

ORAL

NO. 580 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES

Can Government state which department controls the budget for the Construction and Training Centre, the Vocational Training Scheme, Cammell Laird/Gibdock Apprenticeship or any other training scheme which is currently available?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 581 of 2010.

NO. 581 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES

Can Government state which Government department is in charge, and thereby monitors and runs the Vocational Training Scheme, the Construction and Training Centre and the Apprentices Scheme at Cammell Laird?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

All matters appertaining to vocational training are the joint responsibility of the Department of Education and Training and the Employment Service. Vocational Training is intrinsically linked to employment whilst training in general is the domain of the Department of Education and Training. To this effect, the Government's Training Officer is the principal link between the two departments concerned.

In this manner, the Training funds budget comes under the Education and Training Department whilst the operational control of the Vocational Training Scheme and related programmes is the responsibility of the Employment Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 580 AND 581 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has just stated that there are two departments running training. Does that mean that any mistakes in budgetary... For example, he has just said that the Department of Education has the budget whilst the Employment Service has the actual running of it and there is only one person that coordinates between one department and another. Is that correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

The coordination is essentially at the beginning by the Training Officer but of course then the Director of Employment will also have a say if there are any problems related to budgetary problems.

HON S E LINARES:

In the coordination aspect, are there regular meetings between one department and another in relation to training.

HON L MONTIEL:

Training is a matter which is very clearly defined. The Education Department does the training which pertains to their responsibilities and the Employment Service does the training pertaining to vocational training which is something that my department is fully organised to undertake. If there are to be discussions on any matter related to training, there is no question of there not being any meetings coordinated by the Training Officer.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Department of Education then have a say in the courses and all the actual running, for example, of the vocational training. Do the educational advisers have input into the vocational training and any aspect of the apprenticeship?

HON L MONTIEL:

The Education Department will have an input when we ask them to support us in any particular aspect of training. For example, if we want to improve standards in schools in order to be able to have a better catchment of students for vocational training, we consult the Education Department so they can help in that particular area of work. But when it comes to actual development of training schemes, vocational training schemes, that is the sole responsibility of the Employment Service.

HON S E LINARES:

But yet the Minister says that budgetary issues and all the money comes from the Education Department. Correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

We do not have any problems in that direction and we foresee no problem in that direction because the coordination is very open and very successful, I must say.

NO. 582 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

FINING OF EMPLOYERS IN TRANSPORT INDUSTRY FOR USING ILLEGAL LABOUR

Can Government say what fines have been issued to employers in the transport industry for using illegal labour on an annual basis from the financial year 2006/2007 to date, with a breakdown by financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

No fines have been issued to employers in the transport industry for using illegal labour from the financial year 2006/2007 to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 582 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

In the light of that answer, are the Government satisfied that every effort is being made, in the particular industry that we are talking about, to make sure that there is no illegal labour and the fact that there are no fines imposed during these last four years suggest that the Government are satisfied that illegal labour has not been used or is a problem in that particular industry?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government are not satisfied about that in this or in many other industries. It is self evident from the coordinated approach to this problem now, which the Government warmly welcomes, between the Government, Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Business and indeed the Trade Unions who have now aligned their respective positions and approaches to an approach to non-compliance generally across the whole range of taxation which is now company tax, PAYE, social insurance contributions and other compliance requirements. In this process that I have alluded to, measures are being consensualised to the greatest possible degree between the various participants which will result in the Government making announcements in due course about a whole panoply of measures all designed to bring about in Gibraltar a greater climate of compliance than has historically been the case in many areas of taxation including, but not limited to, the sector that the hon Member raises and indeed all manner of taxes. But the question, limited as it is to

one sector, does empathise with one of the approaches in the emerging consensus and that is that there should be a more sector by sector approach. In other words, instead of a scattergun approach where the Government just goes for individual employers right across the economy, a more structured, organised approach of tackling one sector at a time and saying, for example, to the transport sector or to the bar and restaurant sector, look you have a month to put your house in order because a month from now we are going to be concentrating on assessing and evaluating compliance broadly within this sector in all the players in it is thought by some of our stake holders in this process to be a more, that sort of focussed approach is thought to be so. We will in future be bringing a more sectorial approach but at the moment I think it is true to say that the Government have not adopted that approach and therefore to ask questions about the transport industry, like asking questions about any other, the Government are not satisfied that there is a sufficiently... Put it another way, I think the climate of compliance, the climate of tax administration and the climate of policing of compliance has historically been in Gibraltar too benign. As the Government tries to lower taxation across the board for everybody, that benign climate of compliance and enforcement has got to be tightened so that by everybody paying their dues then everybody else can pay less.

HON G H LICUDI:

We are grateful for that explanation. We certainly agree that there is a greater need to ensure compliance at all levels and not just this particular sector that is the subject matter of this particular question but across all sectors. The hon Member will be aware that there have been public pronouncements and issues raised about in particular another industry, the construction. The construction industry in particular has been highlighted in the past. This question deals with a separate industry. The fact that there have been no fines imposed over the last four years would appear to suggest one of two things. Either that there has been full compliance by that industry which appears not to be the case or that there has not been sufficient, dare I say, effort or resources allocated to ensure compliance because the hon Member will agree that we have the necessary legislation in place. This is not a case of there being a need to review regulations to ensure compliance. The legislation is in place. The enforcement officers, I understand, are in place in the hon Minister's department. I am slightly concerned and perhaps I could ask the hon Member to expand on this, why has there been this more benign approach in the past. Not just sector by sector but generally across the board which has allowed what the hon Member and everybody will agree, will clearly be an unfair system whereby some employers get away with employing illegal labour and therefore not contributing their dues, creating a system which is not fair across the board, in terms of employees and the payment of all dues and taxes. Is it because there have not been enough resources allocated to the hon Minister's department and is that something that is now going to be redressed and what measures does the hon Member envisage are now going to be taken to redress the benign approach in the past to a more strict approach, which is what I understand will now happen in the future?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Firstly, the benign approach is not recent. I think historically in Gibraltar, going back for ever, we have had, as a community, a benign approach to the enforcement, benign meaning an unaggressive approach, to the enforcement of taxation and not limited just to this sort of thing like employing illegal labour or withholding PAYE contributions or not forwarding it. I think it has been an approach across the whole

board of Government revenue enforcement, extending also to income tax administration and therefore I think this is something, this benign approach has afflicted both the administration's... both the Government's and therefore the tax payers perceive that they are operating in this climate of benign non-aggressive enforcement and therefore feel that there is insufficient incentive for those who are minded to get away with whatever they can get away, not to comply and there is an across the board approach now which is not new. The Government have tried in the past to tackle this area of non-compliance, not in transport but by employers generally and I remember at the time that we were severely criticised by the Chamber of Commerce for introducing measures which were "too draconian" and I said but how can one be too draconian in deterring people from consciously avoiding and evading their tax dues. There cannot be degrees of draconianness. Either one wants to eradicate an activity, in which case one puts penalties so high that people will think twice before they do it or one does not. But the Government have been and we have done it not just as a matter of policy but because the Principal Auditor has been flagging up issues of this sort for many years. The difference now, which I think gives the Government a new impetus are various. First of all, the recent events with failing construction companies in which measures have already been introduced specific to construction companies to prevent that from happening again. Secondly, we now have all the social partners aligned complaining about the same things and suggesting more or less the same approach. The unions, the two employer organisations and the Government, and thirdly, as we enter an era of lower tax in Gibraltar, the Government have a fiscal need to tighten up on evasion and avoidance because only... What this community cannot afford is ever lowered taxes for those who pay whilst allowing those who do not pay to get away with it. That has got to... because unpaid taxes is a source of untapped revenue and that has got to be now harnessed because there is a greater need, because we are seeking to collect less from those who do pay. So, there is a series of measures. Resources may be an issue. Resourcing of enforcement mechanisms, not just the quantity of it but how they are structured. Where they are placed? How they might be unified? How they might be directed? How they might be coordinated? So the general issue of human resources for policing is certainly an element of the Government's broad approach but there are others. There is the question of the consequences to employers and companies and senior management of companies that engage consciously and premeditatedly in this activity and I think in the future the personal consequences are going to be much greater in terms of criminal liability. In terms of personal liability and in terms of their ability to be involved in future with the ownership, management of businesses when a previous business that they have been involved with has failed leaving serial non-compliance with tax obligations in its wake. There are name and shame approaches. There is a whole range of approaches in terms of deterrence. So there are enforcement resources. There is deterrence both by personal and legal and financial penalty and then there is this sector by sector approach. So, I think the hon Members will see and I hope that they will welcome and contribute to the evolution of this changed climate and in the future when they get the legislative opportunity to do so. I think the hon Members will see during the next six months a series of measures. Some administrative, some legislative, which move in this very clearly determined direction by the Government. The first evidence of it as I say has already happened although they may not be aware of it. There is now for Government contracts a scheme which will be imposed legislatively for everybody in the construction industry whereby there has to be a withholding. Each contractor has to withhold from subcontractors amounts relating to PAYE and Government taxes and that system is working very well already. But the hon Member will not have had an opportunity to see it unless he had a peep at it whilst it was lying in his law firm over the last few months but he will see in the new Income Tax Act new, extensive and very tough measures on anti avoidance and deterrence measures in relation to

income tax, PAYE, social insurance contributions and things of that sort. So, the measures are beginning to emerge but there is a whole range of further measures that will emerge from this multi-lateral process between the Government and... So, certainly I accept what the hon Member says that the Government have to look into as its... amongst all these other approaches, at enforcement resources but not just quantity, other aspects of enforcement resourcing too.

ORAL

NO. 583 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED IN SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY

Can Government state how many Gibraltarians are employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 584 of 2010.

NO. 584 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – NON-BRITISH EU WORKERS EMPLOYED IN SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY

Can Government state how many non-British EU Workers are presently employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar giving a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The number of Gibraltarians employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar as at the end of May 2010 is 92, and I will now hand over to the hon Member the other statistical information that is requested.

Answer to Question No. 584 of 2010

Number of non-British EU workers presently employed in the ship-repair industry in Gibraltar, by nationality.

Nationality	Numbers
Spanish	54
Portuguese	12
Italian	1
Romanian	3
Bulgarian	19
Total	89

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 583 AND 584 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Whilst I wait for the answer to the other question. In relation to the number of Gibraltarians, I do not know if this is information that the hon Member has and perhaps if he does it would be helpful, can the hon Member tell us 92 out of a complement of how many, because there might be a difference if it is 92 out of 93 or 92 out of 5000. Does the hon Member have that information?

HON L MONTIEL:

When he gets the information I have provided he will have a better idea. But the hon Member must take into account as well that the numbers fluctuate in that particular industry not only of Gibraltarians working but in terms of other extra labour that the yard may require from time to time. The hon Member will notice that on this specific question, we have made it to May 2010 so as not to... because if he asked a question at another time he may get a different answer.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, but the question was, generally, does the hon Member know how many people are in total employed in the ship-repair industry?

HON L MONTIEL:

It fluctuates. There is no way that one can tell ...

HON G H LICUDI:

As at the end of May?

HON L MONTIEL:

At the end of May. It is calculated by the numbers that have been given here.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let's be clear what use we make of the information given in these answers which are the answers to the questions specifically asked. The hon Member appears not to be interested about non-Gibraltarian British people.

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxx

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has asked how many Gibraltarians are employed and he has had the answer. He has asked how many non-British EU nationals are employed but he has not asked about how many non-Gibraltarian British are employed. So the total of these two answers is not necessarily the total employed in the yard because he has not asked the right question. The question that he is asking is not capable of a precise answer because there is fluctuation but give or take the permanent ... limiting the detached workers and all these people that come in and out, in but not out often enough, the permanent cadre is somewhere between, I think it is around 220, 230. It fluctuates around that level.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member know in respect of this figure whether that is simply the permanent complement or those actually contracted on a permanent or temporary basis or whether it includes, or that is the number of jobs in the industry, including casual workers and we have had a discussion previously as to what is a casual worker and the legal definition of a casual worker. But is 220, the figure that has been given, the number of jobs available or simply the number of people that are registered with the Employment Service.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The information that I gave him from, give and take, is the sort of level at which full-time equivalent posts exist on a more or less permanent basis, excluding people that come in for very short periods of time, whether it is as detached workers or as casual workers. There is a large incidence of all sorts of working in every ship repair yard by the very nature of its activity which is the answer that he has had from the Minister. Now, there are a number of posts which is around the 230 mark which is the level of, call it if you want, indefinite type of employment. What you and I would call as layman, permanentish sort of posts in the yard.

NO. 585 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY APPRENTICES

Can Government state whether all or any of the five apprentices who were trained by the ship-repair industry but were subsequently dismissed are now in employment in the field in which they were trained?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 586 of 2010.

NO. 586 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SHIP-REPAIR INDUSTRY APPRENTICES

Can Government state what has been the result to date of the intense work carried out by it with the ship-repair industry in order to maximise the industry's uptake from the new craft skills pool created by apprentices having completed their training?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the five apprentices who trained in the ship-repair yard, two are currently employed in the field in which they were trained.

As regards the intense work carried out by Government in trying to maximise employment opportunities in the ship-repair industry for locally resident workers, this cannot be exclusively measured in respect of the resulting number of trained apprentices being taken on.

When I referred to this intense work by Government, in answer to Question No. 4 of 2010, I was not limiting myself to uptake of trained apprentices, much as the question by the hon Member opposite appears to be intended to limit my reply in this direction.

In relation to the uptake of trained apprentices, and as I have previously explained, it will always be the Government's expectation, like that of the individuals concerned, that an employment position be offered. This must also be the reasonable expectation of the employer undertaking to train the individual and thus seek a return on the training investment. The reality, however, is that there is never a guarantee of employment as such.

It is also a reality that such trained apprentices, undoubtedly, stand a better chance of finding employment by the simple reason that they are trained in a specific trade.

Whilst not all apprentices may be taken on by the ship-repair industry, those that do not will be well equipped to secure a job in their trade or related to it and even to progress beyond craft trade level.

Completing an apprenticeship programme is a success in its own right for the individual concerned and never a failure because the individual has failed to land related employment at the first attempt.

Coming back to the intense work by Government that the hon Member has chosen to quote from my answer to Question No. 4 of 2010, I have to insist that such work is

ongoing and in turn I will not quote to avoid repetition but will refer the hon Member to the Chief Minister's related contribution as part of the supplementaries to this same Question No. 4 of 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 585 AND 586 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member says and I believe I quote his words "whilst not all may be taken on by the ship-repair industry", the reality is that none have been taken on. Of the five who were trained, they were all dismissed. So it is not a question of not all been taken because if one has a situation where five are trained but eventually one has capacity only for three or four, that is one thing but if five are trained in an enterprise in which the Government appears to be participating, because they have described it as a joint initiative between themselves and the shipping industry and none of them are employed at all, that suggests and would the hon Member not agree, some sort of failure by the Government because it has not ensured as part of its partnership arrangement with that industry and part of the training that at least some of those are taken on. That is the first part. The second part of the supplementary relates to... What seems to me that the hon Member is doing is moving away from the answer that he gave to Question No. 4 of 2010 by saying well my reference to the intense work did not relate to this and it has been taken out of context. That was the gist of the answer given by the hon Member. Well it has not been taken out of context and it was precisely words uttered in relation to this specific issue and let me quote what the hon Member said at the time. "Whilst it is to be noted that taking an apprenticeship and successfully completing an apprenticeship does not constitute a guarantee of employment, it is still the Government's expectation, let alone that of the successful apprentice, that an employment position will be offered. To this effect, the Government is working intensely with the ship-repair industry in order to maximise its uptake from the new crafts skills pool". In other words, to this effect in order to fulfil the Government's expectation and the expectation of the individual that he will be taken on and therefore the question was what has been the result of that intense work for that purpose because that intense work was stated to be for that purpose and does the hon Member now acknowledge that that work whether intense or not has proved to be a complete and utter failure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Neither the Minister nor indeed his colleagues sitting next to him will subscribe to such a view. What he can say if he wants is that the Government's intense work has not yet succeeded in finding permanent job placements for these groups of individuals. But look, there is a serious political banter to one side. There is a serious point here which the hon Members miss and which demonstrates that should they ever find themselves on this side of the House, Gibraltar will once again be an apprenticeship desert as it was when they were last in office. It is only since this Government has been in office that we have been able to restore the system of apprenticeship that they so carefully dismantled despite their alleged subscription to the promotion of worker rights. Look, if the Government and now I am going to talk about Governments generically not this Government or any future or any past Government. If Governments signal to private sector partners that helping the Government establish apprenticeship schemes gives them an obligation to employ people that they help to train up whether they need them or not, well I think you do

not need to be... it is not rocket science to work out what the result will be. No private sector employer will ever agree to help the Government with an apprenticeship scheme because why should a private sector employer to boot come to the assistance of the community at the price of having to employ people that it does not need. The purpose of apprenticeship schemes is not to guarantee employment for the trainees in the organisation that has trained them. The purpose of apprenticeship schemes is to endow youngsters in this community with skills which then make them mobile, employable mobile, gives them personal formation which they can apply to better, to get themselves better jobs and with it better personal economies in the future. But of course it would be preferable and it is the Government's expectation and I would add hope, that as many as possible of people that have been trained in Gibdocks as it is now called, would be able to find work in Gibdocks. It has not yet happened and I agree therefore that there is more work to be done by the Government in trying to persuade Gibdocks to take on more people. But more people generally, more Gibraltarians and other local residents generally. The idea of endowing local residents with skills is that when jobs then do become available... the fact that somebody has got a skill does not mean that an employer has got a job for him. But if we give him the skills, when there are jobs available it is more likely that Gibraltarians and residents will be able to successfully shoehorn into them. What would be unacceptable to the Government, as I am sure equally unacceptable to the hon Members opposite, is that there being Gibraltarians available with the necessary training and skills, that they should continue to prefer outside workers in preference to available and trained local workers. That is what is unacceptable. So this debate does not... I realise it lends itself to a cheap political headline which will appeal to the five apprentices and their families. Alright, I understand that that is what Opposition's like and need to do and I accept that as part of the political banter, but let it not blind us from the real issues here which are much more complex, as he well knows, than the treatment that he has sought to give politically to this issue which is both superficial and inadequate.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member is wrong in many respects but in particular in these two respects. He describes it as cheap political points, but he started off by making a cheap political point about apprenticeships being dismantled. That is not a view to which we subscribe or with which we agree. That is a distortion of history in Gibraltar as in fact there have been distortions of many other aspects and facts of history in Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Who closed down the training centre?

HON G H LICUDI:

That is a distortion and the hon Member knows it.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question here and the hon Member asks, rhetorically, why should an employer employ somebody that they do not need? Well, that is absolutely right. Why should an employer employ somebody that they do not need? But why should an employer train somebody that they do need and then dismiss that person to employ somebody else? That is precisely the nub of the complaint in relation to this industry and that is what caused the outrage of one particular courageous individual who had what it takes to expose publicly this particular industry whilst the hon Member, the Minister opposite, stood by pale faced and embarrassed because he had nothing to say to that response. The fact is that five people were trained in a scheme in which the Government participated. The fact is that jobs are and were available and the fact is that none of them were kept on specifically to employ somebody else and the figures that had been given about 92 Gibraltarians being employed in an industry where over 200 are employed are in fact staggering because people are being trained for that industry and not being taken on in preference to outside workers. Now, the hon Member has said that that is unacceptable. If that is unacceptable and if the Government are carrying out intense work with the ship-repair industry, what are the Government going to do about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only distortions introduced into the debate are introduced by the hon Member who continues to deal with issues as superficially as the depth of his knowledge permits him. It is simply not the case. Firstly, it ought not to be necessary for me to lecture a fellow member of the legal profession, that to use the phrase dismissed, in relation to an apprentice who was never an employee in the first place, is an abomination and an aberration and a distortion.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member give way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member give way just on that particular point?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. They have not been dismissed.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will be happy ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I quote the hon Minister?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

Then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is why I said it ought not to be necessary for me to lecture a fellow member of the legal profession which he is not.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

I simply intervene to correct that statement because ... and to prevent the hon Member embarrassing his Minister any further because the answer that was given to the last question in relation to this particular issue by the Minister was "In this connection, five apprenticeships were initially taken on and were subsequently dismissed". They are their words not ours.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is an abomination?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. I very carefully chose my words about it should not be necessary for me to lecture a fellow member of the legal profession.

HON XXXX

Xxxx

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, what it means is that non lawyers sometimes use terminology loosely but lawyers should not fall into the same traps. That is exactly what it means. But look, as to whether I was distorting or not distorting anything when I last spoke, I certainly was not distorting anything when I said he was just trying to make cheap political points without descending into the complex issues because it is clear from the hon Member's style what the point is that he really wants to make because if the point that emerges when his voice is at its loudest and the pitch is at its highest and it is sort of like radio waves and his pitch was at its highest and his voice was at its loudest when he was saying that the Minister was standing pale faced and embarrassed next to this poor trainee. So, I think from that we can deduce that the sole point of his interest in this matter is actually not the apprentice or the fact that there are now apprenticeship schemes in Gibraltar which never existed before. It is not the fact that these four apprentices, whilst not yet having a job, at least have skills which they would not have had if it were a GSLP Government sitting on this side of the House. He is not interested in any of that. All he is interested in is pointing out political pale-face and embarrassment for the Minister who had to witness this tirade from this heroic apprentice who plucked up the courage. Well, one of the great advantages of Gibraltar today is that it is not necessary to pluck up courage to say things against the Government even with a Minister standing next to you. But the hon Member provides the evidence for that with his own statements. Look, of course we want to see these young men absorbed into employment because, of course, there is another side to the coin. If young people make the effort to get qualifications, whether it is in the construction training centre or in any other form of apprenticeship scheme, and then it does not help them very much in getting employment, this acts as a disincentive to others to follow suit. So, of course the Government has an interest in seeing that these young men find work as soon as possible either in the ship-repair yard or in some other industry for which the training that they have received is suitable. But the hon Member must have sufficient knowledge of employment law and other legal principles, generally. Well, he shrugs. It is him that shrugs not me. I assume that is in his favour even if he does not want to assume it in his own favour to know that it is not possible legally for the Government to coerce employers, even employers that have participated in apprenticeship training schemes, to employ people. The question of whether these five men were dismissed in order to make way for foreigners which would be in my view an objectionable thing that the employer ought to be hauled over the coals for if it had happened is not as simple and as simplistic as the hon Member uses for political effect. Ship-repair company has a ship in port with a very specific job to be done needing specific skills. He cannot necessarily service that requirement from recently trained inexperienced trainees. The needs of the employer at a particular time, when he makes employment decisions, have got to be taken into account. But he must understand that the Government does not spend the money training Gibraltarians and other residents young or old to acquire skills, to watch employers, without the Government at least taking them to one side and saying, look this is not part of the social deal. We may not have legal powers but we expect you to then maximise your absorption of these people into your organisation. That is true and it is going to become increasingly true of the construction industry, the ship repair industry, the financial services industry where we are spending money training people up in various training courses that exist. So, we have got to distinguish here between the desirable

objectives which I am sure we share on both sides of the House which is that trained residents should then be able to get the jobs that become available. We have got to separate that from the means available to Government in a law abiding society to bring about its desire and the Government cannot dictate that this should be the case. The Government have persuasive powers which I think it is bound to deploy in favour of the common and presumably common desired objective. For the hon Member to say it is a failure because you have not done so, suggests that the Government have more power to bring it about than he knows to be the case. So, I am quite happy to take sort of the political ankle taps in the sense of the political fray. But beneath that political debate there has got to be an understanding of the realities, both the Government's objectives, why the Government invest public funds in training and what limited recourses there are to the Government to make employers cooperate with those objectives and that desire. He can be absolutely certain that the Government will invest whatever effort it takes to use its persuasive powers and its dialogue powers to bring that result about, but if he sets the bar of failure or success simply at the question of whether it has happened or not, that is an over estimation of the Government's power. He is sending out the signal, the wrong signal, to people that the Government have the power to bring this about and simply choose not to exercise it because it does not care whether Gibraltarians or foreigners are employed. That is a wholly unreasonable, unfair, inaccurate, incorrect analysis of the situation and he must not do it.

HON G H LICUDI:

There is obviously a serious issue surrounding this matter and quite apart from the political points that the hon Member and myself might make across the floor of this House, the hon Member will know and will understand that there are matters of concern to people out there. These five individuals who are trained, other people who might be undergoing training, people who may face a similar situation in the future and it is certainly not my style or my purpose simply to make cheap political against the hon Member. That is just an aside and the hon Member knows that but I do not want that impression to be given. The hon Member has talked of the bar of failure and where that is set. Clearly, we acknowledge that the legal powers that the Government have are constrained by what the legal framework is. But there are other powers. There are powers of persuasion and we had understood that when we were told that there was intense work being carried out it was not that the employer was being brought in and being threatened with the prosecution or threatened with legal measures if they did not carry out the Government's wish. Clearly, the Government could not do that. But there was an element of dialogue, and element of work which was being carried out jointly in order to persuade the employer that it was desirable at least that when apprentices are trained they should, if there are vacancies, be taken on and my reference to failure was failure in that respect. That to the extent that the Government are intensely working with the industry to try to persuade them to take some people on, they had not achieved at all and the fact that they have not achieved that at all suggests, certainly at this stage, a failure on that particular policy. There might be success in three months time. There might be success in a year's time but certainly at this stage it suggests a failure of that particular policy. But going back to a more serious point. Perhaps the hon Member can tell us this. Going forward, does the hon Member envisage that there are going to be other people in the same situation? In other words, are there apprentices, are there people undergoing training under the scheme at the moment who may well find themselves in the same predicament in six months time or in a year's time and if so what extra efforts are the Government going to take in order to ensure that what has

happened this year or last year certainly does not repeat itself. I am not sure he has heard me. Does the hon Member want me to repeat the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, because I do not think that either the preamble to the question or the question adds much or contradicts much than what I have already said. If all that the hon Member is saying is that we have not yet succeeded in, or rather, that these young men have not yet succeeded in finding work in the ship-repair yard, that is true. But that is not the Government's test of success or failure. The hon Member knows that there are issues about the degree of expectation that jobs may have been offered to them but not of the sort that they wanted. That they were making demands about the nature of the employment and the ... People lay down demands, and it is not just apprentices. It is sort of fishing federations as well. Red lines demands that the Government have got to comply with. This is sort of governance turned on its head. But anyway, so it is not as simple and I do not want to get into debating the affairs of individual citizens who because they have raised their public profile can be identified but it is not even as simple as to say that they were not offered employment. They may not all have been offered the sort of employment that they wanted and some of them have obtained employment elsewhere since because of the skills that the apprenticeship scheme gave them. So, not even the facts affecting this group are quite ... and I have tried to engage in a ... because I recognise it is an important issue. I have tried to engage in an exchange across the floor of the House to the hon Member just as he did with the issues on the principles and not focussing on the facts affecting these five particular individuals because I do not think it will be entirely right because they are identifiable. But I just want to flag up that if we were debating the facts in relation to these five individuals, my understanding of it is that there would be things that would need to be said on both sides perhaps and not just on the one side about exactly what it is that has happened here. But that does not affect the fact that we share the hon Member's view that local employers should prefer suitably trained and suitably experienced locally available labour and that there should be some degree of willingness. This is something, a debate that I have, for example, with elements of the Government as well. For example, sometimes in the GHA... The GHA trains people through schools of nurses and sends them on courses and things like this and then a vacancy comes up and they say the person needs to have three year's experience or four year's experience in this or that and I say well what is the point of training people and then you create vacancies and you write up the job description in a way that necessarily cannot be complied with by the trainees because the trainee necessarily will not have the experience that comes with a qualified worker. So, it is not just the question of employers having an obligation, I believe, to the community in which they operate. Not a legal obligation. But I think they have a moral obligation not just to prefer resident available suitable workers when they are available, but indeed in the case of recently qualified people, whether they be trainees or any other form of qualification, they have got to have some willingness to absorb some degree of insufficiently experienced labour payroll cost in order to give people an opportunity to acquire the experience that eventually will make them more useful to them as employers and these are conversations that the Government does have with employers. So there is a lot of dialogue. It is not just the question of employing Gibraltarians, because they have got to be suitably qualified and employers need people to do a particular job and they do not want people necessarily that have just obtained the qualification and cannot do the job that they need doing. Between those two positions, we have to work to create a situation where employers across the economy provide, carry some degree of what they would regard as not value for money cost by carrying some number of recently

qualified staff which they then continue to train on the job and make them experienced on the job. That also is a serious point which would feature in any approach to maximising the availability of local employment opportunities, especially for those who have gone to the trouble of trying to acquire some degree of qualification.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member, I am grateful for this, has answered the preamble to the question but not the question itself. The question that I asked in the last supplementary was looking to the future and I was wondering whether the Government was aware and what could be done in order to avoid a repetition of what has happened recently whereby people have been trained in a particular industry and not taken on in that industry and therefore the question was, "Is the Government aware how many people or how many apprentices are currently going through the process of being trained and does the Government know when they are going to finish and what the prospects for employment are". The point that needs to be made is... things have happened in the past which certainly we do not consider acceptable and from the Government's point of view, as we understand it, it is also not acceptable if jobs are available for people to be..., whether you call it dismissed or not taken on. But if there have been public remarks by one of the individuals and I agree we do not need to go into the individual circumstances, but there have been public remarks, and if those public remarks have the effect of changing things for the future so that people who are trained at the moment do not suffer the fate of those individuals in the past, then those public remarks by that brave individual would have been certainly worthwhile and ought to be congratulated. So, my question simply is, looking to the future, do we face the prospect of a repetition of what has happened recently and are the Government aware of any steps being taken to avoid that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Not beyond what we have spent 45 minutes debating. The hon member asks a question. Look, this young man is not some sort of Joan of Arc that has changed the landscape in the sense that it has carried the Government... he has carried his heroism in daring to speak out with a pale and embarrassed Minister standing by his side, as somehow carrying the Government reluctantly across the threshold of activity. The Government, except in the public sector, and even then there is a selection process, does not accept ... The Government has the obligation to maximise the opportunity for individuals to acquire personal skills that will make them as attractive as possible to employers. That is why the Government, to an unprecedented extent, this Government, have invested in offering training opportunities almost across the whole field of economic endeavour so that people have the opportunity to better their own appealability to employers but that does not go hand in hand with a guarantee that the Government will find you a job. There is no economy in the world, except, not even in centrally managed communist economies does the Government guarantee employment for everybody. The idea that the Government by spawning an apprenticeship and not just apprenticeship because there are training opportunities going, available across huge areas of the economy, that because the Government does that which is a legitimate, proper, necessary, responsible governmental area of activity, that the Government must somehow then accept that because there is one apprentice who in factual circumstances, which are not entirely yet in the public domain, has failed to get an employment immediately in the organisation in which he was being trained, that

therefore this is a great failure and the Government must be immediately put its hand up and say, *mea culpa*, and guarantee that this will never happen again, is a completely distorted, unrealistic, completely undeliverable assessment of the respective roles of the Government, citizens, employers in a mixed democratic economy and society. So, the answer is that we do not accept that the backdrop painted by the hon Member about this young man's valiance not having been in vain if the Government then takes xxxx. I think that that is a completely distorted and unrealistic assessment. Will the Government continue to try and do all that it can to assist these young men and other apprentices and other trainees in other areas to find the work that will satisfy them in the context of the training that they have done? Of course the Government will. Does the Government consider that it fails if there are one, five or fifteen cases in which it has not yet succeeded? No, that is not the definition of success and failure to which the Government holds itself. The fact of the matter is that training ought to be undertaken by people even if, at a given moment in time that they finish, there may not be immediate employment opportunities for them where they want it. Why? Because these moments will pass and will change and these skills will stay with them. So, it was not my Government and I am not sure it was exclusively their Government either that dismantled the apprenticeship scheme. Indeed, we have restored the apprenticeship scheme even in some areas of the public sector. So, it was not we who abandoned the original historical model in Gibraltar of apprenticeships in the private and, well, mainly in the public sector but even some in the private sector with big companies that used to operate then, followed by immediate employment. It was not us who dismantled it and we do not accept responsibility for the fact that it no longer exists. There are others who bear a greater responsibility than us and nor do I think it is necessarily a system that ought to be lamented that it no longer exists. There are more efficient ways of combining employment skills in a prosperous economy and the Government are doing all that is reasonably can to maximise those policies and to maximise ... But our definition of success or failure, I repeat and I finish, is not whether this young man or he and his four colleagues have or have not yet been employed in the organisation that helped the Government to train them because, I finish with something that I said at the beginning, if that is the moral obligation in terms of legal expectation or political demand, persuasion... attempts to persuade are a different matter, in terms of political ... if that is the level of responsibility placed on the private sector company that cooperates by providing training placements then we will soon run out of companies willing to do that and that is not a good thing for the youngsters involved.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that these five apprentices did not end their employment when they completed their apprenticeship but were in fact employed after being qualified on a probationary period of three months and dismissed at the end of the three months? Is that version incorrect because that is the version we have heard?

HON G H LICUDI:

That was the answer to the last question which was that they were employed for three months probationary period.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That's right.

HON G H LICUDI:

And they were subsequently dismissed. So, perhaps I can assist the hon Member by ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding of the facts just being ... is that they were taken on, on a temporary basis. Not employed indefinitely in the sense of full employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member still maintaining that lawyers do not think that people taken on, on a three months contract and then dismissed are being dismissed because ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. People taken on, on a temporary basis are not dismissed when their temporary period comes to an end.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member simplify this ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The definition in the law of dismissal when a contract terminates by the effluxion of time is no longer the case. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not in the circumstances of these individuals. No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government, because the Government seem to be talking originally, at least he seemed to be talking originally as if he was not aware that they had actually been working for three months having finished their apprenticeship and it seems peculiar that people should be told, look you are on a three month probation and then the person that has trained them for four years, tells them at the end of the probation they are not suitable. Well look, if the trainer has not found them suitable what chance is there that a third party that has not had them on the books for four years should find that they are not suitable. Indeed, is it not the case that when their

temporary, probationary period was ended and their contracts were not renewed, the work did not disappear, somebody else was taken on to do that work. That information must be available in the Employment Department.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I say, I am not willing to debate four particular individuals however much they may have been seeking the support of the hon Members opposite. I do not think this Parliament exists to debate the employment prospects of four individuals amongst a population of 30,000. Now, I do not believe that they were told, and I am just being told this now, I do not believe that they were told that they were not suitable. They were simply told that they were no employment opportunities for them in the yard at that time. It is not that they were told, you are incompetent, I have trained you for four years and I have only just realised that you are not up to any job, so please go.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is not what happened. But I am not going to ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has made a lot of statements to which I have been listening very carefully and throughout until now he has been making the statement on the presumption that we were pressing for people to have to give a guarantee of employment at the completion of the apprenticeship. His entire argument for the last 45 minutes has been, "look all that happened here is that people have been put into a four year apprenticeship programme without a guarantee of employment at the end of the four years and then the end of the four years has arrived and they have told them, look, sorry we have trained you for four years but at the moment there is no job" and his argument throughout the 45 minutes, and he has reminded us of it, is that "well, look if that is what we are expecting, we are wrong to expect it". It is not normal to expect it and that is all that has happened in this case. But it is not normal. I can assure the hon Member it is not normal for somebody to be trained in a company for four years and then to be given a three month probationary contract and then at the end of the contract to be told, he claims, there is no job for you even though he was on probation for three months, not that you are not up to the requirements of the jobs that there are. Well, neither of us can say with certainty exactly what was said because we were not there but it is very clear that it is not so much a question of these five individuals but a question of what happens at the end of the apprenticeship. I think it is normal that if the guy is told at the end of the apprenticeship, "look I am very sorry we had hoped there would be a job available when you finished, but it is not, but we will bear you in mind". That is one thing. But if the guy is told, you finish in September. Here you have got a three month contract on probation and then on the 1st January he is told that there is no job, "well look what has happened to the job that I have been doing for the last three months". I would have thought that a department would investigate given that there is an obligation to open vacancies and register terminations, to investigate whether in fact

what has happened is that at the end of the three months the jobs that they were doing still existed. If it had been simply that the employment terminated because the apprenticeship was completed, which has been the entire argument used today, then there would have been a different scenario and it is not because there are five or ten or twenty but because there is a difference in the two situations. Is it not the case that in fact very few, every year very few are employed of the people that they produce? Is that not the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

As I understand it and I spoke to these apprentices. They came to see me and we had a good discussion about the whole process that took place. I was very annoyed at the time of the situation because I felt that the company should do their utmost to try and keep them because I thought, given the information that had been provided about their training potential, that they were potentially good skilled workers and I was annoyed at the fact that they were not kept on. Management, however, took a different view. They took the view that, first and foremost, that they did not have... and apprentices know this, the right to be taken into permanent employment when they finish employment. The apprentices knew that and management are very insistent that that was the basis upon which they undertook this training scheme with us. Notwithstanding that we insisted on management. "Notwithstanding the fact that you are not, at this particular time, able to provide them permanent employment which is what they want, and the apprentices expected this, if I have been trained for four years then I want permanent employment". Management, and I intervened as well through the management, and I said look, keep them on and eventually you know, because they are good skilled workers, and they said, yes but we cannot offer them permanent employment because we are beyond sustainable levels of permanent employment but we will give them a temporary job. Now, the apprentices' version of what happened and what the management tell me are two completely different things.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, then!

HON L MONTIEL:

I am not prepared to enter into any details of what. At the beginning, I took the view that the apprentices were right and I defended their case with the management. The management, however, denied that some of the statements that had been made were correct. Notwithstanding, the reality is that these individuals were not... they decided then that they would not go and do any work up the yard unless it was under the terms that they wanted to enter. Then there was nothing that I could do in order to keep them in the yard in whatever capacity until the position got better and through sustainable levels of permanent employment, they would eventually get in. But that was not the case. Notwithstanding what I have said and to put everything in context, because you see it always comes from a particular angle of the Opposition. The Opposition obviously hits and try to make a song and dance of a small thing. The reality is that since 1998, 150 apprentices have been trained at the yard obtaining very successful qualifications. Admittedly, as always happens, of the 150 that have been trained, 25 per cent decided to do their own thing and leave before, but the majority of them undertook the training there to NVQ Levels 2 and 3, qualified

craftsmen. Many of them were taken on by the yard. Others have found very lucrative and important jobs within other spheres, areas of employment in Gibraltar. In the Electricity Authority, I see, for example, many people who work extremely well and in other areas of Government and in the private sector. In my employment statistics for this particular trade, I have only one or two people unemployed with NVQ qualifications. The majority of unemployed, unskilled labour and when I talk about intensively engaging it is because we are pushing the employers to take more and more of our people rather than use foreign labour and this is what we are doing. We do not have a skills problem with employers. We will have problems from time to time whereby they will not want to take apprentices that they think are not capable enough or otherwise, that they consider that their manning levels are such that they cannot sustain them at this particular point in time and that is the reality of the situation. Normally, people who train and have qualifications, sooner or later, get employment. That is the history of the unemployment list. The majority of people with qualifications, sooner or later, find employment. By the way, in answer to his question, 27 trainees are now undertaking apprenticeships, 18 of which have already obtained NVQ Level 2 and in September more young people will undertake the training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member and the Chief Minister have, throughout, both kept on talking about employers in the plural and apprenticeship schemes in the plural. Is it not the case that this is the only one? Presumably the NVQ in the construction industry and the NVQ placed with employers are not included in the concept of apprenticeships? This is something different, is it not? The apprenticeship is exclusively in Gibdock or is there any other apprenticeship scheme with any other private sector employer?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. We have the construction training schemes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They are not anybody's apprentices?

HON L MONTIEL:

No, but of course the modern way of doing apprenticeships is that they spend some time in the training centre and then they are moved with employers so that they start to build up their portfolio of competence but they are generally placed with employers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but the only apprenticeship scheme other than the ones that are run by the Government in the construction training centre is the one in Gibdock. There is no other employer that actually employs apprentices?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, there is. I am very happy to say that we have a very, very successful partnership arrangement with Gibtelecom and now we are training about 18 IT engineers and they are being trained by Gibtelecom.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, then there are two, one in Gibdock and one in Gibtelecom.

HON L MONTIEL:

And in the public sector we have a number of other schemes and eventually... and I appreciate the members also asking about these important things. Real questions about training because I am sure that there is a lot to be said about what we are doing about training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am just seeking information. I am not advertising. Is it the case or is it not the case that there are employers employing apprentices? These people have got a contract of employment with Gibdock as apprentices and that contract of employment as an apprentice has got a beginning and an end and there is another one, as the hon Member says, in Gibtelecom. Are there are any other private sector employers with similar schemes or not?

HON L MONTIEL:

Not at the moment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not at the moment. Fair enough.

NO. 587 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – NOTICE OF STATE OF REDUNDANCY OF ONLINE GAMING CASINO 888

Can Government say on what date online gaming casino 888 owned by Cassava gave 60 days notice of consultation to the ETB regarding a state of redundancy by the company and can they confirm how many employees are affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

888.com gave 60 days notice of consultation to the Employment Service regarding a state of redundancy at the company on 27th April 2010. The number of employees that the company anticipates could be affected is at least 30. The consultation period has not yet elapsed.

ORAL

NO. 588 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

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

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 589 of 2010.

NO. 589 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – FRONTIER WORKERS REGISTERED

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality of the frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since December 2009?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 589/2010
Answer to Questions 588/2010 and 589/2010

Frontier Workers by Nationality since Dec 2010

Nationality	Dec-10	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
American	11	11	10	8	8	8
Argentinian	2	3	3	3	3	3
Australian	4	4	5	5	5	5
Austrian	7	6	7	7	7	8
Belgian	11	11	11	11	13	12
Bolivian	1	1				
Brazilian	4	4	4	4	4	4
Bulgarian	12	10	20	15	14	13
Canadian	2	2	3	3	3	3
Chinese	1	1	1	1	1	
Colombian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Czechslovakian	27	29	31	32	29	26
Danish	39	38	35	35	35	36
Dutch	50	45	43	44	45	44
Estonian			1	2	3	3
Finnish	6	7	7	6	6	5
French	69	66	65	69	70	71
German	118	119	120	116	115	115
Gibraltarian	130	127	128	129	127	127
Greek	15	16	17	18	19	24
Greek Cypriot	9	9	8	8	7	8
Hungarian	32	31	33	37	40	42
Indian	3	3	4	4	4	4
Irish	53	54	56	56	55	55
Israeli	6	6	6	6	6	6
Italian	43	46	48	52	55	55
Japanese	2	2	2	2	2	2
Latvian	6	8	7	8	7	8
Lithuanian	19	18	25	21	22	20
Luxembourg	2	2	2			
Macedonian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maltese	2	2	2	1	1	1

Cont...

.../Contd. Answer to Question 589/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Questions 588/2010 and 589/2010

Frontier Workers by Nationality since Dec 2010

Nationality	Dec-10	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
Mexican	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moroccan	4	4	4	4	4	4
New Zealander	3	3	3	3	3	3
Norwegian	2	2	1	2	2	2
Other British	2040	2030	2029	2035	2028	2047
Peruvian					1	1
Polish	114	118	122	127	123	134
Portuguese	347	345	364	354	365	371
Romanian	66	74	77	76	76	74
Russian	2	2	2	2	2	2
Slovakian	15	16	16	18	18	17
South African	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spanish	3288	3200	3349	3413	3472	3558
Swedish	16	15	15	13	13	13
Swiss	10	10	9	10	11	11
Ukranian	4	5	5	5	5	5
Totals	5913	5826	5998	6064	6125	6244

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 588 AND 589 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

As a clarification, can the Minister check frontier workers by nationality since December 2009. It cannot be December 2010 in his answer to Question No. 589 of 2010. If he looks at the top there is just a slight error.

HON L MONTIEL:

Sorry.

HON S E LINARES:

No, it is okay.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In this, would the people that are shown in the separate answers that have been given to me on detached workers, would they be included in this information or be in addition to?

HON L MONTIEL:

The detached workers will not be included. Xxxx

NO. 590 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – CATA

Can Government confirm that the advice of the Employment Service to employers with contracts on CATA terms of employment is that they have to pay CATA redundancy terms and not the statutory minimum redundancy terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As already explained in answer to Question No. 17 of 2010, the agreement commonly referred to as CATA is recognised and registered under section 9 of the Employment Act as a Joint Industrial Council agreement and its terms and conditions of employment are binding on the industry including, of course, terms relating to redundancy.

In consequence, the Employment Service, as it may be requested, informs that CATA redundancy is payable to workers in the construction industry, as opposed to the Redundancy Pay Order being applicable.

The Redundancy Pay Order also only applies if there is no other statutory provision. If CATA had not made a provision for compensation on redundancy the Redundancy Pay Order would be applied.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 590 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not the case that in fact if they do not pay the CATA terms there is nothing that the Employment Service can do to require them to do it. So how can it be a statutory requirement?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, because this is a statutory provision that is legally given to the negotiators of the Joint Industrial Council, that the Unions and CATA and the employers to actually police their agreement. It is their agreement and we have given statutory effect to and right to their agreement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously, neither the hon Member nor I are lawyers and I am not sure therefore that ... If something is a statutory requirement surely then it means that there is a legal obligation to comply with it. It is not purely a private matter between the two sides. The answer that I was given previously was that if somebody does not pay..., the hon Member told me that they get advised of the terms but that they cannot be required to comply with those terms and that if they do not then the affected individual is the one that has got to take private legal action against the employer. That is what he told me before.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have explained this to the Unions and the employers in the past. I have told them that they have a statutory means by which to enforce their agreement and, of course, it is now up to the people who are responsible for policing the agreement to put it to the test. If an employer does not want to pay, presumably, it is for the organisation of employers and the Union to take that employer to court, to test the matter in court.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But then it cannot be a statutory duty? If an employer signs an employment contract which says, the terms of this contract are CATA and does not comply, then it is a breach of contract and the individual can sue privately for breach of contract. Most workers that have been sacked are in no position to sue anybody, as the hon Member is fully aware, the same as I am. But surely if it is a statutory thing, it means that it is the public organisation that ensures compliance and he told me before that that is not the case.

HON L MONTIEL:

Not in this particular case. In this particular case, it is the authority that the Minister, through the powers of the legislation, gives to the negotiating Council to police and agree on their terms. Of course, the question of policing therefore relies on the Council that have agreed these conditions. It is up to them to find ways and means of policing their thing. What we do in the Employment Service is to inform people of the reality that exists. Therefore, if an employer does not want to, we cannot force them but we can pass the matter over to the Union or to the employers and say, look these people are not complying with your agreement. What are you going to do about it?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but we have just established that the worker that becomes unemployed who gets told by the hon Member look these people are not doing what they should be doing, what are you going to do about it? Well look, there is not much he can do about it. How can it be a statutory obligation which he then devolves to private individuals to ensure compliance with the law? He may be right and I am not in a position to dispute that this is the correct concept of a statutory obligation but is the hon Member aware that in fact the statutory minimum redundancy terms are better than the CATA terms?

HON L MONTIEL:

In some respects they do but not in every circumstance.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member saying then that somebody that has got a law that give shim a minimum statutory entitlement cannot enjoy the value of that minimum because of a bilateral agreement to pay less?

HON L MONTIEL:

I have raised the matter at the Labour Advisory Board and I have informed the Unions and I have informed the employers of the reality that the hon Member is mentioning and therefore it is not beyond the employers and the Unions to be able to change their agreement, the terms ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking what the employers and the Unions may do. They may not be able to reach an agreement. I do not know. I do not understand how the Union in the first place... He was the District Officer that did this agreement in the first place, anyway.

HON L MONTIEL:

This agreement has evolved over time and in some respects is very good and at other times it should have evolved and changed in other respects. I cannot make myself responsible for the situation of this agreement as it stands today.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can assure the hon Member that the agreement has not changed. The redundancy terms are identical and they are below the statutory minimum. Now, I would have thought that if the law says, you have got a minimum wage of £5, you cannot have a CATA agreement that says we will pay £4.50 and if there is a minimum element in the construction industry which is below the maximum in the construction industry and is less than the minimum in the law, what does a worker have to do to get what the law says?

HON L MONTIEL:

The law does precisely what the hon Member is saying. The law tells them that so long as you have an Industrial Council agreement that is what counts not the law. This matter came to the fore when we had to pay redundancy terms to people on insolvency and of course we took legal advice on the matter and we have been told that one cannot pay statutory redundancy terms when there is a Joint Industrial Council agreement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Which is not legally enforceable by the Government. So the Government say, if one does not have an agreement, I will require the employer to pay you x but if one has an agreement and the employer does not pay what the agreement says then I cannot require them to pay you what the agreement says. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government does not say that. The law says, contrary to what the hon Member suggested in his previous... not this last intervention but the previous one, the law appears not to establish a minimum position. It says, "This is the position unless there is a JIC to the contrary in which case that JIC prevails". So, what he is calling the statutory minimum is the default provision in the absence of a JIC agreement and the law is crafted in a way that entertains the possibility or allows that that JIC should not be to improve but to detract from the statutory default provision. That is what we are told the law provides. I suppose whether the law originally was intended ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sure it was.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Whether the law was originally intended to foresee a position where the JIC would be to improve. In other words, this is the statutory minimum. You can agree better if you want.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of course.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But the way the law was written all those years ago, it was "This is what the position is, unless there is an agreement", leaving it open for the agreement to be less than the statutory default provision. It is not what the Government says. It is what the law says. Unless the law is changed, the people are entitled to rely on those provisions. Then it is a question, a matter of negotiation. Then it is a matter of negotiation between the industry and the Unions because, of course, the JIC is a package of measures and it seems to be an odd negotiation to me. But it is possible that a Union may accept less in that area in exchange for more in another area. It is not possible now for me to get into the heads of those who either drafted the original law or subsequently negotiated the JIC agreement with CATA. But I would have to analyse what they got in return for that to see if it was a justifiable *quid pro quo* for what is a clause in one area which gives them less than they would have had if they had had no JIC at all, namely in this area. But it is not a question of the Government... That is not the Government's position. It is the legal position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that. In fact, I think it was the Government that introduced the original redundancy terms and my recollection of how it was done, it was done by a legal notice, was that it had a clause which says that this does not preclude a more favourable agreement being reached. That this would ... so if anybody is reading that notice it says, well look this is the minimum you have got to pay but it does not stop you from paying more. It is very strange to be told x years later well look this does not stop you paying less. I find it odd that the Government says, well look that is the legal requirement and yet the legal requirement is not a legal obligation enforceable but is a matter for the individual. Well look, it seems to me that the individual is caught between two stools. If there was no agreement he would have the protection of the law and because it has got the agreement he still does not have the protection of the law because he has got to sue the employer to comply with CATA.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has the protection of his Union that negotiated this JIC for him. It is not that the worker is... devices, he is bound by an industry collective agreement, negotiated on behalf by his Union and I would expect the Trade Unions to have something to say about it if an employer does not comply with the CATA agreement in a respect. It is not... the law does not elevate and I think we had this exchange last question time, does not elevate the CATA JIC to the law of the land enforceable by those who police the law. The law says, this is the law but if you want to step out of it and negotiate something in civil law between yourselves, the law allows you to do that and that is what has happened, uniquely, in the construction industry. The only industry I think with the JIC. Yes. It is the only industry with the JIC. The Unions and the employers have chosen, in the construction industry, to negotiate a bilateral agreement between them that takes that sector out of the default statutory provision. Well look, it is not then for the Government to explain or justify what that document says, nor to become the policeman of what is a Trade Union agreement with employers. Look, the law could be written in that way. I suppose it would not be, necessarily a bad law. The law could say, "well look these are the statutory default provisions. You are free to negotiate something different, even if it has something worse, never mind, you are free to negotiate something different and if you do decide to negotiate something different and you register it with the Government, then that becomes the substantive provisions of the legislation as far as these two parties are concerned". The law could say that but it does not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the hon Member was telling me in the answer to the original question appears to be that that is what the law says. What he says it should say because if I get a piece of paper which I have just quoted to him which says ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not saying it says that. I am saying it could say.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know he is... but the hon Member that answered the question, xxxx the Minister for Employment seemed to be suggesting that what he thinks it could say is what it does say because if what the law says is, "this is the minimum and this is without prejudice to employers and employees agreeing better terms". Not agreeing any terms, agreeing better terms. So the substitution that the actual legal notice enables is the substitution of terms that are more favourable to the employee. You have got an employee that is not in the Union and an employer that does not have the Union having negotiating rights. The hon Member has answered in the last meeting of the House that there were 486 employers and something like 3,000 people in the industry, covered by an agreement where the vast number of those employers and the vast numbers of those employees are not a party to it. When I asked, well what happens then, he said, we can only advise people that this is what exists and they can either comply with it or that they cannot comply with it. So, you have got a legal entitlement to something which can be removed from you because somebody else signs with another party something different. Surely, when the hon Member reminds me that there are people who are lawyers and people who are not lawyers, I always accept that the world is not necessarily the same world as somebody that might be at the receiving end of this law. When people come to me for advice, my instinctive advice has been to say, well look, I do not see how you can be employed by somebody and because the Union has signed with another party an agreement, you are no longer entitled to what the law says you are entitled to. You have not signed anything. Neither has your employer. There are no more than half a dozen employers of the 486 that actually are involved in negotiating this agreement and there are no more than 300 or 400 employees, the bulk of them in Government companies, who are unionised in the construction industry. So, here you have got thousands of people who are removed from the minimum provided by the law by agreements between different parties. Surely, that cannot be the correct interpretation of the law.

HON L MONTIEL:

The reality is not as the hon Member is telling us. He has experience as I have in the Trade Union movement and he knows that there are not many redundancy situations of people with many services in the construction industry. The Unions have always been concerned with short-term redundancy compensations because people do not last too long in the construction industry and the Union has concentrated for years and years in the short-term. This issue of the law has come to the fore now because we have had to deal with long-term redundancies as a result of insolvency and some people may have xxxx. The Union now understands that there is a problem there and they are prepared now to meet with the employers and all they have to do is a little amendment to give more favourable terms. But of course one must understand as well ... Before we try to say that it is the Government who has to support everything, statutory... The danger with what the hon Member is saying is that if we all go by statutory ..., we will not have this industrial council agreement which goes far beyond the statutory terms and if one looks at this agreement it does provide in many areas better terms than the statutory xxxx. For example, the statutory minimum wage. This agreement gives better terms than the statutory minimum wage. So it is in the interests of employers and it is in the interests of the Union to give xxxx to this agreement and make it better and I am sure that if they make it better all the issues that the hon Member is raising can be easily dealt with in the agreement and I think they will. They are now conscious of it and I think they will do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The redundancy system that has been in place for years gives people a payment of redundancy based on length of service and age with a maximum of one year. When the legislation was brought in, it was brought in with a clause that says, "this is without prejudice to something better being provided". If you provide something for people who have got lower service then that is better than what is already there. But I cannot understand how the Government, the Minister for Employment can argue, first of all, that you can do an agreement which replaces the statutory obligation but the enforcement of the new statutory obligation, unlike the obligation that was replaced, is not enforceable by the state. It is a private matter. He has just told us that if we move in the direction of making the thing a statutory obligation, we are going to undermine the collective agreements. He has just said that. He has just said that we have got to be careful that if we go down the road of saying, statutory obligations are ... have got to be extended and the Government is going to take on more, it means that the agreements in the industry would be ... there would be no point in having them or they would be undermined and that they are a good thing and he has given the example of the minimum wage. When I asked about the minimum wage and CATA the last time, he said the CATA agreement says, for example, a labourer in the construction industry shall be paid £7, and I said to him, well what happens if somebody gets paid £5 instead of £7. He says, well the answer is that that somebody that has just been taken on for £5 has got to sue the employer for being in breach of the CATA agreement. Well, that is not going to happen and if he does sue him he will not last a week because he says that the department can only enforce the £5 which is the minimum wage, not the £7 in the agreement.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is the case.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is the law.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How can the law be that it is a statutory agreement but not a statutory agreement that is enforceable by the Government, by the state or by the Employment Service but in the nature of a private contract between the employer and the employee? Is it possible to have a statutory agreement that replaces the minimum wage, saying you are going to pay £4.50?

HON L MONTIEL:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. Well, why should it be in redundancy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are several points that arise from the hon Member's ... quite apart from the fact that he is pointing to the wrong statutory provision and I will explain that to him in a moment. But can we just be clear. Yes. Before there are too many giggles, I will ... you know, reserve your giggle until you hear it. But first of all, this statutory provision which brings about the result that he is saying is so irrational, I believe was the legal position during all the years that he was in Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because the statutory provision that brings about the result is not the final provision of the 2001 Pay Order Regulation. This is the mistake that he is making. He is. No. Look. Either they want the answer or they want to shout down the answer. It is a mistake. The hon Member is proceeding on the assumption that regulation 6 of the Conditions of Employment Redundancy Pay Order 2001 is the statutory provision that brings about this dastardly effect and it is not. All that the Pay Order Regulation says is "that the provisions of this order shall not prevent agreements for compensation by reasons of redundancy more favourable than those prescribed in this order". So by definition, this could not be the statutory basis for any provision that was less favourable. But he is wrong in thinking that this is the statutory provision that has the effect about which he is complaining. It is not. That is a different statutory provision.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Hon Mr Licudi's nervous intervention suggests to me that he is the source of the erroneous legal advice to the Leader of the Opposition about which the Leader of the Opposition has based his opinion because I am debating with the Leader of the Opposition and he has punctuated every sentence nervously with an interruption from a sedentary position. So is it not easier as a lawyer ... Does his legal training not teach him that it is always more sensible to listen to the case that you have to answer rather than sit there like xxxx. Well, he must have been taught that way. I

would refer the hon Member to sections 6 and 7 of the Employment Act and regulation 3(1) of the Redundancy Pay Order which specifically provides, regulation 3(1), "subject to sub-regulation 2, this order shall apply to all employees in an undertaking or any branch or department of an undertaking of which no other statutory provision is made for compensation by reason of redundancy". That has to be read together with section 39 of the Employment Act which says, "the conditions of employment prescribed in a Conditions of Employment Order or determined by a Joint Industrial Council under this Act shall be the recognised conditions of employment for the employees concerned". The legal advice that the Government has received is that the effect of that legislation, not of regulation 6. Regulation 6, I agree with him, could never be relied on to do something less favourable than the minimum but this apparent ability and possibility that exists in the construction industry for something less favourable than the statutory default minimum to be possible, which strikes me as something very historical that I would not have done, but does not derive from that section. It derives from other sections because if it did not derive from regulation 6, which it does not, it would clearly not be doable because it would not be something more favourable. But the hon Members are looking at the wrong statutory provisions as being the ones that bring about this result which he considers to be irrational, undesirable and peculiar. Now, we can all come to the conclusion that it is indeed, irrational, undesirable and we can say that the law should be changed. Parliament is free to change laws. Indeed, the Government is free to change regulation 3(1) of the Redundancy Pay Order without coming to this House, initially. So, the law can be changed and we can say to the Trade Unions and CATA, look of course you can do joint industrial council agreements but it is to improve on, not to detract from the statutory default minimum and the Government, either itself through subsidiary legislation or this Parliament collectively, can bring that result about. We need to consider whether it is best to do it by legislative intervention or whether it is best to leave it to the JIC parties to correct what would appear to be, appear to me Now, I would have to talk to the Unions and to the construction industry to see whether it is indeed an anomaly, as it appears to me, or whether it is not an anomaly as it appears to me, but rather something brought about consciously in the context of give and take of a multi-pointed negotiation. On my feet here, I do not dare speculate about which of those two it is. On balance, I would guess that it was an unintended consequence but before concluding that it was an unintended consequence I have got to find out. Now, whether the consequence was intended or unintended, it appears to be lawful in the context of the language used in the Employment Act and the Employment Order. So first of all, we have got to decide whether it was an intended or unintended consequence. Regardless of whether it was intended or unintended by the construction industry and the Unions representing construction workers, we have then got to decide whether it is desirable that that should be so or whether the law should provide differently and then if we decide that it is undesirable that the law should be so and that the law should provide differently, then the law has to be changed. In the meantime, the very firm legal advice that the Government has..... Remember that this arises in the context of the disbursement of public funds. The Government had claims under the legislation and the Director needed to be sure that he was lawfully paying out monies for which he takes the legal advice and he gets a very clear... The Government was not seeking necessarily that that should be the legal advice but that was the legal advice and, of course, all laws can be changed and we can certainly have a debate about whether it should be changed and if so, how and whether it is intended or unintended, rational or irrational consequence. But the hon Members need to look wider in the legislation than just regulation 6 of the Pay Order for the source of the problem in law.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just put on the record that I think the hon Member has assumed that the reason for this question was in fact the payment that they had. This has nothing to do with that. I can tell the hon Member that there is one particular individual in one particular employment who under the law was entitled to £14,000 and under the CATA agreement had been paid £6,000 and when he came to see me, I said to him, I do not think the employer can pay you £6,000 because the law says the minimum is so much. I worked it out for him, so I was not aware that anything that he has mentioned in relation to the insolvency..... This employer is not insolvent. This is an employer who has just made one person redundant and the response of the employer to the worker, "this is what I have been told by the department I have to pay you". So, the individual who looks to the law which says this is the minimum and is without prejudice to you getting more.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law xxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He looks at the law on redundancy which is not an abnormal piece of deduction to go to the law on redundancy and he comes ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law on redundancy?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. He comes to me and having been told previously that the CATA agreement was not a matter of statutory obligation to the extent that a breach of that agreement by the employer is enforceable by the department, I then said, you cannot have it both ways. It means that if there was no agreement, the department would force the employer to pay you £14,000. Correct. But because there is an agreement to which you are not a party because we have already established ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

You are bound as a private contract, not as a statutory obligation. I do not understand how ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law says, if he will just give way ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The law then says, if there is such an agreement, however minority the participants of it might be both on the employer and the employee side, the law goes on to say as it is drafted not in sub-regulation 6 but in sub regulation 3(1) of the Redundancy Pay Order read together with section 39 (6) and (7) of the Employment Act, that if there is one of these agreements, even if signed up only to by a minority of employers and a minority of employees, it has the effect of constituting the conditions that bind these people. Now, that is what the lawyers tell us is the effect of the law. We can debate one of two things. We can debate what the law is or is not, which is not something that this House exists for, or we can debate whether the law should be, as it appears to be, and needs to be changed. Now, that is the debate... This Parliament does not exist to debate, to have lawyers' arguments about whether sub section 6 says this or sub section 3 says that. We can do it. I do not mind doing it but as a legislature what we are supposed to be doing is, here is a factual situation affecting society, is this the intended ... Is this the situation that the legislature intends should prevail or does the legislature or the executive believe that it should be different in which case it has recourse to one of the legislative powers to bring it about. That is the debate that we should be having.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but the fact is that I am not trying to have a debate at all. I am seeking information and I base my supplementaries on the answers that I get to my original questions and the point that I am making is ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answers the hon Member has had are correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the answers I have had are correct then perhaps the hon Member can explain how it is that the department says to people in the industry, you do not have to pay the minimum that the law says. There is a way out which allows you to pay less, in this case ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because that is what the law provides.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but then how can the law make that a substitute statutory obligation where what it is substituting is enforceable by the Employment Department who can then sue the employer but the substitute that replaces it is a private matter that the individual has to pursue because that is what I was told the last time. Either it is a statutory obligation and then you can sue your employer for paying you less than the £7 or it is not and then it seems to me the employers have it both ways when they can say, I pay you the minimum wage which is a £5 because you have got no way of forcing me to pay the £7 in the contract. But I will pay you the £6,000 redundancy because I do not have to pay the £14,000 that I would have if I was not ... It is a very peculiar way of ... I know that we are not here to discuss the law. We are here to make the law and then we rely on the lawyers to tell us whether what they claim we have done is what we intended to do or the opposite. As a layman, I would have thought that a statutory obligation of an employer means that the department then has to say to people, you are required by law to pay this redundancy and you are required by law to pay these wages and you are required by law to pay this holiday. Either the whole agreement is required by law or it is a private agreement between an employer and an employee where, which in fact, is binding, apparently, even on those who do not even know it exists and have not signed it. It is certainly a new element in contract law, I would have thought. Which is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We are told that that which he believes to be undesirable, namely that you can contract your way out of a statutory provision and that that contracting out of the statutory provision does not itself have the status of administratively enforceable law. We are told that that is the position. Now, I have not done the legal research and I cannot now ... That is the position that the lawyers have given to the Minister and which the Government brings to the House. I understand that the content of these JIC's are conditions of employment applicable in that industry. Now, the fact that they are conditions of employment applicable in that industry Because section 39 of the Act says, "the conditions of employment prescribed in a conditions of employment order or determined by a Joint Industrial Council under this Act, shall be the recognised conditions of employment for the employees". Whether the fact that they are statutorily recognised conditions of employment, but the lawyers are aware of that and have nevertheless concluded that they have xxxx, but whether they are statutorily recognised conditions of employment means that they are enforceable administratively as opposed to simply binding in a civil way between the parties concerned..... I would have to conduct my own legal research which I do not have the time or the opportunity to do. But, I repeat that if that is what the law is and we consider it that it should not be the law... There are lots of things in the law that then circumstances come to light and people say, why is this the law and no one can remember or nobody knows or the circumstances in society have changed, making that law no longer a fair law. That is very possible and if, upon proper investigation, legal investigation as we are being told, the position is that that is the law, well it is open to this House and to the Government, to consider whether it should continue to be the law or whether it should be changed so that dealing with just the final of the points that the hon Member has made, whether, fine, you can negotiate your way out of the law through this JIC business, but if you do, that becomes the enforceable law as if it were written in sections this and sections that of the statute. That sounds to me a logical approach from where I now stand without having consulted either side, either the Unions or the employers but I am perfectly happy, if the hon Member so believes that this is an unfair position, to ask the Minister to engage in a consultation

process with both the construction industry and the Union to see whether this was the intended consequence. Whether they agree that this is the law because they might say, the Government lawyers are wrong, we do believe that you should be enforcing this administratively. They could say that. So anyway, establish the position, do a proper consultation process of the affected parties. The Government will then consider the outcome of that and if we consider it appropriate, bring the necessary amendments to this legislation so that a position that appears to be odd, I agree with him that it appears to be odd, if to boot it is unintended or no longer appropriate, it should be changed. So, there is not necessarily a difference between us on the ... We are not necessarily defending the outcome. At the moment, we are just defending what we are told the position is in law which binds the administrators of the legislation but that does not mean that we are positioning ourselves against a change of the position if when it is examined, it is found to be unjustifiable because if it looks odd to me and to the Minister, somebody is going to have to come up with a jolly good reason why it should remain so. There may be a good reason. This is why I am not willing to commit myself to the hon Member now. I want to give them the opportunity to say, is there a good reason for continuing with what appears to be an oddity and I have got to listen to that before agreeing with the hon Member that it should be changed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was the Minister who did it. He ought to know why he did it. He was not the Minister then. He does not have to ask anybody.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is not true. Nothing that he did either as a Minister or as a Union has the effect of which he is complaining which is that the content of a JIC does not have statutory status in terms of its enforceability by the public administration. He may have negotiated ... I do not know when that JIC was negotiated. He may have been a Union leader at the time that the redundancy provisions of the construction industry were negotiated. I do not know. But that is not the point that we are now discussing. The point we are now discussing is, regardless of the content, should it have the statements of law or not? That is the point that I am addressing. Not the content. The content also seems odd to me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point that I was referring to was whether it was a deliberate thing as a *quid pro quo* for something else or whether it was something that was done on the basis of having overlooked the undesirable relationship between the two. I cannot imagine that the Union actually went into the negotiations with the purpose of producing a lesser agreement than the law provided. It is just that it so happens that once one hits two years one is worse off because in the agreement signed by the Union they pay a fixed amount of £7 for every week that you work. So once you go over the 104 weeks you are in trouble. Now, I am sure that when the Union negotiated that, that possibility was overlooked because all they had to do was to say, for people below a certain length of service this will apply. But the point is that in terms of asking the people who did it, what was in their mind. It is very easy to ask the people who did it. He would have to ask himself. That is the point I am making.

HON L MONTIEL:

The hon Member suffers from amnesia as well. He must know that this agreement was there for many, many years before I was District Officer. But nevertheless, he raises first the question of the redundancy. The reality, as he knows it very well in the Union, was that the people there were on short-term employment and what they wanted was quick money. That is what our negotiator at the time, Pepe Nuza at the time, was making sure he got the maximum for the short-term possible. Of course, very few examples came to the Union of people who had been in the industry for many, many years that were xxx redundancy. This has come up now because there has been an insolvency situation that we have had to look at. We looked at the situation. We saw that it was unfair. We have raised the matter at the Labour Advisory Board. This is what we found. This has got to be changed. There are two ways of changing it. One is make a little amendment to this particular clause and say, whichever is more favourable. It can be done and thereby sustaining the concept of the Joint Industrial Council because I think there is more to it than just converting everything into a Pay Order because that what it does eventually, it stops the Union from engaging, in discussing Union affairs, Union wages, Union agreements and so forth. It does limit the Unions' ability to represent members if everything is done through statutory means. Right. So, there are ways and means of dealing with it and we have raised the matter at the Labour Advisory Board. So, I am sure that one way or the other, we will deal with this matter. Of course, if they want to retain a Joint Industrial Council, then they have got to know that according to the law they have to police it themselves. If they want to transform it into a Pay Order then the Employment Service will have to police the Pay Order terms and conditions. So, it is a matter for discussion with the Unions and with the employers. We are not going to engage them simply because this discussion has been taking place here. We have already started discussing this matter. It is on the table.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have already informed the hon Member that the source of this question has nothing to do with the people going bankrupt and the other things that brought it to his notice. He has got to understand that I have given him one example that I am aware of where if that agreement did not exist, the person would have been entitled by law to £14,000. Because the agreement exists, the employer says to him, I have called up the ETB and the ETB tells me I do not have to pay you £14,000. I only have to pay you £6,000. Then if you say to the ETB, well does that mean that you have to force people to pay the £6,000. The answer he says is no, it is a private matter. There seems to be a contradiction in that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We can debate the stated point *ad nauseum*. That is the position. The ETB informs both employers and employees of what the statute requires them to do. That does not mean that ETB is the enforcer. If an employer rings up in the construction industry and says, what are my obligations of redundancy payment to this worker, well the ETB takes the information and says, under the law as it presently stands you have got to pay so much. I do not see why the hon Member then goes on to say, and to boot he is not liable for the enforcement of the law. We are just going round in circles. We have debated what the law is. We have debated about the possible desirability of changing it. I am entirely satisfied that the ETB has done what the law requires it to do and therefore the remainder of the debate is simply about whether

the law should be changed or should continue to bring about the situation that the ETB correctly advises people is the case and which results apparently, accepting at face value the hon Member's example, in a redundant construction worker being entitled to £7,000 or half the redundancy payment that he would otherwise be entitled to. That is simply a manifestation in the flesh of the situation brought about by the law as it presently stands and we have been debating for an hour and a bit whether we should change it or not change it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it is correct that, in fact, other than in the construction industry, the department would do two things. Inform the employer, you have to pay so much and actually take legal action against him if he did not. Is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I personally do not know the answer to that. Whether the legal entitlements of workers under the Act are enforceable only by the employee through a court action or industrial tribunals or whether the administration has the powers to prosecute, I suppose it would be, if it had any powers at all. An employer either pays or does not. If they do not pay what is due or respect any other condition, I do not know whether the Act creates criminal offences. Normally, public administrators of legislation have powers which are limited to prosecution. They do not have any particular power of collection greater than any citizen has. But the answer is that I do not know precisely what the nature of the enforcement powers and/or obligations are of the Employment Service under the Employment Act. If we had a copy of the Employment Act we would soon look at it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Some of my questions have been based on a premise which until now I thought was not in doubt that if there is a Redundancy Pay Order and that Order is not complied with, then the department could actually prosecute the employer ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Indeed and that may be the position but that does not necessarily put the money in the hands of the person who is entitled to it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. But given the fact that if the Order was not there, and if there was an agreement, then the only thing the individual could do would be to try and get the cash by suing the employer for breach of contract. Therefore, that which is a very difficult thing to do for somebody that has been dismissed and does not have the resources, I would have thought ... My understanding was that in the case, for example, because I was told in a previous meeting of the House on the question of the wages that if the employer did not pay the £7 to the labourer, the department would not be able to take the employer to court unless he went below the £5 which is the minimum wage.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Implicit in that answer is that he can xxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is the implication. It is based on that answer, that I am assuming that you can do it for the other.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that the hon Member will now engage in a consultation process with employers and with the Unions, will the Government agree ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Which Member ... This Member. That Member has already engaged in consultation process.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister suggested earlier that the Minister for Employment will engage in a process of consultation. So there will be a process of ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the Government agree, whether as part of that process or separately, also to revisit the question of the legal effect of the provisions to which the hon Member has alluded and I acknowledge that the purpose of this House is not to debate interpretations of the law but rather to make the law. But given that the hon Member has referred to the provisions in question, perhaps it would be useful to revisit that having regard to the comments I am about to make. The hon Member has referred to paragraph 3 of the Conditions of Employment Redundancy Pay Order which, as the hon Member has said, applies to an undertaking of which no other statutory provision is made for compensation by reason of redundancy. In other words, what this specifically does is say, where there is another statutory provision which prescribes compensation for redundancy then that applies and not this. The reference to section 39 of the Employment Act is not a statutory provision which prescribes compensation for redundancy. There are other provisions. It is a general provision and in fact paragraph 3 does not say, of which there is no other statutory provision which prescribes conditions of employment generally, which is what section 39 does. It specifically refers to statutory provisions for compensation, for redundancy and there are other statutory provisions for compensation, for redundancy. There is the Wholesale Trade Order, the Transport Contracting Undertakings Order, the Licence Non-Residential Establishments Order and the

Retail Distributive Trade Order. So, all I am saying to the hon Member is that it is arguable, at the very least and the concern I have is that if somebody decides that they are not going to agree to be compensated less than they think they ought to be compensated and takes the matter to an industrial tribunal saying, these conditions of employment order apply because that is what prescribes redundancy compensation and not section 39, a tribunal which may have regard to debates in this House may come to the conclusion, well that is what the legislator actually believes is the case. Well, we on this side of the House think that is not necessarily the position. There is a provision which specifically refers to compensation for redundancy. The other provision does not. Therefore we consider that this is the one that properly has effect and all I am asking is will the Government agree simply to revisit that issue of the legal effect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, was that a rhetorical question?

HON G H LICUDI:

No it was not a rhetorical question. Will the Government agree to revisit?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I hope that those who form legal opinions within and for the Government are constantly keeping the correctness of their legal opinions under review. It does not require a commitment from me which is what the hon Member is asking for. This is the legal view that the Government has been advised to take. If anybody else thinks it is wrong then it is wrong. People are allowed to disagree legally with the Government. I doubt very much that any tribunal of law is going to determine what the law is by reading the Hansard at question time between him and I. Quite a different thing is when trying to assess the intention of those who made the law to have regard to the debate of the passing of the law originally. They might want to look at Hansard to see what the Parliament thought at the time that the Employment Act was first passed as to what they intended at the time. That sometimes happens. A very narrow use the courts would make of that but yes they could make of it but that is not a subsequent 25 years later political exchange at question time between two legislators, neither of whom were involved in that legislative process and therefore what is in our minds is simply not forensic about what was in the minds of the legislature when it passed that Act. But that still does not detract from the fact that if the hon Member believes that the Government's legal assessment is wrong, I am very happy to have that question reconsidered because obviously the Government is as interested as he is in ensuring that it maintains the correct legal position and not a mistake in the legal position.

NO. 591 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS EMPLOYED

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 10 of 2010, how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 592 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 592 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the 22 British detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 and 593 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 593 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the 132 Spanish detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of the commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591, 592 and 594 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 594 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the two Moroccan detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 to 593 and 595 to 597 of 2010.

NO. 595 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the two Other EEC detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 to 594, 596 and 597 of 2010.

NO. 596 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by trade of the 20 Non-EEC detached workers deployed to work in Gibraltar in the construction industry in January 2010 and show the date of commencement of their deployment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 591 to 595 and 597 of 2010.

NO. 597 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government provide the list of employers and country of origin of the contractors who had deployed the 182 detached workers who were engaged in the construction industry in January 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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

Answer to Question 597/2010

Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

February 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.					77	77
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	6	115	1	8	18	148
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
Hotel Trade						0
Restaurants, Bars etc						0
Repairs of Consumer Goods						0
Sea Transport and Related Services						0
Air Transport and Related Services						0
Road Transport and Related Services						0
Post and Communications						0
Banking, Finance and Insurance	4	7		1	1	13
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	10	127	1	9	97	244

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

March 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				4	72	76
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	4	128		8	17	157
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
Hotel Trade						0
Restaurants, Bars etc						0
Repairs of Consumer Goods						0
Sea Transport and Related Services						0
Air Transport and Related Services						0
Road Transport and Related Services						0
Post and Communications						0
Banking, Finance and Insurance	4	7		1		12
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services					1	1
Total	8	140	0	13	90	251

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.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

April 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				4	84	88
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	4	117			12	133
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
Hotel Trade						0
Restaurants, Bars etc.						0
Repairs of Consumer Goods						0
Sea Transport and Related Services						0
Air Transport and Related Services						0
Road Transport and Related Services						0
Post and Communications						0
Banking, Finance and Insurance	4	7		1		12
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services		2			1	3
Total	8	131	0	5	97	241

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010

.../Contd. Answer to Question 591/2010

Detached workers by Nationality

May 2010

Industry	British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Electricity Supply						0
Water Supply						0
Shipbuilding etc.				6	106	112
Other Manufacture						0
Construction	2	116		4	10	132
Wholesale Trade						0
Retail Trade		5				5
Hotel Trade						0
Restaurants, Bars etc						0
Repairs of Consumer Goods						0
Sea Transport and Related Services	1	4				5
Air Transport and Related Services						0
Road Transport and Related Services						0
Post and Communications						0
Banking, Finance and Insurance	3	7				10
Public Administration and National Defence						0
Police and Fire Service						0
Sanitary Services						0
Education						0
Medical and Health Services						0
Other Services		2			1	3
Total	6	134	0	10	117	267

Cont....

.../Cond. Answer to Question 597/2010
Answer to Question 592/2010

British Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
26/02/2009	1									1
10/03/2009	1				2			1	2	6
18/03/2009					1				1	2
01/04/2009		1								1
27/04/2009									1	1
01/08/2009					4				4	8
18/08/2009									1	1
15/09/2009					1					1
16/11/2009					1					1
Totals	2	1			9			1	9	22

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 Answer to Question 593/2010

Spanish Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
13/02/2009									3	3
17/02/2009									2	2
23/02/2009		1			1					2
26/02/2009					2					2
02/03/2009					1					1
06/03/2009					4					4
12/03/2009					1					1
17/03/2009					1					1
18/03/2009		1								1
31/03/2009					1					1
14/04/2009					3					3
15/04/2009					1					1
21/04/2009					1					1
22/04/2009									2	2
23/04/2009					4					4
28/04/2009					2					2
01/05/2009					2					2
04/05/2009					1					1
05/05/2009					1					1
01/06/2009					5				3	8
10/06/2009					2					2
11/06/2009					2					2
01/07/2009					3					3
02/07/2009	2	1		3						6

Contd....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 .../Contd. Answer to Question 593/2010

Spanish Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
07/07/2009	2	1			2					5
29/07/2009									1	1
15/08/2009					1					1
16/09/2009					2					2
21/09/2009					1					1
28/09/2009					6					6
01/10/2009				1						1
07/10/2009	1				5					6
16/10/2009					1				1	2
28/10/2009					1					1
30/10/2009		4			1					5
06/11/2009	4	1		1	1					7
16/11/2009					4			1	1	6
17/11/2009	1	1			3					5
20/11/2009									4	4
30/11/2009	2				7				7	16
01/12/2009		3			2					5
10/12/2009					2					2
Totals	12	13	0	5	77	0	0	1	24	132

Contd....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
Answer to Question 594/2010

Moroccan Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
01/03/2009									1	1
05/04/2009									1	1
Totals	0	0			0			0	2	2

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 Answer to Question 595/2010

Other-EEC Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
13/04/2009					1					1
13/10/2009									2	2
30/11/2009					1					1
01/01/2010					1					1
15/01/2010					1					1
Totals	0	0			4			0	2	6

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
 Answer to Question 596/2010

Other Non-EEC Nationals - Detached Workers as at January 2010

Start Date	Managerial	Professional	Associate Professional	Administrative	Skilled Trades	Personal Services	Sales & Customer Svcs.	Plant Operators	Elementary Occupations	Totals
01/03/2009					2					2
02/03/2009					1					1
12/03/2009					1					1
14/04/2009					1					1
21/04/2009					1					1
21/05/2009					1					1
09/06/2009					2					2
01/08/2009					2					2
12/08/2009					1					1
25/08/2009									1	1
14/10/2009					1					1
30/11/2009					1					1
07/12/2009					2					2
15/01/2009					3					3
Totals	0	0			19			0	1	20

Cont....

.../Contd. Answer to Question 597/2010
Answer to Question 597/2010

Number and country of origin of contractors who deployed 182 detached workers to be engaged in the construction industry in January 2010.

Country of Origin	Number of Contractors
Spain	37
United Kingdom	4
Holland	2
Poland	1
Totals	44

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 591 TO 597 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there not a requirement on a time limit for detached workers?

HON L MONTIEL:

Normally, a detached worker is termed as a temporary employment. That is as far as I can go in determining time limit. It is expected that it will be for a specific period to do a particular job but there are other circumstances that come into effect when you go deep into what is temporary. But generally yes. It is generally a temporary employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there not a specific reference to three months, not being more than three months, in the law?

