



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

MORNING SESSION: 9.30 a.m. – 12.20 p.m.

Gibraltar, Thursday, 18th October 2012

## The Gibraltar Parliament

*The Parliament met at 9.30 a.m.*

[MR SPEAKER: Hon. A J Canepa GMH, OBE *in the Chair*]

[THE PRESIDING MEMBER: Hon. Dr. J J Garcia *in the Chair, presiding over the resolution*]

[CHIEF JUSTICE: Hon. Mr Justice A E Dudley *in attendance*]

[CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT: M L Farrell Esq RD *in attendance*]

### PRAYERS

*The Presiding Member*

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

**Standing Order 7(1) suspended  
to proceed with Government motion**

**Clerk:** Suspension of Standing Orders, the Hon. the Chief Minister.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** I beg to move under Standing Order 7(3) to suspend Standing Order 7(1) in order to proceed with a Government motion.

**Mr Presiding Member:** Those in favour. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

### MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SPEAKER

**Mr Adolfo John Canepa, GMH, OBE  
appointed Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament**

**Clerk:** Government motion: motion for the appointment of the Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament, the Hon. the Chief Minister.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Presiding Member, I have the honour to move the motion standing in my name which reads as follows:

‘That Adolfo John Canepa, GMH, OBE be appointed Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament.’

Mr Presiding Member, let me start by saying that I have appointed you in keeping with the provisions of section 26(2) of the Constitution to preside over the motion of the appointment of the new Speaker in this Parliament, because your appointment today as Presiding Member follows the absence of the Hon. Mr Joe Bossano, the Father of this House, who is travelling in pursuit of his ministerial responsibilities for inward investment.

In deciding who should be appointed today as Presiding Member, in the absence of the Hon. Mr Bossano, I have had regard to the practice previously established in this House. Before the new Constitution, it was common for one of the two *ex officio* Members to be appointed to the Chair in the absence of Mr Speaker. After the new Constitution, when the *ex officio* Members were removed from this place, there have only in my recollection been two instances when we have required a Presiding Member. The second was the instance of Mr Bossano presiding over the appointment of Mr Budhrani as Speaker, just after the recent General Election. The first was the appointment of Mr Budhrani as Speaker after the 2007 General Election. In that case, on 8th November 2007, the Hon. Mr Joe Holliday, then the Deputy Chief Minister, as you are today, was appointed as Presiding Member.

Enough though, about the mechanics of appointing a Presiding Member.

The motion standing in my name reads, as I have just said:

‘That the House do appoint Mr Adolfo Canepa, GMH, OBE as Speaker of this Parliament.’

What can I say of Mr Canepa’s trajectory of public service that this place is not already alive to, given that he spent most of his time in public service here?

From 1972 – the same year and in the same election as the Hon. Mr Joe Bossano – Mr Canepa served in this House as a Member for the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights (AACR), a historic party in the politics of our formation, if ever there was one. For 16 years, Mr Canepa was both a Minister and, from 1987 to 1988, Chief Minister. From 1988 to 1992, Mr Canepa was Leader of the Opposition. I am delighted to propose that he now return to this place, no longer a House of Assembly but a Parliament, as its own Speaker.

The community as a whole knew Adolfo Canepa as one of the teachers who turned to politics when his country needed him, a grammarian who took great pride in doing everything just right. In a career that led him to the very top of politics, no-one has ever suggested that Adolfo – as he is affectionately known to his many friends – has been anything other than a gentleman at every turn.

Indeed, in whatever role he has fulfilled to date in this House, Adolfo Canepa has never been found wanting. I am sure that he will be more than up to the role of Speaker of this Parliament now, and I know that the whole House will want to support him in the important function he will discharge in the Chair.

Indeed, I think that for ex-politicians in particular, taking the Speaker’s Chair must in some ways constitute exquisite torture of a sort, given that the role involves much listening and very little intervening, however strongly one may feel on a subject. However hard a role that may be, there is no doubt in my mind that Adolfo Canepa has all the attributes necessary to discharge the functions of Speaker of this House.

Mr Presiding Member, the politics of 1972 to 1992 was very different to the politics of today in many ways. In some ways, the politics of those years appears in hindsight better than today’s, in the respect there was among Members and the decorum of the House, something which may appear to have been lost, perhaps through no fault of the previous incumbent of the post of Speaker, who did a sterling job himself in that seat.

If the appointment of Mr Canepa serves to re-establish some of that respect and decorum, by a sharing of his experience of the better politics of the 1970s and 1980s, then that alone will be a good thing. In that respect, Mr Canepa will be assured of the respect of this side of the House for his Rulings, *even* and perhaps most importantly, when we might vehemently disagree with a determination of his, unusual though I expect that to be.

Moreover, I am sure I speak for the whole House when I say that his political trajectory and his personal integrity is such that Mr Canepa will no doubt command the respect of the whole community in the discharge of his functions as Speaker. I am equally sure that he will be able to represent Gibraltar internationally at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conferences and other events perfectly, with the benefit of that experience which I have alluded to earlier.

Finally, Mr Presiding Member, in terms of sweet ironies, you will recall that the launch of our own political party in the early 1990s coincided not providentially with the announcement of the 1992 General Election by the Hon. Mr Joe Bossano, who triggered, as a result, the retirement from active politics of Mr

Canepa. What a pleasure it is for us on this side of the House, therefore, to now move the motion for Mr Canepa's return to Parliament. (*Applause*)

**Mr Presiding Member:** I now propose the question in the terms of the motion moved by the Hon. Chief Minister.

**Hon. P R Caruana:** It is a great privilege for me on behalf of the Opposition Members of the House to indicate our intention, as we have done publicly before today, to support this motion. Indeed, I am able to endorse everything that the Hon. the Chief Minister has said about the candidate, Adolfo Canepa, even though we have a disagreement with him about what he said about the mechanics for the appointment of the Presiding Officer, which we will not air on this occasion, so as not to tarnish or spoil, not just for Adolfo, but indeed for his family here present and indeed for this House, for which it is also a special occasion, the happy occasion that is his elevation to the Bench. Whatever we have to say on that mechanical matter can wait for another day.

As I say, I endorse what the Chief Minister has said about the attributes that so eminently qualify Adolfo Canepa to preside over this Chamber. It is not just because he has been a past Chief Minister and as such a leader of the Gibraltar Government and has held ministerial office, therefore not just because he has been an important part of the Executive of Gibraltar and has all the experience and all the understanding of Government and how Government works and will therefore be able to bring that to bear in the rulings and in the assessments that he makes, when this House tries to hold the Government to account as is its function; but also because, whilst a Member of this House, as a Member of Parliament, as opposed to a Member of the Government, he has sat on both its sides, both on the Government side and on the Opposition side. He therefore intrinsically understands both the needs that the Government side has for its work to be successfully done in this House, but he also I suspect has an intrinsic understanding of the needs that the Opposition side of the House has, in its no less important task of holding the Government to account. I have no doubt that Adolfo Canepa, when those political qualifications are added to his personal qualities, will be more than able to ensure that the way that he presides over this House will reflect that Parliament is not the Government; that Parliament is a different and separate institution from the Government; and that within this Parliament, the Government is not entitled to particular special treatment, even though, of course, the Speaker has to ensure the Government can do its business effectively, in steering its legislative programme through this House, but that the Parliament is a different and separate institution, in which both sides are entitled to the same equality and even-handedness of treatment, because what this House is is a Chamber of Members of Parliament. It is not a House of the Government and the Opposition; it is a Chamber of Members of Parliament, some of whom sit on the Government benches and others of whom sit on the Opposition benches.

In a more enlarged, indeed more developed Parliament, there would be a back bench on the Government side and they would be ordinary Members of Parliament, thereby emphasising the difference, which is sometimes lost in the context of our very small Parliament, where all the Members on the Government side are in the executive – that is to say, in the Government and all the Members on the Opposition side are on the Opposition front bench and there is no back bench on either side. That leads to a subconscious blurring of the essence that Parliament is a Chamber of Members of Parliament, each of whom is equal and each of whom is equal in the eyes of the duties of the Speaker to each other, because nobody is here other than in the capacity as a Member, some with executive responsibilities and others with the responsibilities to hold the executive to account.

Of course, it is inevitable that, whenever two parliamentarians have a disagreement, both feel that they are correct with equal measure of passion and certainty, and that it falls upon the Speaker to adjudicate between them, and that the person on the receiving end of an unfavourable Ruling is almost certainly left feeling a sense of grievance and a sense of wrong. That is fine. That is fine, so long as there is a balance in which the same party does not always end up on the losing side and the same party does not always end up on the winning side. I have not the remotest doubt in my mind that Adolfo Canepa is a man that is not only capable of presiding over this House in a way of which we will all approve, but that indeed will do so, as a matter of personal conviction and as a matter of personal desire.

I should just add, in conclusion, that we ourselves, I myself, tried to nominate Adolfo for the post of Speaker during a past term. It coincided with a less felicitous part of his life, in terms of things going on within his family, and he felt unable at that time to accept the invitation, but nevertheless, it is therefore a double delight for me to be able to support his appointment, at a time that is more convenient to him and his family circumstances.

I support the motion. (*Applause*)

**Mr Presiding Member:** If no other hon. Member wishes to speak, I will call on the mover to reply.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Presiding Member, a lot has been said by the hon. Gentleman with which I agree. I think the most important aspect of what he has said with which I agree, having sat on the Opposition Benches for eight years, is that all of us in this House are equal. All of us are Members of Parliament and nothing else, and I am delighted that that realisation has now alighted upon him and that we have no doubt also, on this side of the House, that because he has been on both sides of the House, but perhaps most importantly, because of his personal integrity, Adolfo Canepa will know how to rule on each occasion on which he is called upon to rule, in a manner that is in keeping with the Rules of this House, whoever and wherever the person that may be the subject of his Ruling may sit.

Mr Presiding Member, I think that the best way to approach the appointment of Adolfo Canepa is to thank the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition for confirming that this motion will pass with unanimity, because I think in that way we show in this Parliament that Adolfo Canepa enjoys the respect of the whole of the community for the job he is going to discharge from that Chair.

I would ask all Members of the House to note that, when we get a little bit hot under the collar and Mr Speaker, has to intervene, we should perhaps have less regard to how he rules, but rather to the fact that we have made him rule and perhaps we should have more pause for thought on those occasions ourselves.

**Mr Presiding Member:** I now put the question in the terms of the motion proposed by the Hon. Chief Minister. Those in favour. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

*The Presiding Member took his place on the Government benches.*

**Clerk:** Mr Speaker.

*There was applause as Mr Speaker, took the Chair.*

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE SPEAKER

**Clerk:** Oath of Allegiance of the Speaker, to the Hon. Adolfo John Canepa.

*The Chief Justice administered the Oath of Allegiance to Hon. A J Canepa as follows:*

**Mr Speaker:** I, Adolfo John Canepa do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her Heirs and Successors according to law, so help me God.

#### ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER

**Mr Speaker:** I wish to thank all hon. Members for, as it were, elevating me today to this high office, to a position that I had thought some years ago would never come my way. It is really a case of 'third time lucky', and I am overwhelmed by the realisation that I am here today amongst you, after an absence of nearly 21 years.

May I also thank very specially, the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition for their kind words when speaking on the motion.

