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The total number of which ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

When we said that the estimated figure included returns up to 60 per cent. How many in number did that constitute?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. If I know what the total number is I can work out what 60 per cent of that number is. But if I do not have either the total or the number in the 60 per cent, then the 60 per cent does not mean anything. So, I am asking now is the figure that I have been given that there were approximately 200 in September valid to use as the figure for June? If it is, then I can find out what 60 per cent of 200 is, obviously, one hundred and twenty.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It probably is valid. The only difference between the figure liable to submit returns between one date and the other could only be somebody who, by some new circumstances that occurred in between the two months, became liable. But they cannot be very many, if indeed any such person, given that you are talking about a financial period that by then had already closed. So, I will find out for him. I have made a note of what he is after but I would at this stage speculate that the 200 figure is reliable for June as well to attach to the figure, to calculate the figure.

NO. 1608 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX ARREARS – INDIVIDUALS, SELF-EMPLOYED AND PAYE

Can Government provide the income tax arrears position as at 31st March 2010, providing a breakdown by individuals, self-employed and PAYE due from employers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1609 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1609 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX ARREARS – PAYE

Can Government provide a breakdown by tax year of the tax due from PAYE as at 31st March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information that the hon Member seeks is on the schedule being handed to him.

Answer to Question Nos. 1608 and 1609 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1608 of 2010

The Income Tax arrears as at 31 March 2010 broken down by individuals, self-employed and PAYE due by employers is as follows:

	£
Individuals	8,295,578
Self Employed	12,008,052
PAYE	8,746,214

These figures include estimated assessments totalling £5,023,717 (individuals £849,546 and self-employed £4,174,171) as well as assessments due after 31 March 2010 amounting to £2,319,794 (individuals £251,392 and self-employed £2,068,402).

Answer to Question No. 1609 of 2010

The PAYE tax arrears position as at 31 March 2010 is as follows:

Tax Year	£
Pre-2000/2001	708,375
2000/2001	139,573
2001/2002	348,002
2002/2003	599,878
2003/2004	561,003
2004/2005	402,604
2005/2006	581,036
2006/2007	725,094
2007/2008	1,557,565
2008/2009	2,989,434
2009/2010	<u>133,640</u>
Total	<u>8,746,204</u>

NO. 1610 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS/TAX PAYABLE

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2010, how many employers had submitted an annual return of PAYE deductions for employees for the tax year 2008/2009 and what was the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question Nos. 1611 to 1613 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1611 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2010, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1610, 1612 and 1613 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1612 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS/TAX PAYABLE

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2010, how many employers had submitted an annual return of PAYE deductions for employees for the tax year 2009/2010 and what was the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1610, 1611 and 1613 of 2010.

NO. 1613 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at end of August 2010, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2009/2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is on the schedule which I have just handed to him but which I will read in any case because it is not too long.

Answer to Question Nos. 1610 to 1613 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1610 of 2010

As at 23rd September 2010, 1,950 employers had submitted their 2008/2009 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions was £98.6 million and £96.2 million respectively.

Answer to Question No. 1611 of 2010

As at 31st August 2010, 208 employers had not yet returned their 2008/2009 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate.

Answer to Question No. 1612 of 2010

As at 23rd September 2010, 1,859 employers had submitted their 2009/2010 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions was £95.5 million and £93.2 million respectively.

Answer to Question No. 1613 of 2010

As at 31st August 2010, 479 employers had not yet returned their 2009/2010 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1610 TO 1613 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

It would appear from these figures that the number of employers in the last tax year had gone up by something like 200 which seems a lot in one single year. Does the hon Member have any indication of how this came ...?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx could you say that again.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If we add up the 1,950 and the 208 we get to 2,158 and we if we add up the answers he has given me on the second one we get 2,338 as the total pool of employers with employees which, from answers in previous years, seems a big jump from one year to another. I am wondering if there is an explanation for it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only explanation that I can think of is that the dates do not coincide and, therefore, the same company may be in both places. In other words, those who have are to the 23rd September. Those who have not are to the 31st August. So, those who paid between the 31st August and the 23rd September ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. I had not noticed the change in date. The question was, of course, for the same date.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. So, there must be somebody in the Income Tax Office determined that he should not be allowed to do these calculations. I can only assume. I do not know why the non-compliers are reported or rather the compliers are reported to September and the non-compliers are reported to August. I will get this for him, to August or to September but consistently for both.