HON L MONTIEL:

No. We have looked into this and there is no specific limit that we know of.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In relation to my questions in the previous House, did not the hon Member say that he would look, in fact, to see if it was happening, that the detached worker was being used to keep people working for long periods which really then ought to be ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is a mistake, if the hon Member would just give way to me. I think it is a mistake to think of detached workers as being rightly or wrongly detached workers by reference to the length of any temporal period. This is not about whether it is one month, three months or six months. I do not think detached workers are properly detached workers if they are doing a permanent job in Gibraltar for any period of time however short. The whole point of detached workers is that they are permanently engaged abroad by a company that has a function to do, a piece of work to do and deploys its employees from another EU jurisdiction to plaster this wall or to fix this machine or to fix the engine of this ship. Not to do engine fixing for six months or for three months. You see what I mean. It is not ... My interpretation of detached workers is that they are deployed for a function, for a job of work that is necessarily brief but which may take less or longer but it has got to be one job. It ought not to be used simply to provide general labour resource for a Gibraltar employer for whatever business might come his way requiring that skill. I do not think that that is what detached worker regime is designed for. I think it is designed, for example, just using the example of the ship yard. If there is a ship in the yard that needs particular skills to fix the boiler, fix the engine or inspect the funnel. I do not know and it is legitimate to bring as detached workers as opposed to workers coming in to Gibraltar exercising

right of freedom of employment but registering as workers in Gibraltar, employees of the ship yard company. As detached workers, it requires the ship yard company to say, you company in Germany, you have employees that are experienced in fixing boilers. I want to contract you company in Germany to fix the boiler of this ship that I have got in my dry dock and the company says, okay and I am sending my workers from my German workshop to Gibraltar to fix the boiler of the ship. In my view, that is the correct concept for detached workers and I think it would be dangerous for us to commit to say, well you could be a detached worker for six months because all we are doing, which I think, I do not know if it is happening or not, but if it is happening, I think it is not desirable that it should happen. Detached workers cannot be an alternative to short-term Gibraltar employment. I do not think that is what the detached worker regime in the EU is designed for. It is designed for the temporary deployment of employees elsewhere in the EU to do a particular job of work. Not to temporarily staff a Gibraltar company and that is the way, the position that I approach it from and therefore it is not a question of whether it is a three months or six months. I do not think we should be allowing detached workers even for three months if this is just some form of temporary labour generally available to the yard for whatever business might come its way.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Subject to correction, my recollection of the detached worker regime when it was brought in was that, in fact, there was a limit of time up to three months, that the Director of Labour had the discretion to either renew or not renew and it just strikes me that if the hon Member looks at the answer to Question No. 593 of 2010 in the first two lines, we have got five Spanish labourers who have been here for 11 months. Now I do not know what kind of specialist work in the construction industry five Spanish labourers were doing as detached workers which were not being done by hundreds of other Spanish workers who come in and work as labourers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly. That is exactly the point that I am making. That we should not be allowing construction companies to use the detached worker route as an alternative contracting model for what is in effect their own labour requirements. Not least because those jobs are then not counted when you come to assess the number of full-time employment opportunities in the economy when you are measuring macro economic ... Apart from that, I believe that is not what the detached worker regime in Europe exists for and I have noticed the trend when we first started debating detached workers in this House, when it was really a phenomenon limited to the ship building industry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have detected myself through my own perusal of statistics that it is becoming increasingly prevalent among some construction companies and I think that the Government needs to tighten up because it is either ... A detached worker is not an

alternative to a temporary Gibraltar employee. I think that that would be the Government's view and we have got to work through the Employment Service to make sure that the detached worker regime is not abused by any foreign employer in Gibraltar beyond the purposes for which we have mandatorily included it in our employment legislation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I agree with the hon Member, in fact, that the original concept was precisely that kind of thing, that if you have got a ship coming in which has got a specialist job then you bring the people in to do that. They finish the job and the time it takes is the time it takes. But I think that in the law, and to my knowledge it has not been changed, the provision was that the discretion to say yes or no to prevent any kind of abuse of the kind the hon Member ... is already there, and has been there already, and it would appear from a superficial look at the figures being provided to me today that it is not being used because it is difficult to understand how labourers can be here for a year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have some recollection of some period but I am not sure it was in the statute. I think it was some informal administrative operation because I do recall complaining some years ago about a device that I thought was happening was, that to comply with whatever it was that neither of us can quite remember, they were shipping out one group of detached workers and replacing them with a new group to somehow comply with whatever might have been the criteria that was then being applied. But I do not know whether that was the statutory provision of three months or something or whether it was the administrative interpretation of the word "temporary" in the legislation. But I seem to recall that there was some such measure in practical operation at least.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, it means, if my recollection of the regime that was introduced is correct and it has not been changed, I have not seen any change, effectively that when we have got people here who have been here for a year, it must have been that they have had a number of renewals, where a case has had to be made. That is to say, the employer that brings in a detached worker and has him here for more than three months has then got to back to the department and explain why it is that he still needs him here for another three months. Now, it would have to be a very peculiar level or speciality where you have got unskilled workers in the construction industry doing what, that nobody here can do. Even if you say, at the beginning they are coming in because we are putting in bathrooms and these guys are labourers specialised in helping the craftsman that puts in the bathrooms. I get the impression that it is almost become, in many areas, a labour-only subcontracting system and that is not what was intended and I think the powers to stop it happening exists already and I will ask the Government to see if, in fact, the discretion that is available to them needs to be used perhaps more than has been done until now.

HON L MONTIEL:

I think that the Employment Service looks very closely at every case submitted. In many cases they get claims for a particular job. Now, the job in question has a limit. But the limit can be three months or it can be up to a year. So, if you bring your employees to do work of a temporary nature which it is going to take one year, then the temporary nature will be a year and, of course, we are looking at every single case made for a detached worker.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Employment Regulations are the ones that provide the power that the Director of Labour has which is related to the amount of time and provides that there has to be a case made for the extension of that time. The hon Member is telling me that he knows that in the 244 people that we have recorded in February, some of whom have been there for 11 months, that has been scrutinised on the basis of using the powers that the law provides? Is that his answer, is it?

HON L MONTIEL:

I would think so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He is presuming it. The authority with which he answered the previous supplementary, I took it to mean ...

HON L MONTIEL:

I presume so because the object of the exercise is to limit the stay in terms of the job to the least possible time but if there is a case to be made for more, for a longer period, then discretion is exercised in that respect. In fact, we have looked at other jurisdictions as to how they apply... In some jurisdictions, for example, up to a year can be temporary work.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he know that the Employment Regulations in relation to the use or the discretion that the department has which is that they suspend the requirements of registration in exchange for a payment of a fee and for a limited period of time of up to three months and that, therefore, if the employer comes back and says, I want another three months, he has got to make a case and then if he wants another three months ... He seems to think that the continuous renewal of three-month contracts for detached workers is okay. Surely, he knows that that is not what was intended when that was put in.

HON L MONTIEL:

Given that he has mentioned that particular case. There are cases when employers have a need to bring people on a temporary basis and they just do not want to apply for it in order not to pay the £50 every time. So, what they say is, look if my plant operator has got to come here on a short-term basis ... He is a detached worker and I want to extend his temporary placement for say six months. That is not to say that this man is going to be here on a permanent basis for six months. He has asked for six months provision so that during the six months he can come a number of times to repair his plant or whatever he has to deal with, on the basis of that. We do have cases where employers may ask for a longer period but in fact the detached worker is not working in Gibraltar all that time. I do not know whether that was what the hon Member was referring to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is the reality.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There may be some exceptional cases like that. I am limiting myself to the further information that he has provided today, in terms of the information he gave me the last time, on the basis that the last time when I was questioning the numbers of frontier workers, I wanted to identify whether, in fact, the use to which the frontier worker regime was being put, which is the one that the hon Chief Minister has been mentioning and the one that was certainly there when he came in ... I do not know if it came in our time or before because it was an EC requirement to make this provision, but the provision entitles the recipient state to limit it to something and therefore if you have got five Spanish labourers working here for 11 months, then it can only be because the hon Member's department has actually extended the permits because they are only for three months in the first instance.

HON L MONTIEL:

Not necessarily.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No?

HON L MONTIEL:

We are now in the area of speculation without knowing what a particular firm or employees we are talking about. But I can speculate on the fact that this particular employer will need to do all the refurbishment of roofs and he has got a special

contract and he is doing it with his employees. If the job takes about 11 months to do and he satisfies the Director that it is ... and they are just here to complete that roof, presumably, the Director will say, I think it is logical that you should not have to re-register every three months. If he is going to be here for 11 months, so be it. But if you are going to do other roofs, then you may lose your right to become detached workers. This is the area of speculation without knowing exactly what we are talking about. But there are cases where jobs are longer than one would expect.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, the system now works on the basis that the length of time that somebody is given a permit to bring in a detached worker is determined by the length of time that the foreign employing firm, because it is not a Gibraltar firm that has to request the permit presumably... The permit is requested presumably by these companies that are established in different Member States which is the list that he has given me today. Right. Where there are 37 Spanish companies bringing in detached workers, 4 UK companies, 2 Dutch companies and one in Poland. These are the companies that are being given permits by his department to bring in the 182 detached workers that were here in January which in some cases have been here for a year already and he is saying that the way the system works, which is not something that he is supposing but which he knows, is that the length of the permit given in respect of each worker depends on the case that the firm has made for the length that the job will take.

HON L MONTIEL:

No. The hon Member is putting words into my mouth. I said I am speculating that that may be one of the reasons that the Director takes into account in using his discretion. I am sure that that is not the only thing that my staff investigates before a request is made to become a detached worker.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am talking about whether it is three months or more. Is he saying that the implementation of the detached worker regime now functions on the basis that the Director of Employment gives permits for longer than three months at a time. Is that the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

It may be the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he know or does he not?

HON L MONTIEL:

I have told him that we do not talk about time limitations. We talk about the temporary nature of the work. Those are my words. Now, the hon Member is trying to put a time limitation. There is no time limitation. In addition, consideration is given to the time that the job which they are coming to do takes. This will have a bearing on the decision of the Director.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, he is saying that the discretion includes a discretion to give a detached worker permit for more than three months at one time. That is to say that it is not subject to renewals. That is what he is saying.

HON L MONTIEL:

That may be the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it or is not? Surely, when the hon Member gives me information in this House and he says to me there were five guys here for 11 months. Is it that it is possible and permissible, as far as he is concerned as the Minister that has to answer in the House for these things, to give a permit for 11 months? Yes or no. He has gone off to say what might be the possible reasons for doing it. I am not asking him about the possible reasons. I am asking whether, as far as he is concerned, the department gives permits for more than three months. Yes or no.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have been trying to be helpful but I can also answer the hon Member that I am not particularly aware of the particular case that he is referring to and I can go and ask for the reasons why that particular case was given 11 months.

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think he is asking about a particular case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking that.

MR SPEAKER:

The hon Member is asking as a matter of practice.

HON L MONTIEL:

Practice, I have explained that there is no time limit. I have explained that it is a temporary nature and they will assess the temporary nature of the detached workers position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member is then saying that he knows that the law does not require the Director of Labour to limit a permit for a detached worker to a maximum of three months in the first instance and then to have the discretion to renew it or not renew it. That is not the case. Is that what he is telling me? The definition that I have given is incorrect.

HON L MONTIEL:

As far as I know, the way that the hon Member has put it is not necessarily the way that I know it to happen.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But he may then... Given that he is qualified as far as ... It may be that he is wrong in the answers that he has given until now and that in fact this is happening. He does not know whether it is or it is not.

HON L MONTIEL:

I suspect that people are being allowed to come for more than three months.

NO. 598 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government confirm whether the 180 detached workers shown in December 2009 as working in the construction industry were included in the 2403 registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades Industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 599 of 2010.

NO. 599 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government confirm whether any of the 180 detached workers shown in December 2009 as working in the construction industry were included in the 1495 frontier workers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry, and if so how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I think I answered this question earlier on. In both instances, I can confirm that no detached workers were included.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 598 AND 599 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In either?

ORAL

NO. 600 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL TRADE

Are Government now able to confirm whether the 10 detached workers shown as being in the retail trade in June, July and August 2009 have been continuously employed in the industry on a regular basis?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 601 of 2010.

NO. 601 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – DETACHED WORKERS IN RETAIL TRADE

Are Government now able to confirm what is the nature of the work undertaken by the 10 detached workers shown as being in the retail trade in June, July and August 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The issue of detached workers was discussed at some length during the course of our previous question and answer session in relation to Question Nos. 10 to 13 of 2010.

A detached worker comes to work in Gibraltar on the basis that it is only for a temporary period and this temporary period is not defined in legislation.

A detached worker may then come to Gibraltar to work regularly, that is, every available working day, over that temporary period.

It can also happen that a detached worker may appear in the statistics as a regular worker, always over the anticipated temporary period, but not be working every available working day, which is what I explained to him before. The typical example could be a mobile crane driver. Such a detached worker could be registered for a temporary period but not working on a regular basis, that is, would only come to Gibraltar as may be required over the temporary period.

Put in other terms, it can and does happen with some detached workers that the actual registered temporary work period is not the real or actual work period, but less.

In the case of 10 detached workers identified by the hon Member as being in the retail trade, these are plant operators as already advised. The nature of the work is precisely that of operating plant machinery. As for being classified in the retail trade, this is due to the fact that the work is undertaken by a local company whose business activity is the sales of construction materials such as sand, rubble and the like.

I want to explain that this information that I have just given in respect of the jobs of the detached workers, is being made available, exceptionally, because of the limited number of detached workers concerned and because I think that I can understand the hon Member's cause for query. For example, a plant operator or skilled CATA detached worker showing under the retail trade but which I can explain if he so wishes. In future and has indeed been the case always, any information sought in

respect of the nature of the work undertaken by detached workers would be provided by way of occupational groups.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 600 AND 601 OF 2010.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me remind the hon Member that the question is here because he promised in the last House to obtain the information for me because it was not available at the time when I asked him for it. I am asking as a follow up because he kindly offered to investigate it and come back and because it looked very peculiar to have 10 plant operators in the retail trade and I note that they have now disappeared from the list that he gives me. I do not know whether all the justification for them being there in the first place has suddenly stopped being applicable since I have started asking these questions because in all the statistics that he has given me today, the 10 plant operators in the retail trade have gone. So, having made such a closely argued case for their existence, I have to point out to him that they no longer exist. They are not there any more. In terms of the monitoring that the department does, the hon Member says that one of the problems is that people may come in for one day and go another day. But these people are all of course liable to tax in Gibraltar.

HON L MONTIEL:

Absolutely.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But they do not pay social insurance?

HON L MONTIEL:

All monies earned in Gibraltar are supposed to pay taxes in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, the employer of the detached worker does not have a presence in Gibraltar?

HON L MONTIEL:

In some cases I presume these would be linked to a local company and the Employment Service would relate to the local employer if he brings detached workers through an employer in Spain or elsewhere.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But if the hon Member..., in the examples that he has been giving me is that in, say, the retail and wholesale trade you can have these people who put up stands in shops and they are plant operators that come in and they can do it in different shops, there is not one customer all the time. The company that is providing this service in Gibraltar is bringing its workers in from Spain whom it employs full-time elsewhere. How does the department connect with these people if they do not have an office here at all and they come in from the outside?

HON L MONTIEL:

We have had examples of detached workers operating in employment and we have questioned the employer from whom they have been ... the employer or the client who is ... whom these people are paying to ensure that they actually pay the taxes. It is a very difficult area to follow up unless, of course, they are bona fide employers. They come to the Employment Service and they introduce themselves and they commit themselves or alternatively they do it through a local employer in which case it is easier to follow up the situation through the local employer. But it is not an easy situation to follow up.

NO. 602 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – EMPLOYEES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state the total number of employees registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry and how many of these were frontier workers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 and 604 of 2010.

NO. 603 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – EMPLOYEES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state of the 484 employers registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 classified as operating within the construction and allied trades industry how many employed 50 or more persons at the time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 602 and 604 of 2010.

NO. 604 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED IN CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED TRADES INDUSTRY

Can Government state of the 908 employees resident in Gibraltar who were registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction industry how many were Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the 908 employees resident in Gibraltar, who were registered with the Employment Service at the end of December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry, 473 are Gibraltarian.

Of the 484 employers registered with the Employment Service at the end of December 2009, classified as operating within the construction and allied trades industry, 20 have more than 50 employees.

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

Answer to Question No. 604 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 602 of 2010

The total number of employees registered with the Employment Service as at the end of each month since December 2009 by employers in the construction and allied trades industry showing number of frontier workers.

Month	Employees	Frontier Workers
Jan	2529	1418
Feb	2674	1554
Mar	2734	1610
Apr	2759	1626
May	2883	1753

NO. 605 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE – MOD EMPLOYEES REGISTERED

Can Government state what was the number of employees registered with the Employment Service employed by the MOD at the end of March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Hopefully, this the right answer for the hon Member. The number of employees registered with the Employment Service employed by the MOD at the end of March 2010 is 745.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 605 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister satisfied that this figure of 745 does not include terminations that have not yet been communicated to him?

HON L MONTIEL:

A lot of work has gone into getting these statistics right since we last had this bit of a ding dong in this Parliament.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer is yes.

HON L MONTIEL:

I am satisfied that these are more accurate numbers than previously given.

NO. 606 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTSFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL AND MUSEUM

Can Government state whether accounts are presented to Government by Knightsfield Holdings Ltd who is contracted to run both the Museum and the John Mackintosh Hall and if so whether these accounts are presented separately from each other?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 607 to 609 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 607 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTSFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – MUSEUM

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions in the contract given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for the upkeep and running of the Museum?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 606, 608 and 609 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 608 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions in the contract given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for the upkeep and running of the John Mackintosh Hall?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 606, 607 and 609 of 2010.

NO. 609 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

KNIGHTSFIELD HOLDINGS LTD – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state how much has been spent by the agent running the John Mackintosh Hall on maintenance for the part of the building which they are responsible for in the last five years giving a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

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

Under the terms of the contracts signed between Government and Knightsfield Holdings in May 1993, there is no requirement for accounts to be presented to Government. What is agreed by contract is a fee for a schedule of functions, which Government monitors and pays for, for example, repairs and maintenance.

I now hand over a schedule with details of expenses incurred in respect of maintenance works carried out at the John Mackintosh Hall over the last 5 years as requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 609 OF 2010

2004/05

G.J.B.S. Ltd	
Refurbishment of the Exterior Façade	£38,927.10

Total £38,927.10

2005/06

J & C Joel Ltd	
Purchase & fitting of theatre Curtains	£3,790.00

Topgem Limited	
Roofing Works	£29,293.75

Topgem	
Scaffolding for roofing works	£8,062.50

Mifsud Electrofreeze	
Purchase of VC1400 display cabinet – Cafeteria	£1,260.00

Total – 42,406.25

2006/07

J Balban Electrical Company Ltd	
Supply and installation of corridor lighting	£605.00

Topgem Ltd	
Refurbishment Works to Charles Hunt Room	£6,207.50

Total - £6,812.50

Cont'd

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010

2007/08

J Balban Electrical Company Repairs and rewiring of earth bonding system	£3,092.00
Knightsfield Holdings Ltd Ceramics & Plumbing works at Cafeteria	£790.00
J Balban Electrical Company Wiring and fixing of water heater at Cafeteria	£1,975.00
Knightsfield Holdings Ltd Purchase of water heater for Cafeteria	£110.00
Knightsfield Holdings Purchase of ceramics for Cafeteria	£4,067.70
Topgem Ltd Roofing works	£29,293.75
	<u>Total - £39,328.45</u>

2008/09

Race Furniture Purchase of 100 Theatre seats	£26,286.00
Knightsfield Holdings Ltd Insurance and Freight Flights and Accommodation for Race Furniture personnel	£6,937.95
Freddy Plumber Plumbing works	£71,825.45
	<u>Total - £105,049.40</u>

Cont'd

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010

2009/10

Freddy Plumber Plumbing works	£70,122.00
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ME Belilio & Partners	£560.00 *
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* Survey to establish the construction of the terraced floor slab including intrusive investigation. It includes preparation and submission of an engineers report with recommendations on fixing the new seating.

J Balban Electrical Company Repairs to electrical installation in Library	£505.00
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Southern Point Roofing Ltd Repairs to roofing gutter in Library	£873.00
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Total - £72,060.00

Cont'd

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010

Minor Works Breakdown

	April'05 to March'06	April'06 to March'07	April'07 to March '08	April'08 to March '09	April'09 to March'10
Maintenance - Air Conditioning	2,864.40	1,411.00	1,050.50	2,856.00	1,292.00
Maintenance - Bulbs	393.65	1,163.13	3,287.10	2,444.00	138.28
Maintenance - Cafeteria	115.00	0.00	97.00	275.00	0.00
Maintenance - Emergency Cleaning	97.00	70.98	478.44	0.00	1,706.00
Maintenance - Exhibition/Rooms Refurbishment	0.00	2,566.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance - Fire Extinguishers	154.00	128.00	140.00	52.50	52.50
Maintenance - Emergency Exit Corridor	1,092.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance - Library	0.00	395.00	0.00	425.00	0.00
Maintenance - Lift	1,931.42	2,056.56	2,675.97	2,583.90	2,924.07
Maintenance - Electrical Repairs	3,291.50	1,133.00	1,970.00	3,343.00	2,660.00
Maintenance - Office Refurbishment	65.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance - General Public Areas	3,345.25	3,836.51	4,184.72	5,381.97	2,893.58
Maintenance - Paint	157.47	519.92	293.39	265.56	131.69
Maintenance - Theatre	2,469.00	997.15	205.08	2,143.67	408.00
Maintenance - Toilets	1,574.00	1,235.81	3,614.53	11,392.60	3,336.00
Maintenance - Toilets refurbishment	0.00	0.00	0.00	915.00	0.00
Maintenance - Window Cleaning	132.00	475.00	840.00	65.00	65.00
Maintenance - Window Replacement	199.00	89.52	137.00	164.50	0.00
Maintenance - Total	17,880.95	16,078.38	18,973.73	32,307.70	15,607.12

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 606 TO 609 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

While the schedule is coming round, can the Minister state then that the money actually given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for the running of the John Mackintosh Hall at least is spent on what? Because if maintenance is taken away and the Government is the one who actually pays for the maintenance, what is the actual money given to Knightsfield Holdings Ltd for. Is it only for the payment of employees there? What exactly is it that these monies are used for?

HON E J REYES:

I will clarify a little bit further. Major refurbishment and repair works are the ones that Government monitors and reimburses for. However, in the contractual sum given towards the running of the John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum, there are minor works undertaken and the hon Member if he has the schedule with him will see that there is a part that says minor works breakdown. So that has been broken down, detailed. Those are not reimbursed by the Government. Those are already included in the provision of the sum awarded in the contract. It is only when the amount of works needed to be done go over and above the minor works nature or the in-principle agreed sum of expenditure. Those are then the ones that the Government actually monitors to be able to authorise and then reimburse. From the whole of the sum received there are employees and so on, they need to be paid for by Knightsfield Holding Ltd. They are the employers and they have as well the statutory obligation of employer's social insurance contributions and so on to make from there.

HON S E LINARES:

Is there a specific amount of money which then becomes major works as opposed to minor works? Is there a cap, for want of a better word, cap as in how much money is minor works and how much is major works?

HON E J REYES:

My understanding is that the money is received by Knightsfield Holdings Ltd. They come to an agreement with us of how much money they foresee to be spending in a year on what are so-called minor works. If from one year to the next there has to be a substantial increase then Government will consider this and tell them, no look, take it from savings from what we have already paid or we will provide additional funding because it is in Government's interest and Government has deemed it over and above the minor works schedule. By looking carefully at the schedules, he will be able to work out from there what ends up being classified as major or minor works. One example he will see on the last page of the schedule before the minor works breakdown. Government requested a survey to establish the construction of the terraced floor slab including intrusive investigation. It includes preparation and submission of an engineer's report with recommendations of fixing the new seating at the theatre and so on. That cannot be minor works. That was Government's initiative to upgrade the seating facility and therefore to ensure that the floor could take the new seats in the correct manner. That could not be attributed to minor works. That was a Government led initiative.

HON S E LINARES:

Going back to the first question which was to do with the accounts which the Minister says that since the contract from 1993 was signed, there is no, within the contract, no need for Knightsfield Holdings Ltd to present accounts. Is the Minister aware, because there are two sets of accounts that come from the actual revenue and expenditure which are separate, that is the John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum? So, we vote in this House for two separate amounts. Is it possible then that Knightsfield Holdings Ltd gets those two amounts and can amalgamate and use that amount of money for either one or the other?

HON E J REYES:

In the agreements we have, the amounts allocated towards John Mackintosh Hall should be spent within John Mackintosh Hall only. The amounts towards the Museum should be spent in the Museum only. What I am also informed is that the company's, Knightsfield Holdings Ltd as a company, their audited accounts are submitted to the Commissioner of Income Tax as one entity. That is Knightsfield Holdings Ltd only and they will show obviously like two branches. One for one contract, one for another, but they are one contract.

HON S E LINARES:

How does the Government or the Minister monitor the actual spending of Knightsfield Holdings Ltd on one or the other? What system does the Government have for monitoring that Knightsfield Holdings Ltd gets, for arguments sake £100,000 for the John Mackintosh Hall and that those £100,000 are actually spent in the John Mackintosh Hall. How does the Government monitor this?

HON E J REYES:

What I am told by the employees who look after the accounts and so on, yes, that at some stage or another they actually get sight of costs incurred, whether it is by invoices or what matter it is, I do not know, that is a clerical administrative task, but they actually get sight as a way of checking that a sum of money that within the contracts allocation should have gone towards a certain specific item of expenditure is being used in that direction. It does help us, for example, if we have had increased usage in the theatre, for example, for Government led Spring and Autumn Festivals, the theatre stage lighting does consume a lot of electricity, so there is always an area there where we monitor so that neither Knightsfield Holdings Ltd nor Government is being short changed.

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government, apart from the fact that they give the monies to John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum, take into account the revenues that these two entities bring in to, I would presume, Knightsfield Holdings Ltd as opposed to Government.

HON E J REYES:

All revenues received are paid into Gibraltar Government General Account.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I ask the hon Member to clarify two items in the schedule to Question No. 609 of 2010? Question No. 609 of 2010 refers to maintenance of the John Mackintosh Hall and there are two amounts. One in 2008/2009, plumbing works £71,000 and the following year 2009/2010, again plumbing works £70,000. So, over a relatively short period about £140,000 appears to have been spent on plumbing works. Can the hon Member explain how that is accounted for?

HON E J REYES:

The hon Member certainly can explain. These were emergency works that were needed. The construction of the John Mackintosh Hall, such as both sides of the House will hear, having been built in the 1960's was built to the standards applicable at the time and the whole plumbing works of the whole building collapsed. It required major, major works that took several months to complete. Hence the Treasury Department was paying invoices as and when received and the first £71,825 happened to fall within that financial year's accounting procedure and the other £70,122 happened to fall after the 1st April 2009. Therefore, is accounted for in the second accounting financial year.

ORAL

NO. 610 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can the Minister for Culture explain the arrangement in place at the John Mackintosh Hall theatre in relation to the sound and lighting systems?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 611 and 612 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 611 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state whether it is satisfied with the current facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall in relation to the theatre?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 610 and 612 of 2010.

NO. 612 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government state whether it is satisfied with the current facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall in relation to the library?

ANSWER

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

The Ministry of Culture has a maintenance agreement with Sound Reinforcement Systems Ltd, known in short as SRS, to operate and maintain the audio, lighting and conference equipment at the John Mackintosh Hall. SRS are the authorised technicians and, together with other approved users, may operate the equipment.

The Government have commenced a programme of inspections which explores the necessary works required to refurbish and, where necessary, upgrade the facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall Theatre. This includes theatre seating, lights, sound, stage, furnishings, et cetera.

The replacement of seating has already commenced and we will continue to undertake upgrades, repairs and maintenance when the examination of all facilities are complete.

Similarly, we are exploring the repairs and maintenance of the library and its facilities, as well as additions to the library collection.

This winter, the heavy rains caused a serious deterioration of the library roof requiring emergency works to be carried out. The problems caused by water penetration affected the electricity installations, thus preventing a section of the library from being used for safety reasons. Government are awaiting a report in respect of the damage to the membrane of the roof and recommendations as to how this should be best repaired.

Due to emergency works required to be carried out at the John Mackintosh Hall to its entire plumbing system, some delays have been experienced in respect of other planned refurbishment programmes. Therefore, given that there are still outstanding works to be carried out, Government cannot say it is fully satisfied with the state of current facilities at the John Mackintosh Hall in relation to the library, to the theatre/conference hall or indeed other areas.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 610 TO 612 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has explained that he is not satisfied with the facilities as in the roofing, for example, he has mentioned the library. Is the Minister satisfied with the actual content of the library, for example, books, equipment. Like computer equipment. Is the Minister satisfied with that arrangement which most probably should be run by Knightsfield Holdings Ltd.

HON E J REYES:

I did say, similarly we were exploring repairs and maintenance of the library and its facilities, hence computers, on-line facilities to explore the world-wide web and so on as well as additions to the library collection. One can deduce from there that it is our intention to improve this. However, two and two equals four. If we have water penetration on the roof, we have had to shift books to one area to keep them dry and so on. I am not going to purchase new books where there are no proper facilities to display these, to store these, without running the risk of damage from the water penetration.

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government envisage that the library should be extended rather than have the two and a half rooms that are currently the library. Are the Government thinking of extending that library to make it a decent library for our community as opposed to what it is now which is quite frankly in a decrepit state. The books are in a state. The facilities are in a state and do the Government not think that a decent library for our community is now necessary?

HON E J REYES:

When the hon Member says a decent library it reminds me of how long is a piece of string. This Government intend to work towards having a library that will service the needs of its community. Because of a good relationship held with the Department of Education and Training, there are existing libraries, mainly in our secondary schools and in the college, which contain a good collection for the specific needs of specialist areas where our students undertake examinations. In some cases it is worthwhile sharing stocks, loaning stocks one from another but it is also worth our while taking the advice from the Education Advisers mainly of facilities that should be provided for students to undertake their studies for examination purposes after school hours. Although the schools do keep the libraries open very often over and beyond school hours, there are students who like to come into the library because they first go home for a cup of tea and so on. So yes, from that point of view, I restate, Government are not completely satisfied that what we have on offer at the moment would be the ideal service we would like to offer to the public but I assure both sides of the House and the public at large, if they are listening, that certainly we shall work in partnership with my colleague, the Minister for Education and provide the service that Gibraltar owes to its community and above all to its students.

HON S E LINARES:

Does that mean that anybody, the general public, can go and visit the school libraries?

HON E J REYES:

How on earth he came to that deduction, I do not know.

HON S E LINARES:

I am asking.

HON E J REYES:

School libraries are available for school students.

NO. 613 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL

Can Government provide a list of organisations, groups or entities that have used the John Mackintosh Hall facilities in the last two years giving a breakdown by date used and by organisation, group or entity?

ANSWER

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

I now hand over a schedule to the hon Member.

Schedule to Question No. 613/2010

January 2008

Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Counselling Hours	8
Danza Academy	2
Department of Culture	1
Department of Trade & Industry	1
Divorced, Single and Widowed Women	1
Dyslexia Support Group	2
Exhibition - Various Artists	0
Friends of the Earth	2
Gibraltar Academy of Dance	1
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	1
Gibraltar Community Association	3
Gibraltar Health Authority	4
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
JM Memorial Foundation	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Lions Club	1
Medical Complaints Review Panel	1
Mediterranean Shore Angling Club	1
Parental Support Group	5
Royal British Legion	1
Step Forward	1
Zarzuela	3

Jan 2008 Totals 62

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

February 2008

Action for Housing	4
Barley Hill House Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Childline Gibraltar	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Counselling Hours	13
Danza Academy	3
Dyslexia Support Group	2
Friends of the Earth	5
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	2
Gibraltar Community Association	2
Gibraltar Community Projects	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Lions Club	2
MO Productions	15
Parental Support Group	4
Rosia Plaza Management	1
Royal British Legion	1
Scrabble Club	4
Watergardens Management Phase I	1
Waverly House Management Ltd	1
Westview Park Management	1

Feb 2008 Totals 87

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	March 2008	
Action for Housing		3
Calpe Chess Club		4
Cancer Research		3
Corona World Wide		2
Department of Education		2
Down Syndrome Support Group		1
Dreamgirl of the Year		1
Dyslexia Support Group		2
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Amateur Dance Association DSA		1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		2
Gibraltar Health Authority		1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		0
Gibraltar Magic Circle		1
Gibraltar Museum		1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Senior Citizens		1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)		1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired		1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Grant Thornton Accountants		1
Income Tax Tribunal		1
Junior Chess Club		4
Lions Club		1
MO Productions		3
Royal British Legion		1
Santos Productions		1
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		4
Simmarians Society		1
Westview Park Management		1
	March 2008 Totals	57

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	April 2008	
Action for Housing		4
Calpe Chess Club		5
Cancer Research		2
Casava Enterprises		1
Corona World Wide		2
Department of Culture		4
Department of Education		1
Dyslexia Support Group		1
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Amateur Dance Association DSA		1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		1
Gibraltar Health Authority		20
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		13
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association		1
Gibraltar Museum		2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		5
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		6
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired		1
Junior Chess Club		5
Manchester Football Club		1
Open University		1
Overeaters Anonymous		2
Pointes		4
Royal British Legion		1
Runway 2007		5
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		4
Waterport Terraces		1
Zarzuela		2
	April 2008 Totals	99

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	May 2008	
Action for Housing		2
Calpe Chess Club		3
Cancer Research		1
Clinic Nepal		2
Corona World Wide		1
Department of Culture		1
Department of Social Services		15
Dyslexia Support Group		3
Edinburgh House Estate Association		1
Environment & Safety Group		1
Exhibition - Various Artists		5
Friends of the Earth		5
Gibraltar Academy of Dance		9
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association		1
Gibraltar Community Association		2
Gibraltar Health Authority		8
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		1
Gibraltar Museum		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		3
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		2
Income Tax Tribunal		2
Junior Chess Club		3
Mediterranean Dance Group		4
Overeaters Anonymous		4
Pointes		7
Queensway Quay Management		1
Royal British Legion		2
Royal Gibraltar Police		1
Scrabble Club		4
Watergardens Management Phase I		1
	May 2008 Totals	97

Cont'd...

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

June 2008	
Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Chartered Management Institute	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Corona World Wide	1
Dyslexia Support Group	1
Edinburgh House Estate Association	2
Engineers Lane	1
Friends of Calpe House	1
Friends of the Earth	3
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	2
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Photographic Society	38
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
Junior Chess Club	3
Montagu Gardens Management	1
Moroccan Workers Association	1
No 6 Convent Place	1
Overeaters Anonymous	4
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Tarik Dance Group	1
Zarzuela	2
Jun 2008 Totals	92

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	July 2008	
Action for Housing		4
Calpe Chess Club		5
Calpe Football Club		1
Cancer Relief		1
Cancer Research		1
Clinic Nepal		2
Cormorant Wharf		1
Director of John Mackintosh Hall		1
Dyslexia Support Group		5
Gibraltar Health Authority		1
Gibraltar Magic Circle		2
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		5
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Gibraltar Sub Aqua Club		1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Junior Chess Club		5
Montagu Gardens Management		1
Moroccan Workers Association		2
Overeaters Anonymous		5
Save the Children		1
Scout Group (MMHO)		1
Scrabble Club		4
Stage One Productions		1
	Jul 2008 Totals	53

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

August 2008	
Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Research	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Dyslexia Support Group	5
Gibraltar Law Students Association	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	2
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	4
Ombudsman	2
Ordinance Wharf	1
Overeaters Anonymous	4
Santos Productions	10
Scout Group (MMHO)	1
Scrabble Club	4
Self Determination Gibraltar Group (SDGG)	1
Aug 2008 Totals	50

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

September 2008	
Action for Housing	5
Admirals Place Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Dyslexia Support Group	1
Friends of the Earth	1
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	2
Gibraltar Photographic Society	11
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
JM Memorial Foundation	1
Junior Chess Club	4
Overeaters Anonymous	2
Pool Association	1
Royal British Legion	1
Santos Productions	5
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Table Tennis Association	1
Waterport Terraces	2
Sep 2008 Totals	57

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

October 2008

Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Cat Welfare Society	1
Clinical Psychological Department	1
Corona World Wide	2
Costa Golf Action Group	1
Department of Culture	1
Dyslexia Support Group	6
Exhibition - Various Artists	6
Friends of the Earth	5
Gibraltar College of Further Education	3
Gibraltar Health Authority	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	1
Gibraltar Olympics Committee	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Port Authority	1
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
JM Memorial Foundation	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Medical Complaints Review Panel	1
Montagu Crescent Management	1
Overeaters Anonymous	5
Rock on the Rock Club	1
Royal British Legion	2
Save the Children	2
Scrabble Club	4
Simmarians Society	1
Stage Musical Group	3
Stage One Productions	9
Trafalgar House Management	1

Oct 2008 Totals 88

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

November 2008

Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	3
Calpe Chess Club	5
Cancer Relief	2
Cancer Research	1
Corona World Wide	2
Costa Golf Action Group	1
Department of Culture	2
Department of Social Services	1
District Grand Lodge	1
Dyslexia Support Group	8
Exhibition - M H Bland & Co Ltd	39
Friends of the Earth	14
Gibraltar Amateur Athletics Association (GAAA)	1
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
Integration with Britain Movement	4
Junior Chess Club	4
Junior Top Model	5
Medical Complaints Review Panel	3
No 6 Convent Place	9
Petanque Club Assoc	1
Queensway Quay Management	1
Royal Gibraltar Police	2
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Stage One Productions	16
Westside Comprehensive School	3
Zarzuela	2

Nov 2008 Totals 150

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

December 2008	
Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
Calpe Chess Club	8
Cancer Relief	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	1
Department of Social Services	1
Dyslexia Support Group	7
Ex-employees of Indosuez Bank	1
Exhibition - M H Bland & Co Ltd	9
Exhibition - Various Artists	22
Friends of the Earth	3
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Integration with Britain Movement	2
Junior Chess Club	4
Junior Top Model	2
Magistrates Court	1
Mini Miss Gib	7
No 6 Convent Place	5
Overeaters Anonymous	1
Queensway Quay Management	1
Sacred Heart School	2
Santos Productions	7
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Tiny Tots Nursery	2
Wellington Court Management	1
Westview Park Management	1

Dec 2008 Totals 108

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

January 2009	
Action for Housing	3
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
Calpe Chess Club	3
Cancer Relief	2
Cancer Research	1
Corona World Wide	2
Coroner	4
Director of John Mackintosh Hall	1
Disability Awareness	1
District Grand Lodge	1
Divorced Women's Pensions Group	1
Down Syndrome Support Group	1
Dyslexia Support Group	11
Exhibition - Various artists	10
Friends of the Earth	2
Gibraltar Federation of Sea Anglers	2
Gibraltar Fishing Club	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	4
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel	6
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	3
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	2
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	3
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	4
Medical Complaints Review Panel	1
Mediterranean Shore Angling Club	2
No 6 Convent Place	15
Royal British Legion	1
Sunset Close Management	1
Jan 2009 Totals	97

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

February 2009

Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	4
Baker Tilly	1
Brympton Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	2
Cancer Research	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	2
Coroner	49
Costa Golf Action Group	1
Danza Academy	7
Department of Education	1
Down Syndrome Support Group	1
Dyslexia Support Group	8
Exhibition - Various artists	7
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar College of Further Education	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Magic Circle	2
Gibraltar Museum	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	2
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Housing Tribunal	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Medical Complaints Review Panel	5
MO Productions	1
No 6 Convent Place	4
Rosia Plaza Management	1
Royal British Legion	2
Save the Children	1
Theatre Rehearsal	1
Uncle Moshe Concert	2
Watergardens Management Phase II	1
Feb 2009 Totals	142

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No 613 of 2010

March 2009

Action for Housing	4
Air Training Corps (Gibraltar)	1
Allegro Music Productions	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
British Red Cross	1
Calpe Chess Club	5
Cancer Relief	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Conference - GHA Ambulance	36
Cornwall's Centre Management	1
Corona World Wide	2
Coronation Lodge	1
Coroner	12
Department of Social Services	1
Dyslexia Support Group	6
Friends of the Earth	3
Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	3
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar League of Hospital Friends	1
Gibraltar Museum	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	5
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	2
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Gibraltar Teachers Association	1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Institute of Gibraltarian Studies (talk to Council of International Education Exchange)	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	10
Medical Complaints Review Panel	3
MO Productions	18
Open University	1
Royal British Legion	1
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Talk on Breast Cancer	1
Mar 2009 Totals	145

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

	April 2009	
Action for Housing		4
Alzheimer's Support Group		1
Calpe Chess Club		5
Cancer Research		2
Corona World Wide		2
Coroner		8
District Grand Lodge		1
Dreamgirl of the Year		5
Dyslexia Support Group		6
Friends of the Earth		4
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel		1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group		1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society		18
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association		1
Gibraltar Museum		2
Gibraltar Olympics Committee		1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association		4
Gibraltar Port Authority		1
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)		7
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)		1
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association		1
Income Tax Tribunal		1
JM Memorial Foundation		2
Junior Chess Club		8
Parliament (Returning Officer)		8
Royal British Legion		1
Santos Productions		1
Save the Children		1
Scrabble Club		5
Senior Citizens' Association		1
Stage One Productions		1
Student Study		1
Waverly House Management Ltd		1
	Apr 2009 Totals	107

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

May 2009	
Action for Housing	3
Alameda Tenants' Association	1
Bethal Christian Fellowship	2
Calpe Chess Club	4
Calpe Tenants' Association	2
Camel Laird	3
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	3
Corona World Wide	2
Department of Social Services	1
Dyslexia Support Group	10
Environment & Safety Group	2
Friends of the Earth	5
Gardiners View Management	1
Gibraltar Community Association	2
Gibraltar Health Authority	2
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Museum	2
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	2
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	3
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	2
Haymills Gibraltar	1
Human Resources Assoc	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Medical Complaints Review Panel	2
Mediterranean Dance Group	5
Parliament (Returning Officer)	22
Queensway Quay Management	1
Royal British Legion	1
Scrabble Club	3
Senior Citizens' Association	1
Showdance company	1
Student Study	7
Urban Dance Group	1
May 2009 Totals	117

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

June 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Amigos del Camino de Santiago	1
Calpe Chess Club	5
Cancer Relief	1
Clinic Nepal	1
Corona World Wide	1
Credit Agricole Pensioners	1
Danza Academy	2
Department of Culture	1
Dyslexia Support Group	7
Exhibition - Various artists	7
Friends of the Earth	7
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)	3
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Health Authority Review Panel	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Insurance institute	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	2
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	5
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	1
Gibraltar Photographic Society	31
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	3
Gibraltar Tenpins Bowling Association	1
Harbour Views	1
Haymills Gibraltar	1
Health Awareness Lecture	1
Housing Tribunal	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	10
Medical Complaints Review Panel	2
No 6 Convent Place	5
Ombudsman	1
Parliament (Returning Officer)	28
Rosia Court Residents	2
Santos Productions	1
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Senior Citizens' Association	1
Shakespeare 4 Kids	7
Trafalgar Theatre Group	1
Transitions Dance Academy	3
Zarzuela	3
Jun 2009 Totals	164

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

July 2009

Action for Housing	4
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	2
Clifton Properties	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Department, Port	1
Dyslexia Support Group	4
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Classic Cars Association	1
Gibraltar Football Association (GFA)	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Photographic Society	3
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	4
Haymills Gibraltar	1
Hot Liquid Sailing	1
Human Resources Assoc	1
Income Tax Tribunal	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Mount Road Management	1
Occupational Health & Safety Group	1
Rock Gardens Management	1
Royal British Legion	1
Scrabble Club	4
Watergardens Management Phase II	1
Jul 2009 Totals	57

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

August 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Clinic Nepal	1
Conference - Calpe	7
Dyslexia Support Group	1
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Darts Association	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	4
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Grant Thornton Accountants	1
Harley Davidson Club	1
Junior Chess Club	4
Royal British Legion	1
Santos Productions	10
Scrabble Club	4
Aug 2009 Totals	54

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

September 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Alpha Group	1
Alwani Trust	1
Book Launch	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Chiropractic Health Clinic Lecture	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	2
Clinic Nepal	1
Conference - Calpe	30
Cornwall's Centre Management	1
Danza Academy	2
Dept of Civil Status	1
District Grand Lodge	1
Dyslexia Support Group	6
Elliott's Battery Management	2
Exhibition - Various artists	12
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar College of Further Education	1
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Photographic Society	14
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Human Resources Assoc	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
Island Games Association	1
JM Memorial Foundation	2
Junior Chess Club	15
No 6 Convent Place	1
Police Consultative Group	1
Rhythmic Gymnastics	1
Royal British Legion	1
Santos Productions	5
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	5
Showdance company	1
Stage One Productions	6
Super Nanny	1
Waterport Terraces	1
Sep 2009 Totals	141

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

October 2009	
Action for Housing	4
Almoghreb Lodge (Masonic Institute)	1
Alpha Group	1
Both Worlds Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	1
Clinic Nepal	2
Corona World Wide	2
Danza Academy	3
Dept of Civil Status	1
Dyslexia Support Group	11
Elliott's Battery Management	2
Exhibition - Baha'i Faith	4
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Academy of Dance	20
Gibraltar College of Further Education	2
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	2
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Museum	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	5
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Visually Impaired	1
Income Tax Tribunal	3
Inhabitants' Lodge	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Leukaemia Research Fund	1
Lodge of St John	1
Mediterranean Dance Group	3
Methodist Church	5
MO Productions	1
Occupational Health & Safety Group	1
Police Consultative Group	2
Rock Theatre	1
Royal British Legion	1
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	4
Self Determination Gibraltar Group (SDGG)	1
Stagestruck	1
Westview Park Management	1
Oct 2009 Totals	111

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

November 2009

Action for Housing	5
Almoghreb Lodge (Masonic Institute)	1
Alzheimer's Support Group	1
Book Launch	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Calpe Lodge	1
Cancer Relief	1
Cancer Research	1
Citizens Advice Bureau	1
Connaught Lodge	2
Corona World Wide	2
Coronation Lodge	1
Department of Culture	2
Department of Social Services	1
District Grand Lodge	1
Down Syndrome Support Group	1
Dyslexia Support Group	12
Eaton Park Association	1
Elliott's Battery Management	2
Environment & Safety Group	1
Exhibition - GHA Laboratory	5
Exhibition - Various artists	13
Friends of the Earth	4
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)	1
Gibraltar College of Further Education	2
Gibraltar Health Authority	3
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Ice Skating Association	1
Gibraltar Model Soldiers Association	1
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	4
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	4
Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	1
Income Tax Tribunal	2
Inhabitants' Lodge	1
Judicial Service Commission	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Letchworth Lodge	1
Lodge of St John	1
Montagu Crescent Management	1
Montagu Gardens Management	1
No 6 Convent Place	3
Progressive Democratic Party (PDP)	1
Research into Childhood Cancer (RICC)	1
Royal Gibraltar Police Authority	3
Sacred Heart School	1
Santos Productions	3
Save the Children	1

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

November 2009 (Cont'd)		
Scrabble Club		5
Simmarians Society		1
Super Nanny		6
Urban Dance Group		2
Zarzuela		1
	Nov 2009 Totals	129

Cont'd....

Cont'd Schedule to Question No. 613 of 2010

December 2009	
Action for Housing	2
Admirals Place Management	1
Calpe Chess Club	4
Cancer Relief	1
Cormorant Wharf	1
Corona World Wide	1
Department of Social Services	3
Dyslexia Support Group	3
Elliott's Battery Management	1
Friends of the Earth	2
Gibraltar College of Further Education	1
Gibraltar Community Association	1
Gibraltar Hearing Impaired & Tinnitus Group	1
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	1
Gibraltar Pensioners' Association	6
Gibraltar Philosophical Society	1
Gibraltar Professional Engineers	1
Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD)	1
Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA)	3
Income Tax Tribunal	2
Inhabitants' Lodge	1
Junior Chess Club	8
Leukaemia Research Fund	1
Magistrates Court	1
Medallions of Honour Awards Ceremony	1
Mediterranean Shore Angling Club	1
Prince of Wales Chapter	1
Royal Gibraltar Police	1
Sacred Heart School	2
Save the Children	1
Scrabble Club	3
Shorthorn Estate Housing Association	1
St Thomas Lodge	1
Sunset Close Management	1
The Anchorage Management Ltd	1
The Theory of One	2
Tiny Tots Nursery	2
Dec 2009 Totals	66

NO. 614 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

INCE'S HALL

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to say when the lift in the Ince's Hall will be in place or whether it has at least been put out to tender?

ANSWER

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

As previously stated in answer to supplementaries arising from Question No. 19 of 2008, installation of a lift at the Ince's Hall will be considered along with other things when Government is in a position to embark on a refurbishment programme of its existing facilities at Ince's Hall and adjoining complex.

NO. 615 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – VACANCY FOR DEPUTY CEO

Can Government say why it considers it desirable that those applying for the vacancy of Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Sports and Leisure Centre should have a good command of a third language other than English and Spanish?

ANSWER

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

It is considered desirable, but was not advertised as an essential requirement, that applicants for the post of Deputy Chief Executive at the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority should have a good command of a third language, other than English and Spanish, due to the following reasons:-

1. Gibraltar increasingly hosts international competitions with participants whose mother tongue is other than English or Spanish.
2. There is sometimes correspondence received from international sporting federations which originates in a language other than English or Spanish.

Given these two points, the possibility of enhancing communication, either verbally or written, in another language is deemed as a desirable advantage for the day to day running of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority.

NO. 616 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – VACANCIES

Can Government state how many applications they received for the vacancies of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Sports and Leisure Officers in the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority?

ANSWER

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

A total of 26 applications were received for the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

A total of 135 applications were received for the post of Sports and Leisure Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 616 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member explain at what stage we are in the process? Have these posts been filled or are we in interview stages?

HON E J REYES:

Fourteen applicants for the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer have been short listed and will be invited to attend a selection board interview which, I was told earlier this morning, will most probably take place some time next week. Sixty one applicants were short listed for the post of Sports and Leisure Officer and interviews for these were held on Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th June 2010. My understanding is that the selection board jury is still out on its selection of the best suited candidate.

NO. 617 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many people were employed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority as at the end of May 2010 giving a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NUMBER 617/2010

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

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

TOTAL – 43 Employees

NO. 618 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GASA SWIMMING POOL

Can Government state what works of maintenance or improvement are planned to be carried out this year to the public swimming pool at Waterport, which is commonly referred to as the GASA swimming pool?

ANSWER

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

I would like to start by highlighting the fact that the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is responsible for two swimming pools, both of which are available for use by the public, and not just the 25 metre pool that was previously run by GASA.

The main works planned in the 25 metre pool involves a major overhaul and upgrade to the air treatment system. Other scheduled works for this year, some of which have already commenced, are:-

1. Extensive weeding of all outdoor areas;
2. Cleaning of both sets of stairs and banisters leading to the sea;
3. Painting of access stairs to increase visibility;
4. Refurbishment of all tables and chairs in outdoor areas;
5. New signage in both indoor and outdoor areas;
6. Non-slip tape added to the stairs leading to the sea;
7. Extra litter bins have been provided.

In addition, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority have recently taken over the car park adjacent to the 25 metre pool and remedial works, as necessary, will be undertaken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 618 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I did not hear works being carried out to the changing rooms being included in that list and I am talking of the 25 metre pool here. Can the hon Member say whether in fact any works are envisaged to the changing rooms themselves?

HON E J REYES:

Maybe I have not spoken very clearly. I did not mention the word changing rooms at all in my answer there but if I look at my other notes I can say that the actual design of the building housing the 25 metre pool does not allow for major improvements to be carried out in the changing rooms and toilets. However, it is our plan once the air filtration system has been repaired or replaced, if needed, to carry out where possible remedial works in order to enhance the changing rooms and toilet facilities.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member aware, simply from visiting the site which any member of the public can do, that the changing rooms are in need of works. There are tiles on the walls which have clearly fallen out and whole gaps without tiles and from people who I know frequent the pool quite often, that I understand has been the case for a long, long time, certainly over a year, so very evident for all to see is the fact that there are works... These are what I would suggest minor works and not major improvement works which is one thing that the hon Member has addressed. But there are minor works which are clearly necessary and visible and can the hon Member undertake to look at this and make sure that whatever those minor works are will be done because they are a public facility and should be in a fit state for use by all members of the public, which I am sure the hon Member will agree with.

HON E J REYES:

Yes, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is aware, has been aware of certain remedial works that should be undertaken. What I can say in defence of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is that, although it may not have been noticed by the public, some tiles that were missing and a gap was left in the wall were replaced and within a very short number of days have fallen back again. Whether that could be attributed to bad workmanship or design in its initial construction and so on, I do not know because this Government is certainly not responsible for the construction of that 25 metre pool when it originated. Certainly, it would be our desire to improve the facilities there which is why I said after we have done the air treatment system then we will start on these works because whether one can classify them as major or minor, one has to say, you have to pay for the works to be carried out and how much money do I have will be dependent on whether the air treatment system has to be replaced or repaired at perhaps a far lesser cost. For example, one thing which I have very much close at heart because friends and relatives of mine who go to the pool tell me, there seems to be continuous and recurring problems with, for example, the hot water system. We cannot change the present boilers there to heat up the water which tend to be more like a house type of boiler to a more commercial type of system because when it was constructed the plumbing system was not simply adapted to cater for that. So we are stuck with something designed in the days when it was done, constructed when it was done and therefore it would not be a minor work but rather it would be one of major, at least from a financial point of view proportioned, but one that I think both sides will agree, we would all like to see happening possibly as soon as possible.

HON G H LICUDI:

We certainly would like to see progress made and the works done as soon as possible. The information we have in relation to the tiles which the hon Member has mentioned indicating that it is not clear why they have fallen off. The reports we have is that there is a link, an obvious link between that and the fact that there has not been a functioning air treatment system or dehumidifier functioning for a very, very long time. As a result of the condensation, the tiles have simply expanded and eventually they fall off. That is the information that we have. But with regards to the air treatment system, that is something which is not being functioning and I do not know whether the hon Member knows when it broke down but the reports that we have is possibly a couple of years. Why has it taken so long for the Government to identify that that is something that was needed?

HON E J REYES:

The hon Member is correct in assuming I do not know the exact length of time. What I do know is that it is not as far back as two years. But certainly, like happens quite often when even one has personal possessions, something is not functioning properly, the first thing we do is attempt to repair it, either changing spark plugs in a car or anything of the nature. It then transpires that that was perhaps just a temporary solution and not quite the whole thing. I can guarantee the hon Member is that we have reached the stage where the adequate advice received is a major work has to be carried out but even the experts cannot assure me whether it is a major repair work or a question of a major replacement of the whole thing. Yes, I have heard, although the experts have not committed themselves in writing, but they did mention that part of the problem of falling tiles could be in connection with the air treatment system and I think most pool users now tend to hold that popular belief. But I assure the hon Member that I will take a personal interest to make certain it gets done as soon as possible.

HON S E LINARES:

Since we are now discussing the swimming pool. Since the Sports and Leisure Authority took over from GASA, what system of health and safety, as in the users, is there in this swimming pool? For example, users can now go at any time of the day and use it because the Sports and Leisure Authority have now opened it up to the general public. It is to do with improvements, by the way, of the system which is part of the question if anybody is questioning about this question. I can hear you muttering there. It is true. Absolutely, and it is related to the question. Oh yes it is. That is a matter of opinion.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON S E LINARES:

It is Mr Speaker who should decide that ...

MR SPEAKER:

Order. No Point of Order has been raised, so please ignore the mutterings.

HON S E LINARES:

Thank you Mr Speaker. What system is there on health and safety in relation to users because, as I understand it, anybody can go in at any time of the day, have a swim and then come out and just have a nice time, but what happens if there is an incident with that person in the pool where nothing is recorded about that person. A person could well be drowned underneath in the pool and nobody knows who that person is or what has happened. Is there any system which the Sports and Leisure Authority have implemented in order to avoid these incidents happening?

HON E J REYES:

I feel pretty confident to say that the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority must have in place some health and safety system. If the hon Member wishes to know some of the finer details of how it operates, I am afraid, in order not to mislead this House, I would need notice of that question. But one can deduce and stretch the imagination of which I have no problem in stretching my imagination and making believe that that is part of the original question. Look at the original answer offered to Mr Licudi. Non-slip tape added to stairs leading to the sea and so on. Certainly there are health and safety related precautions being taken.

NO. 619 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR MUSEUM – ADMISSION FEES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament in admission fees to the Gibraltar Museum?

ANSWER

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

Further to Question No. 64 of 2010, the revenue raised in admission fees for the Gibraltar Museum on a monthly basis is as follows:-

January 2010	£ 473.70
February 2010	£2,452.25
March 2010	£ 980.80
April 2010	£ 846.22
May 2010	£ 765.45

ORAL

NO. 620 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 8th December 2009?

ANSWER

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

The Heritage Action Committee met on the 9th March and 5th June 2010.

NO. 621 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

MOUNT ALVERNIA – REPORTED INFECTION

What was the reported infection that resulted in parts of Mount Alvernia being closed to visitors on Monday 21st February 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The reported infection was due to the norovirus which is a gastrointestinal infection. However, Mount Alvernia was never closed but relatives and visitors were advised not to visit for 72 hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 621 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Although Mount Alvernia was not closed, visitors could not visit for 72 hours. So in effect it was as if it were closed to those visitors.

HON J J NETTO:

Certainly, closed to visitors but not to the residents.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. But the question specifically says whether visitors could visit patients in Mount Alvernia because of the infection and whereas he says it was not closed, those people could not visit their relatives because of the virus, yes?

HON J J NETTO:

It was not closed in the sense that they had a padlock closing the doors. Staff were going in and out and everyone was going... The ancillary staff was going in and out. So it was not closed. Now, if the hon Member wants to draw some semantics over that. That is fine. The hon Member can have it on his own terms if that makes him quite happy with that but I am saying it was not closed in the sense that no one at all

could go in and out. There were lots of people going in and out. The ones that could not go in were the visitors, on the advice of the infection control nurses of the GHA.

HON N F COSTA:

What would make me happy is actually having an answer once from the Government without insulting us and telling us that we are drawing semantics. The answer ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is not an insult.

HON N F COSTA:

Of course it is. It is basically saying that we are asking questions trying to draw a silly distinction in order to try to make some political cheap point. That is exactly what he is saying.

HON XXXX:

But you do it as well.

HON N F COSTA:

Well, look....

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON N F COSTA:

The main mutterer and cheerleader of the Chief Minister, as always in a sedentary position, has to say something in order to try to stay on top. So ignoring him, as I would like to do right now, the fact of the matter is that whilst insisting on what is said to be a semantical point, no doubt implied that I am trying to score a cheap political point, relatives were not able to see the visitors for 72 hours because of the xxxx. Yes or no?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful.

NO. 622 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

CARE AGENCY – SUSPENSIONS

How many members of the Care Agency or individuals working for or in premises of that agency if contracted from third parties have been suspended in the past 12 months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

There have been seven members of the Care Agency suspended in the past 12 months.

NO. 623 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

CARE AGENCY – CHILDREN IN CARE OF GRANDPARENTS

How many children are presently in the care of their grandparents on the recommendation of the Care Agency or by order of the court as a result of the advice of the Care Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At present there are eight children in the care of their grandparents.

NO. 624 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

CARE AGENCY – SOCIAL WORKERS

How many qualified Social Workers were employed in the Care Agency before the coming into force of the Children Act and how many are currently employed after the Act came into force?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

There are currently 22 qualified Social Workers employed in the Care Agency, the same number as before the coming into force of the Children Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 624 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Member tell us whether any additional Social Workers are envisaged to be employed?

HON J J NETTO:

Not for the time being. The last time we employed Social Workers was just prior to the enactment of the Children Act but not... It was before rather than after. So obviously, I have answered my question. There are currently 22 Social Workers.

HON N F COSTA:

How many Social Workers were recruited just before the passing of the Act.

HON J J NETTO:

Three Social Workers and that was on the 7th September 2009.

HON N F COSTA:

My information is that ever since the passing of the Act, Social Workers now having expanded role under the Care Agency. For instance, under the new Act there are family assistance orders and supervision orders in addition to the judicial care orders that are made under the Criminal Act. That has meant that there will be an increase in the use of registered and qualified Social Workers under the new legislative provision. Given that, is the Minister therefore saying that notwithstanding those new roles of the Care Agency there is no envisaged increase of registered Social Workers?

HON J J NETTO:

We have already employed three more. Now, the question that the hon Member poses is that he assumes that the workload might increase. Well that may be the case but we will need to wait and see what are the effects of the new Children Act. It is too early to say but the position of the Social Workers has been improved by the employment of those three just prior to the Act coming into force.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the hon Member for that answer but with all due respect I am not assuming anything. The information that we have is that already because of the new additional functions of the Care Agency, there has been delay in some cases, especially when it comes to children that are in care and reports having to be made. So it is not that I am assuming. It is complaints that I have had from people who are affected by the new provisions.

HON J J NETTO:

I do not detect the question.

HON N F COSTA:

No there is no question. I was simply replying to the accusation of assumption.

NO. 625 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

MOUNT ALVERNIA – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are presently waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St. Bernard's Hospital or in John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At present there are 514 elderly citizens waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, 29 of whom are occupying a bed in John Cochrane Unit and 41 in St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 625 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

That seems to be quite an increase from the last answer to Question No. 73 of 2010 where there was a total of 28 occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital. If I understand the hon Minister correctly, he is saying there is now 29 in John Cochrane which is one more and an additional 41. Is that the case?

HON J J NETTO:

Could the hon Member specify who replied with the answer in that particular circumstance which you are now referring to?

HON N F COSTA:

Your goodself.

HON J J NETTO:

My goodself. The only thing I can ... The reason why I am asking this is because, in fact, only this morning my colleague and myself were looking at this and we were looking at how the figures differ from how the figures are collated within the Care Agency and how the figures are collated by the GHA and they have different procedures, different organisations and they both do not necessarily tally. At the

end, we just came to the conclusion that it is just that the way that the Care Agency actually collates the information is different to the GHA. In relation to your actual question which is that it seems that we have gone up in relation to people in Mount Alvernia, that may seem to be the case but, perhaps, given that we are talking about St Bernard's Hospital as such, rather than the John Cochrane Unit which is what you are referring to, then, perhaps, we will need to look at where the difference lies but I am not suggesting that you are not right. It may be true that there have been increases since the last time I gave that particular figure but I am putting a caveat there, as well, that there are differences between the way we collect them and the GHA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We are talking about the number of people in beds. I have difficulty in understanding why people should go into a ward that if they come from one department they see more people in bed and if they come from another department they see less people in bed.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Maybe I can clarify or shed some light on this anomaly. When Mount Alvernia collects the figures of... when they look at their waiting list and analyse how many people, at the time that they are collating that information, are occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital, at that moment in time the figure might vary from what they gathered the last time they looked. For the simple reason that at that moment in time there might be more people in hospital who are not necessarily occupying a long-term bed. They might be just there on a temporary basis and might be discharged the following day. What we cannot do is compare the number of long term elderly who we know are going nowhere, they are going from there either to Cochrane Ward or to Mount Alvernia, which are the figures that we collate in the GHA and how they analyse the figures which is how many people are there at this precise moment in time occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital but who do not necessarily are long-term. They might be going home tomorrow or in a few weeks time. I do not know whether that has clarified the discrepancy between one set of figures and the other.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Elderly Care Agency keeps a waiting list presumably with names and people who are then informed when there is a vacancy, then that list must be made up from the information that the Health Authority provides to the Agency of how many people there are who would be discharged to Mount Alvernia if Mount Alvernia could take them. So surely those two lists must be the same because the source of the list of the Agency is the Health Authority?

HON J J NETTO:

What I will try to do, if we can move on to the next question. Once I have finished I will try to find what is the source of the figure emanating from the Care Agency and then we might be able to reconcile the figures if that is acceptable to the hon Member.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. That is all very well and, of course, I am grateful to the hon Gentleman for suggesting that we proceed in that way. But notwithstanding the analysis and the discrepancy or the anomaly as the hon Lady has said, is this not, though the fact that there is an increase in the number of elderly patients waiting for a place in Mount Alvernia who are occupying beds at St Bernard's Hospital, is this not simply yet a vindication of the fact that we do need... the problem facing people waiting for a place in Mount Alvernia to be resolved quickly, urgently and the Government has not really given this a top priority.

HON J J NETTO:

We reject that completely because first of all, let me say that the management of the Care Agency estimated that about 50 per cent of the 514 persons who are on the waiting list have expressed a desire for a future need to be in Mount Alvernia and not necessarily an immediate need to go to Mount Alvernia. In relation to the latter part, the comment that the hon Member makes that we have not given a priority to this. In fact the opposite is the case. The hon Member, obviously he was not here in 1996 but the budget that we inherited from the previous Government in terms of elderly care services was £870,000 and the figure today is nearly £8.5 million. So you can see the enormous amount of money that this Government has put in order to provide care services to the elderly and the last thing I would say, wait next week when I stand up to give my budget speech.

HON N F COSTA:

First of all, myself and Members on this side of the House and the general public are simply tired of the excuse that we go back to 1996. After all those years in Government, it is preposterous for the hon Member to say, well look it is better than in 1996. One could say, well it is better than in 1941. Who cares about 1996? I am asking the hon Gentleman about political realities and realities today. Not in 1996. We are asking him to answer for his own administration and with all due respect as well, he said now in answer to my supplementary that currently there is only approximately 50 per cent of people who have put their name on the waiting list notifying of the future need. On the last time it was 56 per cent and, of course, the more number of people that you get on the waiting list, the lower the percentage is going to be. The reality still remains that there are people waiting on that list and that it is a problem and they do not do anything about it.

HON J J NETTO:

He says we do not do anything about it. The hon Member is even factually incorrect on that basis.

HON N F COSTA:

On the figures that you have given me, then I am factually correct.

HON J J NETTO:

If we look at the situation as far as Mount Alvernia is concerned. Only a couple of years ago, I do not know whether it was five or six years ago, we doubled the bed capacity in Mount Alvernia. It used to provide something like 62 bed facilities for elderly people in Mount Alvernia. Today there are 135 people occupying a place in Mount Alvernia. We introduced domiciliary care which they never did when they were in Government for the elderly and we are doing more... Just look, for instance, who did the Bishop Canilla House. It was this party in Government and not them. Who is the party that did Albert Risso House, it was this party in Government because the previous Government never did anything for the elderly. That is a fact. I know the hon Member does not want to look back so people cannot remember that they hardly provided any services whatsoever for the elderly. But the facts speak for themselves. Whether he likes it or whether he does not like it, the facts speak for themselves.

HON N F COSTA:

The fact is that it has not been ... That is what it says.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON J J NETTO:

We take very seriously the fact of the service that we provide. We are proud of it and we will continue to do more and more and more.

HON N F COSTA:

More and more and more have not resolved the problem. It does not matter what he says, it does not resolve the problem. If he cannot accept that then he cannot accept reality.

MR SPEAKER:

Is there a question in that?

HON N F COSTA:

No. Just ignore it Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Well this is question time.

HON N F COSTA:

Well if I had got a straight answer I would not have to make replies.

NO. 626 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving Social Assistance, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 72 of 2010, have been employed since, and how many are still receiving Social Assistance, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 627 to 629 of 2010.

NO. 627 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving Social Assistance, to date, since the answer to Question No. 69 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 626, 628 and 629 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 628 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a Disability Allowance under the social assistance arrangements to date, since the answer given to Question No. 68 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 626, 627 and 629 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 629 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – EMPLOYMENT INJURIES

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from February 2010 to May 2010 in respect of employment injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

Answer to Question 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 626

Persons in receipt of social assistance for the months of February to May 2010.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February 2010	191	317	508	86	144	130	148
March 2010	206	322	528	90	145	143	150
April 2010	213	317	530	91	140	145	154
May 2010	221	322	543	98	138	142	165
As at 10 June 2010	219	326	545	97	138	142	168

Persons employed during the months of February to May 2010.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February 2010	1	2	3	0	1	1	1
March 2010	2	0	2	1	1	0	0
April 2010	6	2	8	5	2	1	0
May 2010	5	3	8	2	2	4	0

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 627

Persons receiving social assistance for the months of February to May 2010 by month, sex and age.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February 2010	191	317	508	86	144	130	148
March 2010	206	322	528	90	145	143	150
April 2010	213	317	530	91	140	145	154
May 2010	221	322	543	98	138	142	165

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 628

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

	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
February 2010	24	34	24	25	15	14	3	139	97	42
March 2010	26	34	24	25	16	15	3	143	101	42
April 2010	26	34	24	25	16	14	4	143	101	42
May 2010	26	34	24	25	17	14	4	144	101	43

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 629 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 629

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund from February 2010 to May 2010 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows :-

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND - TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
Payments:				
Employment Injuries	£43,920	£43,056	£33,153	£45,571

NO. 630 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – NUMBER OF PENSIONERS

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment, for each month to date, since the answer to Question No. 67 of 2010, from the Statutory Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners, showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 630 of 2010

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

	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	245	241	237	238
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nationals)	5574	5598	5663	5695
Moroccan Pensioners	2015	2020	2026	2034
Other Nationalities	669	671	679	692
Total	8503	8530	8605	8659

ORAL

NO. 631 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund since the answer to Question No. 66 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 632 of 2010.

NO. 632 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – INSOLVENCY PAYMENTS

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from February 2010 to May 2010 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 632 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 631

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

(*The approved Contribution from the Consolidated Fund was £8.5M for the year 2009/2010 and £7.5M for the year 2010/2011. The contributions have been calculated pro-rata hereunder, however the actual contribution is normally effected at the end of the financial year.)

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>28-Feb-10</u>	<u>31-Mar-10</u>	<u>30-Apr-10</u>	<u>31-May-10</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>				
<u>Opening Balance</u>	19,352,134	19,435,168	18,450,090	19,886,584
<u>Add</u>				
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	708,333	708,333	625,000	625,000
Contributions collected in cash (Insurance contr.)	1,304,843	1,564,672	1,280,880	1,276,133
Misc Receipts	5,484	23,275	21,207	0
	<u>21,370,794</u>	<u>21,731,448</u>	<u>20,377,177</u>	<u>21,787,716</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	<u>(£1,935,625)</u>	<u>(£3,281,358)</u>	<u>(£490,594)</u>	<u>(£2,207,151)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>19,435,168</u>	<u>18,450,090</u>	<u>19,886,584</u>	<u>19,580,565</u>

Answer to Question No. 632

The following payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Funds from February 2010 to May 2010 from the employers' insolvency.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
February 2010	£5,136
March 2010	£5,930
April 2010	£199,194
May 2010	£39,030

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 631 AND 632 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The breakdown provided by the hon Member has a large amount being paid in April 2010, as opposed to any of the other months, which is £199,000, whereas the other months are £5,000, £5000 and £39,000. Does the hon Member know how that figure of £199,000 comes about?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, the information I have is that that amount of £199,194 comes from one particular company with 22 beneficiaries and that was paid in April 2010.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member explain why in the case of that particular company the payment had to be made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund?

HON J J NETTO:

As we said the last time we debated this earlier on this year, what used to be the Insolvency Fund is now subsumed within the Statutory Benefits Fund so the payments are made from the Statutory Benefits Fund.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask a supplementary about the figures given in answer to Question No. 631 of 2010 which I missed?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In April 2010 the figure for the payment seems to be unusually low given that we are talking about the bulk of the monthly payments being the old age pensions from the Social Insurance Fund. I do not think I have seen such a low figure for a very long time. Is there a particular reason why this is ...

HON J J NETTO:

I can give the hon Member an explanation for that if that is what he wants. The sharp increase in the amount of payments made from the Statutory Benefits Fund for March 2010 reflects the benefit payments in respect of April having been paid in advance because of the Easter long weekend.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh. I see.

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member will remember Easter came at the very beginning of April. So therefore, we took the view to bring in... So that was one element, the lion's share, why you see in the previous month such a rise in payment. But there was an additional thing which normally tends to happen every year at the end of the financial year and in fact your colleague the Hon Mr Licudi seems not to have picked it up this time but certainly picked it up two years before. That is that at the end of the financial year from the Statutory Benefits Fund we have to pay the Gibraltar Health Authority in order for them to recover the cost incurred as a result of industrial injuries and that payment to the GHA was £335,024. So, the two things put together show the complete rise in March and the drop in April and that is the explanation.

NO. 633 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – VACANCIES

Can Government state when it will fill the vacancies advertised last September for part-time and full-time Administrative Officer posts in the Elderly Care Agency, why it has taken the Agency so long to fill these vacancies and how many applicants there were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The reason why the Care Agency has taken so long to fill these vacancies is that there were other priorities with regards to the amalgamation of the Care Agency and opening of John Cochrane Unit. Therefore, the Agency has been unable to address this issue as promptly as it would have liked. There were 145 applicants and they should be receiving a reply within the next two weeks.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 633 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

These, presumably, are posts which are vacant and are bodies that are actually needed to carry out certain work. So, given that these vacancies have been open since last September, is this resulting in any manpower problems such that further priority has to be given in order to make sure that those bodies are in place to take the duties that they are supposed to be carrying out?

HON J J NETTO:

Needless to say, this is taking too long and obviously we will agree to that. It should have taken a shorter period of time but they have to compete with other priorities and unfortunately it has taken much, much longer than it should have done. In relation to the latter part of the question, I suppose like in most areas where there is work, administration work going on, while the extra bodies are always needed, admittedly, more often than not people resources are pooled to help, to make sure that the different functions within the administration, in this particular case the Care Agency, keep moving ahead. In the ideal world, we should not be asking people to work more overtime or to do more things. In the perfect world, we should have people employed as soon as possible in order not to create a burden on the rest of the staff that remain

there. But it has not happened on this occasion. It is taking much longer than it should.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member agree that this situation is undesirable, not just from the point of view of the Agency, because if there are vacancies in posts which need to be filled then the sooner they are filled the better, the better for the Agency and for the staff already in the Agency. But it also seems to us to be unfair for the applicants. For someone who sees a vacancy last September and applies, to be kept waiting nine months for a response. Does the hon Member not agree?

HON J J NETTO:

I do agree. Yes, certainly.

NO. 634 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of pensioners in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee showing the number receiving the single and married rates in bands of £5 to the full amount as at the end of May 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 635 of 2010.

NO. 635 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of pensioners who have been granted the Minimum Income Guarantee showing the number receiving the single and married rates in bands of £5 to the full amount since the answer to Question No. 82 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 635 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 634

The number of pensioners in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee, receiving the single and married couple rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount as at the end of May 2010 is as follows:

				SINGLES	COUPLES	TOTAL
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0	2	2
FROM	£146.00	TO	£150.00	0	0	0
FROM	£141.00	TO	£145.00	0	0	0
FROM	£136.00	TO	£140.00	0	0	0
FROM	£131.00	TO	£135.00	0	0	0
FROM	£126.00	TO	£130.00	0	0	0
FROM	£121.00	TO	£125.00	0	0	0
FROM	£116.00	TO	£120.00	0	0	0
FROM	£111.00	TO	£115.00	31	0	31
FROM	£106.00	TO	£110.00	3	0	3
FROM	£101.00	TO	£105.00	0	0	0
FROM	£96.00	TO	£100.00	0	0	0
FROM	£91.00	TO	£95.00	0	0	0
FROM	£86.00	TO	£90.00	0	0	0
FROM	£81.00	TO	£85.00	0	1	1
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	1	0	1
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	15	0	15
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	1	0	1
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	2	0	2
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	2	5	7
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	18	1	19
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	10	3	13
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	13	1	14
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	16	0	16
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	11	1	12
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	17	0	17
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	19	1	20
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	232	2	234
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	19	5	24
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	20	6	26
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	8	1	9
TOTAL				438	29	467

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION 635 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 635

The number of persons who have been granted the Minimum Income Guarantee, receiving the single and married couple rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount during the period February to May 2010 is as follows:

				SINGLES	COUPLES	TOTAL
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0	0	0
FROM	£146.00	TO	£150.00	0	0	0
FROM	£141.00	TO	£145.00	0	0	0
FROM	£136.00	TO	£140.00	0	0	0
FROM	£131.00	TO	£135.00	0	0	0
FROM	£126.00	TO	£130.00	0	0	0
FROM	£121.00	TO	£125.00	0	0	0
FROM	£116.00	TO	£120.00	0	0	0
FROM	£111.00	TO	£115.00	1	0	1
FROM	£106.00	TO	£110.00	0	0	0
FROM	£101.00	TO	£105.00	0	0	0
FROM	£96.00	TO	£100.00	0	0	0
FROM	£91.00	TO	£95.00	0	0	0
FROM	£86.00	TO	£90.00	0	0	0
FROM	£81.00	TO	£85.00	0	0	0
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	0	0	0
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	0	0	0
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	0	0	0
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	0	0	0
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	0	0	0
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	0	0	0
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	0	0	0
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	0	0	0
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	1	0	1
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	0	0	0
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	0	0	0
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	0	0	0
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	5	0	5
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	0	0	0
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	1	0	1
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	0	0	0
			TOTAL	8	0	8

NO. 636 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL LUNCHESES

Can Government state how many children have stayed in school for lunch in the years 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 respectively giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 636 OF 2010

The total number of children who have stayed in school for lunch are the following:

SCHOOL	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Westside	350	402	370	396
Bayside	781	694	752	561
Hebrew Primary	23	22	26	53
St Joseph's Middle	363	350	352	352
St Anne's Middle	406	409	420	380
Sacred Heart Middle	224	218	203	200
Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	420	440	433	453
St Mary's First	138	141	167	147
St Bernard's First	115	116	100	100
St Paul's First	284	309	314	306
St Joseph's First	308	322	312	320
Governor's Meadow	268	234	232	223
Notre Dame First	187	176	173	187

NO. 637 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRE

How many boys have made use of the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside with a breakdown by year since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 638 of 2010.

NO. 638 OF 2010**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRE**

What has been the cost of developing the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside with a breakdown by financial year since it was set up?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Since it was set up in 2006, six boys have been made use of the Alternative Learning Centre in 2006/07, six boys in 2007/08, eight boys in 2008/09 and twelve boys in 2009/10.

The breakdown, by financial year, of the cost of the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside School is the following:

2006/07	£126,487
2007/08	£1,791
2008/09	£4,403
2009/10	£6,339

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 637 and 638 OF 2010**HON S E LINARES:**

Just as a matter of curiosity, I presume the 2006/2007 increase is to set up classrooms and equipment for the Alternative Learning Centre”.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Correct. That is that.

NO. 639 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CAREERS FAIR

Can Government confirm whether the Department of Education has taken over the organisation of the Careers Fair and if so give the reasons why?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Since its inception in 2006, the Careers Fair has always been hosted by the Department of Education and Training and organised by the schools.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 639 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister mean the Department of Education and Training also organises the Careers Fair now as opposed to hosting it.

HON C G BELTRAN:

The hon Member's colleague is correct. What I said is that the Department of Education and Training has since the inception of the Careers Fair, hosted the fair but it has been organised by the schools themselves.

HON S E LINARES:

It is still the case?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Correct.

NO. 640 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state how many teachers are currently working on a supply basis giving a breakdown by years on supply and periods they are covering or assigned for and how many years they have been on supply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There are currently 45 teachers working on a supply basis. Of these, six have worked periodically for less than a year, 12 for under two years, 16 for under three years and 11 for less than four years. Regarding the length of assignment for each of these teachers currently, this is as follows: seven have supplied for one term, six for two terms and 32 for more than two terms.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 640 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give a reason why he has 11 teachers for less than four years on supply.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. That means that in any given time during that period of time, those four years, there have been 11 supply teachers... Sorry, of those who are currently working, 11 have been on supply for less than four years. They have been doing supply work for less than four years, on and off, obviously. It does not mean that they have been working for three and a half years on the trot, no.

HON G H LICUDI:

I do not know if the hon Member has the information. Of the 45 currently working on a supply basis, does he have a breakdown between the two Comprehensive Schools, how many are in each?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Sorry, can you repeat the question?

HON G H LICUDI:

Of the 45 currently on supply, how many are on supply in each of the Comprehensive Schools?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. I do not have that information in front of me.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does he have a figure which he is aware of?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. I would not. I would not like to mislead the House giving just ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Is it still the position, as I understand in answers which have been previously given, that supply workers are used exclusively to cover temporary absences and not to fill posts? Is that still the case?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. A substantive post is covered permanently with a permanent and pensionable position.

HON G H LICUDI:

So the 45 which are currently working on supply, all of them are covering temporary absences, for example, in maternity or an illness or something like that?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Not necessarily absences. They may be covering, and I have answered this before, precisely the same question about four months ago. They may be covering a particular need, subject specialism for example, or a child that has a special need that requires somebody over and above their complement.

NO. 641 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VACANCY FOR EDUCATION TRAINING OFFICER

When does Government expect to permanently fill the post of “Education Training Officer” which has been vacant since November 2007 and in respect of which a number of applications have been submitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 642 of 2010.

NO. 642 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BLEAK HOUSE TRAINING INSTITUTE

Can Government state who is responsible for the staff at Bleak House and all other persons in the Training Section?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In respect of the Training Officer, it is not the Education Training Officer. The actual title is Training Officer. The Government will take a decision on the post of Training Officer when it is ready to do so.

The staff at the Bleak House Training Institute and all other persons involved in Training are employees of the Government's Department of Education and Training.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 641 AND 642 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

This is basically, we can go back to ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

To this morning.

HON S E LINARES:

To this morning, exactly, the Minister is absolutely right.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Absolutely.

HON S E LINARES:

How is it then that these officers who are employed by the Department of Education and Training and are under the auspices, I presume, of the Director of Education...

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. No.

HON S E LINARES:

I presume they are because they are Training Officers within the Department of Education. The Department of Education, I presume the head is the Director of Education?

HON C G BELTRAN:

And Training. Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Therefore, what I am trying to say is, do they then... these officers that are in Bleak House, actually report to, or should I say, are they under the Employment Department. Who are they under then?

HON C G BELTRAN:

It depends what you mean by under? The word under may have many different implications.

HON S E LINARES:

Who is responsible for them?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Oh, I see.

HON S E LINARES:

We are talking about semantics.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, there is a difference. If they are employees of the Department of Education and Training and there is a Director of Education and Training, they come under the

instructions, obviously, of the Director of Education and Training. Now, on the day to day workings of different parts of training, it is the case that they work at Bleak House at say, for example, to run the Vocational Training Scheme and although the Director of Education has very clear instructions as to how that is to be run, nevertheless, the operational responsibilities... I think my colleague was explaining, answering your question along similar lines this morning, for operational reasons the officers in the Department of the Employment may give instructions, support or work alongside people who are as it were, generically employed by the Department of Education and Training. But I do not see a problem. I do not know where the hon Member sees the problem in people who are employed by the Department of Education and Training because Government have seen it fit for operational reasons to divide, what you could call general or professional development and training as opposed to vocational training, that they are situated in different parts and work with different officers. It is not so much a question of who you work under because there is continuous liaison and communication to make sure that Government's policy is carried out. That is the important thing.

NO. 643 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the Education Advisory Committee has met in 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

As far as I can gather, there is no Committee of this name. I honestly do not know what the hon Member is referring to when he talks about the Education Advisory Committee. There is no Committee of that name.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 643 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

This Government has changed the name so many times that he cannot even remember because it was the post 14 Committee that the previous Minister put in place. Then he changed it to post 14 to 19. Then he changed it to the coordinating Committee for post 14 to 19 with co-education in it. So, I thought that by using the words Educational Advisory Committee, it would encompass all the names the previous Ministers had used before. So if for clarity, could I then say that it is the Committee which is supposedly looking at post 14 to 19 education and co-education?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I really do not know where to begin. I think that the hon Member has... because you see he has made the same mistake over the last two and a half years, as far as I am concerned, since I have been Minister for Education. He keeps on talking about the post 14 to 19. No. It has always been the 14 to 19 education. Developments in 14 to 19 education which we have been monitoring in the United Kingdom and which has changed all the time and I think that we were absolutely correct in doing that and not taking any action here because now with the change in Government in UK, they are now looking at all these courses differently. If the hon Member is referring to the 14 to 19 Committee which is known in the profession as the Consortium because they are looking at 14 ... Well, you know what the education jargon is like. But the thing is that you can say that we have the 14 to 19 Committee. You can say that we have the Consortium. What you cannot do is get it wrong and say the post 14 to 19 Committee or the Education Advisory Committee which is another concoction of

yours because you do not understand how the system works or because you do not get the names right, frankly. I hope you make a good note of it because I have told you before, it is the 14 to 19 Committee.