All Members of Parliament are servants of the people and, to some extent, the Speaker is the servant of the servants of the people. I will therefore do everything that I can to help hon. Members in the conduct of their business in this House, whenever they seek my help and advice.

But I also have an almost sacred duty to the august institution that is Parliament. In this regard, I will strive to protect and defend the powers and privileges of Parliament and its Members, whenever that might become necessary. Above all, I pledge myself to uphold the dignity of this House and not to allow it to be brought into disrepute.

An important factor in this connection is, of course, the requirement to enforce the observance of all Rules and Standing Orders for ensuring and preserving the orderly conduct of its proceedings. I am confident that, in this respect, I will be able to count on the support and help of all hon. Members.

In conclusion, may I say that I count it a privilege to have been born in a democracy; a greater one to have already served in this place for 20 years; but the greatest privilege and honour is to be given the opportunity by hon. Members to preside over the business and deliberations of our Gibraltar Parliament.

Thank you. (*Applause*)

## Order of the Day

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### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES; DOCUMENTS LAID

**Clerk:** Confirmation of Minutes: the Minutes of the last meeting of Parliament which commenced on 19th September 2012 and ended on 28th September 2012.

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**Mr Speaker:** May I sign the Minutes as correct?

*Members voted Aye.*

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*Mr Speaker, signed the Minutes.*

**Clerk:** (iii) Communications from the Chair; (iv) Petitions; (v) Announcements; (vi) Papers to be laid. The Hon. the Minister for Justice.

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**Minister for Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Codes of Practice under section 690(2) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 2011.

**Mr Speaker:** Ordered to lie.

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**Clerk:** (vii) Reports of Committees; (viii) Answers to Oral Questions.

## Questions for Oral Answer

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### SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND YOUTH

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#### City Fire Brigade GHA Medical Priority Dispatch System

**Clerk:** Question 835/2012, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

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**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister with the responsibility for the City Fire Brigade commit himself to state when the Medical Priority Dispatch System of the GHA, linked in with the City Fire Brigade, will go live?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

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**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, discussions are currently in place between the Ministers of Health Service, Justice and Fire Brigade to discuss the best way forward to set up the Medical Priority Dispatch System.

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**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, was not the aim to implement the system and go live in October of this year? Could he explain, what has been the delay?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I am not aware that it was supposed to have been in October that it should have gone live.

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**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul Hammond:** Mr Speaker, could the Hon. Minister explain what the delay is in the system going live?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, as far as I am concerned, there is no delay at all.

260 **Mr Speaker:** Does the hon. Lady have any other supplementary?  
Next question.

265 **International Symposium on the ‘History of the Spanish Masonry’  
Government sponsorship**

**Clerk:** Question 836, the Hon. E J Reyes.

270 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Culture and Heritage provide details of his Ministry’s sponsorship of the International Symposium on the ‘History of the Spanish Masonry’ held in Gibraltar during the month of October 2012?

275 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the Ministry’s sponsorship for the International Symposium on the ‘History of the Spanish Masonry’ is £28,000. Government will be in a position to provide a breakdown and further information in due course.

280 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, may I ask the Minister, when he says this will be provided in due course, is it something he hopes or intends to publish on the web-site, or is it something that I should seek as a question in a future meeting?

285 **Hon. S E Linares:** Both, Mr Speaker, if he wants to. It will be on the website and I can even, if he asks the question in the next Parliament, I will answer it.

290 **Parson’s Lodge  
Works carried out**

**Clerk:** Question 837, the Hon. E J Reyes.

295 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Heritage provide details of all works carried out at Parson’s Lodge since January 2012, indicating the type of work, by whom undertaken and breakdown of costs?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

300 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Member opposite a detailed schedule of works carried out in Parson’s Lodge since the start in January 2012.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 837**

Works carried out at Parson’s Lodge since the start of January 2012.

CONTRACTOR	INV.DATE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS
J BALBAN ELECTRICAL	03/04/2012	£30.00	CHECK HEATER SUPPLY
K DESOIZA (PLUMBER)	16/04/2012	£1,270.00	REPLACE WATER HEATER & INSTALLATION OF INDIVIDUAL SHOWERS
GJBS LTD	20/07/2012	£140.00	REPAIRS TO WATER LEAK
J BALBAN ELECTRICAL	25/07/2012	£217.00	CHECK PORTABLE GENERATOR & AUXILIARIES, CHECK INSTALLATION & REPAIRS
GREENARC	30/07/2012	£350.00	SUPPLY POTS , DISHES, COMPOST & PLANTED FERNS ETC.
CIAP	13/08/2012	£125.00	SUPPLY & REPLACE DOOR LOCK - ENTRANCE
ABC CLEANING COMPANY	15/08/2012	£536.76	DEEP CLEANING PREMISES
ETB 1	15/08/2012	£550.00	REMOVE FLAKING PAINT & REPAINT EXTERIOR WALLS
	29/06/2012	£4,550.00	PAINT TERRACES, RAILING, WALL & REMOVE GRASS & BRANCHES - PHASE 1
	26/07/2012	£4,550.00	PAINT TERRACES, RAILING, WALL & REMOVE GRASS & BRANCHES - PHASE 2
	29/06/2012	£4,850.00	REPAIR RAILINGS & LOCKS,MANUFACTURE NEW STAIRS, PAINT ROOMS, DOORS, RAILING & REPLACE LOOSE TILES ON TERRACE
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£17,168.76</b>	

305 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can I ask the hon. Member as well, I notice one of the items being the removal of flaking paint and repainting exterior walls and so on: have these works been carried out under a licence issued, as required by legislation, by the Minister for Heritage?

310 **Hon. S E Linares:** No, Mr Speaker, because the actual scraping and re-painting is not on heritage walls. They are the actual place where all the people stay below, so it is not the actual Parson's Lodge, the one that needs painting, so there is no need for that.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** So, for clarification, those repair works entail parts of the site which are not necessarily the heritage building, strictly speaking?

315 **Hon. S E Linares:** Absolutely.

320 **Gibraltar Music Festival**  
**Payments to Axel Media and Word of Mouth**

**Clerk:** Question 838, the Hon. E J Reyes.

325 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Further to Question 708/2012, can the Minister for Culture now provide details of payments made, or committed to make, in favour of Axel Media and Word of Mouth in respect of the production and organisation of the Gibraltar Music Festival?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

330 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, full details of payments have not been finalised.

Government will be in a position to do so before the next Parliament session, if not before.

335 **Cultural Grants**  
**Details for financial year**

340 **Clerk:** Question 839, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Further to Question 709/2012, can the Minister for Culture now provide details of Cultural Grants made, or committed to make, this financial year?

345 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Member a schedule of the detailed information.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 839**

Cultural Grants made for this financial year.

Bayside & Westside Drama Group	1,000.00
Wildlife Ltd - accommodation and flights for Breed 77 concert held at Alameda Gardens	1,450.00
Mrs Gina Picardo – (Jordan Picardo's Cultural Grant)	6,000.00
Allegro Music Productions	2,000.00
Gibraltar Horticultural Society	500.00
Santos Productions	10,000.00
Gibraltar Re-Enactment Society	3,000.00
Kings Chapel Singers	1,675.00
Gibraltar Arts & Crafts Assoc.	1,500.00
Janice Felices	5,000.00
Simon Bolland	6,000.00
Rock on the Rock Club	2,000.00
Gibraltar Philharmonic Society	10,000.00
Danza Academy	12,000.00
Gibraltar Photographic Society	1,200.00
Guy Valarino	2,500.00
Gibraltar Sea Scouts Pipe Band	1,750.00
S J Byrne - M O Productions	21,550.00
	<u>£89,125.00</u>

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**Victoria Stadium  
Football pitch resurfacing works**

355 **Clerk:** Question 840, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports and Leisure provide details of the football pitch resurfacing works which are currently taking place at Victoria Stadium, inclusive of costs and completion dates?

360 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the works to resurface the synthetic turf pitch at the Victoria Stadium with a FIFA 2 Star system have already commenced. Expected duration of the works, weather permitting, is between four to six weeks.

365 The total cost of these works is estimated at approximately £300,000. Exact costs are not possible until the extent of the repairs, etc of the current turf is assessed.

The turf going to be installed is Limonta, the same supplier as the existing one.

370 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I am grateful for that, Mr Speaker.

When the Minister says that the completion date is estimated to be between four to six weeks, four to six weeks I take it probably from the commencement date and I would like a bit of greater detail on when it actually commenced.

I have seen for myself that the works have commenced, but I do not know *when* they actually commenced.

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**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the contractor has assured us that it would be four to six weeks from the commencement, so therefore we are now two weeks, the second week into the works. So I am hoping that it will then take two to four weeks as from now.

380 **Hon. E J Reyes:** May I add and ask the Hon. Minister, as an inevitable consequence of this, there has been obviously a delay in the commencement, for example, of the football league and so on. Would the Sports Authority be willing to contemplate greater use during weekends, for example Sundays, when traditionally there has not been as much use of the pitch, so that sporting associations do not lose out in the amount of time available by the end of the season?

385 In other words, if the football league has not been able to commence, in order to be able to squeeze in extra matches in the remaining weeks, would there be an extension of time available when the pitch may be booked?

390 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I hope that does not happen and the pitch is done on time. But should it happen, I am sure that if the associations make representation to the Sports and Leisure Authority, the Sports and Leisure Authority will be willing to accommodate whatever these sporting associations' needs are.

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**Europa Sports Ground  
Development exclusively for football**

400 **Clerk:** Question 841, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports and Leisure confirm to this House that it is Government's intention to develop the Europa Sports Ground exclusively for the sport of football?

405 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the Government is currently considering with stakeholders the different uses to which the Europa grounds may be put.

410 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, I have read in public statements from the Football Association, whereby they claim that the Europa Sports Ground will be exclusively developed for them. Is the Minister in a position to give or to confirm the veracity of that statement or otherwise?



**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman, having been Minister for Sport for some time, will understand the sensitivities of some of these issues. They are UEFA issues there, in relation to whether there will be an exclusive football facility at Europa.

I am quite happy to give him the information I have about that, behind the Speaker's Chair, at any time this morning, if he wishes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** I will take up the Chief Minister's offer and will discuss later.

**Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority  
Centre Manager vacancy**

**Clerk:** Question 842, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports and Leisure say as from when the post of Centre Manager within the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority has been vacant and by when it is expected that this position will be filled?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority will soon be publishing an advert for a vacancy for the post of Centre Manager. It is expected to be able to fill this post by no later than the end of January 2013.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, the first part of my question was 'as from when the post of Centre Manager of the Sports Authority has been vacant'. Perhaps the Minister has omitted that part in his reply?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the post of Centre Manager has been vacant... I think it was around June, when we took over the GASA swimming pool. Therefore, the Centre Manager at the time was moved to the pool and he became the Pool Manager. Therefore the vacancy started from when he moved to the pool and I think it was in June.

I can give him the exact date later on, but it was around June, when we took over the pool.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Is the Minister in a position to confirm that there has been at least another GSLA employee acting for the post of Centre Manager, since this vacancy arose in June?

