

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.

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

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

Answer to Question 29/2010:

Full-Time MOD Employee Jobs 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					
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, restruck 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.

ORAL

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.

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

ORAL

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.

ORAL

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.

ORAL

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.

ORAL

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.

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

Reason for Cancellation	Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010							Total	
	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief		Psych
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

		Cancellations January 2010									
<u>Answer to Question No. 97 of 2010</u>		ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Plastics	
Reason for Cancellation	n										
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.

ORAL

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.

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.

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.

ORAL

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.

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.

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	815,906	927,758	1,018,868	1,067,760
SALARY PRODUCT MANAGER	40,215	38,254	41,189	34,362
TOTAL (A)	<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.

ORAL

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.

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.

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.

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.

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>

ORAL

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

ORAL

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.

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.

ORAL

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.

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.

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.

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.

ORAL

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.

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%)

ORAL

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 CEP SA PETROL STATION TO ARIEL FARM

Can Government say whether the relocation of the CEP SA 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>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</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.

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.

ORAL

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 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.

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>£45,558.09</u>
			<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