HON G H LICUDI:

On a point of order. Is it in order for the Hon Minister to refer to a Member of the Opposition as “you” in this House?

MR SPEAKER:

No. It is not in order.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I do beg the House’s pardon.

MR SPEAKER:

All comments to be addressed to ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

The hon Member does not understand or has got the names of these Committees wrong all the time and he is trying to impute this difficulty he has with conceptually coming to grips with the names of Committees to the fact that we have changed. We have not changed. We have simply evolved as education evolves. This is what happens and I can tell the hon Member that that Committee meets quite regularly. I cannot tell you the exact number of times. I was not quite sure what Committee the hon Member was referring to so I really could not have an exact number of times that they have met in 2009/2010. We have established now that the hon Member is talking about the 14 to 19 Committee and if the hon Member could write to me I will certainly give him the number of times they have met in each 2009/2010. The hon Member will get his reply.

HON S E LINARES:

I am glad that he has changed the name again in order to clarify the situation because the name seems to be..., and I understand that they do change the name in UK. I do not know why we change the name here, by the way.

HON C G BELTRAN:

We do not.

HON S E LINARES:

You have just said you do.

MR SPEAKER:

Do not address him as “you” address him as the “hon Member”.

HON S E LINARES:

Sorry, my apology. The hon Member, yes. The hon Member states that they have changed the name to suit UK, fine. All I have asked and the hon Member obviously knew which Committee I was talking about because he mentioned it. The fact now that he has not got the answer, fine. I will ask the question again next time in order ... The name that the hon Member has given now is the 14 to 19 Committee. Is that correct?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Not only have I given the hon Member the name of that Committee now, I have given it to him as I said in my previous intervention on numerous occasions over the last two and a half years. But it seems to have got it into his head, the hon Member, that the 14 to 19 Committee is post 14 to 19. It is either post 14 or post 19. Not post 14 to 19. The correct nomenclature is the 14 to 19 Committee which in the profession, professionals call the Consortium. I do not want to confuse the hon Member any further.

HON S E LINARES:

How many times has the 14 to 19 Committee then met?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I require time to answer that. If the hon Member writes to me I will give it to him quicker than at the next meeting.

HON N F COSTA:

If you knew which Committee he was referring to why did you not give him the answer?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No. I did not know the Committee he was referring to. I have been able to elucidate that during the course of our exchange.

HON S E LINARES:

How many Committees does the Department of Education and Training have?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Various, but that is a totally new question and I will require time.

HON S E LINARES:

It is a new question within a supplementary of the same question because if he is questioning me about whether I know or do not know the Committee. If he tells me that he has 300 Committees in his Department then I can understand that he does not know which Committee I am talking about within the Department of Education and Training and not in schools... I would not like now the hon Member to now divert and say every school has a Committee and every Parent Committee and all that. The Department of Education and Training has only got but one or even may be even two Committees of which one of them is the 14 to 19 Committee we have ascertained and that the Educational Advisory Committee does not exist. I am asking then how many Committees are there that do the role of 14 to 19 Committee within the Department of Education and Training?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The 14 to 19 Committee of which we now know what we are talking about. There is one. If the hon Member writes to me I will give him the number of times exactly that they met in 2009 and up to now in 2010.

NO. 644 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CAPITATION IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state what the capitation is and has been for children in First, Middle and Secondary schools giving a breakdown by year from September 1996 to May 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The information requested by the hon Member is historically kept for 10 years. We have nevertheless been able to find the information for a further two years over and above those 10 years and I now hand over the schedule with the information from 1998 to 2009.

Answer to Question 644 of 2010

School	Sept 1998 £	Sept 1999 £	Sept 2000 £	Sept 2001 £	Sept 2002 £	Sept 2003 £	Sept 2004 £	Sept 2005 £	Sept 2006 £	Sept 2007 £	Sept 2008 £	Sept 2009 £	May 2010 £
Gibraltar College	19,000	19,800	25,500	32,000	23,000	24,000	20,000	30,000	35,000	43,257	74,658	55,994	Awaiting Budget
Westside	60,250	63,790	73,022	72,747	72,225	72,375	73,375	78,500	83,000	92,448	138,873	140,700	
Bayside	61,250	62,120	73,277	71,203	66,925	70,375	71,375	77,500	82,000	90,594	139,330	160,205	
Bishop Fitzgerald	18,450	20,701	24,159	24,483	26,100	26,100	26,400	30,000	32,000	30,300	44,638	47,378	
Sacred Heart	10,500	11,676	14,902	14,877	15,250	15,500	16,000	17,000	20,000	15,022	23,861	19,458	
St Joseph's Middle	12,500	14,799	16,156	16,339	17,900	18,000	18,500	20,000	22,000	21,816	31,272	33,423	
St Anne's Middle	19,000	20,421	22,077	22,864	24,250	24,250	25,000	26,500	30,000	26,678	38,412	37,147	
Notre Dame First	9,700	9,294	12,895	13,128	14,050	14,050	14,600	16,700	17,400	13,049	16,254	18,079	
St Bernard's First	5,400	5,625	5,457	5,376	5,150	5,150	5,200	8,950	9,600	7,722	9,588	9,082	
St Joseph's First	10,200	10,680	11,836	14,349	15,600	16,000	16,600	18,400	22,500	18,243	26,313	27,679	
St Paul's First	9,150	9,612	12,380	12,570	13,500	13,500	13,800	15,800	16,900	17,230	25,684	25,805	
Governor's Meadow First	7,500	10,110	13,002	13,460	14,000	14,000	14,000	16,000	19,500	12,308	17,846	18,164	
St Mary's First	7,250	7,868	6,740	7,437	7,500	7,500	7,000	8,200	12,500	8,398	13,577	13,768	
Hebrew	2,750	3,299	3,773	3,826	2,750	2,900	3,000	3,900	4,500	5,066	7,333	10,217	
St Martin's	3,000	3,000	2,757	2,659	3,500	3,500	3,600	4,100	4,500	2,692	5,970	5,676	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 644 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate the work the hon Member has done for us. Thank you. Is there a set figure that applies to First School children, then Middle School children and then Secondary School children depending on the age as in capitation, for example, children in the First Schools would probably... the capitation... because this is a global capitation which I have asked, for example in a school, breakdown by school. If we go, for example, the Gibraltar College 19,000 in September 1998, it is a global figure which is an added up figure of the number of students that there are in the College. What I am saying is whether there is a figure that differs between First, Middle and Secondary School and College students. Does the figure vary?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes it does. But as the hon Member himself says, I have answered the question that he asked. If what the hon Member wants is the specific amount per capita for the different levels of education, which he is correct in saying that there is a difference, again, if the hon Member writes to me, I will get them and give them to the hon Member. I do not have them with me. I have just been given the totals.

NO. 645 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION ABROAD

Can Government state how many children are currently in special education abroad, what are their ages, what institution they are in and why they cannot be catered for in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There are currently three children educated abroad. All three are boys and they are aged 13, 16 and 17. The institutions they are in are: Valley House School, Apple Orchard Education Unit and Hillcrest School.

These schools offer highly specialised support in their respective specialism for children with very complex, severe emotional and behavioural conditions and that is why they are over there as opposed to here.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 645 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the 16 and 17 year olds who are over and above the statutory age of schooling, and it has happened in the past, where they are no longer considered children and therefore the budget and the money spent should pass over to the Department of Social Affairs. Is it not the case that these two children will be passing on to another department's expenditure as opposed to the Department of Education because they are over and above the statutory age of schooling?

HON C G BELTRAN:

There are no plans to do that. There is some logic in what he says but the reality, if you look at the local situation although statutory school age is up to 15, Government, nevertheless, looks after young ... I mean, we talk about education as being a life long process and there is a College, for example, where we provide for the education of young people over and above the age of 15. So, as I say, at the moment there are no plans to change which department ... They start off in the Education Department with the schooling and if it carries on for a few more years we look after it and it really does not matter whose books they are on, so long as we are taking care of them.

HON S E LINARES:

Fine, I accept the answer that it does not matter which department ... I was just being systematic about what department it comes from because as far as 16 and 17 year olds, I am concerned they are now over the statutory age and not only that, are they fulfilling educational purposes as opposed to the special needs that they might need, care issues that might come up with these two ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes. The hon Member is correct in what he is surmising. If one looks at the reasons why they are being educated much more closely, we are talking about young people who have a history of complex, social, emotional and behavioural problems. A history of public care as well, invariably. So, the hon Member is right. There is a point where the responsibility for these "school children" passes to the Care Agency, yes.

HON S E LINARES:

I might not have picked up on the answer to the question. Why is it that they cannot be catered for in Gibraltar?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The answer to that is pretty obvious. One cannot have schools and specialists here sitting down waiting for the different types of problems that may arise in future. It is a bit like the health in some way. One can look after the special education needs of young people and school children up to a point. We have a very successful St Martin's School and after that they go to a vocational, St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre and so on. But there comes a time when the right decision in the interest of those young people, school children in many cases, is in specialist schools in the United Kingdom.

HON S E LINARES:

I say this because there was a case a number of years back where it was costing the Government more money to send a, it was then a child to a special school and the Government changed the policy which I thought was the correct one and that is why I am asking about these, was that the money that was spent in schooling that child in the UK was costing more than actually bringing professionals over who could fulfil two roles. One was the care of that child and two was the training and the input that that specialist could have in our own schools. What I am trying to get at is that at times although we do not, and I can understand that we cannot have specialists in all fields here, but what we could have is spending sometimes even less money and it is not that I want to cut down on the money, it is that I am saying that it is sometimes more sensible even if it costs slightly more money to bring those specialists here for a number of years where those specialists can then help out our system in order to see, for example, a specific problem that they can then pass on their knowledge and expertise to the likes of schools like St Martin's.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I am not aware of the particular case that the hon Member is referring to. It has to be said that the decision to educate all these three children abroad was not just on the basis of inability to meet their learning needs here, their schooling needs. It was not just that. It was also a need to address the welfare emotional, very severe behavioural problems that needs a specialised school that provides 24 hour care, 7 days a week, 52 weeks for the whole year. It is a very... like a critical unit as it were.

ORAL

NO. 646 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – GIRLS IN 14 TO 15 AGE GROUP EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN EDUCATION

Can Government state how many of the 190 girls in the 14 to 15 age group enrolled in September 2009 in the Secondary school are currently expected to continue in education after the age of 15?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 647 of 2010.

NO. 647 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – BOYS IN 14 TO 15 AGE GROUP EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN EDUCATION

Can Government state how many of the 211 boys in the 14 to 15 year age group enrolled in September 2009 in the Secondary school are currently expected to continue in education after the age of 15?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Of the 190, 181 girls and of the 211 boys, 209 boys in the age group in question are currently expected to continue in education after the age of 15.

NO. 648 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DONATIONS BY PRIVATE ENTITIES

Can the Government list the equipment donations which have been made to the GHA by private entities since the financial year 2007/2008, with a breakdown by financial year, showing the name of the equipment, its function, the department where it is located and the cost in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question No. 648 of 2010

LIST OF EQUIPMENT DONATIONS TO THE GH

FINANCIAL YEAR 2009-2010

EQUIPMENT	FUNCTION	LOCATION	COST
Mammography Unit	Diagnosics	Radiology Department	£32,439.96
Mammography Unit	Diagnosics	Radiology Department	£308,591.91
Voice Amplifier	Speech & Language Therapy	Speech & Language Department Primary Care Centre	£286.00
Lightwriters	Speech & Language Therapy	Speech & Language Department Primary Care Centre	£19,120.75
Writing Tablets	Speech & Language Therapy	Speech & Language Department Primary Care Centre	£733.35
Lenovo monitor	Staff in Service Training	Primary Care Centre - Boardroom	£585.00
Tactile Vibration Sensory Tub	Paediatric equipment for assisting developmental progress by providing physical stimulus.	Physiotherapy Department	£500.00
Bailey Lovie Distance va Chart	Distance Reading Chart	Ophthalmology Department	£237.00
Phlebotomy Chairs	Blood Sampling	Primary Care Centre	£2,000.00
Leica SM 2400 Base Sledge Microtone	Cutting histological blocks to provide sections	Pathology Department	£9,025.00
Sensory Chimes	Physiotherapy Equipment	Primary Care Centre - Physiotherapy Department	£28.88
Phlebotomy Chairs	Blood Sampling	Phlebotomy Department	£2,231.25
Flowthron Garments	Lymphoedema Management	Physiotherapy Department	£7,165.00
ENCR Breast Biopsy System	Breast Biopsy	Radiology Department	35,500.00 Euros
Hydraulic Stretcher	Patient Portering	Primary Care Centre	£2,881.11

NO. 649 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REDUCTION IN SPEECH THERAPY LESSONS

On what date did Government take the policy decision to reduce the number of sessions of speech therapy lessons offered to children?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Government has not taken a policy decision to reduce the number of clinical sessions available to speech and language therapy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 649 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

That statement from the hon Lady does seem to be in contradiction with the statement that the Government issued on Friday 23rd April 2010. My reading of that press statement is, whilst of course, peppered with the usual insults levelled at me personally, it does seem to suggest very clearly that there has been a reduction in the service of the Speech Therapy Department in respect of children. Is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The same amount of sessions are being delivered by two qualified speech and language therapists as opposed to only one in the days of the Members opposite. More recent demand brought about by more referrals due to the employment of the additional paediatrician has led to the GHA prioritising the clinical sessions in order to be equitable to all service users. The GHA is once again reviewing this area and the recommendations will be considered along with other requests for service expansion as part of its overall provision of care strategy.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it or is it not the case that whereas before children receiving the service were as it were in a permanent term, they are now receiving that service on alternative terms. So that the child who was receiving that service for, say for a full term, is now receiving less of that service because of the increased demand the child that was

previously receiving the full service xxxx, is now receiving one term yes and one term no. My reading of that would be that there has been a reduction as it affects children.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct but the number of sessions, as the question implies, have not been reduced. The number of sessions remain the same, spread out amongst a greater number of children.

HON N F COSTA:

Alright, so the number of sessions may have not been reduced but one child will not be receiving the same number of sessions any more.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful for that. Secondly, the hon Member has also said, and I believe that she or at least the GHA also say this in their press release, that it will consider requests for service expansion in this and other areas. Given that the hon Member has just told me right now that there has been, in respect of children, a reduction of that affected child of the service received, have they considered expanding that service?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I just said that we are conducting a review of the department.

HON N F COSTA:

I am surprised that the hon Member should be so surprised by the question given that this has been aired publicly and there has already been a debate. She knows, the hon Member, apologies, knows that there are disgruntled parents who have come to us to complain about this. This is how the whole issue came to light. Given that that is the case, and given that the parents that I have spoken to tell me that the service provided was so beneficial to the children and that they desperately want it back and given that it is affecting our children and that it is something that has been provided to them to date, given that the reduction is affecting them would not the hon Lady agree with me that it is something that, instead of being reviewed, should have been looked at the moment it came to light and the service resumed the way it was before?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In order to resume the service the way it was before, it necessarily entails adding additional resources to that area.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As it would entail adding additional resources to when we have waiting lists in physiotherapy, when we have waiting lists for general surgery to see the orthopaedic surgeon and the bottom line is that the GHA has to control and manage its resources in the best interest of everybody and not a particular sector of the health service.

HON N F COSTA:

I entirely agree with that. I agree entirely that the GHA should monitor and control the expenditure. Tell you what, slash the wage of the Chief Executive Officer and let us give it back to the Speech Therapy Department.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Very simplistic way of looking at things.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes, but it would solve the immediate needs of our children.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. There was no question there.

HON N F COSTA:

Xxxxx

MR SPEAKER:

No.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can tell the hon Member that the Speech and Language Therapy Department was virtually non-existent during the days of the Members sitting beside him where they

only had employed one Speech and Language Therapist which catered for half of the children that needed the service.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it not the case that to keep harping back to 1996 is simply political fallacy and cheapness.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is just a reality that he does not want to hear.

HON N F COSTA:

Is it not the case, in fact, that the reason why they keep harping back to 1996 is because they are xxxx and they have run out of excuses.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If there had been no improvement in the service and we were just comparing ourselves with what happened during their days ... If I compare the track record of this Government in this area and in many others, if I were just comparing it and saying we have not improved but you were the same, what I am saying is you were worse and we have done much, much better.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member think then that we should only criticise them if they have done nothing in fourteen years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They are free to criticise us for whatever they like.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member seems to think it is unfair criticism unless we can demonstrate that in the fourteen years in Government, they had not improved one single thing. I would have thought that they would want to hide their heads in shame if in fourteen years and spending millions of pounds, there was no improvement anywhere. Or does the hon Member think that there was no improvement in the eight years of the GSLP or no improvements in the ten years of the AACR. Every Government improves on what it obtains and every Opposition has got the obligation to seek to get them to improve even more. So what are they complaining about?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not just a question of looking at what they did and what we did. Precisely, it is a question of looking at the improvements within their eight years in Government and the improvements that have occurred in an equal period of eight years that we have been in Government, which is a tremendous difference.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We have not, in fact, picked two periods of eight years. All that the hon Member has been asked is if in twelve months the demand doubles, they may not have a need to do anything for thirteen years. If the hon Member says, we are now paying more pensioners than there were before. Well of course there are more pensioners. We have got more population. There are demands in our society both because of an increase and because of aging and because of peoples' rising expectations. There is nothing unusual about that. It is happening in every country in Europe and therefore the question is simply saying, if the hon Member was providing a certain service to a certain number of people and now the resources have not shrunk but they are being spread because there are more people accessing the service. They may think that spending money in that area is less important than spending money in another area. It is a matter of judgement and they are paid to exercise that judgement. But it has nothing to do with what was happening in 1996 or in 1704.

NO. 650 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MRSA INFECTION

Can Government say whether any cases of MRSA infection were detected at St. Bernard's Hospital, on a monthly basis, since February 2010 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Total
Patients	6	2	1	2	11

ORAL

NO. 651 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

Can Government state how many keyhole surgery operations have been cancelled since February 2010 to date on a monthly basis and the reasons for the cancellations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 652 to 655 of 2010.

NO. 652 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between February 2010 to date on a monthly basis, in respect of which operations at St. Bernard's Hospital needed to be cancelled and state the reason why in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 651 and 653 to 655 of 2010.

NO. 653 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LISTS FOR OPERATIONS

Can Government say how many people are on the GHA waiting lists for operations at St. Bernard's Hospital with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 651, 652, 654 and 655 of 2010.

NO. 654 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LISTS FOR OPERATIONS

How long has the person who has been waiting for longest on the GHA waiting list for a surgical operation been on that list with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 651 to 653 and 655 of 2010.

NO. 655 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REMOVAL OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM BODY

How many patients in the past 24 months have had to be operated in the GHA to have surgical instruments removed which have been left in the body when an earlier operation had been performed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question Nos. 651 to 654 of 2010, I hand the hon Member lists containing the information requested.

In answer to Question No. 655 of 2010, one patient. Although I must point out that the answer to Question No. 653 of 2010 has also been requested and provided in written format.

Answer to Question No. 655 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 651 of 2010

Cancellations keyhole surgery

	Bed Availability
February 2010	3
March 2010	2
April 2010	1
May 2010	1

Answer to Question No. 655 of 2010
Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations February 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Medical Bed availability	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	10
Per patient		1	1	1	2 (1)		1	6 (1)
No show			3		(2)	1		4 (2)
No longer required				1			1	2
No notes		1			1			2
Surgeon sick				2				2
No anaesthetist Available due to emergency					3			3
No surgeon Available due to emergency					1			1
Locum Per surgeon not his speciality					1			1
Total	3	3	5	10	25 (3)	3	4	53 (3)

() minor ops

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations March 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery / Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Medical	1	4	3	1	3 (1)			12 (1)
Bed availability	1	3		10	13			27
Per patient			1	1	1 (1)	1	2	6 (1)
No show			1		1	2	2	6
No longer required			1					1
No medical records available					(1)			(1)
Total	2	7	6	12	18 (3)	3	4	52 (3)

() minor ops

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations April 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Pain Relief	Total
Medical Bed availability	1	2	1		1	1	6
Per patient	1				3		4
No show		1	1	1	(3)	2	5 (3)
No longer required			1		1 (1)	3	5 (1)
Surgeon sick	5	1	1			1	3
Supply item beyond expiry date		1		5	6		16
No medical records available			1				1
No surgeon Available due to ash cloud				3			3
Out of theatre time					1		1
Total	7	5	5	9	12 (4)	7	45 (4)

() minor ops

Contd.....

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 652 of 2010

Cancellations May 2010

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Total
Medical		1	4		1		1	7
Bed availability	2	4		4	14	1		25
Per patient			2	1				3
No show			2		(3)		2	4 (3)
No longer required					1 (2)			1 (2)
No Equipment			1					1
Total	2	5	9	5	16 (5)	1	3	41 (5)

() minor ops

Answer to Question No. 653/2010

Elective Surgery Waiting Lists

	May 2010
General Surgery	251
Minor operations general surgery	158
Gynaecology	100
Ophthalmology	82
Orthopaedics	75
ENT	106
Plastic Surgery	160

Answer to Question No. 654/2010

Longest on waiting list and reason

	Date listed*	Reason
ENT	15/5/08	Personal choice
General Surgery Mr Sene	30/4/07	Personal choice
General Surgery Mr Grama	22/7/08	Personal choice
Minor ops	3/11/09	Personal choice
Gynaecology Mr White	23/1/08	Personal choice
Gynaecology Mrs Winge	29/11/05	Patient remains medically unfit for surgery
Ophthalmology	21/7/09	Patient remains medically unfit for surgery
Orthopaedics Mr Ruiz	3/3/10	Patient remains medically unfit for surgery
Orthopaedics Mr Boerger	3/6/09	Unable to contact patient both mail and telephone
Plastic Surgery	1996	The patient has been called in the past and cancelled and the last time she was called she declared herself medically unfit

* Date listed is defined as the original date when the patient was notified to the wait list Manager

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 651 TO 655 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of Question No. 652 of 2010 which relates to cancellations and the reason why operations have to be cancelled. Just looking at the schedule now, in February of this year, as a result of bed availability, there were 22 cancellations. In March there were 27. In April there were four. In May there were 25. So, from these statistics, save for the month of April, the main cause for operations being cancelled would appear to be as a result of bed availability. Can the Minister confirm that that is the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is what the tables indicate. Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

This would seem to be tied into the question I was previously asking the hon Gentleman, Mr Netto, and the fact that I said there was a problem in that there were elderly patients occupying beds and this sometimes leads to the fact that operations are cancelled because of lack of bed availability. I pointed out to the hon Gentleman at the time that the fact of having a proper and bigger Mount Alvernia building was important in order to alleviate not just the fact that there are people, elderly people waiting for places in Mount Alvernia but also because it ties into this perennial problem of bed shortages. Will the Minister therefore not agree, I am asking either that what I said before is true, that this is a serious matter? It is urgent and it is typical of the GSD administration that they do not give priority to what matters to people.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not agree. The hon Member is always linking cancellation of surgery with bed availability. Very recently, the hon Member was pressurising the Government, although the Government already had plans to do it, to open John Cochrane Ward to alleviate pressure. You will see that the pressure has not been alleviated. So, however many measures we put into place and this Government has a very good track record in providing additional measures for the elderly people and trying to eliminate ... the bottom line is that cancellations happen all over the world even in the Houston Medical Centre and the hon Member should not carry on linking bed availability with cancellations of surgery. They happen everywhere in the world. One only has to go to St Mary's Hospital to have an operation cancelled on umpteen occasions by different patients because there are no beds available.

HON N F COSTA:

Would the hon Lady not agree that that is a bit of a xxx answer the fact that this even happens in the Houston Centre. The fact is that when people are preparing for an operation... it is all very well for the hon Member to say that. But the fact is that before people go to an operation there is a lot of preparation for that person. There

is the medical preparation for undergoing an operation. There are arrangements that have to be done in the case of a parent with children and all of that. I will give the hon Member an example of what it really means to have an operation cancelled because it happens everywhere xxxx. There have been people who have come to me and one lady in particular for which I was shocked. She was going to go for an operation. She was put under anaesthetic. After she came up from under anaesthetic she was told, I am sorry we have not been able to operate you because there are no beds. There is a bed shortage. That is shocking.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member will have to prove that allegation. Does the hon Member really think that the preparation that he talks about that happens in Gibraltar before an operation, the gearing up of the patient in anticipation towards that and the let down when they are told that the operation is cancelled, only happens here in Gibraltar and not also in the Houston Medical Centre.

HON N F COSTA:

But this is exactly the point. What type of flippant answer is that? Particularly, I do not care about how centres in other parts of the world work. We are talking about the effects that cancelled operations have on the people of Gibraltar. Whether the hon Member likes it or not, when operations are cancelled people are very upset and they come to complain about it and given that it is a perennial problem about bed shortages, let us get it sorted out. Shall we not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Does the hon Member, going back again to 1996 which he does not like, really believe that operations were not cancelled during that time. The hon Member also routinely asks, the ones they dish out from their computer every time there is a Parliament session, also asks how many elective surgeries were carried out during the same months that he asked for cancellations. Why does not the hon Member mention that, for example, in the month of March when he is criticising us for having cancelled 27 operations, 304 were carried out. However undesirable the cancellation of an operation is, it is something that is unavoidable. Here and anywhere else in the world and that is the reality.

HON N F COSTA:

First of all, I do not think it is right for the hon Member to tell me what questions to ask her. That is for me to do so. Of course it is. Therefore, in the same way that she says that we dish questions out from our computers perhaps instead of dishing out answers like robots, they should give some human consideration to the practical consequences of their policy decisions.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

This Government also has a track record in providing information which leaves the hon Members opposite looking like boy scouts when it came to us asking them and them providing us with information which is absolutely zero.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has never been in this House asking questions and therefore what the hon Member is doing is quoting the GSD propaganda. The reality of it is that if the hon Member cares to go back and check the Hansards, she will find that they put in very few questions and all the questions that came in were all loaded with political innuendos and did not ask for any information at all. The hon Member should go and check the Hansards. They are all in there.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is precisely how I came to the conclusion that you did not answer any questions when the hon Members were in Government and we were in Opposition, precisely from the Hansards.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxxx sought and deny it. That is what I am saying to the hon Member. The hon Member is saying we get more information in this House under the hon Member's administration than they would have got on this side. The answer is they did not want information and they did not ask for information. What they were doing was repeating the rumours that they put in the street about Members of the Government and putting loaded questions in this House. The hon Member can go and read them.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Exactly the same as what the hon Members do now. Jump on the bandwagons of every disgruntled employee and organisation and come back here to ask the questions.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. I think we have departed from the original question. We should move to the next question.

HON XXXX

Xxxxx

HON N F COSTA:

Sorry. On a Point of Order, perhaps the hon Member xxxx can explain what he means by that remark of his.

MR SPEAKER:

No. I will not allow that. Next Question No. 656 of 2010.

HON N F COSTA:

Mr Speaker, if you would kindly ask the hon Member not to interfere when I ask questions.

MR SPEAKER:

If the hon Member does not ask his question we will move to the next question.

ORAL

NO. 656 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say on what date it or the GHA took the policy decision to commence a process of negotiations with UK accredited providers to implement a model of breast screening using Teleradiology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 657 to 660 of 2010.

NO. 657 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say on what date the negotiations with UK accredited providers to implement a model of breast screening using Teleradiology commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 656 and 658 to 660 of 2010.

NO. 658 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say with how many UK accredited providers the GHA is in negotiation with a view to implementing a model of breast screening using Teleradiology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 656, 657, 659 and 660 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 659 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say what is the composition of the GHA steering group that has been set up to carry out due diligence in the selection process to ensure that they meet the recognised standards of performance in relation to implementing a model of breast cancer using Teleradiology, on what date was this group set up and what will the due diligence entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 656 to 658 and 660 of 2010.

NO. 660 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAST SCREENING USING TELERADIOLOGY

Can Government say whether the pilot breast screening programme has now commenced and if not state when it is expected to start using Teleradiology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA took a policy decision to consider UK accredited providers during the winter of 2009.

The negotiations with reputable overseas organisations commenced on the 10th December 2009.

The GHA was in negotiation with three UK accredited providers.

The Steering Group is chaired by the Medical Director and is composed of Consultants, Radiologists, Radiology Superintendent, Deputy Radiology Superintendent, PACS administrator, Lead Mammographer and a Senior Electronic Health Technology Officer.

The group met on the 8th February 2010 and its due diligence has entailed the following:

- The examination of the CVs of the Radiologists that would be supporting this programme and the consideration of these.
- A review of a completed questionnaire by the potential providers that addressed issues including standards and connectivity.
- The benchmarking of the providers against two key documents – Quality Assurance Guidelines for Breast Cancer Screening Radiology – NHSBSP Publication Number 59 and The European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast Screening and Diagnosis.
- A site visit in the beginning of June 2010 by a number of key staff members of the GHA steering group to assess quality assurance components and their implementation plans.

The pilot scheme is planned to commence within the next two weeks. The due diligence visit to the preferred centre has already taken place and any outstanding issues are being addressed by the steering group. Once the due diligence on the quality assurance items has been completed, thus ensuring a safe and robust breast screening programme, the pilot will commence.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 656 TO 660 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

I very much anticipate that the hon Lady will know what my supplementary will be and that is that if the Government had been considering since the winter of 2009 the possibility of using Teleradiology in order to commence a structured routine mammography service, why has it been that the answers in this House have always been that the commencement of such a programme is dependent on the recruitment of a third radiologist. At no point, notwithstanding my questions in this House, have the Government put to me and the hon Members on this side of the House the fact that the third radiologist was not in fact a absolutely only choice viz-a-viz starting the routine structured service but that this was also being explored.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member did not ask the question. In February 2010 the hon Member asked, can Government say on what date the GHA intends to commence offering routine structured mammography service and give the age group of the women to whom this service will be available. I answered, a pilot programme will commence in the spring. It is not my fault that the hon Member does not get up to ask the relevant supplementaries.

HON N F COSTA:

That is, with all due respect, a preposterous position to take. Ever since I was elected and to ask questions in this House, the crux and thrust of every single answer given by the GSD Government and by the hon Lady, in particular, has always been that the structured routine mammography service could not commence without the recruitment of the third radiologist and that it was in fact dependent on this recruitment, right. Now, we are told that there has been this exploration of Teleradiology and now the hon Lady tells me that the reason why the hon Member did not inform me or the public was only because I did not ask a specific question. Would the Minister not agree with me that if this was on the cards and the thrust of all my questions have always been to gauge when the structured routine mammography service was going to be implemented, that the hon Member should have supplied that information to us?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. I do not agree.

HON N F COSTA:

I put it to the hon Lady then that ..., and with all due respect, would the hon Member not agree that it was a bit rich that once it was aired in public, the fact that there were two radiologists which were no longer working in the GHA, and we received concerns from members of the public saying, gosh if there are no two radiologists, when is the structured routine mammography service going to start and the issue was publicly aired and it was said, oh, was it not a bit coincidental that just then, just when it was

that those two radiologists were no longer in the GHA service, no longer was it necessary or was it crucial for the third radiologist to be employed because, in fact, something else could have been done.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What indeed was unfortunate was that the hon Member fell into the trap of assuming that because two disgruntled patients had gone to him saying, or patients or employees I suspect, that one had been interdicted and another had been dismissed, he stupidly and without wishing to insult the hon Member, assume ...

HON N F COSTA:

On a Point of Order Mr Speaker. Without wishing to insult me is xxxx.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Then I will rephrase this.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes. Please.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member unfortunately, assumed and he said it in his press release, that because this had happened, the breast screening programme was back to square one and that is where the debate commenced because he was wrong. He was wrong and his concern at the moment is that he was caught out, because it was not back to square one and the fact that I had not informed him previously that we were considering Teleradiology is the fact of concern. He should be happy that the women of Gibraltar will finally have a proper breast screening programme and that should be his main concern, not the fact that I did not give him the information that he was seeking. Well, he was not even seeking it.

HON N F COSTA:

It is absolutely preposterous now for the hon Lady to suggest that I am not happy for the routine service to commence when, throughout all this time, all I have been doing is pressing the Government to tell them when it is going to start given that it has been a manifesto commitment of theirs. So that, with all due respect to the hon Member, is a preposterous position to take and will all due respect again, it is not that I was caught out in anything. Once again, would she not agree with me that given that all throughout the only reason why the hon Member has told this House and therefore the public is that no routine service will be offered until a third radiologist is recruited given that what transpired it was only natural for people to be concerned that the routine service would not start. It is very unfair, therefore, given that the hon Member is basically admitting that information was not given because the right question was not asked, it is a bit rich for the hon Member, therefore, to say that it was us that were

caught out and not them that have not been providing the information which the hon Member has just said they were more freely given before.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As much aggravated as he is by what has transpired and the fact that he did not ask the supplementary and I did not gratuitously provide it, I can assure the hon Member that the women of Gibraltar are entirely satisfied as we will have seen from the very extensive information leaflet that was issued in the Gibraltar Chronicle by the group that steers the breast screening or rather that advocates for women with breast cancer. So he should be just as happy as they are, as are the women of Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps the hon Lady should ask those other women of Gibraltar who are very disappointed indeed in the past weeks who have been told that some of the mammography that they require is not going to take place for months. Because they are not the ones who are as happy as the hon Member seems to think. Some of the women of Gibraltar are.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes and ...

MR SPEAKER:

One question at a time.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I know that the hon Members are very enthusiastic to grill me in their capacity as lawyers. The fact that there is one letter in the Chronicle does not mean that the majority of women are not satisfied with the service that is being provided.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just because there is one letter in the Chronicle does not mean that that is the only woman who feels that way. Because the hon Lady should spend more time listening to constituents and not listening to managers in the health service and then she would know that there are, in fact, a lot of women who feel that way because there are a lot of women who are being told by the service which she is responsible for, that they will not have the mammography test that they require for many months indeed. Should not we all agree that until women can have this service when they need it, the service will not be adequate, whoever is in power at the time.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Neither the hon Member nor I are in a position to say when a woman needs a mammogram. The breast screening programme is what is going to address the needs or to prevent cancer in all women who are over forty in Gibraltar, something which this Government is providing and that they had not intention of providing. The fact that there are women who need routine mammograms is ... they are classified as a matter of urgency or priority. Those who are urgent, those who are emergencies and those who have been prioritised by the GP are seen within the course of two weeks, not three months as the hon Member is saying.

HON F R PICARDO:

When a woman goes to see a doctor, a GP and she is told that she needs a mammogram, even if the doctor does not say that it is urgent, for that woman it creates an issue as it would for any person that she needs to be seen to as soon as possible. Of course, although we all accept that it is something that there are conditions that can be more urgent than others, does she not agree with me that what we should be trying to achieve, whatever side of the House we are sitting on, is that women should have this service as soon as possible and that therefore the delays which are occasioned to people who may not need the service urgently, are delays which pray on their mind and therefore result in women not being satisfied with the service and therefore is it not clear that all women in Gibraltar are not universally satisfied with the service as the hon Lady was suggesting was the case.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can assure the hon Member that the majority of women that I am aware of ..., and I as the hon Member knows see many more constituents in my office than he has time to see because the majority of his time he is working in his legal practice. Those women that see me and through the input that I get from the biggest breast cancer support group that there is in Gibraltar, the majority of those women are very happy that this Government and not them are providing them with an excellent breast screening programme.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let me reassure the hon Lady that the time I spend in my legal practice does not in any way detract from the time that I give to the constituents who want to see me and that I see a very large number indeed. Perhaps, even more than the hon Member sees even though she is paid considerably well by this community in order to do that job. The hon Member should not be saying to this House, I am sure the hon Member will agree, that she is doing something out of the kindness of her heart when in fact it is her obligation to see members of this community who want to see her.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

On a Point of Order, who has said... I have not said that I see people out of the kindness of my heart, have I?

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not saying that the hon Lady said that she saw people out of the kindness of her heart.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON F R PICARDO:

What I am saying is that ...

MR SPEAKER:

The point that she was making is that she sees more in number than the hon Member on this side of the House.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. Xxxx

MR SPEAKER:

Nothing to do with kindness of heart.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps, what she could do is tell us how she knows how many people I see and how many people she sees. How she is able to compare them.

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think there is advance in the debate there. Is there any ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I could not care less how many people he sees.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON F R PICARDO:

I could not agree more and I think that the point was a petty one made by the hon Lady and you are right to say it is irrelevant.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Lady consider it acceptable that where somebody is referred for a mammogram by a GP, that one and a half years later that person should not yet have even been given an appointment for that mammogram. Is that acceptable?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It does not work that way. I have explained it on umpteen occasions. We still do not have a breast screening programme in Gibraltar. Breast screening will be available very shortly, thanks to this Government, to address the concerns of the category of women that he has just mentioned. If a woman has a lump or has anything which leads the doctor to believe, for example, a serious family history of breast cancer, those women are seen immediately in the breast care clinic. What is not being provided ..., I accept that it is very desirable and that is why we are implementing it. There are women who go to the doctor, to the GP, to just say, I want a mammogram to make sure that I do not have cancer or will get cancer in the future and that is what the breast screening programme will deliver. It is not yet in place and it will be, thankfully, in two weeks time.

HON G H LICUDI:

The lady in question is a lady who I understand had had previous surgery and I will provide information privately to the hon Member rather than openly. But the question was really, after going to a GP eighteen months ago and being referred by that GP for a particular service, presumably, the GP must have understood that that service was in place eighteen months ago. Eighteen months later that person is still waiting for an appointment and only after waiting for all that time and making enquiries, she is told, do not worry we will call you before the end of this year with an appointment. Why was that person referred for a mammogram eighteen months ago if that service did not exist?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Because she was obviously referred for a routine mammogram, for which there is a very long waiting time. Precisely the reason why ...

HON G H LICUDI:

Two years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Precisely the reason why we are implementing a breast screening programme.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member accept that a period of waiting time of two years for that routine appointment is acceptable?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member has spoken for me. But I agree with him. It is not acceptable. It has never been acceptable because this has been happening since time immemorial and that is what we are addressing at the moment.

ORAL

NO. 661 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING LIST FOR TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Can Government say how many people are on the GHA waiting list for ultrasound test, CT scan or MRI scans?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 662 of 2010.

NO. 662 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Can Government say how many radiographs, x-rays, ultrasounds or other diagnostic tests the radiology department has carried out in the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to date with a breakdown by test?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There is a waiting list of 501 patients for routine Ultra sound examinations. There is no waiting list for MRI or CT Scan investigations.

In answer to Question No. 662 of 2010, I have handed the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 662 of 2010

2007	CR	CT	MAM	THE	FLUORO	US GEN	US OBS	SALPS	
JAN	1212	132	47	7	32	387	112	0	
FEB	1179	142	112	13	27	403	116	1	
MAR	1291	140	75	12	17	441	115	0	
APR	1017	109	48	20	13	348	105	0	
MAY	1190	182	59	13	16	359	127	1	
JUN	1076	108	56	10	31	335	124	0	
JUL	1067	107	62	13	20	363	103	3	
AUG	1068	150	55	15	37	375	124	1	
SEPT	1054	136	56	24	31	384	89	0	
OCT	1278	170	83	26	25	442	106	0	
NOV	1160	137	76	24	24	367	90	2	
DEC	986	109	67	20	16	355	85	0	

2008	CT	CR	MAM	THE	FLUO	US GEN	US OBS	SALPS	
JAN	1291	135	110	24	28	464	110	0	
FEB	1331	166	88	21	23	431	90	0	
MAR	1168	150	84	24	19	362	93	1	
APR	1407	228	123	33	24	383	127	1	
MAY	1173	166	135	38	29	426	112	0	
JUN	1195	177	94	29	16	375	89	2	
JUL	1231	180	103	31	26	431	123	0	
AUG	1088	185	93	36	19	348	109	1	
SEPT	1182	158	87	39	8	374	116	1	
OCT	1309	204	112	47	21	373	98	0	
NOV	1107	139	100	55	21	314	107	1	
DEC	1050	110	80	43	9	323	77	0	

2009	CR	CT	MAM	THEA	FLUORO	US GEN	US OBS	SALPS	
JAN	1409	144	99	45	28	314	123	0	
FEB	1204	164	130	45	22	322	102	3	
MAR	1235	184	136	41	18	348	128	4	
APR	1251	152	101	47	21	368	124	0	
MAY	1159	136	86	65	19	356	141	0	
JUN	1117	169	97	48	14	481	139	0	
JUL	1152	155	111	44	15	361	114	1	
AUG	1006	141	56	34	12	338	133	1	
SEPT	1033	141	90	46	22	350	139	2	
OCT	1112	144	83	38	16	435	129	0	
NOV	965	133	80	48	20	331	137	3	
DEC	858	108	69	43	12	298	99	0	

• 2009 FIGURES TO 28TH DECEMBER

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 662 of 2010

INDEX

CR	GENERAL X-RAYS IN DEPT. AND IN WARDS.
CT	COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCANS (CT SCANS)
MAM	MAMMOGRAPHY
THEATRE	SCREENING IN THEATRE e.g. when doctors fix fractures under x-ray control
FLUORO	FLUOROSCOPY e.g investigations of the stomach, bowel under dynamic x-ray control
US GEN	GENERAL ULTRASOUND
US OBS	OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND (pregnant mothers)
SALPS	SALPINGOGRAMS (investigations of the womb and Fallopian tubes usually done for fertility with fluoroscopy)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 661 AND 662 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure if it is simply a mistake. If the hon Lady would look at the table that has been handed over. 2007 starts CR and then CT. 2009 also starts CR and CT. 2008 has it the other way round but the figures more or less coincide with 2007, 2009. Is that a mistake?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I assume it is a typo but I will check for my own benefit as well.

NO. 663 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CHANGES TO SPONSORED PATIENTS SCHEME

Can Government confirm whether they are planning any changes to the sponsored patients scheme whereby patients who have been given repeat appointments by doctors in the United Kingdom will no longer be able to make arrangements directly and automatically to meet those appointments without seeing a Consultant in Gibraltar first?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No Mr Speaker.

The policy is that all visits to the UK, both the initial visit and follow-up visits, are subject to the approval of the referring GHA Consultant.

The process is that patients with follow-up appointments provided by doctors in the UK present to the Sponsored Patients Department with their review appointment. Based on the content of the clinical notes, or following the direct assessment of a patient during a clinic visit, the GHA referring Consultant makes a clinical decision on whether a follow-up visit in the UK is necessary or whether the follow-up can be carried out in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 663 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just go back... the answer to Question No. 663 of 2010 was that there had been no change. Is the hon Member then saying that when somebody has gone to the United Kingdom as a sponsored patient and they have been given a date when they need to go back for a check up or anything like that, they could not actually proceed with that appointment and that a Consultant here could actually overrule that and that that has been how it has always worked?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not a question of overruling. It is a question of the referring Consultant being informed by the UK of what the follow up of the patient is and sometimes unfortunately there is a bit of a lack of communication. We have had many instances in the past few years where people were being given repeat appointments directly by UK Consultants and which ..., I would not like to use the word abuse in that context but I can give you an example just to quote one hospital. The person might have gone to Moorfields for a particular condition and the sponsored patient ... subsequently discovered that, in quite a significant number of cases, the patient was told, routinely, to come back for the same time every year and the GHA has wanted to monitor the situation very closely. Although when I did answer I said that there had not been a change in the sponsored patient policy, because that is the way it has always worked, I feel that it was not being enforced in the manner that it should be and it now is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, the "change" is that the procedure that should have been followed was not being followed systematically and now it is being followed. Is that the answer.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not a question simply of them ... I accept, entirely, that people cannot simply come and go to the United Kingdom and the GHA does not know what is going on or the Consultant does not know what is going on. But is it that if somebody is sent to the UK, because the treatment is not available here and it is available there and the person there thinks that they need to check that patient up later, is it that that cannot proceed unless a Consultant here agrees with that decision? Or is it simply that the Consultant here is... expects and to my mind quite correctly, to know what is going on and to be kept informed. Which of the two is it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I will quote an example. Historically, cancer patients have gone to the UK either for follow up or treatment and they have continued doing this systematically over the years without even a lot of input between the UK and Gibraltar. Since we employed our third General Surgeon who is a cancer specialist and has a special interest in cancer treatment, he himself has recommended that some of these patients can be followed up by him and this is just one example. As services have developed, those people who are historically been going to the UK are now being asked to be looked at by our GHA Consultant and sometimes it is the case that even our GHA Consultant says look, I cannot do this, go back to the UK. But what we cannot have is a system of people systematically going back and forth when sometimes it is not necessary. They could be treated here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that if we have got a facility here which we did not have before then that has to be taken into account. But what I am concerned is that there might be a situation where, from the patients point of view, once they go to the United Kingdom clearly they develop a level of confidence in the judgement of the guy at the other end and, to my view, it would not be correct and it would not be... in fact. People have enough problems being ill if they find that there is a row between the Consultant here and the Consultant there which sometimes involves professional jealousies and therefore I would have thought that once you put somebody in somebody's hand, I accept that the hospital and the Health Authority and the people here cannot simply get the bills without knowing what is going on, which would be one extreme case. But my worry is that we might go too far in the opposite direction. Is the hon Member satisfied that that is not happening?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. In the really serious cases... all conditions for the patient are serious. But there are, for example, cancer cases which could be considered in everybody's eyes more serious and the policy is that the patient because of what the hon Member has described in terms of the confidence that the person ..., they are followed up for the first five years for people with cancer. Then there is an understanding between the UK and Gibraltar, because we now have our own surgeon who is specialised in cancer treatment that after the fifth year and that is where the complaints are coming in ... That people who have been going for five years for the routine follow ups are now being told, look our GHA Consultant who is specialised in this area will see you. If he deems it necessary for you to go back, you go back, if not you will have to be treated here and that is the whole gist of one of our Manifesto commitments which I think the hon Members agreed with because the Hon Mr Costa has asked me questions before in this House about repatriation of cancer services.

NO. 664 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF UNAUTHORISED MEDICAL TREATMENT RECEIVED IN SPAIN

Can Government say on how many occasions the GHA has paid out sums of money to patients who have not been happy with the service given in Gibraltar and have gone to Spain for medical treatment without informing the GHA or going as a sponsored patient and have then claimed the money from the GHA with a breakdown by financial year since 2007/2008 showing the number and the amount paid in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question No. 664 of 2010

2007/2008		
	Cases	Cost
	1	1,400
	1	104
	1	104
Total	3	£1,608

2008/2009		
	Cases	Cost
	1	1,922.33
	1	2,515.50
	1	1,190.86
	1	13,774.86
	1	215.00
	1	4,647.00
	1	537.00
	1	20,557.00
Total	8	£45,359.55

2009/2010		
	Cases	Cost
	1	3,138.57
	2	570.72
	3	6,170.60
	4	2,679.00
	5	12,398.50
	6	5,004.78
	7	870.40
	8	4,110.02
	9	450.00
	10	7,484.00
	11	31,697.45
	12	18,070.88
Total	12	92,644.92

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 664 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

From the table that the hon Lady has handed to me it is not, at least to me, immediately apparent how she distinguishes between those patients that have been dissatisfied and have gone to Spain without first seeking the approval of the GHA and those that go as sponsored patients. Perhaps the hon Lady could explain how the tables are divided?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that the person who has drafted, after reading the question, has not taken that into account and has just provided the breakdown as he requested by financial year showing the number and the amount paid in each case but the answer does not specify a distinction. It mentions it but the reader or whoever has read and drafted the answer has not taken that distinction on board. I would not be able to tell him which is which.

HON N F COSTA:

Given that the thrust of the question was to distinguish between exactly that, sponsored patients and those who go to seek private treatment not as a sponsored patient, could the Minister provide me today with a guarantee that she will provide me with that information in writing subsequent to today?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Reading the question more carefully myself, I cannot from the top of my head think of any circumstances where reimbursement will be made to a person who has gone for treatment as a sponsored patient. I should understand people who are not satisfied with the service provided or the treatment or diagnosis provided and have therefore subsequently gone privately. But I cannot for the life of me at the moment think of a situation where a person who has been sponsored to either the UK or Spain would ask for reimbursement. Maybe, if the hon Member is aware of a particular case, he can enlighten me.

HON N F COSTA:

Given the last answer provided by the hon Lady, can we work on the assumption that these related to cases of persons dissatisfied with the service, who have gone to Spain for private treatment and reimbursement given as detailed herein.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think we should assume that, but I will check in any case and get back to him.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the hon Lady for that last assurance. May I ask the hon Lady what criteria is employed by the GHA when deciding whether to reimburse a person who is dissatisfied with the service and goes and obtains private treatment and then requests the money. What criteria would be employed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The patient comes to, either back to the consultant or sometimes asks to see me or the Chief Executive. They make their case and investigation ensues and the opinion of either one of our Consultants or if there is a conflict of interest we seek the opinion of an external Consultant, determines whether the reimbursement should take place or not. It is a clinical decision.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful for the hon Lady's reply that essentially it is a clinical decision but who makes that determination on the basis of the advice received. I am assuming that the Consultant will essentially advise the GHA whether it has indicated that reimbursement should follow or not. But who makes the decision ultimately?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Chief Executive.

HON N F COSTA:

May I also ask the hon Lady whether the Chief Executive would consult on these cases with the hon Member or whether he would make a decision himself?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Invariably, unless I have a special interest because the patient has come to see me, he makes the decision himself.

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of clarification and I am not trying to get involved in any of discussions here but 2008/2009 cases 11111111 adding up to 8 and the next one 2009/2010 it does not tally. I just thought I would let the hon Member know that it is 1, 2, 3, 4. When you add all that, it is not 12, if you know what I mean. Just as a matter of clarification because although we might understand it here because of the debate and all that, I think it is incorrectly laid out.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. I agree. I will look into it. Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 665 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – INFORMAL AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Can the Minister for Health provide the number of informal and formal complaints lodged against the GHA since February 2010 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 666 to 668 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 666 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VERBAL COMPLAINTS

Can Government say whether verbal complaints made by users of the GHA to the Minister or to the Chief Executive are catalogued as formal or informal complaints?

ANSWER

THE HON N F COSTA

Answered together with Question Nos. 665, 667 and 668 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 667 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WRITTEN COMPLAINTS

Can Government say whether written complaints made by users of the GHA to the Minister or to the Chief Executive are catalogued as formal or informal complaints?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 665, 666 and 668 of 2010.

NO. 668 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – COMPLAINTS MADE THROUGH ESTABLISHED COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Can Government say whether only complaints made through the established GHA complaints procedure are catalogued as formal complaints?

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

In answer to Question No. 665 of 2010,

Month	Formal	Informal
February 2010	3	8
March 2010	9	15
April 2010	4	7
May 2010	3	7

In answer to Question Nos. 666 and 667 of 2010, any person who makes a complaint, either verbally or in writing, to either the Minister or the Chief Executive, is asked whether they want their complaint catalogued as formal or informal. These are then catalogued accordingly.

In answer to Question No. 668 of 2010, no, complaints submitted by users under the GHA Complaints Procedure may be classified as 'informal' (verbal) or 'formal' (written).

ORAL

NO. 669 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

Can Government say how much it has paid out to claimants against the GHA for the settlement of complaints/disputes out of court in each of the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 670 to 672 of 2010.

NO. 670 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

Can Government say how many cases of complaints/disputes against the GHA which involved a payment by the GHA to the complainant to settle the matter out of court there were in each of the financial years 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 669, 671 and 672 of 2010.

NO. 671 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL ACTIONS OR THREATENED LEGAL ACTIONS

How many agreements to settle legal actions or threatened legal actions has the GHA or its insurers entered into since the financial year 2004/2005, and how many of these included “confidentiality” clauses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 669, 670 and 672 of 2010.

NO. 672 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – LIABILITY FOR NEGLIGENT TREATMENT/PAYMENT FOR DAMAGES

In how many cases since the financial year 2004/2005 broken down by financial year has the GHA or the GHA's insurers either:

- (a) accepted liability for negligent treatment;
- (b) paid any amount for damages in respect of negligence, breach of contract or for any other reason;
- (c) paid any amount as an "ex gratia" payment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information requested by the hon Member in Question No. 669 of 2010 is not readily available. The GHA will have to conduct a manual exercise to retrieve the information requested and once this is completed the information will be provided to the hon Member.

In answer to Question No. 670 of 2010, no complaints or disputes are resolved through direct payment by the GHA. All complaints are referred to the Complaints Procedure for investigation. If complainants are not satisfied with the outcome they are informed that they may refer the matter either to the Ombudsman or to their legal representative.

I hand the hon Member a list containing the information requested in Question Nos. 671 and 672 of 2010,

Answer to Question No. 672 of 2010

Answer to Question Nos. 671 of 2010

Financial Year	Cases Medmal	Cases Employers Liability
2004/2005	13	0
2005/2006	22	2
2006/2007	29	1
2007/2008	34	0
2008/2009	18	0
2009/2010	19	0
2010/2011 (to date)	4	0
	139	3

All cases included confidentiality clause

Answer to Question No. 672 of 2010

Answer to section (a):

Financial Year	# of Cases
2004/2005	13
2005/2006	22
2006/2007	29
2007/2008	34
2008/2009	18
2009/2010	19
2010/2011	4

With regard to section (b), I am advised that the information requested cannot be prepared within the timeframe available as it is contained in separate databases and has to be reformatted manually.

Answer to Question No. 672 of 2010

Answer to Section (c)

The total number of ex-gratia payments payments made for all purposes is provided in the table below:

Financial Year	# of Cases
2004/2005	4
2005/2006	1
2006/2007	1
2007/2008	2
2008/2009	4
2009/2010	0
2010/2011	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 669 to 672 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In relation to Question No. 670 of 2010, following the answer given by the hon Lady, in the event that a patient is ultimately dissatisfied with either the Complaints Procedure and/or the Ombudsman and eventually it gets to solicitors and solicitors send a pre-action letter to the GHA, how many of those cases that reach the pre-action stage, how many get settled out of court? That was the question in respect of Question No. 670 of 2010.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid that whoever has drafted the answer has concentrated more on the fact that complaints and disputes do not lead to direct xxx by the GHA than giving the information that the hon Member was seeking. The hon Member wants to know once it gets to the legal representative case which is the only instance where payments could be made by our insurers...

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid that answer has not been provided. I will get him for him.

HON N F COSTA:

Okay. I am grateful.

NO. 673 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – REVIEW OF PRESCRIPTION MODELS IN THE UK

Have Government now conducted its review of the different prescription models in the UK and can they say whether and if so when the GHA will change its current prescription model?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 674 of 2010.

NO. 674 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – PRESCRIPTION ADVISORY UNIT**

Can Government say how many prescriptions have been provided to patients by the Prescription Advisory Unit at the Primary Care Centre on a monthly basis since February 2010 to date?

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

The different prescription models have now been narrowed down to one which is under consideration by the Medical Director in conjunction with the GPs at the Primary Care Centre.

In answer to Question No. 674 of 2010,

Feb	March	April	May	Total
267	276	154	123	820

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 673 AND 674 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

I understood the hon Lady to say that the different models considered had been whittled down to one model which is under consideration. Could the hon Member give at least basic details of what that model is.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid not. I only received... This is a model that is being worked at by the GPS themselves. In fact, it has been devised by one of them and after the consultation exercise between them, it has now been considered by the Medical Director. I have not had sight of it myself. I will give my view on whether I think it will work or not once I read it. May I add, I do not want to mislead the hon Member, which does not mean to say that what I mentioned in previous answers to previous questions about the recruiting of a clinical pharmacist and legislation to allow the nurses to prescribe, does not mean that it cannot go in tandem with this new model. They are also being considered.

NO. 675 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 676 and 677 of 2010.

NO. 676 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SEEN BY GPs AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government say how many patients were seen by GPs at the Primary Care Centre each month since February 2010 on a monthly basis and indicate how many of those patients were children aged 16 or under?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 675 and 677 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 677 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HOUSE CALLS LOGGED BY GPs

Can Government say the actual number of house calls logged by GPs in respect of February 2010 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I hand the hon Member schedules with the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 675 of 2010

Dr Robles	2 weeks
Dr Fitzpatrick	7 weeks
Dr Gupta	9 weeks
Dr Galloway	14 weeks
Dr Mena	15 weeks

Dr Chichon	13 weeks
Dr Ferrera	14 weeks
Dr Penrice	4 weeks
Dr Pinto-Ocana	14 weeks
Dr Pincho	5 weeks
Dr Poyatos	8 weeks

Dr Negrette	9 weeks
Dr Nerney	13 weeks
Dr Jones	14 weeks
Dr Montero	5 weeks
Dr Thoppil	5 weeks

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

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 676 of 2010

	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
No. of Patients seen by GPs	7667	9929	7192	7259

	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
No. of Children Aged 16 or under	2306	2496	2045	2330

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 677 of 2010

	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
HOUSE CALLS	313	326	238	173

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

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 675 TO 677 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In answer to Question No. 675 of 2010, the hon Lady points out that in addition to the slots on the list, GPs have five slots a day for patients who attend the Centre for an appointment on that day. May I ask the hon Lady what is the cut-off point at any given day for an appointment on those five available slots. If a person were to pop down to the Primary Care Centre, what is the latest time that person can go before there can no longer be allocated an appointment?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It depends on the volume of people that turn up. He will find people, especially elderly people who obviously get up very early in the morning, queuing up from as early as 7.00 o'clock. So it depends on what time one gets there whether you have the chance of getting an appointment or not. One can also phone up and use one of those 18 slots.

HON N F COSTA:

So am I right then in assuming that this is in addition to the emergency GP that would be at the Primary Care Centre?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, absolutely.

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of the emergency GP, when would be the cut-off point by which the emergency doctor will no longer be taking on patients or attend to patients.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not been informed or am aware of any case or any occasion when any person needing emergency treatment has been turned away. I know that on one occasion when there was a particularly very busy period over... I cannot remember whether it was the last winter or the winter before, people were actually referred to the A&E Department.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 678 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

Can Government say how many women were administered the vaccination against cervical cancer since February 2010 with a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No. 678 of 2010

Month	Vaccines Administered
February	8
March	7
April	307
May	24

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 678 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

From the schedule the hon Lady has provided to me, I see that there is a jump from eight in February, seven in March and there is a jump to 307 in April. Is there any reason why there was such a spike in April as opposed to February and March?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not got the answer. In fact, I did ask the question. The answer was provided but I forgot to jot it down. So I will provide that information to the hon Member at a later stage if he does not mind. There is a reason. A logical one but I cannot remember what it is at the moment.

HON S E LINARES:

Could it be that young girls in schools were vaccinated at that time.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

All of them are of school age.

ORAL

NO. 679 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU CASES CONFIRMED

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 680 to 683 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 680 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SWINE FLU HOTLINE

How many calls have been received by the Swine Flu hotline since February 2010 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 679 and 681 to 683 of 2010.

NO. 681 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PERSONS PRESCRIBED TAMIFLU

How many persons have been medically assessed and tested positive for Influenza A and have been prescribed Tamiflu by the Flu Clinic since February 2010 on a monthly basis with a breakdown showing the number of patients and contacts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 679, 680, 682 and 683 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 682 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED AGAINST SWINE FLU

Can Government give the total number of people who have been vaccinated against Swine Flu since the process commenced on 16th November 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 679 to 681 and 683 of 2010.

NO. 683 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED AT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can Government say how many Swine Flu vaccinations have been administered on a weekly basis at the Primary Care Centre since February 2010?

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

116 cases of Influenza A positive cases were confirmed as Swine Flu in a UK reference laboratory.

In answer to Question No. 680 of 2010,

February 10	March 10	April 10	May 10
8	4	3	5

From February 2010 to end of May 2010, no patients have tested positive for Influenza A. The Flu Clinic at the Primary Care Centre ceased operation on Friday 18th December 2009.

The total number of people vaccinated to date 2,882.

In answer to Question No. 683 of 2010,

Week commencing	Total vaccines administered
01/02/10	6
08/02/10	6
15/02/10	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 679 to 683 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

Did I understand the hon Lady to say that the Flu Clinic was in fact closed in November 2009.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. I provided the information to the hon Member at the time.

ORAL

NO. 684 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ZERO TOLERANCE LETTERS

Can Government say how many zero tolerance letters have been issued by or on behalf of the GHA to members of the public on a monthly basis since February 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 685 of 2010.

NO. 685 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – SECURITY IN GHA PREMISES**

Can Government say on how many occasions members of the public have been escorted out of GHA premises by security staff when instances of verbal or threatened physical abuse have been recorded, on a monthly basis since February 2010?

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

In relation to Question No. 684 of 2010, the answer is:

Month	March	April	May
Number	2	2	2

In relation to Question No. 685 of 2010, the answer is:

MONTH	NUMBER OF OCCASIONS
March 2010	1
April 2010	2
May 2010	1

NO. 686 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HYPERBARIC TREATMENT

Can Government say how many patients have been referred by the GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere outside Gibraltar in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date, with a breakdown showing the dates, the cost and the centre where the treatment was administered in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 687 of 2010.

NO. 687 OF 2010**THE HON N F COSTA****GHA – HYPERBARIC TREATMENT**

Can Government say of the persons referred by the GHA for hyperbaric treatment in Spain or elsewhere outside Gibraltar, what was the level of the atmospheric pressure at these centres in each case?

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

In answer to Question No. 686 of 2010:

Year	Number of patients	Dates treated	Cost (£)	Referral centre
2007	1	Feb, Mar, Apr (12 sessions)	£731.90	Xanit Hospital
2008	0			
2009	1	Jun (11 sessions)	£4990.19	Xanit Hospital
2010	0			

In answer to Question No. 687 of 2010:

One patient was treated in 2007 – The pressure used in the sessions varied between 2.5 and 2.8 atmospheres.

One patient was treated in 2009 – The pressure used in the sessions were treated at a level of 6 atmospheres.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 686 AND 687 OF 2010**HON N F COSTA:**

Since the last occasion that the hon Lady provided me with a whole series of answers in respect of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre here in Gibraltar, I understood from those answers to mean that there was some research carried out and part of

the reasoning for deciding that there would be no funding for patients to attend the centre here was because there was no similar funding by the NHS Trusts in the UK for the type of atmosphere in Gibraltar. Now since ..., is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. Not only that. That is one part of it.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. That is ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The other part of it is that there are conditions on which there is evidence that it is beneficial and those are the ones that are funded by the NHS and there are others where there is no evidence that it is beneficial like, for example multiple sclerosis, where it is not funded by the NHS and that is how ..., we follow suit.

HON N F COSTA:

But there is, would the Minister not agree with me, that there is xxxx on the atmosphere used in Gibraltar which indicates that it is beneficial to patients to receive the treatment that for instance will be provided here in Gibraltar. Would the Minister agree with me that there is evidence to suggest that?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot understand the gist of his question, Mr Speaker.

HON N F COSTA:

If there is evidence to suggest that the atmosphere that can be administered here in Gibraltar can be beneficial to patients with certain conditions and that is my research in this matter, given that there is medical evidence to suggest that, would the Minister not agree with me that the decision not to fund patients in Gibraltar who could be administered that atmosphere in Gibraltar for those certain conditions, will not be right for the GHA to fund those patients?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I remember finishing my statement the last time that these questions were asked by saying that if scientific and medical evidence is provided to me which suggests that certain conditions which we do not fund now because the NHS does not fund, begin to be funded by the NHS, we will follow suit.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. But notwithstanding what the NHS may or may not do. My understanding is that the GHA was at some point in the past provided with a wealth of information which in fact showed what I am telling the hon Lady that there is evidence to suggest that the hyperbaric treatment that can be offered here in Gibraltar is beneficial to patients with certain conditions. If that is the case, notwithstanding what the NHS may do, would it not be right and proper for the GHA to consider funding our centre here in Gibraltar.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The GHA has to consider and it follows the NHS in this regard, different sources of information. It bases itself on a report on hyperbaric medicine conducted by a group of people whereas the substantial information that the hon Member is referring to, that was provided to the GHA initially, is the view of one person.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes, but my understanding, from the answer given by the hon Lady on the last occasion, was that representations were made, information was given and an expert in the field came and visited the Multiple Sclerosis Centre. But from my discussions and from my reading, it would appear to me that the correct or the more appropriate expert to have conducted that site visit in Gibraltar would have been Professor James. That is the recognised expert in this field and my understanding is that another expert came to Gibraltar. As a result of which, representations were made to the GHA to consider the views of this other expert and the invitation to ask this person to visit the Centre was never followed. Now given that the hon Lady does accept that it would appear to be two conflicting views and that the Centre here is telling the GHA that there is a particular expert whom in their view should be asked to visit the Multiple Sclerosis Centre, would that not be right and proper for that other expert, given the contradictory opinion, to come and visit the Multiple Sclerosis Centre?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. The information that the hon Member has been provided with is not correct. At the time that we kindly agreed to bring over at our own expense somebody to review the hyperbaric facility in Devil's Tower Road, I was in close liaison with the operator of the facility. We both agreed who should come over and it certainly was not that the person that he is now referring to. Both Mr Pratts and myself and the Chief Executive and the team that was there to advise us on these matters, we agreed that it should be the person who came, the professional in that field who should conduct the exercise. What happened was that because the operator was not happy with the results, he then asked for somebody else and the Government was not willing to go through the whole expense again just because the operator was not satisfied with the opinion of the expert that he himself had agreed should come over.

HON N F COSTA:

The information that I have in that respect is not consistent with the hon Lady is saying.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He can either believe what I am telling him or he can believe what the operator has told him.

HON N F COSTA:

If I may be permitted to ask the question, I am grateful. The hon Lady has said that the reason for the visit by that expert was because of an agreement, as she has given me the explanation, I am telling her the information that I have received is entirely different. Notwithstanding that, given that the hon Lady does accept that there is a difference of opinion between experts and it would appear to me from my reading that the authority on working practices for low pressure xxxxx chambers is Professor James and given that there is a Multiple Sclerosis Centre here that could be beneficial to certain parts of the community, would she not consider that it would be advisable, given the contradictory opinions, for that authority on this subject to visit the Multiple Sclerosis Centre. Notwithstanding our different information on the subject.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If Professor James, according to the information that he has from the interested person, is the expert in the field, he has certainly not managed to convince NHS Trusts in the UK who certainly do not fund treatment for the conditions that Mr Pratts wants funding for.

NO. 688 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOGRAPHER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the vacancy for Radiographer (Basic Grade) that was advertised on 25th February, how many were from Gibraltar and whether the vacancy has now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 689 to 691 of 2010.

NO. 689 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER

Can Government say, with regard to the advertisement for the position of Operating Department Practitioner which was published on 22nd April with a closing date of 4th May:

- (a) how many positions were vacant;
- (b) has anyone been selected for the post;
- (c) were any applicants Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered this Question together with Question Nos. 688, 690 and 691 of 2010.

NO. 690 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOGRAPHER/MAMMOGRAPHER

Can Government say, with regard to the advertisement for the position of Radiographer – Mammographer – Senior 1 which was published on 28th April with a closing date of 7th May:

- (a) how many positions were vacant;
- (b) has anyone been selected for the post;
- (c) were any applicants Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 688, 689 and 691 of 2010.

NO. 691 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MIDWIFE

Can Government say, with regard to the advertisement for the position of Midwife which was published on 7th May with a closing date of 12th May:

- (a) how many positions were vacant;
- (b) has anyone been selected for the post;
- (c) were any applicants Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question No. 688 of 2010, one application was received from a Gibraltarian who was appointed and commenced employment on 22nd April 2010.

In answer to Question No. 689 of 2010, one position was vacant. A selection has been made. None of the applicants were Gibraltarian.

In answer to Question No. 690 of 2010, one position is vacant. No officer has been selected. Interviews are scheduled to take place on the week commencing 28th June 2010. None of the applicants are Gibraltarian.

In answer to Question No. 691 of 2010, one position is vacant. No officer has been selected. Interviews are scheduled to take place on 11th June 2010. No applicants are Gibraltarian.

NO. 692 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

Can the Government say whether it is still the policy of the GHA to recruit a third Radiologist?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 693 of 2010.

NO. 693 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

How many interviews have been held by the GHA for the post of Radiologist since January 2007 with a breakdown by dates and the number of people involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Yes. We are still looking to recruit a third radiologist.

The GHA has held 4 interview boards for the post of Radiologist since 2007.

The boards were held on 12th October 2007, 22nd February 2008, 27th June 2008 and 18th August 2009. The number of candidates interviewed at each board were two, three, two and one respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 692 AND 693 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

On 6th May there was a statement of the Government in the Gibraltar Chronicle that said that the GHA had contracted radiologists whilst one was suspended and the other dismissed. May I ask the hon Lady, how many radiologists? It just said radiologists but it did not say the number?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

How many radiologists are in place at the moment?

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. One radiologist is on a short-term contract, is the one that I mentioned in the last House, which expires at the end of this month. The GHA has offered him a

longer term contract and is waiting for a reply. He is the radiologist who applied for the third radiologist post. This is not the one to cover any of the two absences. Another radiologist has just started on a short-term contract from June to December. He is covering the post of the radiologist who was dismissed. As the hon Member knows there is one radiologist that has been interdicted. We obviously cannot commence the recruitment process because we do not know what the outcome of the disciplinary will be. Once we know, the GHA will decide how to proceed.

HON N F COSTA:

In the same press statement, it says that the recruitment of this temporary radiologist was at huge expense which it considers justified to maintain the normal services. Does the hon Lady have the information on how much?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot remember having read that anywhere that it was at a huge expense. I might be mistaken, certainly not my words.

HON N F COSTA:

Mr Speaker, if you allow me a second I believe I have the press statement somewhere here. "The GHA", I am quoting from the Gibraltar Chronicle ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Will the hon Member give way?

HON N F COSTA:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Those words were not mine. They were actually the Gibraltar Chronicle's themselves. They gathered that it was at a huge expense. I do not know where they got that information from. If you read carefully you will see it is not my quote.

HON N F COSTA:

No. It is certainly not in quotation marks. The quotation marks are there to cover the absence of both radiologists.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In fact I took up the issue with the Gibraltar Chronicle.

NO. 694 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DOCTORS REGISTERED WITH THE UK GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

Can Government say how many doctors are employed by the GHA and how many of these are registered with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom with a breakdown showing GPs, hospital doctors and Consultants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There are 61 doctors employed by the GHA, 26 Consultants, 17 Hospital Doctors and 18 General Practitioners.

All doctors must be eligible for GMC registration at the time of appointment. However, in Gibraltar, maintenance of registration with the GMC is not a requirement for continued registration or employment as a doctor in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 694 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

I understand the hon Lady to say that there is no requirement for a professional here in Gibraltar to maintain registration of the General Medical Council. That is what the hon Lady has just told me whilst he ...

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. As long as he is eligible to be registered there.

HON N F COSTA:

Which would mean therefore that for instance if a Consultant or other professional were to be struck-off then they would not be able to operate here in Gibraltar. Is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Absolutely.

ORAL

NO. 695 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH CARD

Can the Government confirm whether senior citizens who renew their GHA cards are required to provide details of their personal income?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 696 and 697 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 696 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH CARD

How many persons hold a GHA Health Card/European Health Insurance Card?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 695 and 697 of 2010.

NO. 697 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – HEALTH CARD

Could the Government provide a breakdown of the expiry dates and the number of GHA Health Cards/European Health Insurance Cards that expire on a given date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Senior citizens are not required to provide details of their personal income unless they are applying for exempt status.

The total number of persons who hold a GHA Health Card/European Health Insurance Card is 31,687 to date.

In answer to Question No. 697 of 2010, the information is contained in the schedule which I now hand over to him.

Answer to Question No. 697 of 2010

Breakdown of expired cards on a monthly calculation (June 2010 – May 2011).

JUNE	454
JULY	423
AUGUST	12859
SEPTEMBER	354
OCTOBER	365
NOVEMBER	441
DECEMBER	213
JANUARY	369
FEBRUARY	353
MARCH	1037
APRIL	609
MAY	817

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 695 TO 697 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of Question No. 697 of 2010, from the breakdown provided to me by the hon Lady there would appear to be quite a big difference between the expiry dates of June, July, September, October, November and so forth which runs into, let us say, hundreds, let us say average 500, 600 and then in August it would appear to be that 12,859 cards expire all at the same time in August. Could the hon Lady perhaps explain why that is the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

This is the bulk of insured people. Those who have the status of employed. I personally am not aware of the reason why, how this was worked out for the majority of them to expire at the same date. But what I can tell you is that we have put measures in place to avoid the obvious queues that would form in August if all of these people were to turn up in the same month to renew their insurance cards. Letters have been sent out now to different categories of people. To the employed, to pensioners, to retired persons and asking them to come in prior to the date so that we do not find ourselves with the situation where their cards have expired and they have not had the opportunity because of queues, or any other reason, of renewing them. So I can assure the hon Member that no person, unless they do not turn up ... All people who need to be reminded to come in before the expiry date of their card will be given an opportunity to renew their card before it expires. If they do not turn up, it is a different matter.

HON N F COSTA:

I can understand that. If somebody does not turn up to renew their card, that is certainly an issue for them. I was honestly quite interested to learn of the reason why there seems to be such a discrepancy in so far as there seems to be such a big bulk of cards that expire in August as opposed to every other month. I would ask the hon Lady if she could provide me with an explanation in writing subsequently if she could find out.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that a factor that comes into play as well is that the smaller figures in the different months which apply to different categories of people are not renewed ... Remember that when the EHIC exercise started five years ago, the majority which is the bulk here in August were renewed for a period of five years and those were people who, I think if I am not mistaken, employed people and pensioners. The others fall into categories which can fluctuate. For example, unemployed they can find employment. Retired, they can all of a sudden retire and those are renewed on a much shorter basis. It is not a five yearly period. But in any case, I personally would have thought of a better system of ensuring that the bulk of them did not all fall in August but measures have been put in place to alleviate the situation that could have arisen if these measures had not been put in place.

HON N F COSTA:

The hon Lady does say that there have been measures put in place precisely to avoid the unavoidable queues that certainly would have been formed if everybody went on the same day to renew. But given that we are already in June, does she have information of how many have renewed their cards before the August deadline?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid not. But I know that all letters have gone out to, within the last couple of weeks, to pensioners and to the employed which form the bulk of the numbers. So all those people should by now know that they need to renew their cards and not wait until August to do so.

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Lady, she said if I recall correctly, that senior citizens do not need to provide details of their personal income unless they were applying for exempt status. Am I correct then in thinking that in the event that they do not provide details of their personal income then they will not be able to be registered with the GHA? Is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Of course they are given a card. But their status is not exempt. They would be given a pensioner card. But of course they can register with the GHA. The only difference is that if they do not declare their income ... Being exempt requires a system of means testing and they would be entitled to, not only the free prescriptions which pensioners are entitled to anyway, but to free dental care and, what was the other free thing that they are entitled to... It was dental care and something else. I think it was only dental care actually. So, obviously if they do not declare their income they cannot be registered exempt. They are registered as pensioners.

HON N F COSTA:

They are registered as pensioners. My apologies.

ORAL

NO. 698 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – “HEALTH MATTERS” FOUR YEAR REPORT

What was the cost of producing and printing Health Matters, the four year report 2005-2008 of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 699 and 700 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 699 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – “HEALTH MATTERS” FOUR YEAR REPORT

Can Government say whether the production and printing of the Health Matters four year GHA report went out to tender and if so on what date, how many tenderers were there, who was the successful tenderer and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 698 and 700 of 2010.

NO. 700 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – “HEALTH MATTERS” FOUR YEAR REPORT

Can Government say where the GHA report Health Matters was printed and how many copies were printed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The cost of producing and printing the GHA report Health Matters was £7,129.

All GHA annual reports have been historically designed and produced under contract by the same graphic designer, since 1999.

The applicable procurement guidelines in 1999 were that all expenditure under £2,500 was not subject to the tendering process. These guidelines remain unchanged to date.

The cost of producing the last report clearly exceeds the amount allowed by the guidelines and the production of the report should have gone out to tender. Prior to the posing of this question, whether the hon Member wants to believe it or not, this anomaly was pointed out to the Director of Public Health who liaises directly with the graphic designer in question. The Director of Public Health has now been made aware that future reports will be subject to the tender process.

The GHA Report Health Matters was commissioned to Stephen Perera, Graphics Designer and printed by that company.

1,500 copies were printed.

ORAL

NO. 701 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TRANSFER OF PATIENT RECORDS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS

How does the GHA transfer patient records from one GHA department to another, especially departments located at different premises?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 702 of 2010.

NO. 702 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – INTEGRATION OF PATIENT RECORDS

Has the GHA conducted an investigation as to the feasibility of integrating patient records between all GHA departments regardless of their location, if so when was the study conducted, by whom and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA has an internal messenger service which is responsible for transfer of patient records from one GHA department to another.

Requests for patient medical files are managed via Records Department and requests are received either by phone or email. Patient medical files are electronically tracked to the relevant location.

Radiology and pathology results can be obtained online. However, if hard copies are required these are delivered via the internal messenger service.

In answer to Question No. 702 of 2010, in 2006 the GHA carried out an in depth assessment of an electronic solution to patient records integration. It provided its opinion of the options in a paper prepared by the GHA's Chief Executive and the Deputy Director of Information Management and Technology. The GHA costs associated with the preparation of this report was £15,652.37.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 701 AND 702 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Am I right in thinking, given that the hon Lady has said that the pathology and radiology results are available online, that no other results are available online. Just those in respect of those two departments.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON N F COSTA:

Did the report carried out in 2006 come out in favour of having an electronic solution for the transferring of patient records between all departments and if so, what would have been the cost if that option were carried forward or taken on?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

A very significant cost, it would run into millions which does not mean that the Government did not consider it. In fact, it included it as an item in its manifesto. I can see that the hon Member has not quite read, I thought he had, but he has not read all the items that we have in our manifesto, although he repeatedly asks me and tries to time manage all of them. He has not spotted this one yet. But anyway, the problem is that Government have recently asked for another review and update of what was provided at the time. In the light of the quite disastrous implementation of a similar system in the UK health service, we wanted to be absolutely sure that the provider of this electronic solution under the system was adequate to the needs of Gibraltar so that it could be implemented successfully and would be a benefit and not a retrograde step. So we are in the process of looking at the whole thing again.

NO. 703 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MICROBIOLOGY AND HISTOLOGY SERVICES

Can Government say whether the microbiology and histology services provided by the Pathology Department of the GHA have now been computerised and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Parts of infectious serology testing are now computerised. The remainder of microbiology and histology services will take longer due to the complexities and requirements of re-designing work processes. The Department of Pathology is working with the software providers to achieve full computerisation, and once the resource requirements are defined, a submission will be made to Government.

ORAL

NO. 704 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPOSITION OF GHA BOARD

Can Government list the composition of the Board of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 708 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 705 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPOSITION OF GHA EXECUTIVE

Can Government list the composition of the Executive of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 704 and 706 to 708 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 706 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPOSITION OF MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say what is the present composition of the Medical Registration Board?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 704, 705, 707 and 708 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 707 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MEETINGS OF MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say how many times and on what dates the Medical Registration Board has met in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 704 to 706 and 708 of 2010.

NO. 708 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLAINTS HEARD BY MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Can Government say how many complaints have been heard by the Medical Registration Board in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Board of the Gibraltar Health Authority has the following membership:

- The Chairman/Minister for Health;
- The Chief Executive;
- The Chief Secretary;
- The Financial Secretary;
- A nominee of the Trades Council, Mr Michael Tampin;
- Medical Representative, Dr Daniel Cassaglia;
- Medical Representative, Dr Joseph Thoppil;
- Mr Charles Lavarello, in his capacity as a Lawyer;

and two ex-officio members who are:

- Mrs Isobel Ellul-Hammond;
- Mrs Paula Galliano.

The current membership of the Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority is as follows:

The Chief Executive;
The Deputy Chief Executive;
The Director of Nursing & Patient Services;
The Medical Director;
The Director of Finance & Procurement;
The Director of Human Resources.

The composition of the Medical Registration Board is as follows:-

Chairman:	Dr Vijay Kumar	-	Director of Public Health
Members:	Dr Krishnakumari Nerney	-	Registered Medical Practitioner
	Mr George Earle	-	Registered Dentist
	Ms Andrea Daly	-	Registered Pharmacist
	Mr Ray Pilley	-	Barrister of the Supreme Court
	Ms Caroline Vinent	-	Occupations Supplementary to Medicine
	Mr Brian Curtis	-	Independent person

In answer to Question No. 707 of 2010,

	Dates of meetings			
2007	20 February	21 June		
2008	26 June	11 September	18 November	11 December
2009	10 March	2 June	30 July	13 October
2010 to date	13 January	30 March	8 June	

In answer to Question No. 708 of 2010,

2007	2
2008	1
2009	1
2010 to date	0

NO. 709 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

How many patients are presently diagnosed as suffering from (i) Alzheimer’s and (ii) Dementia in Gibraltar and how many are (a) at St. Bernard’s Hospital as in-patients; or (b) at Mount Alvernia as residents; or (c) in John Cochrane Ward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 710 and 711 of 2010.

NO. 710 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

What therapeutic and medicinal programmes are run by the GHA in respect of persons in St. Bernard’s Hospital, Mount Alvernia and John Cochrane Ward with Alzheimer’s disease or Dementia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 709 and 711 of 2010.

NO. 711 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

How many registered medical professionals are employed by the GHA in respect of any therapeutic and medicinal programmes for patients with Alzheimer’s or Dementia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

At the time of preparation of this answer there were approximately 200 people living at home with Dementia, 36 within St Bernard’s, six of whom are in John Cochrane Ward and 32 in Mount Alvernia.

In answer to Question No. 710 of 2010, the GHA meets the acute medical needs of all its in-patients including those with Alzheimer’s and Dementia.

Following the acute phase of their admission to hospital, patients with Dementia are assessed by a multi-disciplinary team including a Physician, a Psychiatrist, a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist, and if necessary by a Psychologist, Dietician and Speech Language Therapist.

Patients deemed suitable for a specific therapy will be provided with that therapy and those discharged home will be referred to the Memory Clinic for follow-up. There are over 100 patients being followed up in that clinic.

The following registered health professionals employed by the GHA are involved in the provision of therapeutic and medicinal programmes for patients with Alzheimer’s or Dementia.

- A Consultant Physician trained in the management of Dementia patients;
- Psychiatrists;
- General Practitioners;
- Non-consultant Hospital Doctors;
- Physiotherapists;
- Occupational Therapists;
- Speech & Language Therapists;
- Counsellors;
- Psycho-therapists;
- Community Mental Health Nurses;
- Dieticians;
- District Nurses;

- In-patient nurses in St Bernard's and in KGV.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 709 TO 711 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

Could the hon Lady tell us... She has mentioned that there are therapeutic programmes involved for patients that require them. Could the hon Lady tell us what those therapeutic programmes entail?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They entail a variety of things. Most of them or many of them are carried out in the Joint Memory Clinic. I am not quite *au fait* with the techniques that are used but I know that there are different methods of trying to improve ..., because as you know Dementia, of which Alzheimer's is a form, is basically a loss of memory. There are different techniques that are used by the professionals to try and improve memory loss. By way of therapy, there is physiotherapy, there is occupational therapy in teaching them daily living skills. All forms and sorts of... I cannot pinpoint one. Well, I have pinpointed a few in particular but there is a variety of things geared towards improving or at least sustaining the level of the disease.