**Hon. S E Linares:** As I understand it, yes.

**Cricket and rugby  
Discussion with associations re renewed facilities**

**Clerk:** Question 843, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports and Leisure state if he has, further to his answer given in Question 712/2012, held discussions with the Gibraltar Cricket Association and/or the Gibraltar Rugby Football Union in respect of the provision of renewed facilities for the playing, teaching and development of their respective sports and provide details of agreements reached?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, no further discussions have been held since my answer to Question 712/2012.

**Sports Grants  
Details of payments made**

**Clerk:** Question 844 the Hon. E J Reyes.

475 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports and Leisure provide details of payments made since his answer to Question 713/2012 in respect of 'Sports Grants' for the following: (a) Grants to Sporting Societies; (b) International Competitions; (c) Sports Development Projects; (d) Hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events?

480 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

485 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Member opposite the details requested in relation to payments made since my answer to Question 713/2012 in respect of 'Sports Grants'.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 844**

**(22) Grants to Sporting Societies**

Taekwondo – Competition and scoring systems	£6927.64
Hockey – Seniors Competition Portugal	£5000.00
Shooting Fed – Competition Jersey	£7000.00
Athletics – Competition in Helsinki	£1712.00
Triathlon – Competition Germany	£1000.00

**(23) International Competitions**

Nil.

**(24) Sports Development Projects**

Chess – Chess Champs UK	£1300.00
Yachting – Competition, Austria	£ 750.00
Ice Skating – Blackpool Open	£ 1096.50
Shooting Fed – Competition- Cardiff	£ 477.30
Ice Skating Schools Development	£ 550.00
Kendo Association - Junior Development resources	£ 337.69
Taekwondo Competition -	£ 6927.24

**(25) Hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events**

Virtual promotions	£1950.00
RGYC Regatta	£6000.00
Strong Man League Competitors - accommodation	£3825.00

490 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, in this schedule under sub-head (25), Hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events, the £1,950 payment made to 'Virtual promotions': can I have a bit further clarification in respect of what sporting or leisure event that could pertain?

**Hon. S E Linares:** At this moment in time, no, Mr Speaker, but I will find out for him.

495 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I can accept the Minister does not have it there... Can I take that as a commitment that the Hon. Minister will write to me or perhaps table at some stage in this Parliament, when he does have the information available?

**Hon. S E Linares:** I will do it this morning.

500

**Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority  
Bookings for facilities**

505 **Clerk:** Question 845, the Hon. E J Reyes.

510 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Further to his answer to Question 715/2012, is the Minister for Sport now in a position to provide this House with details of fixed bookings and/or allocations made to sporting bodies in respect of all facilities managed or administered by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority for the 2012-13 season which has already commenced?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

515

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Yes, Mr Speaker, we are now in a position, and I now hand over to the hon. Member opposite a detailed schedule of the information requested. I hope he enjoys reading it.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 845**

Fixed bookings and/or allocations made to sporting bodies in respect of all facilities managed or administered by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority season 2012/2013.

**(1) ARCHERY**

Day	Time	Association /School
Monday	9.00 – 3.30pm	School Use
	4.00 – 6.00pm	Gib Rugby Union
	6.00 - Daylight	Special Olympics
Tuesday	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	4.00 – 6.00	Gib Rugby Union
Wednesday	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 - Daylight	Free for allocation
Thursday	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	4.00 – 6.00	Gib Rugby Union
Friday	9.00 – 3.30	Free for allocation
	3.30 - Daylight	Free for allocation

**(2) BAYSIDE SCHOOL HALL**

DAY	TIME	ASSOCIATION/SCHOOL
MON	6.00 – 7.30pm	Gibfit
	7.30 – 9.00pm	
	9.15 – 11pm	Gibyellows Stars Basketball
TUES	6.00– 7.30pm	Gibfit
	7.30 – 9.00pm	Valmar Redwood
	9.15 – 11.00pm	
WED	6.00– 8.00pm	Special Olympics - Boccia
	9.15 – 11.00pm	
THURS	6.00– 7.30pm	Gibfit
	7.30 – 9.00pm	Helene's Fitness Group
	9.15 – 11.00pm	Valmar Redwood
FRI	6.00– 7.30pm	
	7.30 – 9.00pm	Fitness Training
SAT		FREE FOR ALLOCATION
SUN		FREE FOR ALLOCATION

(3) BAYSIDE SCHOOL OUTDOOR

Day	Time	Game	Team
MON	6.00 - 7.15 pm	Football	Maccabi Juniors
	7.15 - 8.30pm	Football	Glacis Utd
	8.30 - 9.45pm	Football	Lincoln FC
TUES	6.00 - 7.15pm	Football	Lions FC
	7.15 - 8.30pm	Football	Manchester Utd
	8.30 - 9.45pm	Football	St Josephs
WED	6.00 - 7.15pm	Football	Lincoln FC
	7.15 - 8.30pm	Football	Lions FC
	8.30 - 9.45pm	Football	College Cosmos
THURS	6.00 - 7.15pm	Football	Manchester Utd
	7.15 - 8.30pm	Football	St Josephs
	8.30 - 9.45pm	Football	Glacis Utd
FRI	6.00 - 7.15pm	Football	Glacis Utd
	7.15 - 8.30pm	Football	Lions FC
	8.30 - 9.45pm	Football	FREE FOR ALLOCATION

(4) BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL

DAY	TIME	SPORT	ORGANISATION
MON	6pm - 8pm	Calanetic	Calanetic Club
	8pm - 10pm	Taekwondo	Gib Taekwondo Assoc
TUES	6pm - 8pm	Calanetic	Calanetic Club
	8pm - 10pm	Taekwondo	Gib Taekwondo Assoc
WED	6pm - 10pm	Taekwondo	Gib Taekwondo Assoc
THURS	6pm - 8pm	Calanetic	Calanetic Club
	8pm - 10pm	Taekwondo	Gib Taekwondo Assoc
FRI	6pm - 10pm	Taekwondo	Gib Taekwondo Assoc

(5) GIBRALTAR COLLEGE – JOHN MACKINTOSH HALL GYM

Day	Time	Game	Team
Mon	6 – 8pm	Fitness	Fitness Training
	8 – 10pm		FREE ALLOCATION
Tues	6 – 8pm	Dance	GNDO
	8 – 10pm		FREE ALLOCATION
Wed	6 – 8pm	Fitness	Fitness Training
	8 – 10pm		FREE ALLOCATION
Thurs	6 – 8pm		FREE ALLOCATION
	8 – 10pm		FREE ALLOCATION
Fri	6 – 8pm	Dance	GNDO
	8 – 10pm		FREE ALLOCATION
Sat			FREE ALLOCATION
Sun			FREE ALLOCATION

(6) GOVERNOR'S MEADOW SCHOOL

DAY	TIME	GAME	ORGANISATION
MON	6pm – 9pm	Fitness Class	N. Martinez Fitness
TUES	6pm – 9pm	Fitness Class	N. Martinez Fitness
WED	6pm – 9pm	Fitness Class	Helene's Fitness
THURS	6pm – 9pm	Fitness Class	N. Martinez Fitness
FRI	6pm – 9pm		FREE ALLOCATION

(7) HARGRAVES

Day	Time	Game	Team
Mon	4.00 to 5pm	Football	Gibraltar Secondary Boys School
	5pm to daylight	Football	Lincoln
Tues	4.00 to 5pm	Football	Gibraltar Secondary Boys School
	5pm to daylight	Football	Man United
Wed	5pm to daylight	Football	St Josephs
Thur	5pm to daylight	Football	College
Fri	5pm to daylight	Football	Lions
Sat			FREE ALLOCATION
Sun			FREE ALLOCATION

**(8) HOCKEY TRAINING JUNIOR PITCH**

DAY	TIME	ASSOCIATION / SCHOOL
MON	9.00 – 3.30pm	School Use
	3.30 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
TUES	9.00 – 12.30	School Use
	3.30 - DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
WED	9.00 – 10.00	School Use
	10.00 – 12.30	School Use
	3.30 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
THURS	9.00 – 10.00	School Use
	10.00 – 11.00	
	11.00 – 3.30	
	3.30 –DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
FRI	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
SAT	9.00 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
SUN	9.00 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association

**(9) MAIN HOCKEY PITCH**

DAY	TIME	ASSOCIATION / SCHOOL
MON	9.00 – 10.00	School Use
	10.00 – 12.30	School Use
	12.30 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – 5.00	Gibraltar Hockey Association
	5.00 – DAYLIGHT	
TUES	9.00 – 12.30	School Use
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 - DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
WED	9.00 – 10.00	School Use
	10.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
THURS	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 –DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
FRI	9.00 – 1.30	School Use
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
SAT	9.00 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association
SUN	9.00 – DAYLIGHT	Gibraltar Hockey Association

(10) VICTORIA STADIUM MAIN PITCH

DAY	TIME	ASSOCIATION / SCHOOL	REMARKS
MON	9.00 – 10.00	Maintenance	
	10.00 – 3.30	School Use	
	3.30 – 5.00	Bayside School	Inter House
	6.00 – 7.30	GAAA Athletics Track	
	5.00 – 6.00	Junior Pitches	(Behind Main Pitch goals)
	5.00 – 9.45	GFA Football Matches	
TUES	9.00 – 12.30	School Use	
	12.30 – 2.30	Maintenance	
	2.30 – 3.30	School Use	
	3.30 – 5.00	Bayside School	Inter House
	6.00 – 7.30	GAAA Athletics	
	5.00 – 6.00	Junior Pitches free for Allocations	(Behind Main Pitch goals)
WED	5.00 – 9.45	GFA Football Matches	
	9.00 – 10.00	School Use	
	10.00 – 1.30	Maintenance	
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use	
	3.30 – 5.00	Bayside School	Inter House
	5.00 – 6.00	Junior Pitch free for Allocation	(Behind Main Pitch goals)
THURS	5.00 – 9.45	GFA Football Matches	
	6.00 – 7.30	GAAA Athletics Track	
	9.00 – 12.30	School Use	
	12.30 – 1.30	Maintenance	
	1.30 – 2.35	School Use	
	2.35 – 4.00	Maintenance	
FRI	4.00 – 5.00	Bayside School	
	5.00 – 6.00	Junior Pitches free for allocation	(Behind Main Pitch goals)
	6.00 – 7.30	GAAA Athletics Track	
	5.00 – 9.45	GFA Football Matches	
	3.30 – 5.00	GFA Football Junior Development	
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use	
SAT	12.30 – 1.30	Maintenance	
	9.00 – 1.00	GFA JNR Football	
SUN	1.30 – 9.45	GFA Football Matches	
	9.00 – 11.00	GAAA Athletics Track	
	9.00 – 2.00	GFA Matches	
	2.00 – 4.00	Maintenance	
	4.00 – 8.30	GFA Matches	