ORAL

NO. 1614 OF 2010

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. 1119 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1615 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1615 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX COLLECTED – PAYE PAID BY INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS, SELF-EMPLOYED, SECTION 67 AND REFUNDS

Can Government provide the amount collected from income tax in the last financial year and give a breakdown showing a) PAYE paid by individuals, b) Section 67, collections and refunds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the information the hon Member requests, is in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question Nos. 1614 and 1615 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1614 of 2010

The PAYE Tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No. 1119 of 2010 is:

	£ M
June 2010	8.48
July 2010	9.71
August 2010	7.78

Answer to Question No. 1615 of 2010

The amount of Income Tax collected in the financial year 2009/2010 broken down by PAYE paid by individuals, Section 67, other collections and refunds is as follows:

	£M
PAYE paid by Individuals (through assessments)	1.02
PAYE paid by Employers	103.20
Self Employed	17.74
Section 67	0.93
Other Collection	<u>0.34</u>
	118.23
Refunds	<u>2.60</u>
PAYE collected (net of refunds)	<u>115.63</u>

NO. 1616 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – COLLECTED/ARREARS

Can Government provide the actual amount of corporation tax collected in the last financial year and the arrears position as at the 31st March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1617 to 1623 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1617 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – COLLECTED

Can Government state the amount of company tax collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 1121 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616 and 1618 to 1623 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1618 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – PAYMENTS DUE ON COMPANY PROFITS

Can Government confirm that no further tax payments are due on company profits dating from tax years prior to 2001/2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616, 1617 and 1619 to 1623 of 2010.

NO. 1619 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – AMOUNTS PAID ON COMPANY PROFITS

Can Government confirm how much, if any, of the company profits in respect of which tax was paid in the financial year 2007/2008 related to profits earned during a trading period which included any months after 1st April 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616 to 1618 and 1620 to 1623 of 2010.

NO. 1620 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS

Can Government state, as at end of August 2010, how many companies in each tax year 2001/2002 to 2009/2010 had been assessed for company tax and what was the amount of tax payable and paid in respect of each tax year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616 to 1619 and 1621 to 1623 of 2010.

NO. 1621 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS

Can Government state how many of the 893 companies assessed for tax by June 2010 for the tax year 2007/2008, had earned their profits in the financial year 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616 to 1620, 1622 and 1623 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1622 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – TRADING PERIODS/COMPANY PROFITS

Can Government state in respect of which trading periods were company profits declared by June 2010 for the financial year 2008/2009, earned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616 to 1621 and 1623 of 2010.

NO. 1623 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS

Can Government state how many of the 304 companies assessed for tax by June 2010 for the tax year 2008/2009, had earned their profits in the financial year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1623 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1616 of 2010

The actual amount of Corporation Tax collected in the last financial year was £28.56M.

The arrears position as at 31 March 2010 was £12.00M.

Answer to Question No. 1617 of 2010

The amount of Corporation Tax collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 1121 of 2010 is:

	£M
June 2010	5.04
July 2010	1.41
August 2010	0.79

Answer to Question No. 1618 of 2010

Tax payments that are due from company profits dating from tax years prior to 2001/2002 are as follows:

1995/96	£25.50K
1996/97	-
1997/98	£15.71K
1998/99	-
1999/00	£17.49K
2000/01	-

Answer to Question No. 1619 of 2010

The statistical data requested by the hon Member is not available.

Continued Answer to Question No. 1623 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1620 of 2010

	2001/02 £M	2002/03 £M	2003/04 £M	2004/05 £M	2005/06 £M
Assessed	32.0	38.2	42.8	37.8	50.1
Discharged	17.4	21.8	20.2	16.9	25.1
	14.6	16.4	22.6	20.9	25.0
Paid	14.4	16.0	22.4	20.5	23.5
Outstanding	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.7
No. of Companies	1558	1554	1622	1634	1592
	2006/07 £M	2007/08 £M	2008/09 £M	2009/10 £M	
Assessed	55.3	51.4	45.6	38.0	
Discharged	30.2	23.9	14.9	11.3	
	25.1	27.5	30.7	26.7	
Paid	24.6	26.0	29.0	23.0	
Outstanding	0.5	1.5	1.7	3.7	
No. of Companies	1550	1458	1529	1488	

Answer to Question No. 1621 of 2010

The statistical data requested by the hon Member is not available.

Continued Answer to Question No. 1623 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1622 of 2010

The statistical data requested by the hon Member is not available.

Answer to Question No. 1623 of 2010

The statistical data requested by the hon Member is not available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1616 TO 1623 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the answer to Question No. 1619 which is that the data is not yet available. This is for the financial year 2007/2008. Is it that there are too many tax returns still pending from 2007/2008?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That has not been my appreciation of the answer which was that the data is just not available. In other words, it does not say, not yet available. I just do not think they can get it, presumably, because of the reference to profits including any months after the 1st April. I think the question is just too homed in.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am trying to make sense of the changed methodology that is being used now for calculating the contribution that company profits make to the national income. Where before it was simply by grossing up and now it is by the period when it is earned. This is what I am trying to work out.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member does not have to work it out. I am very happy to share that information with him as soon as it is available. I think I have been recently told and I think it may be in answer to a question later. I think that by December we shall have ... we shall be ... I think he has asked me to confirm the GDP figure?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot confirm it until this process closes and I think that that is by December and I am very happy to give him what the input figure would have been, what the figure would have been under the old system and what, in fact, has been provided by the new system. So, he does not have to calculate it for himself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well yes. I know what the figure would have been because, of course, the figure on which it would have been calculated is published already and it is old. So, it is just a question of working out what is 100 per cent of something that is assumed to be 19 per cent. But it is a new system that is much more difficult to ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But I am certain that by the time we have our next parliamentary session for questions which is usually in December in the run up to Christmas, that information will be available to him. In other words, what does 100 per cent comprise under the new system.