HON N F COSTA:

Is the hon Lady entirely satisfied that patients, for instance, in either St Bernard's Hospital or those who are at home, do receive, for instance, physiotherapy programmes which are indicated?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am satisfied that if a physiotherapist or somebody else considers it clinically necessary for a person to receive it, I am satisfied that they do receive it, and if they do not I would want to know.

HON N F COSTA:

Precisely, the reason why I ask that supplementary is because of information that we have received about complaints of persons that are currently in St Bernard's Hospital with Dementia and whose relatives are telling me that they are not at all satisfied with the fact that they are not receiving physiotherapy and as a result their condition is very much worsened. Quite coincidentally, I am not entirely sure whether we are talking about the same person or not. There was a letter in the Chronicle which also points at two examples of complaints. Now, I am quite sure I did not speak to the person who appears in that letter, I spoke to a different person but he does refer to two different instances. So, I am trying to be fair. I do not know whether Mr Soiza is referring to the person who came to discuss the matter with me. On that basis, is the reason why I ask the hon Lady that question about physiotherapy.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It all boils down to two complaints. One by Mr Soiza, and one by the person who told Mr Soiza. There are 36 patients in the hospital with Alzheimer's or Dementia. As far as I am aware, we have not received any complaints from any of them. On the contrary, they are very happy with the treatment that they receive. If I were to want to defend or justify the clinical decisions taken in relation to this particular case, I would have to go into very personal and specific details and I am not willing to do that.

HON N F COSTA:

Well fine, so the hon Lady is telling me that there have not been complaints to the GHA. But I am sure she has had the benefit of the letter that has been written in the Chronicle. Whereas it may not be a formal or informal complaint made through the ordinary channels, this certainly constitutes a dissatisfaction with the service. I am not even going to quote what the letter says. Given that she knows about this, is the hon Lady going to take it up?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I will certainly look at the case in question. There is only one complaint from Mr Soiza. You mentioned the name. I did not. I am just repeating what you said.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes. It has come out in the Chronicle and is therefore public knowledge.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Obviously, it is public knowledge. I will invite Mr Soiza to come in to express his concerns. But as I say, I already know what his concerns are and I already know why, for example, physiotherapy is not being provided. But I am not willing to give details of that personal nature in this House.

NO. 712 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – EXPENDITURE ON UNIFORMS

How much has been spent by the GHA on uniforms in the financial years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Financial Year 2008/2009	£61,893.61
Financial Year 2009/2010	£38,126.50

NO. 713 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TABLING OF REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF GHA

Why was the report of the GHA for the year 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 laid on the table in this Parliament at the same time as the report of the GHA for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The report for the year April 1st 2007 to March 31st 2008 was tabled in the Parliament at the same time as the 2008/2009 report due to an administrative error in the Chief Executive's office which resulted in the previous report not being tabled as scheduled on time. I am sure we will all forgive him for that little mistake.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 713 OF 2010

HON N F COSTA:

As magnanimous as I am in my forgiveness, perhaps the hon Lady can explain what the administrative error consisted of?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I still have not been able to get to the bottom of it, but I will.

HON N F COSTA:

Then I can be that magnanimous.

ORAL

NO. 714 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how many cases are currently before the Development Appeals Tribunal, showing the date when the case was first brought to the tribunal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 715 of 2010.

NO. 715 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There are currently three cases pending to be heard by the Development Appeals Tribunal. These were first brought to the tribunal on 26th April 200, 25th May 2010 and 26th May 2010, respectively.

Since the last Question Time in this Parliament, the Development Appeals Tribunal has met on one occasion on Tuesday 8th June 2010.

NO. 716 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

What is the “additional data” that the consultants producing the Government’s epidemiological study have requested?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 717 and 718 of 2010.

NO. 717 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Does Government still expect that its epidemiological study will be completed by the last quarter of the calendar year 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 716 and 718 of 2010.

NO. 718 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Will Government agree to publish the full epidemiological study when it is completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Several requests for additional data have been received from the appointed consultant. These principally relate to the cancer registry although there has been a recent request for additional information on air quality data and which is currently being processed. We, nevertheless, remain on track to complete the study by the end of the year.

As has been previously stated, Government remains committed to making the findings of the report public.

ORAL

NO. 719 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

REFUSE HOLDING FACILITY AT PLATER YOUTH CLUB

What has been the cost of the provision of a new refuse holding facility (or “rubbish dump”) in the area of the Plater Youth Club and when will it be operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 720 of 2010.

NO. 720 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

RUBBISH DUMP AT CASTLE STEPS

Have Government made any decision as to the relocation of the rubbish dump at the foot of Castle Steps, opposite the entrance to St. Bernard's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The new refuse holding facility in the area of the Plater Youth is currently being constructed so it is therefore not yet possible to say what has been the final cost of providing it. However, this is estimated to be circa £50,000.

It is expected that the facility will be operational in July.

Final decisions in respect of the refuse facility at the foot of Castle Steps will not be made until the new refuse holding facility in the area of the Plater Youth Club is operational.

NO. 721 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

What sites have been established as “suitable” for use for the establishment of alternative energy sources in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 722, 723 and 727 of 2010.

NO. 722 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

What commercial contacts have been established by the Government in respect of the establishment in Gibraltar of alternative sources of energy in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 721, 723 and 727 of 2010.

NO. 723 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING – WIND TURBINES

What progress, if any, has now been made on the start of the next stage of renewable energy planning which was to focus on a feasibility study for setting up wind turbines locally with the possibility of onshore and offshore turbines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 721, 722 and 727 of 2010.

NO. 724 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

**ENVIRONMENT – EXTENSION OF TIME FROM APPLICATION OF PM10
VALUES/NO2 ANNUAL MEAN AIR QUALITY OBJECTION**

When will the Time Extension Notification to the European Commission, in which an extension of time was being sought from the application of the PM10 values until 2011 and the application of the NO2 annual mean air quality 2010 objection until 2014 which the Hon Minister for the Environment announced in his Budget address to the House in 2009 and which is also referred to in the Ministry for the Environment Annual Report for 2008, finally be ready for submission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 725 of 2010.

NO. 725 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENT – EXTENSION OF TIME FROM APPLICATION OF PM10 VALUES/NO2 ANNUAL MEAN AIR QUALITY OBJECTION

Will Government agree to make public the data in the Time Extension Notification to the European Commission in which an extension of time was being sought from the application of the PM10 values until 2011 and the application of the NO2 annual mean air quality 2010 objection until 2014 which the Hon Minister for the Environment announced in his Budget address to the House in 2009 and which is also referred to in the Ministry for the Environment Annual Report for 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

It is intended to submit to the EU the Time Extension Notifications for Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM10) and for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) by the end of July 2010 and to make these public on the Government Website.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 724 AND 725 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Why has it taken so long to produce these time extension notifications?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I understand from memory that the time limit is June next year or something of that order. So these things do take time. They have involved external consultants. They have involved identifying the sources of the pollution in order to be able to find ways of counteracting that pollution and as I said it has involved the employment of the contracting of external consultants and it has taken the time that it has been necessary to take in order to provide a robust and a convincing approach to the EU who, the hon Member I am sure is aware, does not have to automatically accept these TEN applications. So the case has got to be convincing.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman is referring to an extension notification which is first referred to and a document emanating from his department in 2008. It referred to in his Budget

speech of 2009 and we are all now aware that the European Commission has sent a pre-action letter to the United Kingdom in respect of air quality, inter alia, in relation to Gibraltar and that the hon Gentleman's response to that when he was questioned about it by the local media was that all of this would be dealt with in the time extension notification. Clearly, we are out of time because if the EU Commission has already decided that action needs to be taken and that the Member State United Kingdom has to be made accountable in the European Court of Justice because of the air quality in Gibraltar, then clearly this time extension notification should have been completed before the time ran out for the Commission to commence these proceedings or threaten these proceedings against the Member State United Kingdom in respect of Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I am afraid the hon Member is not correct. We are not out of time. Let me start from there and if we were, then the UK would also be out of time because the UK is also submitting TEN applications. The EU is following the path that it follows on these things. It is looking at the fact that there were exceedences in Gibraltar and that there have been more and bigger exceedences in the UK and the warning letter that it has sent is in connection with those exceedences. Now, if the UK and Gibraltar were doing nothing about it and not presenting these TEN applications, then obviously the matter would end up in Court. But because the action has been taken and on the assumption that it is accepted by the EU, both in our case and in the case of the United Kingdom, which are separate applications and not in any way linked, then that warning letter no longer applies if the extension of time is granted to cut down on these exceedences. The information that I am given and the assurances that I am given at technical level is that Gibraltar will be able to meet its targets once the actions to be taken and that are described in the TEN applications as you will see when they are published ... Once these actions are taken then we will be able to lower our current levels to within the target set.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it true that we have already tried to seek an exemption in respect of Gibraltar's air quality from the rules of the EU and that this exemption was not granted?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know what the hon Member is talking about. But I can certainly say that I am not aware of any application for exemption in the time that I have been Minister for the Environment. If that happened before, I do not have the information at hand.

HON F R PICARDO:

The position as reported by Associated Press, reporting a statement of the Commission of the European Union, was that Britain sought an exemption to the rule for eight areas including Gibraltar and that these were not granted. Does the hon Gentleman have no knowledge of the United Kingdom having submitted such an important request to the EU Commission?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Certainly not in the last two years. This must have happened at the time the Directives were being implemented or brought about. But this has not happened whilst I have been Minister for the Environment.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the hon Gentleman aware that the time extension notification required in respect of the United Kingdom has already been submitted by the United Kingdom?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. The hon Member is wrong. It is going to be submitted some time towards the end of July. Speaking from memory and subject to being wrong, the date of 22nd July comes to mind. But it is round about that time.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let us just for one moment accept the hon Gentleman's position. Is not the 22nd July the date in respect of which time runs out in respect of the pre-action letter that has been sent by the EU Commission?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I have already explained that. The pre-action letter refers to the exceedences of which both the UK and Gibraltar are at fault and if nothing were being done then, yes. But the time runs out not on the 22nd July, it would have run out already. But because the EU knows that we are preparing a TEN application and because they know that this is coming, then time does not run out for the UK on the 22nd July. For us earlier, because we hope to be submitting it before the end of July and it will then be processed by the European Union and, if accepted, then the pre-action letter does not come into play.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the hon Gentleman agree to publish the TEN application?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sorry. Could he say that again?

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the hon Gentleman agree to publish the TEN application?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I said that in my answer that the applications would be made public on the Government's website.

NO. 726 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW POWER STATION – EMISSIONS

What carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other emissions, giving a breakdown of these, does the Government anticipate from the new power station commissioned for Lathbury Barracks and originally scheduled to be in operation by 2010, once it is fully operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 728 of 2010.

NO. 727 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION PRODUCED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

What percentage of Gibraltar's energy consumption is produced from renewable sources?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Several renewable energy options remain under active consideration but the site or sites that are finally selected will depend on which of the available renewable energy options, or combination of such options, is chosen. It is therefore premature to comment further because any such comment would be on the basis of hypothesis.

There is some commercial interest in respect of some of the possible options under consideration but none of these have yet progressed to a stage that the Government is able to make a public announcement. The interest received to date and the information contained therein is commercially sensitive and needs to be treated as such.

Preliminary work and assessments have been, and continue to be, undertaken in respect of some of the more viable options, which includes wind turbines. On-site verification and detailed feasibility studies in respect of some of the options will be the next stage.

At present, none of Gibraltar's energy comes from renewable sources.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 721 TO 723 AND 727 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman says that on site assessments could be the next stage. Can he tell us what sites he is referring to there?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, it was what I said at the beginning. The options are all still open. They have not been finalised decisions, or final decisions on which sites are going to be used. It is still work-in-progress. It is still on-going discussions.

HON F R PICARDO:

When is that next stage then likely to be reached given that the hon Gentleman tells us that the next stage is on site? So when is that next stage likely to be reached?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that information but it is not tomorrow or next week because this is still very much at the technical level. It is still being discussed by the technical people in the Government with the technical people... consultants and so on. So it still has to come to Ministers. It still has to come for final decision and still has to come for agreed funding. So it is not on the immediate horizon.

HON F R PICARDO:

What stage is the whole issue of wind turbines at now? Is it that we are still considering that the most likely option or have we made more progress in respect of wind turbines? At a feasibility study, or what?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Progress is being made on all fronts. As the hon Member may remember I... some time ago I told him that the consultancy had established, as the more likely options, wind turbines and tidal current. It discarded the use of solar energy. However, since then, there has been considerable progress in the generation of energy from solar sources and we are now at the stage where we are discussing a possible combination of solar and wind turbines in... not on separate sites but a joint project. But I do not have more information other than to say that solar is now back on the agenda, possibly as a combined option with wind.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is there already a feasibility study in respect of, for example, wind turbines or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure what the answer to that is. I know that modelling has been done. I know that theoretical studies have been carried out but I do not think we are yet at the stage where these studies have identified yes at this point but not at that point. There are still a number of options which need to be narrowed down to one or two sites depending on the number of wind turbines used.

HON F R PICARDO:

I see. So, will the hon Gentleman then agree with me that given that we are days or weeks away from the next budget session at the House, in fact, this year there has been a monumental failure in terms of the delivery by his department of progress in respect of renewable sources of energy for Gibraltar? Given that, and I quote from his budget speech of last year, now delivered twelve months ago. He said this,

“Government is still committed however to increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable resources and with this in mind Government plans to start the next stage of renewable energy planning which will focus on a feasibility study for setting up wind turbines locally with the possibility of onshore and offshore turbines”, and if that has not happened in the past twelve months then the past twelve months have not produced the progress that he told the House he expected.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, apart from his use of the words “monumental failure” which I reject because there has been progress on a number of issues on all the different aspects of renewable energy but apart from that, I cannot dispute what he has said that we have not been able to deliver or progress quickly enough to deliver within the current financial year, I should say the past financial year.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for the hon Gentleman’s frankness and he disarms me with his acceptance that the progress has not been there. He has also told us that none of the energy that we consume in Gibraltar today is from renewable sources. Will he therefore accept that when he said to the House last year that the Government is still committed, however, to increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable resources, that that was an unintended misrepresentation?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, again I would not dispute that, but of course increasing is relative. One can increase from zero to 15 per cent just as you can increase from 20 per cent to 25 per cent. But it was not intended to mean that there was some renewable energy sources being used. However, I can add that our target is still to meet renewable energy by 15 per cent by 2020 which is the EU target at the moment.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful for that clarification from the hon Gentleman. Can he tell me where that target has been fixed? Where the Government has decided that that is the appropriate target?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That, I understand, is the target set by the EU, although very recently in the last, certainly in the last month, I was either reading or hearing about, not from official papers but from the media, that there were moves and there was pressure from within the EU to increase that target of 15 per cent and to reduce the deadline of 2020.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman will agree with me, no doubt, that given that he has told us that no renewable energy is presently produced in Gibraltar, that is zero per cent of the energy that we consume comes from renewable sources, we certainly have not hit that target of 15 per cent. We have not hit a target of 10 per cent at the moment in 2010. We have not hit a target of 5 per cent by 2010. We have hit a target of zero by 2010. That is the position at the moment.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. That is the position.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful because you see the hon Gentleman defended the manifesto at the last election that said that, "The GSD Government", and I am quoting Mr Speaker, "has a target to produce 12 per cent of energy consumption from renewable resources by 2010. We have already undertaken an initial desk top study of options to achieve this target and we remain committed to this policy." Will the hon Gentleman accept that what he has told the House up to now, therefore, shows that this manifesto commitment is no longer worth the paper it was once written on.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. What I will accept is that the target has not been met. That does not mean that the target will not be met in the future.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept that. Of course and I am sure that there is broad agreement across the House that those targets need to be kept and increase them if at all possible but the target that the hon Gentleman defended at the last election said "or was fixed for 2010". So does the hon Gentleman accept that the target which they told the people of Gibraltar at the last election they were aiming for has been one which they have not been able to meet?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The target that we set has not yet been met, yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let me just remind him of what his manifesto said. It said this, "The GSD Government has a target to produce 12 per cent of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2010". Those are not my words, those are the words of the draftsman of the GSD manifesto at the last election. From what the hon Gentleman has said today, can he simply confirm, because it is already self-evident from the

answers that he has given and from what I have read out, for the sake of the record, that this target contained in this GSD manifesto has not been met?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In the last answer, that is exactly what I said, that the target had not yet been met. That has not been met yet, if he prefers it that way.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman then tell us how it is that he intends to go back to before the beginning of 2010 and meet the target because the manifesto says very clearly, "from renewable sources by 2010"? That means that before the commencement of 2010 the GSD defended the manifesto commitment that they would have reduced our consumption of non-renewable energy by 12 per cent. In other words, they would provide 12 per cent of our energy from renewable sources. It is already 2010. The hon Gentleman has told us that we have zero per cent of our energy provided from renewable sources. Therefore, it is undeniable that this manifesto commitment can no longer be delivered by the Government. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I do not agree with his definition that by means before. By means in, it means... I do not want to enter into the grounds of semantics, but I would not agree that it means before the end of 2009. However, having said that, I am not optimistic that we will meet it before the end of 2010. Let me be completely frank. So what I am saying is, yes the hon Member is right. The target has not been met, yet. The target is still there. The ultimate target is 15 per cent by 2020 and the Government is still committed to getting to 15 per cent by 2020. It is committed to do so on a number of fronts, like wind energy, like energy from waste, like possibly tidal or current generation and by the combination of solar and wind turbines. That we are behind in our schedules is undeniable.

HON F R PICARDO:

Obliged! Can I simply then say to the hon Gentleman, *ergo*, this manifesto commitment is not fulfilled and is now not capable of being fulfilled.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am here to answer questions on renewable energy not on manifesto commitments. If the hon Member might like to say that, I could not possibly comment.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged for that last answer.

NO. 728 OF 2010**THE HON F R PICARDO****NEW POWER STATION – ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY**

In what ways will the new generating station be “environmentally friendly”?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

The exact emissions from the new power station will depend on a number of variables, not the least for which is the engine type chosen. As we have not yet awarded this tender, we are unable to provide specific information in this regard. However, the IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Permit conditions have imposed the following limits that cannot be exceeded by the power station when built. These are:-

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Nitrogen dioxide | - | 400mg/Nm ³ |
| 2. Sulphur dioxide | - | 45mg/Nm ³ |
| 3. Particulate matter (PM10) | - | 50mg/Nm ³ |
| 4. Carbon monoxide | - | 100mg/Nm ³ |

The power station contractor will be required to guarantee that the power station will meet these emissions limits.

The new generating station as permitted by the Environmental Agency under Council Directive 96/61/EC concerning Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC Directive) on the 29th January 2010. The objective of this Directive is to minimise the effect of pollution on the environment and thereby seek to make projects such as the new generating station “environment friendly”. This is achieved by imposing numerous conditions under the permitting regime. These conditions include:

1. Control of emissions to the environment by applying “Best Available Techniques” (BAT). BAT guidance is issued by the Commission;
2. Waste Management and minimisation;
3. Energy efficiency in respect of energy utilized at the station;
4. Restrictions on the compositional standards of distillate fuel oil to be used to reduce pollution;
5. Efficient use of raw material including water;
6. The control of noise and vibration by proper construction design.

In addition the power station will be designed to:

1. Minimise visual impact;

2. Incorporate 'brown' roofs, where appropriate, to provide additional habitat areas for wildlife;
3. Maintain corridors for passage of wildlife from Windmill Hill to the Upper Rock;
4. Minimise light pollution to avoid impacts on bird life.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 726 AND 728 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I take it then that the Government is committed and is prepared to commit itself on Hansard in this House to the Best Available Technology for the new power station?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. Within the overall caveat that Governments always place on these things of being suitable for Gibraltar. I do not want to pluck them out of the sky but, within normal logic and reason, the Government will follow the BAT guidance issued by the Commission.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful that those are the only exemptions that the hon Gentleman has sought. Can the hon Gentleman tell us by what date it is now anticipated that the power station, that should have been operational by 2010, will be operational?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I do not have that information and in any case it would depend on when the tender is awarded and all that is not under my control. So I do not have the information.

NO. 729 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENT – DEVELOPMENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDING (ENERGY PERFORMANCE) REGULATIONS 2010

Can the Minister for the Environment confirm which Government construction projects presently in development or finalised in the past twelve months, either being constructed by the Government or by a wholly owned subsidiary, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the developments known as “Waterport Terraces” and the “Mid-Harbour Rental Estate”, comply with the Building (Energy Performance) Regulations 2010 or the earlier rules of the same name of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Government projects presently in development or finalised in the past 12 months are not required to comply with the Building (Energy Performance) Regulations 2010 or any other prior rules of the same name.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 729 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman think that is the sort of example the Government should be setting?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is not a question of example or non example. The law is the law and none of these projects are caught, at the moment. However, if any of these buildings at any time in the future obtain fixed heating or cooling installations, they will then be required to obtain an energy performance certificate before sale or rental. In future, of course, any future projects by the Government will now be caught by the new legislation and will have to comply.

NO. 730 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME – “GREEN BUSINESS” WEBSITE

Are Government intending to establish a “Green Business” website, as proposed in the 2008 Climate Change Programme or has that idea now been abandoned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Green Business Programme, to which the Government remains committed, has been incorporated into the Environmental Action and Management Plan (EAMP) which Government will be launching before the end of the year.

In these changed circumstances, Government has concluded that a separate Green Business website may not be necessary and, within the EAMP, will be seeking to pursue the objectives of the Green Business Programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 730 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Is this not, in fact, just another item to add to the litany of things that the Government announces in respect of environmental protection that it does not see through? Would the hon Gentleman agree with me that just in the space of a few minutes and in having answered the ten questions that I have put to him, he has had to accept that a lot of the Government’s environmental agenda has either completely slipped the timetable expected or been completely abandoned?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I fail to see how that arises from a question on the Green Business website.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will tell the hon Gentleman how it arises. It is the last of the questions that I have tabled today and it is a question which has elicited a further move back from the Government in respect of an announced initiative to deal with climate change. The Green Business website which is part of the Climate Change Programme, the pledge in the manifesto to have Gibraltar have 12 per cent of its energy from renewable

sources by 2010, the pledge made in this House and outside of this House that the new environmentally friendly power station will be established by 2010. Taken together, all of those things showing us in this House that the Government's environmental protection agenda, the climate change agenda is not being met. Even its own timetable is one that the Government cannot meet and that is why it arises from this question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is linking missed targets with failure to carry out an action and this is not the case. I have already said in answer to each of the separate questions and I will say it once more. The 12 per cent target is still an objective. It is still there to be achieved. Agreed it has not been achieved yet. It has slipped. The Green Business website... the answer has been couched in careful language that a Green Business website may not be necessary as we will be seeking within the EAMP to pursue the objectives of the Green Business Programme. So it is pointless to spend tax payers money on duplication if the EAMP has overtaken, to a very great extent, the Climate Change... well not to a very great extent but some aspects like this one of the Climate Change Programme. If the same objectives can be met in a more productive and efficient manner, then I am sure the hon Member would not criticise the Government for better use of tax payers money. The final item he mentioned, the power station is still a commitment. It is still an objective and is currently being planned and will come into being as and when the right moment comes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Herein the crux of the problem. In 2007, the hon Member was saying that the target of 12 per cent of energy from renewables would be met by 2010. In 2008 the hon Gentleman was announcing, in a document that bears his signature, that the Green website would be established. In 2007, we were told that an environmentally friendly power station would be operational by 2010. That has not even been put out to tender yet. It is not clear that what we see here is a litany of mistargets, a litany of things not done, a litany of dates completely slipped and therefore, is one not able to really surmise that the Government does not take these things seriously, at least is not putting in the effort to deliver them on time.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I completely reject that the Government is not taking these matters seriously. Apart from that, all the other points made by the hon Member have already been answered by me during the course of the last questions.

HON F R PICARDO:

If the hon Gentleman insists that he is taking these things seriously, is he, therefore, accepting that despite taking them very seriously, he is not able to produce the results that even he has defended he would be able to produce by the time that he has told the public that they would be produced.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing further to add to what I have already said. All those points again have been answered. The targets have not been met but are still there to be met.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is all very well to say, well the targets are there but they have not been met, but are still there to be met. If the whole world were to take the attitude that the hon Gentleman's Government seems to be taking, we will never meet the Kyoto targets. The seas will continue to rise and let us say goodbye as a species to the planet. Is it not time that the hon Gentleman concentrated some of his political effort so that before the next election and I do not care whether on a partisan basis that is good for them, before the next election at least, we made some progress in respect of the generation of renewable energy in Gibraltar. Otherwise, whoever makes up the next Government will find themselves that we are in exactly the same position we were in, in 2007, in 1996, in 1988 and even in 1900, with all the energy consumed in Gibraltar coming from non-renewable carbon based sources. Now that the technology has improved and the Government have an opportunity of producing these results, will they not give it that extra effort so that at least it can make some inroads into his already missed targets for the good of the whole of the community.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I agree that having energy from renewable sources is a worthwhile objective by whoever is in Government and I know that the Government, because it has its objectives and it has its targets, will move, as it is already moving on a number of these aspects that I have described but I have not gone into detail, is moving towards achieving those targets and to have the energy from renewable sources.

HON F R PICARDO:

We were told in 2007 that something would happen by 2010. Two things would happen by 2010, they have not happened at all. The power station has not gone out to tender. The target of 12 per cent has been missed by, guess what, 12 per cent. So the target of 12 per cent has been missed by 100 per cent and now we are told simply that the target is going to go up to 15 per cent but it is going to be kicked forward to 2010. We do not stand a chance. Will the hon Gentleman agree with me, if he has not been able to meet a target as modest as 12 per cent in 3 years, there is no chance of anybody being able to rely on his statements today that we are going to meet a target of 15 per cent in the next ten years?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing further to add. All the points are now being raised again and again with different words but the questions are exactly the same. The points are exactly the same. I have answered everything that has been asked.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can then the hon Gentleman tell us what amount of renewable energy does he anticipate we will be producing in Gibraltar in 2011?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is a hypothetical question which I cannot answer.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is only a hypothetical question because they have done none of the work to ensure that we are ready to produce it. How much renewable energy is going to be produced in Gibraltar by 2012?

MR SPEAKER:

If it is hypothetical in 2011, it must be hypothetical in 2012.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is very interesting that Mr Speaker should say that because by 2020 it is going to be 15 per cent. Of course, this shows the credibility of the statements of the Government in this respect. It was going to be 12 per cent by now. It is zero. They like to make statements like this to try and persuade the electorate that they are going to do things and I put it to the hon Gentleman that in fact his statements today that we will produce 15 per cent of our energy from renewable sources by 2020, is just that. More puff to keep the electorate happy or to try and keep the electorate happy but no real commitment to renewable energy replacing non-renewable carbon based fossil fuels as our source of energy in the future.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member's statement, because it is not a question, is rejected utterly and completely.

HON F R PICARDO:

Let us not waste anybody's energy and leave it at that but I am grateful for the hon Gentleman's admission that the targets have been missed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the hon Member has told us that he has no information on the new generating station and it has not yet gone out to tender, does it mean that the figure of £100 million that we were given earlier is just a ball park figure. Normally, the Government refuse to give us an order of costs on the basis that that is effectively giving information to people who are going to put a tender in on what the

Government are willing to spend. Therefore, I am surprised that the £100 million figure has been released if, in fact, he does not even know what the sort of price they are likely to get when they go out to tender.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The question is on the Green Business website. But in any case even if I could, I cannot answer the question because certainly the figure of £100 million has not come from me and the whole question of the construction of the generating station, the power station, is not my political responsibility either. So, even if I wanted to I cannot answer his question. I do not have that information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the hon Member is responsible for ensuring that the generation of the energy is such that a certain percentage is going to come from renewable sources then he must have some idea of what the new generating station is going to be like or what it is likely to cost. The £100 million is a figure announced by the Government and I put a question about the £100 million in the last House and it was not denied. So, in fact, the hon Member knows no more about the £100 million than we know on this side of the House. Is that the position?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Considering that the tender process is not completed, I cannot say that I have any idea of how much it is going to cost because until the tender is awarded, we will not have an order of cost. Where the £100 million figure has come from, in answer to your previous question, it certainly did not come from me. But the point was also made that I am concerned about the emissions from the station. That is correct. But not just from the station. I am concerned about the environment and in matters with the environment, generally, of which the new power station is just one factor and one component and a big component in terms of reduction of PM10 and nitrogen oxide because it will mean, effectively, the closing down of the three stations that are currently operating which are culprits in contributing to those emissions. So, I am interested in the environmental aspects of the power station but I do not have responsibility either for electricity generation or distribution or am I involved in the process of the construction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member know whether the stage is that people have already been invited to put prices in for this and therefore there are specifications already finalised or is it not even at that stage?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would not like to risk misleading the hon Member. My impression is that we are either at the tender stage or have already invited tenders. But I cannot guarantee the accuracy of this statement.

NO. 731 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

CATALAN BAY CAR PARK – COST OF REMOVAL OF RUBBLE IN EASTSIDE RECLAMATION

Can Government state the cost of removing the rubble in the area of the Eastside reclamation which had encroached on the Catalan Bay car park with the loss of approximately 39 parking spaces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The final account is currently being agreed but the total cost will be approximately £10,000.

NO. 732 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government confirm that the works to reopen Dudley Ward Tunnel are still progressing as envisaged in answer to Question No. 189 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Yes Sir. However, the anticipated reopening of Dudley Ward Tunnel is slightly delayed when compared to the answer given to Question No. 189 of 2010. The reopening date is now expected to be October 2010 rather than late September 2010.

NO. 733 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

SMITH DORRIEN BRIDGE

Can Government confirm whether the recent accidents when large lorries became stuck under Smith Dorrien Bridge will necessitate any repairs to the bridge and if so what is the estimated cost of these repairs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The recent accidents did not cause any structural damage to the bridge itself. Damage was localised to a tray which supports the cables and other services running under the bridge. The cost of these repairs is estimated at not more than £1,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 733 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Who is responsible for paying the cost of these repairs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would need notice of that question. I do not have the information in front of me. The cause was the contravention of traffic signs and traffic warning signs by the drivers of the vehicles concerned. Now, whether the police have taken any action I do not know. So, I am not sure whether there is any methodology for recovering these costs from the owners of the lorries concerned.

HON G H LICUDI:

I would have thought that it is a natural supplementary arising from this question. If there is a cost then who bears that cost. Is the hon Member aware of other situations where there have been contraventions and damage caused to public structures and recoveries have been made. The question is really, why should the public purse pay for people who contravene traffic signs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

First of all, let me agree with the hon Member that it should have been a supplementary that should have been spotted and I apologise for not having the information in front of me. I am not aware of any similar incidents in the recent past but I remember way back in the late 1990's, shortly after or in the short period after coming into Government for the first time, asking exactly this question myself. If I remember rightly, the answer that I got was that it was so time consuming and I am talking about minor traffic accidents like knocking down bollards and damaging road side fencing and so on, that it was so time consuming and ineffective in the long run and unproductive to pursue this through vehicle insurance policies against drivers concerned, that sometime in the past the decision had been made not to do this and Government meet the cost of repairs. So I presume the same thing will happen with the bridge. But I have not wanted to say that because I cannot vouch for the accuracy of that reply.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the hon Member agree to ask somebody to look into the possibility that where there is a prosecution which goes to the courts, to the extent that there are powers to ask the court to make an order for compensation, apart from any fine which is imposed in respect of any damage caused by that criminal conduct, that that is a power which could be exercised and it could be sought by the prosecuting authorities at the behest of the hon Member's department if in fact they are the ones that bring this. It may well be that it is just the police but given that the victim in this case is the Government and the public at large, whether the hon Member's department would look into the possibility of recovering this in the form of compensation through the criminal courts, if there is a prosecution?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. I will follow that up and find out to what extent that can be done.

NO. 734 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED THROUGH UPPER ROCK ADMISSION FEES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament in admission fees to the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 735, 747 and 762 of 2010.

NO. 735 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – COACH VISITOR ARRIVALS

Can Government say how many visitors arrived in Gibraltar by coach in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 734, 747 and 762 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 736 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say what is the formula that was used to determine who is a frontier worker and who is a visitor when they cross the frontier into Gibraltar for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports of 2008 and 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 737 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 737 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £24.06 million spent by visitor arrivals at hotels according to the Tourist Survey Report 2009 broken down by nationality showing the number of people deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 and 738 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 738 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government confirm that the procedure for counting cruise passenger arrivals for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports continues to be the total number of persons on board the vessel and not those who actually disembark?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736, 737 and 739 to 746 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 739 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the figure for cruise visitor arrivals for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports includes the crew of the vessels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 738 and 740 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 740 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the term “UK Arrivals at hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the nationality of the person or to the fact that they arrived at Gibraltar by air or by sea from the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 739 and 741 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 741 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the term “Arrivals from Spain at hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the nationality of the person or to the fact that they arrived at Gibraltar by land, sea or air (when applicable) from Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 740 and 742 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 742 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £196.33 million spent by excursionists from Spain shown in the Tourist Survey Report 2008 broken down by category:

- (a) Coach Park;
- (b) Frontier,

showing how many persons were deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 741 and 743 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 743 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £201.86 million spent by excursionists from Spain shown in the Tourist Survey Report 2009 broken down by category:

- (a) Coach Park;
- (b) Frontier;
- (c) Ferry,

showing how many persons were deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered this Question together with Question Nos. 736 to 742 and 744 to 746 of 2010.

NO. 744 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say how many persons who were interviewed for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Report 2008 said that they were departing Gibraltar:

- (a) on a cruise ship;
- (b) on a yacht?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 to 743, 745 and 746 of 2010.

NO. 745 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say how many persons who were interviewed for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Report 2009 said that they were departing Gibraltar:

- (a) on a cruise ship;
- (b) on a yacht?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered this Question together with Question Nos. 736 to 744 and 746 of 2010.

NO. 746 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £24.06 million spent by visitor arrivals at hotels according to the Tourist Survey Report 2009 broken down by the categories “UK arrivals at hotels” and “Arrivals from Spain at hotels”, and any other, showing the number of people deemed to be in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The land frontier visitor arrivals statistics published in Table 6 of the Tourist Survey Reports of 2008 and 2009, as explained in the footnote of the table, includes non-Gibraltarian frontier workers. However, primarily for the purposes of calculating tourist expenditure in any given year, the frontier arrivals statistics are adjusted to take these workers into account.

Since the Immigration authorities are unable to provide an accurate figure in this respect, the adjustment is one based on the latest Employment Survey data and is calculated on the basis detailed in the examples worked out for 2008 and 2009 in the schedules that I will give to the hon Member.

The nationality breakdown of visitor arrivals at hotels is not available. However, a breakdown of arrivals at hotels by point of entry into Gibraltar is available, provides a reasonable estimate as to nationality and is detailed in the schedule which I will hand over to the hon Member.

I can confirm that the procedure for counting cruise passenger arrivals for the purposes of the Tourist Survey Reports continues to be the total number of persons on board the vessel and not those who actually disembark and that the figure excludes ship’s crews. This has always been, and continues to be, the case.

The term “UK Arrivals at Hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the fact that they arrived at Gibraltar by air or by sea from the UK. Similarly, the term “Arrivals from Spain at Hotels” used in the Tourist Survey Report is a reference to the mode of arrival and not to the nationality.

The information being requested in respect of people interviewed departing Gibraltar on a cruise ship or on a yacht is given in the Tourist Survey Reports, which are public documents and therefore available to the hon Member.

This breakdown of frontier visitors by nationality is not available. However, a breakdown of arrivals at hotels by point of entry into Gibraltar is available and provides a reasonable estimate as to nationality.

Finally, the remainder of the information which is statistical requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedules now being handed to him.

Answer to Question No. 736 of 2010

Land Frontier Arrivals – Visitor Separation Formula

2008:

U.K. British	1,705 x 2 *	=	3,410
Other Nationalities	4,011 x 1	=	<u>4,011</u>

TOTAL 7,421 visits x 200 working days = 1,484,200

* Assume one more person in the group.

In other words, 1,484,200 were the estimated number of visits by frontier workers netted off the total land arrivals figure of 9,664,882 for the purposes of tourist expenditure calculation. The net visitors by land for 2008 were therefore 8,180,682.

2009:

U.K. British	1,703 x 2 *	=	3,406
Other Nationalities	3,877 x 1	=	<u>3,877</u>

TOTAL 7,283 visits x 200 working days = 1,456,600

* Assume one more person in the group.

The net visitors by land for 2009 were thus estimated at 8,321,712.

Answer to Question No. 737 of 2010

	<u>£ 000's</u>
Arrivals from UK	8,609
Arrivals from Spain	15,452
TOTAL	24,061
	<u>Numbers</u>
UK Arrivals at Hotels (2009)	23,684
Arrivals from Spain at Hotels (2009)	40,901
TOTAL	64,585

Continued Answer to Question No. 746 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 742 of 2010

2008 Excursionist Expenditure Analysis

	<u>Number</u>	<u>£ 000's</u>
Coach Park	316,733	6,594
Frontier	7,789,014	189,740
TOTAL	8,105,747	196,334

Answer to Question No. 743 of 2010.

2009 Excursionist Expenditure Analysis

	<u>Number</u>	<u>£ 000's</u>
Coach Park	266,315	7,606
Frontier	7,974,424	194,257
Ferry	48	1
TOTAL	8,240,787	201,864

Answer to Question No. 746 of 2010.

Visitor Expenditure

	<u>£ 000's</u>
Arrivals from UK (2009)	8,609
Arrivals from Spain (2009)	15,452
TOTAL	24,061

	<u>Numbers</u>
UK Arrivals at Hotels (2009):	23,684
Arrivals from Spain at Hotels (2009):	40,901
TOTAL	64,585

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 736 TO 746 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No 744 of 2010, the division between the people who depart on a cruise ship and on a yacht. The breakdown of the number of people who depart Gibraltar on a cruise ship or on a yacht in 2008 and the 2009 surveys, can he say where in the Tourist Survey Report that information is?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes I can. If he bears with me a moment, it is shown in the introduction to the reports.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I was waiting for the precise information, the breakdown, the precise breakdown. What it says here is that eight people were interviewed at the Marina, 189 at the Port, so many at the frontier and at the coach park. So the assumption is that all those people then, for example, in relation to point (e) which is the Port, 189 people were interviewed there, the assumption is all those 189 came on a cruise ship and departed on a cruise ship? Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The way I understand it... We are talking about the 2009 report. The number of persons interviewed who departed Gibraltar on a cruise ship was 189 and those who said they would be departing on a yacht was eight, and in terms of the 2008 the number of persons interviewed who departed Gibraltar on a cruise ship was 505 and the ones who said would be departing on a yacht was 32.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

But is it possible or is not possible that somebody, for example, was interviewed at the Marina who had departed Gibraltar by air?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably, if they changed their minds after answering the question of the interviewer, yes. But this is based, like all interviews, on what the person says to the interviewee. But of course it is possible for the person to change his mind.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I am asking is whether the location at which the person is interviewed, in this case the port or the marina, is actually directly related to the mode of departure and whether in these figures it is not possible for these people to have left Gibraltar any other way.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably, they were asked how they were going to depart Gibraltar. The answer here is whatever was said irrespective of where the interview took place.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That is what I mean. If somebody is interviewed at the Marina for example and they say that they will be departing Gibraltar by air, they would be listed under Marina. They would not be listed under airport. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Without digging up the report itself and looking at it in more detail, I am not sure if I can answer the question. The information that I have been given is that it is available. The answer to the question the hon Member asked is available in the report. If he wants further clarification, I suggest he writes to me and then I will get somebody to look at it and go to how the interviews are conducted. I am not familiar with the interview proceedings.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I am saying is that the five locations at which people are interviewed do not have a direct bearing on the mode of departure and what I am asking is whether it is possible that somebody, for example, is interviewed at the marina who is actually departing Gibraltar by air or by land or something else rather than ... or are those eight people who were interviewed at the marina all the people who departed Gibraltar by yacht. Is there scope for that kind of discrepancy in this or not? That is what I want to know.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course it is possible because the place for the interview is not an automatic answer to how they are departing Gibraltar. The person is asked how are you leaving. They may have been interviewed on arrival or they may have been interviewed having dinner in one of the restaurants at the marina. So, of course it is possible.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So then really the answer is not in the survey because we do not really know whether the 189 people all left Gibraltar on a cruise ship or the eight people left Gibraltar on a yacht. The original answer the hon Member gave, which was that the answer is in the introduction to the survey, therefore, is incorrect. Is that the position?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not agree it is incorrect. The question the hon Member asked is, how many persons who were interviewed for the purpose of the Tourist Survey Report said that

they were departing Gibraltar by a cruise ship or on a yacht. The introduction to the report says ... that a total of 16,000 interviews were completed as follows and as follows ... The locations given in this introduction, presumably, say the way in which they were leaving. That is the information given to me by the people who compiled the questionnaire. The hon Member asks if it is possible that someone interviewed at the marina to have left by air. Of course it is possible. If after having been interviewed, the person decided to give up his intention of going in a particular way and going some other way, of course it is possible. Unlikely I would think but of course it is possible. But the information given by the Statistics Office, who compiled this, is that that is the way they were intending to depart Gibraltar, as given in the introduction.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

My point is that whereas the survey lists visitors... It says by mode of departure but then it does not actually go on to mention the mode of departure. In other words, it does not say (a) they left by air, (b), (c), (d) they left on a cruise ship, (e) they left on a yacht. It gives you the location rather than the mode of departure and that was the reason for the question. In other words, how can you determine whether the 189 people all left on a cruise ship and how do you know that 100 did not go by air or by land or ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have told him. As shown in the introduction to the 2008 Report, the number of persons interviewed who departed Gibraltar on a cruise ship were 505 and who said they would be departing on a yacht were 32. This is what the people said when they were asked. Fine, it is not as explicit as the schedules I normally give him but I have told him it is available there. Departing at the airport so many, departing on a cruise ship so many, departing from the port so many. The marina ones are the yacht and the port ones are the cruise ships. To me the answer seems clear enough.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there not a difference between the mode of departure and the location where the people were interviewed? Is there not a difference there?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

From the information that I have been given, the people were interviewed as given in this introduction, given at the moment of departure. It certainly would have been wrong if they had been interviewed at a restaurant. Looking at the way that this is made out it is obvious that they were interviewed as they were departing. So, if they were in the airport lounge they were flying out. Agreed, that they could still turn round after having done the interview, come back and gone off on a yacht, highly unlikely. But that it does not say they departed by air, I agree. That it says they were interviewed at the airport as they were departing, that seems fairly implicit from the report. But if the hon Member is not satisfied. Write to me. Explain to me what it is that he would like to know for certain and I will write back and tell him.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It is not a question of being satisfied or not. What I want to make sure is that, and that is why this question was tabled with this wording, because obviously the survey does say eight people were interviewed at the marina. What it does not say is that those eight people left on a yacht and when I asked the hon Member whether it is possible that of the eight people who were interviewed at the marina, which is the location at which they were interviewed rather than the way in which they left Gibraltar, whether there can be any discrepancy between the two or whether in fact the eight people who left at the marina all left on a yacht. At the moment it is a matter of interpretation. Rather, there is a possibility that, for example, one of the 189 people who were interviewed at the port did not actually leave Gibraltar on a cruise ship.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. Subject to the person changing his mind at the last minute, the paragraph ahead of the figures spells it out. The 2009 Tourist Survey and I assume the wording is the same for the 2008 one. The 2009 Tourist Survey was conducted on a stratified random basis and these are the key words "dividing groups of visitors by mode of departure". So the interviews were carried out by mode of departure. Obviously, the easiest way to find out who is travelling by air is to go to the airport and interview the guy with the suitcase moving towards the immigration point and similarly with the port. If you stop him in Main Street and you say, how are you going, then there is no reliability in the answer but it seems to me fairly clear that people were interviewed by mode of departure that they were actually in the process of departing. So, I think it is clear.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the hon Member accept that the categories which are listed in the introduction to the survey... the categories which are listed, airport, coach park, frontier, marina and port particularly are not actually modes of departure in themselves, they are locations by which people are interviewed.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure whether I am being slow at this time of the evening or whether the hon Member is being slow. Of course, airport does not mean mode of departure but my colleague tells me that interviews at the airport are actually carried out inside the departure lounge. So, if the guy is inside the departure lounge, it is even more certain that he is flying out and less possible that he will change his mind. So, although those words indicate a location and not a mode of departure but it is implicit if one takes the paragraph as a whole, that people who are being interviewed at that location because it is the best way of ensuring that that is the way they were departing.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I accept that, if for example, in the airport, coach park and frontier, it is relatively clear. But that is why the question really was about cruise ships and about yachts. I

wanted to make absolutely clear that what the hon Member is saying is that where it says port and there are 189 people interviewed, it means those 189 left in a cruise ship and where it says marina and there are eight people interviewed, it means those eight people left on a yacht and that it is not possible for somebody to have been interviewed at that location giving a different mode of departure because they happen to be in the marina eating in a restaurant are never going to catch a plane.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

My understanding of this is that people were interviewed literally as they were approaching the cruise ship or literally as they were in the marina getting near to a yacht. That is my understanding of the way this is explained. I am surprised that he has not homed in to the ... possibly the Leader of the Opposition is going to do that, homed in to the answer of Question No. 736 of 2010. If he wants a better explanation on the way the figures work then he can either ask me the questions and I will give it or I will give him the information. He can ask the question first I think.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the figures that are used to deduct the people that are assumed to be coming in to work. The 4011 and 3877 for these two specific years are based on what source? Is this the people registered with the Employment Board?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Let me go back to the first answer. The reality is that these statistics are not available. People are not counted as frontier workers. The counting is done physically by the Immigration Authorities but the way the count is carried out is that Gibraltarians or the people who are recognised as Gibraltarians either because people know them or because of their card registration number or whatever are not counted. So the Gibraltarians do not come into the picture at all. We are only talking about UK British and other nationalities. Now, those UK British and other nationalities appear in the total figure of visitors in the ... I have not got it here in front of me, the total land arrivals taken in 2008 of 9.66 million, right. Now, I am told by the Statistics Office that they have been doing this since 1988 and that date is purely coincidental. That is what they have told me. I do not know, they might have been doing it before then.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They might have been doing it before.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They might have been doing it before then, so this is not new science. It just happens that when I took over I had heard Members opposite and I had heard the Chamber and I had heard other people say, this figure of ten million visitors over the frontier is not reliable. That five million could be frontier workers. So I asked and I was told, to my surprise, that not only are the figures available but they have been available all the time. So we took a policy decision to extract the figures which is

what we have done for the last two years, 2008/2009. Now, let me carry on, that total figure includes the UK British and other nationalities. What the Statistics Office then do is they go to the Employment Survey Report and, obviously, from the Employment Survey Report they get the information from the employers of nationality and place of residence. So, for 2008 the Employment Survey Report identified 1,705 UK British nationals and 4,011 other nationalities. The Statistics Office, for reasons best known to themselves, presumably, some travel in cars and others are walking, the Statistics Office in their wisdom decided that the UK British figure of 1,705 was on average likely to be double that because the odds are that there will be more than one person in each car. So they doubled that figure to 3,410. But they do not in the case of other nationalities they keep that at 4,011 and have always done so. So, that provides a figure of, as the hon Member will see from the example, 1.48 million who are then classified as frontier workers. From there it is deducted and netted off and that is how the net figure for visitors is arrived at. Have I made it clear enough or ... that is my understanding on the way it is done. By the way, before I sit down, when I started asking about this and commenting on the reliability of the calculation with so many assumptions to it, the Statistics Office led by the Chief Statistician actually went down to the frontier and over a period of a couple of weeks actually did a physical hand held counter count and I am told, I will read the supplementary for you, a formula has been applied for tourist entry calculations since 1988 because that is primarily what it was used for, for tourist expenditure. Since this methodology could only have been to provide a rough estimate, Statistics Office staff were deployed to the land frontier in 2008 at relevant times throughout the day. The times selected were related to worker rather than to visitor movement. That is from 7.00 am to 9.00am et cetera. With the assistance of Immigration personnel and hand held counters the result of the field work showed that the traditional formula estimate was in fact quite accurate. That is the information that was given to me by the Statistics Office and on which thinking the split up is based.

HON J J BOSSANO:

With all due respect to the Statistics Office, the last sentence in that explanation must be a complete nonsense because I could understand if they said that the check that they did was consistent with the total number crossing. But I do not see how by standing at the frontier and clicking, unless the guy has got a label here that says "frontier worker", one is going to know which it is. The clicking clicks the nine million. It does not click the 4,000. Am I correct? Because that is the answer that he has given us.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not think the hon Member is. My understanding is ... he is right the clicking done by the Immigration Authorities identifies the total figure of nine million.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But the exercise done by the staff of the Statistics Office was done more on looking at people and... I do not know whether they ... My assumption is that they tried to identify people who looked like frontier workers as opposed to visitors. The hon Member knows that in statistics ... but I can assure him that this exercise was carried out by the Statistics Office without any political involvement of any kind. In fact, I did not know they were doing it until after they had done it, to be perfectly honest, in 2008.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, what the Statistics Office is saying if I have understood the hon Gentleman right, which would have been an extraordinary feat of statistical analysis which would deserve a place in the Guinness Book of Records, is that by standing at the frontier they were able to confirm the results of the Employment Survey, not the results of the Tourist Survey. That is to say, by clicking they confirm that the 4,000 forms that they sent out to employers which employers fill up saying how many frontier workers they have got and how many are UK and how many are not UK. By virtue of clicking at the frontier, they came up with the result which confirmed that the figure in the survey was correct.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is my understanding. Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Wow. That is rocket science. And how did they confirm that there were two of what was only registered as one in the survey?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That was given to me as an assumption that the logic would be that people did not travel alone in cars and that at least on average, there would be at least one second person. But what happens if it is the wife coming in for shopping rather than to work, we will forget about that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figure of 4,011 is the figure given in the Employment Survey Report as reported by employers. That is the information and that by doing an exercise and being at the frontier and clicking anybody that looked like a worker and was foreign, they actually came up with the same figure of 4,011. Now, the survey claims that there are 1,705 UK workers. So, how could the Statistics Office by clicking produce 3,410 UK workers and deduct it from the total. What sort of statistical methodology ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I did not arrange the formula or invent the formula. But I was assured by the Chief Statistician that this is the formula that has been used since 1988, and again there is no relevance to that figure, I am just quoting what I was told, that has been used as an assumption because quite simply there was no accurate statistical information available, so they made these assumptions and have been using these assumptions for the last 20 years. Because I was pushing they said, well let us go and try it. Why they chose the figure of two... I take the hon Members point, if the Employment Survey shows 1,705 people employed but all I can say is that this seeks to answer those critics of Governments, not just this Government but previous Governments as well, the criticism of Governments that the figure for visitors was inflated and by doubling the 1,705 in fact what they have done is, if anything, reduced it by more than they should have done.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Absolutely.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But at the end of the day we are talking about a substantial figure. But I am just offering this information so that it is easier for the hon Members to understand how it has been worked out and how it has always been worked out. I have been assured that ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the hon Member enquire why they thought that workers that come across the frontier only work forty weeks a year?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think the figure of 200 working days is the standard figure they take as the working year is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is either a four day week or a forty week year. You cannot get 200 days any other way.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As I said, I did not invent the formula. I just asked whether it was possible to extract the workers from the total figure and I was told it was not only possible but it had always been done and I said, well how is it done, they described how it was done and I did not think there was a need to reinvent the wheel. This is what had always been done. We will carry on doing it the way you have done it before and show it not

just for the expenditure side of the statistics but also for the visitors. I cannot vouch for the accuracy for obvious reasons.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The importance of this is, of course, that this affects everything not just the Employment Survey but all the other statistics of the economy produced by the Government. In fact, surely the hon Member must be aware that after 1988 there were no surveys. That is, after 1988 the statistics on employment numbers and earnings were based on income tax returns because the policy that was introduced by the GSLP was that we thought it was more reliable or that the deficit that was created was that it took longer because you have to wait for the tax year to end in July for employers to make their returns and so on. But as opposed to the statistics on which this is relying today, which is what an employer puts in the form in October, the other was based on annual PAYE returns and consequently I cannot see how the formula that you use for annual PAYE returns is transferable to a completely different source of information which is Employment Surveys. Given that this is a figure for October only, that is to say the frontier workers are the October only. Was the test done in October as well or was it done in a different month of the year? The hon Member does not have ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know when the test was done. I am not told when the test was done.

HON F R PICARDO:

For the purpose of understanding the answer that the hon Gentleman has given in the debate, what does a frontier worker look like?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think we should ask the people who did the clicking. I was not there. All I can say, I will say once again that the Statistics Office said that clearly they did not have the information. The information was not available. That they had some years ago worked out this formula and have been using it ever since and because I was now going to publish in the Tourism Report an actual figure of frontier workers they, for their own satisfaction, decided to go and do a physical check which they did on their own volition as I have said. I heard about it after they had done it and according to their comment to me at the time and repeated here in the information that the estimates, the traditional formula estimate was in fact quite accurate. In their words.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, before this particular survey was done by them, of going to the frontier and checking for themselves, what the hon Member is saying is that the deduction that has been made in all the previous years we should be able to work out by getting the Employment Survey of the relevant year and applying the same multiplier that has been used and that should produce the difference between the visitor expenditure figure for frontier visitors and the total number of visitors.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is my understanding and I went down that route because it seemed to me logical if we had had the figures for so many years back that we should produce a new column. But I was advised against it because of the consequential effect on the Expenditure Survey and as they gather other statistics as well. So, on their advice we said, we will start a new figure as from 2008 and that is why it is produced as a footnote and not as an additional column in order not to..., because I was told it would be a massive exercise to go back to the beginning.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But what I am saying is, based on the explanation that he has given us, if we were to do that exercise then we ought to be able to come up with the results that have been printed previously, if we apply this same formula.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

NO. 747 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HOTEL STAYS

Can Government say how many interviews have been carried out with persons who said:

- (a) that they had stayed at a hotel;
- (b) that they had not stayed at a hotel,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location, and in the case of those who stayed at hotels what was the average length of stay in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 734, 735 and 762 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 748 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CITY UNDER SIEGE EXHIBITION

Have the repairs to the City Under Siege exhibition now been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Yes Sir.

ORAL

NO. 749 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF TOURIST SITES ON UPPER ROCK

Can Government say when was the last contact with each of the three private entities with regards to the proposals that have been submitted for the running of the tourist sites on the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 750 of 2010.

NO. 750 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – RUNNING OF TOURIST SITES ON UPPER ROCK

Can Government say whether the possible involvement of private entities in the running of the tourist sites on the Upper Rock has been discussed by the Tourism Advisory Council in 2010 and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Tourism Advisory Council has not discussed this matter in 2010 and the situation, otherwise, remains as explained in answer to Question Nos. 936 of 2009, Nos. 194, 195 and 196 of 2010 and in answers to supplementary questions to these main questions.

ORAL

NO. 751 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How many meetings of the Tourism Advisory Council have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

One meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council has been held on 2nd March 2010.

NO. 752 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM MINISTER’S TRAVEL AWAY FROM GIBRALTAR

Can the Minister with responsibility for tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business, since the last Question Time in this Parliament, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Once to attend the UK GTA meeting in London and the remainder of the information is given in the schedule that is now being handed over to him.

Answer to Question No. 752 of 2010

DATES	EVENT/FUNCTION	VENUE	CITY	COUNTRY
01/06/10 TO 02/06/10	MEETING OF THE UKGTA	GIBRALTAR OFFICE, LONDON	LONDON	UK

NO. 753 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £5602.25 spent on hospitality and the £485.50 on miscellaneous expenditure at the Manchester Road Show in December last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 754 to 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 754 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON/BRIGHTON ROAD SHOWS

Can Government list the posts of those who attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in (a) London and (b) Brighton, from either the GTB office in Gibraltar or the GTB office in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 and 755 to 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 755 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON ROAD SHOW

Can Government confirm whether the 107 agents who attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in London were also the same number who attended the dinner, and what was the cost of the dinner with a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 753, 754, 756 to 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 756 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BRIGHTON ROAD SHOW

Can Government confirm whether the 73 agents who attended the Gibraltar Tourist Board road show in Brighton were also the same number who attended the dinner, and what was the cost of the dinner with a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 to 755, 757, 758 and 763 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 757 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON ROAD SHOW

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the road show held by the Gibraltar Tourist Board at the Strand Palace Hotel in London on 16th February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 to 756, 758 and 763 of 2010.

NO. 758 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Can Government say whether, and if so how, they monitored the number of visitors to the Gibraltar stand at the World Travel Market this year and on previous occasions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 753 to 757 and 763 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 759 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VISITOR INFORMATION PATROL OFFICER

How many persons have applied for the posts of part-time Visitor Information Patrol Officer, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were selected for the posts and how many were Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 760 and 761 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 760 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – INFORMATION OFFICER

How many persons have applied for the post of Information Officer at the Gibraltar Tourist Board (Grade 1) which was advertised in May 2010 and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 759 and 761 of 2010.

NO. 761 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BEACH LIFEGUARD

How many persons have applied for the posts of summer Beach Lifeguards, how many posts were vacant, how many applicants were selected for the posts and how many were Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

60 persons applied for the 12 vacant posts of temporary part-time Visitor Information Patrol Officer.

49 persons applied for the post of Information Officer (Grade 1) at the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

70 persons applied for the 31 vacant posts of summer Beach Life Guards.

At the time that the answers to these questions were drafted, the interview and selection process was still underway so no applicants had yet been selected for the posts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 759 TO 761 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the hon Member say how many posts of Information Officer were vacant? I did not catch at that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

49 persons for one post.

NO. 762 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government say how many applications have been received in respect of the tenders for “Beach Concessions Facilities” and “Beach Concessions Kiosks”, have these now been awarded, to whom and for what financial consideration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which has been handed over to him.

Answer to Question No. 762 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 734 of 2010

Upper Rock Admission Fees

MONTH	UPPER ROCK REVENUE RAISED
JANUARY	£85,449.27
FEBRUARY	£124,508.10
MARCH	£220,990.75
TOTAL	£430,948.12

Continued Answer to Question No. 762 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 735 of 2010

Coach Arrivals

2007	347,708
2008	316,733
2009	266,315
2010 (up to March)	50,141

Answer to Question No. 747 of 2010

(a) Stayed at hotel:

	Total No of Interviews	Stayed At Hotel	Airport	Average Length of Stay	Frontier	Average Length of Stay	Elsewhere	Average Length of Stay
Jan 2010	1,260	None	-	-	-	-	-	-

None of the 1260 persons interviewed had stayed in an hotel.

(b) Not stayed at hotel:

	Total Interviews Not Stayed At Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Jan 2010	1,260	-	-	1,260	-	-	-

Information on the subsequent months in 2010 is not yet available.

Answer to Question 762 of 2010

BEACH CONCESSION APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2010

Applicant	Beach	Proposed Venture	Specific Location
1 El Chiringuito	Western Beach	Beach Kiosk (Bar/Restaurant)	Enclosed area at south end of beach
2 Little Bay Kiosk	Little Bay	Beach Kiosk	Adjacent to beach facilities
3 Willy's Return	Camp Bay	Beach Kiosk	Camp Bay South Promenade (Next to retaining wall)
4 Latinos on the Beach	Eastern Beach	Beach Concession Hiring of beach umbrellas and sun loungers	Area directly in front of Latinos on the Beach premises
5 Sunrise Beach Bar Restaurant Ltd	Eastern Beach	Beach Kiosk (Bar/Restaurant)	Adjacent to playground
6 Sunrise Beach Bar Restaurant Ltd	Eastern Beach	Beach Concession Hiring of beach umbrellas and sun loungers	Area directly in front of Sunrise Kiosk premises
7 Private Individual	Camp Bay/Little Bay	Beach Kiosk	No specific location indicated
8 Summer Sun Leisure	Eastern Beach & Catalan Bay	Beach Concession Hire of padding boats with slides (2 at each beach)	No specific location indicated

Five Beach Concessions Kiosk applications were received. Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 above were awarded. Number 7 above was rejected.

Three Beach Concessions Facilities applications were received. Numbers 4, 6 and 8 above were awarded.

Financial consideration arrangements remain as detailed in answer to Questions 538, 539 and 540 of 2008.

NO. 763 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BRIGHTON ROAD SHOW

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the road show held by the Gibraltar Tourist Board at the Grand Hotel in Brighton on 17th February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The same 107 agents who attended the road show in London and the same 73 agents who attended the road show in Brighton also attended the dinner at these venues.

The number of visitors who attended the Gibraltar stand at The World Travel Market was not monitored in any particular counting system this year nor has it been on previous occasions. It was the consensus view of all the co-exhibitors and of the Gibraltar Tourist Board that there were more visitors this year than on previous years and that this was mainly due to the location of the Gibraltar stand.

Business cards are taken by the Gibraltar Tourist Board and by the co-exhibitors from all visitors to the stand and, in the case of the Gibraltar Tourist Board, they are then sent a full information pack on Gibraltar or any other relevant information that is requested.

The remainder of the information requested by the hon Member is statistical and is now given to him in the schedules that are being provided.

Answer to Question No. 763 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 753 of 2010

MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

DECEMBER 2009

HOSPITALITY

DINNER	£3640.00
BEVERAGES	£1962.25
TOTAL	£5602.25

MISCELLANEOUS

LONDON OFFICE POSTAGE COSTS	£ 1.80
LONDON OFFICE STAFF REFRESHMENTS	£ 2.20
LONDON OFFICE POSTAGE COSTS INVITATIONS	£208.38
LONDON OFFICE PRINTING LETTERHEAD INVITATIONS	£273.12
TOTAL	£485.50

Continued Answer to Question No. 763 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 756 and 763 of 2010

BRIGHTON ROAD SHOW 17TH FEBRUARY 2010 – COST BREAKDOWN	
FLIGHTS	£405.00
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	£460.00
SUBSISTENCE	£45.33
TRANSPORT	£80.70
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	£5,183.55
AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT	£1,053.04
MISCELLANEOUS	£721.64
TOTAL	£7,949.26

DINNER CATERED FOR 110 PERSONS @ £35.00 PER PERSON =	£3850.00
TOTAL BEVERAGE COST ON CONSUMPTION OF THE 85 PERSONS ATTENDING =	£1333.55 = £15.68 PER PERSON

The 73 agents were joined by 12 co-exhibitors and members of staff making a total of 85.

Answer to Question No. 754 of 2010

(a) London Road Show 16th February 2010 – Attendance

The Hon E M Britto, Minister for the Environment and Tourism.
Mr Albert Poggio, Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London.
Mr N Guerrero, Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board.
Mr Daniel Lerner, Sales & Marketing Assistant, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Mr Ian Leyde, Sales Manager, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Ms Tracey Poggio, Marketing & PR, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.

(b) Brighton Road Show 17th February 2010 – Attendance

Mr Albert Poggio, Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London.
Mr N Guerrero, Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board.
Mr Daniel Lerner, Sales & Marketing Assistant, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Mr Ian Leyde, Sales Manager, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.
Ms Tracey Poggio, Marketing & PR, Gibraltar Tourist Board London.

Continued Answer to Question No. 763 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 757 of 2010

LONDON ROAD SHOW 16TH FEBRUARY 2010 – COST BREAKDOWN	
FLIGHTS	£1,564.00
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	£870.00
SUBSISTENCE	£204.86
TRANSPORT	£53.50
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	£5,794.50
AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT	£1,092.48
MISCELLANEOUS	£812.55
TOTAL	£10,391.89

DINNER CATERED FOR 140 PERSONS @ £30.00 PER PERSON =	£42000.00
TOTAL BEVERAGE COST ON CONSUMPTION OF THE 120 PERSONS ATTENDING =	£1594.50 = £13.29 PER PERSON

The 107 agents were joined by 13 co-exhibitors, members of staff and myself making a total of 120.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 753 TO 758 AND 763 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 763, does the hon Member have a breakdown of the £5,183.55 in relation to the food and beverages at the Brighton road show?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Sorry, a breakdown of which figure did he say?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Of the £5,183.55.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Ah, Question No. 763 of 2010, if he can repeat the figure? I do not see a figure of ...

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This is the one relating to the Brighton road show.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. What is the figure he is asking for a breakdown of?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The figure I have here is the Brighton road show breakdown and it says food and beverages £5,183.55.

MR SPEAKER:

The breakdown is contained in the same page.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But it is here on the same schedule ...

MR SPEAKER:

At the bottom of the schedule.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

At the bottom of the schedule.

MR SPEAKER:

It adds up to £5,183.55.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Oh right. Yes. It is all one function and one dinner. Yes. Okay.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Say that again Mr Speaker.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I see it is all one function and one dinner.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is all one function and one dinner.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Sometimes there are other events organised at the same time.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 764 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say what was the cost of refurbishing O'Hara's Battery, when did this project start, on what date was it completed and who carried it out?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 765 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 765 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government confirm whether the operation and management of the visitor attraction at O'Hara's Battery was put out to tender, and if so on what date and how many tenders were received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 and 766 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 766 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say why the daily operation and management of the tourist site at O'Hara's Battery has been licensed to Let's Go Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764, 765 and 767 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 767 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say what are the terms and conditions of the licence agreement between the Government and Let's Go Limited for the operation and management of the tourist site at O'Hara's Battery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 766 and 768 to 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 768 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Can Government say whether the separate fee which will be charged for the visitor attraction at O'Hara's Battery will be for the Government or for the operator?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 767, 769 and 770 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 769 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – O'HARA'S BATTERY

Who will operate and pay for the complimentary bus that will take visitors from the access road to O'Hara's Battery to the visitor attraction?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 to 768 and 770 of 2010.

NO. 770 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR OPERATION OF THE ROCK AND FORTRESS WWII TUNNELS ATTRACTION

Is it still the policy of the Government to place the operation of the Rock and Fortress WWII Tunnels visitor attraction out to tender following its allocation of the site to Let's Go Limited on a temporary basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The refurbishment of O'Hara's Battery was carried out by various UK Territorial Army units who offered to do this between May and August of 2009, at no cost to the Government other than £896.24 for materials supplied to these military units that carried out the refurbishment. The remainder of the works were more recently carried under their own initiative and again at no expense to the Government by the company licensed by the Government to manage the site.

O'Hara's Battery has not been open to the public as an official tourist attraction on a permanent basis for many years. A proposal was made by a local company Let's Go Limited to manage and operate the Battery as a tourist attraction.

This company has carried out this task in respect of the Rock and Fortress tourist attraction adding an excellent product to Gibraltar's tourism industry. In view of these credentials, in view of the fact that there had never been any other expressions of interest or proposals to the Government in respect of O'Hara's Battery and because this company had taken the initiative to make such a proposal, a policy decision was made to extend the Rock and Fortress licence to cover O'Hara's Battery.

The terms and conditions of the licence are commercial-in-confidence and therefore cannot be disclosed. However, I can say that the licence to operate and manage O'Hara's Battery is on the same terms and conditions as the Rock and Fortress licence agreement that the fees charged are shared by the Government and the operator and that the complimentary bus service will be operated and paid for the operator.

The Rock and Fortress World War II Tunnels visitor attraction is licensed to Let's Go Limited by the Government. The policy decisions on the manner in which this visitor attraction will be operated and managed on expiry of the public licence and how such an operator will be selected will be made and implemented at the appropriate moment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 764 TO 770 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say what percentage of the funds raised will go to the Government and what percentage will go to the company?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. I consider that commercial-in-confidence and I am not prepared to release that figure publicly.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say... I recall in the past when other sites... I remember Rosia Bay was one of them. The Government invited expressions of interest from developers or the public in general. Can he say whether expressions of interest were invited in this particular case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. Expressions of interest were not invited. Normally, if the initiative comes from the Government to decide to repaint this Chamber, then the Government, because no one has expressed an interest, would invite either expressions of interest or go out to tender. In this case, no expressions of interest had been forthcoming. No one had shown an interest in the Battery. The company concerned has proved, as I said in my answer, its expertise and provided an excellent product in the World War II Tunnels. Were very knowledgeable, which is very important about the Batteries at O'Hara's and Lord Airey's which is next to O'Hara's and therefore had the right credentials. Therefore, the Government made the policy decision not to go to tender but to extend the contract to cover O'Hara's Battery.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that there was no invitation, in terms of expressions of interest, to the community at large, how does the Government know that nobody else was interested in this venture?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is a hypothetical question. No, the Government does not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government not willing to reveal what money was charged for the extension, for extending the original contract to include O'Hara's Battery? Is there a sum of money that was paid that will appear in the estimates of revenue of the Government or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. There is no consideration as such. It is an extension of the licence and the revenue to the Government will come from the share of the fees charged by the company.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So the whole operation is based on the Government getting a share of the income or a share of the profits?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

A share of the income, I think. Yes, of the revenue received which is the same as the current arrangements for the World War II Tunnels which have always existed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the part of the Government, of the GTB that monitors the movement of people up the rock, are they involved in any way in issuing tickets to this site so that they know how many people are coming in or is that based on what the operator sets.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. The GTB are not directly involved in the running of the site or in the sale of tickets. The GTB retains an overall responsibility for what is happening. Has the ability to come in and inspect the books at any given time and check out the procedure, checks out what is being done. The financial control is exercised in an audit role by the Treasury and is based on the information produced by the company on an on-going basis from its records.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, are the Government in a position ... For example, when we ask about how many visitors have gone to the Upper Rock periodically, are they in a position to say how many of those have visited either of these sites or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It will be. If it seeks the information or goes out and checks it for its own, the Government will be able to obtain that information.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand the hon Member to say earlier that the terms which had been agreed were commercial-in-confidence. If there is no consideration payable for this licence, what is it that is commercial-in-confidence in relation to these terms? What type of

terms are we talking about which are the ones that the hon Member is not willing to reveal?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Financial consideration is only what the share of the licence... the share of the revenue is. But the terms and conditions as a whole, the agreement that was reached, if the Government decides in one or two years time or next week to revoke the licence and go out to open tender or whatever, if it is known publicly what the conditions are, it sets a benchmark. So, it has always been my policy not to reveal the content of commercial agreements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I got the impression that the only payment that the Government received was a share of the turnover.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well that has just been made public. Surely, if there is nothing else to be paid and if the Government are not paying the operator anything, there is no more money moving in either direction, then the only thing is whether the licence is for a fixed period or annually renewable or ... can be terminated by the Government giving notice. Is that the information that the hon Member says is commercial and cannot be revealed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The question was, can Government say what are the terms and conditions of the licence agreement? I am not willing to stand up here and make public the agreement. I have indicated that the revenue from the sale of tickets is shared. I have also given the hon Member the information that the bus will be operated at the expense of the operator. But apart from that, giving the percentage figure of the revenue that the Government will receive or giving more details of the conditions, I do not think it is appropriate to make public in what is a purely commercial arrangement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I simply assumed that it was... that the thing was split 50:50 for the Government and 50:50 for the operator. It is not. I am wrong in that assumption and the hon Member is not willing to tell us what the ratio is.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

He is wrong in that assumption. It is not a 50:50 split and he is correct that I am not going to say what the split is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The hon Member has confirmed that this appears as revenue in the estimates of revenue and expenditure. Is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. The hon member has not confirmed that. That was the assumption that the Leader of the Opposition made. But if he asks me where the revenue will appear, at this moment in time I do not know, to be perfectly honest. That it will have to appear as revenue either through the GTB or direct to the Government, I would need to go and check. But the ... whatever the system is that has been agreed will be the same as already exists and has existed for some time for the World War II Tunnels because it is just an extension of the licence. So, wherever the revenue is appearing for the World War II Tunnels it will now be, I was going to say incremented, but shown separately, I presume, for the O'Hara's Battery.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, although the Government are not willing to tell us what the share of the revenue that the Government get is, presumably they will be willing to tell us what the sum is because the sum has to be shown as public funds.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government willing to tell us for how long the lease or the licence or whatever it is, is, or is that something that ...

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The current licence for the World War II Tunnels of which O'Hara's is now an extension and therefore the same date, is due to expire in May next year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In May next year! Then, presumably, the Government can renew it? It is a renewable licence?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. It is a renewable licence which has already been renewed.

NO. 771 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST – BLOCKING OF ACCESS TO TRAFALGAR CEMETERY

Can Government confirm that the Gibraltar Heritage Trust were not consulted or informed prior to pedestrian access to Trafalgar Cemetery being blocked when the pavement was dug up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

No Sir. I cannot confirm that. Before access to the Trafalgar Cemetery was closed, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust were informed that this would take place as from the 26th May 2010. In addition, they were also told that if access was required, escorted parties through the worksite could be arranged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 771 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were the Trust informed before the works had started and before access was denied.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I just said that, before access to the cemetery was closed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I wanted the hon Member to confirm that. I had not got it. So, can he say then why the Trust or the Chairman of the Trust is under the impression that the Trust were not informed in advance.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think he should ask the Chairman of the Trust the question, not me. The Trust were informed by the Works Manager through ... Yes. I have an idea but I would not like to make it public but I will tell the hon Member privately afterwards. They were

advised by the site manager via telephone to the Trust offices in the John Mackintosh Square.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I just say again, if he has got the dates when they were informed and the dates when the work started.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have the date on which they were informed. But they were informed before it happened and the blockage took place on the 26th May 2010 and has by now been reinstated. Access has been reinstated.

NO. 772 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SANDY BAY – REPORT ON DANGER OF ROCK FALLS IN THE SANDY BAY AREA

Have Government had brought to their notice any technical reports indicating a danger of rock falls in the area of Sandy Bay and if so when was the matter brought to their attention?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The area of Sandy Bay has been prone to rock falls for a long time. This well known and a self evident reality has been reflected in several reports over recent decades.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 772 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say when is the most recent of that report?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The most recent are in connection with, as far as I understand it, the rock falls in Dudley Ward Way Tunnel and more recently with a rock fall near the south end of the area that we are talking about, at the south end of Both Worlds.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So we are talking about a report within the last twelve months, in 2009?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, reports commissioned by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Commissioned by the Government.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This last one, if again I remember rightly when I was told, this last one is still in draft form. It has not been finalised.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If it is still in draft form, does it mean that no specific recommendations have yet been made for the Government to consider as to what might need to be done to stabilise the area to try and ensure safety in that area?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have not seen the report. This is a technical report for the technical people. I am not aware of its contents. It is in relation to a particular rock fall and how to make remedy to that particular rock fall.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So it deals then with the specific incident and not the stability of the whole area.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the hon Member is not aware of a report dealing with the wider issue of how stable that area is or where there is a danger of drift of that slope and not just of rock falls?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We are moving into territory where the Government are not keen to discuss publicly the issues involved. There are on-going, some of which the hon Member may be aware, and maybe even is prompting this question... There are on-going building applications extensions relating to this area. There is the fact that there has been a direct referral by a would-be developer in the area to the EU in relation to the sand slopes. So the Government do not consider it appropriate to go into this matter publicly in any greater detail at this moment in time because... Well, it does not consider it appropriate of what may happen in the long term.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am certainly not talking about any developments. I am talking about the safety. Is the hon Member able to tell me how long ago this referral to the EU was and was that a matter of safety or something else?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This refers to what?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The referral to the EU that he has mentioned? Is that something that has happened recently or...?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Early this year or late last year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So there has been no comeback from the EU on this referral then?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not at far as the Government are aware. This was a direct contact by... direct with the EU not by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government know the content of what was sent to the EU and is it something to do with safety or is it something completely different because my question is about the safety of the area?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government are aware of the contents. The Government were copied into the referral to the EU which seeks further development in the area in a way that would seek to improve or lessen the risk of rock falls. Mitigate is the word that has been whispered in my ear. Correct. But it is very much conceptual. There is nothing definite.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But independent of what anybody might want or not want to do in the area, presumably if the Government are satisfied that there is some kind of risk, they have, presumably they would want to do something about it given that there are people who live there.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government are always conscious of areas where there are rock falls. We live on a rock and it is an undisputable fact that rock falls occur throughout Gibraltar. In

the area of Sandy Bay, there are three distinct lines of rock fall protection on the east side slopes immediately above Sandy Bay in the form of catchments. The Government are advised by its technical people when there are problems with rock falls and if needed, measures are designed to counteract those xxx. This is not something new. This has happened for years and years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that there are those kind of problems in that area and that there have been for many years and we have had some nasty incidents but the hon Member is telling me that there is nothing new in the context of the stability or the safety of that area that is different from what it had always been in the past. Is that the position?

HON LT-COL EL M BRITTO:

That is the position as far as I am aware. In the recent past, going back to that tragic incident at Dudley Ward Way Tunnel, a very comprehensive report on the area of the tunnel and then more recently, in recent months a particular rock fall and a study has been made on what has happened and what measures and, if I am not mistaken, measures are already being put into place to counteract what actually happened. I am not aware and neither have I been made aware of any other report other than that.

ORAL

NO. 773 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government state how many cases of applications for housing from homeless persons are currently being dealt with by the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 774 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 774 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS ON THE HOUSING WAITING LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773, 775 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 775 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS ON THE HOUSING WAITING LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773, 774, 776 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 776 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS ON MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to persons currently on the Medical Housing Lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C”, can Government provide the number of applicants on each category grouped by date of joining the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 775, 777 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 777 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 219 of 2010, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the various Medical Housing Lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C”, and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 776, 778 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 778 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 220 of 2010, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the various Medical Housing Lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C” because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 777, 779 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 779 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 778, 780 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 780 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to persons currently on the Housing Social Category “A” List, can Government provide the dates when each of these persons joined the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 779, 781 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 781 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS REMOVED FROM SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 222 of 2010, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the Housing Social Category “A” List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 780, 782 to 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 782 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS PLACED ON SOCIAL CATEGORY “A” LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 223 of 2010, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category “A” List and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 781, 783, 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 783 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LISTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 782, 784, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 784 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS ON PRE-LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 783, 794 and 795 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 785 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DWELLINGS FOR REFURBISHMENT BY BUILDINGS AND WORKS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 786 and 787 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 786 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING ATTENTION OF BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Can Government state how many jobs are currently listed as requiring the attention of the Buildings and Works Department within the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 and 787 of 2010.

NO. 787 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS REQUIRING WORK IN THEIR HOMES

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The number of flats currently with Buildings and Works requiring refurbishment is 23.

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of Buildings and Works, as at 11th June 2010, is 3761.

The number of tenants currently awaiting works or repairs by the Housing Department, as at 11th June 2010, is 1355.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 785 TO 787 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the outstanding jobs, is the Minister aware of any problems that there may have been in the Buildings and Works Department on account of no materials being available recently because we have had reports in the Opposition and I have mentioned this in the past, in general, but some reports very specifically mentioned two or three days when there were no materials and workers could not do a single days work on account of that.

HON F J VINET:

No. What I am aware of is of some other mischievous rumours that tend to the rounds every few weeks or so. I can assure the hon Member and indeed the general public that there is no issue, no problem whatsoever in terms of the availability of materials. In fact, just a few weeks ago, additional funding was made available precisely to ensure that there were materials available. So, honestly, there is no issue there.

ORAL

NO. 788 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have applied for rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 229 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 789 to 792 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 789 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have received rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 230 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 788 and 790 to 792 of 2010.

NO. 790 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, since the answer to Question No. 231 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 788, 789, 791 and 792 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 791 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households on rent relief have had this benefit terminated, to date, since the answer to Question No. 232 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 778 to 790 and 792 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 792 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have had the level of rent relief reduced, to date, since the answer to Question No. 233 of 2010, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question No. 792 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 788 of 2010

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

FEBURAY 2010 (as from 11/02/10)	-	9 (5 active)
MARCH 2010	-	5 (4 active)
APRIL 2010	-	1 active
MAY 2010	-	4 (2 active)
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	2 active

Answer to Question No. 789 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	815
MARCH 2010	-	688
APRIL 2010	-	647
MAY 2010	-	634
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	614

Answer to Question No. 790 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	96
MARCH 2010	-	77
APRIL 2010	-	74
MAY 2010	-	64
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	60

Answer to Question No. 791 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	1
MARCH 2010	-	21
APRIL 2010	-	8
MAY 2010	-	6
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	12

Answer to Question No. 792 of 2010

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

FEBRUARY (as from 11/02/10)	-	34
MARCH 2010	-	6
APRIL 2010	-	9
MAY 2010	-	8
JUNE 2010 (up to 09/06/10)	-	11

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 788 TO 792 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the hon Minister for the information as usual. Just one question in relation to the problems that some tenants have in paying the rent, I suppose rent relief is considered where there are social difficulties, financial difficulties. But is there a cut-off point when the debt reaches a certain point. Because some people have come to me with enormous debts and I would have thought that the Housing Department should be monitoring the way that these things might get out of control in terms of thousands of pounds.

HON F J VINET:

In a way the answer is included in the premise to the next question because those tenants who are in debt have the ability to enter into an arrears agreement with the Ministry for Housing. In fact, we have taken the policy decision some two years ago or so of actually being more flexible in those agreements and I seem to recall, I may be wrong, but I seem to recall that the term of those agreements used to be fixed at six years, I believe, and now we have taken the view that it is better to get something, whatever it may be, than nothing at all and obviously we look, we assess the economic means of the applicants but we are certainly being far more flexible in terms of the length of term of those agreements to enable those in debt to pay off those debts.

HON C A BRUZON:

With all due respect, I do not think the Minister has answered my question. If a tenant owes £1,000, for example, would that warrant some kind of action being put into place so that the person is contacted or do you have to wait until the person owes £5,000 or £500. Do you see what I am getting at?

HON F J VINET:

The tenants, in fact, as from just one year ago are fully aware of what their debts may be because we introduced a new system of sending out statements of accounts which I think started, I think it may have been June last year or thereabouts, which was not the case previously. I am aware that in the past there were people who actually turned up at the Housing Department and paid whatever they felt they could afford or whatever they felt was what they owed but did not really have an idea of the historic debts they may have had and now every single tenant receives a statement of account. So they are aware of whatever debts they may have incurred.

HON C A BRUZON:

I do appreciate that. But your staff... is there a system in place whereby your staff can say to you or whoever is in charge of collecting the money, that this tenant the debt has now reached a particular red line and we had better get in touch with them. We had better send them a letter. I know that they get monthly statements which I do and I am grateful for that. I think that is a good move but what worries me and

this does not only happen with housing it happens with credit companies where they are allow debts to increase to such an extent that it makes the position of the individual user almost untenable. I know that it is the fault of the individual. But some individuals have no idea how to manage their finances and therefore with regards to housing and Government tenants, I am just asking does the Minister have any system in place whereby if a tenant owes a specific amount of money like £1,000 or £3,000, does that set the bells ringing? Does something happen then or do you just simply wait for people to come and pay the rent when they choose to? I think the Minister knows what I am getting at.