(11) VICTORIA STADIUM SPORTS HALL

DAY	TIME	ASSTN/SCHOOL
<b>MON</b>	10.00 – 1.00	School Use
	12.30 – 1.30	School Use
	1.30 – 3.30	SDU
	3.30 – 8.00	Rhythmic Gymnastics
	8.30 – 11.00	GTTA ½ Hall / Badminton Bookings ½ hall
<b>TUES</b>	9.00 – 12.30	SCHOOL USE
	12.30 – 1.30	BAYSIDE SCHOOL 5 –A – SIDE
	1.30 – 3.30	SCHOOL USE
	3.30 – 8.00	Rhythmic Gymnastics
	6.00 – 8.00	GTTA ½ Hall
	8.30 – 11.00	Netball Association
<b>WED</b>	9.00 – 12.30	SCHOOL USE
	12.30 – 1.30	BAYSIDE SCHOOL 5 –A – SIDE
	1.30 – 3.30	SCHOOL USE
	3.30 – 11.00	GIBRALTAR NETBALL ASSOCIATION
<b>THURS</b>	9.00 – 11.30	SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UNIT (Aerobics)
	11.30 – 1.30	SCHOOL USE
	1.30 – 3.30	SCHOOL USE
	3.30 – 6.00	GIBRALTAR BOYS SECONDARY SCHOOL
	6.15 – 8.15	GIBRALTAR BADMINTON ASSTN
	8.30 – 11.00	GIBRALTAR BADMINTON ASSTN
<b>FRI</b>	9.00 – 12.30	SCHOOL USE
	12.30 – 1.30	BAYSIDE SCHOOL
	1.30 – 3.30	SCHOOL USE
	3.30 – 8.00	RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS
	8.30 – 9.30	BADMINTON BOOKINGS
	9.40 – 11.00	PUBLIC BOOKINGS
<b>SAT</b>	9.00 -1.00	Rhythmic Gymnastics
	1.30-2.30	Badminton Bookings
	3.00 – 5.00	Special Olympics
	5.30 – 11.00pm	PUBLIC BOOKINGS
<b>SUN</b>	9.00 – 10.50pm	PUBLIC BOOKINGS



(12) PITCH No. 2

DAY	TIME	ASSOCIATION / SCHOOL
MON	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – 9.30	GFA
TUES	9.00 – 12.30	School Use
	12.30 – 2.30	School Use
	2.30 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – 9.30	GFA
WED	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – 5.00	GFRU
	5.00 – 9.30	GFA
THURS	9.00 – 12.30	School Use
	12.30 – 1.30	School Use
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – 9.30	GFA
FRI	9.00 – 3.30	School Use
	3.30 – 9.30	GFA
SAT	9.00 – 9.30	GFA
SUN	10.00 – 1.00	GFRU
	1.00 – 5.00	FREE ALLOCATION

(13) QUEENSWAY TENNIS COURTS

DAY	TIME	GAME	TEAM
MON	4pm – 9pm	TENNIS	Gibraltar Tennis Association
TUES	4pm – 9pm	TENNIS	Gibraltar Tennis Association
WED	4pm – 9pm	TENNIS	Gibraltar Tennis Association
THURS	4pm – 9pm	TENNIS	Gibraltar Tennis Association
FRI	4pm – 9pm	TENNIS	Gibraltar Tennis Association
SAT	10 – 1pm 2pm – Daylight	TENNIS	Gibraltar Tennis Association FREE FOR BOOKINGS
SUN	10.00 – Daylight		FREE FOR BOOKINGS

(14) ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL SPORTS HALL

Day	Time	Game	Team
Mon	6 – 11PM	Netball	GNA
Tues	6 – 11pm	Basketball	GABBA
Wed	6 – 11pm	Badminton	GBA (Leagues & Dev 4 Crts)
Thurs	6 – 11pm	Basketball	GABBA
Fri	6 – 11pm	Basketball	GABBA

(15) ST. JOSEPH'S MIDDLE SCHOOL

Day	Time	Game	Team
Mon	6 – 9pm	Badminton	GBA
	9 – 11pm	GKKA	Gibraltar Kendo Kenjutsu Association (Martial Arts)
Tues	6 – 11pm	Netball	GNA
Wed	6 – 7.15pm	Netball	888.com
	7.15 – 8.30pm	Netball	Natwest Bells
	8.30 – 9.45pm	Netball	Stan James
	9.45 – 11pm	Netball	MSE Consulting
Thurs	6 – 11pm	Netball	GNA
Fri	6 – 7pm	Badminton	Badminton Association
	7 – 8 pm	Badminton	
	8 – 9 pm	Badminton	Badminton Association
	9 – 10 pm		
	10 – 11pm		

(16) ST. JOSEPH'S FIRST SCHOOL – SPORTS HALL

Day	Time	Game	Team
MON	6 – 9pm	Badminton	GBA
TUES	6 – 9pm	GKKKA	Gibraltar Kendo Kenjutsu Association (Martial Art)
WED	6 – 9pm	Rhythmic Gymnastics	GRGA
THURS	6 – 9pm	Rhythmic Gymnastics	GRGA
FRI	6 – 10pm	Cheerleading	Cheerleading Association

(17) TERCENTENARY SPORTS HALL

DAY	TIME	ASSOCIATION/SCHOOL	COURT 1	COURT 2
MON	10.00 – 12.30	School Use		
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use		
	3.30 – 5.00pm	Bayside & Bishop Fitz Schools		
	5.00 – 6.30pm	GABBA Jnrs.		
	7.00 – 11.00	GABBA / Gib Volleyball Assoc.	GABBA	GVA
TUE	9.00– 12.30	School Use		
	12.30 – 1.30	School Use		
	2.30 – 3.30	School Use		
	3.30 – 5.00	Bayside / Sacred Heart Schools		
	5.00 – 6.30	GABBA Jnrs.		
	7.00 – 11.00	GABBA / Gib Volleyball Assoc.	GABBA	GVA
WED	9.00 – 10.00	School Use		
	10.00 – 1.30	School Use		
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use		
	3.30 – 9.00	GABBA		
	9.00 – 11.00	GABBA / Gib Volleyball Assoc.	GABBA	GVA
THU	9.00 – 12.30	School Use		
	1.30 – 3.30	School Use		
	3.30 – 5.00	Bayside Badminton Club		
	5.30 – 11.00	GNA		
FRI	9.00 – 12.30	Bayside School		
	1.30 – 3.30	Bayside School		
	3.30 – 5.00	GABBA/ Badminton club		
	5.15 – 7.00	Netball Jnrs / Squads		
	7.15 – 11.00	GABBA / Gib Volleyball Assoc.	GABBA	GVA
SAT	9.00 – 12.00	Mini Basket Ball		
	1.00 – 5.00	GABBA		
	9.30 – 11.00			
SUN	9.00 – 2.00	GABBA		
	2.00 – 3.00	FREE FOR ALLOCATION		
	3.00 – 4.00	FREE FOR ALLOCATION		
	4.00 – 5.00	FREE FOR ALLOCATION		
	5.00 – 6.00	FREE FOR ALLOCATION		
	6 – 11PM	GBA		

(18) TERCENTENARY SPORTS CENTRE – STUDIO

Day	Time	Association / School
Mon	4.00 – 6.00PM	FREE FOR ALLOCATION
	6.00 – 8.00PM	Boxercise
	8.00 – 10.00PM	FREE FOR ALLOCATION
Tues	4.00 – 6.00PM	
	6.00 – 8.00PM	Cowgirls & Kisses
	8.00 – 10.00PM	
Wed	4.00 – 6.00PM	Gibraltar Cheerleading Association
	6.00 – 8.00PM	Rock Kickers
	8.00 – 10.00PM	Rock Kickers
Thurs	4.00 – 6.00PM	Gibraltar Cheerleading Association
	6.00 – 8.00PM	Gibraltar Cheerleading Association
	8.00 – 10.00PM	Boxercise
Fri	4.00 – 6.00PM	FREE FOR ALLOCATION
	6.00 – 8.00PM	FREE FOR ALLOCATION
	8.00 – 10.30PM	Sequence Dance
Sat	09.00 – 12.00PM	Cheerleading Association

(19) WESTSIDE SCHOOL SPORTS HALL

Day	Time	Game	Team
Mon	6 – 8pm	Netball	Gibraltar Netball Association
	8 – 11pm	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association
Tues	6 – 11pm	Badminton	Gibraltar Badminton Association
Wed	6 – 8pm	Table Tennis	Gibraltar Table Tennis Association
	8 – 9pm	Cricket	Gibraltar Cricket Association
	9 – 10pm	Cricket	Gibraltar Cricket Association
	10 – 11pm	Cricket	Gibraltar Cricket Association
Thurs	6 – 11pm	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association
Fri	6 – 11pm	Cricket	Gibraltar Cricket Association

## (20) WESTSIDE SCHOOL OUTDOOR PITCH

Day	Time	Game	Team
Mon	6 – 8pm	Football	St Josephs
	8 – 9pm	Football	Lincoln
	9 – 10pm (1)	Football	Leo Parilla
	9 – 10pm (2)	Football	Customs FC
	10 – 11pm (1)	Football	Quick Fit
	10 – 11pm (2)	Football	Boca Juniors
Tues	6 – 8pm	Football	Lincoln
	8 – 9pm	Football	Man United
	9 – 10pm (1)	Football	St Josephs
	9 – 10pm (2)	Football	Glacis Utd
	10 – 11pm (1)	Football	Lions FC
	10 – 11pm (2)	Football	Fc Britannia
Wed	6 – 8pm	Football	Man United
	8 – 9pm	Football	Glacis Utd
	9 – 10pm (1)	Football	Cannons Fc
	9 – 10pm (2)	Football	Sporting Saints
	10 – 11pm (1)	Football	Lions FC
	10 – 11pm (2)	Football	Chelsea
Thurs	6 – 8pm	Football	Lions FC
	8 – 9pm	Football	St Josephs
	9 – 10pm (1)	Football	College Cosmos
	9 – 10pm (2)	Football	Britannia
	10 – 11pm	Football	Glacis United
Fri	6 – 8pm	Football	College Cosmos
	8 – 9pm	Football	Special Olympics
	8 – 9pm (1)	Football	FC Hound Dogs
	8 – 9pm (2)	Football	HMP
	9 – 10pm (1)	Football	RGP
	9 – 10pm (2)	Football	GHA
	10 – 11pm (1)	Football	
	10 – 11pm (2)	Football	Ambulance

(21) 25 METRE GASA SWIMMING POOL

TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
7.30 – 10am	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	9am – 3pm	CLOSED
10.00 – 12.30	----- SCHOOL USE ----- -----					GASA + Waterpolo	
12.30 – 5pm	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	PUBLIC USE	3pm – 5pm Public Use	
	4pm – 5pm Special Olympics	4pm – 5pm 1 Lane DSSGG	4pm – 5pm 1 Lane DSSGG	4pm – 5pm Special Olympics	4pm – 5pm 1 Lane DSSGG	1 Lane DSSGG	
5.00 – 10.15pm	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	

(22) POOL FOR THE ELDERLY, DISABLED AND TEACHING

TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
9 – 10am	School Use	PAAMOA	Pool Maintenance	School Use	School use	GHA Parent & baby	CLOSED
10am – 12	St Martins	Elderly exclusively					
12 – 1pm	GHA Parent & baby	GHA Parent & baby	GHA Parent & baby	GHA Parent & baby	Sports Dev	Elderly Exclusively	
1 – 2pm	St Martins	School Use		PAAMOA	PAAMOA		
2 – 3pm				Ladies Only			
				School Use 1.30 – 2.15			
		PAAMOA					
3 – 4pm	GASA Mother & Toddler	GASA Mother & Toddler	GASA Mother & Toddler	Disabled Exclusively	GHA Parent & baby	Disabled Exclusively	
4 – 5pm					GASA Mother & Toddler		Disabled Exclusively
5 – 7.30pm	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	CLOSED	