NO. 1624 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government confirm that the returns made by companies in the financial year 2008/2009 related to earnings declared on a preceding year basis and, if so, can they specify the financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question Nos. 1625 to 1627 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1625 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS

Can Government confirm at what date had 67.5 per cent of companies submitted accounts for the financial year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1624, 1626 and 1627 of 2010.

NO. 1626 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS

Can Government state whether the estimated 67.5 per cent of companies that had submitted accounts for the financial year 2008/2009 by June 2010 included any companies showing no profits and, if so, how many such companies were there?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1624, 1625 and 1627 of 2010.

NO. 1627 OF 2010**HON J J BOSSANO****INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES**

Can Government state the total number of companies assumed to be liable to make a tax return for 2008/2009 to arrive at the 67.5 per cent ratio stated to have been made by June 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Yes, corporate assessments issued in the financial year 2008/2009, relating predominantly to earnings declared on a preceding year basis can be analysed between years of assessment, as at 24th September 2010, as follows:

Pre- 2002/03	79
2002/2003	51
2003/2004	75
2004/2005	124
2005/2006	237
2006/2007	366
2007/2008	818
2008/2009	594

The statistical data requested by the hon Member in Question No. 1625 of 2010 is not available to the Income Tax Office.

Out of the total companies assessed for the tax year 2008/2009 as at 24th September 2010, approximately 275 companies had declared either no profit or had tax losses available to carry forward, resulting in no tax liability. In other words, the declared profit is not necessarily the same as the tax payable because they may have losses to carry forward from previous years.

The total number of companies liable to submit a tax return for 2008/2009 as at 24th September 2010 is approximately 600.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1624 TO 1627 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the last answer the answer to Question No. 1627 of 2010?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And the answer that I have been given is since September and not in June and it is the same question about companies that I asked about self-employed. Now, surely, the total number of companies cannot be 600. It is too low a figure compared to the figures he has given me already about the returns that were made. The total number of companies cannot be 67.5 per cent of 600 per cent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The total number of companies liable to submit a tax return for 2008/2009 has to be more than 600, is what the hon Member is saying. That is not necessarily so, in respect of the year 2008/2009, is it?

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the hon Member informed the House at Budget time that the 2008 and 2009 GDP was not based on an uplift of the profits but on returns made to the time of the Budget in June when the statement was being made and that those returns had been made by a number of companies which constituted 67.5 per cent of all the companies that should be making the return, so that the figure was calculated, he told us, on the basis of the profits made by that 67.5 per cent, as I understood it, by an extrapolation on the assumption that the 23 per cent that had not made a return, would be making the same level of profits. That is how I understood the statement he made in his Budget. The question is designed to enable me to calculate the interpretation of that information which he provided at the time which I cannot do unless there is an answer to the questions I am putting. Sixty seven and a half per cent of what, basically? That is what the question is asking.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think, perhaps, his statement that it has to be many more than 600 in relation to the June statement may be the same as we have just exchanged in respect to individuals and that is that the information has been given to him as at September. So, there are three months more of companies and that we expect the process to be done by December. So, whatever the number was that he does not know and I do not know in June, July, August, September has seen companies thrown in, submit, which leaves a couple more months for collection.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, except that my question does not ask how many had made the return by June and how many had made it by September. The question is the total number whether they have made ... The total number would include the 67 per cent ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

... that have made it by June and, obviously, that percentage would be higher in September. But the total of which that is a percentage would be the same.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but my reading of this answer is that at this point in time they believe in the Income Tax Office that the total is going to be around 600. I do not read that to mean that 600 is submitted by the 24th September. I will clarify this in the same way as I have got to clarify the 200 figure that was mentioned in Question No. 1598 of 2010 which is the same question but about individuals, self-employed, which begs the question, is that 200 that have submitted as at September or given the number that have submitted up to September, we think is going to end up at around 200. That is the dilemma that I cannot answer for him now as to what question is being answered. I can tell you what my supplementary note says about this too. That the drafter of the answer was not entirely clear of what information the hon Member was requesting and then goes to explain what his understanding of the question has been. But now that I know what the hon Member is after I will make sure the information is ... if somebody rings him and tells him what it is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say what he thinks the 600 is? The 600 he has given me as an answer. Does he have a note saying what that 600 is?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I do not. If I did I would share that information with him. I am speculating to him that my interpretation of the answer, for which I do not have an aide here in my supplementary note, is that the answer which I agree is ambiguously drafted says the total number of companies liable to submit a tax return for 2008/2009 as at 24th September 2010 is approximately 600. Now, the number of companies required to submit a tax return for 2008/2009 cannot grow after the end of the tax year. So, it cannot be that the number increases because companies become liable. So, this must be a projected estimate on the basis of the rate at which they are coming in and their past experience, they are projecting is going to come in by the time they have finished the exercise, 600. My reading is not that 600 returns have come in as at that date but I may be wrong and that is what I have to confirm to him. In other words ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

My understanding of the answer that is given is that there are still 600 pending. At September there were still 600 liable as opposed to that being a total number. That I think is how it is being interpreted. That there are still ... The Tax Office are still waiting for 600 companies to make their returns in September because, otherwise, it would not be consistent with the answer that he gave me to Question No. 1624 of 2010.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Well it may be that that is an interpretation. I have to say that I had not read it that way myself. But now that he mentions it, it actually is a possible interpretation. But I will find this out and have somebody tell him whilst I am away.