HON F J VINET:

I am not aware as to whether anyone in my department spoon feeds applicants to that extent. It may happen or it may not ... I would not like to mislead the House by saying yes or no because I am not aware of that. But if there is a system in place, I am thinking on my feet but I am assuming it may be more in terms of the staff at the housing desk that come to know who particular individuals are and may build some sort of rapport with them rather than a formal process but I will certainly find out if that is the case or not.

HON F J VINET:

Just looking at the supplementary notes I have before me, I have just seen, in fact, the monthly billing system which includes the statement of account I mentioned, actually started in January 2009 and not in June.

NO. 793 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT AGREEMENTS

Can Government state how many tenants have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, to date, since the answer to Question No. 234 of 2010 giving a monthly breakdown, and what is the total of arrears covered by such agreements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested has been provided in a schedule.

Answer to Question No. 793 of 2010

The total number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent is 25.

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

	Total agreements	Amount
February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	3	£ 6,018.42
March 2010	5	£17,823.03
April 2010	6	£26,563.13
May 2010	10	£41,325.66
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	1	<u>£ 3,297.46</u>
		<u>£95,027.70</u>

ORAL

NO. 794 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR UNITS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 235 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 773 to 784 and 795 of 2010.

NO. 795 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – POST-WAR UNITS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases since the answer given to Question No. 237 of 2010, providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes. The information requested is now being passed on in schedule format.

Answer to Question 795 contd

Answer to Question 773

The Housing Department is currently dealing with 38 homeless cases.

Answer to Question 774

There are 58 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended, as follows:

Medical A+ - 3
Medical A - 18
Medical B - 14
Medical C - 23

Answer to Question 775

There are 198 applicants, to date, who are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List as follows:

Medical A+ - 28
Medical A - 66
Medical B - 43
Medical C - 61

Answer to Question 776

The number of applicants in each category joining the medical list by date is as follows:

Medical A+

August	2006	-	2
September	2006	-	1
October	2006	-	1
July	2007	-	1
September	2007	-	1
April	2008	-	2
May	2008	-	1
July	2008	-	1
December	2008	-	1
April	2009	-	3
May	2009	-	6
August	2009	-	3
September	2009	-	1
October	2009	-	2
November	2009	-	1
February	2010	-	3
March	2010	-	1

Answer to Question 795 contd

Medical A

March	1997	- 1
March	1999	- 1
March	2001	- 1
November	2001	- 2
October	2002	- 1
January	2003	- 1
June	2003	- 2
August	2003	- 1
November	2003	- 1
March	2004	- 3
February	2005	- 1
March	2005	- 1
April	2005	- 1
June	2005	- 1
October	2005	- 1
November	2005	- 1
December	2005	- 2
March	2006	- 2
April	2006	- 4
May	2006	- 1
August	2006	- 2
September	2006	- 1
November	2006	- 1
January	2007	- 1
February	2007	- 1
June	2007	- 1
July	2007	- 1
September	2007	- 2
October	2007	- 1
November	2007	- 2
February	2008	- 2
April	2008	- 5
May	2008	- 2
July	2008	- 4
October	2008	- 1
February	2009	- 4
March	2009	- 1
May	2009	- 3
July	2009	- 1
August	2009	- 1
September	2009	- 7
October	2009	- 1
November	2009	- 1
December	2009	- 1
February	2010	- 1
March	2010	- 3
April	2010	- 2
May	2010	- 2

Answer to Question 795

Medical B

September	1995	-	1
January	1996	-	1
January	1998	-	2
February	1998	-	1
May	1999	-	1
July	1999	-	2
November	1999	-	2
October	2000	-	1
November	2000	-	1
November	2001	-	1
December	2001	-	2
December	2002	-	1
August	2003	-	2
March	2004	-	1
August	2004	-	1
September	2004	-	1
October	2004	-	1
February	2005	-	3
March	2005	-	2
July	2005	-	1
September	2005	-	1
October	2005	-	4
March	2006	-	1
April	2006	-	1
September	2006	-	2
February	2007	-	2
June	2007	-	3
September	2007	-	1
December	2007	-	2
February	2008	-	2
December	2008	-	1
September	2009	-	2
October	2009	-	1
December	2009	-	1
February	2010	-	1
March	2010	-	4
April	2010	-	1

Answer to Question 795 contd

Medical C

December	1994	-	1
January	1996	-	1
January	1997	-	1
July	1997	-	1
November	1997	-	1
January	1998	-	1
March	1998	-	2
April	1998	-	1
October	1998	-	3
November	1998	-	5
January	1999	-	2
March	1999	-	3
May	1999	-	2
June	1999	-	3
May	2000	-	2
October	2000	-	1
November	2000	-	2
March	2001	-	3
May	2001	-	1
August	2003	-	1
September	2003	-	1
January	2004	-	1
August	2004	-	1
October	2004	-	1
February	2005	-	1
April	2005	-	1
June	2005	-	1
November	2005	-	2
December	2005	-	1
January	2006	-	1
March	2006	-	1
April	2006	-	4
May	2006	-	1
June	2006	-	2
August	2006	-	2
September	2006	-	2
October	2006	-	1
November	2006	-	1
March	2007	-	1
June	2007	-	1
December	2007	-	3
February	2008	-	1
April	2008	-	3
July	2008	-	2
February	2009	-	1
September	2009	-	3
October	2009	-	2

November 2009 - 1
 December 2009 - 1
 February 2010 - 1
 March 2010 - 1

Answer to Question 777

Since the answer given to question No. 219 of 2010, a total of 14 applicants have been placed on the various medical Housing list as follows:

DATE	A+	A	B	C
February 2010 (up to 13.2.10)	-	-	-	-
March 2010	1	3	4	1
April 2010	-	2	1	-
May 2010	-	2	-	-
June 2010 (up to 10.6.10)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 778

Since the answer given to question No. 220 of 2010, a total of four applicants have been removed from the various medical lists because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows.

DATE	A+	A	B	C
February 2010 (up to 13.2.10)	-	-	-	-
March 2010	1	-	-	1
April 2010	-	-	-	-
May 2010	-	1	1	-
June 2010 (up to 10.6.10)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 779

There are 78 persons currently on the Housing Social "A" List.

Answer to Question 780

The dates when each person jointed the Social "A" List is as follows:

October 2003 - 1
 December 2003 - 1
 June 2004 - 1
 November 2004 - 1
 May 2005 - 1
 November 2005 - 1
 December 2005 - 1
 February 2006 - 1
 April 2006 - 1

Answer to Question 795 contd

June 2006	-	1
November 2006	-	1
December 2006	-	2
April 2007	-	1
July 2007	-	1
August 2007	-	1
September 2007	-	2
November 2007	-	3
December 2007	-	3
January 2008	-	1
February 2008	-	1
March 2008	-	3
April 2008	-	3
May 2008	-	1
June 2008	-	3
October 2008	-	3
December 2008	-	7
March 2009	-	1
April 2009	-	3
July 2009	-	2
August 2009	-	1
September 2009	-	3
October 2009	-	2
December 2009	-	1
January 2010	-	3
February 2010	-	4
March 2010	-	2
April 2010	-	5
May 2010	-	5

Answer to Question 781

Fifteen applicants have been removed because a suitable dwelling has been found for them as follows:

February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	-	1
March 2010	-	5
April 2010	-	3
May 2010	-	2
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	-	4

Answer to Question 782

Thirteen applicants have been placed on the Housing Social "A" Category List as follows:

February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	-	1
March 2010	-	2
April 2010	-	5
May 2010	-	5
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	-	Nil

Answer to Question 795 contd

Answer to Question 783

There are currently 1178 applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists as follows:

1RKB	-	651
2RKB	-	72
3RKB	-	274
4RKB	-	162
5RKB	-	19

Answer to Question 784

There are currently 353 applicants on the Housing Pre-List as follows:

1RKB	-	269
2RKB	-	10
3RKB	-	49
4RKB	-	21
5RKB	-	4

Answer to Question 794

Four pre-war housing units have been allocated.

Answer to Question 795

Twelve post-war housing units have been allocated as follows:

February 2010 (as from 13.2.10)	-	1
March 2010	-	4
April 2010	-	2
May 2010	-	1
June 2010 (up to 10.6.10)	-	4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 773 TO 784, 794 AND 795 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 773 of 2010 concerning homeless cases, does the figure 38, does it consist of the same people reference the answer I got in February or could there have been a movement of... is it just a coincidence?

HON F J VINET:

I really have no way of knowing because I am not provided with the details of each and every applicant currently on the social list. Certainly, as the hon Member will see in answer to a separate question, there have been quite a number of allocations made to applicants on the social list. I would assume that some of them are homeless persons but I would not be able to confirm with the information I have before me this morning.

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the answer given to Question No. 779 of 2010 concerning the Social "A" list, I have not usually asked the question in the past concerning other categories within the social listing, but are there any other categories and if so, has the Minister any information? I mean "B" or "C" as in medical?

HON F J VINET:

The short answer is I believe yes in theory but not in practice. I believe there is in existence the possibility of including people or being categorised as Social "B" but in practice I am not aware that actually happens. Everyone is actually categorised as Social "A". For The sake of clarification, I do recognise that sometimes the information provided, especially with regards to say Question No. 776 and 778 of 2010 which is basically a list of number of applicants in each category of the medical list by date in which they actually joined the medical list and I think looking at that list by itself can actually be misleading and does not paint the whole picture. I am concerned simply because sometimes I am aware that the press may simply print the information that has been passed on but without really having regard to the factors behind that information. I will briefly explain. If the hon Member looks at the answer to Question No. 776 of 2010 which are the applicants currently on the Medical "A" list and he will see that there are some applicants there who have been on the list since 2006, for example. Now, I think one has to understand how the medical and indeed the social lists work as opposed to the normal waiting lists. The normal waiting lists are points based and therefore your position on the list is based on how many points you are given which is in itself based on a formula and a criteria based on the number of people and how much overcrowding there is in the property. The size of the property and so on and therefore because it is points based you can go up the list and you can also go down because it may happen that today someone joins the list who is in a worse off position than someone who joined two years ago and leap frogs over the xxx. The medical lists and the social lists work in a completely different way. It is sort of a first come, first served basis. So, whoever joins the social list or the medical list today joins the back of the queue, as it were, and the allocation is

made to whoever is number one on the list and then everyone else moves up one place. Now, the hon Member will know that there are quite a high number, I think actually a record number of allocations being made to applicants on the medical list and on the social list and the majority of those are to applicants who actually joined the list after 2006, after 2007 and 2008. The reason for that is that there are ... well, there are a number of reasons. One of them is that there may be... In other words, those persons who joined in 2006 are necessarily at number one on the Medical "A" list but they, for whatever reasons, have not chosen to accept whatever flat has been offered to them. It may be because they want a particular flat in a particular estate. I know there was a case in the past when someone was hanging on to a flat with sea views even though they were on the Medical "A" priority list. So I would not like to give the impression that they are there for four or five years and they have not been offered a flat. It is just that they have chosen not to accept the flat and in fact I can tell you that those applicants who are on the Medical "A" list and joined in 2006/2007 actually have offers of accommodation as either Albert Risso House or at the new rental estate and they have actually chosen to wait for those new properties and do not want to accept anything else. I would like to reiterate that because I know there was a press release issued by the hon Member some weeks ago where he said and I quote from an article in Panorama which actually quotes the hon Member saying that "it is absurd that the Government should claim in their defence that there are 28 plus medically categorised people waiting for a flat in new developments who are happy to wait for such an allocation. The reality is that these people are waiting because they have to. They cannot possibly be happy to continue with the hardship posed by their medical condition." Just to clarify that they have been given a very clear choice. If they either get to number one and they have an offer in Albert Risso House or in a new estate, they are told, look there is a flat available for you today, do you want it or do you want to wait for the new estate or Albert Risso House and it just so happens that some of them want to wait for the new estate or Albert Risso House.

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the Minister for the information that he has given me. Our position is the same, we are still critical of the Government because the bottom line is stock, housing stock availability. For as long as there is not enough housing stock, the medical listings, the people who are categorised Social "A" or Medical "A", their problems are almost impossible to resolve. My question to the Minister would be in connection with the medical categories "A" and "A+", had I been on the Medical "A" in 2005 when the new category was produced "A+", I would have felt that the urgency to the "A" listing in 2005 would suddenly have dropped in merit because the "A+" overtook the others in terms of urgency and of course those people who are now on the category "A+" whether they choose to wait or not, that is a matter for conjecture. I accept that what the Minister says is true. I have not seen what kind of homes the people on the Medical "A" list have been offered which they have rejected. If they have been waiting for so long, they may choose to wait another six months or a year. Fair enough. But the fact is that they still have to wait for a very, very long time until all the "A+" categories have been catered for. Is that not correct?

HON F J VINET:

No. It is not correct and self-evidently not so because, in fact, in answer to Question No. 778 of 2010 when I am asked to specify how many applicants have been removed from the various medical lists because a flat has been offered to them and to actually specify from which medical list they have been removed... For example

today, the hon Member will see that there was one allocation to an applicant on the Medical "A+", one allocation to someone on the "A" list, one allocation to someone on the "B" list and even one allocation to someone on the "C" list. So I certainly accept, and rightly so, that those on the "A+" list have a far more urgent need than those who are on the "C" list and that is not decided by me. That is decided by a doctor who looks at a case and assesses their needs and comes to the conclusion that person's "A" condition is far more serious and necessitates a degree of priority that person "C" does not. So yes, there are more allocations made to those on a plus than to those in "A" or "B" or "C" but there are allocations happening, taking place through everyone on each of the medical lists. Of course, I agree that the question of the availability of housing is paramount. Of course, and I think, in fact in the coming weeks, the look and shape of the Medical "A" list and the Social "A" list will be very different to what it is today. But the fact also is that there are more allocations happening today to those on the Medical "A+" list and on the Social "A" list than I think there have been ever in the past. If I can just, for example, in answer to Question No. 781 of 2010 which is in relation to Social "A" list and not the Medical "A" list, just to give an idea, fifteen applicants have been removed from the Social "A" list since this question was last asked in Parliament. So, in about four months, fifteen applicants have been removed. In fact, if we look at Hansards in the past four or five or six years, there were occasions where in those four or five months only two people were removed from the Social list. So there has been a conscious effort to prioritise those on the Social "A" and the Medical "A+" list. Therefore, if it is true that there are more allocations being given to those in the Medical "A+" and those on the Social "A" than there have ever been in the past, the only way of ensuring that even more allocations take place, short of their being more houses available, is either we do not take regard of a particular ailment a person is suffering from and we just offer them whatever flat is available which obviously cannot be the case because people have specific medical needs and the flats that we offer them are those that are suitable for those needs, or we ask the Housing Allocation Committee and a particular doctor who forms part of it to be stricter in their assessment and not categorise as many people in Medical "A" as has been the case up to now which I assume is not what the hon Member would wish. Similarly, I would not wish that either. So, of course I want more allocations to take place but the fact is that there are more allocations to those in the Medical "A" list and the Social "A" list happening now than there have been in the past.

HON C A BRUZON:

If I may ask another supplementary. In connection with the waiting lists, the pre-list and the waiting list, answers to Question Nos. 783 and 784 of 2010, the figures that are given to me here, do those two figures include people who are buying a home in either Waterport Terraces or in the South District but have not yet had completion?

HON F J VINET:

No. I think it has been explained in the past. When someone expresses an interest in purchasing one of the... whether Waterport Terraces or the former OEM developments, they are temporarily suspended from the lists and if the sale does not go through for whatever reason they are reinstated and they find themselves in whatever position they would have been had they not been removed.

HON C A BRUZON:

Would the same apply to somebody who has to pull out because they cannot get a mortgage, for example? That would be ...

HON F J VINET:

Yes. The reason is ...

ORAL

NO. 796 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee since Question No. 238 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 797 of 2010.

NO. 797 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many Government flats have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Department on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee, since the answer to Question No. 239 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Thirty four Government flats have been allocated to applicants by the Housing Authority on the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee.

Three Government flats have been allocated, without the advice of the Housing Allocation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 796 AND 797 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

That as usual... I have often enough asked the same question. That would have been either by yourself or the Chief Minister or...?

HON F J VINET:

The actual allocation itself, the physical and formal allocation is made by the Housing Authority who is the Housing Minister. So I am the one who sort of signs off the allocation but how it is actually arrived at that point, may be via the Chief Minister or myself.

NO. 798 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REINSTATEMENTS INTO THE HOUSING WAITING LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 241 of 2010, can Government state how many persons, if any, have in fact been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists because of a genuine inability to complete the purchase within any of the Government's Home Ownership Schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes. In fact, this answers the supplementary on the waiting lists. A total of ten applicants have been re-instated in the Housing Waiting lists since the answer to Question No. 241 of 2010.

NO. 799 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 242 of 2010, how many of the 490 applicants who received letters of allocation in the proposed new Government rental estate have since been offered an existing Government flat and how many have accepted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 16 applicants have been offered an existing Government flat since Question No. 242 of 2010 and 11 have accepted. I think in the past I have qualified my answer by explaining that those who have not accepted have not necessarily at that time, or declined the offer, because there have been occasions in the past when they have been under offer, as it were, and have not decided whether to accept or otherwise. But on this occasion, in fact 11 have accepted and the remaining five have actually declined. So there are no flats under offer at the moment.

ORAL

NO. 800 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – OVERCROWDING POINTS DISALLOWED

Can Government state, in respect of applicants already on the Housing List, for each category of list and for each month since Question No. 243 of 2010, how many applicants have had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 801 of 2010.

NO. 801 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – OVERCROWDING POINTS ALLOWED

Can Government state, in respect of applicants already on the Housing List, for each category of list and for each month since Question No. 244 of 2010, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None is the answer to both questions.

ORAL

NO. 802 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS REJECTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were rejected on the grounds that they were homeowners who had chosen to sell their homes, giving a breakdown by month, since the answer to Question No. 245 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 803 of 2010.

NO. 803 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month since the answer given to Question No. 246 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None were rejected.

A total of five applicants were accepted, as follows:

April 2010	-	3
May 2010	-	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 802 AND 803 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Five in total?

HON F J VINET:

Yes.

NO. 804 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS

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

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

and provide a breakdown since the answer to Question No. 247 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 805 of 2010.

NO. 805 OF 2010**THE HON C A BRUZON****HOUSING – REPOSSESSED FLATS**

Can Government state how many Government flats have been repossessed, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 248 of 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

In answer to Question No. 804 of 2010:

- (a) 191 phone calls have been received.
- (b) 92 of these were found to be correct.

The breakdown of the past few months is as follows:

Month	Calls	Correct	Incorrect	Pending further Investigation
February 2010 (since 13.02.10)	2	-	1	1
March 2010	1	-	1	-
April 2010	1	-	1	-
May 2010	1	-	1	-
June 2010 (up to 10.06.10)	1	-	-	1

In answer to Question No. 805 of 2010, none, no repossessions have taken place.

ORAL

NO. 806 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the Housing Allocation Committee has met since the answer to Question No. 249 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Allocation Committee has met four times and I believe they are actually meeting again on Monday.

NO. 807 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING TRIBUNAL

Can Government state how many cases the Housing Tribunal:

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

since the answer to Question No. 250 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 808 of 2010.

NO. 808 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING TRIBUNAL

How many decisions of the Housing Tribunal requiring action by the Housing Department have not yet been implemented by the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In answer to Question No. 807 of 2010, I am informed by the Secretary of the Housing Tribunal that since the answer given to Question No. 250 of 2010, the Tribunal has not dealt with and completed any case and is currently dealing with 25 cases.

In answer to Question No. 808 of 2010, none. All have been dealt with.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 807 AND 808 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the last answer which was none. Can the Minister throw any light on the time it takes for the implementation of a directive from the Housing Tribunal? When a decision is made, the hon Member says that all have been implemented, does that happen quickly or does it take three months on average?

HON F J VINET:

I really, really have no idea. It is not that whatever decision or referral from the Tribunal may be... It certainly does not get to me. It is dealt with at administrative level. Perhaps it may revert to the Housing Allocation Committee or some other entity in the department but if the hon Member wishes to specify that question next time we meet I will be more than happy to find out the answer.

NO. 809 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Since the answer given to Question No. 251 of 2010, how many more Government flats have become available because Waterport Terraces purchasers have moved into their new homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Ten flats have become available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 809 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

The answer I got a year or two ago in connection with how many flats would become available to people on the housing waiting list when all the purchases at Waterport Terraces had completed and had moved in was fifty. So, I imagine we are now coming close to the end of those fifty flats. In other words, in total, does the Minister know how many? Out of those fifty that would become available and have now become available or would he need notice, may be he would need notice of that question?

HON F J VINET:

I have not been provided with any additional information whatsoever but I know there is another question on the order paper which is being answered by the Chief Minister in terms of number of flats that are still to be made available to purchasers at Waterport Terraces. Perhaps we may be able to deduct some further information from that but I do not have the answer with me at the moment. I am sorry.

HON C A BRUZON:

How optimistic is the Minister for Housing that there will be a substantial drop in the overall housing waiting list figures when everybody that is attempting to buy a home in the affordable housing schemes would have moved into their new homes? I know you are on record as having said that eventually there will be many, many Government flats available when all the purchasers of Waterport Terraces and the

South District purchasers move into their homes. How optimistic is the Minister that there will be a substantial drop in the housing waiting list figures?

HON F J VINET:

I am extremely optimistic that come the, not just the full completion of Waterport Terraces and all the purchasers moving in and so on but, in particular, the completion of Albert Risso House which I think is even more important in terms of what it means to the return to housing stock of flats, I am very optimistic that there will be a very, very noticeable positive effect. Particularly on the Medical "A+" and on the Social "A" lists but also on the normal waiting lists and I think we will start to see that in the coming weeks. But of course it is not just the case, if we look at Albert Risso House, for example, which are 140 homes. There is a difference between Albert Risso House and Waterport Terraces in that Waterport Terraces are being... flats are being bought mainly by young couples and so on who currently live with their parents. So although they are buying a new home, their old or their current house, as it were, does not become available because the parents or siblings may still be living there. So as you rightly said, fifty or so flats are becoming available as a result of people moving to Waterport Terraces but it is a small percentage of the total number of flats there. Whereas with Albert Risso House, the vast majority of those 140 persons moving there are actually leaving behind Government flats. It is a continuing process. We have actually tried to maximise the effect of this. So it is not just a question of people moving to Albert Risso House and however many of those 140 flats left over are then allocated, in fact, the persons who those empty flats are then allocated to may themselves leave, make available some other flat. So it is an on-going process. I know there has been a lot of work done by the Housing Manager and others in identifying that process and to summarise I am very optimistic that there will be a very noticeable effect on the waiting list in the not too distant future.

HON C A BRUZON:

In fact, I seem to remember that I asked the question about Albert Risso House a few sessions ago. The answer was 92 flats would become available out of a hundred and xxx. That was reasonably high compared to the thirteen flats that will become available when the 408 purchasers in the South District move into their new homes. Of course, eventually, when the rental estate is ready and I know there are some delays being incurred already on that, there will be a drop of... in the region of 400 maybe or 500. But because the housing waiting lists plus those medical cases that are not necessarily included in the housing waiting lists... These figures keep creeping up. I do not think that the Minister's optimism is as justified as maybe he thinks it is.

HON F J VINET:

Well, we shall see.

HON C A BRUZON:

We shall see.

HON F J VINET:

That is why I referred earlier to the fact that we cannot just look at the waiting lists in isolation. For example, in the normal waiting lists there are many people there who have offers for the new estate and who have indicated to us very clearly, do not offer me anything else, I do not want to accept whatever is available today, I want to wait for the new estate. But they are still on the waiting lists and they will remain on the waiting lists until they actually move to the new estate. So the current waiting lists do not really paint the whole picture although, of course, I do recognise that they are increasing in size.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the people that are expecting to and preferring to wait for the new estate been given any indication of the rental levels or is it that the rental levels are going to be the same as in the existing estates? Because there may be people who are looking forward to that and then they may find that the rent is not what they thought it would be.

HON F J VINET:

The truth is that I have not been given any indication that the rental levels will be any different to other estates which is not to say that they will not be. I am just not aware and I do not think that, frankly, a decision has been taken. But I am not aware that they will be different to existing properties.

ORAL

NO. 810 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PAINTING OF ENTRANCE AREAS OF CONSTITUTION HOUSE

When does the Ministry for Housing plan to complete the work of painting the entrance area and stairways of Constitution House in Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 811 of 2010.

NO. 811 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – INSTALLATION OF NEW LIFT AT REFERENDUM HOUSE

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The painting of both stairwells at Constitution House is complete and similarly, the entrance areas should be completed this week. In fact, if I am not mistaken they may have already been completed.

The installation of the remaining new lift at Referendum House was completed in May this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 810 AND 811 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

The actual painting of the entrance area and the stairways, when the Minister for Housing says that it has now been completed, does he mean the whole stairways going right up to the top floor because all that should be the responsibility of the Minister for Housing. Does he not agree?

HON F J VINET:

I certainly agree that it is responsibility of the Minister for Housing. Of course it is. I was there, maybe three weeks ago or so, I actually went inside the building to look at the new lifts and so on. I saw painting being carried out and I would not be able to say to what level it actually reached. I have to say that when we debated this in the past I took it to mean that we are talking about the entrance to the stairways as opposed to the entire stairways but I stand to be corrected on that. Can I add, in fact, apart from the painting that has been carried out, brand new letter boxes have been installed in both tower blocks. Although not at ground level where they have been up to now and which have been the subject of extreme vandalism in the past, but now that all the lifts have access to all the floors, they have been moved to the first floor and hopefully that will alleviate the problem.

ORAL

NO. 812 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government confirm who is responsible for the contract to maintain and repair the lifts at Government housing estates providing the full name of the company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 813 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 813 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government say how many lifts are included in the contract held by Otis for the repair and maintenance of lifts in Government housing estates, with a breakdown showing where the lifts are located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 and 814 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 814 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

On what date did the contract with Otis for the repair and maintenance of the lifts in Government housing estates commence, what is the duration of the contract and what are its financial terms and conditions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812, 813 and 815 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 815 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government say how much has been paid to Otis for the repair and maintenance of lifts in Government housing estates in each financial year since they undertook responsibility for this?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 814 and 816 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 816 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government state whether the three Otis personnel who are based permanently in Gibraltar are registered with the ETB?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 815 and 817 to 822 of 2010.

NO. 817 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government state whether the three permanent Otis personnel who are based permanently in Gibraltar are employed by a Gibraltar company or whether they are employed directly by Otis in Spain, and indicate where in Gibraltar they are based?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 816 and 818 to 822 of 2010.

NO. 818 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government confirm whether the tenants of its housing estates who have lifts that are maintained by Otis have the option of reporting the fault either to the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office or to Otis in Spain directly?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 817 and 819 to 822 of 2010.

NO. 819 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

Can Government say on how many occasions the lifts at Referendum House have been reported to the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office, on a monthly basis, in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 818 and 820 to 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 820 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have faults been reported with the lifts in Government housing estates in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 819, 821 and 822 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 821 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have the lifts in Government housing estates required corrective maintenance/repairs in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 to 820 and 822 of 2010.

NO. 822 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LIFT CONTRACT WITH OTIS

How many times have the lifts in Government housing estates required preventive maintenance in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question No. 822 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 812 of 2010

There exists a contract with Zardoya Otis (Gibraltar) Ltd to maintain and repair the most recently installed lifts within Government Estates. Also GJBS Ltd are responsible for the two lifts at Bishop Canilla House.

Answer to Question No. 813 of 2010

There are 30 lifts as follows:

Alameda Estate	-	5
Varyl Begg Estate	-	18
St John's Court	-	1
Knight's Court	-	1
Glacis Estate	-	5

The four lifts at the Tower Blocks and one at Penney House remain under warranty and are, therefore, not yet within the Otis contract.

Answer to Question No. 814 of 2010

The current contract for the repair and maintenance of lifts commenced on the 21st January 2009. The contract period will initially operate for two years up to a maximum of five years. The current contract sum is £59,160 per annum, paid in regular instalments. This sum will be updated as and when required when new lifts are added to the schedule after the expiry date of respective warranty periods.

Answer to Question No. 815 of 2010

Since Otis undertook responsibility for the repair and maintenance of lifts in Government Housing Estates, the Government has paid £273,345, as follows:

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Sum</u>
2004-2005	£25,425
2005-2006	£33,752
2006-2007	£40,552
2007-2008	£50,528
2008-2009	£49,138
2009-2010	£59,160
Up to June 2010	£14,790
TOTAL	<u>£273,345</u>

Answer to Question 816 of 2010

Yes.

Continued Answer to Question No. 822 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 817 of 2010

The three permanent locally based staff are employed by Zardoya Otis (Gibraltar) Ltd and based at S3F, ICC, 2A Main Street.

Answer to Question No. 818 of 2010

The tenants of housing estates with lifts maintained by Otis channel all reporting of faults through the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office during working hours. They in turn report this directly to Otis in Spain. After working hours, tenants report faults to the after hours emergency number. Again, they will in turn report this to Otis in Spain.

Answer to Question No. 822 of 2010 continued

Answer to Question 819

The number of occasions the lifts at Referendum House have been reported to the Ministry for Housing's Reporting Office, on a monthly basis, since 2007 to date is as follows:

JANUARY 2007	2
FEBRUARY 2007	2
MARCH 2007	2
APRIL 2007	1
MAY 2007	5
JUNE 2007	4
JULY 2007	1
AUGUST 2007	4
SEPTEMBER 2007	1
OCTOBER 2007	0
NOVEMBER 2007	2
DECEMBER 2007	2
JANUARY 2008	5
FEBRUARY 2008	3
MARCH 2008	1
APRIL 2008	3
MAY 2008	4
JUNE 2008	3
JULY 2008	2
AUGUST 2008	3
SEPTEMBER 2008	2
OCTOBER 2008	4
NOVEMBER 2008	3
DECEMBER 2008	4
JANUARY 2009	2
FEBRUARY 2009	4
MARCH 2009	2
APRIL 2009	2
MAY 2009	2
JUNE 2009	1
JULY 2009	2
AUGUST 2009	1
SEPTEMBER 2009	1
OCTOBER 2009	0
NOVEMBER 2009	1
DECEMBER 2009	0
JANUARY 2010	1
FEBRUARY 2010	0
MARCH 2010	0
APRIL 2010	2
MAY 2010	4
JUNE 2010	2
TOTAL	90

Answer to Question 820

The number of faults that have been reported with regards to the lifts in Government housing estates in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate is as follows:

Location	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	TOTAL
Alameda Estate	14	13	15	27	21	17	3	110
Glacis Estate	26	14	17	22	30	50	34	193
Varyl Begg Estate	15	8	25	38	42	61	8	197
St John's Court	0	0	3	6	5	1	2	17
Knight's Court	0	0	9	0	1	3	1	14
Penney House	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	55	35	69	93	99	133	48	532

Answer to Question 821

The number of times the lifts in Government housing estates that have required corrective maintenance/repairs in each financial year since the contract with Otis commenced, with a breakdown by estate is as follows:

Location	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	TOTAL
Alameda Estate	14	13	15	27	21	17	3	110
Glacis Estate	26	14	17	22	30	50	34	193
Varyl Begg Estate	15	8	25	38	42	61	8	197
St John's Court	0	0	3	6	5	1	2	17
Knight's Court	0	0	9	0	1	3	1	14
Penney House	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	55	35	69	93	99	133	48	532

Answer to Question 822

The lifts in Government housing estates have had regular preventative maintenance done to them in accordance with the contract that is currently in place, although there is no record of the number of times that this occurs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 812 TO 822 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

The question of reporting faults with lifts is always done directly within Gibraltar to the actual Reporting Office, never directly to Spain?

HON F J VINET:

No, because obviously the contract is between the Ministry for Housing and Otis not between Otis and the individual tenants and obviously we have a vested interested in closely monitoring Otis's performance. So, if calls are made directly to housing and housing in turn contact Otis.

HON C A BRUZON:

The Minister can guarantee that when there is an emergency that there will always be somebody to answer the phone call. That there is no question ... That the situation does not arise... You see I am just thinking in terms of, as I am sure the hon Member would be, of being as helpful as possible to people who are panicking and worried with regards to lifts breaking down. There is a system whereby you phone the Reporting Office in Gibraltar. If it is outside working hours, you say there is an emergency number and that will not fail. Can the Minister confirm that?

HON F J VINET:

The person or persons in fact, depending on the time of day or night, who answer the phone are the same persons who answer the phones when someone is calling for any emergency, any repair work. It is not that we have got a particular different number just for lifts. Reports of work defects and emergencies are made to the same numbers whether they are lifts or otherwise. I would certainly hope that the persons who are employed to answer the telephone calls do so as quickly as possible because that is what they are employed to do but it would take... In the particular case which we had an exchange on some weeks ago, I think the hon Member will see that despite what he was allegedly told by some tenants, in fact the response period was actually very good indeed. As I explained in a press release several weeks ago at the end of April, the response period in that case which was the only one that we have actually had a debate on was very good.

ORAL

NO. 823 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state how many flats are currently empty at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There are currently three empty flats at Bishop Canilla House.

ORAL

NO. 824 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government say who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of cracked balconies at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 825 of 2010.

NO. 825 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government confirm whether they have carried out a survey into water ingress at Bishop Canilla House, on what date the survey was commissioned, from whom, at what cost and what are the results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In answer to Question No. 824 of 2010, the Ministry for Housing is ultimately responsible for the repair and maintenance of Bishop Canilla House, inclusive of balconies.

In answer to Question No. 825 of 2010, the Government can confirm that the Ministry for Housing has carried out a survey into damp-related problems at Bishop Canilla House. A general survey was conducted in February of this year at no cost to Government. This was carried out in-house and I am advised that the results of the survey are currently being evaluated.

NO. 826 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS MOVED BECAUSE OF ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

How many Government tenants have had to be moved from Government properties as a result of electrical failures or problems with the electrical installation since 1st January 2010 and what has been the time that it has taken to make such installations safe enough to allow tenants to move back into their properties?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

One tenant had to be moved for the reasons detailed in the question and it took three working days to make the electrical installation safe, that is, totally safe as opposed to safe enough, in order to allow the tenant to move back into the property.

ORAL

NO. 827 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

How many Government tenants have been decanted by Government in each calendar year 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date and what were the reasons for each case of tenants being decanted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 828 and 829 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 828 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

How many Government tenants who have been decanted in the calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date have appealed the Decanting Notices and are any such appeals still outstanding?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 827 and 829 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 829 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

On what condition or conditions have tenants agreed to be decanted from their homes by Government since 2008 and has Government now fulfilled all of those conditions in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question No. 829 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 827 of 2010

2008 – Four Government tenants have been decanted as follows:

- 1 tenant decanted due to a Government Project.
- 2 tenants due to poor condition of flats.
- 1 tenant due to fire.

2009 – Nine Government tenants have been decanted as follows:

- 7 tenants due to Government Projects.
- 2 tenants due to poor condition of flats.

2010 – Seven Government tenants have been decanted as follows:

- 2 tenants due to Government Projects.
- 5 tenants due to poor condition of flats.

Answer to Question No. 828 of 2010

One tenant has appealed the Decanting Notice and no appeals are outstanding.

Answer to Question No. 829 of 2010

There are no formal conditions set by the Government when dealing with tenants that have to be decanted. Each case is considered on an individual basis where the onus is for the Housing Department to provide alternative and entitled Government accommodation. Every effort is made to help Government tenants by refurbishing the new property through Buildings and Works and further assistance provided for transportation of belongings.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 827 TO 829 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

Once again I thank the Minister for the information. Reference Question No. 827 of 2010, we are told that one tenant was decanted due to a Government project, then 7 in 2009 due to Government projects, two tenants in 2010 due to Government projects. Does the Minister have any information which will enable me to know where these projects are or what projects are being referred to?

HON F J VINET:

Yes and no. Not entirely. I have not been given a breakdown of which Government projects are being alluded to in the questions. I certainly know, in fact, in answer to the following question that two tenants at least in 2009 were moved as a result of the new airport and new roads project and I believe one or more may have been moved from the Calpe Barracks area which as was announced some time ago are being redeveloped into affordable housing. But I am afraid I do not have specific details of this. I would need notice for that.

NO. 830 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DECANTING OF GOVERNMENT TENANTS

Have Government agreed to pay compensation to any Government tenant as a result of having to be decanted and if so, how much compensation was payable in each case, if a surveyor was employed, who was the surveyor, how was any such compensation assessed and when has it been paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government does not generally pay compensation to Government tenants who are being decanted. However, in the public interest, the Government has exceptionally paid compensation towards two Government tenants, formerly resident at British Lines Cottages, who needed to be reallocated urgently, because their properties were in direct line of the new airport and frontier road projects. These were unusual tenanted Government properties in that they were villa type houses. The sums were respectively £30,000 and £88,000 to each Government tenant and this was paid in 2009. Costs were based on the surrender of their tenancies, for the replacement of furniture and the upgrading of their new Government flats to the standard they formerly enjoyed at British Lines Cottages.

ORAL

NO. 831 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions under which the caretakers are employed at Bishop Canilla House and does Government have any say in determining what these terms and conditions should be?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 832 and 833 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 832 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government say how much they pay the company that employs the caretakers at Bishop Canilla House for the service they provide?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 831 and 833 of 2010.

NO. 833 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government say which company provides the employees that carry out the service of caretaker and related duties at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes. I was going to hand over a schedule but in fact it is in narrative format so I may as well read it out but I am happy to give the hon Member a copy.

The terms and conditions are set by the private contractor employing the caretakers and not the Government. Similarly, the Government does not intervene in determining such terms and conditions. Government's role is to ensure that proper services are provided.

The Government pay £14 per hour per caretaker to the company that employs them for the services provided at Bishop Canilla House.

The Government have commissioned GJBS Ltd to carry out the services of caretaker and related duties at Bishop Canilla House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 831 TO 833 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So in fact what the hon Member is saying is that the 100 per cent Government owned company employs the people who provide the service. The Government pays its own company £14 but has no control over what its company pays the workers. Well, that seems a ... Everything that he has read out would only make sense if he was talking about a company which was privately owned. But in fact the company is Government owned.

HON F J VINET:

When I read the answer as drafted for me and in particular the reference to terms and conditions, I did not assume that that referred to the salary of the individuals. I have automatically assumed, perhaps wrongly so, that what Government pays to the company which is £14 per hour per caretaker is what the caretakers received. I have

not been informed to the contrary but I stand to be corrected. Perhaps the hon Member ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure what they have received, but I doubt they would have been complaining to me if they were getting £14 an hour given that I think that the labouring rate in the industry in the CATA agreement is around £7 an hour and I believe that the normal rate in GJBS Ltd is in fact the rate in the public service. That is, my understanding of the situation is that a number of years ago, in fact, the Government, agreed in the case of GJBS Ltd, that instead of being covered by the construction industry pay, they would be covered by the Gibraltar Government Building and Works pay. So, employees of GJBS Ltd would be getting the pay of the Government and the £14 is more. Is that not the case? Well, I am happy to be corrected.

HON L MONTIEL:

GJBS Ltd is a construction company and therefore it is analogued to CATA terms and conditions of employment. The reality, however, is that being a company which negotiated xxxx, it negotiates terms above the minimum which is the CATA rate. So, CATA or rather GJBS Ltd has better terms and conditions than CATA because it is negotiated directly with Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is exactly what I have said. They are not being paid according to the CATA rate. They are being paid according to the Gibraltar Government rates of pay and it was the TGWU that negotiated it.

HON L MONTIEL:

The Buildings and Works has a parity agreement with the UK. GJBS Ltd does not have a parity relationship with any UK ... That is the difference.

HON J J BOSSANO:

GJBS Ltd has parity with the Public Works and Public Works has parity with UK. That is the difference.

HON L MONTIEL:

It is not true. GJBS Ltd has no parity relationship with Buildings and Works.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, maybe the agreement was done after he stopped being the District Officer and that is why he does not know it because that is the information provided

to me by the people who work there. So they ought to know what they are getting paid. But anyway, I am grateful for the hon Member because if the information I have got is incorrect then I am grateful to him. Presumably, he is working on the basis that he knows what the contracts of employment registered with the ETB is saying, in the case of employees of GJBS Ltd. That must be the source of his information.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have negotiated many years for GJBS Ltd and I know what are the negotiations that took place for GJBS Ltd.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. That is why I am suggesting that perhaps the negotiations when they were put on Gibraltar Government rates of pay happened after he was no longer negotiating for them. If he is relying on the contracts of employment that they are registered with at the ETB, then I accept that he has got more up to date and accurate information that I have. But in any event, what is clear is that the assumption that the £14 that the Government pays GJBS Ltd is the £14 that the employees get cannot be correct because the £14 is well above either of the two rates of pay. Either the Buildings and Works pay or the other one. So, does the Government in arriving at the £14 that they pay... That is, the £14 comes out of the hon Member's budget I take it, right. So, does the Government take into account what the actual employees are being paid in arriving at an agreement, presumably, with GJBS Ltd? This is not something that has gone to tender because, of course, it has gone to the Government owned company and the policy of the Government is that they can chose to use their own company. So it is not a question that it has gone to GJBS Ltd because other people would charge more. It has gone to GJBS Ltd because they have decided to give it to them. If they do not know what people are getting paid, how do they arrive at considering this to be a reasonable hourly rate to pay?

HON F J VINET:

I wish I could be more helpful and I apologise for the fact that I cannot because I have not got any more information before me and I admit fully that I had not focussed my mind on it even the possibility of the pay received by the caretakers being any different to what the Government pay the company. I had assumed, perhaps naively, that the two would be exactly the same. But certainly, if the hon Member wishes to have more detailed information on the contract, may I invite him to write to me and I will provide him with as soon an answer as I can. I simply do not have the information before me. I apologise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My understanding is that when the Government give a contract, although I accept that in the case of GJBS Ltd it does not really matter because if the Government choose to pay more money to GJBS Ltd and want GJBS Ltd to make a profit on it, it is still the money that, at the end of the day, belongs to the Government. But nevertheless, the normal thing is that when one negotiates in Government, from my understanding of this xxxx, an hourly rate, it is because one knows that there is so much and a premium on top which is what you expect the company to make as

profits and overheads. That is, it certainly would not be normal if it was a private company that, for example, the employee should be getting a £5 and the Government should be charged £15 and I think if there was that kind of disproportionate difference and it was a private company then we would be entitled to question in the House from the point of view of public spending. Why does the Government allow such a big margin? In this case it is not quite the same consideration because at the end of the day it is one hand paying the other hand. But of course from the point of view of the employees, the employees would wish to know how it is that the value of their work for the customer is identified as being £14 if what they actually receive for performing that work is considerably less and I think, certainly, it is something that I would invite the Minister to look into.

NO. 834 OF 2010**THE HON S E LINARES****GEA – REPAYMENT OF ELECTRICITY ARREARS**

In each financial year 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, what was the longest period agreed by the Electricity Authority for the repayment of arrears by any (a) residential user; and (b) business user?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The longest periods are as follows:

	(a) Residential Users	(b) Business Users
Financial Year 2007/2008	72 Months	68 Months
Financial Year 2008/2009	142 Months	72 Months
Financial Year 2009/2010	728 Months	67 Months

NO. 835 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

GEA – REPAYMENT AGREEMENT POLICY

Can Government state whether the Electricity Authority has adopted a policy of not entering into repayment agreements in respect of arrears?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No such policy has been adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 835 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, if somebody has been refused the opportunity of entering into a repayment agreement on the grounds that the Electricity Authority is no longer entering into such agreement that would have been misinformation, that is a mistaken answer by whoever provided it.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, I think the previous question and answer actually shows the flexibility that the Authority has in granting a particular consumer 728 months to pay the bill, that is over 60 years. So, I think...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Several generations.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the Electricity Authority are actually quite lenient in agreeing to any arrears agreement.

HON S E LINARES:

Residential.

NO. 836 OF 2010

THE HON S E LIINARES

NEW POWER STATION

Can Government state when will works commence for the installation of the new electricity generating station and what is the estimated cost for imported materials and the cost of the construction?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government are unable to provide a date for the commencement of the works or the estimated cost of imported material because the tender for the new power station has not been awarded yet.

NO. 837 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

POWER CUTS

Can Government give an explanation as to why Gibraltar was plunged into total darkness due to the power cut on 28th April 2010 and whether there are any backup systems in place and if not are any backup systems going to be put in place in order to avoid this happening again?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

One of the GEA interconnector high voltage cables between Jumpers Bastion Distribution Centre and Orange Bastion Distribution Centre suffered a failure. The subsequent earth fault tripped the three power stations. Waterport Power station tripped on earth fault and OESCO and MOD power stations on under voltage that was caused by the massive earth fault.

This type of occurrence is rare and was attributed to the massive size of the earth fault experienced and the limitation of our electrical distribution network to handle large earth fault currents.

The network system is designed to trip generators in order to protect equipment and machinery from further damage that can be caused by an earth or other type of electrical fault. This is what happened at Waterport when the protection relay in the earthing transformer detected the cable earth fault and tripped the generator. Unfortunately, the fault was so massive that it broke down the network system voltage causing the other power stations to trip on under voltage.

Both OESCO and Waterport have black start capabilities, that is back up, to restart engines in the event of a total black out. The delay in restoring electrical power was due to the problems with the pneumatic system that supplies the black start capabilities at Waterport and the need to pressure test adjustment interconnectors' cables in the vicinity that showed external signs of heat and smoke damage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 837 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

What the hon Member has said about the back up system, it seems as if the back up system that was in place was not adequate enough for it to have avoided the power cut. Correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really give you a technical explanation because I really do not know how to wire up a switch let alone any of this. But what I can tell you is that when it did happen I did actually focus on the idea of having adequate back up facilities to avoid this sort of thing. The explanation I was given was that it is quite rare that all these circumstances come together at the same time and that one cannot have a system which is 100 per cent full proof even though the system should have been able to react to something like this. Unfortunately, a series of circumstances happened at the same time which has made the whole thing come to the situation we found ourselves on the 28th April. It is not something that is a regular occurrence and hopefully it will not happen for many years to come.

NO. 838 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

POWER CUTS

Can Government state whether there are any compensation schemes provided by Gibelec or Government itself to consumers of electricity to cover the damage caused by power cuts such as the one that occurred on 28th April 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There are no compensation schemes to cover any damage caused by power cuts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 838 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not realise that when these things happen which I understand was a one-off, it does cause a lot of damage not only to residential because it is even in residential where you have a washing machine running and suddenly it stops and there are consequences to that but for businesses where they rely totally on electricity especially when we are using more and more computers, computer systems and all that. Does the Minister think then that there should be some sort of compensation scheme when, like the Minister has just stated, on the very, very rare occasions that this happens, that at least the consumer is not jeopardised in any way?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I do not think that we can have a compensation scheme which is so open ended. I am fully aware of the consequences of circumstances as happened on the 28th April and representations were actually made to the Gibraltar Electricity Authority by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of members who claimed to have suffered serious financial losses as a result of the power cut. Nevertheless, what I can say is that those companies that are almost totally dependent on electricity supply like the gaming companies et cetera, do have back up facilities. I remember the day in question and my office being in Europort, one went down to the basement and one actually found oneself very much inside a generating station itself with all the back up system being triggered and coming into effect. So there is an element of cover for those that find themselves totally relying on electricity to conduct their business.

Having said that, I know retailers in Main Street suffered as a result of it with tills, computers et cetera. The ability to be able to go through and conduct sales with credit cards et cetera. I know that there was an element of loss there. But I do not think that the Government can actually have an open ended compensation scheme for such events.

NO. 839 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS DISCONNECTED

Can Government state how many, if any, of the 588 domestic customers who had not paid their October 2009 electricity bills by the 31st December 2009 were disconnected following the issue of a disconnection advice letter in January 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Out of the 588 letters issued to domestic customers, a total of 144 disconnections were effected. The remainder of the customers had either settled their arrears or agreed payment dates with repayment arrangements.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 839 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In taking the decision to proceed, in the case of the 144, does the Government or the department, the people that have to take that decision, actually look into the circumstances of the individual. Whether it is a person living on their own or a pensioner or somebody on social assistance or once the trigger of the letter goes out warning them if they do not react, it is automatic?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. There is a very safe laid down criteria before... There is a process which the consumer is taken through before disconnection. Disconnection is really the xxxx of every opportunity. If anybody was to come and say, look I want to do an arrears agreement, in the case of the 728 months of paying say 50p a month, the people would not be disconnected and also the fact that the circumstances of the consumer himself, that is, pensioners who live on their own et cetera. All these things are taken into consideration plus the fact that there is close liaison with the Department of Social Security as well to ensure that no hardship is being caused to people who really cannot genuinely afford to do that. I think the hon Member can rest assured that these disconnections are happening when there is total disregard or sometimes that people are consumers that do not react to anything and until they actually get disconnected, some of them actually come, then settle or enter into an arrears agreement and are connected two days later or a day later. So I think it is the act of

disconnection that actually triggers them and provokes them to coming in and actually doing an agreement.

NO. 840 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS DISCONNECTED

Can Government state how many, if any, of the 244 commercial customers who had not paid their October 2009 electricity bills by the 31st December 2009 were disconnected following the issue of a disconnection advice letter in January 2010?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The number of letters is actually 246. It may be a typo but out of those 246 letters issued to commercial customers, a total of 39 were disconnected. The remainder of the customers had either settled their arrears or agreed payment dates with repayment arrangements.

NO. 841 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC – DIGITAL TRANSMISSIONS

When does the Government expect that GBC Television will be transmitting digitally?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is an EU obligation for all television transmissions to be digital by the year 2012. The Government is working towards meeting this deadline and in fact has committed itself publicly to do so.

NO. 842 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC – NEW PREMISES

Have Government now earmarked premises for GBC Television and Radio to move to from South Barracks Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government has not earmarked new premises for GBC Television and Radio. The matter is currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 842 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman expect to be able to announce new premises during the course of this calendar year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

NO. 843 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GOVERNMENT COMPUTER SYSTEMS

What arrangements are in place for the licensing of software on Government computer systems?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government has in place an enterprise agreement, which includes the Gibraltar Health Authority that covers the following:

1. Microsoft products;
2. Anti-virus software;
3. Internet content filtering; and
4. IBM System software for their I-Series Machines.

Any other specific specialised software is licensed when purchased.

All other software is Open Source and therefore it is free.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 843 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can Government confirm whether it is aware of any Government machines or any Government PCs operating on the basis of unlicensed software in the past, for example, three or four years?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not aware that there is any but I would not be able to ... It is really a supplementary that I have not done research for. There may be and the IT Department may be aware of such cases but it is not something that has been brought to my attention.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it something that the hon Gentleman could follow up and perhaps write to me on?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful.

ORAL

NO. 844 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were turned down during the months of February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 845 and 846 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 845 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many companies have been issued with monthly weight exemption certificates between the months of February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown between heavy roads and other roads?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 844 and 846 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 846 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were granted during the months of February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this Schedule which I hand over to him.

Schedule to Question No. 846 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 844 of 2010

In May 2010 one application for an exemption of a weight restriction was turned down.

Answer to Question No. 845 of 2010

Fifteen companies have been issued with monthly weight exemption certificates between the months of February 2010 to May 2010 for heavy traffic roads. One company has been issued with monthly weight exemption certificate between the months of February 2010 to May 2010 for other roads.

Answer to Question No. 846 of 2010

Year 2010	Trucks	Cranes	Motor Vehicles designed for excavation or shovelling works	Total
February	15	2	1	18
March	16	10	-	26
April	8	9	2	19
May	11	2	1	14

NO. 847 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to state when the replacement of the bus shelters will commence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government will announce the implementation of its policy to replace all bus shelters when it is in a position to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 847 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

This seems to be a sign of things to come in terms of further questions which will be asked in terms of implementation. Can the hon Minister explain why there has been, in respect of this particular issue bus shelters, ... appears to be a reversal of policy or retrenchment of the Government's position because when we have asked questions about bus shelters in the past the hon Member has been very open about what the position was, whether maintenance has been carried out, the contacts with the manufacturer, the identification of criteria which was necessary to meet Gibraltar's needs, the fact that all this was going to happen within a certain timescale. What has caused the Government to change its policy and now be totally refusing to provide any information at all on this to the public?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As I explained to the hon Member at the last Question Time, we are in final negotiations in respect of the contract for this provision of bus shelters and I think it would not help if I made public as to where or when these bus shelters are going to be in place because it would only be an indication to those that we are negotiating with as to what Government's thinking is on the matter and therefore I do not think it would be helpful for us to be able to make this information publicly available. If he is so concerned about it, all I can say is that there has been significant progress since the last Question Time in the House and I am quite happy to brief him privately if he so wishes. But all I can say is that the matter is progressing well and new bus shelters will be in place shortly.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure we can accept that, because discussions are taking place with whoever, the Government is not able to say, I intend to have new bus shelters by 2010 or during this term of office. It certainly does not work with us that because any discussions, in fact any works which are carried out by Government involve discussions, involve negotiations and if no information at all could be given by the Government as to what it plans to do in the next three or four years, this party in Government would simply not be able to produce a manifesto. How on earth can he produce a manifesto setting out a programme for four years if he cannot say what he proposes to do or when he proposes to do it because it will jeopardise negotiations or discussions. It is, with respect, an argument which simply does not hold any water. It is not an argument that has been deployed in the past and what we detect is really a change of policy, an entrenchment of position by the Government in refusing to provide information which should be publicly available. Can I ask the hon Member to simply reconsider the policy and simply to be a little bit more open with the public?

HON J J HOLIDAY:

No. I think we are being very open. We have a manifesto commitment to deliver new bus shelters and these bus shelters will all be in place before the end of our term of office and that is for sure. But what I am not willing to do at this specific time is to give information as to when these will be in place exactly because I would be sending signals to the supplier as to what my preference is in terms of who I finally select as a supplier and therefore I do not think it is in the public interest for us to make that information available. I have told him that if he is so concerned about it, I am happy to brief him privately and that is as far as I am going.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not a question of being briefed privately. This is not information that I want for my private purposes. This is information that the public should know about because they have been suffering with these bus shelters for a long time and the hon Member knows that it is an issue that we have debated in the past in this Parliament. I certainly cannot understand at all why indicating a timescale, as to when the Government wants bus shelters to be in place, gives any sort of signal to anyone. It simply tells people, we are serious about this and we want to do this particular project. At the end of the day, it is a matter for the Government but if they refuse to provide information then the public will see them for what they are becoming which is a completely opaque and lack of transparent Government.

MR SPEAKER:

There is no question there as the hon Member can appreciate. I would appreciate it if the hon Member would not take opportunities to make statements in the guise of supplementaries that do not exist.

NO. 848 OF 2010**THE HON G H LICUDI****GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – PAYING PASSENGERS**

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares from these passengers by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in the months of February 2010 to May 2010 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of paying passengers transported and the value of the fares is as follows:

	No. of Passengers	Amount £
February 2010	82,656	53,707.00
March 2010	100,931	65,381.00
April 2010	100,593	66,530.00
May 2010	101,826	66,271.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 848 OF 2010**HON G H LICUDI:**

Can the hon Member repeat the figure for February?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The number of passengers was 8,256. Sorry it must be 82,656. The comma has been placed in the wrong place. My apologies.

HON G H LICUDI:

Eighty two thousand, six hundred and fifty six, with a value of £53,707. My apologies again.

ORAL

NO. 849 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – ROUTE 4 RED SANDS ROAD

Can Government state when bus route 4 will resume a normal service along Red Sands Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 850 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 850 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – ROUTE 4 RED SANDS ROAD

Can Government state why bus route 4 is not operating a normal service along Red Sands Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Bus route No. 4 is not operating a normal service along Red Sands Road because of road works in the area. A normal service will be resumed once the current works are completed.

The expected completion date is 25th June 2010.

NO. 851 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED – NEW BUSES FOR ROUTE No. 2

Can Government state whether it has now considered the recommendations of the Procurement Office Board with regard to the purchase of new buses for route No. 2?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government accepted the recommendations of the Procurement Office Board and has already placed an order for these buses. These buses should be arriving in Gibraltar in August.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 851 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that mean that as soon as the buses arrive they will be operational? I am assuming that no modifications need to be made once they arrive.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. They should be operational shortly thereafter.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the hon Member give any indication of the type of improvements that we can expect because currently, as I understand it, we have buses which carry nine passengers? Does the hon Member have any details of the buses so that people can know what the improved service will be like?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The buses will now carry 15 passengers. My understanding is that the engine power is actually more powerful and therefore will be able to manoeuvre around the Upper Town in a better way. Apart from that, I think it has all the other specifications

that the current buses have in terms of air conditioning et cetera, as we have had up till now.

NO. 852 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

NORTHVIEW TERRACE CAR PARK

Can Government state whether it has closed or has the intention of closing to members of the public the area behind Northview Terrace which is used as a car park?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have no plans to close the area behind Northview Terrace which is currently being used as a car park informally and at the risk of the persons parking there, as has been the case for a number of years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 852 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

So the position is that, as far as the Government are aware, there is no impediment in those people who use that as an informal car park continuing to use that as an informal car park?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct. The area is known to be an area of possible rock fall. There has not been a rock fall there for many, many years. It is not something that the Government wish to encourage but people are aware of this and still continue to park in that area and we will continue to allow them to do so.

NO. 853 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS RECEIVED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RESTAURANT SITE AT EUROPA POINT

Can Government say how many tenders have been received to develop a restaurant site at Europa Point which was advertised on 30th April 2010 with a closing date of 11th June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The information requested by the hon Member is commercially sensitive and cannot be put in the public domain at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 853 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member saying the number of tenders is commercially sensitive? That is what the question has asked.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. It is commercially sensitive.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say whether there has been more than one tender without giving a precise number?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have said it is commercially sensitive.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member explain what makes this particular one commercially sensitive because I do not think they have ever had any difficulty in telling us whether there is one or ten or twenty? Or is it that they do not want the person that has applied to know how much competition there is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That might be the case. I think we need to understand that the tender closed last week. We know how many tenders there are because obviously we know because the tender box has x numbers in there, whatever x is. We still have not opened the tenders. There has not been a meeting of the Tender Board, right, but for sake of argument if there was one and the Government was to have to enter into... It is not bound to accept that tender but it may be open to negotiation. If they know they are on their own, then the negotiating ability on the part of the Government is undermined by the fact that they know that they are the only ones and what we are trying to do is not to put this in the public domain until a decision has been taken.

ORAL

NO. 854 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Can Government confirm whether they have received any proposals for the redevelopment of Sacred Heart School (the old Grammar School) in the area of Arengo's Palace?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government have not received any proposals for the redevelopment of this site.

NO. 855 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHTS DELAYED

Can Government say how many flights from Gibraltar to the following airports were delayed by more than half an hour on a monthly basis:

- (a) London Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester;
- (e) Madrid until flights ceased,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 856, 857, 859 to 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 856 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHTS TIMETABLED AND CANCELLED

How many flights between Gibraltar and the following airports were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis to or from:

- (a) London Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester;
- (e) Madrid until flights ceased,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 855, 857, 859 to 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 857 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO LA LINEA FOR ARRIVING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many arriving passengers on the flights from Madrid to Gibraltar until flights ceased boarded the bus to La Linea after landing here on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 855, 856, 859 to 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 858 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OPERATIONAL COST OF GIBRALTAR/LA LINEA BUS SERVICE**

What was the operational cost, with a breakdown on a monthly basis, of the bus service that ran between Gibraltar airport and La Linea until flights to Madrid ceased since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The cost of providing the bus service, including the requirement of a GibAir Service Agent on the inbound bus, equates to £65.50 per round trip, that is from the La Linea bus terminal to the Gibraltar airport and back to the La Linea bus terminal.

The breakdown of cost is as follows:

February	£1,572.00
March	£1,506.50

ORAL

NO. 859 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS FROM LA LINEA FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many departing passengers on the flights from Gibraltar to Madrid until flights ceased arrived at the air terminal on the bus from La Linea on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 855 to 857, 860, 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 860 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS ON GIBRALTAR/MADRID ROUTE

What was the total number of passengers carried on the Madrid/Gibraltar route until flights ceased, showing inward and outward bound on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 855 to 857, 859, 861 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 861 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TRANSIT PASSENGERS FROM MADRID

Can Government say, of the passengers who arrived in Gibraltar by air from Madrid until flights ceased since the information supplied during the last Question Time in this Parliament, on a monthly basis, how many were deemed to be in transit through Gibraltar and how many stayed in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 855 to 857, 859, 860 and 863 of 2010.

NO. 862 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX/LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say how much is owed in passenger tax and landing charges by the airlines which fly between Gibraltar and the following airports:

- (a) London Heathrow;
- (b) London Gatwick;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Madrid until flights ceased;
- (e) Manchester?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

As stated in my answer to Question No. 332 of 2010, the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide details of sums due by individuals, named commercial entities or citizens.

Between the airlines that use Gibraltar Airport, £59,955.43 is due in respect of Landing and Parking Fees and £175,840 in respect of Departure Tax.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 862 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether those figures include the sums owed by Andalus or not? He says using Gibraltar airport.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Those sums include all operators that have used Gibraltar airport so it does include Andalus as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that Andalus is no longer operating and therefore it is not an ongoing thing in their case, what action is the Government taking to collect the money because in the other cases the people are still coming in.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The company has given us an undertaking that they will settle what is owed to us and we are waiting for these funds now to be received.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The last time, if I recall correctly, Andalus had actually done some kind of arrears agreement that they were going to pay monthly sums in respect of the amount outstanding. Can he say whether they are now paying it all in a lump sum or whether this will be a new arrears agreement?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. They will be paying the total amount in a lump sum.

ORAL

NO. 863 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX

Can Government confirm the level of passenger tax per passenger which is due from persons travelling to or from Gibraltar airport?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this Schedule which I now hand to him.

Schedule to Question No. 863 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 855 of 2010

	LHR	LGW	LTN	MAN	MAD
Feb 10	3	9	2	1	7
Mar 10	2	7	1	0	5
Apr 10	1	5	5	0	0
May 10	3	9	4	2	0

Answer to Question No. 856 of 2010

	LHR		LGW		LTN		MAN		MAD	
	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX	SCH	CNX
Feb 10	28	1	28	1	13	0	8	0	24	2
Mar 10	31	3	31	1	14	0	13	0	23	6
Apr 10	30	6	30	6	19	5	13	3	0	0
May 10	31	3	31	0	25	0	15	0	0	0

Answer to Question No. 857 of 2010

Madrid to Gibraltar

February 2010	0
March 2010	0

Answer to Question No. 859 of 2010.

Gibraltar to Madrid

February 2010	0
March 2010	0

Schedule to Question No. 863 of 2010 continued

Answer to Question No. 860 of 2010

	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Departures</u>
February 2010	310	417
March 2010	278	261

Answer to Question No. 861 of 2010

	<u>Staying in Gibraltar</u>	<u>Transit to Spain</u>	<u>Total</u>
February 2010	36	274	310
March 2010	47	231	278

Answer to Question No. 863 of 2010

The level of passenger tax is £10 per departing passenger.

NO. 864 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGER TAX/LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say whether the payments of landing charges and passenger tax owed by Andalus airlines are now up to date before the airline terminated their flights between Gibraltar and Spain?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As stated in my answer to Question No. 332 of 2010, the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide details of sums owed by individuals, named commercial entities or citizens.

In the circumstances, I am unable to provide the hon Member with the information he has requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 864 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

But has not the hon Member already provided that information in answer to the previous question.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

To a certain extent that is the case. I have been trying to be as helpful as possible without ... To be honest with you, when we have given information in the House before by different airlines, at meetings I have had with current operators, they have said to me, look I am not very... we keep up to date with all our payments, I see no reason why we should be exposed publicly and then in the press in print as to what we owe, we do not owe because that is information that is then available to competing operators. So they really felt, obviously I can do as I please later, but they have asked me and in two circumstances they both said to me, I see no reason why we should expose to the public information on what we owe and what we do not owe, we are totally abiding by what we are told to do, I see no reason why it should be exposed. That is why the Government took the view that we should supply the information holistically but not by individual operators. Obviously, I have been trying to be as helpful as possible in trying to ensure that whatever Air Andalus owes, I

have now a commitment from the new Chief Executive, because there has been a complete change of Board of Directors, that this money is now going to be settled. Therefore, I think that in all fairness to them we ought to respect the agreement that I have entered into with them in order for them to put this behind them and settle whatever is due to the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, when and if it is settled, the hon Member will be able to tell us what it is that had to be paid and has been paid.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. I see no reason why not and I am happy to give it to the hon Member privately if he wants but what I do not want to do is for it to appear tomorrow or on Monday or whatever in the front page of one of the daily newspapers having another go at the airline and then find that they may take the decision, well now we are not going to pay. I would rather not risk those circumstances.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that Andalus are no longer an operator, what interest or pressure is there on them to pay?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is such a thing as commercial honesty and when the new ... Well it does exist in some places. But when the new Chief Executive was appointed I made contact with him and had a meeting with him in Gibraltar and we discussed the future way going forward and he gave me his assurances that the matter would be dealt with and it is still within the time frame that he asked me to consider in order to put this behind them and I hope that they will comply with their commitment. Otherwise the Government will take whatever action it needs to take in order to pursue the outstanding bill in the same way as we would do with anybody else. We are not just going to take it on the chin and they know about it. I have brought it to their attention.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member tell the House why ... I know that he cannot give the amount but can he say why they were allowed to build up such a debt in the first place? After the arrears agreement was entered into they obviously did not honour it otherwise the debt would not still be there.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well because the outstanding amount, obviously, has built up over a period of time but the amounts involved were not significant. They were in the process of injecting new capital into the company and they were explaining to us, look we need time because we are in the process of injecting capital into the company and these

arrears will be paid et cetera, et cetera and for the sake of giving them some form of support, we agreed to allow them to continue operating without actually ... and they entered into an arrears agreement and that eventually did not happen or they did not deliver on that and there was a change in Air Andalus. I think shareholdings apart and a new director being appointed et cetera and now they are... in fact they are even considering Gibraltar again as a possible route.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether the Government are aware whether the airline is part-owned or subsidised by the Junta de Andalucia or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is some involvement. I am not quite sure what. I think some of these investments in Spain are undertaken by banks that actually represent some of the local Governments and really to get down to the bottom of exactly who owns what is not easy. We have done some research to try and establish and prepare ourselves for a possible claim against them and it is not clear. But there is some form of involvement and definitely they have been supported by the Junta de Andalucia somehow and they continue operating today. They continue operating most of the routes they were operating last year. So it is not an airline that has disappeared or has gone into liquidation or anything like that. The company continues to operate out of a number of routes that they successfully operate.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In answer to questions in the Parliament of Andalucia in April I think it was, it emerged that the Junta had a 2 million euros shareholding and that they also subsidised 116,000 euros in terms of advertising on the airline. Given that situation, would it not be easier to recover the money which is owed given the shareholding that the Junta seems to have in the airline. That it is not simply a private venture. That it seems to be backed up by the regional Government.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I assume that is why they have confirmed to me that they will be settling what is owed to us. What is owed to us is not great money. Do not think that we are going to be richer as a result of it or poorer if they do not pay. But on a point of principle obviously the debt has to be pursued and settled.

NO. 865 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

Can Government provide a breakdown showing how much of the £50,000 marketing budget allocated to Andalus airlines has been spent and how much of the matching £50,000 which the airline was supposed to put forward has been spent and on what?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

However, we are waiting for final confirmation from the airline on how the funds were spent on their side. However, we are aware the campaign included media advertising and roadside billboards and we have no doubt that they have spent their share of that but we are actually waiting for chapter and verse of it. However, there have been big changes in the airline's structure in terms of employees et cetera and we are just getting now to the bottom as to what this campaign was about and how they have spent it.

Schedule to Question No. 865 of 2010

Andalus Marketing	
Cost of Workshop in Madrid	£4,880.87
Cost of Press Visit to Gibraltar	£2,856.48
Cost of Travel Agents Visit to Gibraltar	£203.35
Adverts in the Press and On-Line	£36,996.07
TOTAL	£44,936.77

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 865 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How does the Government monitor that the airline has fulfilled its side of the bargain?
How does it monitor the airline's expenditure?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, in the normal course of business what happens is that there is a joint campaign that is agreed between us and in the case of Andalus what we did was we focussed on a number of activities, for example, some of the cost of the workshops in Madrid, some of the press trips to Gibraltar, adverts in the press and online and they concentrated on other forms of activity because they were able to procure some of these initiatives on a far more competitive level than we could. In the same way as we could acquire some of the activities that we did and so instead of doing it jointly, we decided that we would do our own thing and send each other the information. That information although we have it generically, we have not got it specifically to be able to provide it to you in the House today.

NO. 866 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ANDALUS AIRLINES

On what date did the Government become aware that there was a creditor who had commenced legal action for the arrest in Gibraltar of a leased aircraft operated by Andalus airlines and that an attempt would be made to arrest the aircraft?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government became aware of this matter on 25th March 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 866 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was that after the matter became public or before?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My office became aware of this the night after the lawyers turned up at the airport to try and prevent the aircraft from taking off. But I think the lawyers arrived late and the plane was actually taking off already when they turned up. So they could not stop it. The matter was reported to me the following morning. That is how I came to know about this. But let me say that the creditor involved had nothing to do with Gibraltar in the sense that this was an external creditor that was trying to pursue its claim over the company and happened to have picked Gibraltar for the arrest as such but never managed to achieve it.

NO. 867 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES INTERESTED IN FLYING TO GIBRALTAR

Can Government say with how many airlines, interested in flying to Gibraltar, they are currently in contact with?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government continues with its contacts and discussions with a number of airlines. However, in common with my response to previous Parliamentary questions, for reasons of commercial confidentiality it would not be appropriate for me to provide further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 867 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I can understand perhaps how that would apply in relation to a commercial tender where there is only possibly one tenderer but in relation to airlines where there could be more than one and where there is no special deal in terms of..., that the deal established, the landing charges subsidy and whatever else the Government offer has already established and will be the same to everyone presumably. Why would that commercially sensitive? This information has always been supplied.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

One could be talking to two airlines who are interested possibly in a same catchment area and one does not want to be seen to be talking to one and the other and they could be conflictive in their own... I am quite happy to give the hon Member a list of people that we are in contact with, on a confidential basis, but we find ourselves in a situation where there could be two specific airlines looking even at the same route, particularly and we are trying to negotiate with both because we are trying to get one of them in. If one finds out that we are negotiating with the other they could lose interest or they could say, we are not going to enter into this new route because we are being undermined by a possible other operator that is going to come in and therefore we need to ... There is also the fact that there are some of these low cost airlines who tend to try and find out, in anticipation of what others are doing, to plan to come in and try and undermine other operators or low cost operators to come in to

the same route. So there is an element of sensitivity and it is not in the interests of Gibraltar to be able to make this information public.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I can understand what the hon Member has said if I was asking for routes or for catchment area but I am only asking for numbers, so really, we are only asking for the number not for the route or the catchment area.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In the route conference which he publicly said I was wasting my time on, I actually had meetings with 12 potential operators.

NO. 868 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – MANDATORY OCCURENCE REPORTING

Can Government confirm whether the mandatory occurrence reporting data from Gibraltar airport, which the UK started to transfer to the European Co-ordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems in September 2009, can be identified separately to that of the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government can confirm that the mandatory occurrence reporting data from Gibraltar, which is transferred to the European Co-ordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems via the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority, can be identified separately from those of the United Kingdom as all Gibraltar reports feature the unique ICAO identifier for Gibraltar airport, which is LXGB.

NO. 869 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – ICAO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS ON GIBRALTAR

Can Government say whether the recommendations on Gibraltar airport contained in the ICAO audit into the UK and the UK's Overseas Territories have now been published and list the recommendations that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and the Gibraltar Government respectively?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The recommendations on Gibraltar airport contained in the ICAO audit into the UK and the UK's Overseas Territories have been published. They are listed in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

Schedule to Question No. 869 of 2010

GIBRALTAR ACTIONS

LEG/02 – Gibraltar should promulgate the measurements to be used in air and ground operations in Gibraltar airspace.

AIR/03 – Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft – a policy should be established for determining an appropriate number of ramp inspections to be conducted on foreign registered aircraft and include these random inspections as part of the surveillance programme.

ANS/08 – Information contained in the UK AIP (Air Information Publication) – Gibraltar should coordinate with the United Kingdom Department for Transport to clearly distinguish in the United Kingdom Air Information Publication the portions which are applicable to Gibraltar as well as to include appropriate information pertaining to Gibraltar.

AGA/03 – Fire Extinguishing Equipment – a mechanism should be established to ensure that fire fighting equipment and trained personnel are available during the ground servicing of aircraft at the aircraft stand.

MOD ACTIONS

AGA 01 – The United Kingdom should establish a mechanism to ensure that safety oversight is performed on military aerodromes that are used for international civil operations by including these military aerodromes in the aerodrome certification process.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 869 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether any of these recommendations have now been implemented?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The LEG/2 has now been completed. The AIR/03, the corrective action plan is in place and is anticipated to be completed by the 30th June 2011. The ANS/08, again the corrective action plan is in place and anticipated to be completed by the 31st December this year and the AGA/03 has already been completed. As far as the MOD's action required on AGA01, the corrective action plan is in place and is anticipated to be in place by the 30th September 2011. That gives you an update not just on the completed ones but the timescale for the completion of the rest.

NO. 870 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TRANSCOMA FERRY – ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF PERSONS**

Can Government say how persons arrived at and departed from Gibraltar on the Transcoma Algeciras ferry to Algeciras, on a monthly basis, since February 2010 inclusive?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of passengers that have arrived and departed from Gibraltar on the Transcoma Algeciras ferry since February 2010 is as follows:

	Arrivals	Departures
February	66	70
March	315	267
April	282	436
May	580	565

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 870 OF 2010**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it the case that the service that the ferry was operating, with a view to providing an alternative route for workers to come in, has not been successful and they have had to discontinue that? Is the Minister aware of anything like that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, obviously, I think in their business plan they had an element of workers that would be making use of the ferry and I do not think that much use is being made by the actual workers themselves. I believe that Transcoma has even entered into some form of agreement with the municipality of Algeciras to incentivise workers to use the ferry at a very nominal rate and my understanding is that it has not really taken off in the way that they anticipated. So they are obviously targeting other markets, tourism et cetera, to try to make the service viable.

NO. 871 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA FERRY – PORT FEES/PASSENGER TAX

Will Government state whether the operators of the Algeciras ferry are up to date in the payment to Government of port fees and passenger tax?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Well, the hon Member will be pleased to know that the operators of the Algeciras ferry are up to date in the payment of fees.

NO. 872 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSCOMA FERRY – SUBSIDIES

Can Government say whether they provide any subsidies to the Transcoma ferry that operates the Gibraltar-Algeciras route?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government does not subsidise the Gibraltar/Algeciras ferry service provided by Transcoma.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 872 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say whether there is any agreement or any subsidy in relation to marketing or advertising or any issue of that nature?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that when the service was initiated I know that I made contact with the Gibraltar Tourist Board so that we could look at possible opportunities in order to promote the route. I really do not know if anything has been done. I have not seen anything that looks like a joint marketing campaign to promote the route but I would not be able to confirm if something has actually happened in this respect. But I know initially we did offer the possibility of promoting the route in the same way as we try and promote all operators into Gibraltar, in providing the service that they offer.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister for Tourism perhaps enlighten us on this issue? Can the Minister for Tourism say whether anything has happened or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I know there have been contacts. I know there have been proposals and I know that we have put the GTB logo on some brochure. There were also proposals of an environmental nature to promote from an environmental angle but no definite arrangements have been made on any marketing proposals except that.

NO. 873 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SEATRADE CRUISE SHIPPING CONVENTION IN FLORIDA**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida in March, who represented Gibraltar and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The cost of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the Sea Trade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida in March was £21,676.34.

The breakdown is as follows:-

Airfares	£4,135.20
Hotel Accommodation	£4,545.08
Conference Passes	£927.84
Graphics	£94.00
Freight of Exhibition Material	£267.46
Travel Insurance	£37.05
Subsistence	£352.70
Meals, Local Transport & Contingencies	£1,713.12
Booth Space and Stand	£9,603.89
Total	£21,676.34

Gibraltar was represented by:

Captain Peter Hall	-	Captain of the Port/GPA
Mr Albert Poggio	-	Director, London Office
Ms Edwina O'Mahoney	-	Marketing Department, London Office

NO. 874 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SEATRADE CRUISE SHIPPING CONVENTION IN FLORIDA

Can the Minister for Transport list the cruise lines with which individual meetings were held during the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The meetings were held in the week before the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Florida. I held meetings with the following:

1. Yachts of Seabourn
2. Royal Caribbean
3. Celebrity Cruises
4. Azamara Cruises
5. Oceana Cruises
6. Regent Seven Seas Cruises
7. Silverseas Cruises
8. Carnival Cruises
9. Norwegian Cruise Lines

NO. 875 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONFERENCES SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED BY GOVERNMENT

Can Government list the conferences that they have sponsored or co-sponsored, both in Gibraltar or elsewhere, since the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the dates when the conferences were held, the cost and the department that was most directly involved?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Mr Speaker, I always get lumbered with this question. My Ministry has not sponsored or co-sponsored in Gibraltar or elsewhere any conferences since the last Question Time in this Parliament. I have asked my colleagues and they do not seem to have sponsored anything either. But I... something may have been overlooked. What I am saying is that I am replying on behalf of my Ministry and not on behalf of the Government. But I keep on being passed this question for answer.

NO. 876 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SOUTHWEST EUROPEAN SPACE TERRITORIAL COOPERATION
PROGRAMME CONFERENCE IN GIBRALTAR**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of hosting the Southwest European Space Territorial Cooperation Programme (SUDOE) Conference in Gibraltar on 7-8 April 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Please note that this is not a Southwest European Space Territorial meeting conference. It was the first Programme Monitoring Committee Meeting for the 2007-2013 South West Europe (SUDOE) Programme under Gibraltar's year of presidency of this Programme, which historically was the first time that a Spanish delegation was able to attend (with the Spanish Government's approval) a monitoring meeting on EU Structural Funds, at Programme level, in Gibraltar.

The costs incurred were made up as follows:-

• Hire of conference facilities and meals	£2,981.90
• Hire of translation facilities, translators, sound and recording system	£7,995.00
• Conference dinner	£ 749.38
• Transport for tour of Gibraltar	<u>£ 45.00</u>
	£11,771.28

It should also be noted that a minimum of 50 per cent of these costs will be claimed and paid for by the SUDOE Programme itself under its Technical Assistance budget. Therefore the actual cost to the Government of Gibraltar has been £5,885.64.

NO. 877 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****5TH EDITION OF THE ROUTES EUROPE FORUM IN TOULOUSE**

What was the cost with a breakdown of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the 5th Edition of the Routes Europe Forum in Toulouse, France in May 2010?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The costs of the Gibraltar participation at the 5th Edition of the Routes Europe Forum in Toulouse were as follows:

Flights:	£1,916.00
Hotel:	£1,563.00
Subsistence:	£ 585.96
Delegate Fees:	£2,883.42
Total	£6,948.38

NO. 878 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HILTON HOTEL GROUP

Can Government confirm whether negotiations continue with the Hilton Group with a view to setting up a hotel in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Negotiations with Squarestone Ltd which are the investors... I have explained the relationship before in the House, and through them with Hilton Group continue, with a view to setting up a Hilton Hotel in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 878 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the nature of the arrangements that are being looked at one where Hilton would actually own the hotel or that they would have a contract to run it as a Hilton because I know that there are two versions of the way Hilton operates, one is that they run somebody else's hotel and another one is where they have it as part of the chain.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that for a number of years now Hilton itself do not own any of the hotels. Squarestone and Hilton actually have a relationship that has been going on now for a number of years and have previously opened up hotels on the same basis as they intend to do in Gibraltar. But, basically, the investment is done by Squarestone Ltd and they then have a franchise contract with Hilton for a period of, I think, 25 years and therefore for all intents and purposes it becomes a Hilton Hotel. The hotel is being designed according to Hilton's specifications. In fact, Hilton have had a very leading role in designing the hotel and making sure that they comply with all the requirements that they put in place with any franchise agreement as the minimum specification and that is the relationship that exists. Our relationship is obviously with Squarestone initially but our meetings are really tripartite. Whenever we have meetings Hilton comes along as well and listens in and makes sure that they are satisfied that they are going to be signing a franchise agreement with Squarestone which is back to back with what they are arranging and negotiating with the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the company has been so involved in what the hotel is going to look like and so forth, they have got now a definite site in mind where it is going to go?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Member say where that site is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The area that has been identified is the area where the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club is at present. It is the area between the Rooke, Kings Wharf and the Rental Housing Scheme, taking into account that there is a road and a roundabout in that area and it is that plot of land there which is an area which they identified as one of their preferred areas when they first came to Gibraltar to survey the possibility of them investing in Gibraltar. The surveys were done by Squarstone and surveys were done by Hilton at the time in order to ensure that they were both satisfied that whatever decisions they were taking were to their satisfaction.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Government the owner of the sites?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will this involve the consortium paying a premium to the Government for the land.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely.

NO. 879 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

How often and on what dates have the following met since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament:

- (a) the Port Advisory Council;
- (b) the Business and Commerce Advisory Council;
- (c) the E-Business Advisory Council?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Since the information supplied at the last Question Time in the Parliament, the Port Advisory Council met on the 29th April 2010. The Business and Commerce Advisory Council and the E-Business Advisory Council have not met.

NO. 880 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU/GOVERNMENT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Can Government list the parties who have applied for:

- (a) EU funding;
- (b) Gibraltar Government funding,

since the last Question Time in this Parliament, indicating the amount of funding requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful and those that are still pending?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO.880

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	PS	Purpose of Grant
19	Cupcake	Active	£8,246.97p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£19,242.93p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment, Freight and Import Duty, Website and Advertising and Rent and Subsidy Scheme
20	Nebbiolo Limited	Active	£19,817.46p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£48,518.60p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment and Import Duty (12%)
21	Government of Gibraltar	Active	£89,700.00p (30%)	£209,300.00p (70%)	£0.00p (0%)	Hardware requirements and Software applications
22	Patton Limited	Active	£18,348.01p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£42,812.03p (70%)	Building Work, Equipment, furniture, advertising and Rent Subsidy Scheme
23	Evensong Limited	Active	£19,559.10p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£45,627.90p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment, furniture, advertising and Rent Subsidy Scheme
24	Anglo Hispano Company Limited	Active	£47,272.81p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£110,303.23p (70%)	Building Works, Equipment, Furniture, Advertising & Rent Subsidy Scheme
25	Ministry for Transport	Active	£125,376.00p (40%)	£188,064.00p (60%)	£0.00 p (0%)	Three mini buses
26	Cafe Rojo	Active	£18,683.40p (30%)	£0.00p (0%)	£43,594.60p (70%)	Building Works & Equipment

ORAL

NO. 881 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Development Aid Advisory Committee met since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Since the last Question Time, the Development Aid Advisory Committee has met once, on the 27th April 2010.