(23) THE MOUNT TENNIS COURT

DAY	TIME	GAME	TEAM
MON	9.00 am to Daylight	Tennis	Gibraltar Tennis Association
TUES	9.00 am to Daylight	Tennis	Gibraltar Tennis Association
WED	9.00 am to Daylight	Tennis	Gibraltar Tennis Association
THURS	9.00 am to Daylight	Tennis	Gibraltar Tennis Association
FRI	9.00 am to Daylight	Tennis	Gibraltar Tennis Association
SAT	10.00AM - daylight	FREE FOR BOOKINGS	
SUN	10.00AM - daylight	FREE FOR BOOKINGS	

(24) WESTSIDE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COURT

Day	<u>Time</u>	Game	Team
Mon	4pm onwards	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association
Tue	4pm onwards	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association
Wed	4pm onwards	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association
Thurs	4pm onwards	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association
Fri	4pm onwards	Volleyball	Gibraltar Volleyball Association

**(25) KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE ICE RINK**

Day	Time	Organisation
Mon	9.00am-6.00pm	Public Skating
	6.00 – 9.00pm	Gibraltar Rock Stars Figure Skating Club
	9.00pm-11.00pm	Public Skating
Tues	9.00am- 4.30pm	Public Skating
	4.30-7pm	Gibraltar Ice Skating Association Learn to Skate Programme
	7.00pm-11.00pm	Public Skating
Wed	9.00am-6.00pm	Public Skating
	6.00-9.00pm	Rock Ice Skating Academy
	9.00pm-11.00pm	Public Skating
Thurs	9.00am-4.30pm	Public Skating
	4.30pm-7.00pm	Gibraltar Ice Skating Association Learn to Skate Programme
	7.00pm-11.00pm	Public Skating
Fri	9.00am-11.00pm	Public Skating
Sat	9.15am-12.15pm	Gibraltar Rock Stars Figure Skating Club
	12.15pm-11.00pm	Public Skating
Sun	9.15am-12.15pm	Rock Ice Skating Academy
	12.15pm-11.00pm	Public Skating



**(26) KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE RECREATIONAL SUITES**

DAY	Suite No	Time	Organisation
Mon	1	10.00 – 12.30	Yoga Group Session
		3.30 – 5.30	Sing & Sign Baby Classes
		6.30 – 8.30	Tai Chi Class
		8.30 – 10.00	Salsa Class
	2	10.00 – 12.30	Yoga Group Session
		5.00 – 7.00	Tango Classes
	4	10.00 – 4.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		6.00 – 8.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		8.30 – 11.00	Rock Fusion Dance Group
	5	4.00 – 7.00	Gib's Got Talent (upto 22/10/12)
		8.30 – 11.00	Rock Fusion Dance Group
Tues	1	6.00 – 7.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
	2	6.30 – 8.30	Tai Chi Class
	4	2.00 – 4.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		6.00 – 8.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
	5	4.00 – 7.00	Gib's Got Talent (upto 23/10/12)
		3.00 – 5.00	Pop up Theatre (from 6/11/12 to 4/12/12) Re-start in January 2013
Wed	1	4.00 – 7.00	Gib's Got Talent (upto 24/10/12)
		8.30 – 10.00	Salsa Class
	2	10.00 – 11.00	Yoga Class
		5.00 – 7.00	Tango Class
		7.30 – 9.30	Salsa and Latin Dance Class
	4	2.00 – 3.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		6.00 – 8.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		8.00 – 11.00	Table Soccer
	5	10.00 – 6.30	Weight Loss Challenge
		7.00 – 9.30	Group Meditations (Shri Ram Chandra Mission)
Thurs	1	10.00 – 12.30	Yoga Group Session
		3.30 – 5.30	Sing & Sign Baby Classes
		6.30 – 8.30	Tai Chi Class
		8.30 – 10.00	Salsa Class
	2	10.00 – 12.30	Yoga Group Session (re-start on 11/10/12)
		3.00 – 5.00	Pop Up Theatre (from 8/11/12 to 6/12/12 – restart in January 2013)
		6.00 – 8.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		8.00 – 10.00	Gibraltar Slimming Club
	4	4.00 – 10.00	Calpe Chess Club (Junior Elite Section)
		10.00 – 4.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
	5	4.00 – 8.00	Calpe Chess Club (Junior Elite Section)
		8.00 – 11.00	Rock Fusion Dance Group

**(27) CONTD. KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE RECREATIONAL SUITES**

Fri	1	10.00 – 11.30	Yoga Class
	2	10.00 – 3.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
		6.00 – 8.00	Connect Counselling Services Agency
	5	4.00 – 7.00	Gib's Got Talent (upto 26/10/12)
Sat	2	4.00 – 7.00	Gib's Got Talent (upto 27/10/12)
	4	10.00 – 1.00	Creative Works
		4.00 – 9.00	Warhammer Club
	5	10.00 – 1.00	Creative Works
		4.00 – 9.00	Warhammer Club

**Hon. E J Reyes:** I am very grateful for this schedule, which obviously requires some time to look further, but it has come to my notice in a quick perusal, Mr Speaker, in the Estimate Book, there is a responsibility assigned to the Sports and Leisure Authority for the Old Garrison Gymnasium and yet there is no schedule here that comes under the heading of the Garrison Gymnasium, therefore I have no first sight of indication of any allocation made in respect of that particular asset.

**Hon. S E Linares:** Well, Mr Speaker, the fact is, as he well knows – he was the Minister for Sport – that the Garrison Gymnasium is under the auspices of GABA and therefore all the allocations that are appertaining to the Garrison Gymnasium are to do with GABA.

He has asked for the allocations; he has not asked for specific amounts as to how much the expenditure is. This is a completely different question. Had he asked what the expenditure was and where that money goes – and I am sure he already knows where it does go – I would have supplied it to him.

530 But the fact is that the Garrison Gymnasium is under the auspice of GABA and all the allocations, which is the question that he has asked, are GABA's.

535 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, my question was, I wanted details of fixed bookings and allocations. What I now interpret from the supplementary answer offered by the Minister is that the Garrison Gymnasium, lock, stock and barrel, is assigned to GABA who then in turn may sub-allocate out or whatever. At least, I think I now have that confirmation that the Garrison Gymnasium is a fixed allocation given to GABA – is that not the case?

540 **Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Mr Speaker, it continues to be, from many years ago, actually – I think it was transferred by the previous administration, way back in 1998 or 2000. So yes, it does continue to be.

**Mr Speaker:** I take it that 'GABA' means the Gibraltar Amateur Basketball Association.

**Hon. S E Linares:** Gibraltar Amateur Basketball Association.

545 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, I am not trying to [*inaudible*] I think I now have the reply. It continues to be, therefore I can confirm or I take the Minister is confirming that for the 2012-13 season, as in previous years, it is allocated to GABA. (**Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Sir) That suffices, Mr Speaker.

550

## EQUALITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

555

### Care Agency New Chief Executive Officer

**Clerk:** Question 879, the Hon. J J Netto.

560 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Social Services confirm that Mr Albert Bruzon is the new Chief Executive Officer of the Care Agency and if so, whether this is on a permanent basis or for a specified period in time?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Equality and Social Services.

565 **Minister for Equality and Social Services (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento):** Mr Speaker, Mr Bruzon has been seconded to the Care Agency to carry out the functions of the CEO for a period of 12 to 18 months.

570 **Hon. J J Netto:** Is it the view, perhaps, of the Minister that, following the secondment between 12 to 18 months, Mr Bruzon will then perhaps become the permanent Chief Executive Officer; or perhaps the Minister is thinking that the position itself will be trawled either internally within the Care Agency or perhaps even externally as well?

575 **Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** Mr Speaker, any post for any permanent appointment position, Mr Speaker, would be advertised. It would not be assumed that anyone would fill any permanent post.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Can I just clarify when the hon. Lady says 'advertise', it means advertise within the Care Agency or advertise in Gibraltar PLC?

580 **Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** Mr Speaker, at this stage, it is too early to say.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Can I just ask a further supplementary question, Mr Speaker?

**Mr Speaker:** Yes.

585 **Hon. J J Netto:** Given that we have a situation where there was somebody acting on that particular post, I think almost round about the time of the last Election, so obviously that particular person... Sorry, it seems that my voice needs to get a bit...

I am just thinking that given the fact that there was somebody already acting on the job, presumably that person has now reverted back to their substantive position and Mr Bruzon is now acting on a seconded purpose.

Is there any particular reason or review that Mr Bruzon will be conducting over this particular period for which he has been seconded, that perhaps the other person who had been acting for round about 12 months could not have done?

**Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** Mr Speaker, the person who was acting in post when we came into Government has been acting for a period of approximately 10 months. I understand, when that person was appointed to be acting was asked to act for a couple of months. There was then a transition in Government and I asked that person to stay on a little bit longer for purposes of continuity.

That person approached me and said that she wanted to stand down from the post and, on that basis, Mr Bruzon was seconded to cover.

## HOUSING AND THE ELDERLY

### Empty flats

#### Breakdown of repairs awaited

**Clerk:** Question 880, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Housing state how many flats are currently empty and awaiting repairs, giving a breakdown in respect of: (a) pre-war and post-war homes; (b) flat size composition; (c) dates from when these homes have been empty; and (d) nature of repairs required to be undertaken?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and the Elderly.

**Minister for Housing and the Elderly (Hon. C A Bruzon):** Yes, Mr Speaker, the information requested is available in Tables H30 and H31 on the Government's website as part of the On-Line Monthly Statistics.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, I may require a bit of guidance from you in this respect. When the deadline arose to give notice of Questions for this session of Parliament, that table was not actually available then. So therefore, Mr Speaker, I had of necessity to pose this Question, in order to obtain the answer.

The publication has appeared since I gave notice of the Question, so is it not the case that, although they are available on line, the Hon. Minister is obliged to provide that information now in this House?

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, if I may be of assistance. The Government would accept that the moment when information is deemed to be public for the purposes of whether or not an Opposition Member can ask a question about publicly available information in this House is the moment when the deadline for putting Questions expires and that if a table has not been published on-line by then, then the hon. Member is entitled to ask the question and he is entitled to have that information given to him in the House.

So if that makes your role easier in respect of this Ruling, the Government would accept that. It is only matters which are public at the time that the deadline for posing Questions expires, that you cannot ask questions about and you do not get the information on, so if that particular table was not uploaded in the lexicon at the time that the deadline for Questions passed, then the hon. Gentleman should have it in this House. If it is not available here today – which it appears it is – he would have it brought to him.

**Hon. C A Bruzon:** Mr Speaker, as it happens, I have the information which we drew out of the website. I am happy to pass it over to the hon. Gentleman.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I am grateful for that – the problem being that unless the Minister tables it now and I have a look at it, had there been a need to make a supplementary, then I cannot legitimately introduce some sort of questioning that has had no due notice given.

So I will have a quick look at the tables and confirm to you in a second, Mr Speaker, whether there is a need or not for a supplementary.

650 **Mr Speaker:** The only problem is of course that information will not be recorded in *Hansard*. The information which has just been handed over by the Hon. the Minister may not be recorded in *Hansard* because it has not been as scheduled to the answer.