ORAL

NO. 1628 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2008/2009 by end June 2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1629 to 1635 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1629 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2008/2009 by end July 2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1628 and 1630 to 1635 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1630 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2008/09 by end August 2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1628, 1629 and 1631 to 1635 of 2010.

NO. 1631 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state, as at the end of April 2010, how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1628 to 1630 and 1632 to 1635 of 2010.

NO. 1632 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state, as at the end of May 2010, how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1628 to 1631 and 1633 to 1635 of 2010.

NO. 1633 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state, as at the end of June 2010, how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1628 to 1632, 1634 and 1635 of 2010.

NO. 1634 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state, as at the end of July 2010, how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1628 to 1633 and 1635 of 2010.

NO. 1635 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX RETURNS – COMPANIES

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2010, how many companies had made tax returns for the financial year 2009/2010 and what were the total earnings declared by these companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule setting out the information.

Answer to Question No. 1635 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1628 of 2010

By 30 June 2010, 644 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £86,714,152 for the tax year 2008/09.

Answer to Question No. 1629 of 2010

By 31 July 2010, 655 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £103,284,816 for the tax year 2008/09.

Answer to Question No. 1630 of 2010

By 31 August 2010, 657 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £103,317.013 for the tax year 2008/09.

Answer to Question No. 1631 of 2010

By 30 April 2010, 341 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £63,230,868 for the tax year 2009/10.

Answer to Question No. 1632 of 2010

By 31 May 2010, 377 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £65,335,879 for the tax year 2009/10.

Answer to Question No. 1633 of 2010

By 30 June 2010, 410 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £66,220,622 for the tax year 2009/10.

Answer to Question No. 1634 of 2010

By 31 July 2010, 444 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £67,331,092 for the tax year 2009/10.

Answer to Question No. 1635 of 2010

By 31 August 2010, 465 companies had submitted tax returns with taxable profits amounting to £68,044,101 for the tax year 2009/10.

NO. 1636 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – REVENUE

Can Government state how much of the £18 million revenue from company tax, if any, estimated as corporation tax for the current financial year is the yield from new taxpayers after 1st January 2011?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The £18 million revenue estimate in respect of corporation tax for the current financial year is not based on the yield from new taxpayers after 1st January 2011.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1636 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I know it is not all based on it. But is it that there is none of it that assumes anything coming in from this source for those three months?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, absolutely none and that is one of the mistakes made in relation to the criticism of some of our Budget measures because, under the provisions of the new Income Tax Act, the first payment on account in respect of new tax payers, that is to say the ones that he described as becoming tax payers after the 1st January, will be on the 31st August 2011 and this will form the basis of the estimates for the next financial year and they do not fall into this financial year. So, they will be contributing nothing to the current financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1637 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – COMPANIES ELIGIBLE FOR 10 PER CENT TAX RATE

Can Government state of the companies eligible for 10 per cent corporation tax rate since 1st July 2009 how many have paid tax to date and what is the total amount of tax paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question No. 1638 of 2010.

NO. 1638 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – COMPANIES ELIGIBLE FOR 10 PER CENT TAX RATE

Can Government state how many businesses which set up in Gibraltar after 1st July 2007 have been eligible for the rate of corporation tax at 10 per cent for the year of assessment commencing 1st July 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 134 companies which set up in Gibraltar after 1st July 2007 have been eligible for the 10 per cent corporation tax rate since 1st July 2009. Out of these 134 companies, 12 have paid a total tax to date of £4,314,868.

NO. 1639 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – PAID BY UTILITY COMPANIES

Can Government state how much of the company tax received in the last financial year was paid by the utility companies that will be liable to tax at the 20 per cent rate from 1st January 2011?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In the last financial year, company tax amounting to £3,333,770 was paid by utility companies that will be liable to tax at 20 per cent rate from the 1st January 2011.

NO. 1640 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFIT

Can Government state, as at end August 2010, how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000,

for each of the tax years 2002/2003 to 2008/2009 and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question No. 1641 of 2010.