NO. 882 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

Can Government list the applications for planning permission in respect of projects that have been granted and rejected since the last meeting of this Parliament, showing those that are still under consideration, including the name of the applicant and of the project in question?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

Schedule to Question 882/2010

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 18/2/10 AND 8/6/10

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11358	Essarco Ltd	Proposed amendments to shopfront.	Approved	122 Main Street
11359	Watergardens (Management) Ltd	Proposed installation wrought iron fence along the length of the Ocean Village sleeper planter.	Pending	Block 1 Watergardens
11360	Mr & Mrs M Yome	Proposed re-filing of roof.	Approved	16/20 Vista Alegre Europa Road
11361	Start 2000 Ltd.	Proposed alterations and refurbishment.	Approved	5-6 Britannia House Bayside Road Marina Bay
11362	Pood Limited	Proposed internal alterations and external illuminated letters.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11363	Mr Kishin Alwani	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11364	Mrs Yvette Ignacio	Proposed change of use into bar/café/restaurant and internal alterations.	Approved	Cornwalls Centre Cornwalls Lane
11365	Mr P Curcio	Proposed internal alterations.	Approved	12-13 The Island Queensway Quay
11366	Lirrus Ltd.	Proposed demolition of fourth floor structure and third floor south wall.	Approved	3-5 Cornwalls Lane
11367	Ocean Village Luxury Suites	Proposed change of use from Class A1(etail) to class A3 (food and drink) and internal fitting out.	Approved	Grand Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
11368	Anglo Hispano Ltd	Proposed internal and external alterations.	Approved	Eurotowers
11369	Almond Holdings Ltd.	Proposed replacement of umbrellas.	Pending	194/196 Main Street
11370	Wilkie Ltd	Proposed construction of additional floor to provide extra stores, workshops and offices.	Pending	12/14 Flint Road
11371	Catalan Gardens Management	Proposed replacement of existing timber palisade fencing party walls.	Pending	8, 9, 10 Catalan Gardens Sir Herbert Miles Road
11372	Mr A Bakkali Kasmi	Proposed cladding of dome and reconstruction of honeycomb slab with a solid slab.	Approved	King Fahad Mosque Europa Road

Contd....

App No	ApplicantName	Description	Decision	SiteAddress
11373	Cathedral of the Holy Trinity	Proposed renovation of external pedestrian access from Cathedral Square.	Approved	12/14 Cathedral of the Holy Trinity Cathedral Square
11374	Richard Samuel Beards	Proposed new door opening in party wall between	Approved	1101 & 1102 Europlaza
11375	M E Beillo & Partners	Proposed demolition of Theatre Royal.	Government Project	5 Bishop Rapallo's Ramp
11376	Ms Maria P. Johnson	Proposed internal alterations to convert from shop to bakery.	Approved	8 Bell Lane
11377	Anthony Barcelo	Proposed conversion of existing bar premises into take-away and fritters unit.	Pending	Maidstone House Laguna Estate
11378	E. L. Davies	Proposed construction of detached villa .	Refused	7c Engineer Road
11379	John Durante	Proposed extension to balcony and associated works.	Approved	5 Woodford Cottage Europa Road
11380	Anglo Hispano Co Ltd	Proposed replacement of roof tiles	Approved	Piccadilly Gardens Rosia Road
11381	Hassans	Proposed Demolition	Pending	6/8 Library Street
11382	Mr M McElwee	Proposed modification of fixed glass into open type for ventilation.	Approved	4 Lord Napier Mews Rodger's Road
11383	Linrus Ltd	Proposed demolition of upper roof and alterations.	Approved	3-5 Cornwalls Lane
11384	M J Hassan & Co	Proposed remedial measures to masonry and replacement of pedestrian access ramp.	Government Project	Queensway Montagu Crescent
11385	Mr J Licudi	Proposed internal alterations to office.	Approved	Block 6 Watergardens
11386	Ocean Village Commercial	Proposed internal fit out of unit including lighting, bathrooms, airconditioning.	Approved	Leisure Island Business Centre Ocean Village
11387	Mr Albert J Brugada	Proposed change of use from residential to offices.	Pending	6/2 Parliament Lane
11388	Government of Gibraltar	Proposed part demolition.	Government Project	Public Market Fish Market Road
11389	Debon Air Ltd	Proposed rental units.	Approved	West Place Of Arms
11390	Fairthomes Gibraltar Limited	Proposed demolition of entrance arch.	Pending	Ocean Village

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Contd....

App No	ApplicantName	Description	Decision	SiteAddress
11391	GC Architects	Proposed façade refurbishment of residential property including replacement of windows.	Approved	20 Naval Hospital Road Admiral's Place
11392	Kit (Gibraltar) Ltd	Proposed change of use from restaurant to offices.	Approved	Cornwalls Lane
11393	Juan Xavier Chincotta	Proposed internal alterations and replacement of external windows.	Pending	13 Mount Road
11394	Garwil Catering Services	Proposed conversion of vacant unit into a catering facility.	Pending	Europa Business Centre
11395	Mr and Mrs Perez	Demolition of existing garage. New extension to the East and West of the property. New vehicle entrance to the site from the South (transport road)	Pending	St Slevant's Centre Pavillion Road
11396	Richard Abrines	Proposed alterations.	Pending	6/2 Gavino's Passage
11397	Mr O Torres	Proposed internal alterations to flat.	Pending	23 Amayllis House North Mole Road Waterport Terraces
11398	Taylor Woodrow (Gibraltar) Ltd.	Proposed demolition.	Pending	Redroofs Devils Tower Road
11399	Joseph Rocca	Proposed installation of air conditioning unit above the shop entrance and new sign.	Pending	4 City Mill Lane
11400	Allied Traders Ltd.	Proposed alterations.	Pending	New Harbours
11401	Marek Ratajczak	Proposed installation of glass curtains on balcony	Approved	Eurolaza
11402	Shoe Ltd	Proposed façade refurbishment, new signage and internal refurbishment.	Approved	226 Main Street
11403	Andrews Kent and Stone	Amalgamation of two apartments into one and construction of internal staircase.	Approved	The Sails Queensway Quay
11404	Mr & Mrs S Quim	Proposed replacement of windows.	Pending	75 Prince Edward's Road
11405	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed replacement of central pier with glazed opening.	Approved	The Sails Queensway Quay
11406	Ten Pin Bowling Ltd.	Proposed installation of satellite dish.	Pending	King's Bastion Leisure Centre Queensway
11407	Environment & Waste Mgt.	Proposed change of use.	Pending	66 Ex MOD NFTX Shelter Devils Tower Road
11408	GC Architects	Proposed conversion of one office units into two	Approved	Hadfield House Library Street

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Contd....

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11409	GC Architects	Proposed replacement of windows and balcony doors.	Approved	8/4 Buena Vista Road
11410	Mr Charles Gomez	Proposed extension to building and construction of pool in garden area.	Pending	9 Withams Road
11411	Black Back Ltd.	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	6 Police Barrack's Lane
11412	Black Back Ltd	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	4 Police Barrack's Lane
11413	Ocean Village Commercial	Proposed erection of signs.	Pending	Waterport Road Ocean Village
11414	Mr F Becerra	Proposed removal of partition wall between bathroom & WC.	Pending	26A Elliot's Battery
11415	Isia Farrington	Proposed cafeteria.	Pending	9/11 Corral Road
11416	Queensway Quay Marina	Proposed construction of two rock spurs and a rock slope to reduce wave swells within the marina.	Pending	Queensway Quay Marina
11417	Nicholas Cruz Esq	Proposed extension to property by adding extra floor & internal alterations.	Pending	19-21 Scud Hill
11418	Gibraltar Port Authority	Concrete slab to be situated west side Windmill Hill site to act as a base for a radar container housing.	Approved	Windmill Hill
11419	Mr Wilfred Lavagna	Proposed loft extension to the existing property	Pending	5 Prince Edward's Road
11420	Mr Darren Cassano Esq	Proposed construction of new two-storey house and swimming-pool	Pending	6A & B North Pavilion Road
11421	Albert Isola	Internal modifications to provide interview, boardroom, seminar room and kitchen facilities.	Approved	Portland House Glacis Road
11422	Mr and Mrs Hinchcliff	Widening of existing structural opening.	Pending	15/2 Gardiner's Road
11423	Paskcallingham Consultants	Proposed replacement of selected windows and doors.	Pending	Cable Car Top Station
11424	Paskcallingham Consultants	Proposed replacement of windows and general façade refurbishment.	Pending	Cable Car Base Station Grand Parade
11425	AKS Architects & Engineers Ltd	Proposed alterations to church.	Government Project	St Theresa's Church Devils Tower Road
11426	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed demolition of front entrance porch & removal of existing iron gate to cemetery via car park.	Pending	St Theresa's Church Devils Tower Road

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Contd....

App No	ApplicantName	Description	Decision	SiteAddress
11427	C & J Holdings Ltd	Proposed change of use from shop to restaurant.	Pending	Eurotowers
11428	Seniter Ltd	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	The Anchorage
11429	The Manager	Proposed alterations to gymnasium.	Pending	Mediterranean Rowing Club Europort Road
11430	Parade Developments (001)	Proposed conversion into hotel: 5,7 & 9 Town Range - 29,31 & 33 Governor's Parade.	Pending	5,7 & 9 Town Range
11431	L Sacarello	Proposed cladding of façade.		96 Main Street
11432	Miss Sushila Gangaramani	Proposed removal of wall between units.	Pending	Casemates Arcade
11433	Government of Gibraltar	2 temporary billboard structures.	Pending	British Lines Road
11434	Ms K Lucas	Proposed minor alterations to flat.	Pending	718 Cumberland Terraces Cumberland Road
11435	Anglo Hispano Ltd.	Proposed new window installation.	Pending	Unit 15 New Harbours
11436	Mr K Cunningham	Proposed minor alterations to flat.	Pending	24 Annarylls House Waterport Terraces
11437	Cathedral of St Mary Crowned	Replacement of roof terrace slab.	Pending	Cathedral of St Mary Crowned
11438	Grant Thornton	Proposed fitting of infra-red Laser link unit at top of Richmond Close on the exterior wall of lift machinery room.	Pending	Richmond Close Montagu Crescent
11439	Nature Port Reception Facilities	Proposed top office/laboratory extension over existing building.	Pending	Western Arm North Mole Road
11440	Mr C Galea	Proposed internal alterations.	Pending	Cumberland Terraces Cumberland Road
11441	Cosmopolitan Kids	Proposed fitting out of retail unit 13.0.2	Pending	Waterport Terraces
11442	Icom House Limited	Proposed Alteration & Refurbishment	Pending	1/5 Icom House Irish Town
11443	Gibraltar Residential Properties	Proposed office unit.	Pending	Honeysuckle House Waterport Terraces
11444	Linda & Duncan Paul Sykes	Proposed replacement of windows.	Pending	6 Britania House Marina Bay
11445	Michael Felice	Proposed installation of glass curtains to balcony.	Pending	204 Europlaza Harbour Views Road
11446	Liberty Electronics Ltd	Proposed external roller blinds.	Pending	63/65 Main Street

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App No 11448 **Applicant Name** Mr M El Ouahabi **Description** Proposed replacement of existing ceiling with new roof **Decision** Pending **Site Address** Public Market

NO. 883 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Since the last Question Time in this Parliament, there have been five meetings of the Development and Planning Commission, on the following dates:

- 25th February 2010
- 25th March 2010
- 23rd April 2010
- 6th May 2010
- 27th May 2010

NO. 884 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS BEFORE PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED BY DPC

On how many occasions since the financial year 2005/2006 have the Government been paid premiums in respect of property before planning permission has been granted by the DPC, with a breakdown giving the name of the property, the date of payment and the amount paid in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

There have been 19 occasions where premiums have been paid in respect of property before planning permission has been granted by DPC.

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 884

DATE PAID	TENANT	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	AMOUNT PAID GOG	DPC
04.10.06	KOALA HOLDINGS LTD	10% OF PREMIUM IRO SALE OF MOUNT BARBARY, MOUNT ROAD	190,507.00	02/04/2008
19.03.07	KOALA HOLDINGS LTD	90% BALANCE IRO SALE OF MOUNT BARBARY	1,714,563.00	
05.02.07	D & J FEETHAM	10% DEPOSIT IRO SALE OF 2 OLD QUEEN'S ROAD, INCES FARM	52,600.00	12/01/2007
09.07.07	D & J FEETHAM	90% BALANCE IRO SALE OF INCES FARM, 2 OLD QUEEN'S ROAD	473,400.00	
21.01.10	D A CASSANO	10% DEPOSIT IRO TENDER FOR HUMPHREY'S HUT, 6A NORTH PAVILION ROAD	21,000.00	No decision yet taken
23.04.10	D & K CASSANO	90% BALANCE IRO TENDER FOR HUMPHREY'S HUT, 6 NORTH PAVILION ROAD	189,000.00	
DATE PAID	TENANT	COMMERCIAL ADDRESS	AMOUNT PAID GOG	DPC
03.07.06	COMMERCIAL DEV INC LTD	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL LAND AT "THE ANCHORAGE" DEV (EX RSFCA)	505,000.00	28/10/2006
27.07.06	LIVING HERITAGE LTD	SALE OF EX ST PETER'S SCHOOL, CATALAN BAY	750,000.00	05/07/2007
29.08.06	COOL BLUES LTD	2nd(FINAL) INSTALMENT (50%) IRO UNIT 12 CASEMATES SQUARE	30,000.00	29/09/2006
14.09.06	TAYLOR WOODROW (GB) LTD	PREMIUM IRO SALE OF 30 DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD	600,000.00	24/09/2007
16.11.06	CEPSA (GIBALTAR) LTD	SALE OF 1C WATERPORT WHARF	200,000.00	24/09/2007
05.12.06	QUEENSWAY QUAY MARINA LTD	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AT QUEENSWAY QUAY (THE SAILS)	1,026,000.00	30/03/2010
21.03.07	ANGLO HISPANO CO LTD	PREMIUM IRO NEW 99 YEAR LEASE FOR PICCADILLY BAR ROSIA ROAD	170,000.00	No decision taken
27.03.07	OCEAN VILLAGE INVESTMENTS	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL LEASED AREA AT MARINA BAY (BOAT HOUSES & BERTHING)	1,400,000.00	05/02/2008
27.03.07	OCEAN VILLAGE INVESTMENTS	PREMIUM IRO ADDITIONAL DEV RIGHTS AT 8 BAYSIDE ROAD (MULTI STOREY CAR PARK)	500,000.00	15/06/2007
17.05.07	GARDENS OF BEAUTY	PREMIUM IRO 150 YEAR LEASE FOR 7 EUROPA ROAD (CASINO)	1,600,000.00	No decision taken
17.05.07	SHARROCK SHAND	10% DEPOSIT IRO TENDER FOR 91 QUEENSWAY	10,600.00	
06.08.07	SHARROCK SHAND (HOW LTD)	90% BALANCE IRO SALE OF 91 QUEENSWAY	95,400.00	24/07/2009
01.06.07	STONEFLINT LTD	PREMIUM IRO SALE OF 15 CATALAN BAY ROAD (LA MAMELA)	178,000.00	06/07/2009
10.06.09	CAMELOT HOLDINGS	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT 7 CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD		11/02/2010
11.06.09	PAITON LTD	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT 8 CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD		8,000.00
21.06.09	EVENSONG LTD	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT 5 CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD		10,000.00
19.10.09	GARWILL CATERING SERVICES	PREMIUM IRO TENDER FOR UNIT F15 EBC		To be issued this week

NO. 885 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY DPC – CONVERSION INTO HOTEL OF 5, 7,
9 TOWN RANGE AND 29, 31, 33 TOWN RANGE**

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the Development and Planning Commission in relation to the application by Parade Developments (001) Ltd and Parade Developments (002) Ltd to convert two buildings into one hotel at 5, 7 and 9 Town Range and 29, 31 and 33 Governor's Parade?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There have been four written representations from the public to date.

The expiry date to submit written representations is the 17th June 2010 which was yesterday so they may have been others after the question was drafted.

NO. 886 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY DPC – STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE
AT UNIT 2, 67 DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD**

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the Development and Planning Commission in relation to the application from Environment and Waste Management Services Ltd for the storage of hazardous waste at Unit 2, 67 Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No representations have been received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 886 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member in a position to explain what the nature of the hazardous waste that is going to be stored actually is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Environment and Waste Management Services Limited undertakes a number of activities in terms of environmental storage of hazardous waste and they intend to relocate some of their current facilities to this area in Devil's Tower Road and there is nothing more that I can add to that.

ORAL

NO. 887 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD VAULTS

Is it the policy of the Government that the five vacant commercial units at Chatham Counter guard will be put out to tender and if so when?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There are currently six unallocated units at Chatham Counter guard. The Government have not yet made a policy decision in respect of these units.

NO. 888 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT/WATERGATE HOUSE COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government say how many commercial units are empty either in the Casemates development or in Watergate House with a breakdown showing the date since each unit has been empty, the reason why each unit is vacant, and the number of the unit in question?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

On the ground floor of Casemates Barracks there are three vacant premises within the arcade.

Units 6E & 6F were surrendered by the previous tenant on 30th June 2009.

Unit 7F was surrendered by the previous tenant on 27 December 2009.

On the first floor of Casemates Barracks there is one unit vacant, 23A, which was repossessed from the previous tenant on 23rd March 2009.

At Watergate House, Unit 2/11 on the top floor is vacant. This was surrendered by the previous occupier on 8th May 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 888 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will these units be put out to tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the hon Member have an idea when that is likely to happen given that I understand there are people who are interested in applying.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. I cannot give him confirmation of when this will happen.

NO. 889 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 890 and 891 of 2010.

NO. 890 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – GOOD VEHICLES

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 889 and 891 of 2010.

NO. 891 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTER HARDWARE

What was the value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTIONS 891 of 2010

ANSWER TO QUESTION 889/2010

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since November 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ thousands)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ millions)</i>
November 2009	28	57.9	429	9.0
December 2009	13	37.8	248	4.5
January 2010	14	55.9	502	9.7
February 2010	17	29.2	396	8.3
March 2010	29	54.8	477	10.0

ANSWER TO QUESTION 890/2010

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since November 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Good Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ thousands)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value (£ thousands)</i>
November 2009	1	0.2	6	55.4
December 2009	-	-	5	45.2
January 2010	-	-	3	33.5
February 2010	-	-	8	63.2
March 2010	-	-	5	18.5

ANSWER TO QUESTION 891/2010

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since November 2009 was as follows:

	<u>Value of Computers (£ thousands)</u>
November 2009	736
December 2009	1,072
January 2010	2,281
February 2010	1,193
March 2010	1,127

NO. 892 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINES – PASSENGER TAX DISCOUNT

Can Government say how the discount in passenger tax to cruise lines depending on the calls that they make is actually applied in practice in terms of when the payment of the tax due is actually calculated and paid?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The reduction in respect of every fare paying passenger travelling on a vessel that calls at Gibraltar between 2 and 4 times in a calendar year is 10 per cent; from 5 to 10 times it is 35 per cent; 11 to 19 times is 50 per cent; and over 20 times is 75 per cent. The reduction in respect of every fare paying passenger travelling on a vessel that commences and terminates its journey in Gibraltar will be 100 per cent. The payment of passenger tax is calculated by adding the total number of passengers arriving and the total number of passengers departing multiplied by £2 (in respect of every fare paying passenger on arrival £1 and departure £1 in Gibraltar by cruise ship) then the corresponding discount is applied depending on the number of times the vessel under the same company has arrived in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 892 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When does the vessel actually make the payment? Is it before the ship departs? At the end of the year? How is it physically paid?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The payment of this is done through the local agent. Every vessel calling at Gibraltar has a local agent and they act on behalf of the ship. What happens is that at the beginning of the year, for example before a first call of say P&O, we know how many calls are expected in Gibraltar throughout the year and what discount rate applies and that is applied on every call. If at the end of the year there has been a discrepancy in that figure as a result of the fact of a cancellation or a change of schedule or whatever, that is adjusted and is settled by the agent at that time.

NO. 893 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINES – PASSENGER TAX DISCOUNT

Can Government list the different cruise lines whose vessels call at Gibraltar and who would qualify for the passenger tax discount because these are operated by the same company or marketed under the same company brand, showing the names of their respective vessels?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Information requested is supplied in the schedule, which I now hand over to the hon Member.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 893 OF 2010

Company	Name of Vessel
Airtours	Sundream
Annek Lines	El Venizelos
Azamara Cruises	Azamara Journey
CDF Croisieres de France	Bleu de France
Celebrity Cruise Lines	Celebrity Centur
	Celebrity Galaxy
	Celebrity Equinox
Classic International Cruises	Arion
	Funchal
	Princess Danae
	Athena
Classical	Panorama
Club Cruise	Van Gogh
Club Med	Club Med 2
Compagnie des Iles du Ponant	Le Diamant
Costa	Costa Alegra
	Costa Marina
	Costa Romantica
	Costa Europa
	Costa Tropicale
	Costa Victoria
	Costa Fortuna
	Costa Mediterran
	Costa Atlantica
	Costa Concordia
	Costa Classica
	Costa Serena
	Costa Luminosa
	Costa Magica
Crystal Cruises	Crystal Symphony
	Crystal Serenity
Cunard Line	Queen Elizabeth II
	Queen Mary II
	Queen Victoria
D & P Cruises	Paloma
	Paloma I
Delphin Seereisen	Delphin Renaissan
Disney Cruise Line	Disney Magic
Festival Cruises	Bolero
	Flamenco
First Choice	Ausonia

Fred Olsen	Black Prints
	Black Watch
	Braemar
	Boudicca
	Balmoral
Hal	Maasdam
	Noordam
	Rotterdam
	Amsterdam
	Oosterdam
	Prinsendam
	Westerdam
	Veendam
Hansa Kreuzfahrten GMBH	Delphin
Hapag Lloyd	Bremen
	C. Columbus
	Europa
	Hanseatic
Hebridean International Cruises Ltd	Hebridean Spirit
Holiday Kareuzfahrten (Cruises) GMBH	Mona Lisa
Island Cruises	Island Escape
	Island Star
Kristina Cruises	Kristina Regina
KYMA Ship Management	The Topaz
Leisure Cruises	Switzerland
Linblad Expeditions	National Geograp
Linblard Special Expedition	Endeavour
Louis Cruise Lines	Coral
	Louis Majesty
Louis Cruises	Carousel
	Sunbird
Marline	Vistamar
MSC	MSC Lirica
	MSC Armonica
	MSC Melody
MSC Crociere	MSC Orchestra
MSC Cruises	MSC Fantasia
Noble Caledonia	Caledonian Star
Norwegian Cruise Line	Norway
	Norwegian Dream
	Norwegian Jewel
	Norwegian Gem
	Norwegian Jade
Ocean Village	Ocean Village
	Ocean Village 2
Oceanian Cruises	Regatta
	Insignia
Orient	Marco Polo
P & O	Arcadia

	Aurora
	Oriana
	Victoria
	Oceania
	Artemis
	Ventura
	Azura
Page & Moy	Ocean Majesty
Peter Deilman	Lili Marlen
Peter Deilmann	Berlin
Peter Deilmann Reederei	Deutschland
Phoenix Seereisen GMBH	Albatross
	Alexander Von Hu
	Amadea
	Maxi Gorkiy
Plein Cap Croisieres	Adriana
Princess Cruises	Crown Princess
	Dawn Princess
	Pacific Princess
	Ruby Princess
	Royal Princess
	Golden Princess
	Star Princess
	Sea Princess
	Grand Princess
	Emerald Princess
	Tahitian Princess
Pullmantur Cruises	Atlantic Star
Pullmantur SA	Empress
	Pacific Dream
Pulmantur SA	Zenith
Quark Expeditions	Clipper Adventur
Radisson Seven Seas Cruises	Radisson Diamond
Regent Seven Sea Cruises	Seven Seas Naviga
	Seven Seas Voyag
Renaissance	R Five
	R Seven
	R Six
	R Two
	R One
Residensen	The World
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd	Legend of the Seas
	Brilliance of the Seas
	Navigator of the Seas
	Voyager of the Seas
	Independence of the Seas
Royal Caribbean	Grandeur of the Seas
Royal Carribbean Cruises Ltd	Splendour of the Seas
Royal Olympic	Iason
	Triton

	World Renaissance
	Olympic Voyager
	Odysseus
SAGA	Caronia
SAGA Shipping Company	SAGA Rose
	SAGA Pearl
	SAGA Ruby
	Spirit of Adventure
	SAGA Pearl II
Sea Cloud Cruises	Sea Cloud
	Sea Cloud II
Seabourn Cruise Lines	Seabourn Goddess
	Seabourn Legend
	Seabourn Pride
Seadream Yacht Club	Sea Dream I
	Sea Dream II
Silversea Cruises Ltd	Silver Cloud
	Silver Whisper
	Silver Shadow
	Silver Spirit
Spesial Isten Cruises	Nordnorge
Star Clippers Monaco	Royal Clipper
Sunbay Cruises	Sunbay
Swan Hellenic Ltd	Minerva
Thomson Cruises	The Emerald
	Thomson Spirit
	Thomson Celebrity
	Thomson Destiny
	The Calypso
TMR	Nautica
Transocean Tours	Astor
	Astoria
	Arielle
Travel Dynamics International	Corinthian II
	To Callisto
V Ships Monaco	Song of Flower
Voyages of Discovery	Discovery
Windstar Cruises	Wind Song
	Wind Spirit
	Wind Star
	Wind Surf

NO. 894 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINES – PASSENGER TAX DISCOUNT

Can Government say how many cruise lines benefited from the discount in passenger tax in 2009 and 2010 to date in respect of the number of calls that they make showing the name of the cruise line and which category of discount they fall into?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 894/2010

<u>Passenger Tax Discount Scheme:</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010 (so far)</u>
a) 2-4 cruise calls 10% discount	11	7
b) 5-10 cruise calls 35% discount	9	1
c) 11-19 cruise calls 50% discount	3	1
d) 20 or more calls 75% discount	3	0
e) Turnaround calls 100% discount	0	0
Total:	35	26

2009

Azamara Cruises	3 calls	Category "b"
CDF Croisieres	13 calls	Category "c"
Celebrity Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Classic International	6 calls	Category "b"
Ponant Cruises	1 call	No discount
Costa Cruises	9 calls	Category "b"
Cunard Line	9 calls	Category "b"
Fred Olsen Cruise Line	8 calls	Category "b"
Holland America Line	2 calls	Category "a"
Hapag Lloyd	2 calls	Category "a"
Island Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Kristina Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Lindblad Expeditions	1 call	No discount
Louis Cruise Lines	28 calls	Category "d"
MSC	9 calls	Category "b"
Norwegian Cruise Line	5 calls	Category "b"
Ocean Village	1 call	No discount
Oceania Cruises	1 call	No discount
P & O	37 calls	Category "d"
Phoenix Seereisen	3 calls	Category "a"
Princess Cruises	15 calls	Category "c"
Pullmantur Cruises	33 calls	Category "d"
Quark Expeditions	1 call	No discount
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	1 call	No discount
Royal Caribbean International	11 calls	Category "c"
Saga Shipping	6 calls	Category "b"
Sea Cloud Cruises	3 calls	Category "a"
Seabourn Cruise Line	1 call	No discount
Seadream Yacht Club	3 calls	Category "a"
Silversea Cruises	1 call	No discount
Swan Hellenic	1 call	No discount
Thomson Cruises	8 calls	category "b"
Travel Dynamics	2 calls	Category "a"
Voyages of Discovery	2 calls	Category "a"
Windstar Cruises	4 calls	Category "a"

2010 (so far)

Azamara Cruises	1 call	No discount
Classic International	2 calls	Category "a"
Ponant Cruises	1 call	No discount
Cruise & Maritime Voyages	1 call	No discount
Cunard Line	1 call	No discount
Crystal Cruises	2 calls	Category "a"
Disney Cruise Line	1 call	No discount
Fred Olsen Cruise Line	2 calls	Category "a"
Island Cruises	1 call	No discount
Kristina Cruises	1 call	No discount
Lindblad Expeditions	1 call	No discount
Louis Cruise Lines	1 call	No discount
MSC	1 call	No discount
Oceania Cruises	1 call	No discount
P & O	12 calls	Category "c"
Phoenix Seereisen	1 call	No discount
Princess Cruises	4 calls	Category "a"
Pullmantur Cruises	3 calls	Category "a"
Royal Caribbean International	1 call	No discount
Saga Shipping	3 calls	Category "a"
Seabourn Cruise Line	1 call	No discount
Silversea Cruises	1 call	No discount
Star Clippers	1 call	No discount
Thomson Cruises	8 calls	category "b"
Travel Dynamics	2 calls	Category "a"
Voyages of Discovery	1 calls	No discount

NO. 895 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE VISITORS – PASSENGER TAX

Can Government confirm the level of passenger tax per cruise passenger arriving at Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Passenger tax is £1 per person. This tax has not changed since the last legislation, that is the Licensing Fees (Amendment) Act No. 34 of 1998.

ORAL

NO. 896 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE VISITORS – EXCURSIONS TO LA LINEA

Can Government say whether, and if so when, they have held discussions with the La Linea City Council with a view to offer shore excursions in La Linea to cruise visitors to Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government has had no discussions with the La Linea City Council on this issue.

NO. 897 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GTB – REVENUE RAISED BY CHARGING COACHES THAT USE COACH PARK**

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament by charging coaches that use the coach park?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The revenue collected on a monthly basis is as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>
	<u>£</u>
February 2010	3,292.30
March 2010	9,985.47
April 2010	8,437.62
May 2010	7,528.02
1 st – 9 th June 2010	<u>2,031.38</u>
Total	<u>33,139.87</u>

NO. 898 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – VACANCY FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Electronic Communications Officer with the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority that was advertised in March, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, has anyone been selected for the post and if so is the successful applicant Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 899 of 2010.

NO. 899 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – VACANCY FOR TEMPORARY RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AND IT ADMINISTRATOR

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Temporary Radiocommunications and IT Administrator with the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority that was advertised in March, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, has anyone been selected for the post and if so is the successful applicant Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

By the closing date, the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority had received 24 applications for the post of Electronic Communications Officer and 11 applications for the post of Temporary Radiocommunications and IT Administrator. The GRA cannot provide accurate figures on how many of the applicants were Gibraltarian as this information is not requested from the applicant. However, based on the name of the applicant and their place of education, the GRA estimates that most of the applicants could be Gibraltarians. The successful applicant for the post of Electronic Communications Officer was Gibraltarian, and for the post of Temporary Radiocommunications and IT Administrator, British.

NO. 900 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRA – VACANCY FOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Can Government say how many persons applied for the post of Administration Officer with the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority which was advertised in May 2010, and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

By the closing date, the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority had received 138 applications for the post of Administration Officer. A person has been selected for the post.

NO. 901 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VACANT POSTS

How many persons applied for the following vacancies in the Gibraltar Port Authority, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, has anyone now been selected for the posts and in each case is the successful applicant a Gibraltarian;

- (a) Administrative Supervisor;
- (b) Senior Port Officer (Quality Manager);
- (c) Administration and Finance Officer;
- (d) Port Officer?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

- (a) Administrative Supervisor - Applicants 14; Gibraltar applicants 13; selected 1 Gibraltarian;
- (b) Senior Port Officer (Quality Manager) – Applicants 2; Gibraltar applicants 2; selected 1 Gibraltarian;
- (c) Administration and Finance Officer – Applicants 27; Gibraltar applicants 26; selected 1 Gibraltarian;
- (d) Port Officer – Applicants 8; Gibraltar applicants 8; selected 3 Gibraltarian.

NO. 902 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VACANCY FOR MARINE SURVEYOR

Can Government say how many persons applied for the vacancy of Marine Surveyor which was advertised in April, how many positions were vacant, how many applicants were Gibraltarian, whether anyone has been selected for the post and if so is the successful applicant a Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A total of 120 applications have been received for the vacancy of Marine Surveyor that was advertised in April 2010. Out of the 120 applications received, only 20 met the requirements stated in the advert and were accepted. There is only one vacant post and two of the applicants are Gibraltarian. The recruitment process is still ongoing and therefore no appointment has been made.

NO. 903 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – LIST OF PERSONS WAITING FOR BOAT BERTH

Can Government confirm whether the Port Authority holds a list of the number of persons waiting for a berth for their boat and if so say how many people are currently on that list?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is a survey report (list) with a total of 186 boat owners who are waiting for a berth.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 903 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the hon Member say 186?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

A total of 186.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say whether there is an additional list of people who would like to ... I assume that list is the list of people who have boats already in Gibraltar and the boats are on land or somewhere else or does it include people who want to import a boat as well?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. It includes people who want to import a boat and do not have a berth.

NO. 904 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****SHIP CALLS**

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament on a monthly basis for:

- (a) bunkering;
- (b) cargo;
- (c) repairs,

and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of ships that have called at Gibraltar since the last Question Time in Parliament is as follows:

	January	February	March	April
Bunkers	472	414	511	517
Cargo	16	26	11	8
Repairs	9	6	14	15

Bunker fuel sold since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

January 2010	295,540 tonnes
February 2010	279,971 tonnes
March 2010	329,898 tonnes
April 2010	369,299 tonnes

NO. 905 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No bunkering licence applications have been received since the last Question Time in this House.

NO. 906 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LICENCES

Can Government say how many licences are currently in existence in each of the following categories:

- (a) Bunkering Licence;
- (b) STS Operator's Licence;
- (c) Stevedoring Licence;
- (d) Ship Repair Licence;
- (e) Ship Agency Licence;
- (f) Ship Chandlery Licence;
- (g) Mooring and Rigging Licence;
- (h) Tug Operator's Licence;
- (i) Tug and Barge Operator's Licence;
- (j) Waste Management Licence;
- (k) Diving Operator's Licence;
- (l) Recovery of Debris from Sea;
- (m) Skip Hire and Waste Removal Operator's Licence;
- (n) Oil Pollution and Response Operator's Licence;
- (o) Any other Operator Licence;
- (p) Ancillary Service Provider;
- (q) Dolphin Boat Operator's Licence?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information sought is being handed over to the hon Gentleman in written format even though I intended to read the thing originally, I think it is a bit long so I am passing the information to him.

Answer to Question No. 906 of 2010

(a)	Bunkering licence	7
(b)	STS Operator's Licence	2
(c)	Stevedoring Licence	1
(d)	Ship Repair Licence	3
(e)	Ship Agency Licence	22
(f)	Ship Chandlery Licence	8
(g)	Mooring and Rigging Licence	3
(h)	Tug Operator's Licence	1
(i)	Tug and Barge Operator's Licence	2
(j)	Waste Management Licence	1
(k)	Diving Operator's Licence	3
(l)	Recovery of Debris from Sea	1
(m)	Skip Hire and Waste Removal Operator's Licence	3
(n)	Oil Pollution and Response Operator's Licence	2
(o)	Any Other Port Operator Licence	11
(p)	Ancillary Service Provider	1
(q)	Dolphin Boat Operator's Licence	2

NO. 907 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSFER OF BUNKER FUEL SUPPLIER TO MOROCCO

Have Government been notified by any supplier of bunker fuel from Gibraltar that they intend to move part or all of their operation to Morocco?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government is aware that Aegean have established an operation in Morocco. However, Aegean do not intend to move part or all of their local operations to Morocco.

NO. 908 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

APPLICATION FOR GIBRALTAR'S INCLUSION IN THE LONG RANGE AND TRACKING SYSTEM FOR SHIPS CONTROLLED BY EMSA

Can Government say on what date the application was made for Gibraltar's inclusion in the Long Range and Tracking system for ships controlled by EMSA, has the application been approved and when is it expected to be operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government has been involved in the discussions and implementation of the LRIT since 2007. The data base operated by EMSA, which will collect the data from Gibraltar registered ships, went live on 3rd June 2009. The agreement between EMSA and Gibraltar was signed on 13th April 2010. The ship and geographical data has been entered into the system and this is under test. It is expected to become operational in the next few months.

NO. 909 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MANAGER

Can Government say whether the post of Vessel Traffic Service Manager with the Gibraltar Port Authority which was advertised in October 2009, offered to an applicant and was declined, has now been filled?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The post of Vessel Traffic Service Manager is still going through the process of being re-advertised.

NO. 910 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say whether the VTS system for the Port Department is now fully operational and if so from what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The VTS installation is nearing completion and almost fully operational. There is one aspect in the system that currently needs to be installed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 910 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the hon Member in a position to say what that is that has to be added on and when it is expected to be complete?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am unable to provide the hon Member with this information.

HON N F COSTA:

Does the hon Member mean that he does not have this information before him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member means that he is not physically, personally doing it and does not want to spend the next three months answering questions why there has been a fifteen minute delay.

HON N F COSTA:

Fair enough. But does the Minister have the information before him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question is when will it be ready? The answer is we do not know when it will be ready.

NO. 911 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO ON THE EAST SIDE

Is it the policy of the Government to allow bunkering operations and ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers to take place on the East Side once the VTS system is fully operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

It is the Government's intention, subject to the outcome of any Environmental Impact Assessment that may be required, to allow operations under strictly controlled conditions to take place at the Eastern anchorage site.

The criteria to be considered when allowing individual operations to proceed are detailed below. These are in addition to the general criteria that are already considered, as well as any others that may be required by any Environmental Impact Assessment.

Weather

Initially, operations will only be undertaken during daylight hours and if a suitable weather window is available. All operations will be subject to the Gibraltar Port Authority's adverse weather procedures, where operations are suspended if certain levels of wind and swell or other adverse conditions are experienced or expected soon.

The daylight requirement will be reviewed once operations are established and routine but will be no less stringent than that already applicable to West side operations.

The weather limitations will continue.

Pilotage

Pilotage will be compulsory as a minimum during trial operations and initially when routine operations commence. The necessity for compulsory pilotage in the future will be reviewed when operations are properly established, although the Gibraltar Port Authority's (GPA) current belief is that compulsory pilotage gives the greatest control and maximises the use of the area. The GPA has undertaken to direct the pilotage on the East side as and when required.

Counter-pollution equipment

Further trials are to be arranged and assessed before routine operations commence. During these trials each vessel involved will have their complete counter-pollution kit available for immediate deployment, while their oil containment booms will be fully deployed. Additionally, at least during the trial period, an oil pollution response vessel will be stationed close to the vessels involved during each operation.

On completion of the trials the counter-pollution equipment requirements for future operations will be reviewed.

NO. 912 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO IN THE BAY OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government confirm that it is their policy that the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo in the Bay of Gibraltar takes precedence over bunkering activities?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There is no specific policy. Decisions are based on operational considerations although, in general, bunkering operations take precedence over STS operations involving foreign ships, in order not to delay vessels transiting the Strait of Gibraltar. STS operations involving delivery of oil/fuel cargo to local storage vessels are usually allowed as soon as both vessels are ready for the operation, subject to a safety inspection and weather conditions. Other operations are undertaken on a first come first served basis but again dependent on operational considerations such as weather conditions and the space available.

NO. 913 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL IN THE BAY AND TERRITORIAL WATERS OF GIBRALTAR IN BAD WEATHER

Can Government say whether the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel in the Bay and territorial waters of Gibraltar is allowed in bad weather?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Gibraltar Port Authority operates a quality control system under the ISO 9001: 2008 standard. As part of this management system, various approved procedures have been drawn up incorporating and formalising the operational procedures that existed previously. Procedure number 11, The Adverse Weather and Strong Wind Warning Procedure, details the steps to be taken by the Duty Port Operations staff in the event of deteriorating weather conditions. There are various levels at which different actions are taken, from warning all vessels of the possibility of severe weather to stopping all bunkering, STS and other operations as appropriate to the final step which is instructing vessels to heave up their anchors and move out from the Bay of Gibraltar and/or the Eastern anchorage.

NO. 914 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVENUE FROM SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government confirm that the revenue that it makes in respect of ship to ship transfers in the territorial waters of Gibraltar is based on an amount per tonne of fuel and what is the amount charged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Charges for external STS operations are formulated on bands which are dependent on the amount of the cargo involved. For example, £5,000 for cargoes of less than 50,000 mt, £9,000 for cargoes of between 50,001 and 100,000 mt, £13,000 for the band 100,001 to 150,000 mt and £17,000 for the band 150,001 to 200,001 mt. For local bunker operations the charge of £1,000 per STS for inbound STS transfers to the bunker storage vessels.

NO. 915 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN IN SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO IN BAY OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government say whether vessels carrying out the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo in the Bay of Gibraltar are required to take safety precautions in the event of a spill and if so what are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

For incoming fuel oil cargoes, a containment boom must be placed fore and aft. All vessels carry oil spill response equipment in order to meet international requirements such as MARPOL, the Marine Pollution Prevention Convention. All vessels are required to maintain a radio watch on VHF radio channel 12 and immediately notify the Gibraltar Port Authority in the event of any incident, no matter how small. Prior to cargo operations commencing, all STS vessels are inspected to ensure that the precautions for safety and spill prevention detailed in various international guidelines, such as those promulgated by ISGOTT, the International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals, are in place. There are also international guidelines that have been specifically drawn up for STS operations and vessels are required to comply with these also.

ORAL

NO. 916 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO (NOT BUNKERING) IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say how many ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers (not bunkering) have been carried out, on a monthly basis, in the territorial waters of Gibraltar in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

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

Schedule to Question No. 916 of 2010

	No. of Operations in territorial waters
Jan-08	9
Feb-08	5
Mar-08	13
Apr-08	18
May-08	20
Jun-08	14
Jul-08	18
Aug-08	15
Sep-08	10
Oct-08	13
Nov-08	10
Dec-08	17
Jan-09	11
Feb-09	10
Mar-09	15
Apr-09	7
May-09	9
Jun-09	10
Jul-09	9
Aug-09	9
Sep-09	10
Oct-09	14
Dec-09	9
Jan-10	11
Feb-10	17
Mar-10	9
Apr-10	3
May-10	10

NO. 917 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVENUE FROM SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFERS OF OIL/FUEL CARGO (NOT BUNKERING) IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say how much revenue they have obtained on a monthly basis, from the ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo (not bunkering) in the territorial waters of Gibraltar in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

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

Schedule to Question No. 917 of 2010

2009		2010	
MONTH	AMOUNT	MONTH	AMOUNT
October	£2,635.18	January	£91,000.00
November	£59,600.65	February	£35,000.00
December	£30,145.87	March	£46,000.00
		April	£44,000.00
		May	£64,000.00
		June	£7,000.00
TOTAL	£92,381.70	TOTAL	£287,000.00

NO. 918 OF 2010**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****REVENUE FROM VESSELS USING EAST SIDE ANCHORAGE**

Can Government say how much revenue has been collected from vessels using the East Side anchorage on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The revenue that has been collected from vessels using the East Side anchorage on a monthly basis since the last Question Time in this Parliament is as follows:

January	£49,814.43
February	£29,360.34
March	£26,267.59
April	£28,812.53
May	£5,876.20
June to date*	<u>£672.47</u>
Total	£140,803.56

*It says June to date but it must have been more or less the 9th June when we did the questions.

NO. 919 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INCIDENT INVOLVING TWO BUNKERING MOTHER SHIPS

Can Government confirm that there was an incident involving two bunkering mother ships on or around 5th April which resulted in damage to one of the vessels and advise the extent of the damage, how it was caused and whether this is being investigated and if so by whom?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government can confirm that on the 5th April 2010, the Gibraltar registered tanker “Europa Venture” came into contact with the Panama registered taker “Leader” while at anchor in the Western anchorage. “Europa Venture” suffered hull damage in way of 5 starboard ballast water and 5 starboard fuel storage tank. The “Leader” suffered structural damage to her bulbous bow. There were no injuries and no pollution.

The Gibraltar Maritime Administration is carrying out the investigation in accordance with the Gibraltar Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2006. When completed the report will be considered by the ship owners and the flag ships and then published in the normal manner.

NO. 920 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ACCIDENTS IN BAY OF GIBRALTAR REPORTED TO PORT AUTHORITY

How many accidents have been reported, to the Port of Gibraltar as occurring in the Bay of Gibraltar since 1st January 2010 and what was the nature, date and effect of any such accident and the name of the operator and of any vessels involved?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in this schedule which I now pass over to him.

Schedule to Question No. 920 of 2010

Description of Accident

12/01/10 "Saga Rose"	At 1730 hrs the MPR "Saga Rose" on departing from No. 3 West expelled one of the fenders and made contact with the quay side, which was damaged.
20/01/10 "Moscow Kremlin"	At 1400 hrs the vessel "Moscow Kremlin" disembarked a crew member on an off limits position with broken fingers.
08/02/10 "Europa Venture"	Suffered an oil spill as a result of servicing her port ballast tank.
16/02/10 "Agia Theodora"	One crew member had to be disembarked suffering from food poisoning. Port Launch collected the patient.
07/03/10 "Maria O"	Arrived to disembark crew member suffering from ruptured appendicitis.
11/03/10 "Teisaro"	Suffered engine problems and drifted towards the rocks. Tug dispatched and towed her back to her berth.
12/03/10 "MV Anna"	M/V "Anna" – man overboard reported. Man was recovered safely.
05/04/10 "Europa Venture"	Collision between "Europa Venture" under way and "Leader" at anchor.
12/04/10 "Vanda"	Crew member suffered an accident onboard.
14/04/10 "Nordstern"	Whilst coming alongside Extension Jetty, vessel hit corner of Jetty and punctured ballast tank.
12/05/10 "YT Socrates"	Reported man overboard off Punta Carnero. Crew member was recovered safely with minor injury to his leg. Port launch deployed to assist. Port launch escorted the yacht to Gibraltar (Queensway Quay Marina).

NO. 921 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND ADJACENT TO CABLE CAR TOP STATION SOLD TO MH BLAND & CO

What is the surface area of the land adjacent to the cable car Top Station sold for £50,860 (as provided in answer to Question No 463 of 2010) by Government to MH Bland & Co, how was the premium calculated, for what use has the Government leased or assigned the land and for what period of time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The total land area sold for £50,860 was 348.35 square metres, and the premium was based on market value, but also considering that royalties are receivable. This additional land was made available by way of a supplemental deed for a term co-terminus with the existing lease which still has 106 years remaining.

The additional land that was made available was for the construction of the following:

- (i) A lift for the disabled passengers;
- (ii) A shed to house and store refuse van;
- (iii) An electricity generator;
- (iv) A terrace for the Mons Calpe suite; and
- (v) An extension to the Apes Terrace,

All for the expansion of this complex to allow for improved service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 921 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The hon Member said something about royalties being receivable, if I heard him correctly. Can he say what that is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Could the hon Member repeat the question?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The hon Member said something about royalties receivable. Can he say what that is, what royalties?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. There is the lease that the cable car has. Government enjoys the royalty per passenger that goes up in the cable car and therefore that needs to be taken into account because obviously these improvements will hopefully enhance the usage which in turn will increase the return to the Government.

ORAL

NO. 922 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRAND OCEAN PLAZA – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Are Government now willing to state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Grand Ocean Plaza remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 923 and 924 of 2010.

NO. 923 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MAJESTIC PLAZA – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Are Government now willing to state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in Majestic Plaza remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 922 and 924 of 2010.

NO. 924 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

THE ANCHORAGE – APARTMENTS UNOCCUPIED

Are Government now willing to state whether they are able to establish how many of the apartments in the Anchorage remain unoccupied, and if so, provide the number?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The Government are not privy to the information requested directly from the developer as all three developments mentioned in these three questions are private and commercial developments.

However, the Government have checked the records available from the Gibraltar Electricity Authority as we discussed at the last time in the House, which may serve as a guidance to the apartments occupied in the developments, and these are as follows:

- Anchorage 92 Domestic Consumers
- Majestic Ocean Plaza 57 Domestic Consumers
1 Commercial Consumer
- Grand Ocean Plaza 84 Domestic Consumers
1 Commercial Consumer

NO. 925 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT AUTHORITY – POST OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Can Government state the grade of the newly created post of Personal Assistant in the Port Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Given that the post is a direct employee of the Port Authority it does not have a grade.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 925 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, the person is not supposed to work for nothing so how is the salary scale determined?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, but the hon Member has asked for information on the grade. There is no such thing as a grade. There are terms and conditions but not actually assimilated to any grade or classified as a grade.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the structure of the employees of the Port Authority different from the structure of, say the GHA or the GDC or anything else that is independent of the civil service?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The Gibraltar Port Authority actually has its own Port Authority wage structure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, presumably, the posts in that structure have got different grades or salary scales or numbers of letters or something. So it is either... Otherwise how does one decide who is where?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is a salary structure but it is not based on a grade. I do not know whether I am explaining myself properly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not really. Presumably, if there is a salary structure then graded in that structure there would be Personal Assistants and typists and telephonists and ...

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think a valid question would be to ask what is the salary of the PA? In other words, the Personal Assistant to the ... whatever it is in the Port Authority, has a salary scale and it starts at x amount of pounds and finishes down the scale to xxxxx. But there is no such thing as a grade. That is a wage structure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the hon Member saying that on that particular salary there is no other post in the Port Authority? That is, it is a salary that only exists for a Personal Assistant.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that would be the salary of the grade of Personal Assistant?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is no such thing as a grade. There is a salary structure for the PA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say then what the salary structure for the PA is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. It starts at £22,082 and moves up the scale to £29,605.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the hon Member say in how many steps? Presumably, these are annual increments in between those two figures.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are nine steps in getting to the top.

NO. 926 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT AUTHORITY – POST OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Can Government state whether the post of Personal Assistant in the Port Authority has been filled and if so whether the position is a post in the Civil Service or on employment terms as a direct employee of the Port Authority?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The post of Personal Assistant to the Captain of the Port is as a direct employee of the Port Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 926 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it now the policy that recruitment is direct into the Port Authority? Presumably, there are a number of employees there that are seconded from the Civil Service when the Port Authority started. When the Port Department became the Port Authority, the people who were working there were what seconded to the Port Authority as there have been in other areas or were they transferred and left the Civil Service?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, when the employees of the Port Department signed up with the Gibraltar Port Authority they became members or employees of the Gibraltar Port Authority and this post is part of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So, in fact, from the moment the Port Authority commenced all the people employed within it ceased to be civil servants and were now Port Authority employees, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, because the Port Authority came in 2003/2004 as a statutory body but the employees remained as civil servants, right, but they all signed up to move away, to give up the Civil Service and move into ... as employees of the Port Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This move took place when in the last financial year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think it may have happened last year. This time last year more or less.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In that case for example, if there are vacancies in the Port Authority what happens if people apply from within the Government Service? Are they treated the same as people applying from outside the Government?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

NO. 927 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT – COST OF REVIEW

What was the cost of the external review of the Customs Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Assuming the hon Member is referring to the “Root and Branch” review carried out on the Gibraltar Government’s behalf by two officers from HM Revenue and Customs in the UK in 2006. The cost was £10,041.21.

ORAL

NO. 928 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what will the demolition of the Theatre Royal cost and when will it happen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 929 to 931 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 929 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can the Minister for Culture state when it decided to have a commemorative event in relation to the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 928, 930 and 931 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 930 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what sort of commemorative event it will stage and how much it envisages to spend on such event, in relation to the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 928, 929 and 931 of 2010.

NO. 931 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the commemorative event will take place before or after the demolition of the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The demolition of the remains of the Theatre Royal will cost £241,354.25, and will make way for a new urban square and green area.

The Government have no current plans, and therefore has made no decision to have a commemorative event in relation to the Theatre Royal.

Drama groups have suggested to the Government the possibility of some sort of commemorative event in relation to the history of the performing arts in Gibraltar generally. Any such event would of course include the Theatre Royal. The Government are favourably disposed to these suggestions as part of its policy of bringing performing arts to the fore of our community. The idea remains under discussion.

ORAL

NO. 932 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can the Minister of Culture state whether he has had a meeting with his staff members in relation to the conversion of the Ministry into an Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 933 of 2010.

NO. 933 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURE AND HERITAGE AGENCY

Can the Minister state whether he has had any meetings with any Union official or member representing the staff in relation to the possibility of converting the Ministry of Culture into an Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government does not consider it appropriate to comment publicly about ongoing internal restructuring proposals affecting staff and requiring discussions with Unions. When the Government is in a position to make an announcement it will do so. The Government is committed to the establishment of a dedicated Heritage and Culture Agency, so that heritage and culture in Gibraltar can benefit from the same organisational changes and focus that is bringing so much benefit to sport and leisure in Gibraltar with the establishment of the Sport and Leisure Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 932 AND 933 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Then the Chief Minister is confirming that there is going to be an Agency or that Government want an Agency ultimately?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have made it clear that its policy objective and desire is precisely to do that. So I am entirely xxxx to the hon Member in this House for a statement of what the Government's policy and objectives are and we have said so in the past and I think in this House as well. The mechanics of how to get there and discussions with staff and Unions, in other words, the implementation phase of the Government's announced policy, is not something that the Government are willing to give a blow by blow account of thereby making the process unnecessarily more difficult.

NO. 934 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Can Government state how many employees who were at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre on the same terms as teachers have been transferred to other parts or places within the Department of Education giving a breakdown by school that they have been transferred and number in school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The employees referred to by the hon Member are Classroom Aides and this grade of employees do not enjoy the same terms and conditions as teachers contrary to the false premise of his question. Their conditions are set in their letter of appointment and in General Orders. Three full-time Classroom Aides were transferred to the Education Department on the 24th June 2010.

One each to:

1. St Martin's Special School;
2. St Joseph's Primary School;
3. One is shared between Notre Dame and Westside Comprehensive.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 934 OF 2010

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister confirm that these three are under the teaching regime where they have the same type of holiday entitlements?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are and remain Classroom Aides with the same terms and conditions of employment in terms of their entitlement and rights as Classroom Aides everywhere else. Their deployment to the Department of Education does not alter that fact. However, the Department of Education may deploy them during the days and at the times that they wish and if the Department of Education has no need for Classroom Aides on a certain day, they can make management arrangements as they like. But that is very different to this being the terms and conditions of them as individuals. They have no such rights to be distinguished from what concessions may be made to

them in the context of the working hours and working needs of the departments where they may be deployed.

ORAL

NO. 935 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state when it will have the new sewage treatment plant up and running and is it still envisaged to be located at Europa Point?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 936 to 938 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 936 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state the estimated cost of the new sewage treatment plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 935, 937 and 938 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 937 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW INCINERATOR

Can Government state when the new incinerator will be ready for it to deal with all of Gibraltar's refuse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 935, 936 and 938 of 2010.

NO. 938 OF 2010

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW INCINERATOR

Can Government state what will be the cost of the new incinerator?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No date can yet be given for the commencement or therefore for the completion of the either of these projects.

The estimated costs of the projects cannot be made public as they will be subject to a future competitive tender.

The Brewery Crusher site which is located at Europa Point is still the Government's preferred site for the construction of the new sewage treatment works subject to the necessary consents being granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 935 TO 938 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman confirm therefore that it is unlikely that the plant will be operational before the end of 2011?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give him any such indication on the basis of anything that I have been told by anybody and I have no sufficient technical knowledge myself to give him a personal guess about whether I think it is likely. Subject to both those caveats, I think that date is probably ambitious. I do not know how long it takes to build one of these plants but from what I see of other sorts of projects, 18 months which is what is left, did he say December 2011, did he?

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It seems unlikely to me personally but I am not an authoritative source to express that view.

ORAL

NO. 939 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE COMPLETION

Can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion of Albert Risso House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 940 to 942 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 940 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW COMPLETION

With reference to Bayview Terraces, Cumberland Terraces and Nelson's View, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion for each of these home ownership schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 939, 941 and 942 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 941 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

**HOUSING – RESERVE LIST FOR PURCHASE OF BAYVIEW TERRACES,
CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW**

Can Government state how many persons are currently listed as applicants on the reserve list for the purchase of a flat at each of, Nelson's View, Cumberland Terraces and Bayview Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 939, 940 and 942 of 2010.

NO. 942 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF BAYVIEW TERRACES, CUMBERLAND TERRACES AND NELSON'S VIEW

With reference to Bayview Terraces, Cumberland Terraces and Nelson's View, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details for each, as follows:

- (a) how many flats are being sold with 100 per cent financing from the purchaser;
- (b) how many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) how many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Construction at Albert Risso House is expected to be completed in July or August this year. It is expected that these flats will be ready for occupation in September.

Completion Notices were issued to all purchasers at Cumberland Terraces earlier this year. Purchasers are currently completing the legal transaction to finalise their purchases. Nelson's View and Bayview Terraces are currently estimated to be completed by September.

There are 54 applicants on the reserve list for a property at any of the three ex-OEM developments.

I will now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests in Question No. 942 of 2010.

Answer to Question No. 942 of 2010

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

Development	Purchaser Share											Total
	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	78%	80%	85%	88%	100%	
Nelson's View	29	2	15	0	22	4	1	6	1	0	50	130
Bayview Terraces	6	1	10	2	21	2	0	2	0	0	39	83
Cumberland Terraces	54	2	28	1	30	4	0	5	1	1	34	160
Total	89	5	53	3	73	10	1	13	2	1	123	373

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 939 TO 942 OF 2010

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the Chief Minister for the information. With reference to Cumberland Terraces, did the Chief Minister mention anything about Cumberland Terraces in terms of completion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is implicit that if purchases are being completed and every purchaser has received a Completion Notice, it is implicit that the building is complete already.

ORAL

NO. 943 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES COMPLETION

Can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion of the remaining flats at Waterport Terraces and give a breakdown by block name?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 944 to 946 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 944 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES COMPLETION

Can Government state how many flats, currently, are still awaiting completion at Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 943, 945 and 946 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 945 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government specify what further work is required to be carried out in the Waterport Terraces estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 943, 944 and 946 of 2010.

NO. 946 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government say whether a certificate of fitness has now been issued in respect of any of the blocks in Waterport Terraces estate and if so which ones?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All of the 18 affordable homes blocks (that is 396 properties) at Waterport Terraces have been completed already.

The remaining construction work relates to the completion of Albert Risso House, that is the elderly person's rental flats, which will be in July or August, plus also the usual post completion snagging works throughout the whole estate during the contractors' defects liability period. There is also a small amount of, what has been described to me as tidying up work, to be done on the boundary of the estate by the sea facing promenade.

With regards to the Certificates of Fitness, the practice is that a Contract Administrator does not issue a Certificate of Practical Completion without the contractor first having obtained a Certificate of Fitness from the Building Control Department of the Government. This practice has been followed in the case of Waterport Terraces and I can, therefore, confirm that Certificates of Fitness have been issued in respect of all of the blocks in Waterport Terraces affordable homes scheme.

NO. 947 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF GOVERNMENT 50% SHARE OF CO-OWNERSHIP HOMES

Can Government state if there has been any sale of the Government 50 per cent share of co-ownership homes since the answer to Question No. 427 of 2010, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I am very happy to give the hon Member the information he seeks in a schedule which is now being handed to him.

Answer to Question No. 947 of 2010

Sales of Government – Co Ownership share of Properties

		SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Totals
Feb-10	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£38,122.38	£38,122.38
Mar-10	Monies Received	£53,504.00	£34,658.78	£0.00	£8,341.75	£0.00	£96,504.53
Apr-10	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
May-10	Monies Received	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£55,140.73	£55,140.73
Totals		£53,504.00	£34,658.78	£0.00	£8,341.75	£93,263.11	£189,767.64

NO. 948 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOUTH DISTRICT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES

How many purchasers of flats within the Government's home ownership schemes in the South District have had to pull out, during the financial year 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to date, because they have been unable to obtain a mortgage?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This information is not available to the Government although the Government are informally aware that a few purchasers are having difficulty raising mortgage finance to complete at Cumberland Terraces. This could be due to any one of several factors including banking lending caps on particular projects and also homeowner status issues or rather borrower status issues.

ORAL

NO. 949 OF 2010

THE HON C A BRUZON

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT – MANNING LEVELS

What negotiations are ongoing in respect of manning levels in the Building and Works Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 950 of 2010.

NO. 950 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT – PRIVATISATION

Have any proposals been brought to Government for the privatisation of part of the Buildings and Works Department and if so, what are these and what consideration has been given to them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As the House knows, the Government does not consider it helpful or appropriate to comment publicly about ongoing industrial relations discussions or reorganisation negotiations. I can confirm that the Government are engaged with the Union Unite, and staff representatives about wide ranging reform of the Buildings and Works Department, in the interests of its staff, Government housing tenants and the taxpayer. This is part of the Government's ongoing programme to modernise and improve the public sector and public services.

The Government have not been presented with any proposal to privatise any part of the Buildings and Works Department, nor does the Government see that as a way forward.

NO. 951 OF 2010

THE HON N F COSTA

FINING IN SPAIN OF AMBULANCE OPERATED BY ST JOHN'S

Can Government confirm whether they have taken up the question of the fine imposed on an ambulance operated by St. John's with the relevant authorities in Spain and indicate on what date, to whom the representations were made and by whom they were made and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have taken up the matter with the Spanish Government the wider issue of a Gibraltar ambulance being stopped in Spain by the Guardia Civil in the circumstances affecting that particular incident rather than just the narrower question of the imposition of a fine. There are wider issues that arise than the fact that a fine was imposed. But the Government does not consider it appropriate to give chapter and verse because it is just not the way that inter-governmental business is conventionally dealt with between Governments to give chapter and verse about the person to whom this was said, the date, the letter and all of that and it is not the way Governments conduct business. But I am happy to confirm to him that it has been done and the matter has not yet been concluded in its handling.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 951 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Without wishing to ask for the detail of those conversations. To what extent are the Government now satisfied that that particular incident will not be repeated?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As with all incidents that occur in or in relation or with Spain that we in Gibraltar disapprove of, the Government can never be satisfied whatever happens, whatever clarification is given. There can never be 100 per cent certainty that it will not reoccur. The United Kingdom goes around the rest of Europe reminding other Member States that they have got to recognise Gibraltar Identity Cards. It does not stop officials even at UK airports from time to time declining to accept Gibraltar Identity Cards. So one thing is to raise matters when they arise with the proper authority in the hope and expectation indeed that things will be put right. But that does not mean that there can be any guarantee that it will not reoccur, particularly,

when what happens may not be a matter of central Government policy but rather the individual discretion of any one of thousands of officials who may or may not know, care or indeed do as they are told. So, that regrettably is the position.

HON G H LICUDI:

I acknowledge that the Government can never be satisfied as to what one individual official may do. Are the Government though from the conversations that have taken place, with the contacts that have taken place so far, at least reasonably satisfied that whatever problem, if it every existed from a central Government point of view, that that problem no longer exists.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, adding the word "reasonably" to his previous questions ... I am completely satisfied that there is no central Government policy to harass Gibraltar ambulances. Indeed, the informal sources of information suggest that this incident may have had more to do with some internal Spanish issue about which authority thinks that emergency vehicles in Spain should carry yellow and which should carry blue and which should not carry blue and which should not carry yellow, and that this was caught up in that. In other words, this might not even have been because it was a Gibraltar ambulance. This might respond to a more domestic Spanish debate going on about that. But if the hon Member's question is, am I reasonably satisfied that there is no central Government policy, then I think he could delete the word "reasonably" from that. I think I am entirely satisfied that there is no Spanish central Government policy to unnecessarily harass ambulances conveying sick people without regard to the consequences for the health of the passenger in the back of the ambulance. I do not think any civilised Government in the world could possibly have that as a policy. Or indeed as something of which they would approve.

NO. 952 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Can Government state whether it has now concluded its review of the options it identified concerning changes to health and safety legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains unchanged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 952 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the hon Member, I assume he anticipates the supplementary, have an indication of where the processes are? Let me just remind the hon Member that we were, I seem to recall back in April 2008 was when the hon Minister mentioned that the Government was carrying out the review and more recently we have been told that certain options have been identified. So, from a general review we are now reviewing the options. I would like to get the sense from the Government that this is not an endless review of issues from the general issue to the options, to the implementation and that we will see finality at the end of the day.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I will try to be as helpful as possible to the hon Member's very reasonable articulation of his interests. The Government are engaged and have a desire to bring about modernisation and reform across a broad front of public sector activities and necessarily flags these up, sometimes in answers to questions, sometimes it leaks because members of the staff get to hear and go ... The Government devotes to each of these reform agendas, if we could call it that, resources and time as it is able to but in competition with all the other areas. So, the answer to his question is, I do not think this is imminent. The Government are interested in doing it. There will certainly be finality but if he asks me are the Government, sort of, expeditiously working on this as something that it wants to bring about as soon as possible in preference to other things that it is engaged in, then in fairness I should say to him that the answer to that is "no" and therefore it will emerge from the pipeline of public sector reforms. Sometimes they get overtaken. A pipeline as we order things in it, get overtaken because staff and Unions encourage us to give priority to other areas

and therefore we drop that file for now, put it to one side and pick up another one. The Government does not have the capacity or the resources to deal with all these issues at the same time. So I think it will emerge, indeed I think it needs to emerge but I do not want the hon Member to keep the impression from anything that we might say that this is something that is now days or weeks away. It is not. This could easily take many more months.

THE HON G H LICUDI:

The reason for the impression we have is that we had expected that this was something that was being given priority. In fact, in exchanges in this House in the past, we were given the distinct, as I recall, the distinct impression that this was something that the Government was actively pursuing...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. The position, as I recall it, is that at some point after we had the initial exchanges in this House about this matter, there was an advert for the recruitment of an officer for the Health and Safety Department, Health and Safety Officer. That advert was withdrawn and as I seem to recall nobody was engaged. The reason, again as I understand we were given, was that there was going to be a general restructure, there was consideration of the various options available and therefore, in effect, there was a freeze on recruitment. So, all along the department has been operating, essentially short of staff. If the Government's position and I understand the words of the hon Member, neutralising the effect of anything that he may have given in the past about urgency, if that continues to be the position, what practical steps are being taken to make sure that the department is functioning properly? Because if it is true that it is under staffed, that there are actual vacancies and those vacancies are not being filled, then this is a matter that affects not just issues of policy, but practical considerations in respect of the enforcement of health and safety legislation. The hon Member will I am sure agree with me that in terms of health and safety issues, enforcement measures to make sure that the employers do comply with the legislation is absolutely paramount and therefore the work of the department must be encouraged with full staffing levels across the board.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure it is not necessary for me to tell any Member of this House that sits in it, with the party that he sits with, that the fact that there are vacancies in public offices does not mean that the departments are understaffed and the reason why I say that is that because quite rightly when they were in Government, many vacancies were not filled, were allowed to go unfilled and indeed were cancelled. So, the hon Member should not now create the impression that the existence of a vacancy means that a department is understaffed. It may or may not be as a result of the vacancy. But the Government does not slavishly follow numbers and fill posts simply because they have always existed, without some attempt to discern whether the tax payer has a continuing need for that post. That said, I am not saying that that applies

to this area, the Government are satisfied that this department in due course will need more resources but more resources perhaps of a different kind and located in a different place, perhaps with different skills. We do not think that it will be helpful simply to add more resources of the same kind as we have now to the existing ... Of course, if we thought that there was some great danger to the public, being xxxx upon the public as a result of that view that I have just finished expressing, then of course we would have to give, mitigating that public danger, a priority over our view that it would not be helpful to recruit more of what we have got at the moment in the context of the forthcoming review. So, it is implicit in the fact that the Government does not fill the vacancy, that it is willing to continue to function as it is today. But that willingness to continue to function as it is today should not be read, to think that the Government thinks that Gibraltar can always carry on with the existing level of functions. It just means that the balance between the advantages of waiting for the new structure and what the hon Member describes as the undesirable consequences of being understaffed in terms of public safety, that that balance has not swung in favour of the view that we should press ahead with more recruitment of the same.

NO. 953 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

AMOUNTS SPENT ON NEW AIR TERMINAL, ACCESS ROADS AND TUNNEL

Can Government state the total amounts and provide a breakdown of the amounts that have been spent to date in respect of works for the new airport, new airport access roads, the “tunnel” under the airport, new frontier access road including but not limited to

- (a) Consultants' fees;
- (b) Architects' fees;
- (c) Building contractors;
- (d) Any sub contractors paid directly by the Government;
- (e) Relocation of MoD buildings or services;
- (f) All and any other fees (specifying exactly what such fees relate to),

and what fees remain to be paid in respect of these matters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total paid to date is £46.3 million. I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the breakdown requested. A total of £3,648,639 remains to be paid in respect of fees (architect: £133,185; project management and other consultants: £3,515,454). I should, however, if the hon Member will allow me, just to correct his question, in that the new road, it is not a new airport access road, it is a new road to the whole of the north front area including the frontier and the other facilities. In other words, the new road and the tunnel are not being built just to get people to the air terminal. They are being built as part of improving traffic fluidity out of Gibraltar and to the northern and eastern side.

Answer to Question No. 953 of 2010

Costs in respect of the new airport, new airport access roads, the tunnel under the airport and the new frontier access road:

	Paid to Date £
1) Airport and Frontier Access Road (including Tunnel)	
Building Contractor	2,141,857
Consultants Costs	<u>3,936,822</u>
	<u>6,078,679</u>
2) Devil's Tower Road	
Building Contractor	2,158,381
Consultants Costs	539,652
Architect Fees – Landscaping	<u>81,265</u>
	<u>2,779,298</u>
3) Airport Terminal and related facilities	
Building Contractor	15,895,097
Consultants Costs	3,138,908
Architect Fees	<u>2,481,710</u>
	<u>21,515,715</u>
4) MOD Relocations (British Lines)	
Building Contractor	13,081,664
Consultants Costs	1,477,101
Architect Fees	<u>1,387,950</u>
	<u>15,946,715</u>
Grand totals:	<u>£46,320,406</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 953 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

So what the hon Member is saying is that the new airport access road and the new frontier access road are essentially the same. They are not different roads?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a very small bit of road, very small, eventually you will be turning off the current bit of Winston Churchill Avenue and you will be turning into a little slip road. But it is nothing. If he means, all the works going on from the sundial roundabout. The doubling up of Devil's Tower Road. The new roundabout between Devil's Tower Road and the Aerial Farm. The new four lane road through the Aerial Farm through to the tunnel running parallel to Eastern Beach Road. The tunnel under the runway. The road that leads out of the tunnel parallel to the frontier. That is not what I call, that is not the term, that project is the one that this question answers and that is what I was describing to him is not fairly called the new airport access road.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure that I have heard or have the answer to the last part of the question in terms of the fees that remain to be paid.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will just repeat the numbers for him. A total of £3,648,639 remains to be paid in respect of fees of which architects' fees account for £133,185 and project management and other consultants' fees accounts for £3,515,454.

ORAL

NO. 954 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Waterport Terraces has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 955 to 958 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 955 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF CUMBERLAND TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Cumberland Terraces has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 954, 956 to 958 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 956 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF BAYVIEW TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Nelson's View has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 954, 955, 957 and 958 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 957 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – INCLUSION OF BAYVIEW TERRACES

Can Government explain the reason why Bayview Terraces has been included in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan when it did not appear in the draft Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 954 to 956 and 958 of 2010.

NO. 958 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – NEW
ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING SPACES**

Can Government state why the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan provides for 1,600 “new, additional car parking spaces” when the draft Plan envisaged 2,300 “new, additional car parking spaces” and explain how 700 “new, additional car parking spaces” have been lost between the draft and the final Plan published in April 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The answer to the first four questions is given in the excellent Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in which I am happy to see the hon Member is taking a keen interest, namely, and I quote from it as follows:-

“Although parking in these estates are for residents of those estates (for whom they provide a parking solution at home), they also lead directly to better parking facilities for everyone else around Gibraltar because these residents of the estates will no longer compete for street parking in the areas where they previously lived. They thus contribute a full net gain to the overall parking availability in Gibraltar”.

The final version of the plan differentiates between

- (1) Parkings already built;
- (2) Parkings currently under construction; and
- (3) Proposed future parking projects

Hence the different figures used in the different parts. There is no reduction of the overall totals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 954 TO 958 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer that has been given with regard to the inclusion of Waterport Terraces, Cumberland Terraces, Bayview and Nelson's View, is by reference to what is said in the plan, that these facilities lead to better parking facilities for everyone else because those residents no longer compete. Will the hon Member not agree that if that argument is correct then it holds true also for any other development which includes a parking space. It holds true for the Anchorage. It holds true for Ocean Village. So, by that logic the Government could have included in this traffic plan all the parking spaces that had been seen in Gibraltar and will be seen in Gibraltar in the last two years and in the next two years and therefore the figure appears to be inflated, erroneously in our view, to achieve political purposes rather than because these matters were thought of as being part of a traffic plan. Will the hon Member not agree with that analysis?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Neither I nor probably he when he has heard my answer could possibly agree with that analysis. The obvious distinction between what he has just said is that this is a plan of what the Government does. Not what private developers do and therefore what is in it is what the Government are doing. Not what private developers do and therefore it is entirely logical to include in the Government's plan and explanation of what the Government have done, is doing and will do in the future, everything that impacts on parking and that contributes to improving parking in Gibraltar that it is doing. He could have criticised the Government, I think it would be unnecessary for him... I understand that the hon Members have to try and find a way of tarnishing everything that the Government does including Gibraltar's first ever integrated traffic, parking and transport plan. To do so on the basis that he would have written it differently when he had no manifesto commitment to write one at all is taking their obsession, their pathological need to criticise and tarnish everything the Government does to new degrees. But his analysis is not right because, by the same token, the Government could not include what is done in the Anchorage, which is the example he gave, because the Anchorage is a private development and it is not something that the Government are doing. All these other estates, in contrast, are things that the Government are doing and therefore legitimately includable in what the Government are doing that has an impact on parking. I would have thought that that distinction was do blindingly obvious that it would not have merited the hon Member seeking to tarnish this plan on the basis of quite so irrational an analysis as that.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, not only is that distinction not blindingly obvious, the opposite is the case because these developments, apart from Waterport Terraces, did not start as Government developments. They started as private developments. So they could not possibly have been conceived by this Government as part of an integrated parking and transport plan. All the Government is doing is now trying to reap the benefits of additional parking spaces which are going to be in Gibraltar and add up the numbers because the figures simply did not add up before. One of the questions that I have asked relate to what was in the draft previously, 2,300 new additional car

parking spaces which, and I still maintain, has now been downgraded to 1,600 new additional car parking spaces. Certainly, since April when I last asked the question about the 2,300 and asked the Government to account to it, we have not seen 700 parking spaces being completed. So those now move to another category, the completed 700, leaving 1,600 new additional car parking spaces to be completed. Does the Government not agree that what, in fact, has happened is that the Government has been caught out? When they were asked in April how do they account for the 2,300 new additional car parking spaces, they could not give an answer. They refused to give an answer as to how they accounted for that. The figures simply did not add up and therefore is it not correct that what some bright spark has done, between April and now, is to think, well how can we boost up the figures, and somebody has said, well 450 parking spaces in Waterport Terraces. That is a good idea. It was not in the draft. It certainly was not conceived as part of any traffic or integrated parking plan. But it is a good idea. Let us include it now. Boost up the figures. And somebody then said, hang on a second, the numbers still do not add up, so let us add 182 parking spaces at Cumberland Terraces. And is it not correct that then that bright spark said, still the numbers do not add up, let us add 88, let us add 138. And that is how the Government have tried to spin this matter and tried to come up with figures which are purely fictitious.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we should get to a question now.

HON G H LICUDI:

What I am asking is if the Government agrees with this analysis. Does the Government not now accept that by doing this sort of playing around with figures, it does not achieve any objective? It does not fool the people any longer. That the noose around the Government's head, the collective necks of this Government is getting tighter and tighter and the more they try to fool people, the tighter that noose will get and eventually, politically, they will end up hanging themselves?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I am glad the hon Member has alluded to misleading people and pulling the wool over the eyes of ... He may have read me in the Chronicle yesterday making clear that in my view their time is up because that is about the full extent of their political project, ... involves systematic misleading, misrepresenting and trying to deceive the people of Gibraltar into thinking that black is white and white is black. No. By the way, I know he has recently xxx membership of this House and therefore he may not know that according to the party of which he is a member, the noose has been tightening politically around the neck of this party since the 17th May 1996.

HON G H LICUDI:

Getting tighter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Well, it is not getting tighter fast enough for them. I remember a prominent member of the party of the GSLP that had been a Minister up to 16th May 1996 confidently predicting immediately after the 16th May 1996 that the GSD would not last in Government 12 months. Well, 12 years later the GSD is still in Government and if their political performance does not improve considerably between now and the date of the next elections, then I think it is going to be a fifth term and I think that they take excessive confidence from opinion polls entirely at the same peril as they have incurred in each of the last four electoral terms. The hon Member honestly does not know what he is talking about and it is a matter of considerable personal disappointment to me that he should be willing to obfuscate and to talk nonsense for the purposes of continuing to give the impression to listeners that the Government have somehow, fiddling the figures to deliver more or less or square the books or square the circle of car parkings. Look, there have been no additional car parks announced. There have been no car parks that had been previously announced, cancelled. If he knew how to deal with the figures that he has in front of him and if he were properly comparing the presentational differences between the original draft plan published and the final version plan published, he would know that there is no difference in the figures. There is no 700 fewer parking spaces involved but as usual he has not done his homework. It is the same superficial dealing with whatever issue he deals with in this House because he is not interested in getting to the bottom of the matter. He is interested only in standing up waffling in a way that gives people listening, the impression that he has somehow discovered some sort of political scoop. Well, he is entirely wrong. What was in the Government's... he said, how could this have been in the Government's mind? The Government conducted a consultation process and then published its plan. This is its plan as published and that has got all the projects in it. Nothing has been removed. The Government have not realised that the numbers did not add up and started subtracting and multiplying and applying the square root of one car park and subtracting from it, the cube of another one. No, we are not that good at mathematics. No. It is just complete and utter nonsense. All he has to do is compare the list of projects which are identified by name and address and the numbers which are there in both versions and see that the numbers are effectively the same. All that changes, is the presentational subdivisions in which subtotals are summarised. It is blindingly obvious and I believe, regrettably, that it is probably blindingly obvious even to him. But his purpose it is not to find out whether the Government are intending to build 700 spaces less than it was going to build. His purpose is, uniquely, to try and give the impression that the Government are misleading the people of Gibraltar. Look, the Government does not need to mislead the people of Gibraltar because I am very proud to say that this is the first Government ever, in the democratic history of Gibraltar, to seriously take on board the political challenge of dealing, in a wholesale and once and for all basis, with Gibraltar's historical parking and traffic problems, that is building car parks and car parking facilities in numbers that the hon Member might, under the days of the GSLP administration, have mistaken for a telephone number, for the number of car parks that they built. Therefore, this Government does not have to hide, or manipulate statistics, or deceive, or trick because people can see for themselves that for the first time ever Government is building car parking facilities on a whole scale basis and will continue to do so. So, in future when I give the list of silly attempts to tarnish Government's obvious achievements, it will not now be just that the buses are too big and that the hospital is in the wrong place and that the airport is too big and too luxurious and that the prison is two inches to the left and that the other thing is two inches to the right, in future, it will also be that the Government somehow made 700 non-existent parking spaces disappear. If that is the best that the hon Member can do politically. To politically argue against this

unprecedented focussed and co-ordinated approach at dealing with Gibraltar's traffic, parking and transport plan, I will choose to interpret it as a complete ratification by the Opposition of the merits and virtues of the plan.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am glad that I have made the blood start to run through the Chief Minister's veins. Not that it takes very much to do that. But let us analyse the figures which according to the hon Member we say we distort, we fabricate, we invent, we mislead, we do all that, and according to the Chief Minister it is simply a case of adding up numbers. Well, we agree. It would be a case of simply adding up numbers if we were given the right information. If the Government was transparent. If the Government was not increasingly opaque about its business. If they were open in giving answers to questions in this House which we have asked in the past and let me give the hon Member a couple of examples and ask him to deal with this particular issue. I have asked in relation to these 2,300 parking spaces which were in the draft plan, how are they accounted for as new additional car parking spaces. So I asked additional to what and the answer was obviously additional to existing complement. So then I ask, do we take into account the 200 car parking spaces that are going to be lost in Devil's Tower Road? Do we take into account whatever parking spaces because they have not given us the numbers and I have asked and they have refused to give us the numbers, the numbers that are going to be lost in Engineer Lane, in Old Naval Hospital, in Arengo's Palace, in South Barrack Road, in South Pavilion, in Flat Bastion Road. Do we take all those numbers into account and if we do what are those numbers? Because if we had those numbers, then it would be a question of simply adding up, but they refuse to give us the information, we simply work almost blind and when we challenge them they accuse us of distorting the position. So can the hon Member now account for these 1,600 new additional car parking spaces by being open with this House, being open with the people of Gibraltar and telling us exactly how many car parking spaces which currently exist will be lost in all these new developments which will happen and we will find out in a few minutes, hopefully, when they will happen, when we come to those questions. So will the hon Member now be open which they were not prepared to be in April of this year and give us that information so that we can conduct the simple mathematical exercise with a simple calculator, not by taking square roots, by simply using the addition sign and add up the number which will become new additional car parking spaces. If the Government are so confident of its position, let it put up or shut up and let it give us the information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This document was drafted obviously with the hon Gentleman in mind because it even goes to the trouble so that he does not confuse new additional with things that are not new additional by simplifying his ability to understand the document by a colour code. Things that have already been done are in one colour. Things that are in the process of being done are in another colour and things that are intended to be done but have neither yet been done nor yet started are in yet another colour. So there is no scope even for the hon Member to be under any erroneous misbelief about what is new additional and what is not new additional and I am not going to further engage with the hon Member in his ridiculous little dance around numbers which is a completely fictitious and unnecessary dance. Look, how the hon Member can justify starting prefacing his question by suggesting that the Government are being increasingly opaque is yet another example of the hon Member's regrettable

debating style. The Government publish in draft its proposed plan, receives lots of representations for which it has expressed its gratitude, none helpfully of course, from the hon Members, woe betide that they should assist the Government in doing anything that might be positive for Gibraltar. So lots of people send in replies to the consultation process but not the hon Member that is now so concerned about divisions and multiplications.