655 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, if I may be of assistance, when this has happened in the past – and I think it is before our time – when the hon. Members used to pass tables, much more frequently than we do now because now the information is published, there were occasions when the tables were passed not in answer to a Question, but in answer to a supplementary. I believe the practice of the House then was to have a copy made available to it of the table and to record it as part of the *Hansard* when published with the supplementary, unless the Leader of the Opposition has any views to the contrary, I am happy for that process to continue.

660 **Mr Speaker:** If that continues to be, I am sure there will be no problem in trying to arrange for that to continue to be the case. It makes sense.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The information provided suffices for now.

Table H.30

**Number of pre-war and post-war empty flats for cleaning/refurbishment by room composition**

Composition	Refurbishment Technical Decision		Cleaning		Total
	Pre-War	Post-War	Pre-War	Post-War	
6RKB	3	-	-	-	3
5RKB	3	-	-	-	3
4RKB	14	7	1	-	22
3RKB	27	26	3	1	57
2RKB	16	7	-	1	24
1RKB	4	9	1	-	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>123</b>

*Updated 15 October 2012**Source: Ministry for Housing and the Elderly***Number of pre-war and post-war empty flats for cleaning/refurbishment by room composition**

Composition	Refurbishment Technical Decision		Cleaning		Total
	Pre-War	Post-War	Pre-War	Post-War	
6RKB	3	-	-	-	3
5RKB	3	-	-	-	3
4RKB	15	6	-	-	21
3RKB	25	8	2	3	38
2RKB	17	9	-	3	29
1RKB	4	6	1	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>106</b>

*Updated 3 September 2012**Source: Ministry for Housing and the Elderly*

## Number of pre-war and post-war empty flats for cleaning/refurbishment by room composition

Composition	Refurbishment Technical Decision		Cleaning		Total
	Pre-War	Post-War	Pre-War	Post-War	
6RKB	3	-	-	-	3
5RKB	3	0	-	-	3
4RKB	16	5	1	-	22
3RKB	25	25	4	-	54
2RKB	15	12	1	-	28
1RKB	4	7	-	-	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>121</b>

Updated 26 July 2012

Source: Ministry for Housing and the Elderly

Table H.31

## Number of empty flats awaiting refurbishment/cleaning per year and room composition

Composition	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	Total
6RKB	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
5RKB	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
4RKB	2	11	3	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	22
3RKB	16	30	6	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	57
2RKB	6	10	4	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	24
1RKB	4	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>123</b>

Updated 15 October 2012

Source: Ministry for Housing and the Elderly

665

### Housing Waiting Lists Allocations since Q773/2012

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**Clerk:** Question 882, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Housing state how many applicants on the Government's Housing Waiting Lists have, since his answer to Question 773/2012, been allocated a flat, giving a breakdown of the size of home as well as indicating if they pertained to either the Social or Medical Waiting Lists category?

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**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and the Elderly.

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**Minister for Housing and the Elderly (Hon. C A Bruzon):** Mr Speaker, since the answer given to Question 773/2012, 31 applicants have been allocated a flat, of which two pertained to the Medical List and eight to the Social List.

I will now hand over to the hon. Member the details on the printed sheets that I am offering him.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 882**

Since the answer given to Question No. 773 of 2012, 31 applicants have been allocated a flat of which, two pertained to the Medical List and eight to the Social List.

The breakdown of the 31 applicants who have been allocated a flat is as follows:-

1RKB	2
2RKB	6
3RKB	12
4RKB	11
5RKB	-
6RKB	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

The breakdown with regards to the Medical and Social Lists is as follows:-

	Medical A+	Medical B	Social A	Social C
1RKB	-	-	2	-
2RKB	-	1	-	-
3RKB	-	-	1	-
4RKB	1	-	4	1
5RKB	-	-	-	-
6RKB	-	-	-	-

**Housing Waiting Lists**  
**Applicants buying own homes since Q774/2012**

**Clerk:** Question 883, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Housing state how many applicants on the Government's Housing Waiting Lists, since his answer to Question 774/2012, – been removed from the Waiting Lists due to purchasing their own homes and if any, indicating if they pertained to either the Social or Medical Waiting Lists categories?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and the Elderly.

**Minister for Housing and the Elderly (Hon. C A Bruzon):** Mr Speaker, since the answer given to Question 774/2012, two applicants have been removed from the Waiting Lists due to purchasing their own homes. Neither pertained to the Social or Medical Lists.

**Government rental housing units**  
**Plans for construction**

**Clerk:** Question 884 the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Housing update this House by signifying the number and size of rental housing units Government intends to construct, indicating the location(s), estimated commencement of construction and completion dates, as well as estimated costs?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and the Elderly.

**Minister for Housing and the Elderly (Hon. C A Bruzon):** Mr Speaker, the Government intends to construct a sufficient number of housing units to be able to fulfil its manifesto commitments on housing. The details will be announced when we are ready to do so.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, when the Hon. Minister says that they intend to build 'sufficient', is that all in respect of rental?

**Hon. C A Bruzon:** It is in respect of our manifesto commitment which says that everyone on the Housing Waiting List as on 11th December 2011 will be housed within our first term in office.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, but I am homing in now on the number of houses that will be made available for the rental system. Despite their commitment that everyone will be housed, from a previous announcement made, I believe the Government intends to offer options of purchasing and rental. Does the Government have any commitment of how many rental homes it is envisaged will be constructed in their term in office?

**Hon. C A Bruzon:** Mr Speaker, there will be a blend of rental accommodation and also 50/50 purchase. Those who buy 50/50 will obviously make available homes for rental for people on the waiting lists. So there will be a mix of both rental accommodation and affordable housing made available.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, but although some may wish to buy on the 50/50, not all those who are buying the 50/50 are going to release Government rental accommodation. Despite that, can I have some sort of indication towards figures of how many rental homes are projected to become available?

**Hon. C A Bruzon:** Mr Speaker, that information will be made available when we are ready.

**Bath-to-shower conversions**  
**In-house technical estimates**

**Clerk:** Question 885, the Hon. J J Netto.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, could the Minister for Housing provide me with the information to my supplementary question in Question 776/2012, which relates to the total sums of money reflected in the in-house technical estimates carried out by the Ministry's own civil servants with regard to the 44 bath-to-shower conversions mentioned by my hon. Colleague, Mr Reyes in the original Question?

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**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and the Elderly.

**Minister for Housing and the Elderly (Hon. C A Bruzon):** Yes, Mr Speaker, I understand that I wrote to the Minister and I trust he has received my letter, but I am happy to give him a copy of the letter now, if he wishes.

755



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND THE ELDERLY  
The City Hall  
Gibraltar

10<sup>th</sup> October 2012

The Hon J J Netto MP  
Parliament House  
156 Main Street  
Gibraltar

In response to your letter requesting information concerning Question No.776/2012, I am now able to provide you with the following additional data which has been forwarded to me by the Technical Department for your attention.

Forty-four requests was the historical list but some tenants have either passed away or others require OT specifications. Only 35 conversions have been carried out at a total cost of £114,183, so the average cost is approx £3,262 each. Therefore the sum of £185,817 will be used for OT requirements.

Please note that the total amount will be in the region of £300,000 but we will not know for sure until GJBS invoices us.

Yours sincerely

Charles Bruzon  
Minister for Housing and the Elderly

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Telephone No.: (350) 20075039, Centrex 3794; Fax No.: (350) 20043887, Centrex 2454

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, yes I do have the copy of the letter which he stated, which I received on Thursday, 11th October, round about one o'clock, which was obviously outside or beyond the cut-off time for me to submit Questions.

760

But in any event, Mr Speaker, with respect to the Minister, I do not think that the letter answered my questions. I think for the sake of clarity, I should say what I have been asking for and why I think that the letter does not answer what I have been requesting.

What I have been requesting, Mr Speaker, was not the breakdown as he seems to have given me from the 44 bath-to-shower conversions, which we now know, 35 of which have been done by the Housing Works Agency and nine will be done externally by the specifications of the OT Department in the Health Authority. What I was asking for is not what the Government has invoiced or is going to pay for... Sorry not Housing Works Agency; by GJBS. GJBS was the one that did the 35, not the Housing Works Agency.

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I was not asking, because we know that figure and we know that figure was what the Government seems to have been paying for the 35 of the 44 to GJBS, but what I was asking was, what was the civil

servants' in-house estimate in relation to those particular works? Unfortunately, the answer is not reflected in the letter.

I think I make my point quite clear, both in my supplementary question and in my letter to him and this is what I am asking.

**Hon. C A Bruzon:** Mr Speaker, the reality is that it is GJBS who actually does this work and that is why there is no specific estimate given per case, because obviously, it is a Government owned company and they know what they are doing. We trust them and they do not over-charge us, so that is my understanding, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, I cannot accept that answer. I cannot accept that answer because estimators and it does not have to be the estimators with a TG1; you can be an estimator and be a PTO1 or a PTO or a HPTO and it is routine work for them, whether they are building surveyors... They normally, or habitually, do estimates which are then carried out. They are carried out either in-house by their own staff or somebody else out there in the private sector providing those services, so it is something that certainly happened when I was there and I was the one... At that time, we employed so many building surveyors, structural engineers, quantity surveyors and all the rest of it, so I know how the system operates.

In fact, we even went to the extent that in order to corroborate that we had value for money – which is at the end of the day what we tend to scrutinise in Parliament, which is accountability of public funds – we even went to the extent of having a recognised schedule of rates which was the UK Carillion schedule of rates to ensure that the works that get done in terms... and what we have to pay matches, more or less, what our estimate is. So I cannot accept the answer that the hon. Gentleman is providing.

In fact, the Hon. Minister seems to be saying to Parliament that we trust GJBS because it is a private company. Well, I do not think, Mr Speaker, that the Housing Ministry as such should have a policy where you say, 'We trust whatever amount of money GJBS, or any other contractor for that matter, may wish to invoice the Government.' I think the Government has to have, like in any other place in the world but particularly in developed countries, a system which gives us value for money and is accountable against an in-house estimate. It seems to me, Mr Speaker, that perhaps... I do not know whether I have been saying this previously and perhaps the Hon. Minister has not understood what I am saying, but I do know, Mr Speaker, that, as a matter of course, it happens.

Now, I am willing to sit down and perhaps even discuss it further with him outside the realm of this question-and-answer session, so at least there is clarity between me and him as to what I am talking about, and I am *sure*, that the people that work for him would have done the estimates.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, if I may say, I think that helps to clarify what it is that the hon. Gentleman is getting at. I think that what we are saying is, because this work is done by GJBS and not done by the Housing Works Agency, there is not a Housing Works Agency estimate. There is a GJBS estimate and the hon. Gentleman will know, from his time as a Minister, that when something is being dealt with by GJBS, the estimators that we will rely on, much as they would have relied on them also, are the estimators in GJBS who we would trust – not as if they were a Government Department because they are not a Government Department; they are a wholly owned company of the Government – but he will know, I am sure, from his time in Government, that you would not have a Government estimator checking a GJBS estimate.