NO. 1641 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS ON DECLARED TAXABLE PROFITS

Can Government state, as at end August 2010, how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000,

for each of the tax years 2001/2002 to 2008/2009 and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information is set out in a schedule that I now hand him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1641

Answer to Question 1640

COMPANIES ASSESSED WITHOUT HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Under £35,000				
No of companies assessed	129	141	158	184
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.3M	0.3M	0.4M	0.4M
Total paid	0.2M	0.2M	0.3M	0.2M
Over £35,000				
No of companies assessed	15	12	10	19
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.4M	0.3M	0.4M	0.5M
Total paid	0.2M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M
Year of Assessment	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Under £35,000				
No of companies assessed	246	349	507	
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.5M	0.7M	0.9M	
Total paid	0.2M	0.3M	0.3M	
Over £35,000				
No of companies assessed	34	50	83	
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.8M	1.5M	2.3M	
Total paid	0.5M	1.0M	1.7M	

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1641

Answer to Question 1641

COMPANIES ASSESSED HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Under £35,000				
No of companies assessed	456	466	504	494
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	1.1M	1.1M	1.2M	1.2M
Total paid	1.1M	1.1M	1.1M	1.2M
Over £35,000				
No of companies assessed	157	166	174	177
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	13.6M	15.7M	22.4M	21.4M
Total paid	13.5M	15.7M	22.3M	21.4M
Year of Assessment	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Under £35,000				
No of companies assessed	569	537	501	470
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	1.3M	1.2M	1.2M	1.0M
Total paid	1.3M	1.2M	1.1M	1.0M
Over £35,000				
No of companies assessed	165	170	188	194
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	22.0M	22.5M	24.2M	26.6M
Total paid	21.9M	22.5M	23.4M	25.7M

ORAL

NO. 1642 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – GIBTELECOM

Can Government state whether Gibtelecom paid tax on its profits in the financial year 2006/2007 and 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question No. 1643 of 2010.

NO. 1643 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – AQUAGIB

Can Government state whether AquaGib paid tax on its profits in the financial year 2006/2007 and 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can confirm that Gibtelecom Limited has paid tax on its profits in the financial years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 and that AquaGib has not paid tax in the same financial years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1642 AND 1643 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does this mean, therefore, as I think it was confirmed in the last meeting when the hon Member told me that I could assume that the tax paid by these companies, which we now find is the case with one of them and not the other, would have been included in the grossing up to arrive at the GDP? Can he, therefore, confirm that the Gibtelecom tax payment would have logically been included in grossing it up to arrive at the profits contributing to the national income in those financial years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, and the reason why AquaGib has not paid tax in those years is not because it did not make profits in those years but because it had losses to carry forward from earlier years. But the answer to the structural question that he is asking, are these gross profits included in the previous method, is yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not a fact then that the dividends that the Government get is also included in the GDP under earnings of Government enterprises together with the Savings Bank and so on. If that is the case, for example, the Gibtelecom contribution would appear twice, once as grossing up from company tax and the other one as dividend to the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think we had this discussion at last Question Time. I do not recall why the result was not a double count but it is not a double count. I think one is netted against the other or ... but in other words the same gross profit of AquaGib is not counted twice once in the hands of AquaGib and once in the hands of the Government as a dividend. Now, how that result is avoided I cannot quite recall but we did discuss it last time when I was briefed up. I do not remember what was said. But I was satisfied that there was not any degree of double counting. But I can check it out again and I can ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think we have not yet had the Hansard containing the supplementaries, so I was not able to check that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Alright, well, I will refresh my memory about why that was not so and include that in the letter that I will send him for the information that I am promising him.

NO. 1644 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Have Government been given any indication of how many of the existing tax exempt companies are likely to remain in the jurisdiction on a tax paying basis after 31st December 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not possible to answer this question. The Government are not aware of any exempt company undertaking economic activity from a physical establishment in Gibraltar that has expressed an intention to leave the jurisdiction. Whether any of the ones that are not physically established will or will not, I do not know. Whether some of the ones with physical establishment will leave that have not told the Government, I do not know. But I can say that no one has said to the Government, we are off on the 1st January.

ORAL

NO. 1645 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION/INCOME TAX – ARREARS WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state what amount, if any, was written-off in respect of arrears of revenue in 2009/2010 and of this how much was in respect of a) income tax and b) company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1646 of 2010.

NO. 1646 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION/INCOME TAX – ARREARS

Can Government provide the latest estimates for arrears of revenue as at 31st March 2010 and how much is arrears of a) income tax and b) company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1646 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1645 of 2010

The total amount written off in respect of arrears of revenue in the financial year 2009/2010 was £7.4M of which £2.7M was written-off in respect of Income Tax and Company Tax as follows:

	£M
Income Tax	1.7
Company Tax	1.0
	—
Total	2.7
	—

Answer to Question No. 1646 of 2010

The latest estimates for arrears of revenue as at 31March 2010 is £57.7M out of which £29.0M is in respect of Income Tax and £12.0M in respect of Company Tax broken down as follows:

	£M
Income Tax:	
Individuals	8.3
Self Employed	12.0
PAYE	8.7
Company Tax:	12.0
	—
Total	41.0
	—

These figures include estimated assessments totalling £9.5M (individuals £0.8M, self-employed £4.2M and companies £4.5M) as well as assessments due after 31March 2010 amounting to £4.0M (individuals £0.3M, self-employed £2.1M and companies £1.6M).