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxx. That is what I did.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government publish a consultation document and then publish the most detailed plan ever published by any Government of Gibraltar on any subject. Naming projects, putting numbers next to each project, saying what is history so that no one should think that we are not acknowledging that it is already past. Saying what we are doing. Saying what we are not yet able to start and the hon Member's assessment of that is that it represents increasing opacity. Well look, I am not entertaining any longer the hon Member's ridiculous attempts to immerse this excellent Government policy initiative in the GSLP's inimitable bickering political style. All I am willing to say to the hon Member is that this plan represents the Government's policy plan. If he likes it he should support it. If he does not like it he should propose something better, assuming that he has got any policies on the matter at all and that is what there is to it and this is what the Government are doing and his ridiculous Bossanesque, which he is not up to, attempts to, sort of, obfuscate the debate with referring to historical figures and this comparison and then confusing things so that the statistical comparison allegedly reveals some dastardly political conspiracy to deceive the people of Gibraltar, not even the Leader of the Opposition tries that anymore and he certainly is not up to starting to try it now.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Does he have a question? He makes a statement but does not ask xxxx.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. I was going to say, it has to be a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. The hon Member now is... I would not suggest that he should sit up here to control these proceedings but I had a question in the previous supplementary which the hon Member had all but ignored. So when I told him to put up or shut up, he certainly did not shut up but he did not put up either because he did not answer the

question that I had asked. It is not up to us to produce the figures. It is up to us to analyse the information that is given by the Government. So let us continue with that analysis and hopefully at some point during the course of today we will get some answers on these figures. It is their figures and they have to justify those figures. The Government produce a list of parking schemes, Grand Parade, Engineer Lane, et cetera, et cetera. Then at the end of that list these projects will provide over 1,600 new additional car parking spaces in Gibraltar. The list they have provided actually adds up to 1,325 although at the end it talks of widening pavements or making pavements that are too wide narrower so that there is extra parking spaces without any indication of where that will happen or when that will happen or how many car parking spaces will be produced. But the actual figures that are produced by the Government add up to 1,325. The number that they say collectively it adds up to is 1,600 of new additional car parking spaces. So the question is very simple. How does one account for those 1,600 new additional car parking spaces within the figures that have been given if one does not take into account the number of car parking spaces which will actually be lost and which are currently available on the street and which will be lost during the course of construction. My question quite simply is, for each of these projects how many car parking spaces will actually be lost so that we can ascertain and we would be able to give Government credit by doing the simple arithmetic and saying, yes, by jove, the Government are producing 1,600 new additional car parking spaces. Well done. But they are well short of that because they simply do not provide that answer. Will they give us that information now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have just realised what the hon Member's problem is. He does not read what he has in front of him and he ignores public statements that the Government have made. There is no netting to be done of lost street parking. The Government have already made clear that where there are lost free street parking spaces as a result of anything that the Government does in respect of these multi-storey car parks, the Government will make alternative re-provision of those free parking spaces. There are no losses to be netted off against the gains. The Government have said this. But the hon Member because he only flits in politics between one meeting of the House to the other, probably does not even bother to keep up to date with what the Government say in between and therefore comes to this House in blissful ignorance of what the Government actually say on matters. I will repeat it to him again for his benefit. The Government have made clear and I am making clear to him again, that where anything that it does in terms of building these car parks and providing these car parks results in a reduction of street parking, it will re-provide those street parkings in either what it is building or elsewhere in the area where they have been lost. So, therefore, all his diatribe about opacity of not telling us what the number of lost parkings we have got to deduct from the new additional ones, simply does not arise. On his second point that the 1,600 do not coincide with the tally of listed car parks, that is simply not correct. He is just comparing the wrong figures. Yes, he is assuming, for the purposes as always of coming to the wrong conclusion, that the reference to these projects will provide over 1,600 car parks, new additional car parking spaces in Gibraltar, refers only to the car parks conveniently listed in bullet points before that with numbers in brackets. So what he has done is he has added the number in brackets next to each car park where it is given there in that list and he said, oops it does not add up to 1,600. But the phrase, these projects will provide over 1,600 car parks does not refer just to those. It refers to those and the ones which are currently under construction which

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and I think that he will find that they add roughly, they add to more than 1,600. I think it is about 1,623. But he can do the mathematics himself and he can continue to ask questions on this vein. It is perfectly plain that the hon Member is determined to try and find things to criticise where there are no things to criticise. Why does he not criticise the substance of the plan? Why does he not look at the traffic plan and instead of this ridiculous obsession with the false handling of numbers? Why does he not say, the plan is inadequate because it does not do this. It does not do this. It does not do this and it does not do that which we the Opposition think need to be done and why does he not criticise it by saying the plan is inadequate because the Government are proposing to do (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) and we the Opposition think that (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are bad things to be done for Gibraltar. This is the equivalent of their other... their political project is limited to nitpicking on numbers and getting it wrong to boot and time keeping on the Government. They do not criticise what the Government do. They say it is taking too long. Why has this taken so long? It is just alleged delay. It is alleged delay, sometimes real, sometimes not. Things take too long. Things are in the wrong place. Things are the wrong size or numbers. But there is no criticism of the underlying policy. So I repeat. I accept the hon Member's limited..., the fact that he has limited his attack on this plan to... well the fact that he has focussed on this issue.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is only on this question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We will see. But there are no other questions that criticise the plan. I will take as very welcome confirmation that on the substance of the plan the hon Members believe that it is indeed as the Government alleges an integrated traffic parking and transport plan for Gibraltar.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Order. Before the hon Member arises. May I simply remind the hon Member. The purpose of question time is to elicit information. Unlike a court of law, it is not the object of question time to seek admissions, concessions or confessions. So, this is not a cross examination session. A question must be aimed at eliciting information.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, much as I would cherish the opportunity of cross-examining the hon Member opposite, I will resist that temptation and certainly comply with all the rules of this House and the directions of Mr Speaker. We are trying to elicit information,

painstakingly so unfortunate to say. In trying to elicit information, we have to refer to the limited answer that is given and seek then some clarification of the position and some information which the hon Member appears not to be able or willing to provide for their own political reasons or simply because they do not have answers. Now the hon Member says ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, on a Point of Order. I cannot allow him to continue to repeat that lie. It is not true that the hon Member has asked for information that the Government have not provided. What is true is that he thinks that there is a statistic around which I have told him does not exist because there is no loss of street parking that is not going to be reprovided.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is what the hon Member says and that is what I am going to question him on to see whether it is in fact accurate or not accurate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a xxxx of cross-examination.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not a question of cross-examination. It is a question of eliciting facts and the hon Member says that when I have added up these numbers and they come up to 1,325, I have not taken into account the number of car parking spaces under construction. The reason we have not done that is because the number of car parking spaces under construction are dealt with separately in this plan. Not as part of that list which adds up to the 1,600 and let me read what the integrated plan says. After listing Waterport Terraces and all that that I have dealt with, these schemes have already added 1,200 parking spaces in recent years. A further 1,250 are currently under construction. So how can the hon Member say that in the 1,600, that includes car parking spaces under construction, when the number of spaces under construction is 1,250 additional car parking spaces? So what I am trying to ascertain is this question of additional ... let me try and be as specific as I can because the hon Member says that the Government will reprovide that these are net figures. The Government will reprovide, for example, that where there is loss ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that. Xxxxx net figures.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is where there is loss ... If they are new additional car parking spaces, they have to be net figures. Because they cannot be additional to what exists but not be net ... It has to be net of what already exists. So if the Government are going to

reprovide existing car parking facilities and one of the instances that the hon Member gives is, will reprovide in what it is building. So, for example, will the hon Member agree that if it is building 207 parking spaces in Engineer Lane and 100, for the sake of argument, are lost there and it reprovides those lost street parking spaces in this, then the only new additional parking spaces have to be 107 and not 207. So these necessarily by definition, by calling them new additional car parking spaces, have to be net figures. Does the hon Member agree with that statement?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member does not agree with that statement. The hon Member ratifies and confirms all the information that he has given him before now and has nothing to add to them.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member simply refusing to provide additional information as to the net effect of this car parking plan? That is what we are trying to find out. The net effect of this parking plan and if the hon Member has said and he has just said across the floor, these are not net figures, can the hon Member then provide us with the net figures?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has already given the answer to the point about whether there may or may not be any lost parking spaces as a result of this plan and I have no intention of repeatedly giving the same information in one form and in another and first generically and then numerically. He has had the answers, the information that he has sought and I will have nothing to add or to subtract from the information that I have given him, all of which I stand by and ratify and I would urge the hon Member to properly read this document.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, I must draw a line under that line of questioning. The Hon Fabian Picardo.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just start by, on a Point of Order, saying that when the hon Gentleman earlier made a Point of Order, he referred to something that Mr Licudi had said as a lie. I do not think there was a call for you to rule on the Point of Order but I think it is inappropriate to refer to statements of any party in this House as a lie other than in the very defined circumstances that of bringing a motion as we have already established for some time. My question to the hon Gentleman in respect of this matter is specific and relates to one of the things he has said. He said that we do not listen to what he says. So listening to the statements he has made today about the reprovisioning of free car parking spaces in areas where free parking is affected by the developments of the Government's new car parks, can I ask him when it is intended and where it is intended to reprovide the 15 parking spaces lost on Willis's Road outside the car park developed in that area?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The car park built in Willis's Road is described here as a historical, something that has already been done. It is not in this plan as something that it is proposed to be done in the future which is what we have been debating.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept that of course, but when that car park was developed, we were told in Government statements at the time about that car park. That the free parking spaces lost in the area of the development of that car park would also be reprovided as free parking spaces. Is it that that position no longer holds true and the 15 to 20 parking spaces lost on Willis's Road on the hill, I am sure he knows exactly what I am referring to, are not going to be reprovided ?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot remember whether there were 15 or less. My recollection is that they were less, but considerably less, I think it was not more than a handful but I do not want to debate that point with him because I have got no present recollection of what the figure is. But I do not think that there are 15 lost spaces. He may be referring to the consequences of ... No, even the making of the road one way, I do not think that removed any parking spaces ... I do not think that the car park itself removed 15 spaces because we are talking about basically the entrance to the car park on which I do not think there was very much parking before. There may be a couple of parking spaces across the street from the entrance of the car parking to give cars room to manoeuvre in and out but I do not think it is 15. My recollection of it is that it was not more than a handful and I do not know whether they have been reprovided yet or not or whether there are so few of them that it was at that time decided not to ... But I am happy to check that for him if he wants to.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. In fact, the position is that the hon Gentleman is right. It is the areas which relate to the entrance to the car parks. The areas which relate to the new road being provided just below the car park and the area which relates to the reprovisioning of the bus stop and if the hon Gentleman looks at the whole of the number of spaces and not just those but the consequential move, then it does come to between 10 and 15 car parking spaces, all of which is aggravated by the fact that and I accept that this is temporary, the redevelopment of the Married Quarters in that area has resulted in all the car parking at the top of Calpe Road also being, at least on temporary basis, not available, putting considerable pressure on the people who live in that area that have to park their vehicles. Have the Government got any plans to consider what to do in that area now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We were debating the number of street parkings that were lost as a result of parking not as a result of parking and half a dozen other things which might also have separately contributed. The Government take the view that it has significantly enhanced the parking offerings in that part of Gibraltar and that if there have been

the loss of a handful, even if it were 10 street parkings, there are more than compensated for by the hugely greater number that have been provided in the street car parking. For example, an area of Gibraltar where that statement would not be true is, for example, nothing to do with parking but with a road project that is also referred to in this document, the doubling up of Devil's Tower Road. Making Devil's Tower Road two lanes in both directions eliminates a very significant number of street parkings along the whole length of Devil's Tower Road. I think, although please do not hold me to this figure, I think it is about 200. There, the Government could not say what I have just said about Willis's Road, that the number lost is so insignificant compared to the much larger number provided at the sacrifice, it I could call it that, is worthwhile. Because it is 200 and it affects intensely and mainly shop businesses along Devil's Tower Road and residents of the Devil's Tower Road area, the Government will not be taking the same view of that and will be making specific alternative provision to reprovide the lost street parking in Devil's Tower Road. So, fine, we were talking slightly at cross purposes then, I just had in mind the number in Willis's Road as a result of the car park and he had in mind a slightly bigger number which was as a result of the car park and as a result of the road and as a result of the bus stops. That may be true. If there is space up there, if anybody wants to identify a piece of land up there that can be made into a little car parking area, of course the Government has no difficulty in dedicating land to that area. But the Government cannot wave a magic wand and create ten spaces where there is no room physically.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course the bus stop was moved as a result of the creation of the car park et cetera, et cetera. So that is why I think they are all connected. Is it not actually the case that before the car park was completed the hon Gentleman was giving the same copper bottomed guarantee that free parking spaces lost as a result of the car park would be reprovided as he is giving now in respect of the other car parks in respect of which my Learned and hon Friend was asking him earlier and that therefore that copper bottomed guarantee will now have to be seen by the people of Gibraltar as being one which is subject to change on the basis that the hon Gentleman has indicated today happened at Willis's Road, that you know at the end of the day the Government will make a decision and might think again and if it is not 200, and you know 200 might cost us a bit at the election, then we may just decide that those free parkings will not be reprovided and that is the sort of pledge or the value of the pledges that this Government are giving.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course the opposite is also possible. That instead of reproviding 200 street parkings at Devil's Tower Road, because we are in an election year, we might provide 400. So you see, flexibility can work in both directions and in this case, flexibility is much more likely to work in the direction of providing more than in providing less. The hon Member can clutch at straws if that is what he is reduced to do. But I do not think that the characterisation that he has just made is an accurate or fair one to level at the Government. But of course if he wants to launch it in whatever forum he wants as something that is speculatively possible and ignore the Government's stated position that that is not what is going to happen, then of course it is a free country and I cannot stop him saying whatever it is. However untruthful it might be.

HON G H LICUDI:

Xxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think they deserve it.

HON F R PICARDO:

I certainly think you do not.

ORAL

NO. 959 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN – IMPROVEMENT
TO CROSS FRONTIER TRAFFIC FLUIDITY**

Can Government state what measures it expects to take as part of its Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan to improve cross frontier traffic fluidity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 960 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 960 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Roundabout in Glacis Road”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 and 961 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 961 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Roundabout at Regal House junction”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959, 960 and 962 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 962 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “New road linking Rosia and Queensway”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 961 and 963 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 963 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Residents permit holder only’ parking areas throughout Gibraltar”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 962 and 964 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 964 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “‘Pay and Display’ areas throughout Gibraltar”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 963 and 965 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 965 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Engineer Lane (207 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 964 and 966 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 966 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “South Pavilion (141 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 965 and 967 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 967 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Arengo’s Palace (215 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 966 and 968 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 968 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Midtown (under the park) (100 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 967 and 969 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 969 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Midtown Development (120 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 968 and 970 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 970 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “South Barrack Road (128 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 969 and 971 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 971 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Flat Bastion Road (104 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 970 and 972 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 972 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Old Naval Hospital Road (100 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 971 and 973 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 973 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Waterport area”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 972 and 974 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 974 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Grand Parade (230 spaces)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 973 and 975 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 975 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “New Airport car park”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 974 and 976 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 976 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Catalan Bay Beach car park”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 975 and 977 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 977 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Eastern Beach car park”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 976 and 978 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 978 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Maximise use of ARP shelters”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 977 and 979 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 979 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “More parking by narrowing pavements that are too wide”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 978 and 980 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 980 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Removal/management of derelict vehicles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 979 and 981 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 981 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Provision of more motor cycle parking”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 980 and 982 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 982 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “No motorcycles in between or in car spaces”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 981 and 983 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 983 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Better enforcement of residents’ only parking”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 982 and 984 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 984 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Appointment of Parking & Traffic Officers”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 983 and 985 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 985 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “‘On the spot’ fines for foreign vehicles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 984 and 986 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 986 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Raising of parking penalty fines”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 985 and 987 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 987 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Use of tow away when obstructing traffic flow”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 986 and 988 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 988 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Clamping of persistent offenders”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 987 and 989 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 989 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Use of parking CCTV cameras”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 988 and 990 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 990 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Better policing of cleaning days”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 989 and 991 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 991 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Driving licence ‘points’ penalty system”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 990 and 992 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 992 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Traffic Officers to support RGP”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 991 and 993 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 993 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Raise fines to increase deterrence”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 992 and 994 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 994 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Traffic CCTV cameras and speed cameras”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 993 and 995 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 995 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “High penalties for obstructing traffic flow in ‘hot spots’”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 994 and 996 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 996 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Better road signage to guide visitors?”

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 995 and 997 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 997 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improve pavement”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 996 and 998 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 998 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Provide pavements where possible”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 997 and 999 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 999 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Target blocking of access to pavements”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 998 and 1000 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1000 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECK LIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Target blocking to houses”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 999 and 1001 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1001 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Calming measures to protect pedestrians”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1000 and 1002 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1002 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Tax concessions for motor cycles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1001 and 1003 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1003 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Bicycle ‘take, ride and leave’ scheme”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1002 and 1004 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1004 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improved taxi service”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1003 and 1005 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1005 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improved bus service and routes”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1004 and 1006 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1006 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Eliminate noisy motor cycles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1005 and 1007 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1007 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Tax induce cleaner motor cycles”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1006 and 1008 to 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1008 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state the estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Tax induce electric and hybrid cars”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1007, 1009 and 1010 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1009 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Structured parking schemes (Park n Ride, Multi storey car parks in residential areas, Residents permit holder only parking and ‘Pay and display’ short-term street parking will reduce traffic in search of parking)”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 959 to 1008 and 1010 of 2010.

NO. 1010 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

**INTEGRATED TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT PLAN –
IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST**

Can Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under “Completed” in the Implementation Checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to “Improved public transport to facilitate reduced car use”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Of course, I know that the hon Members opposite put great store by the fact that they ask 600 questions. But those forty odd questions really were one. The hon Member could have simply asked whether the Government can state what estimated date the public can pencil in under completed in the implementation checklist of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan in relation to each of the commitments that it has entered into in the Traffic Plan which the Government conveniently and helpfully listed in the implementation checklist attached to the plan. That of course would have meant that he could have asked one instead of 40 questions. But I suppose it allows them to put out a press release saying that they have asked 600 questions.

Cross frontier fluidity is not a matter for the Gibraltar Government unilaterally. It requires to be the subject of agreed measures with Spain, discussion of which is provided for within the Trilateral Forum in accordance with the Cordoba agreements.

It is not appropriate or desirable to give “estimated dates that the public can pencil in”, even attributing the colloquial meaning to the phrase pencilling in, “under Completed in the plan’s implementation checklist”. Indeed, if the Government had wanted to estimate dates that could be pencilled in it would have done so. Instead, the implementation checklist which is a novel way that the Government has devised to allow citizens to keep track of the progress that it makes in the implementation of this excellent plan, we would have done so. What we have chosen to do instead is to draw up the implementation checklist in a way that allows the public to put in, in pen rather than in pencil, when things have been done so that they can see for themselves what is on-going and what is not on-going, what is completed and what is not completed. The Government have no intention of guessing completion dates for works so that the hon Members can spend the next three years, which is what the plan says this is a programme for the implementation of, so that they can fill Question Time in Parliament for the next three years asking whether there has been any delay in the completion date. When is the completion date? Why is it 15 minutes late or 5 minutes early? This is the Government’s plan. Not the Opposition’s plan. It is the Government’s plan and the Government have said to the people of Gibraltar that it is a plan which will take around three years to implement and it has also said, I think in

the plan, that many of the measures will be up and running within two years and that is the extent of the commitment that the Government have decided to make in respect of the timing and the sequence of this very wide ranging package of measures. The Government are certainly not minded to provide necessarily speculative dates, which I presume is what he means by pencilling in. By his use of the phrase pencilling in, he himself is tacitly acknowledging that any answer would necessarily be tentative. That is what the phrase pencilling in means in colloquial English. Therefore it calls for speculation. It calls for expressions of opinion on the Government's part which are not appropriate for a wide ranging, long ranging in the long-term sense, package of measures.

The Government's position is that measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon and the Government may or may not, depending on the nature of each measure, give an estimated duration of implementation of each measure as and when it announces that it is embarking upon that measure and that I think is a much more sensible, much more reasonable... Of course, I understand that it deprives the Members opposite of their favourite past time of acting as time keepers for the Government in respect of the implementation of the Government's own policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 959 TO 1010 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

What it does is deprive the public of information to which they are entitled because this..., according to the Government, these would be tentative answers. Well fine, give us tentative answers. Information is we expect this to be completed in 2010. Can the Government tell us that? Can they tell us which of these items in this list they expect tentatively to be completed in 2010? If they cannot tell us that, can they tell us which of all of these items in their wish list or implementation checklist will be completed in 2011 or are expected to be completed in 2011 and it does not call for speculation. Does the Government not agree that what this question does is call for political commitment which this Government seems to be running away from? Because all this is and the public can see now for themselves because they are not prepared to commit themselves to anything, is that it is simply a wish list. Somebody has drawn up a list of anything that we could think of that we could possibly do sometime in the future from now to eternity and that is all they have done and without putting dates, without putting their name and their stamp on it, it will remain as that, simply a wish list. Does the Government not agree that the better thing to do, the more honourable, honest and politically astute thing to do, is to do what we did at the time of the last elections which is to produce a checklist, an implementation checklist which we called a contract with the electorate and each of those items in that contract had a specific date. Not a wish list. Not a year, a specific date. Why does not the Government do the same? Why does it not have the political ... what it takes politically in order to put their seal on this implementation checklist and tell us exactly whether, in fact, they do have the commitment to do this or whether it is all simply as we suspect pie in the sky?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I regret to note that the luncheon adjournment has not served to improve the quality of the hon Member's debating style. Look, I can give him at least one obvious reason why the Government might not want to give a series of commitments with

specific dates attached, as he claims he so impressively did in his manifesto at the last election, which the electorate did not appear to prefer to my approach. As I recall, we won the last election, without a manifesto with specific dates attached, and he who appears to attach such store by such ridiculous time keeping tactics, was not able to persuade the electorate either with his tight timetable which he calls a contract with the electorate or indeed by the other package of last minute bribery that he threw at the electorate. So, he will forgive me if we prefer our own style of doing politics which the electorate have for four elections in a row, say that they regard as more clear and more honest and more politically mature and reasonable than cheap devices designed to persuade electorates that they are more trustworthy than their political opponents. I do not know whether... Not... I cannot imagine a political debate of this type taking place anywhere else in the mature democratic world. Look, normally what happens in mature democracies is that Governments publish plans of what they want to do and Oppositions do not normally come out 15 minutes later saying, unless you give me a precise date by which you are going to do each and every one of these things, it is all a cheap trick designed to con the electorate into some wish list that you have really got no intention of doing because you see it is different to the way I did it in my manifesto. I mean, this is reducing the practice of politics and the quality of the political debate to the infantile. I do not know if there is anybody out there who feels cheated by the fact that the Government have not only published in detail its traffic plan but has gone to the trouble of distilling each commitment, from which he has drawn for his 45 quite unnecessary questions, so that they can follow whether we are making progress and how much. I do not know how many people out there feel cheated by that approach. All I can tell him, in case he finds it of any forensic value in answering that question, is that in the consultation process... Of course, in the eight years that they were in office, the GSLP did not carry out one single consultation process about any legislative measure or policy. So I can understand that they are not familiar with the physics of consultation processes. But in the consultation process that this Government did in relation to this plan, not one single citizen of this community, of all the ones that he now thinks are feeling cheated, not one single one answered the consultation process in draft to say, we think that this is a political fraud unless you tell us exactly the date in which you are going to start and the year in which you are going to finish or the date on which you are going to finish. Not one. I think on that basis, coupled with the fact that this is a most unconventional approach to politics that the hon Member not only recommends to the Government but goes further and says that if the Government does not adopt, it is simply engaging in systemic obfuscation with the electorate because this is information that the electorate is entitled to. I am not aware of any democracy in Europe where electorates demand to know or even want to know from the Government precise dates by which they are going to do everything that they undertake to do. Only here in this House, with this Opposition. The hon Member cannot even be truthful in the things that he says. Forget about the ridiculousness of them. They cannot even be accurate. It is not true that this is an open-ended document, a wish list with no dates or with no light at the end of the tunnel. Why does he say things that are not true? Of course, unless all he has read is the implementation checklist. Has not bothered to read the whole document and has not seen the paragraphs headed "Implementation Issues" and all that it says there about implementation timescales and the Government's estimate that this is a three year programme but many of the issues of which will be conducted... Well, I do not know if he thinks the Government are expressing the view that it thinks it will take about three years to complete this. I do not know whether he thinks that that is open-ended and I do not know whether, by his standards of assessment and judgement, he thinks that what he has said about this can fairly be said and truthfully be said in the light of a document that clearly does not contain an open-ended date commitment. It is typical, typical of the manner in which he chooses to conduct political debate in this

House. That is a matter entirely for him. But I want to make it perfectly clear that what he has said is not true and that what he claims to be what people demand without which there is some sort of democratic deficit when we are talking about the Government's policy which has gone to consultation, which is carefully explained and the democratic deficit he says, the fraud of the electorate is that we do not give dates because we cannot give dates, because a lot of these things are not for immediate implementation and that is the democratic deficit. If that is the definition of democratic deficit, all I can say is that it was just as well he was not in this House between 1988 and 1996. He would then know what democratic deficits really are.

HON G H LICUDI:

We will see about that. We will see what the future holds and when we are on that side of the House we will be talking about the democratic deficit when that party was in Government during these 14 years. Because there is a very large democratic ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, we are talking about it now. Because there is in fact a very huge democratic deficit in respect of lack of accountability in particular and that is what this is all about. The hon Member says we are reducing this to the infantile. Well, let us have a more mature debate. We can only have a mature debate with specific information and as the hon Mr Speaker said this morning, the purpose of Question Time is to elicit information. We have listed a series of questions based on the Government's, not information that we have thought of for ourselves, based on the Government's own document with a checklist, an actual checklist and all we want is for the public to be aware when the Government expects each of these items to be in place. Because it does not just say completed, it says in progress only also, and all the questions that I have asked are in respect of those items which are not even in progress. So is it that the Government does not even know when they are going to commence these matters and the hon Member has talked of a three year programme. Does the hon Member not agree that it should not be too difficult, if all we are talking about is a three year programme with such a huge list to be implemented, to say, well in the first year we intend to do this batch. In the second year we intend to do this batch and in the third year we intend to do this batch. That should not be beyond the realms of political imagination. So why do we want precise dates? Because otherwise this will be taken for what we believe it is and we are giving them an opportunity to disprove us. We believe this is a cheap political trick. We believe this is a massive deception on the public. We believe this has been published shortly before the elections even though the Government said at the time of the last elections they would give priority to this matter and they have not. This has been published now to give the public the impression that things are being done now. Shortly before the elections and they are not prepared to commit to specific dates. If we are wrong, let the hon Member prove us wrong simply with information. The public have a right to know. Will the hon Member review his policy of lack of transparency, of opaqueness which has been evident in the last few months in the answers to the questions that have been given in this House? We have seen quite clearly a sea change in the attitude of this Government. What this Government has

seen already out there in the street, is a sea change in terms of political opinion because this Government have been found out. They have been found wanting and will the hon Member now come clean and give us the information that we seek?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all, the hon Member does not seek information. Estimated dates the public can pencil in is not information. Secondly, the Government will not do so. But I will tell you what I will do. I will continue to correct the inaccuracies of his statements. It is a litany of successive, miss statements that he makes. It is not true that the question asks for work in progress and commencement date. The questions read, for goodness sake he has read it out 42 times, you would have thought that after 42 times he would at least have know what his own questions asked. Can the Government state what estimated date the public can pencil in under completed. You see because the implementation checklist is divided into "in progress" and "completed". Well completed means "finished" in the English language and therefore it is no good him waffling and mumbling on about the questions also asking for commencement and when he is going to start and what is in progress. The questions ask for an estimated completion. I think he might at least try to accurately and truthfully recite his own questions, even if he does not want to accept my answers. Whether this report is a cheap political trick, premeditatedly designed by the Government as a massive deception of the electorate, does not fall to be determined by whether I give the hon Member the entirely unreasonable information that he now seeks from me but rather by the electorates judgement of whether we are getting on with it and whether we have made sufficient progress in it to satisfy their expectations of us, the next time they come into a polling booth to decide whether they vote for us or whether they want to vote for the hon Member opposite instead. That is the test of whether the public feels cheated and not the glib, simplistic, absurd, little political accusations that the hon Member conjures up for lack of anything better to say in this debate. Oh and by the way before I sit, eighteen months is hardly shortly before the election. I know the hon Members are waiting nervously at the starting block and that the one and a half opinion polls that they have read in the newspaper ...

HON F R PICARDO:

Point of Order. Not nervously, with great expectation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, with the same great expectation that he announced before the last election.

HON C G BELTRAN:

And the one before that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Shortly before the last election. Well, we shall see. It is much better just for the Government and the Opposition to get on with their work and just allow the electorate

to make these judgements. At the end of the day, it is not what he says now in this Question Time or indeed what I say now in this Question Time that decides who wins the election. It is the electorate at the right time, stopping, assessing performances, assessing relative visions and relative programmes, deciding whether they have had enough of the GSD Government and more significantly for them, deciding whether if they have had enough of the GSD Government, whether they can still afford to vote for the GSLP Government. Because, of course, the electorate could have a very bad choice. We do not think they are going to have a bad choice. We think it is going to have a good choice from the GSD. The problem for them is that even when our time has expired ...

HON F R PICARDO:

On a serious Point of Order, Mr Speaker, this is Question Time and as you often rule Question Time is a place for us ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

Can you not take it? Can you not take it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

You see I was right, it was nervous after all. Not xxxx ...

HON C G BELTRAN:

He jumps up.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Very well, let us hear the Point of Order, I suppose.

HON F R PICARDO:

This is Question Time Mr Speaker and in Question Time we are here to elucidate information and questions should not be a pretext for a debate. Similarly, Mr Speaker, answers should not be a pretext for a debate and talking about whether or not we should take his advice about what is going to happen before or after the next election and the choices that the people will have at the next election does not go to the issues that we are dealing with in Question Time which relates to the questions that my Learned and hon Friend has put. Could the hon Gentleman therefore be asked to stick to answering questions?

MR SPEAKER:

Can I say what I think about Question Time. I will refer to Erskine May. The purpose of a question is to obtain information or press for action. It should not be framed primarily so as to convey information or so as to suggest its own answer or convey a

particular point of view and it should not be in effect a short speech. We have had every transgression in the questions emanating from this side. By the same token, answers must be directed to the matters in issue and should be directly based on the question asked. The only leeway allowed is that Ministers of the Crown are allowed a certain amount of latitude. That is the difference. So both sides have transgressed in the purpose of the question and the answers emanating. There have been statements made, for example, and I am not being critical, words used as “a cheap political trick”. When there is going to be a statement of that nature from the questioner, one would expect a political response from the other side. So really, both sides are indulging in this. I will ask both sides to refresh your minds as to what the purpose of a question is and to confine the answers to the accepted practice.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I will of course be delighted to comply with Mr Speaker’s eminently sensible and I believe entirely correct ruling. But of course, as Mr Speaker himself says, it was not I who introduced the concept of, shortly before the election, which is the point that I was speaking to when I was so suddenly cut in my prime by those who accuse the Government of opacity. Not wanting to give information. Not wanting to exchange views. So, Mr Speaker, as far as I am concerned, I have answered the hon Members supplementary and out of respect and in acknowledgement and in acceptance of the hon Mr Speaker’s ruling, I will now resume my sedentary position.

MR SPEAKER:

I am grateful. Can I make one more point. Questions are not in order which renew or repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused in that session of Parliament. So when the hon Member is phrasing the next supplementary please bear in mind my earlier comments and this last comment.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker I am grateful for that. It is something that we ... I do acknowledge that sometimes we transgress and we do have a little bit of leeway from the chair.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

And very enjoyable it is too.

HON G H LICUDI:

And it is something that ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It makes for good parliamentary xxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely. It encourages the use of the Parliamentary time that we have. But I acknowledge that it must be constrained...

MR SPEAKER:

That is why I do allow a certain amount of latitude.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

For which we are very grateful Mr Speaker. But we do acknowledge that certainly there have to be some constraints. This is not a motion on traffic and therefore it is not a full debate on all matters. But I did notice Mr Speaker that in the extract that you read it said "obtain information of press for action". So it is not just a question of Question Time being eliciting information but pressing for action. So, to the extent that we are asking about completion dates and we are pressing for action on matters of public importance, that in our view would come within the confines of Question Time subject to of course, not when ...

MR SPEAKER:

Not renewing and repeating the same thing.

HON G H LICUDI:

Of course, not renewing and repeating and not making political speeches which I acknowledge we both take the advantage of doing. The hon Member has in answer to the last supplementary said that the questions all relate to the heading "completed". So we are asking for completion dates. But, naturally, the hon Member will realise that for something to be completed, it must be started. So implicit in the question as to when something is going to be completed, we are asking, well what progress has been made and when you are going start it. That is something which I would suggest is implicit to the extent that no progress has been made at all when the Government talks of sufficient progress being made in all these questions, the ones that I have read out, all of them are ones where there is no tick under the heading "in progress" and therefore I have assumed, because that is the case and this has been published recently, that these are all matters in respect of which no progress at all has been made and therefore we are asking what progress is being made. Let me be a bit more specific in my questions. The first two items, which are the subject of the questions under this batch, relate to the roundabout in Glacis Road and the roundabout in Regal House junction. These are matters that we have raised previously and it has been confirmed in this House that a decision has been made to undertake these works. Can the Government now tell us since that Question Time, the traffic plan has been published and, one assumes, further progress has been made and further decisions have been made, whether what progress has been made

on these matters on which we have been told previously, decisions have been made. So can the Government tell us when we are about to see work starting with respect to the roundabout in Glacis Road and the roundabout at Regal House junction?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think the hon Member even reads his own questions. Why is he asking me that in supplementary when the very next two questions on the order paper are “Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Queensway at Regal House junction to commence?” and the one after that is “Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Glacis Road to commence?” He surely knows his own questions. Why is he pre-empting them in a supplementary to a previous question?

HON G H LICUDI:

I am happy for those particular questions to be left to the ones in the order paper. Unfortunately, I have taken the trouble of reading so many questions that I was not sure whether those two questions had already been read out or not. But I am happy to leave those specific questions for the supplementary in the other questions. In respect of “residents permit holder only parking” areas throughout Gibraltar. Can the hon Member tell us which areas are envisaged where it is suggested that residents only, permit holder only parking will be allowed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will repeat what I said in my first reply. Measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon.

HON G H LICUDI:

I take that as being an answer, we will not tell you, we just refuse to tell you.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has asked the question six times. Xxxxx because you repeat it.

HON G H LICUDI:

One would have thought that where they are committed to putting “residents permit holder only parking” throughout Gibraltar that they would at least have identified those areas where “residents permit holder only” can be placed. If they have not even done that, then it begs even greater questions than I have chosen to ask in these supplementaries. In respect of Engineer Lane, which is one of the other items on the list of questions, there is envisaged a car park there with 207 car parking spaces. To what extent have the Government looked at issues of traffic management which arise in respect of the car park and following the completion of the car park. I say that because I am informed that construction at Engineer Lane of a building with additional public parking spaces is something that has been

considered some years ago by the Development and Planning Commission. There was, as I understand, an application made many years ago and the Government took advice from its own experts. I am told that the advice the Government was given was that by creating that additional parking space in that area, it would simply create traffic chaos because the only area of access to that is through Cornwall's Lane and does the Government not agree that at the moment there is access to that car park at Engineer Lane through Cornwall's Lane. There is traffic light system which operates, because it is only wide enough for one road and if the car park is built with these number of spaces, it may only contribute to greater traffic strain on the road system around that area. Is that something that the Government are aware of and have they considered that this is an issue which was considered by the Development and Planning Commission some years ago?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Firstly, the fact that the Government does not want to make announcements until measures are ready to be embarked upon does not entitle the hon Member to conclude, as he has chosen to do, that the Government have therefore done absolutely no work and have not even picked up the papers. Why he makes that *non sequitur* of a judgement, I simply do not know. The fact that the Government's position is that measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon does not necessarily and inevitably mean that the Government therefore has not even started work on it. I think most people who are objectively approaching this matter might come to the same conclusion as I on that. The second thing that I should comment on is that clearly the residents of that part of town, Engineer Lane and all those areas, who have been pressing the Government to build a multi-storey car park there, should now all take note that the hon Members opposite in the Opposition think that this is a bad idea which means presumably that they would not do it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, on a Point of Order, I have not said that the Opposition think it is a bad idea. I have asked the Government whether they have considered this given that, as I understand it, it is already being considered by the Development and Planning Commission and whether it is something that they are taking into account. We clearly xxxx carried it out.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With respect, it is a disingenuous response. He has pointed out to what he believes is an adverse judgement of the desirability of this project, presumably to indicate to the Government caution about the fact that it may not be a good idea and the moment I say to him, well be careful because the residents are the ones who are asking for it and they should take note and he does not think that... Oh I see, so he thinks it is a good idea but it is cautioning us to look at the report. Well, I doubt there are many listeners out there who think that that was the purpose of the hon Member saying what he has said. But please he should rest assured that, unlike he, the Government does consider matters with a slightly less degree of superficiality and all those questions have been carefully considered and the conclusion is that building a multi-storey car park there is an eminently sensible thing to do which will not in any way add to what he chooses to call, traffic chaos.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member's attempts to distort our views for political purposes clearly carry no weight and do not achieve their purpose. What we have done is, in fact, do precisely what the hon Member was accusing us of not doing only a few minutes ago. By trying to be constructive and by trying to suggest to the Government, well in respect of this particular project have you considered this? Have you considered whether it would lead to a massive traffic problem? We are simply being constructive and asking the Government whether it has considered that and if the answer is, yes we have carried out a detailed assessment and we have concluded that it is okay and it will not lead to a massive traffic ... then that answers the question. But by being constructive and us being criticised, well at the end of the day it is difficult to know what to do from this side of the House. It is either, we criticise the Government and we are criticised for doing that. We ask for information and we are criticised for doing that. We ask the Government constructively whether they have considered something, we are criticised for doing that. I am not suggesting we are going to stay home. We are certainly going to carry on with the work which is what we are paid to do and hold this Government to account whether they like it or not. In respect of maximising the use of ARP shelters, which is another item on the ... Can the Government say which ARP shelters have been identified for this purpose and where they are?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not watch football matches and I have no intention of watching tonight's or any other match but I understand if there is anybody in this House that wants to watch it any football match tonight, the hon Member can ask the same question 40 times and get the same answer 40 times. I have answered his last question because it called for a slightly different form of information but on as many occasions in relation to each of these planned elements he asks me details, I will tell him the same. Measures will be announced as and when they are embarked upon.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon member is clearly in the mood of not answering any questions. Can he confirm in respect of any other questions I may ask about this, his answer will be the same and he will refuse to provide the public with information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not regard it as refusal to provide the public with information. As to the more sensible part of his last question, that is what I had just finished saying before I sat down and he popped up to ask me what I just said before sitting down.

HON G H LICUDI:

The electorate will clearly judge for itself as to this Government's behaviour and that is not a question. It is a xxxxx.

ORAL

NO. 1011 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRANSPORT ROAD

Can Government state why works to repair or improve Transport Road are not envisaged as part of its Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1012 to 1014 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1012 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

QUEENSWAY ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Queensway at the Regal House junction to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1013 and 1014 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1013 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GLACIS ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state when it expects the work on the roundabout in Glacis Road to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1012 and 1014 of 2010.

NO. 1014 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

ROSIA TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

Can Government state when it expects the work on the road linking the Rosia area with Queensway via the Dockyard to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As to the Transport Road question, the Plan does not list individual roads that need repairs or improvement. This is part of the Government's normal annual road maintenance programme and I cannot say why the maintenance and resurfacing of Transport Road has not yet been done but I suppose it will be done. There is an annual budget and it is for others, not me, to select the particular roads to which the budget is applied. I suppose that at a given point in time they might have said, we want to wait for all the works to finish in the area before resurfacing the roads. If that was the explanation then, of course, that has now occurred. So I do not suppose there is any reason why it cannot be done. There is a vote there and it is up to those who administer that vote to decide whether it is Transport Road or some other road that they wish to give priority to.

As to the other schemes that he asks about which are mentioned in the Plan, as the Plan makes clear, the schemes mentioned in these three other questions are still at what the plan calls the design and viability working stages, and so, all the more it is inappropriate to indicate when, or indeed whether, works will start.

The road linking Rosia to Queensway is very likely to be the first of the three since it is a major manifesto commitment, and indeed it is part of the concept underlying the Trafalgar Interchange scheme. In other words, the Trafalgar Interchange scheme is driven mainly by a desire to decongest traffic coming out of the South District, north into town. The road in question, that is, the project for a road linking the Rosia area with Queensway through the Dockyard, is part of that because it would siphon some of the traffic that used to come down Trafalgar Hill and will now still have to come through the Trafalgar Interchange. It would have siphoned it directly from Rosia Road somewhere in the Rosia Road/New Mole House area down below and out directly to Queensway through the Dockyard without having to pass through the Trafalgar Interchange. So, this is something that the Government are keen to get on with and is likely to be the first of the three. But I cannot give him any details about the other two which are still at the design and viability stage, as is this one. But in the case of this one, I can tell him that from what I know the design and viability phase of work is more advanced than in respect of the other two.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1011 TO 1014 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that. In respect of Transport Road, the hon Member may recall that this is a matter that I have raised in the past in this House. The reason that we have done that and the question asked about, not just works to repair which talks about resurfacing, but to improve because reports have been made to us about ... and concerns about the state of the road, particularly when it rains and particularly the fact that there is no pavement in that road. So the reason I am asking this again now is because at the time there were works being carried out and therefore I had anticipated that once those works were carried out then perhaps the Government would take a decision. Can I urge the Government to consider it as part of its maintenance programmes for roads generally, the issue of Transport Road because it is an issue that residents in the area have raised with us on a number of occasions. On the roundabout in Queensway, Glacis Road, I note that the answer given by the hon Member is that this is..., work is being done on design and viability and that Government are considering when or indeed whether, those were the words I heard. Can I remind the hon Member that this is a matter again that we have raised in the past in relation to this particular issue and in particular in answer to Question No. 187 of 2010, the Minister for the Environment said the Government would make announcements as to this policy initiatives as and when it considers it appropriate to do so which is essentially the same answer. But after ten questions of debate, of supplementaries ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well after that, at the very end, the Hon the Minister for the Environment said and these are his words "But the commitment is there. The decision to do it is there. If for some reason it becomes impossible, then the decision to do it will have to change but the decision has been made". Can I just ask the hon member to comment on that given the slightly different answer that he has given now which is that a decision has to be made as to when or indeed whether it is to be made? It is suggested that there is a slight conflict between that answer and what we have previously been told.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With respect it was an eminently sensible answer by the Minister for the Environment, one which I would have commended to him myself because there is no difference between what he said and what I have just said. Both reflect a commitment to it. He said it and I put it in the plan. Both acknowledge that there are potential obstacles to its viability. In the case of the Glacis Road roundabout, not least the fact that we would need to repossess land which currently is privately owned and either the owner is willing to sell it to us or not and when the hon the Minister said that if it became impossible for any reason, the Government would have to say that it had become impossible, he had precisely that situation in mind. So in respect of the Glacis Road roundabout, this is something that the Government very

much thinks would be good for traffic flow enhancement in Gibraltar. It would prevent, for example, vehicles coming out of Bayside Road and vehicles coming out of Glacis Estate on Glacis Road having to go all the way to the Waterport roundabout, I nearly used its colloquial name in Spanish, in order to head back north again which is an unnecessary injection of traffic into that particular roundabout. So the Government very much want to do this but unfortunately does not currently own all the land that it would need in order to do so. I do not mind identifying the land in question. It is the car park near what used to be the Mediterranean Rowing Club or indeed on what used to be the Mediterranean Rowing club. Without that land, there is not enough room there to do the sort of roundabout that would be needed. I have told him as much as I can in respect of the other one. The roundabout at the Queensway to Regal House junction raises questions about the necessary turning cycle of large lorries. It raises questions about the relocation of the school or at least one of them because the roundabout at the junction of Queensway and Europort Avenue opposite Regal House cannot be done without using what is effectively now most of the land occupied by the two tennis courts which are used in connection with the schools as well. So, there are issues there. The Government are committed to the projects. It thinks that they would both be a jolly good thing which it would like to do but does not presently have the xxxx with all with which to do it because there are potentially blocking factors which may or may not be resolvable, and that is what I have meant and that is what I think the hon Minister meant.

ORAL

NO. 1015 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR CAR PARKS LIMITED

Can Government state what is the remuneration agreed by Government for the person employed to manage the Gibraltar Car Park Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. Assuming that “the person employed to manage the Gibraltar Car Parks Limited” is intended to refer to the Chief Executive Officer, his remuneration is £50,000 a year.

ORAL

NO. 1016 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK

Can Government state whether the car park at Devil's Tower Road is still on course to open in June 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1017 to 1020 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1017 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD – REPROVISION OF LOST PARKING SPACES

Can Government state whether it has now made a decision on how the 200 parking spaces which will be lost at Devil's Tower Road will be reprovided?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016 and 1018 to 1020 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1018 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK

Can Government state whether it is now in a position to give details of how the car park at Devil's Tower Road will operate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016, 1017, 1019 and 1020 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1019 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK – “PARK AND RIDE” FACILITIES FOR VISITORS

Can Government explain why the “park and ride” facilities from the Devil's Tower Road car park are described in the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan as being “for visitors”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016 to 1018 and 1020 of 2010.

NO. 1020 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD CAR PARK – BUSES FOR “PARK AND RIDE” FACILITIES

Can Government state whether it has now purchased the buses which will operate the “park and ride” from the Devil's Tower Road car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Phase one of the Devil's Tower Road 'Park n Ride' multi-storey car park is now scheduled for completion by the end of July 2010 and it is expected, obviously, that a Certificate of Practical Completion will be issued.

The Government expect to conclude soon its coordination of, and make public announcements relating to, street parking, nearby residents only parking scheme and general operating matters relating to this large facility, which will also make provisions for visitors to Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1016 TO 1020 OF 2010

HON G H LICUDI:

I note that there has been some slippage in the date and I do not say that simply to hold them to the date they had previously said. There has been a months slippage but the purpose of the question now is that we were previously told that the completion date was June. Now it is going to be July which is of no particular consequence for this purpose but we were also told that details of how the car park will operate will be given nearer the date of its opening for business and therefore given that it was due to open for business in June, we thought it was appropriate to ask that. Does the Government not consider that given that it is going to be ready in a month, that it is sufficiently close to the date of its opening for business for the Government to have ironed out all these issues and therefore to be able to make an announcement as to the 200 parking spaces and in relation to the park n ride facilities and also with regard to the buses. The park n ride presumably just cannot operate without the buses and are the buses there or is the Gibraltar Bus Company going to be used for this purpose?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All of these issues are precisely the ones which have just been finalised. I think it is true to say but I cannot be drawn into making a public announcement just yet. All of these..., I mean the major underlying policy decisions have been made and now the operators are just putting the finishing touches to the practical arrangements. Whether it is necessary to say these things six or seven weeks before they become relevant to people wanting to park their car is a matter for judgement by him and by us. Obviously, we have a different one. I think it is completely unnecessary for it to have happened yet. Indeed, it cannot happen yet because the Government are not yet in a position. There are still issues left to resolve and that is where we are and this months delay is regrettable. On this occasion we cannot even blame the dastardly Spanish construction companies because this delay is down to our very own champion GJBS, about which we are all so proud. So there you are. It just goes to show that not all delay in building sites is either down to the terrible Ministers or down to the terrible Spanish construction companies.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the hon Member in a position, at the very least, to say whether a policy decision has been taken in respect of the 200 parking spaces which will be lost in Devil's Tower Road, whether those will in fact be reprovided within the car park?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not want to say because anything that I say will necessarily give away some of the details of the things which will not make sense without the rest of it because it all has to be regarded in the context of the whole package of issues. Suffice it to say, just assume that I am now repeating what I said earlier in the answer to the question when we were discussing, at the intervention of his colleague, Mr Picardo, in relation to the spaces lost in Willis's Road, that the Government has no intention of allowing 200 parking spaces in Devil's Tower Road to disappear without making alternative equivalent quantum arrangements. As for the detail of how what precisely that means and in what form these places will emerge and how, I would urge him please just to await, to respect the fact that the Government need to announce these things when it is ready to announce them all and it is not yet in a position. This is not one of those cases in which I do not want to tell him now because I am going to say it publicly tomorrow. The Government are not in a position yet to fill in all the details that would have to be ready before it was sensible and prudent to say anything at all.

NO. 1021 OF 2010

THE HON G H LICUDI

EUROPORT TO QUEENSWAY LINK ROAD

In respect of the new road linking Europort to Queensway which Government has contracted at a cost of £1,476,000, can Government state whether these works went out to tender, how many tenders were received, who the successful contractor was and what the amounts of the other tenders were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The works associated with the new road linking Europort to Queensway were contracted as part of the Mid Harbour Government Rental Housing project tender. In other words, they were included in those works. The cost element of the road, in other words the portion of the overall contract cost for the building of the houses and building the road attributable to the building of the road is £1,476,000. Tenders were received from three contractors. The winner was, they know now, Brues y Fernandez (Gibraltar) Ltd failed and therefore the project and the contracts have now been taken over by GJBS Ltd who is finishing both the houses and the road scheme. But it is not the Government's usual practice to attach a number to a name of the other tenderers and indeed in this case I do not think the Government want to say even the numbers because I am not sure that we have yet finished our contractual negotiations with GJBS Ltd to fix the final price. There may be an increase in the price over the above contracted price and I just do not know whether that has been completed or not yet or whether it is still in progress.

NO. 1022 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTERS' – TRAVEL COSTS PAID FOR BY THIRD PARTY

Can Government confirm if any Minister has, since May 2008, had his or her costs of travel (whether on official business or otherwise) paid for by any third party (who is not a family relative) and if so, whether the travel was on personal or Government business and who paid the expenses of any such travel, accommodation and related expenses and what was the purpose of the trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, as in previous years, the Chief Minister and the Minister for Enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport were invited by Mansion, a Gibraltar on-line betting company owned by foreign interests, to an all expenses paid trip to the United Kingdom from 12-14th December 2008 to watch a football match between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, which is sponsored by Mansion, the aforementioned Gibraltar company.

NO. 1023 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTERS' – USAGE OF VIP LOUNGE AT HEATHROW AND GATWICK AIRPORTS

What has been the total cost, giving a breakdown by trip, of each occasion on which the VIP lounge at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports has been used by the Chief Minister and/or any other Government Minister since charges were introduced for this previously free service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Only the Chief Minister is allowed to use the VIP lounges. In answer to Question Nos. 630 and 1064 of 2009, the hon Member was provided with details of the occasions and cost of the use of the VIP lounge at Gatwick Airport up to the 2nd June 2009. The situation continues to be that only the Chief Minister uses the facility. I now hand the hon Member a schedule relating to the use of the lounges from both Heathrow and Gatwick Airport from June 2009.

Answer to Question No. 1023 of 2010

Labour Party Conference (27 th & 28 th September 2009)	
VIP Suite Heathrow	£414.00
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
Chief Minister UN – New York (6 th & 8 th October 2009)	
VIP Suite Heathrow	£414.00
VIP Suite Heathrow	£414.00
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
Trilateral Forum/Gibraltar Day (15 th & 20 th October 2009)	
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
VIP Suite Gatwick	£776.25
Meeting with FCO Officials (22 nd & 24 th February 2010)	
VIP Suite Heathrow	£423.00
VIP Suite Heathrow	£423.00
TOTAL	£6745.50

NO. 1024 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the £1,532.50 charged in respect of subsistence and other costs incurred in respect of the Chief Minister's travel for the trip to the Trilateral Forum talks of 15th to 20th October 2009 referred to in answer to Written Question No. W87 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1025 to 1028 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1025 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government provide a full and detailed breakdown of the accommodation costs of £2,909.05 charged in respect of the travel for the trip for the Trilateral Forum talks of 15th to 20th October 2009 referred to in answer to Written Question No. W87 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1024 and 1026 to 1028 of 2010.

NO. 1026 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government now give a full breakdown of the £2,430.17 of subsistence and other costs incurred in respect of the Chief Minister's travel to New York on 6th to 8th October 2009 and referred to in answer to Question No. 441 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1024, 1025, 1027 and 1028 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1027 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government now give a full breakdown of the £1,500 listed as subsistence and other costs in respect of the attendance by the Chief Minister at the Labour Party Conference?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1024 to 1026 and 1028 of 2010.

NO. 1028 OF 2010**THE HON F R PICARDO****CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL COSTS**

Can Government now explain the discrepancy between the costs incurred for accommodation at the Conservative Party Conference last year which was £1,000 and that incurred for accommodation at the Labour Party Conference which was £360?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The £1,532.50 referred to in answer to written question W87 of 2010 relates to the use of the VIP Suite at Gatwick Airport.

The breakdown of the accommodation costs of £2,909.05 is as follows:

Room (Hire of)	£2,375.00
Room Service	£ 177.80
Room Taxes	<u>£ 356.25</u>
	<u>£2,909.05</u>

The breakdown of the subsistence and other costs of £2,430.17 is as follows:

Heathrow VIP Lounge (6 th & 8 th October)	£1,604.25
Car Hire – New York	<u>£ 825.92</u>
	<u>£2,430.17</u>

I take it that the hon Member is referring to the amount of £1,553.84 provided in answer to Question No. 441 of 2010, in his Question No. 1027 of 2010 not identified, but our assumption is that that is what he is referring to. The breakdown therefore is as follows:

Use of VIP Suite at Gatwick	£776.25
Use of VIP Suite at Heathrow	£414.00
Car Hire	<u>£363.59</u>
	<u>£1,553.84</u>

There is no discrepancy although there is a difference in relation to the difference in room costs between the two party conferences.

The reason for the difference is that the cost of the hotel for the Conservative Party Conference has to be booked in advance for a minimum period of four nights, even if the accommodation were required for a shorter period and I do not actually stay for

that long. I cannot be certain but I think the accommodation is then used either for other members of the Gibraltar delegation or made available to others, friends of Gibraltar who might be there at the Conference.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1024 TO 1028 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

From the information that has been provided, it would appear that £1,604 is a very large amount of pay for the Heathrow VIP lounge for the trip to New York because the cost is about £414.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I said 6th and 8th October. Xxxx.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes. So how come ... If it is in both directions, it is £400 when you are there the first time and it is £400 when you come back.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I see what you mean. I do not know.

HON F R PICARDO:

The VIP suite Heathrow has been given to me as £414 in each direction.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is £1,604.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is the total the hon Gentleman has given me for his use of the lounge between the 6th and the 8th October on the way up and on the way down. But I am told from his answer to Question No. 1023 of 2010 that the lounge costs £414 each way.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was the last Question No. that I mentioned, 1,023.

HON F R PICARDO:

But in the remarks that the hon Gentleman has made in answer to Question No. 1026 of 2010, he said it is the VIP lounge at Heathrow that totals £1,604.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Could it be ... I have not done xxxx ... Could it be that the answer perhaps should be 6th to the 8th Heathrow and Gatwick.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is what it is. Alright. Fair enough.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have xxxx when added together and xxxx. Yes, I think the answer is probably wrong in that it is £1,604.25 Heathrow and Gatwick VIP.

HON F R PICARDO:

Right. That makes sense.

ORAL

NO. 1029 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

MEETINGS BETWEEN CHIEF MINISTER AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE/ATTORNEY GENERAL

On how many occasions has the Chief Minister met with both the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney General together at No. 6 Convent Place, providing a list of the dates when such meetings were held, the purpose of the meetings being convened and the names of any other attendees since 1st January 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I do not think that it is appropriate to provide an account of my meetings with senior Government officials, nor the purposes of such meetings.

ORAL

NO. 1030 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW PRESS SECRETARY

What are the terms of the employment of the new Press Secretary employed by the Government, providing salary, period of employment, any trial period, any pension provision and whether the employment is as a civil servant on permanent and pensionable terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1031 of 2010.

NO. 1031 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW PRESS SECRETARY

What process of advertisement of post, application and interview was followed for the post of Press Secretary?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

An officer has been engaged on a three year contract with effect of 4th May 2010, on a salary of £52,000 per annum subject to review in accordance with pay increases awarded to administrative and executive grades within the Civil Service. The contract also provides for payment of a tax free gratuity of 25 per cent of the basic salary for each year of completed service. The duties of this officer include some press secretary functions and also the provision of general support to the Chief Minister as one of his private secretaries within my office.

In accordance with the past practice of such posts in the Chief Minister's office this was a direct appointment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1030 AND 1031 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Sorry I did not hear the last ... because the door was closing. A direct ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A direct appointment.

HON F R PICARDO:

And, therefore, it is not a Civil Service post.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a Civil Service permanent and pensionable post. Every officer of the Crown, whether engaged on permanent and pensionable terms or on contract terms is a

public officer. The term civil servant does not actually exist in law as such. You are a public officer if you are an employee of the Crown. You are an employee of the Crown whether you are employed on permanent and pensionable terms or whether you are employed on contract terms. This person therefore together with all other civil servants, just to use his phrase, but subject to the explanation that I have just given, like all other Government contract officers is regarded as a civil servant in that he is an employee of the Crown. He is not employed by ... individually. He is employed by ... I am not sure who the contracting party is. I suppose it xxxx with the civil servants. But he is not a civil servant in the same sense as the main body of civil servants are. The difference being that the latter are on permanent and pensionable terms, are subject to General Orders. Contract officers are on contract for a term. Not permanent. Not pensionable under the Pensions Act. Pensionable under the contractual terms which is 25 xxxx business but subject to General Orders, the clauses of General Orders of which are stated in the contract. That is the standard form of contract for contract officers.

ORAL

NO. 1032 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – PROVISION OF SERVICES

On what date were the services being provided to the Government by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited put out to tender, how many tenders were received and why was Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited chosen to provide the service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1033 of 2010.

NO. 1033 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – PROVISION OF SERVICES IN RESPECT OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

On what dates were the services presently being provided to the Government by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited in respect of:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) the new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) the Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) the relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) the Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) the new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) the simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road;
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue; and
- (xvi) the revetment repair works to the West View Promenade?

I note that that question does not seem to have an object and that must be my fault in drafting it. But the hon Gentleman seems to be about to answer it.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited is a wholly owned Government company which is not providing services to the Government. The defect in the question, if there is one, which I suppose is inadvertent, is not in the absence of an object. It is in the first two lines.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1032 AND 1033 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes. The hon Gentleman is right and the question in fact is in respect of Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited which is providing services to Gibraltar Investment Holdings Ltd. Can the hon Gentleman give that answer or does he not have it with him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I do not have it with me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, let me apologise to the House for the error in that question and I will put the question again.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member will write to me, I will provide him with the information. It is just I think we should be allowed to hold him to the question that he asks but if he wants the information, if he drops me a note, I will reply to him with it.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful. I do note that the question is improperly drafted. It is my own error I am sure and therefore I will make sure the question is either put again in the proper manner or I write to the hon Member and get the answer from him. I am just concerned if I do that it will not be in Hansard. That is the only issue.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh. Alright, I see.

NO. 1034 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED – SALARY/FEE PAID TO GIBRALTAR LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY LIMITED AND LAND PROJECTS CONSULTANTS LIMITED

What further amounts in respect of salary or fee has since the date of the last answer in this House to date been paid to date by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited on the basis:

- (a) of the “on account formula”; and
- (b) of that part of the composite fee which comprises 20 per cent of the costs of the services to be provided by all project design consultants and the 1 per cent of the agreed project value,

referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited in respect of any of the following contracts individually:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) the new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD’s joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) the Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) the relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) the Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) the new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) the simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car parks at Devil’s Tower Road;
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue; and
- (xvi) the revetment repair works to the West View Promenade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. The amounts paid under the "On Account" formula total £400,000, broken down between projects as appears in the schedule I have just handed to the hon Member. The amount paid under the "Composite" formula totals £495,195, but due to a temporary administrative reason, I am not able to provide the projects breakdown at this time. I will send the breakdown to the hon Member as soon as it becomes available. So if he looks at the schedule he will see that he has the two totals at the bottom under each formula and the total of those two. Vertically, in the middle column, the breakdown by project of the "on account formula" payments. But it has not been possible, mainly due to staff absences, which is the temporary administrative reason that has been given to me, to provide him with a breakdown of the £495,195. So n/a means not available. Not, not applicable. But I will have somebody write to him with the information as soon as it can be accessed basically.

Answer to Question No. 1034 of 2010

Payments made by Gibraltar Investments (Holdings) Limited on the basis of the 'on account' and 'composite' formulae since February 2010:

	Composite Formula payments £	On Account Formula payments £	Total £
Mid Harbour Phase I	n/a	0	0
Mid Harbour Phase II	n/a	0	0
GoG Relocations	n/a	20,000	20,000
Terminal Building	n/a	120,000	120,000
New road	n/a	80,000	80,000
MoD Relocations	n/a	30,000	30,000
Infrastructure	n/a	60,000	60,000
GoG Housing	n/a	60,000	60,000
Power Station	n/a	20,000	20,000
Car Parks	n/a	10,000	10,000
Simple Approach Lighting System	n/a	0	0
Sewage Treatment	n/a	0	0
Energy to Waste	n/a	0	0
Revetement repairs	n/a	0	0
Total	<u>£495,195</u>	<u>£400,000</u>	<u>£895,195</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1034 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sticking to the list of sixteen. Because that is the list that the hon Gentleman gave me so that we could continue to read forward the amount per project. But I note that what the answers I am getting are not following that list of sixteen. Is it that there are items on this list of sixteen which are amalgamated for the purposes of some of the payments or ... Because I see in some instances when nothing has been paid that that is still said. Zero has been paid et cetera.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because we know what his area of interest is. The projects and the parties providing the services and this is how they are accounted for in the contracts and in the Government's arrangements. So for example, Mid Harbour Phases I and II I think are finished. I think that is the reclamation work in the Mid Harbour for Phases I and II. GOG relocations are all the relocation headings which do not involve the MOD. MOD relocations are all the relocation items that involve the MOD. So for example, Items (iii), (vii), (viii) are all MOD relocations. Items (vi) and (ix) are both GOG relocations and the others are projects which I think describe themselves individually. If he has any difficulty correlating the two lists I will be happy to provide him with a further breakdown.

HON F R PICARDO:

For example, if he could deal with (iv) and (v), are those Mid Harbour Phase I and Mid Harbour Phase II or are they covered anywhere else. Because GOG housing is there as well.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Because Mid Harbour Phase I and Phase II, both relate to (iv) which is the Mid Harbour reclamation works which are finished. The project is now, the on-going project is (v), the Government Rental Housing Project which now includes the road and that is ...

HON F R PICARDO:

GOG housing.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly.

HON F R PICARDO:

Right.

NO. 1035 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT – PFI CONTRACT

Have discussions now commenced in respect of the terms of any new PFI contract for the new proposed “Waste to Energy” plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, they have not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1035 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the hon Gentleman anticipate that this will be in the current financial year? Perhaps that is something he wants to tell me during the course of another debate that we will have later on this session.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh, the budget.

HON F R PICARDO:

Small matter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the small matter of the budget debate. No, that would not be the reason for not telling him and I am not sure if anybody is going to deal with this in their budget address but I think the more likely explanation for the answer no is that this project has given way in the priority in terms of officials dealing with it to the new power station where I know there have been conversations of that sort. I do not think there is any reason other than the fact that it is not yet ready or is not yet ...

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not to read into that that it is not to be a PFI any longer. It is just that whether it is to be a PFI or not a PFI, is not yet a matter that has been determined.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The Government would like it to be PFI'd in some form or another and the Government want to proceed with this. There are actually technical issues under consideration and this much I do know about whether a waste to energy plant in Gibraltar is capable of complying with EU rules on the matter about waste recycling. In other words, the things that ..., there are discussions ongoing between the experts about whether the sort of the things that we want to burn, to deliver the calorific values and the quantities, are things that we are free to burn under another set of EU Directives or whether we are obliged to deal with them in another way. I think the preponderance of opinion is that the answer is that we are but I do not think that that aspect of the debate has yet been closed. Of course, it would affect the whole viability of a waste to energy plant if the position were that we are not allowed to burn paper and cardboard and all the other things that are recyclable.

ORAL

NO. 1036 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Have any applications for banking licences been refused in the past two years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1037 to 1039 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1037 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

How many new banking licences have been issued in the months since the last answer in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1036, 1038 and 1039 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1038 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Has the Government since the last answer in this House refused consent for any application made under section 74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, and if so how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1036, 1037 and 1039 of 2010.

NO. 1039 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING) ACT

Has the Government since the last answer in this House made any decision in exercise of its powers under section 23(3)(i), (j) or (3A) of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, and if so how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No application for banking licences have been refused in the past two years.

No new banking licences have been issued since the last answer in this House.

The Government has not refused consent for any application made under section 74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, since the last answer in this House.

The Government has not made any decision in exercise of its power under section 23(3)(i), (j) or (3A) of the Financial Services (Banking) Act, since the last answer in the House.

NO. 1040 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW TAX LEGISLATION

When does Government now expect to publish the new tax legislation?

Mr Speaker, of course, as the hon Gentleman knows, since putting this question the publicly available information has changed.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I have also taken note of the hon Member's published view that it was rushed out in order to pre-empt the answer to his question. I hope the hon Gentleman will accept although of course I understand that politically he may not wish to do so. But at least personally he will accept my assurance that there is no such thing. Indeed, if he is interested in really knowing why it was published on Wednesday morning or Thursday morning, can I suggest that he asks one of his partners. However, I think the important thing is and I read the hon Member's comments about the timing. I will express no view on that except to disagree with him. Of course, the publishing has taken longer than the Government had anticipated and I think that that has been as a result of the extent of the detail into which the legislation has gone. The huge amount of drafting effort and policy discussions that have gone. I am not trying to embarrass him by referring him to his partners. They will tell him why it has taken so long and indeed I hope they will also tell him that it has been worth waiting longer to publish the Bill in the form that it has been published rather than have rushed it out to no one's real gain in a different form. So, I would like to take this opportunity publicly to thank all those members of the legal and accountancy profession that have assisted the Government, not just with brainstorming debates about the proposed content of the Bill but who then indeed have collaborated closely with the Government on the drafting of the Bill itself. So, if we can just separate questions of timing and dates and delay from the substance of it, I hope he will allow me to use this opportunity to speak about the latter.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course, I will not go beyond the personal assurance of the hon Member. I will not accept his invitation that I should take this matter up with my partners. As I have told him in the past, I think it is better for me to keep that relationship that I have with my partners and the political issues separate. The hon Gentleman must know, as must everybody in the Finance Centre, that the Opposition has criticised for some time the fact that this documentation has not been made available for the reasons that I have already indicated in my press release and which I know the hon Gentleman

disagrees with them. There is no need to go into that any further. But that the Opposition considers itself, like every other member of this community, a stakeholder in the future success of the Finance Centre and that we will be a constructive party in ensuring that the Bill passes all its stages in this House with such amendment as we may, if necessary, bring to the attention of the Government and of the House in the debate to ensure that Gibraltar's Finance Centre continues to prosper as it has for many years, regardless of who has been in charge of the administration of our affairs.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, perhaps I could just add. I do not by this mean to suggest that it was available or could have been published earlier. But I think the hon Member may be interested in knowing that there have elements in the Finance Centre who actually advised the Government not to publish it sooner even if it was free to do so. They thought that there were disadvantages of that. I am not saying I agreed with the reasons that they proffered for giving that advice but the advice was proffered. So even within the Finance Centre there were two schools of thought about whether doing it a bit later, it was a bad thing or indeed a better thing than doing it earlier. But I do not want him to misinterpret that to suggest that we held it back because we took that advice. It was not held back. It was published when it was ready.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just acknowledge that from the hon Gentleman and say that, of course, he will know is it not ever thus that those who wished it published sooner were the ones probably approaching us, whilst those not wanting it published sooner were probably the ones approaching him and that it very probably was two schools, two very divided schools of thought in the Finance Centre. Those who wanted it published sooner were very, very eager with us that we should push for it to be published earlier.

ORAL

NO. 1041 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES IN LIQUIDATION

How many companies have gone into liquidation in each financial year since 2007/2008 owing the Government in excess of £25,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1042 to 1044 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1042 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, TRADING ENTITIES OWING PAYE

How many companies, partnerships or other trading entities or traders owed the Government more than £50,000 in PAYE in each financial year since 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1041, 1043 and 1044 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1043 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, TRADING ENTITIES OWING SOCIAL INSURANCE

How many companies, partnerships or other trading entities or traders owed the Government more than £50,000 in Social Insurance in each financial year since 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1041, 1042 and 1044 of 2010.

NO. 1044 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

ARREARS OF PAYE AND SOCIAL INSURANCE IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

What is the total amount of arrears of PAYE and Social Security due from employers in each of the following industries in the financial years 2009/2010 and in 2010/2011?:

- (a) Ship-repair (whether active or in liquidation or receivership);
- (b) Online gaming industry (whether active or in liquidation or receivership);
- (c) Non-Gibraltar contractors working for the Government or its wholly owned companies in the construction industry (whether active or in liquidation or receivership); and
- (d) Financial Services and the legal profession (whether active or in liquidation or receivership),

giving a breakdown by contributions due from the employers themselves and from employees (who are likely to already have had their share of contributions deducted by the employer at source)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question No. 1044 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1041 of 2010

The companies that have gone into compulsory liquidation by order of the Supreme Court with debts to Government exceeding £25,000 are as follows:

Financial Year	No. of Companies	£
2007/2008	1	0.18M
2008/2009	4	0.14M
2009/2010	4	0.67M
2010/2011	1	0.22M
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	1,21M
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Answer to Question No. 1042 of 2010

The statistical data requested by the hon Member in Question Nos. 1042, 1043 and 1044 is only available for the financial year 2009/2010, since I am advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that prior to this date, their data was not available in the requested format.

There are 35 employers that owed the Government more than £50,000 in PAYE Tax for the financial year 2009/2010.

Answer to Question No. 1043 of 2010

There are 14 employers that owed the Government more than £50,000 in Social Insurance for the financial year 2009/2010.

Answer to Question No. 1044 of 2010

Furthermore, I have also been advised that a breakdown in respect of both, contributions due from the employers themselves and from the employees, is not available in financial years.

In addition, no statistical data can currently be provided for the financial year 2010/2011.

The total amount of arrears of PAYE Tax and Social Insurance due from employers in each of the following industries for the financial year 2009/2010 is as follows:

Industry	PAYE Tax	Social Insurance
	£	£
Ship repair	-	61K
Online Gaming industry	168K	2K
Non-Gibraltar Contractors	-	64K
Financial Services and the Legal profession	174K	152K

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1041 TO 1044 OF 2010

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for the information contained in the schedule. I note that the answer to Question No. 1042 of 2010 includes a preface that says the statistical data requested by me in Question Nos. 1042, 1043 and 1044 of 2010 is only available for the financial years 2009/2010 since the hon Member appears to have been advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that prior to this date, their data, the Commissioner of Income Tax's data was not available in the requested format. Can I, just for the purposes of understanding this, press the hon Gentleman to tell me whether in fact that means that the Government does not know or did not know who owed it more than £50,000 in terms of PAYE or Social Security for the years prior to 2009/2010, because that does not ring true to me. Not to suggest that anybody is lying. It just does not ring right to me.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My interpretation of that is that it is not available in the format, that is, in the breakdown that he has asked for it. But I suppose the Government does know how many tax payers owed it money and how much. I suppose it must know that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well exactly...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But I think the interpretation is because of the breakdown.

HON F R PICARDO:

Oh I see, because of the financial year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. In other words, by reference to PAYE in that year as opposed to cumulatively...

HON F R PICARDO:

Well I see. I see the way that my question has been interpreted. I did not, for one moment, think it could be interpreted to mean PAYE accrued in those years. I intended it to mean and perhaps we can agree a wording for the future, PAYE owed by that year in excess of £50,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh, cumulatively?

HON F R PICARDO:

Exactly. A cumulative debt to the Government of over £50,000. That information must be available to the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would ... Yes, that information must be available to Government. I agree. In respect of cumulative debt as opposed to broken down by the year to which it relates. Yes, and if he wants I can try and get the information for him.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would be very grateful if he could so that we can then have the answer which we appear already to have in respect of the year 2009/2010.

ORAL

NO. 1045 OF 2010

THE HON F R PICARDO

DOLPHINARIUM AT ROSIA BAY

Are Government in favour or against the establishment of a “dolphinarium” at Rosia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1046 of 2010.

NO. 1046 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DOLPHINARIUM AT ROSIA BAY

Have Government concluded their negotiations with the entity that has made a formal proposal for the establishment of a dolphinarium and other related leisure activities in Rosia Bay and if so with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A project proposal for a dolphinarium and other leisure facilities in the area of Rosia Bay has been submitted to the Government by a company called Europa Point Marine Village Ltd. No negotiations have taken place, let alone been concluded. The Government are not currently considering this proposal. The Government would not publicly express its view about any proposal received until it had been considered and accepted or rejected by the Government. The Government assess all proposals received against a number of criteria, including the availability of the site for the proposed purpose, (the Government is considering the Rosia site for other local leisure purposes) the social or economic value of the proposal to Gibraltar and the acceptability of the proposal from an environmental (in this case including animal welfare) and heritage perspective.

The Government are not, per se, against the existence of a dolphinarium, subject to a number of animal welfare considerations. Under no circumstances would the Government even contemplate agreeing to a dolphinarium that involves the training and keeping in captivity of dolphins caught in the wild at sea.

NO. 1047 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MID-TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Will Government give an update over the commencement of works of the Mid-Town Development explaining why works have not yet commenced and whether they have agreed any changes to the original commencement and completion dates of the project (and if so what are they)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Works have not yet commenced.

There has not yet been any formal changes to the original agreement, but the Government is minded to be sensitive to the general unavailability of bank funding in the international and local banking market for speculative property development.

ORAL

NO. 1048 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Can Government state whether there is a requirement to demolish any existing building in order to build the new proposed Catholic Community Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1049 and 1050 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1049 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Can Government state what the projected cost of the new Catholic Community Centre will be, when is it scheduled that works will commence and whether it will be equal in size to the existing one?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1048 and 1050 of 2010.

NO. 1050 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Can Government say what will be the projected cost of the demolition of the present Catholic Community Centre, when is it scheduled to take place and whether it intends to put the Zoca Flank Battery to a different use?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is no requirement to demolish any existing building in order to build the new proposed Catholic Community Centre at the rear of Engineer House, predominantly on the site of the ex-Diabetes Society premises.

It is too early, at this stage, to project the cost of the new Catholic Community Centre. It is not in the Government's interest to intimate an approximate cost, as the project has not yet been contracted.

The size and configuration of the new Centre is currently under review with the Roman Catholic Church.

The demolition of the existing Centre has not yet commenced. Zoca Flank will not be rebuilt on. The whole purpose of the demolition and relocation is a further uncluttering and removal of buildings from the City Walls.

NO. 1051 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THE MOUNT

Can Government say on what date they received a joint letter written by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and GONHS containing proposals for the future use of the Mount, and on what date they replied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I do not consider it appropriate to account publicly for correspondence between the Government and other entities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1051 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the hon Member whether it is the policy of the Government to change the use of the Mount?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I think that the answer to that question is not that it is the policy of the Government to change it but that the Government is open to a potential change as is implicit by the fact that we have been out to tender, at least once possibly twice I do not know, but at least once inviting tenderers to designate an alternative use for the site. So, the Government are just conscious of the fact that the site is there, that the buildings are there. That they are, in a sense, dilapidating. There is not anything obvious that the Government can do there in terms of public amenity except perhaps in relation to the gardens which are more or less open and available for public use as a green space and therefore the Government from time to time tests the market to see whether there is anybody there that wants to make a proposal to the Government for something that might be useful to Gibraltar. But that is not to say it is a policy to change. But if somebody came up with a use which applied the site to a more productive and I think a purposeful use than it is being put to at the moment, then I think the Government would consider such a proposal. Indeed ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any restriction on what the place may be put to? I think originally the MOD position when they still had it, before they released it, was that the place could not be put into the market for development. That it had to be kept for a public purpose. Is that the case any more or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member's recollection is impressive in that respect but not quite accurate. There is something to a similar effect but not to that effect. There is a provision in the contract which may or may no longer be enforced by the MOD which says that if the Government puts it to a public use, it has to make no further payment to the MOD. But if it puts it to some use that is not a public use, then the MOD may be entitled to a share of any proceeds therefrom. Bearing in mind that this was not a normal MOD property covered by the Lands Memoranda, this was specifically owned by the Navy, rather than the Ministry of Defence.

ORAL

NO. 1052 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN THROUGH UK

Can Government list the communications between Gibraltar and Spain, both incoming and outgoing, that were made through the UK post-box since the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the date of the communication, the issuing authority and the receiving authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 1053 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1053 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING – BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN THROUGH UK

In respect of the communications between Gibraltar and Spain made through the UK post-box since the last Question Time in this Parliament, can Government say which were notifications between competent authorities and which were requests for information?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1053

Answer to Questions 1052 and 1053

February 2010 to June 2010 (Incoming)

Post Box Ref and Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
(1)PB/18/10 07-Apr-2010	Junta de Andalucía	Environmental Agency	Notification.
(1)PB/23/10 12-Apr-2010	High Court, Cadiz	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Request for information.
(1)PB/24/10 12-Apr-2010	High Court, Cadiz	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Request for information.
(1)PB/30/10 13-May-2010	Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda	Financial Services Commission	Notification.
(1)PB/31/10 13-May-2010	Juzgado de Primera Instancia	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Notification.
(1)PB/35/10 07-Jun-2010	Juzgado de Primera Instancia	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Request for information.
(1)PB/38/10 09-Jun-2010	Ministerio de Justicia	HM AG's Chambers	Request for information.

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1053

Contd Answer to Questions 1052 and 1053

February 2010 to June 2010 (Outgoing)

Post Box Ref and Date	Issuing Agency	Receiving Agency	Notification or Request for Information
PB/11/10 10-Feb-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/12/10 19-Feb-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/14/10 19-Feb-2010	Financial Services Commission	the Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones.	Notification.
PB/17/10 23-Mar-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/19/10 30-Mar-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/20/10 06-Apr-2010	Financial Services Commission	Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones, Ministerio de Economia y Hacienda	Notification.
PB/28/10 29-Apr-2010	Financial Services Commission	Banco de España	Notification.
PB/30/10 03-May-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/36/10 19-May-2010	Financial Services Commission	Comision Nacional de Mercado de Valores	Notification.
PB/44/10 25-May-2010	Environmental Agency	Servicios de Residuo y Control de la Contaminacion, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Notification.
PB/45/10 25-May-2010	Environmental Agency	Director General de Prevencion y Calidad.	Notification.
PB/46/10 01-Jun-2010	Financial Services Commission	Fondos de Pensiones	Notification.
PB/47/10 04-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/49/10 07-Jun-2010	The Chief Secretary	Ministerio de Justicia, Subdireccion General de Cooperacion, Madrid.	Notification.
PB/50/10 08-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.
PB/52/10 08-Jun-2010	Environmental Agency	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla	Notification.

NO. 1054 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ODYSSEY MARINE EXPLORATION – APPLICATION BY SPANISH JUDGE TO EXAMINE OBJECTS

Can Government confirm whether a request has been received from the Tribunal Superior de Andalucia for a judge in La Linea who wanted to examine objects left behind in Gibraltar by Odyssey Marine Exploration, and if so on what date was such a request received, who was it addressed to and what has been the response?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A request “to examine objects left behind in Gibraltar by Odyssey Marine Exploration” and indeed seeking other assistance was received from the Tribunal Superior de Andalucia and transmitted at the request of the Judge of Examining Court No. 3 of La Linea de La Concepcion. The request was dated 24th September 2008 and was addressed to the Attorney General for Gibraltar. There was an earlier request, direct from the same Judge, dated 6th August 2007.

Clarification was sought to ensure that the factual and legal basis of the request would not prejudice our exclusive jurisdiction and exclusive British sovereignty of British Gibraltar territorial waters. As this has not been forthcoming, the request has not been processed in full accordance with the provisions of the Schengen Convention.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1054 OF 2010

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the hon Member says not processed in full, does he mean that they have not been able to come and examine the object?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Sorry I misread that. I thought I had corrected myself in time but obviously I had not. I just paused after the word in the wrong place. “Has not been processed in full compliance with the provisions of the Schengen Convention”. In other words, the Schengen Convention allows you to reject these applications when they are not in the public interest to do so and the Government wanted to be absolutely certain that the request was formulated in terms that were not justifiable only if these were

Spanish waters as the Spanish state alleges rather than British waters and because satisfaction was not given in that respect, the Government judged that acceding to the request would have at least acquiesced it if not aided and abetted the view that these are Spanish waters and therefore the Spanish courts have jurisdiction in them.

ORAL

NO. 1055 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FRONTIER STATISTICS

Can Government supply a copy of the latest frontier statistics tables for 2009 and 2010 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1055

PERSONS 2009

MONTH	TOTAL RESIDENTS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL OTHERS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	123,410	111,007	282	12,121	(766)	687,098	513,420	9,591	164,087	(3,668)	810,508	(4,434)
FEBRUARY	115,242	102,196	449	12,597	(907)	709,722	531,377	15,217	163,128	(3,945)	824,964	(4,852)
MARCH	129,643	115,205	786	13,652	(943)	796,876	579,619	25,043	192,214	(4,423)	926,519	(5,366)
APRIL	138,643	124,140	976	13,527	(805)	793,352	572,848	23,698	196,806	(4,285)	931,995	(5,090)
MAY	134,189	118,949	1,361	13,879	(878)	815,991	594,907	26,578	194,506	(4,091)	950,180	(4,969)
JUNE	152,333	132,789	1,415	18,129	(1,045)	823,050	589,262	24,237	209,551	(4,595)	975,383	(5,640)
JULY	164,518	131,401	1,504	31,613	(851)	889,061	633,913	22,794	232,354	(4,538)	1,053,579	(5,389)
AUGUST	148,411	131,226	1,141	16,044	(737)	950,450	662,229	19,401	268,820	(4,173)	1,098,861	(4,910)
SEPTEMBER	128,650	113,846	1,466	13,338	(955)	876,643	619,846	32,872	223,925	(4,488)	1,005,293	(5,443)
OCTOBER	141,060	123,907	2,411	14,742	(876)	849,154	593,416	35,173	220,565	(4,541)	990,214	(5,417)
NOVEMBER	123,227	108,489	1,435	13,303	(956)	802,565	592,477	19,833	190,255	(4,547)	925,792	(5,503)
DECEMBER	138,329	124,759	998	12,572	(838)	784,350	586,341	11,878	186,131	(3,988)	922,679	(4,826)
TOTALS	1,637,655	1,437,914	14,224	185,517	(10,557)	9,778,312	7,069,655	266,315	2,442,342	(51,282)	11,415,967	(61,839)

VEHICLES (2009)

MONTH	G - PLATES	C/G	OTHERS	C/G	COACHES	COMMERCIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	45,159	(834)	187,737	(3,120)	301	83	233,280	(3,954)
FEBRUARY	40,264	(865)	190,392	(3,507)	447	69	231,172	(4,372)
MARCH	46,848	(952)	210,071	(3,914)	660	133	257,712	(4,866)
APRIL	47,623	(861)	206,506	(3,789)	679	165	254,973	(4,650)
MAY	47,466	(768)	216,161	(3,450)	786	281	264,694	(4,218)
JUNE	52,228	(857)	208,732	(4,010)	737	465	262,162	(4,867)
JULY	50,327	(906)	224,269	(3,896)	745	269	275,610	(4,802)
AUGUST	52,220	(767)	227,467	(3,539)	623	28	280,338	(4,306)
SEPTEMBER	45,701	(896)	216,451	(3,847)	985	41	263,178	(4,743)
OCTOBER	49,724	(880)	220,880	(3,879)	1,077	41	271,722	(4,759)
NOVEMBER	44,495	(875)	215,633	(3,912)	616	47	260,791	(4,787)
DECEMBER	49,633	(717)	207,531	(3,645)	442	63	257,669	(4,362)
TOTALS	571,688	(10,178)	2,551,830	(44,508)	8,098	1,685	3,113,301	(54,686)

NOTE

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS IN COLUMNS MARKED C/G OR TOTAL C/G REFER TO STATISTICS TAKEN AT THE COMMERCIAL ENTRANCE GATE AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICS FOR THE LAND FRONTIER.