So if what he wants is what is the estimate that was given and relied upon at the time by the Ministry, the answer I think he has been given is it was the GJBS estimate and if that is the information that he wants, that is not the information that is available here today, and perhaps we can obtain that for him.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, again with respect to the Chief Minister, I do not think it is right and proper to go and say... or have a system in place where we say –

**Mr Speaker:** If I may, the hon. Member has asked that he should have a meeting with the Hon. the Minister. Surely that should be the end of the matter. You have an opportunity to have a meeting with him and thrash the matter out.

I have been liberal with the hon. Member, but really, he is supposed to be asking supplementary questions and not making a speech or a statement. I do not wish to curtail him, particularly in my first morning, but I would commend to him the practice of asking short and sharp questions.

I really think that he has received as much of an answer as he is going to get in the House today and he has been given an opportunity to pursue the matter further outside the House. I would commend him to that course of action.

Next question.



**Housing Works Agency and Ministry for Housing  
Comprehensive review**

835 **Clerk:** Question 886, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Housing provide this House with details of the comprehensive review currently being undertaken of the Housing Works Agency and the Ministry for Housing, inclusive of specific matters being reviewed and by whom, as well as the dates by when he expects this exercise to be completed?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and the Elderly.

845 **Minister for Housing and the Elderly (Hon. C A Bruzon):** Mr Speaker, not yet.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, not yet in respect of, for example, by whom the review is being undertaken and so on? Is that what the Minister is referring to?

850 **Hon. C A Bruzon:** Mr Speaker, an announcement will be made when we are ready.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** So, Mr Speaker, is the Minister not in a position to disclose by whom the review is being undertaken?

855 **Hon. C A Bruzon:** I think that subject was covered some months ago, Mr Speaker. There was a review being undertaken by people within my staff who were asked to report back to the Minister and to the Cabinet, and when we are ready to announce the final conclusions, we will do so.

860 **Hon. E J Reyes:** So Mr Speaker, am I correct in assuming that the review is being undertaken in-house, internally, by a member of staff without any external consultations and so on?

**Hon. C A Bruzon:** Mr Speaker, I have already answered the question, in the Parliament before, when we have spoken about this and I have been asked about it.

865 **Hon. E J Reyes:** And what I am asking now, Mr Speaker, is confirmation that the review is just being undertaken internally by those working within the Housing Works Agency, Ministry for Housing and that there are no external consultants being brought in for that purpose?

870 **Minister for Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the hon. Member has asked a question which was answered. Then he said 'Can I assume that the answer you have given is correct?' So the answer is, 'Well, the answer has been given.' Now he asks for confirmation again of the answer he has been given twice. That is not a new question.

875 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker, I may have said it, I do not quite recall having said, I assume it is correct. What I am asking, Mr Speaker, perhaps I can put it quite clear. If in a previous answer I have been told that an exercise is being carried out by those within the Housing Works Agency and the Ministry for Housing, that has been said before. What I am asking now is, can the Hon. Minister confirm that there are no external consultants or advisors also being involved in the exercise?

880 **Hon. C A Bruzon:** Yes, I can confirm that, Mr Speaker.

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

885 **Urban green areas around Gibraltar  
Government maintenance contracts**

**Clerk:** Question 855, the Hon. S M Figueras.

890 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Yes, Mr Speaker, would the Minister for the Environment please provide details of all Government contracts currently in place for the maintenance of urban green areas around Gibraltar,

but excluding the Upper Rock Nature Reserve broken down by area, contractor cost, term of contract and the nature of work contemplated by said contracts?

895 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

900 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, Government does not currently have any contracts for the maintenance of what we term 'urban green areas'. The Department of the Environment has a number of agreements for planted areas in Gibraltar. Other green areas have until now not had any form of management, resulting in issues related for example to safety arising from trees. Government has recently passed responsibility for these areas to the Department of the Environment from Land Property Services, which have no budget for it, and the Department will now be monitoring these areas and assessing whether any works are necessary.

905 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, would the Minister be able perhaps... and there is a Question further along the Order Paper in relation to trees that I have asked. I recall that in May this year, in a similar Question, the Minister answered that there had been something in the order of a hundred trees planted since they had taken office, or rather since January of this year. Could the Minister confirm whether or not there are management plans or agreements or contracts in place for the maintenance of at  
910 least those trees?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, those are the areas which we refer to as planted areas. Urban green areas we tend to refer to as those areas which have not up to now had any formal maintenance. Those are planted areas.

915 The situation there is as it was in December last year at the time of the Election, in which there are a number of agreements but the contracts that had existed had all expired some time ago and therefore they are now on a month-to-month basis for the most part. In fact, my information tells me that all three contractors involved are on month-to-month agreements. This is not satisfactory for the contractors and it is not satisfactory for the Government, and we are looking at reviewing the way that planted areas are  
920 managed, with a view to entering more formal contracts with the contractors. But the situation at the moment is as we inherited with no formal contract any longer in place, because they expired some time ago and they were not renewed by the last Administration, which dealt with it on a month-to-month basis.

925 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, the purpose of the Question is to elicit information in the context of concerns that have been articulated to me by concerned individuals, in relation to the maintenance of all these planted areas – planted and urban areas. Obviously, there seems to be a difference in our definition of those areas and perhaps we can agree one, moving forward, in order to make things easier.

930 Is the Minister able to provide the House with any kind of timeframe in relation to when... because obviously, this is a matter which is rather urgent, because obviously, as the concerns raised are that there are certain planted areas which are not taken care of. This is something that, obviously, the longer it goes on, the worse it gets and I acknowledge that the Minister has said it is unsatisfactory.

Is he able to provide this House with any kind of timescale to which we might be able to hold him?

935 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, those problems that the hon. Member is referring to are exactly the problems that have been in existence for quite a number of years now and it is certainly not of this Government's making. I am aware that there are certain concerns by certain people who work in this area as to the way that the planted areas are divided up.

I share those concerns and therefore, the Department of the Environment is engaged in re-assessing them all.

940 I hesitate to give a date, because this is a process that will involve different contractors looking at all the planted areas in Gibraltar and setting up a process for them to be managed. I would have hoped that the logical date would be the beginning of the coming financial year. That would be the aim, but I cannot hold myself to that. If it is able to do it before then, then well and good, if it slips slightly, but I think that the logical time to introduce a new system would be the beginning of the next financial year.

945 **Hon. S M Figueras:** I am grateful for the answer from the Minister and obviously, subject of course to the fact that he has had the opportunity of course for the last 10 months of revisiting the situation, it is a situation that has been his responsibility for the last 10 months. Will he confirm that he will deal with this as a matter of some priority in his portfolio for the Environment?

950 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I have a huge number of priorities that I have to deal with as a result of matters that have come to my attention over the last 10 months, and this is one of them.

955 **Clerk:** Question 856 –

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, may I just intervene at this moment in order to answer fully the Question 844, of which the hon. Member asked me for some information, and I said that I would provide it to him this morning. I just... but I would like this to be noted in *Hansard*, if anything. (Interjection) Or should I wait until he comes into the Chamber? It is up to you, sir.

960 **Mr Speaker:** I have no problem really in allowing it. It is going to look odd in *Hansard*, but then hon. Members should know the reason why. So I will allow him to provide the information.

965 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, could I just invite that we wait for Mr Reyes to return to the Chamber, in the event that he might want to say something?

**Mr Speaker:** Okay.

970

**Trees planted in Gibraltar  
Details since May**

975 **Clerk:** Question 856, the Hon. S M Figueras.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Further to the previous Question, which I foreshadowed, can the Minister for the Environment provide details of trees planted in Gibraltar since he last answered a similar question in May this year, with a breakdown of cost, suppliers and tender processors relevant to them?

980 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Health and the Environment.

985 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the only trees that have been planted since May 2012, as part of this programme – I hope that other people, Mr Speaker, are planting trees otherwise! – are those that had been replacements for a few trees that may have been vandalised or perished, the replacement trees have been planted at a cost to the contractor and not to the Government.

990

**Coastline survey  
Details**

**Clerk:** Question 857, the Hon. S M Figueras.

995 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for the Environment say whether the Government is conducting a coastline survey and provide this House with details?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1000 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, no, sir. At present, Government is not conducting a coastline survey.

1005

**Commonwealth Park proposals  
Government's intentions**

**Clerk:** Question 858, the Hon. S M Figueras.

1010 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, in light of the breaking of ground at the site of the proposed Commonwealth Park, can the Minister for the Environment confirm that it is his Government's policy to deliver said park in accordance with the Budget established as part of the costing of the GSLP/Liberal Alliance manifesto for the 2011 Election campaign? If so, will the Minister for the Environment now provide this House with such figures, in the context of the commencement of works?

1015

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the concept of the Commonwealth Park as proposed in the manifesto will be delivered and is being realised.

Some elements of the original design have changed since then as we are not afraid to improve the features, provided it enhances the experience it will provide for the public.

Regarding the costs, the situation remains as stated in my reply to Question 740/2012.

May I remind the hon. Gentleman that we are not answerable in this House for a budget that we may have assigned to something during the Election campaign.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, two issues arise out of that answer, which I would like to deal with in turn.

Firstly, he refers to the previous Question which he answered. This Question was phrased precisely as it was because at the time when I last asked the Question, works had not commenced and no contractors were in place and therefore the Government was nervous about disclosing any figures, according to the answer given back then, because he did not want potential contractors to get greedy in the tender process and I understood that and I left the issue there as it was.

I phrased the Question purposefully this time round, because there has been breaking of ground at the proposed site and C K Transport were at the site, conducting some kind of works in relation to what will eventually be the Commonwealth Park. It is therefore for that reason that I am now asking whether the... and I think I will deal with the second point before he rises, simply because I think it all comes together. So in relation to that issue, works have begun and I think it becomes relevant.

In relation to the second issue and whether they are bound by the costing of the manifesto, I would ask the Minister is the Government willing to adopt the figures that they say they have, in relation to the costing of the whole of the manifesto, as the Budget or as certainly an indicative figure for the budget for the creation of the Commonwealth Park?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I think I will start with the second part first, if I may.

The budget for the Commonwealth Park or the *estimate* for the Commonwealth Park is being assessed now and in Government, one has knowledge of more of the detail – for example, enabling works that may require the diversion of a pipe and so on. Therefore the budget has to be reassessed in that knowledge.

To the first part, absolutely, I understand and accept the difference. Works have in fact started, but let me just explain that the works that have been started are enabling works, of which I will give details. The full costing of the construction – if you can construct a park – is the figure that I am still not able to provide, but certainly the enabling works which are the breaking of the ground and the removal of the tarmac and digging down to a level, the complete works and start, have been carried out over approximately 50% of the existing area. The cost of this, which was carried out by GJBS, was £87,952.11.

But that is not, Mr Speaker, part of the final contract; it was a separate enabling work contract.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I really would rather avoid this exchange becoming any more technical than it has to, because the point I am trying to make really is very simple. The Government has contended on many occasions in this House before, in respect of many other projects, that their manifesto was fully costed. The issue that I am raising and have raised publicly, and raise again in this House, is that the Government seems unwilling – to be generous – to provide that figure in any kind of way that the public may be able to consume, in order that they are not held to it.