ORAL

NO. 1647 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state how much of the 2007/2008 GDP was accounted for by Government financed Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question No. 1648 of 2010.

NO. 1648 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm the final figure for the 2008/2009 GDP and provide the breakdown by the income and expenditure methods of calculation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1647 of 2010

The net contribution of Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation to the 2007/2008 GDP, calculated obviously under the expenditure method, is estimated at around 8 per cent.

Answer to Question No. 1648 of 2010

The provisional GDP estimate for 2008/2009 which I announced at the Budget session was £868.69 million. As I explained to the House at the time, the methodology for the calculation of that, of the Gross Trading Profits of Companies element, has changed with effect from this year and consequently the provisional estimate available at Budget time is now more susceptible to change, until it is finally confirmed, than under the previous grossing-up method.

As further corporate and self-employed accounts have been submitted to the Income Tax Office since last June, the latest provisional GDP estimate for 2008/2009 now stands at £884.28 – a rise of 9.9 per cent in money terms and of 7 per cent in real terms, over the previous year. The final GDP figure for 2008/2009 will be available, as I indicated to him a few moments ago, by December.

So, I have the detailed breakdown, I hope he finds this helpful, that I am attaching in answer to his question, which is still provisional and might therefore change, but relates to the higher figure, the £884.28 million, which is the current figure, not the breakdown which he has actually asked for in the question, which was the for the earlier figure which I gave in the Budget session.

So, I now hand a schedule to him which he will see shows the higher figure and not the one that was available at the Budget time.

Answer to Question 1648

INCOME METHOD (£ million)	•	2008/09
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT	B	526.69
INCOME FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT	C	48.99
GROSS TRADING PROFITS OF COMPANIES	C	190.59
GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES	A	3.80
RENT	C	115.50
TOTAL DOMESTIC INCOME	B	885.57
LESS STOCK APPRECIATION	C	-1.29
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	884.28
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD ABROAD	C	-1.39
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B	-118.74
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B	764.15

EXPENDITURE METHOD (£ million)	•	2008/09
CONSUMERS' EXPENDITURE	B	375.86
GOVT. FINAL CONSUMPTION	A	244.93
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAP. F.MTN	C	220.09
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE	C	840.88
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	C	1,815.99
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	B	-1,697.33
RESIDUAL ERROR		12.72
GDP (MARKET PRICES)	B	972.06
SUBSIDIES	C	6.74
TAXES ON EXPENDITURE	A	-94.52
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	884.28
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD ABROAD	C	-1.39
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B	-118.74
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B	764.15

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1647 AND 1648 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the only element in that that can change would be the element of the company profits and self-employed as more information comes in.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But this figure would include an estimate of what they expect to come in as, presumably, the previous one did.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. In other words, in respect of the percentage that had not reported, there is an extrapolated estimate, now that extrapolated estimate may be higher or lower. In fact, it turns out that we underestimated xxxxx the value of the unreported element. Now, so the figures left also include an extrapolated element but it remains to be seen whether that is an underestimate or whether we are now overestimating in respect of the balance in which case the figure might drop again. So, there is more fluctuation xxxxx until the figure is confirmed but the Statistician assures me that when it is confirmed it is a more forensic figure of the real side of the economy.

NO. 1649 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

REVENUE FROM SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Can Government state the Government revenue from Social Insurance contributions in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Revenue collected in the financial year 2009/2010 amounted to £52,553,684.

ORAL

NO. 1650 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state whether any new employers were included in the Employment Survey in October 2009, compared to the 2008 Survey and, if so, how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer this with Question No. 1651 of 2010.

NO. 1651 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the level of employment recorded in the Labour Recruitment sub-industry, within the Real Estate and Other Business Authority industry, in the October 2009 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1650 of 2010

The answer to the first question is a bit cryptic but it depends on the fact that he uses the word new employer in the question.

There are 212 named employers included in the 2009 Survey which did not feature in the 2008 Survey. Two hundred and twelve names named of employers. However, this does not necessarily mean that all 212 are "new" employers. The Statistics Office does not know if a new name represents a new employer or an existing employer under a changed name or a merged employer because periodically, I think it has happened two or three times a year, the Statistics Office updates its lists of employers from a list sent by the Income Tax Office that appears on their list and that list does not tell the Statistics Office whether it is a new employer or an existing employer with a different name or a merged employer. For example, when Community Projects drops and then re-emerges as two new names, or even when the same corporate entity changes its name, these would be included in the 212 even though they are not additional employers with, perhaps, additional employees.

Answer to Question No. 1651 of 2010

There were 931 employees jobs recorded under the Labour Recruitment and Provision of Personnel sub-industry in October 2009.

NO. 1652 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in the Government Departments in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer with Question Nos. 1653 to 1657 of 2010.

NO. 1653 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in the statutory authorities and agencies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1652 and 1654 to 1657 of 2010.

NO. 1654 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for part-time employment in wholly-owned Government companies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1652, 1653, 1655 to 1657 of 2010.