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1055

PERSONS (2010)

MONTH	TOTAL RESIDENTS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL OTHERS	IN VEHICLES	IN COACHES	PEDESTRIANS	C/G	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	125,953	113,478	512	11,963	(845)	737,673	564,379	8,383	164,911	(3,698)	863,626	(4,543)
FEBRUARY	117,815	102,995	656	14,164	(1,018)	728,085	546,204	14,677	167,204	(4,678)	845,900	(5,696)
MARCH	144,800	130,018	613	14,169	(885)	900,678	637,808	27,081	235,789	(5,660)	1,045,478	(6,545)
APRIL	148,172	132,158	1,430	14,584	(722)	929,329	665,440	31,739	232,150	(5,431)	1,077,501	(6,153)
MAY	154,299	137,343	1,124	15,832	(871)	895,251	640,640	31,234	223,377	(4,913)	1,049,550	(5,784)
TOTALS	691,039	615,992	4,335	70,712	(4,341)	4,191,016	3,054,471	113,114	1,023,431	(24,380)	4,882,055	(28,721)

VEHICLES (2010)

MONTH	G - PLATES	C/G	OTHERS	COACHES	COMMERCIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL C/G
JANUARY	44,876	(869)	202,327	295	20	247,518	(4,015)
FEBRUARY	42,393	(841)	194,826	472	11	237,702	(4,513)
MARCH	53,202	(898)	229,406	787	44	283,439	(5,998)
APRIL	52,168	(810)	231,530	956	22	284,676	(5,528)
MAY	55,586	(848)	227,267	886	17	283,756	(5,259)
TOTALS	248,225	(4,266)	1,085,356	3,396	114	1,337,091	(25,313)

NOTE

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS IN COLUMNS MARKED C/G OR TOTAL C/G REFER TO STATISTICS TAKEN AT THE COMMERCIAL ENTRANCE GATE AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICS FOR THE LAND FRONTIER.

ORAL

NO. 1056 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LEGISLATION FOR THE REGULATION OF ANGLING AND DIVING IN BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government say whether the drafting of the legislation for the regulation of (a) angling and (b) diving in British Gibraltar territorial waters has now been finalised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1057 of 2010.

NO. 1057 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

USE OF COMMERCIAL FISHING NETS IN BRITISH GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS

Can Government confirm whether it is their policy to ban the use of commercial fishing nets within British Gibraltar territorial waters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. As the Government announced in its Press Release No. 142 of 2010 dated the 4th June, it will shortly issue a public consultation paper covering a comprehensive range of measures relating to fishing, diving and other marine sport and leisure activities.

Once the consultation process has concluded, it will then be in a position to finalise the proposed legislation and action plan.

It is not appropriate to pre-empt the consultation process by stating Government policy on any issue. But the issue of the use of fishing nets is included in the consultation paper.

ORAL

NO. 1058 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER AWARD FOR THE DEMOLITION OF PART OF OLD ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Can Government say whether the tender for the demolition of parts of the old St. Bernard's Hospital has now been awarded, and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It has not yet been awarded.

NO. 1059 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BETTING INDUSTRY

Can Government say what is the total number of persons employed in the betting industry in Gibraltar giving a breakdown by company and by nationality, showing how many are Gibraltarian and the dates when the figures apply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 1934 persons were employed by 19 remote gambling companies as at 15th May 2010.

The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule which I now hand him.

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 15TH MAY 2010

	Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (International) Limited	32	66	3	10	111
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	56	162	21	40	279
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	17	192	16	35	260
Bwin International Limited	27	37	18	107	189
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	5	13	1	0	19
Carmen Media Group Limited	6	3	2	3	14
32 Red Plc	3	25	1	3	32
St Minver Limited	27	38	15	50	130
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	10	11
888 Holdings Plc	39	83	17	92	231
Globet.com Group Limited	2	2	1	7	12
PartyGaming Plc	31	93	10	65	199
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	14	48	3	45	110
Prosperads Ltd (formerly Futuresbetting)	1	9	0	0	10
Partouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	3	3	2	7	15
WHG (International)/Trading Limited	7	104	2	29	142
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	7	57	3	16	83
Peffre (Gibraltar) Limited	11	45	5	10	71
Entertaining Play Limited	6	9	0	1	16
Overall Total	294	990	120	530	1934

Source: Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

ORAL

NO. 1060 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENTIAL TENDERS AWARDED

Can Government list the residential tenders they have awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament showing the name and the amount paid by the successful tenderer the name of the property in question and the date on which the payment was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1061 and 1062 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1061 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government give a breakdown of the revenue collected from land and property sales since the information supplied during the last Question Time in this Parliament, giving the date the revenue was received, the name of the land of property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1060 and 1062 of 2010.

NO. 1062 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what property or land sales, if any, there have been in the current financial year, resulting in the receipts of the Improvement and Development Fund since the answer to Question No. 462 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No residential tenders have been awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time.

I now hand the hon Members schedules with the other information requested.

Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Westside Two Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Mar-10	Mr & Mrs Francis	10% Sale of 34 Durban Court, Harbour Views	£8,341.75
<u>Gibraltar Co-Ownership Co Ltd</u>			
Feb-10	Mr & Mrs Davis	35% Sale of 19 Pimlico Close, Montagu Crescent	£38,122.38
Mar-10	Mr & Mrs Baker	40% Sale of 3 Aspen Lodge, Montagu Gardens	£34,658.78
May-10	Bado - Pilcher	50% Sale of 1 Richmond Close, Montagu Crescent	£55,140.73
<u>Gibraltar Residential Properties Co Ltd</u>			
Feb-10	C & J Chichon	90% Balance iro tender for Garage 132, Vineyards	£27,090.00
Feb-10	Messrs Debono	90% Balance iro tender for Garage 117, Vineyards	£19,800.00
Feb-10	A T Vella & G Y Reyes	50% Sale of 1 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£53,001.00
Feb-10	D Horrillo & A M Lopez	70% Sale of 16 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£70,001.00
Feb-10	J C Dean	60% Sale of 20 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£60,001.00
Feb-10	C Mason	70% Sale of 24 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£70,351.00
Feb-10	I & K A Nasseti	60% Sale of 8 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£70,681.00
Mar-10	J & M Tavares	Sale of Flats 4 & 5, Poca Roca	£41,250.00
Mar-10	J & J Sayers	Sale of 6 Rosia Ramp	£50,937.00
Mar-10	W & A Clancy	Sale of 13 Rosia Steps	£35,737.00
Mar-10	P J Xiberras	Sale of 22/4 New Passage	£17,000.00
Mar-10	Cavilla & Olivero	50% Sale of 06.06.01 Almond Court, SWJG	£53,504.00
Mar-10	Manuel & Violet Ruiz	50% Sale of 2 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£48,251.00
Mar-10	Douglas Segovia	50% Sale of 17 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£49,851.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Mar-10	N L Ramos & M A Vecino	100% Sale of 23 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£121,000.00
Mar-10	Robert Dellipiani	50% Sale of 4 Candy Tuft House, Waterport Terraces	£49,251.00
Mar-10	Ruben & Lynette Elizabeth R	70% Sale of 23 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£77,001.00
Mar-10	Patrick & Lourdes Payas	60% Sale of 3 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£70,201.00
Apr-10	F Chipolina	100% Sale of 6 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£97,300.00
Apr-10	A Cruz & S Kiernan	50% Sale of 10 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£49,051.00
Apr-10	Mrs C Durante	50% Sale of 21 Rock Rose House, Waterport Terraces	£55,001.00
May-10	A Sacramento	Sale of Flat 4, 57 Flat Bastion Road	£36,400.00
May-10	M & A Rodriguez	Balance 1/3 of Flat 8 & Garage 8, 6 Sandpits	£247,000.00
May-10	Michael Gerada	50% Sale of 5 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£48,651.00
May-10	E Navarro	50% Sale of 9 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£49,051.00
May-10	Ms Busuttli	50% Sale of 1 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£49,001.00
May-10	S McMahon & M Travis	50% Sale of 2 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£53,001.00
May-10	M A Khan	50% Sale of 5 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£49,401.00
May-10	Mr Alvez & Miss Jones	55% Sale of 6 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£58,741.00
May-10	A Reyes & A Attias	50% Sale of 7 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£53,401.00
May-10	S & R Bellio	50% Sale of 10 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£53,801.00
May-10	Mr Pitto	55% Sale of 17 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£55,001.00
May-10	I & N Cruz	70% Sale of 18 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£76,441.00
May-10	N Adamberry	100% Sale of 20 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£100,500.00
May-10	K Cunningham	100% Sale of 24 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£100,500.00

Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	C Devencenzi	51% Sale of 3 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£48,451.90
May-10	S Gadd & K Westlake	50% Sale of 4 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£53,001.00
May-10	I Gomez & K A Gonzalez	60% Sale of 5 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£64,081.00
May-10	K C Jones	70% Sale of 7 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£67,061.00
May-10	H & S Catania	50% Sale of 8 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£53,401.00
May-10	D & L Sheriff	60% Sale of 12 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£64,561.00
May-10	A Berlaque & D M Melenhez	60% Sale of 15 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£60,001.00
May-10	A & LB Olivares	50% Sale of 17 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£54,601.00
May-10	S L King & J King	55% Sale of 19 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£55,276.00
May-10	E Edsel Aleman & EJ Seruya	100% Sale of 28 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£110,800.03
May-10	S F Origo	50% Sale of 31 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£50,501.00
May-10	K Chipolina Bentaleb & Mohai	70% Sale of 15 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£75,881.00
May-10	T Federico & O Torres	100% Sale of 23 Amaryllis House, Waterport Terraces	£110,000.00
May-10	N Anakkkar & C Takahashi Shi	50% Sale of 11 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£50,001.00
May-10	N & N Cruz	60% Sale of 25 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£66,481.00
May-10	M Bottino	100% Sale of 30 Freesia House, Waterport Terraces	£101,000.00
May-10	A B Tahayekt & I Alarni	50% Sale of 101 Cumberland Terraces	£56,410.00
May-10	A A Debono	100% Sale of 112 Cumberland Terraces	£112,020.00
May-10	G Gomez & H Goodchild	80% Sale of 203 Cumberland Terraces	£91,096.00
May-10	A L Caruana & T M Wachenf	100% Sale of 207 Cumberland Terraces	£162,000.00
May-10	C G & D Dawspm	50% Sale of 213 Cumberland Terraces	£40,715.00
May-10	L Azzopardi	50% Sale of 215 Cumberland Terraces	£47,030.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	C Zammit	50% Sale of 318 Cumberland Terraces	£48,615.00
May-10	K Mifsud & G Payas	80% Sale of 323 Cumberland Terraces	£93,560.00
May-10	S Finlayson	70% Sale of 408 Cumberland Terraces	£63,525.00
May-10	D A Love	50% Sale of 421 Cumberland Terraces	£48,715.00
May-10	D P J Danino	70% Sale of 422 Cumberland Terraces	£68,341.00
May-10	F Carreras	100% Sale of 501 Cumberland Terraces	£116,520.00
May-10	C Santos & M Cavilla	100% Sale of 606 Cumberland Terraces	£161,100.00
May-10	E J Gomez & M S Gomez	100% Sale of 610 Cumberland Terraces	£117,570.00
May-10	T L Rogers & D M Rogers	70% Sale of 611 Cumberland Terraces	£80,759.00
May-10	K Garcia	70% Sale of 614 Cumberland Terraces	£70,700.00
May-10	J A Lennane & C H Madden	100% Sale of 706 Cumberland Terraces	£161,300.00
May-10	M Adeline Raiffo Cardoso	70% Sale of 710 Cumberland Terraces	£82,649.00
May-10	K Lucas	100% Sale of 718 Cumberland Terraces	£97,830.00
May-10	L Danino	100% Sale of 104 Cumberland Terraces	£110,620.00
May-10	J Gillingwater Pedersen	60% Sale of 305 Cumberland Terraces	£51,774.00
May-10	L Saltariche & S Golt	50% Sale of 309 Cumberland Terraces	£55,910.00
May-10	T Tonna & C A Taylor	50% Sale of 402 Cumberland Terraces	£56,635.00
May-10	D Cabezutto & M C Guirado	60% Sale of 411 Cumberland Terraces	£67,722.00
May-10	N A Gaiviso	50% Sale of 412 Cumberland Terraces	£57,535.00
May-10	J Saidiva	50% Sale of 414 Cumberland Terraces	£50,200.00
May-10	D A & F A Hemmi	70% Sale of 423 Cumberland Terraces	£82,600.00
May-10	D Balloqui & Ms M Balloqui	80% Sale of 502 Cumberland Terraces	£91,456.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10 B Tosso		70% Sale of 508 Cumberland Terraces	£63,805.00
May-10 B Parody		100% Sale of 510 Cumberland Terraces	£116,520.00
May-10 N Celecia & J Jurado		60% Sale of 605 Cumberland Terraces	£52,134.00
May-10 D Ellul		50% Sale of 609 Cumberland Terraces	£57,685.00
May-10 J A Pecino		60% Sale of 617 Cumberland Terraces	£58,818.00
May-10 N Conroy		70% Sale of G15 Cumberland Terraces	£65,562.00
May-10 R & G Acris		70% Sale of 106 Cumberland Terraces	£112,070.00
May-10 A & P D'Cruz		50% Sale of 108 Cumberland Terraces	£45,075.00
May-10 G Tonilia & G Mercieca		70% Sale of 110 Cumberland Terraces	£78,414.00
May-10 A Debono		70% Sale of 113 Cumberland Terraces	£56,861.00
May-10 B Shoemsmith		100% Sale of 119 Cumberland Terraces	£114,220.00
May-10 J Chichon & A Perez		60% Sale of 202 Cumberland Terraces	£67,002.00
May-10 C De La Rosa		60% Sale of 205 Cumberland Terraces	£51,654.00
May-10 M A Bosio & N M Lakhilia		50% Sale of 209 Cumberland Terraces	£55,535.00
May-10 N Massetti		50% Sale of 214 Cumberland Terraces	£50,000.00
May-10 E A Triay & J L Santos		50% Sale of 304 Cumberland Terraces	£56,110.00
May-10 N M Bagu & J Payas		75% Sale of 310 Cumberland Terraces	£85,515.00
May-10 D Garcia & S Parker		50% Sale of 311 Cumberland Terraces	£55,910.00
May-10 C Mifsud & J Victory		50% Sale of 312 Cumberland Terraces	£57,010.00
May-10 K J Valarino		50% Sale of 321 Cumberland Terraces	£48,615.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	J J & M G Lavagna	100% Sale of 401 Cumberland Terraces	£115,470.00
May-10	L & N Apap	60% Sale of 407 Cumberland Terraces	£97,440.00
May-10	N Gafan	60% Sale of 413 Cumberland Terraces	£49,098.00
May-10	L Martinez & R Mannin	60% Sale of 420 Cumberland Terraces	£70,362.00
May-10	A Liambias & N Cruz	70% Sale of 504 Cumberland Terraces	£80,024.00
May-10	A Lopez	100% Sale of 506 Cumberland Terraces	£160,900.00
May-10	K Triay	60% Sale of 517 Cumberland Terraces	£58,698.00
May-10	F X Bado & C Bacarisa	60% Sale of 519 Cumberland Terraces	£71,112.00
May-10	J R Kay & N R Francis	50% Sale of 520 Cumberland Terraces	£59,260.00
May-10	D Galliano	70% Sale of 521 Cumberland Terraces	£68,481.00
May-10	C & G Lowe	50% Sale of 523 Cumberland Terraces	£59,625.00
May-10	J Borg	100% Sale of 601 Cumberland Terraces	£117,570.00
May-10	S Mascarenhas & E Davis	70% Sale of 604 Cumberland Terraces	£80,759.00
May-10	C Sacramento	100% Sale of 702 Cumberland Terraces	£115,870.00
May-10	R J Imossi & J Gomez	70% Sale of 703 Cumberland Terraces	£82,649.00
May-10	C N Gill	100% Sale of 712 Cumberland Terraces	£118,070.00
May-10	R Fa	85% Sale of 721 Cumberland Terraces	£83,325.50
May-10	D Soussi Avelliano	75% Sale of 723 Cumberland Terraces	£90,750.00

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Residential Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
May-10	W E Duarte & J Azzopardi	50% Sale of G02 Cumberland Terraces	£54,785.00
May-10	K Bruzon	70% Sale of G10 Cumberland Terraces	£77,539.00
May-10	N Alvarez	60% Sale of G18 Cumberland Terraces	£57,858.00
May-10	G & T Acris	75% Sale of G21 Cumberland Terraces	£85,275.00
			<u>£8,850,591.43</u>
			<u>£8,986,855.07</u>

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Commercial Property Sales from 1 February 2010 to 31 May 2010 (Improvement and Development Fund)

Date	Tenant	Address	Amount Paid
Feb-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Mar-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Apr-10	Casino Calpe	Part payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
			<u>£2,946.00</u>

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Contd Answer to Question 1061

Commercial Property Sales From 1 February 2010 To 31 May 2010 (Government Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Gibraltar Commercial Property Co Ltd</u>			
Mar-10	B Staunton to P Bonutti	Premium iro assignment of Unit 1/6A Casemates	£2,070.00
			£2,070.00
<u>Gibraltar Residential Properties Ltd</u>			
		Sale of Commercial Unit at 6 Buttercup House, Waterport Terraces	£345,400.00
May-10	Cosmopolitan Bazaar Ltd	Sale of Commercial Unit at 2 Candytuft House, Waterport Terraces	£228,400.00
May-10	A Mateos & Sons Ltd		£573,800.00
			£575,870.00

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1062

Residential Property Sales for the Period 1st February 2010 to 31st May 2010

Feb-10	Premium ird construction of Car Port at Gardiner's Road	£12,500.00
Mar-10	10% Deposit ird Sale of 14-16 George's Lane	£17,000.00
Apr-10	90% Balance ird Sale of 6 North Pavilion Road	£189,000.00
May-10	90% Balance ird Sale of 19-21 Scud Hill	£658,125.00
May-10	90% Balance ird 14-16 George's Lane	£153,000.00
		<u>£1,029,625.00</u>

Commercial Property Sales for the Period 1st February 2010 to 31st May 2010

Feb-10	Part Payment ird 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Mar-10	Part Payment ird 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Apr-10	Part Payment ird 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
		<u>£2,946.00</u>

ORAL

NO. 1063 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES PENDING TRANSPOSITION

Can Government list the EU Directives which are pending transposition in Gibraltar, showing the name and number of the Directive and the date by which they were to have been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1064 to 1066 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1064 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES – INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say how many infraction proceedings are currently open against the United Kingdom for the failure to implement EU Directives in Gibraltar, showing the name and number of the Directive and the stage of the infraction proceedings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1063, 1065 and 1066 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1065 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVE – TRANSPOSITION

Can Government say at what stage is the transposition of the EU Public Procurement Directive, given that the deadline for transposition has now passed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1063, 1064 and 1066 of 2010.

NO. 1066 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU DIRECTIVES – CASES IN THE EUROPEAN COURT FOR NON-IMPLEMENTATION IN GIBRALTAR

Can Government say how many cases are currently open in the European Court against the United Kingdom for the non-implementation of EU Directives in Gibraltar, giving the name and number of the Directives in question and the stage of the proceedings in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information relating to the Directives pending transposition.

There are ten infraction proceedings currently open against the UK for the failure to implement EU Directives in Gibraltar. Seven of these infractions are open against both the UK and Gibraltar, out of the ten. Two of these infractions are at Reasoned Opinion stage and eight are at Article 258 of the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union stage. Four of these infractions have been opened only very, very recently.

Legislation has already been drafted to transpose the EU Public Procurement Directive. It is being finally checked before it is submitted to the Minister for approval.

There are no cases currently open in the European Court in relation to measures which have not already been implemented in Gibraltar.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1066

Answer to Question 1063

Title	Transposition date
Directive 77/486 education of children of migrant workers.	6 Aug 1981
Directive 89/104/EEC first directive on trademarks. See now codification carried out by Directive 2008/95/EC to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks.	28 Dec 1991
Directive 97/26/EC on driving licences (amends Directive 91/439).	1 Jun 1992
Directive 96/47/EC (amends Directive 91/439).	1 Jul 1996
Directive 2000/56 (amends Directive 91/439)	30 Sep 2003
But see Directive 2006/126/EC on driving licences (recast).	
Directive 2008/65 (amends Directive 91/439/EC)	19 Jan 2011
Directive 2009/112/EC (amends Directive 91/439)	30 Sep 2008
Directive 2009/113/EC (amends Directive 2006/126).	
Directive 92/6/EC on installation and use of speed limitation devices in certain categories of motor vehicles.	1 Oct 1993
Directive 2002/85/EC amending Council Directive 92/6/EEC.	1 Jan 2005
Directive 96/53/EC on maximum dimensions/weights in traffic amended by Directive 2002/77/EC.	17 Sep 1997 9 Mar 2004 9 Mar 2005
Directive 98/59/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies.	1 Sep 1998
Directive 97/36/EC on television broadcasting activities (see Directive 89/552 on broadcasting).	31 Dec 1998
Directive 97/67/EC on liberalisation of postal services as amended by Directive 2002/39/EC on the further opening to competition of Community postal services and by Directive 2008/06/EC.	10 Feb 1999 31 Dec 2002
Directive 97/81/EC concerning the Framework Agreement on part-time work concluded by UNICE, CEEP and ETUC, extended to the United Kingdom amended by Directive 98/23 (on the extension of Directive 97/81/EC).	20 Jan 2000 7 Apr 2000
Directive 98/6/EC on the pricing of goods.	18 Mar 2000
Directive 98/84/EC on legal protection of services on conditional access (linked to Directive 89/552/EC broadcasting and Directive 98/34/EC information society services).	28 May 2000
Directive 97/77/EC on distance contracts.	4 Jun 2000
Directive 98/27 on consumer injunctions.	31 Dec 2000
Directive 2001/11/EC adapting to technical progress Directive 96/96 on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers functional testing of commercial vehicles' speed limitation device.	9 Mar 2003
Directive 2001/23/EC safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses.	17 Jul 2003
Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market.	27 Oct 2003
Directive 2003/26/EC on speed limiters and exhaust emissions of commercial vehicles.	1 Jan 2004

Cont'd

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1066

Answer to Question 1063

Directive 2003/27/EC on testing of exhaust emissions from motor vehicles.	1 Jan 2004
Directive 2003/73/EC amending Annex III to Directive 1999/94/EC (Fuel economy x CO ₂ emissions).	25 Jul 2004
Directive 2002/87/EC on supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate and amending Directives 73/239/EEC, 79/267/EEC, 92/49/EEC, 92/96/EEC, 93/6/EEC, 93/22/EEC 98/78/EC and 2000/12/EC.	11 Aug 2004
Directive 2004/72 implementing Directive 2003/6/EC as regards accepted market practices, the definition of inside information in relation to derivatives on commodities, the drawing up of lists of insiders, the notification of managers' transactions and the notification of suspicious transactions.	12 Oct 2004
Directive 2002/8/EC to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes	30 Nov 2004 (30 May 2006 for Art 3(2)(a))
Directive 2005/1/EC amending Directives 73/239/EEC, 85/611/EEC, 91/675/EEC, 92/49/EEC and 93/6/EEC and Directives 94/19/EC, 98/78/EC, 2000/12/EC, 2001/34/EC, 2002/83/EC and 2002/87/EC in order to establish a new organizational structure for financial services committees.	13 May 2005
Directive 2002/74 amending Directive 80/987/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer. See now codification carried out by Directive 2008/94/EC on the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer.	8 Oct 2005
Directive 2004/101 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for a greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community, in respect of the Kyoto Protocol's project mechanisms.	13 Nov 2005
Directive 2004/80/EC on compensation to crime victims.	1 Jan 2006
Directive 2004/17/EC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2005/51/EC amending Annex XX of Directive 2004/17/EC and Annex VIII of Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2004/18/EC on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts.	31 Jan 2006
Directive 2003/58 amending Directive 68/151 as regards disclosure requirements in respect of certain types of companies.	31 Dec 2006
Directive 2003/110/EC on assistance in cases of transit for the purposes of removal by air.	6 Dec 2006
Directive 2006/103/EC adapting certain directives in the field of transport policy, by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.	1 Jan 2007
Directive 2006/115/EC on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property.	16 Jan 2007
Directive 2006/116/EC on the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights.	16 Jan 2007
Directive 2004/109/EC on the harmonization of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market and amending Directive 2001/34/EC.	20 Jan 2007
Directive 2007/14/EC laying down the rules for the implementation of certain provisions of Directive 2004/109/EC.	8 Mar 2008
Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	15 Feb 2007
Directive 2006/114/EC concerning misleading and comparative advertising.	12 Jun 2007
Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks and amending Directive 2002/58/EC.	15 Sep 2007 15 Mar 2009
Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures for granting and withdrawing refugee status.	13 Dec 2007

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CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1066

Answer to Question 1063

Directive 2005/56/EC on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies.	15 Dec 2007
Directive 2007/16/EC implementing Directive 85/611/EEC on the condition of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to UCITS as regards the clarification of certain definitions.	23 Mar 2008
Directive 2006/68/EC amending Directive 77/91/EEC on the formation of public limited liability companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital.	15 Apr 2008
Directive 2004/40 on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields).	20 Apr 2008
Directive 2006/66/EC on waste batteries and accumulators (repeals Directive 91/157/EEC).	28 Sep 2008
Directive 2006/117/EURATOM on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel.	25 Dec 2008
Directive 2007/63/EC on the requirement of an independent expert's report on the occasion of merger or division of public limited liability companies.	31 Dec 2008
Directive 2008/43/EC setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses.	5 April 2009
Directive 2008/68/EC on the inland transport of dangerous goods.	30 June 2009
Directive 2007/36/EC on the exercise of certain rights of shareholders in listed companies	3 Aug 2009
Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market.	28 Dec 2009
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks.	26 Nov 2009
Directive 2009/4/EC on counter measures to prevent and detect manipulation of records of tachographs, amending Directive 2006/22/EC on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations 3820/85 and 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities and repealing Council Directive 88/599/EEC.	31 Dec 2009
Directive 2009/5/EC amending Annex II to directive 2006/22/EC on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations 3820/85 and 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities.	31 Dec 2009
Directive 2008/101/EC amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to include aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community.	2 Feb 2010
Directive 2008/112/EC amending Directives 76/768/EEC, 88/378/EEC, 1999/13/EC and Directives 2000/53/EC, 2002/96/EC, 2004/44/EC in order to adapt them to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.	1 Apr 2010
Directive 2006/25/EC on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (artificial optical radiation) (19 th individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).	27 Apr 2010
Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.	10 June 2010

ORAL

NO. 1067 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government confirm whether Gibraltar Identity Cards (the red card) are issued to British citizens resident in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1068 and 1069 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1068 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government say how many Gibraltar Identity Cards have been issued in each year since the existing format was agreed in April 2000, with a breakdown showing each different category of card?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1067 and 1069 of 2010.

NO. 1069 OF 2010

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD

Can Government say how many Gibraltar Identity Cards (the red card) have been issued each year since 1998 to British citizens not resident in Gibraltar, with a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar identity cards (the red card) can only be issued to persons who are registered under the provisions of the Civilians Registration Act and who are either British Overseas Territories citizens by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar, registered Gibraltarians or British citizens who have permanent residence in Gibraltar. So the answer to his first question is that they can only be issued to British citizens who are resident in Spain if they are British by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar or are Gibraltarian.

Identity cards issued to such persons reflect the address which they have confirmed as being the address at which they actually reside at the time the application for the cards are made.

British citizens who do not have permanent residence in Gibraltar and who are neither (i) British Overseas Territories citizens nor (ii) registered Gibraltarians, are not entitled to any type of card whatsoever, if they do not reside in Gibraltar, are not entitled. In other words, a British citizen resident in Spain or anywhere else, not resident in Gibraltar, is not entitled to such a card unless it is you or me, British citizen by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar, BOTC Gibraltar or a registered Gibraltarian which I suppose, I am just trying to think, no it is possible to be a registered Gibraltarian without being in that first category.

I now hand the hon Member a schedule set containing the statistical information that they have asked for.

Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1068 of 2010

CARDS ISSUED EACH YEAR SINCE THE EXISTING FORMAT OF THE GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD WAS INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 2000.

YEAR OF ISSUE	CARD TYPE	
2000 (DEC)	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	12
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	8
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	44
	TOTAL	64
<hr/>		
2001	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	283
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	174
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	1265
	TOTAL	1722
<hr/>		
2002	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	259
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	115
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	1003
	TOTAL	1377
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2003	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	271
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	176
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	3973
	TOTAL	4420
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Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Continued Answer to Question No. 1068 of 2010

YEAR OF ISSUE	CARD TYPE	
2004	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	424
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	116
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	4116
	TOTAL	4656
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2005	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	519
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	174
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	4783
	TOTAL	5476
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2006	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	740
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	668
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	3328
	TOTAL	4736
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2007	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	865
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	254
	GIBRALTAR IDNETITY CARD	2972
	TOTAL	4091
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Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Continued Answer to Question No. 1068 of 2010

YEAR OF ISSUE	CARD TYPE	
2008	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	1027
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	166
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	2898
	TOTAL	4091
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2009	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	1697
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	430
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	3103
	TOTAL	5230
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2010	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- EU NATIONALS	840
	CIVILIAN REGISTRATION CARD- NON EU NATIONALS	391
	GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARD	1724
	TOTAL	2955
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Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

Continued Answer to Question No. 1069 of 2010

GIBRALTAR IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED SINCE 1998 TO PERSONS NOT
RESIDENT IN GIBRALTAR

YEAR OF ISSUE

1998	5
1999	5
2000	12
2001	57
2002	72
2003	106
2004	104
2005	97
2006	66
2007	89
2008	105
2009	100
2010	24

TOTAL 842

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1067 TO 1069 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, somebody that is Gibraltarian by decent but is born outside Gibraltar can obtain a card wherever he is. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I get a distinct feeling that they are asking questions around a specific case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxxxx.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, my understanding is, and this is the answer that I have been sent here to give you, that if you are a registered Gibraltarian, by whatever means, if you are a registered Gibraltarian you are entitled to a Gibraltar Identity Card, regardless of where your reside.

ORAL

NO. 1070 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY COLLECTED – NON-COMMERCIAL GATE

How much import duty has been collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1071 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1071 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY – BUILDING MATERIALS

What was the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1071 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1070 of 2010

February 2010	£74,234.32
March 2010	£219,173.48
April 2010	£44,630.54
May 2010	£103,813.32

Answer to Question No. 1071 of 2010

February 2010	£13,474.30
March 2010	£19,538.85
April 2010	£13,819.51
May 2010	£14,096.03

NO. 1072 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HOUSE IN LONDON

Can Government say on how many occasions the facilities at the Gibraltar Business Suites at Gibraltar House in London have been booked and used and what amounts have been paid for their use since the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Twelve by fee paying commercial members of the business community. The total amount received has been £3,195. It has obviously been used many more times by non-fee paying users, including Government departments.

NO. 1073 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHIEF MINISTER/MINISTERS' OFFICIAL AIR TRAVEL COSTS

Can Government list the cost to the taxpayer of air travel by each individual Minister and the Chief Minister on official business since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament with a breakdown showing the date of the travel, the destination, the airline, the category of seat paid for and the travel agent used to make the booking?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1073

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
London	22 -24 February 2010	£909.20	British Airways	Business	N/A Online
Rome	6 - 9 May 2010	£122.83	Vueling Airlines	Tourist	N/A Online

MINISTERS' AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
The Hon F Vinet	Manchester	10 - 14 March 2010	£585.70	British Airways	Business	Bland
the Hon J Holliday	London	25-Feb-10	£365.20	British Airways	Business	Toutrafrica
the Hon J Holliday	Miami	09-Mar-10	£2,415.50	British Airways	Business	My Vacations
the Hon J Holliday	Toulouse	09-May-10	£1,256.00	British Airways	Business	Blands
the Hon J Holliday	Athens	06-Jun-10	£1,209.00	British Airways	Business	My Vacations
the Hon D Feetham	London	29 March - 1 April 10	£755.00	British Airways	Business	Blands
The Hon E Britto	London	1 - 2 June 2010	£1,161.00	British Airways	Business	Blands
The Hon E Britto	Swaziland	7 - 14 May 2010	£6,393.10	BA & South African Airways	Business	Blands
The Hon E Reyes	Isle Of Man	10 - 14 May	£1,075.40	Easyjet & Flybe	Economy	Blands
The Hon L Montiel	Isle Of Man	10 - 14 May	£1,075.40	Easyjet & Flybe	Economy	Blands

ORAL

NO. 1074 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

KING'S LINES FUEL STORAGE DEPOT

Can Government say whether it is their policy to place the King's Lines fuel depot out to tender given the interest that has been expressed by the bunkering operators locally?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not yet decided how it will deal with the possible exploitation of the King's Lines Depot.

ORAL

NO. 1075 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – NUMBER OF FLIGHTS AND PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many flights and passengers per day and per year the new air terminal is designed to handle?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1076 and 1077 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1076 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government confirm how many commercial units there will be in the new air terminal building, how many will be allocated to existing commercial entities in the current air terminal and whether the additional units will go out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075 and 1077 of 2010.

NO. 1077 OF 2010

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – DUTY-FREE FACILITIES

Can Government confirm how many of the commercial units in the new air terminal building will be allowed to retail goods on a duty-free basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The new splendid, not too big and not too grandiose air terminal is designed to accommodate a design peak hour capacity of four aircraft movements per hour which translates into approximately 500 passengers per hour on the basis of three flights out and one flight in (or vice-versa) which is how these things are calculated, I am told.

The number of passengers per year amounts to 980,000 a year. So you can see by comparing it to the current statistics that we are allowing a reasonable amount of growth room but not an excessive amount of growth room in the design.

Operating during 12 hours per day, the number of daily movements amounts to 24, corresponding with 2,688 passengers per day.

There will be 19 commercial units in the new air terminal building. Of these, nine will be allocated to existing commercial entities in the current air terminal, assuming that they accept the conditions applicable in the new terminal and the remainder will be put out to tender.

The Government are unable to confirm how many of the commercial units in the new air terminal building will be allowed to retail goods on a duty free basis, as this policy is currently under review.

I am not going to formulate supplementaries for him. He will have to ask them if he wants them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1075 TO 1077 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the implication of the last three or four words that the Government are considering doing away with duty free sales?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are considering it for the following reason. Passengers flying from Gibraltar are likely to be going either to the UK or to Spain or to some other European country where the price difference between the sale price in Gibraltar air terminal and the price at their destination, which is what would encourage them to buy or not to buy, is so big that whether it is duty paid or duty free at the Gibraltar end, is irrelevant to the elasticity of demand. In other words, nobody who is flying to England where cigarettes cost three times more than Gibraltar will decide not to buy because they have got to pay a few more pence where the price difference is pounds between Gibraltar and the UK. So, as a way of maximising revenue, the Government are considering just collecting revenue on the tobacco and other products. Representations have been made by those who presently engage in this which the Government are considering with a view to deciding whether to proceed with its possible idea or not. So the policy is under review.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Government also take into account in that review that we are in the unique position of being the only airport that is permitted under EU rules to have duty free which makes us different from all the Spanish airports and that makes it something that can be used as a marketing strategy because you can actually say to people, the only airport where you can buy duty free goods is in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The difference between Gibraltar/Spanish and Gibraltar and all other European Union airports except the Canary Islands and Melilla is that it is free of VAT, which will continue to be the case and it is free of European Excise Duty on tobacco which will continue to be the case. We are talking about Gibraltar import duty freedom. At the end of the day, the Government believe that what determines whether people buy in the terminal or not is price difference between the terminal and where they are flying to. I think those that have made representations, namely the duty free shop operators in the terminal, do not dispute that proposition but are concerned about loss of a competitive advantage over shops elsewhere in Gibraltar. In other words, I think their principal concern is that if there is no difference in price between the air terminal shop and Main Street, that tourists may buy it in Main Street and not wait until they get to the terminal and the Government need to consider whether that is a legitimate consideration or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Government also consider the fact that according to the statistics produced in the Government reports, 60 per cent of the arrivals go straight into Spain and do not go into town?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. So the opportunity is to buy there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes exactly. Yes, the Government will take that into account and indeed that in the future many of the departures may not come from Gibraltar but may come into the terminal from Spain.

ORAL

NO. 1078 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – FUNDING

Can Government confirm how much funding was provided to Community Care in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1079 and 1080 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1079 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – FUNDING

Can Government state what funding, if any, has been provided to Community Care in each month of the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1078 and 1080 of 2010.

NO. 1080 OF 2010**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY HOLDING BY GIBRALTAR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government confirm that Gibraltar Residential Property Company purchased the property holdings of Gibraltar Community Care?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The funding provided to Community Care in the last financial year was £1.5 million.

Funding provided to Community Care in the current financial year is as follows:

Funding to Gibraltar Community Care	
April 2010	£340,000
May 2010	£340,000

On the 3rd August 2009 Gibraltar Residential Properties purchased Gibraltar Community Care's property holding in Sir William Jackson Grove comprising of 110 flats and 34 car parking spaces for a consideration of £2,446,880.

NO. 1081 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUSSIAN NATIONALS – ENTRY INTO GIBRALTAR VIA TRANSCOMA

Can Government state whether they have provided, or promised to provide, the Algeciras ferry operator Transcoma, with an undertaking in respect of visitors of Russian nationality which are in any way different from the obligation that the Government already has in respect of any non-EEA visitors to Gibraltar who may arrive via any other route than the Algeciras ferry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1082 and 1083 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1082 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUSSIAN NATIONALS – ENTRY INTO GIBRALTAR

Does Government have a policy of providing multi-entry or any other type of visitor visas to Russian nationals which are not readily available to other non-EEA nationals who may wish to visit Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1081 and 1083 of 2010.

NO. 1083 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RUSSIAN NATIONALS – ENTRY INTO GIBRALTAR VIA SPANISH TOUR OPERATOR BRAVO GROUP

Can Government confirm whether it has provided, or promised to provide multi-entry visas for Russian tourists brought to the Iberian Peninsular by the Spanish tour operator Bravo Group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not provided, or promised to provide, multiple-entry visas for Russian tourists or any other visa-requiring non-EEA nationals brought to the Iberian Peninsula by a Spanish tour operator.

The Government have allowed the Gibraltar/Algeciras ferry operator, Transcoma, who is also a licensed ship agent in Gibraltar, to transport controlled groups of non-EEA passengers with multiple-entry Schengen visas to visit Gibraltar on a day trip via the Ferry Terminal.

Non-EEA visitors travelling aboard cruise ships already visit Gibraltar on day trips via the Cruise Terminal, without visas and have done so for many years.

This scheme is therefore an extension to the ferry of that which is already in operation for cruise ships.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1081 TO 1083 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, therefore, groups with Schengen visas not arriving by ferry would not be allowed in?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is not necessarily implicit in the answer. There is an existing policy relating to day visitors by boat. It used to be cruise and that has been extended to ferry. So, if the question is, is the Government presently doing it for people who come other than by ferry or cruise, in other words, overland, I suppose... I do not know what the answer to that is... But let us assume it is no. It is not happening at the moment.

That is not to say that if an appropriate application were made, it would not be considered on its merits and perhaps allowed or perhaps disallowed, depending on the advice that the Government got from the Civil Status and Immigration Department. The Government does not have a policy not to allow it. It just has not been put in a position of having to decide any such thing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the fact that it is being given to Transcoma just happens to be because they have asked for it not because it is something that only they are entitled to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have asked for it and it has been considered and given it.

NO. 1084 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION INCREASE – EFFECT ON MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government state whether the increase in Social Security Pensions from 1st April has had any effect on the threshold income for the Minimum Income Guarantee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The increase of 2.8 per cent in the Old Age Pensions with effect from 1st April 2010 will be taken into account in the threshold income for Minimum Income Guarantee payments as from 1st July 2010. However, this will be compensated by a similar increase to be applied to the Minimum Income Guarantee payments also with effect from 1st July 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1084 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in effect one will cancel out the other, is that it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1085 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RELOCATION COSTS GIBRALTAR BOAT SQUADRON

Can Government state what has been the relocation cost of the Gibraltar Boat Squadron and provide a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1085 of 2010

<u>Boat Squadron Building and related costs</u>			
	<u>Costs to Date</u>	<u>Estimated remaining Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
1) Boat Squadron Building			
Building Contractor	1,299,750	1,100,250	2,400,000
Consultants Costs	89,857	6,643	96,500
Architect Fees	61,705	-	61,705
	1,451,312	1,106,893	2,558,205
2) Finger Jetty			
Building Contractor	1,653,581	1,821,419	3,475,000
Consultants Costs	99,918	87,683	187,601
	1,753,499	1,909,102	3,662,601

NO. 1086 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR DEFENCE POLICE

Can Government confirm if it has now reached an understanding with the MOD on the future of the Defence Police and if so are there any proposed changes in the context of its relationship with the RGP due to be implemented in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No we have not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1086 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it considered likely that within the current financial year the situation will change or not? I am thinking in terms of the effect that this might have or not have on the sums that we vote in Parliament when we approve this year's estimates.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In consultation with the Gibraltar Defence Police Association, the Government are about to embark with the Ministry of Defence to explore possible ways of bringing about something which would fit within the words used in this question. But I am not in a position to speculate about whether it may be achieved at all and if it is achieved whether it might be achieved on time to have any effect on this financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1087 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – LEASE

Can Government state when it was originally envisaged that the Eastside developers would sign the lease for the area and explain why it has not yet been signed and whether there is a time limit by which it has to be signed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1088 and 1089 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1088 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR DEPOSITING RUBBLE

Have Government identified an alternative site to deposit rubble in case they are required to stop using the Eastside area as happened in 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1087 and 1089 of 2010.

NO. 1089 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT – NOTICE TO GOVERNMENT TO STOP DEPOSITING RUBBLE

Can Government state how much notice has to be given to the Government by the Eastside developer if they require the Government to stop using the site to deposit rubble?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The agreed timeline envisages the landlord granting the lease to the developer not later than 20 business days after the date which is 14 weeks from the date that a permit is granted to the developer under section 17 of the Town Planning Act. The lease has not yet been executed by the developer notwithstanding the fact that such a permit has already been obtained or rather granted. On the basis that a substantial part of the premium has been paid to the landlord, the latter has not sought to enforce the original timeline yet.

The Government have not identified an alternative rubble tip site, and does not envisage that one will be needed. The Government will shortly commence the removal of the rubble mountain, and future rubble will be crushed and recycled as it arises.

There is no formal or legal notice period in respect of permission to use the Eastside.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1087 TO 1089 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I have understood the hon Member correctly, then what he is saying is that there will be an alternative site to which the rubble will be moved to be processed and that that will be the site to which new rubble is delivered. Is that the correct position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but not expected to accumulate. In other words, we have to for the future make arrangements which do not involve simply mounting up rubble as it arises and that is what we are doing. But obviously there is a site with the rubble crushing equipment to which builders will deliver rubble.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it envisaged that what will happen is that the current rubble will be taken to that site so that it does not have to be moved again, presumably?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The intention is for the current rubble mountain to be crushed and processed. It is not just crushing. You have got to crush it and separate out the contaminated material. There are machines that do this. What comes out at the other end of this machine is material that is lawfully usable for reclamation purposes. In other words, to tip into the sea and therefore what the Government intends to do is precisely that, to put two machines, one at either end of the rubble mountain. Eat up the rubble mountain where it is and as the stuff comes out at the other end of each of these two machines, it will be transported by lorry to reclamation sites which will have been prepared to receive it and receive it being tipped, in other words, as reclamation material. It could not be used for that purpose in its present condition because you are not allowed under EU rules to tip contaminated material into the sea. But you can use uncontaminated material as land fill for reclamation purposes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And in the process of that going on, the new rubble that is being produced will go where ...?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It will not be taken to that site. It will go to another site with another machine.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

ORAL

NO. 1090 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SALARY SCALES OF GRADES ANALOGUED TO UK NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Can Government state since the answer to Question No. 491 of 2010 whether it has reached an agreement on identifying the appropriate UK analogues which apply post April 2006 to non-medical GHA staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains the same as communicated to the hon Member in answer to Question No. 491 of 2010.

NO. 1091 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BRUESA – EMPLOYEES ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Given the BRUESA is no longer trading in Gibraltar, are Government now willing to provide the total number of employees that the company had on Government contracts in October 2009 and give a breakdown of this figure by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1092 of 2010.

NO. 1092 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BRUESA – PARENT COMPANY GUARANTEE

Can Government state whether there is a parent company guarantee in place from BRUESA in Spain in respect of work undertaken by its subsidiary in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total number of employees that BRUESA had registered with the Employment Service as at 30th October 2009 is made up of 83 Spanish nationals, one Portuguese national and one American national. I can confirm that there is indeed a parent company guarantee in place.

ORAL

NO. 1093 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GJBS – TAKEOVER OF RENTAL HOUSING ESTATE PREVIOUSLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY BRUESA

Can Government state how much has been paid to GJBS in respect of the takeover of the rental housing estate previously under construction by BRUESA and how much GJBS has paid sub-contractors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government has paid GJBS £1,866,541.14 of which it has paid £1,294,659.52 to sub-contractors.

NO. 1094 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GBC – FUNDING FOR STAFF PAY REVIEW

Can Government confirm whether the pay review of the GBC staff is met by the Government from the supplementary funding vote approved by the Parliament and if so can Government provide the amount paid from this Subhead in 2009 and 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The contribution payable to GBC under the Broadcasting vote is increased annually by way of supplementary funding in order to meet the annual pay review.

The supplementary funding provided to pay awards during the year ending 31st March 2009 was £18,925 and supplementary funding in respect of the year ended 31st March 2010 was £22,916.

ORAL

NO. 1095 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS

Can Government state the cost of the Civil Service pensions expressed as a percentage of the Civil Service payroll in each of the financial years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1096 to 1098 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1096 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSION SCHEME/PROVIDENT FUND PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state the number of civil servants in employment as at the end of the financial year 2009/2010 covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and the number of public servants covered by the Provident Fund Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1095, 1097 and 1098 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1097 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Civil Service pensioners there were in the year ending March 2010 and of those how many were in receipt of a Widow's Pension?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1095, 1096 and 1098 of 2010.

NO. 1098 OF 2010**THE HON J J BOSSANO****CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS**

Can Government state how many Civil Service pensioners excluding those receiving a Widow's Pension in the year ending March 2010 were receiving less than £8,000 per annum and how many were receiving more than £20,000?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

In 2008/2009, Civil Service pension costs represented 15 per cent of the Civil Service payroll compared with 14 per cent in the previous financial year 2007/2008.

The number of civil servants in employment covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and other public servants covered by the Provident Scheme are as follows in respect of 2009/2010:

	Civil Service	Other Public Servants	Total
2009/2010	2,859	942	3,801

At the end of March 2010, there were 1,996 Government pensioners and 62 of these were pensions payable to Widows under the Widow's and Orphan's Pension Scheme.

Around 1037 pensioners were in receipt of a pension of under £8,000 during the year 2009/2010 and around 212 were in receipt of a pension of more than £20,000 in the same year.

ORAL

NO. 1099 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state how many entities were contributing to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund as at the end of March 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1100 to 1103 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1100 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the entities that were contributing to the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund as at the end of March 2010 and, in respect of each, state the number of eligible employees on that date and the number that had elected to join the Provident Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099 and 1101 to 1103 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1101 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government state in respect of the entities in the Public Service that participate in the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Fund whether there is a period of employment which has to be fulfilled before an employee is eligible to join the Fund and if so what this period is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099, 1100, 1102 and 1103 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1102 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state as at the end of March 2010 how many employers in the Private Sector, other than construction companies, were participating in the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099 to 1101 and 1103 of 2010.

NO. 1103 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO.3 PENSION FUND

Can Government state whether any new employer in the construction and allied trades industry has joined the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Fund since the answer to Question No. 540 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at the end of March 2010 there were 19 entities contributing to the No. 2 Scheme.

I now hand the hon Member a statement giving the information that he has requested in Question No. 1100 of 2010.

Several of the entities in the Public Service require a period of employment to be fulfilled before the employee is eligible to join the No. 2 Scheme.

I now hand the hon Member a statement giving the qualifying period of employment required by each such entity. However, the Pension Scheme Rules allow for retrospection of contributions as from the commencement of the date of employment.

As at the end of March 2010 there were 26 employers in the Private Sector, not including construction companies, participating in the Provident No. 3 Scheme. That is 26 excluding construction companies.

There have been no new employers in the construction and allied trades industry joining the Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 3 Pension Scheme since the answer to Question No. 540 of 2010.

Continued Answer to Question No. 1103 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1100 of 2010

Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Scheme

Breakdown of active members by Employers

Employers	Employees eligible to apply	Active Members as at 31st March 2010
Citizen's Advice Bureau	4	4
Europa Incinerator Ltd.	5	4
Gib. Defence Estates & General Services Ltd.	1	1
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	14	14
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd.	46	38
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.	82	80
Gibraltar Development Corporation	153	124
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	76	75
Gibraltar Health Authority	101	98
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd.	16	16
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services Ltd.	115	95
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	18	17
GRP Investments Ltd.	7	3
Land Property Services Ltd.	9	9
The Office of the Ombudsman	5	4
The Care Agency	455	279
Sports & Leisure Authority	30	29
Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd.	31	20
Women in Need	2	2
	1170	912

Continued Answer to Question No. 1103 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1101 of 2010

Gibraltar Provident Trust No. 2 Pension Scheme

Breakdown of Qualifying Period by Entities

Entity	Qualifying period
Citizen's Advice Bureau	None
Europa Incinerator Ltd.	None
Gib. Defence Estates & General Services Ltd.	None
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	6 Months
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd.	6 Months
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd.	12 Months
Gibraltar Development Corporation	6 Months
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	None
Gibraltar Health Authority	12 Months
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd.	None
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services Ltd.	None
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	6 Months
GRP Investments Ltd.	6 Months
Land Property Services Ltd.	6 Months
The Office of the Ombudsman	6 Months
The Care Agency	6 Months
Sports & Leisure Authority	6 Months ⁴
Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd.	None
Women in Need	None

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1099 TO 1103 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the breakdown provided to Question No. 1100 of 2010, I take it that the column that shows eligible employees, that would be the employees that had been past the qualifying period. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

For example, if in community projects it says twelve months, it would ... They would not become eligible until they have gone past that date?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but then they can join retrospectively.

ORAL

NO. 1104 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 which were written-off because the arrears were statute barred, what was the account with the highest amount owing, what period it covered and what steps were taken to collect the arrears before they became statute barred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1105 to 1107 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1105 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 which were written-off because the company was in liquidation, what was the account with the highest amount owing, what period did it cover and what steps were taken to collect the arrears before the company went into liquidation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104, 1106 and 1107 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1106 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the 84 commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 how many were written-off because the company was in liquidation and how many were written-off because the arrears were statute barred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104, 1105 and 1107 of 2010.

NO. 1107 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS OF RATES WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state in respect of the 197 domestic accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010 what was the account with the highest amount owing, what period it covered and what steps were taken to collect the arrears before they became statute barred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The commercial account with the highest statute barred amount written-off totalled £82,405.24. These arrears were accrued during the period 1st January 1990 to 30th September 1999. A repayment agreement was signed in September 1993 but was defaulted in 1994. Various debt pursuance letters were sent during 1995 to 1997. The directors left the jurisdiction and there was no other possible avenue for recovery.

The commercial account with the highest amount written-off because the company was in liquidation totalled £34,192.50. These arrears were accrued during the period 1st July 2001 to 30th June 2003. Debt pursuance letters were sent during 2001. In October 2002 the company went into liquidation and there were no assets for distribution. Therefore, the amounts were written-off.

Of the 84 commercial accounts given in answer to Question No. 544 of 2010, 25 were written-off due to companies being liquidated, 29 due to the arrears being statute barred and 30 had the penalties written-off upon settlement of arrears in a lump sum payment.

The domestic account with the highest amount owing totalled £30,892.09. These arrears, inclusive of penalties, were accrued during the period 1st October 1993 to 30th June 1998. So we are roughly equally to blame on that. Debt pursuance letters and a Summons were issued. An Order to Pay was granted on 15th December 1995 by the Magistrates' Court. However, the tenants had left the jurisdiction therefore the Court Bailiff was unable to recover any assets.

In the case of the other remaining arrears that were written-off... I beg your pardon I nearly read to him from my little note given to me in preparation for supplementary, which he has not yet thought to ask.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1104 TO 1107 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not got a supplementary because I think the hon Member has actually given me all the information that is actually asked for in the questions.

ORAL

NO. 1108 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the GDP figure for 2008/2009 and give the breakdown by income and expenditure methods of calculation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer together with Question No. 1109 of 2010.

NO. 1109 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the gross trading profit of companies in the GDP figure for 2007/2008 was the grossing up rate of 19 per cent, as in 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will reveal the GDP figure for 2008/2009 in my forthcoming budget address to this House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1108 AND 1109 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a particular reason why the hon Member is being so coy about revealing it this year which he has not been in previous years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is just that one is trying to create a tradition of giving information of this sort as part of the budget address. I do not mind saying to him that if he wants to have a figure in mind when he is doing his own thinking and preparation, the figure is not too far off the estimated figure that I gave him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I suppose the hon Member appreciates that it is more difficult to give him a reasoned reaction if I have to do it immediately he sits down and I am seeing the figures for the first time. That is the only reason why I ask for them earlier.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, this is a disadvantage to which he is well used to have been putting his political opponents when he was on this side of the House which is not why I do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But my figures were never up to date.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly! Your figures were never available to inform the Opposition.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or me!

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, never a truer thing said in jest. I have given him the indication that he would need. In other words, he does not have to prepare on any basis that accommodates or that needs to accommodate a worsening position, worse than indicated, than flagged in the past.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or better?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said, more or less the same. I do not think the debate will turn on the difference one way or the other.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Okay.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, if I can just revert, can the hon Member remind me of what the last figure he thinks I flagged up was in percentage?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think it was 19 per cent, ... was the last figure he gave me in a question but the way

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. On the GDP for the year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

For the GDP for the year I think it was something like 5 per cent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is a little bit better.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am glad to hear this.

ORAL

NO. 1110 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the gross trading profit of companies in the GDP for 2007/2008 the grossing up rate was 19 per cent, as in 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1111 to 1114 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1111 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether in the profits of Gibtelecom were included in 2005/2006 GDP figure of gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 22 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1110, 1112 to 1114 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1112 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether the profits of AquaGib were included in 2005/2006 GDP figures for gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 22 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1110, 1111, 1113 and 1114 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1113 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether the profits of Gibtelecom were included in 2006/2007 GDP figures of gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 19 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will answer this question together with Question Nos. 1110 to 1112 and 1114 of 2010.

NO. 1114 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state whether the profits of AquaGib were included in 2006/2007 GDP figures of gross trading profits of companies and if so was the 19 per cent grossing up rate applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can confirm that the grossing up rate was at 19 per cent in respect of the two years that he asks.

The grossing up of corporation tax collected in any financial year to arrive at an estimate of the Gross Trading Profit of Companies for that year is applied to the aggregate amount of tax collected as shown in the Government's Annual Accounts. It is not arrived at by the summation of the grossed profits of each individual company.

So, on the assumption that Gibtelecom and AquaGib paid corporation tax in the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 their profits would indeed be included in the estimates of Gross Trading Profits of Companies for those years grossed up at 22 per cent for 2005/2006 and at 19 per cent for 2006/2007.

In other words, in short and minus the explanation, yes if they paid tax in those years because the figure which is grossed up is derived from the revenue from corporate tax figure which will include tax paid by these two companies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1110 TO 1114 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the hon Member not agree therefore that on that basis given the previous information he has provided me with in respect of the GDP for those two years, it would appear that if they have been included and almost certainly Gibtelecom would have been, AquaGib may not because I think they had quite a lot of allowances still pending and they may have exhausted them by now, that in fact we are having an element of double counting here in the calculation of the GDP because the dividends paid to the Government are shown in a separate component of the GDP which shows the income of Government trading entities. If the hon Member looks at the last breakdown that he gave me which I may have here. Where the Savings Bank

and the Electricity Authority and the Post Office and all those are shown, the dividend is shown as a contribution to the GDP.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would hope that the Statistician strips it out from one place or from the other, nor do I know whether Gibtel in which the Government has only a 50 per cent interest is included as a Government trading enterprise. I cannot recall the list of Government trading enterprises that feature but it is a 50:50 enterprise so it may be either that it is not included as a Government trading enterprise, because it is not a wholly owned Government trading enterprise, or otherwise if it is, that the Statistician will have stripped it out from one or the other so that it does not result in a double count. But I cannot as I speak either confirm or deny his suggestion that there might have been some double counting. I would hope not and I think it would be too simple, too obvious a mistake for the Statistician to have made.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, not in the light of the explanation that the hon Member has provided because he has just told me that in reaching the figure of gross trading companies, what is done is he grosses up the receipts. So if you have got Gibtelecom paying tax and the tax has been included in the collection of company tax in a given year and that tax is then grossed up by 22 per cent then clearly Gibtelecom is included in the profits of companies. That is the answer he has just given me. But in a previous breakdown in a previous question, when I asked about a breakdown for the make up of the gross trading surplus of Government enterprises which was in 2007/08, £4.68 million, in there he included the dividend received in the Government receipts from Gibtelecom. I do not have the breakdown with me. I have got the figure but I can tell him that he did give me that answer and it is easy to obtain. There was a question specifically asking for a breakdown of the figure and it struck me, frankly, it may be something that has been overlooked in the past, but it struck me in the information that he has given me in the previous meeting about how the figure was being worked out, that it might be that this has been overlooked. Perhaps it has not been.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will certainly ask the Statistician to look into it and to check that it has not been or otherwise to confirm that it has been and restate figures accordingly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 1115 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state how much has been collected as Stamp Duty in each month since the answer to Question No. 547 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1116 and 1117 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1116 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state what has been the amount collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 548 of 2010 from the Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1115 and 1117 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1117 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state how many properties have been approved as qualifying for Zero Stamp Duty on their sale in each month since the answer to Question No. 549 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon gentleman a statement giving the information he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1117 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1115 of 2010

Stamp Duty collected in each month since February 2010 is as follows:

February 2010	£625,195.15
March 2010	£246,983.86
April 2010	£304,419.78
May 2010	£333,871.12

Answer to Question No. 1116 of 2010

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues in each month since February 2010 is as follows:

February 2010	£1,400.00
March 2010	£2,020.00
April 2010	£1,870.00
May 2010	£1,520.00

Answer to Question No. 1117 of 2010

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sales since February 2010 is as follows:

February 2010	24
March 2010	19
April 2010	12
May 2010	54

NO. 1118 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NEW POWER STATION – MANNING AND OPERATION

Can Government clarify that the answer to Question No. 550 of 2010 implies that the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will manage but not man and operate the recently announced £100 million power station?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

If I thought the hon Member watched football on television, I would conclude that he had drafted this question while the goal was being scored and his attention is distracted.

The answer to Question No. 550 of 2010 requires no clarification to make it clear that it does not imply that the GEA will manage but not man and operate the new power station. Indeed, the answer clearly states the contrary.

In Question No. 550 of 2010, the hon Member asked whether Government can confirm that the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will man and operate the new power station. In his absence the answer given by me was; “Yes”. I do not see how he might think that “Yes” implies “No”.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1118 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would need to do a bit more research to explain the anomaly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask the hon Member, in terms of the size and the commitment to invest in a station, I take it that effectively what the hon Member is saying is that the facilities now operated by the MOD and by OESCO will cease to exist and that the MOD will become a Government customer? Presumably, in the light of that consideration, it

would be wise to sort out the complications in the manning and the merging of work forces before committing to a facility first and then finding there are problems later. Would that be the approach of the hon Member or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member's supplementary presupposes that there will be a merger of the work forces. Certainly, any transfer of service, of electricity... In other words, if what the hon Member has described were to occur, which it is fully envisaged that it will occur, negotiations are almost at a conclusion now, the MOD will cease to be a generator and indeed a distributor of electricity and will become a customer of the GEA in both respects. Certainly, the Government and the MOD ..., but the Government will make sure that the work force currently engaged in those areas in the MOD, are fully taken care of. But that does not necessarily... Fully taken care of, by which I do not just mean just paid off, if they do not want to be just paid off, if they want to carry on working on terms that respect their situation, that is part of the arrangements. But it does not, necessarily, come in for everybody in the form of a merger of work forces. There are steps that can be pursued but certainly continuing job security for those who want it with the Government is assured. I assume that the question was not so cryptic that that is what the original question was aiming at. Was it?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The supplementary that I am putting is. Are the Government in fact at a point where it is now confident that the labour side of the equation is satisfactorily settled before going down the road of investing in something which might at a later stage create problems? That is the whole point that I am really making.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Gibraltar needs to invest in a new power station regardless of anything to do with the MOD.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

These machines in both the OESCO and the Waterport Power Station are reaching, in some cases, surpass their intended life. They are located in areas of increasing residential density. The need for a new power station does not arise and is not linked to the deal with the MOD. That arises from the fact that the MOD would need to do its own new power station and I think in an increasingly environmentally conscious Gibraltar, it seems silly to build two power stations. So it is not a question of sorting out the labour issues before proceeding with the power station. The staff understand what is intended to be done by way of protection of their interests and I think they welcome the job securities that those who want it will have because, particularly in the context of the new defence spending reviews and all of that, employment with the

Ministry of Defence is increasingly uncertain going forward. So, you know, for them it is something to be welcomed. They have not yetI am sure they will want to see the terms and the details and the structure, of course, and I am sure they will be reserving final judgement. But on the whole, they see it as a positive development for the assurance of their personal economies into the future. Of course, the Government are being careful in its deal with the MOD not to be saddled with cost, with transferred cost, should the MOD's demand for electricity suddenly whittle away and we find that we have accepted a transfer of labour. So all that is protected in the agreement with the MOD as well.

ORAL

NO. 1119 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

Can Government state how much was collected in PAYE each month since the answer to Question No. 552 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1120 to 1122 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1120 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE/CORPORATION TAX PAYABLE BY EMPLOYERS IN RETAIL AND WHOLESALE INDUSTRY SECTOR

Can Government state what was the amount of a) PAYE and b) Company Tax, payable in the tax years 2008/2009, by employers in the retail and wholesale industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119, 1121 and 1122 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1121 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX COLLECTED

What was the amount of company tax collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 553 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1119, 1120 and 1122 of 2010.

NO. 1122 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – PAYABLE BY AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Based on the 2008/2009 employers annual statement, declaration and certificate submitted to date, what was the PAYE payable, and the numbers employed by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned/Joint Venture companies; and
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Gentleman a schedule containing the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1122 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1119 of 2010

The PAYE tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No. 522 of 2010 is:

	£M
February 2010	9.20
March 2010	9.90
April 2010	7.95
May 2010	7.81

Answer to Question No. 1120 of 2010

The amounts of PAYE and Corporation Tax payable in the tax year 2008/2009, by employers in the retail and wholesale industry sector was as follows:

	PAYE Tax	Corporation Tax
2008/2009	£7.24M	£5.17M

Answer to Question No. 1121 of 2010

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since the answer to Question No. 553 of 2010 is:

	£M
February 2010	10.55
March 2010	2.87
April 2010	0.97
May 2010	0.77

Answer to Question No. 1122 of 2010

Based on the 2008/2009 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted to date, the information sought is as follows:

	£M	Approximate No. of Employees
(a) MOD	4.0	2,400
(b) Gibraltar Government	26.9	6,500
(c) Government owned & JV companies	3.9	650
(d) Private sector employment	<u>63.2</u>	<u>21,900</u>
	<u>98.0</u>	<u>31,450</u>

ORAL

NO. 1123 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of May 2010, how many companies in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2008/2009 had been assessed for Company Tax and what were the amounts of tax payable and paid in respect of each tax year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1124 and 1125 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1124 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS/TAX PAYABLE

Can Government state, as at the end of May 2010, how many employers had submitted an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2008/2009 and what was the total amount of tax payable and paid in these submissions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1123 and 1125 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1125 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of May 2010, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2008/2009.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question No. 1125 of 2010**Answer to Question No. 1123 of 2010**

	1995/96 £M	1996/97 £M	1997/98 £M	1998/99 £M	1999/20 £M	2000/01 £M	2001/02 £M
Assessed	15.9	15.8	20.1	26.2	90.6	29.4	32.0
Discharged	6	5.4	9.6	11.7	77.0	16.1	17.4
	9.9	10.4	10.5	14.5	13.6	13.3	14.6
Paid	9.9	10.4	10.5	14.5	13.6	13.3	14.4
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
No. of Companies	1448	1421	1470	1465	1553	1594	1557
	2002/03 £M	2003/04 £M	2004/05 £M	2005/06 £M	2006/07 £M	2007/08 £M	2008/09 £M
Assessed	38.2	42.7	37.7	49.9	54.8	50.8	40.7
Discharged	21.8	20.1	16.8	24.9	29.7	23.3	9.9
	16.4	22.6	20.9	25.0	25.1	27.5	30.8
Paid	16.0	22.4	20.5	23.2	24.5	25.6	28.0
Outstanding	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.8	0.6	1.9	2.8
No. of Companies	1553	1621	1631	1588	1544	1410	1415

Continued Answer to Question No. 1125 of 2010

Answer to Question No. 1124 of 2010

As at 7th June 2010, 1910 employers had submitted their 2008/2009 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions was £98.0M and £95.6M respectively.

Answer to Question No. 1125 of 2010

As at 7th June 2010, 287 employers had not yet returned their 2008/2009 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates.

NO. 1126 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFIT

As at the end of May 2010, how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profit:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000,

in each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2008/2009 and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1127 of 2010.

NO. 1127 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS ON DECLARED TAXABLE PROFITS

As at the end of May 2010, how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000,

in each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2008/2009, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1127

Answer to Question 1126

COMPANIES ASSESSED WITHOUT HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Under £35,000						
No of companies assessed	667	461	149	139	127	140
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	1.3M	0.8M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M
Total paid	1.3M	0.7M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M
Over £35,000						
No of companies assessed	39	30	2	4	15	12
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	2.7M	2.5M	0.02M	0.1M	0.4M	0.3M
Total paid	2.7M	2.5M	0.02M	0.1M	0.2M	0.3M

Year of Assessment	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Under £35,000					
No of companies assessed	159	196	242	262	1
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.4M	0.5M	0.6M	0.6M	0.8K
Total paid	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M	Nil
Over £35,000					
No of companies assessed	10	18	35	47	12
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.4M	0.4M	0.8M	1.3M	1.1M
Total paid	0.3M	0.3M	0.5M	0.9M	1.0M

Contd ANSWER TO QUESTION 1127

Answer to Question 1127

COMPANIES ASSESSED HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Under £35,000						
No of companies assessed	231	317	382	447	448	476
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.1M	1.1M
Total paid	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.1M	1.1M
Over £35,000						
No of companies assessed	78	102	137	155	157	169
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	6.3M	9.7M	12.1M	13.6M	15.3M	22.2M
Total paid	6.3M	9.7M	12.1M	13.4M	15.3M	22.2M
Year of Assessment	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Under £35,000						
No of companies assessed	455	492	448	347	185	
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	1.1M	1.1M	1.0M	0.9M	0.4M	
Total paid	1.1M	1.1M	1.0M	0.9M	0.4M	
Over £35,000						
No of companies assessed	170	151	142	137	106	
Total assessed (i.e. Total tax payable)	22.3M	22.5M	21.2M	21.6M	17.9M	
Total paid	21.2M	21.2M	21.2M	20.6M	17.8M	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1126 AND 1127 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I correct in thinking that the last year 2008/2009 is the last year when company tax was on the preceding year basis and 2009/2010 is when it changes? Or is it 2010/2011 that it changes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Assuming that the legislation passes in this House in the terms in which it is being published in the pre-legislative process briefing paper, it comes into effect with effect of 1st January 2011 which means that in respect of the tax year 2010/2011, which is straddled by that date which is cut in half by that date, it is six months under one basis and six months under another. There are quite complex transitional arrangements designed to accommodate precisely this situation. With examples, if he wants to see how it works. Towards the end... I think at the end of the pre-legislative briefing paper there are examples with numbers and fictitious companies showing how the transition works between one system and the other.

ORAL

NO. 1128 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VALUE OF IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Can Government now state the value of imports of petroleum products in 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1129 and 1130 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1129 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Can Government now state the value of exports of petroleum products in 2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1128 and 1130 of 2010.

NO. 1130 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM EU COUNTRIES EXCLUDING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Can Government now state the value of imports from EU countries, excluding petroleum products, in 2009 and give a breakdown by country?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Imports stood at £1,170 million.

Exports stood at £1,129.2 million.

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the value of imports broken down by EU countries excluding petroleum.

Answer to Question No. 1130 of 2010

Imports from E.U. Countries (excluding Petroleum Products), 2009.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>2009</u>
United Kingdom	121,686
Spain	110,995
Germany	12,538
Netherlands	12,576
Denmark	2,871
France	3,026
Italy	887
Cyprus	125
Belgium	890
Ireland	400
Portugal	75
Austria	445
Greece	417
Hungary	159
Poland	66
Sweden	139
Finland	66
Luxembourg	2
Bulgaria	10
Malta	1
Czech Republic	5
Romania	5
Slovenia	3
Latvia	-
Slovak Republic	-
Estonia	-
Lithuania	59
TOTAL	267,446

Note: C.I.F. – Carriage, Insurance, Freight i.e. these costs are included in the import figures.

ORAL

NO. 1131 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES/BONDS

Can Government state what sales of Government bonds or debentures to the public have taken place each month since the answer to Question No. 579 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1132 to 1134 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1132 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LEVEL OF AGGREGATE AND NET PUBLIC DEBT

Can Government state as at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 575 of 2010, what was the level of a) aggregate public debt and b) net public debt?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1131,1133 and 1134 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1133 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

REVOLVING LOAN FACILITIES

Can Government state what has been the amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loans from local banks in each month since the answer to Question No. 576 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1131, 1132 and 1134 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1134 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED – PUBLIC DEBT

Has there been any change in the level of public debt held by Gibraltar Community Care Limited since the answer to Question No. 577 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a statement containing all the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question 1134

Answer to Question 1131

Government has issued the following Debentures to the public:

	Total Issues (Sales)
February 2010	£4,648,300
March 2010	£7,213,400
April 2010	£3,884,200
May 2010	<u>£26,451,900</u>
	<u>£42,197,800</u>

Answer to Question 1132

	£'M	£'M	£'M
February 2010	384.4	245.0	139.4
March 2010	388.7	249.0	139.7
April 2010	391.4	244.7	146.7
May 2010	392.4	235.0	157.4

Answer to Question 1133

The amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loans from local banks in each month since February 2010 is as follows:

Date	Barclays	Natwest	Total
February 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
March 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
April 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000
May 2010	£100,000,000	£50,000,000	£150,000,000

Answer to Question 1134

Gibraltar Community Care currently holds no Government of Gibraltar Debentures.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1131 TO 1134 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it the answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010, the second column is the amount of cash that is deducted from the gross to arrive at the net and the net is the third column.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry. I was just noticing myself that the headings appear to have been missed out of the columns. The first column is the aggregate public debt. The second column is the cash reserves held by the Government and therefore the third column is the net public debt which is the middle column deducted from the first one.

ORAL

NO. 1135 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEPOSITS

Can Government say what was the level of (a) non-Government deposits and (b) Government deposits, in the Savings Bank Fund at the end of each month since the answer to Question No. 578 of 2010?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I give the hon Member a statement showing the information that he requests.

Answer to Question No. 1135 of 2010

The level of Savings Bank Deposits stood as follows:

	Non-Govt Deposits (tentative) £M	Govt Deposits (tentative) £M
February 2010	83.2	223.9
March 2010	83.7	224.6
April 2010	83.0	220.0
May 2010	82.2	211.1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1135 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the figure in answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010, we see in the months that the cash reserve goes up and in the past, in fact, that has almost been paralleled by the movement of Government deposits in the Savings Bank. But this does not appear to be the case in ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes. The answer to Question No. 1132 of 2010 shows as the borrowing increases but has not used obviously the available cash also increases in column two. In the past, this money was going into the Government deposits in the Savings Bank and there was the similar movement in the level of Government deposits. But I see that it does not seem to have been the same thing happening... For example, in the months of February and March, the cash goes up and yet on the other side of the equation we do not see the same movement. Is it that the Government have been putting some of this cash other than in the Savings Bank?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Between February and March, the cash did not go up by very much. It went up by £4 million. True it is that there is no increase in cash. That could simply be explained by the fact that it could have been used ... There is a ... The cash element went up without increasing the net debt and without being deposited, it can only be that it was spent. I cannot think of any other explanation. I do not think... I think all cash holdings ...

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is still going through the Savings Bank.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. There has been no change in xxxx and from there much of it goes into a Bank of England account that the Government has opened.

ORAL

NO. 1136 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WITHHOLDING TAX REGIME

Can Government now state the amount of tax paid to the UK as a result of the Withholding Tax Regime option under the EU Tax Directive in respect of the UK tax year 2008/2009?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount of tax paid to UK for the period 2008/2009 was £383,797.37.

NO. 1137 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GRIEVANCES OF SPANISH FRONTIER WORKERS

Can Government confirm whether it has received, formally or informally, any representations regarding the grievances of Spanish frontier workers in relation to deductions from their wages and/or eligibility to payments, compared to residents, since the answer to Question No. 555 of 2010 and if so by whom and when were the representations made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. The position remains as stated in previous answers to similar questions or to the same question.

ORAL

NO. 1138 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1139 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 and 1140 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1140 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138, 1139 and 1141 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1141 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1140 and 1142 to 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1142 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1141 and 1143 to 1145 of 2010.

NO. 1143 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1142, 1144 and 1145 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1144 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1138 to 1143 and 1145 of 2010.

NO. 1145 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at this time, the position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 57 of 2010, but the figures requested are being included in the 2009 Employment Survey Report in respect of 2009, consistently with my indication in the House that even though the Government are not willing to provide backdated information in a different form, that if it could be done, we would modify the way information is given in the surveys to reflect the sort of information that they express an interest in having.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1138 TO 1145 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that the hon Member has provided the same information for October 2007 and is going to provide it for October 2009...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I gave him the explanation for why this was not quite as irrational as he thought. It has been given in the past despite not being held in that form by the deployment of a considerable amount of manpower resources at re-crunching numbers. I have asked the Statistics Office whether that same degree of effort is necessary in respect of the next year 2008/2009 and he has said, yes. I have asked him whether it requires a disproportionate effort to write up the 2009 report in giving that breakdown and he has told me that the latter is much easier to do because it does not involve revisiting and re-crunching and re-calculating and putting to a different use raw material that they have in different years. So, I have instructed the Statistics Office to provide the information systematically, without the need for the hon Member to ask for it, as a permanent variation in the format of those tables in the Employment Survey. So, in future he will receive the surveys with all that breakdown in it. But I am sticking to the advice that I am getting from the Statistics Office that it does require a disproportionate effort which although has been invested in the past, I explained to

the hon Member in the answer to Question No. 57 of 2010 the Government felt should no longer continue to be deployed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think I did ... the last time in my supplementaries and I thought the hon Member had acknowledged that that could not possibly be true of some of these things. For example, 1,140 is the figure of full time employment in Government departments. So, if I come back and get ... For example, in Question No. 1138 of 2010, if for the next meeting of the House I get each Government company that is in that table and I ask for information on each Government company I am pretty sure the Government are going to tell me, no I am not going to give you the figures in Government companies because of the number crunching. I have difficulty in understanding what the problem is because, in fact, some of the information because of the format that has been changed means that I can no longer compare one year's results with another because ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The existing information will continue to be there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. What happened in 2008 changed things from the presentation in 2007 and in some respect there was more information and in another respect there was loss of some information and therefore when I asked for a breakdown... For example, of the full-time in Government departments and the full time in Government companies, it is because for the first time they were showing Government companies and Government departments before. From 2007 backwards, I have it for every other year without it being included in the tables at all. I have finished up getting less information because it had been included in the table than I was getting before it was included in the table and I cannot really see how the Government can say, well look it takes too much of an effort to give you the number of full-time employment in Government departments. What is to stop me from getting department by department and company by company and putting a question in one of each and getting the information in another way? I really think if the hon Member goes back to the department and tells them to at least focus on the one that is obviously available to them, full-time and part time employment in Government companies and full-time and part-time employment in I can always go back to the previous year and ask them whether there has been any change between 2007 and 2008 in each one of those.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that might be what they are worried about. I will ask them. There is no political reason for not providing this information. Indeed, I have decided to institutionalise it for the future.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But the hon Member does have a tendency to delve and delving is fine so long as the Government does not have to stop for a week to do the delving for him and really... of course some of this information has been provided in the past but every time more and more and more is asked for and whereas the paralysis used to be a day, the paralysis is now for the whole week. So, either we are selective in what we give him or what we do not give him by way of representation of existing data or we say, look we stop doing that and where possible, in future, we provide the information in that form. Fine and during the transition year he is able to say the very things that he has said just now. But if it is true that there is some of this information which is more readily to hand than the one that requires the number crunching that brings about the paralysis like, what is the breakdown of part-time and full-time workers in Government departments. If that information is readily available somewhere and does not require number crunching, I do not see any good reason why it should not be provided to him and I will ask if that is so.

ORAL

NO. 1146 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of full-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1147 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1147 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of part-time Spanish male frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 and 1148 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1148 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146, 1147 and 1149 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1149 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide in respect of Table 10 of the Employment Survey Report October 2005, the number of part-time Spanish female frontier workers and the average earnings for each industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1148 and 1150 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1150 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1149 and 1151 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1151 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1150 and 1152 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1152 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1151 and 1153 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1153 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1152 and 1154 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1154 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1153 and 1155 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1155 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1154 and 1156 to 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1156 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1155 and 1157 to 1159 of 2010.

NO. 1157 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1156, 1158 and 1159 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1158 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1146 to 1157 and 1159 of 2010.

NO. 1159 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 57 of 2010. In other words, as before but these are not going to be provided in the 2009 survey.

However, in respect of Question No. 1155 of 2010, the hon Member appears to have overlooked the fact that this very information was provided in answer to the very same question when asked as Question No. 403 of 2008 which in a sense makes the point that he was making before. That he has had it in the past.

ORAL

NO. 1160 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1161 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1161 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to say when they expect the returns from the 2009 Employment Survey to close?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 and 1162 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1162 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Are Government now willing to provide the total and a breakdown by industry of the questionnaires sent in respect of the 2009 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160, 1161 and 1163 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1163 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1162 and 1164 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1164 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1163 and 1165 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1165 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1164 and 1166 to 1168 of 2010.

ORAL

NO. 1166 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1165, 1167 and 1168 of 2010.

NO. 1167 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1160 to 1166 and 1168 of 2010.

NO. 1168 OF 2010

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member can expect the Survey to be published before the budget debate as has occurred in previous years.

Returns for the 2009 Survey have obviously now closed already.

In so far as concerns Question Nos. 1162 to 1168 of 2010, the position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 54 of 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1160 TO 1168 OF 2010

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well here, the problem is not a number crunching but the argument used before was that this was something that was in process and not completed. The hon Member has just told me that the survey has closed so there is nothing in process and not completed any more which was the excuse he used the last time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. What he calls an excuse and I prefer to call a reason, last time, was that the Government did not consider it appropriate to provide information in respect of a survey, the results of which had not yet been published. There are things there about the methodology of the 2009 survey and I basically said to him, look it is not appropriate to answer questions about the methodology of the 2009 survey when the 2009 survey itself has not yet been tabled or published. It is not to say that if he asks some of those questions after the survey has been published, the information presumably will be forthcoming. If I then refused to provide the information, he could say, well you must now be relying on a different reason or excuse that you gave me last time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Subject to correction, I do not think he used the word published, I think he used the words that it was in progress and not completed. The report is now completed, the hon Member talks about making it available as in previous years by which he means as in last year because in previous years, in fact, this has not been the case. The whole rationale that he defended for moving the system from the tax to the employment surveys asking employers, was the availability of the information earlier. But of course ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, if the Government think that it is better to debate what is happening in 2010/2011 on the basis that one side knows what happened in 2009 and the other side knows, except for the last five minutes, what happened in 2008 and that that provides for better debate in the House, that is fine.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would not wish to end a very amicable spirit in which our Question Time has elapsed. I would not wish to spoil it at ten to seven on a Friday evening when England is playing in the World Cup by pointing out to the hon Gentleman that he really must not use arguments of that sort. He cannot. He knows that the position now is a huge, huge, huge improvement on anything that used to exist before in terms of the timing, the historical relevance and the currency of the information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not dispute that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Now, and I know that he said, well the fact that you did not have it from me, it does not mean that I cannot have it from you and I agree, and I agree because we make available a lot of information to him much earlier. So, it is not being held from him because he did not give it to me. That is not the Government's position. That is not the Government's position. In fact, the Employment Survey is not yet ready. I do not want him to think that it is sitting on some desk, not being produced to him in order to frustrate his expectation or his desire to use the content of it for his budgetary speech. In that vein, and I think I have offered this to him in the past and I think I may have done it last year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not here last year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Or the year before perhaps, in which I said to him, I would send it to him a few days sooner, in confidence, so that he did not have to wait until it was physically laid on the table and I am happy to do that this year if that is of any help to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not expect the hon Member to provide it before he has it and the whole point that I am making is is not that I had before he did, it is that it took a very long time and that neither side had it because it was based on PAYE returns.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxx. Yes, it was on a different basis.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, the tax year finished in June. They waited for the returns of the PAYE and the reality is that although there was an argument for saying that was more accurate because if it says there are 1,000 persons paying PAYE, there are 1,000 persons paying PAYE. There is no question about that. But, of course, it took so long that we were getting it 18 months after the relevant year. Everybody was getting it 18 months after the relevant year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

All I am saying is, if the hon Member interprets the figures of 2009, I will be talking about the figures for 2008 and I am not sure that that is ...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I agree. I do not mind making it available to him confidentially. But tabling it before the budget debate, formally, means now, because the House may now adjourn until the budget debate and it is not ready. There is no other opportunity. So it will have to be on some informal side basis. But can I just say to him which is on this occasion normally when we are debating in Question Time, he pulls out Hansard from a previous question to demonstrate to me that I cannot remember what I am talking about and I cannot normally argue against him because I am not similarly prepared. This time the boot is on the other foot. I am prepared. I have Hansard here of Question No. 54 of 2010 and I did indeed say and this is the principle answer, not supplementary, "the Government does not consider it appropriate to provide information relating to the 2009 Employment Survey questionnaire process until the 2009 Employment Survey Report is published. Contrary to his assertion that in the employment survey he did not think I had said published and that is exactly what I

had said. I have not focussed on the exact questions but I do not suppose there is any objection to the questions themselves or to providing the information. It is just to putting the cart before the horse of telling the hon Member how we have done something before he has had the thing. So, I suppose if he asks the same question after the survey report has been published, either we have to provide the information or come up with some other, in his terms, excuse, in my terms, perfectly good reason for not providing it.