NO. 1655 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for full-time employment in Government Departments in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1652 to 1654, 1656 and 1657 of 2010.

NO. 1656 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for full-time employment in statutory authorities and agencies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1652 to 1655 and 1657 of 2010.

NO. 1657 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the figure for full-time employment in wholly-owned Government companies in respect of Table 11b of the October 2008 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are now both able and willing to provide the information requested, despite the position explained previously about the Governments' own position, new position relating to requests for information requested in a form different to that presented by Government in the relevant reports and I explained that the Government was concerned that the hon Member was constantly widening the scope. I have given due consideration to the representations made to me about this information, which is that, before we separated Official Sector, he used to get this information and, therefore, we are taking the view it is not further widening, it is just asking for information that he has had in the past and therefore in the spirit of that answer we give it because it did not represent a further widening to the treatment that he had had before.

So, with that explanation, you see he sometimes persuades me even if I am never able to persuade him, I give him the schedule that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1657

Answer to Question 1652

Part - Time Employee Jobs in Government Departments by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restmnts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	1	34	1	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	4	193	3	186	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Services	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	240	4	233	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1657

Answer to Question 1653

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	0	20	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	12	170	6	116	5	34	0	1	0	18	0	0	1	1
Other Services	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	193	6	137	5	35	0	1	0	19	0	0	1	1

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1657

Answer to Question1654

Part - Time Employee Jobs in Wholly-Owned Government Companies by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restmts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Services	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1657

Answer to Question 1655

Full -Time Employee Jobs in Government Departments by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	237	17	216	17	5	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	54	20	48	19	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	664	299	627	288	27	11	4	0	1	0	4	0	1	0
Education	191	359	184	348	5	7	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	16	28	15	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Services	25	11	23	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,187	734	1,113	711	45	19	22	1	1	0	5	3	1	0

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1657

Answer to Question 1656

Full - Time Employee Jobs in Statutory Authorities and Agencies by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	163	8	152	8	4	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	2	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnths.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	37	3	34	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	110	62	97	61	5	1	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	396	800	269	479	83	181	4	4	38	129	2	5	0	2
Other Services	39	9	38	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	745	882	590	560	95	182	11	4	42	129	5	5	2	2

Note: The figure shown in Table 11(b) as 695 in respect of Gibraltarian female employee jobs should have read 697.

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1657

Answer to Question 1657

Full -Time Employee Jobs in Wholly-Owned Government Companies by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2008

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	185	8	146	7	1	0	25	1	11	0	1	0	1	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrits.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	45	2	21	0	6	1	8	0	9	1	1	0	0	0
Fir. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Services	38	1	34	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
TOTAL	271	13	204	10	7	1	33	1	20	1	6	0	1	0

NO. 1658 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – SALARY STRUCTURE/PENSION RIGHTS

Can Government confirm that its policy is to bring the employees of the Gibraltar Development Corporation within the Civil Service in the next financial year and, if so, can it state whether this will entail a change in the salary structure of those concerned and a right to a final salary Civil Service pension?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1659 and 1660 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1659 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR DEFENCE POLICE – PENSION RIGHTS

Can Government confirm that the officers of the Gibraltar Defence Police on transfer to the RGP will be entitled to the existing Civil Service pension rights?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1658 and 1660 of 2010.

NO. 1660 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PAY REVIEW

Is it policy of the Government to make the pay review for the GHA conditional on staff transferring from the Civil Service to the GHA whilst retaining their Civil Service pension rights and, if so, what posts within the GHA, currently Civil Service grades, are affected by this policy?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question Nos. 1658 to 1660 of 2010

The Government are engaged with the Civil Service unions on a broad range of issues, about which the Government do not propose to comment publicly while discussions and negotiations continue.

The Government have made no policy announcement in relation to the specific matters to which the questions relate. In the absence of a policy statement, it is not the decided policy. If it were to become the decided policy, there would be a statement at the appropriate time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1658 TO 1660 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, what the hon Member told me earlier, about the differences in posts in the GHA now being academic because they are all moving into the GHA and out of the Civil Service, is not the case because otherwise the answer to Question No. 1660 of 2010 would be yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, Mr Speaker, agreements have been tentatively struck, voting has taken place but a public statement about the details and the agreement underpinning it has not yet been signed. At that time, I would be able to be specific about the policy. In other words, it is not the policy until the discussions and the negotiations end. We are there, but not in the case of the GHA, it has not quite been consummated yet.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But surely the policy is not ... Is the hon Member saying that if people refuse an offer then it ceases to be the policy of the Government to make the offer. I mean, surely, the proposal that is being voted on which may not be ... there may not have been a statement about it but there are 800 people that know it in the Health Authority.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. It is not the policy of the Government to ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

To make the offer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, no. It is the policy of the Government to sit down with the unions and discuss it to see if consensus can be reached. The Government do not adopt a policy to alter the status of individuals without ... unless it can be achieved by consensus. So, until that consensus is achieved, it is not the policy. It may be the Government's policy to be willing to try but you know the Government do not set up a policy which it tries to achieve by one way or the other. The policy is not to achieve it. The policy is to achieve it only if it can be achieved with the agreement of the staff.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of Question No. 1659 of 2010 which relates to a statement that has already been made about the transfer of the Gibraltar Defence Police officers and their integration into the RGP, is it that that is still under negotiation then, the element of the pension rights?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. What I said at the time of that statement was that there were a lot of technical issues, I think was the phrase I used, still to be negotiated and that, therefore, the aim was full integration by June next year and I think interim on secondment basis sometime sooner, I think Christmas or something. None of the issues have been negotiated yet. It is not just that pension remains. There just has not been a negotiation about any of them. There are lots of issues that arise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of Question No. 1658 of 2010, is the hon Member saying that there are talks with the Civil Service unions about the Gibraltar Development Corporation or not, because that was the initial answer? I do not know whether that referred to that as well.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the hon Member knows, because I have said it in the House before, that there are wide ranging talks and that amongst the issues which are included in these wide ranging talks is the question of the future for new entrants of the current Civil Service final salary pension scheme. That is part of the discussion. I think I have highlighted in the past the subjects, the sort of subjects, that are under discussion but I have not gone into any of the detail of who is saying what and who is adopting what position in relation to any of them.

NO. 1661 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS – COMPLIANCE BY EMPLOYERS

Can Government state what measures it has taken during 2010 to ensure that employers comply with employment regulations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has not been any change of general application in the enforcement scheme yet. However, to deal with the particular problems of the construction industry in relation to Government funded projects which came to prominence at the time of Haymills and things of that sort, the Government have imposed a stringent “deduction” scheme from payments made by its contractors to their subcontractors. This is already working with GJBS, and will be imposed on all new Government contractors. In other words, there is now a scheme that when GJBS makes a payment to any of its subcontractors it, GJBS, has to deduct a proportion of that on account of the subcontractors liability for PAYE and social insurance of the subcontractors staff. This is intended to be the general scheme which will come into effect across the whole industry when the construction training industry assistance scheme comes into effect very shortly. In other words, all contractors will have the obligation to do that for all their subcontractors, all the way down the line and so on. In addition, the Commissioner of Income Tax has already begun regular, periodic audit inspections of other contractors working directly for the Government.

So, because this does not raise a subcontractor contractor of GJBS, for example, I have said that GJBS is already imposing this on its subcontractors, that is not yet the case of non-Government owned companies who are the Government contractors. So, for example, the contractor at the air terminal or the contractor in the tunnel, one of those, is already the subject of regular periodic audit inspections, not because they signify a particular problem but because the Commissioner has just began the process and has happened to start with that one. But the idea is to extend it. In other words, regular, periodic audit, physical inspections with a view to nipping in the bud any default situation before it escalates and before the thing goes down and it is too late to recover or take remedial action. So, those are the lessons learnt but as yet nothing of wider application across all of the economy. That will come with the, sort of, apparently, dreaded climate of compliance regime.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1661 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member has mentioned this scheme of deduction but, specifically, this relates to PAYE and social insurance and the requirements to comply with legislation to make those payments. The question asks, and I am grateful for that answer, but the question also asks about compliance with employment regulations and it is more geared at the employment side to make sure that ... In answer to a previous question when I had asked about illegal labour in the construction industry, we had a general statement of what I understood was policy of the Government which is to do away from the benign enforcement measures or approach that had been taken in the past, which included PAYE and social insurance, but, specifically, with regard to employment regulations and the need to make sure that employers do comply given that we have had reports in the past about illegal labour, non-registration and minimum wage and so forth. Are the Government taking any specific measures on those aspects of employment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it comes out of the wash of the same process because the Government know how much it is injecting in as part of the payments it makes to the head contractor and this system is policed. In other words, there is somebody who gets feedback of all the construction contracts, subcontractors, subsubsubcontractors and all the payments down the line and the Government know what the labour element should be. So, if we were not getting the right deductions back that more or less match the labour element, the expected labour elements of the sum that the Government are pushing in as the developer at the top end, it would ring an alarm bell that someone down the line is employing illegal, unregistered labour because we are not seeing the right deduction levels in respect of the social insurance contributions. That would then provide intelligence which will allow the labour inspectors to target raids and things of this sort because there would be an alarm bell that rang that something in a contract is not right. The Government are not seeing enough deduction revenue reaching it, compared to how much the Government think should be reaching it, given the monthly payments that the Government have made in respect of the architect's certificates on that contract and this would enable that. So, it is not that the measures that I have explained to him in respect of revenue collection are unrelated to the need and importance to clamp down on illegal, unregistered labour. We see it both as the same thing. The use of illegal and unregistered labour, the principle consequence or manifestation of it is the non-payment of PAYE and social insurance. There may be other issues of unfair competition with companies that do. It is not the only consequence or manifestation but it is certainly the main one and we still have pending with industry a meeting to see how we might tighten up on the other non-Government revenue aspects of that.