Now, whilst I understand the point that the Minister has made, that upon entering Government they have had a number of realisations – one of which is that perhaps what they had considered would be an appropriate figure for the Park may no longer be the case – in the context of the Chief Minister's mention of the fact that the project was proceeding ahead of schedule and under budget – also bearing in mind the contributions from the Kusuma Trust which the Hon. Minister referred to in the previous answer – does the Minister not concede that it is entirely reasonable for the public to think, 'I would like to know what the budget is before we conclude the contract, so that I can then make an assessment of whether or not we were genuinely under the budget'?

Does the Minister not concede that point?

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, neither the Government nor the Minister concedes that point, because what the hon. Gentleman wants to do is ask questions about what the GSLP/Liberal's views when they were preparing their manifesto was. We are here as a Government to answer questions as a Government.

The hon. Gentleman is perfectly entitled to ask questions about whether we are within the budget that we assigned to this in the Budget Book. There has been a Budget, an Appropriation Bill and a debate on

the Appropriation Bill since the last Election. That Appropriation Bill and the Budget Book, as it is called, have been published and debated in this House and he can ask us about that.

At no Question Time, when I have been a Member of this House, have we asked the hon. Members when they were in Government, 'How much did you think it was going to cost when you were preparing your manifesto?' That is not a question that we are going to answer in Parliament.

Mr Speaker, it may be that the hon. Gentleman wants to insist on this. There have been a number of public exchanges on the subject. We are going to tell the public, because we are accountable to them, in press releases or in answers from the hon. Members opposite in this House, exactly what everything costs, because that money that we are spending which is not ours to spend other than as representatives of the Taxpayer.

When it comes to budget, the questions on budget that we are going to answer in this House are the ones which relates to the Estimates Book published by the Government. That is a fairly straight forward way of proceeding in my view; it is the honest and appropriate way of proceeding and is the way that they proceeded in Government.

I do not believe that we are under any obligation whatsoever to share with the hon. Members our working out to be able to put before the people of Gibraltar the magnificent manifesto which we put before them, to deliver the equally magnificent projects that we will deliver before the next General Election to them. Therefore, if he carries on asking this question, he is going to get the same answer.

He is of course going to be told what everything costs. He will of course also be told how that compares to the budget assigned to cost at the beginning of each financial year. He is not going to get the information that he seems to hanker over so much, which is 'What did you think in GSLP Headquarters it was going to cost before the Election?'

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, with all due respect to the Hon. the Chief Minister, it has been, there have been, a number of occasions in this House where the Government has adopted for its own policy, matters that were alluded to in their manifesto. They have done that specifically in relation to specific initiatives.

Is the Government adopting their costing, which is surely part of the manifesto which they have spoken of so much in this House; is the Government happy to adopt the cost as they estimated, as the GSLP/Liberal Alliance in Opposition before the 9th December 2011, as the original budget for the construction of the Commonwealth Park, in office?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Member has been in Parliament now almost for a year. He has lived through at least one Budget debate. The Budget that we have adopted in respect of Commonwealth Park is the one that we have brought to this House and voted on, on the Appropriation Bill. Is that the same Budget that we had assigned to it when we were sitting in our political offices, not as Members of this House but as candidates in the campaign? Well, Mr Speaker, that is for me to know and for him to guess.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, I think the analysis of the Chief Minister is in respect of him, fundamentally flawed for this reason. It is not in relation to every single project, every aspect of Government spending that is budgeted to the last penny in the Estimate Book; it does not work that way and I will just give him one example. In relation to the cladding on the so-called forgotten estates, the Government's estimate in the budget was £1 million. I told him across the floor at Committee Stage that I thought it would be closer to £50 million. Sometimes there are token figures, so it does not necessarily... you cannot just simply say, 'Look at the Budget Book.' In this particular instance, my understanding is the Budget Book does not actually give us the answer, otherwise the hon. Member would not be asking the questions that he is asking.

But of course there is another point and it is this: that it is Members on that side of the House – the Government – that keep on saying the public finances in Gibraltar are a disaster and that we left a disaster. Well, look, if you are making a point that the public finances of Gibraltar are a disaster – and I am coming to my question in a moment – then of course we are entitled to ask, 'Well, hang on a minute!' and we are entitled to put to people, 'Well, they can't be a disaster if they are spending all these millions of pounds on these projects.'

But can he answer this: is this a project that is going to be undertaken by GJBS or is it a project that is going to go out to tender?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman has not pursued further what the Hon. Mr Figueras was asking about, and I think I will take it from that that he understood my answer.

Of course, in some instances in the Budget Book, there will be a token put in because a project is not going to be completed in a particular year. In fact, we are now very close to the end of the financial year, April is just around the corner and at Commonwealth Park, what has happened has been the breaking of

1140 ground, which has cost £87,000, as the hon. Gentleman, the Minister for the Environment has told the House, and not the development of the whole project, Mr Speaker.

This is not a question of trying to avoid the scrutiny of the Opposition or the public, because we are giving *exactly* the information, down to the penny, of the cost. I know that is what they want to pretend it is for their own political purposes and each one is entitled to pursue their politics as they wish; but we are giving pounds, shilling and pence of every penny that every project is going to cost.

Whether or not this project is going to be dealt with by tender or otherwise – and the hon. Member has just asked, ‘Will it be done by GJBS or by tender?’ – they will be alerted to that as soon as decisions are made about it.

1150 **Hon. D A Feetham:** So is the answer, then, that no decision has been made as to whether this project will be dealt with by GJBS or going out for tender? Is that the answer?

1155 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, we are currently looking at the options. There is a lot of specialised work which has not been carried out before in Gibraltar, so we have to be absolutely sure that we know how these works will be allocated and both – and possibly more than those – are possibilities for the actual laying out of the Park.

1160 **Street cleaning**  
**Details of contracts**

**Clerk:** Question 859, the Hon. S M Figueras.

1165 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide details of contracts currently in place for street cleaning in Gibraltar for the last 18 months, identifying the contractor, the length of the term, the cost and date of renewal?

1170 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, Master Service (Gibraltar) Ltd has the street cleaning contract for a period of 10 years. The cost of the contract for street cleaning is £5 million for this financial year, and the date of renewal is 1st April 2017.

1175 Mr Speaker, although I am providing the information, of course, this is a contract entered into by his Party a few months before the 2007 Election, so if he has any concerns about the terms of the contract, he may wish to raise them elsewhere.

1180 **MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**Trainees on placements**

**Clerk:** Question 860, the Hon. S M Figueras.

1185 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for the Environment provide details providing a breakdown by age, gender and nationality of all trainees on placements within the Ministry for which he has responsibility, indicating the Department, Agency or Authority where they are placed, as well as showing the type of work that they are engaged in?

1190 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, for the avoidance of doubt I have a similar question in relation to the GHA, which I will answer later, so this answer does not include the GHA.

1195 So, Mr Speaker, there are presently no trainees on placement within the Environment Ministry or its Departments, Agencies and Authorities.

1200

**Barbary Macaque Management Plan  
Details and costs**

1205 **Clerk:** Question 861, the Hon. S M Figueras.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for the Environment confirm that the Barbary Macaque Management Plan is now in place and provide details of the cost to the taxpayer for the application of this new plan?

1210

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** No, sir, it is not yet in place.

1215

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister now confirm – in the context of, of course – the statement issued by his office last week, not more than a few hours after I had filed the Question in Parliament, announcing that an announcement was imminent to the public about the Barbary Macaque Management Plan? Could he now confirm to this House when that plan is expected to be put into operation once and for all?

1220

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** No, sir, I am not able to say that at this point in time.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Well, Mr Speaker, I would ask the Minister what the point of the press release then was, because it seems really rather suspect that I file a Question at 9.30 last week on Thursday, and not a few hours later, there is a statement out in the public domain which is, literally, that an announcement is imminent.

1225

Why is it the case then, Mr Speaker, that the Minister has issued the press release – (*Interjections*) I do not need to read anything about the last 16 years; we are talking about today and moving forward, thank you very much. (*Interjections*)

1230

Mr Speaker, the question I am asking – (*Interjections*)

**Mr Speaker:** Order!

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, the question I am asking is what was the point of that announcement, when he cannot in fact, in this House – this House to which he is answerable – tell us when the plan is due to be put into operation?

1235

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I am not absolutely sure that I am familiar or aware of the specific press release that he is referring to.

1240

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, whether it was a press release or an announcement, it is not something I have imagined. There was an announcement that an announcement is imminent for the Barbary Macaque Management Plan, on the Thursday. (*Interjections*) There was an announcement by the – (*Interjections*) I will be happy to look for it and come back. Obviously, I do not have it with me right now – (*Interjections*)

1245

**Mr Speaker:** Since the hon. Member is going to check on the source of that and he is responsible for the statements that he makes, I think that this is a convenient moment for us to have a short recess, for 10 minutes.

1250

*The House adjourned at 11.05 a.m. and resumed its sitting at 11.20 a.m.*

1255 **Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Mr Selwyn Figueras.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Hon. Minister and myself have already had an exchange across the floor, whilst we were in recess which was of mutual benefit to both of us.

1260

The announcement was published in GBC, but the point really of the question, Mr Speaker, is to understand why there is no end in sight, or rather no specific date by which the Management Plan will be published and put into operation. That is what I would like the Minister to provide some more information about.

1265 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I confirm that we had a chat about it during recess. I do not recall... Certainly, I think the hon. Member concedes that there was not a press release. I do not recall talking to GBC about the macaques in recent weeks, so I do not know where this report came from, whether it was radio or television or whatever. I honestly do not know and I do not recall. Maybe they thought they were referring to the Barbary Macaque Management Plan going to be *eminent* and not *imminent*. (*Laughter*) Be that as it may, I do not recall that.

1270 However, let me say that the completion of the report is likely to be very, very soon. However between completion of the report and then it being implemented, or rather the Plan and it then being implemented, could take time because obviously the Plan has to be translated into action. That is the reason why I do not want to commit myself to an implementation date.

1275 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, could the Minister confirm to this House whether, at the time when the Plan is complete, it will be made public?

1280 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I think that the concepts of the Plan and the main tenets of the plan can be made public without doubt. Perhaps its translation into being carried out would be a more detailed consideration of how this is being done, but in principle, I think that with the main Plan, actually, it would be beneficial to the public to be aware of the plans in place.

1285 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I do not want to be drawn – and thankfully the Hon. the Chief Minister is not in the Chamber at the moment – into a further discussion about the Budget Book, because I do recall that there was some reference to costs in relation to Barbary... the management of the population.

Is the Minister in a position today to provide any detail whatsoever in relation to the additional cost which this Plan might represent?

1290 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** No, Mr Speaker, as I explained, the Plan will deal with concepts and the way things have to be done. That – and there is a parallel process – has to be translated into exactly what costs would be applied as for personnel, equipment and so on, and that process is not complete.

1295 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I speak on behalf of the many concerned individuals who continually make reports to me, and I have seen some horrifying pictures of apes in rather vicious circumstances.

1300 I just want to ask the Minister whether he is not concerned about the frequency of the unwanted interactions with the apes and the impact that has on people's everyday lives, and also in relation to the impact it might have on tourism in Gibraltar, simply because they are very fun to look at, but not as fun when they are trying to latch onto a plastic bag, when you are walking in and out of the Caleta Hotel.

I would ask the Minister to comment on that, but also specifically on whether he is able to tell us if the Barbary Macaque Management Plan contemplates the local experts participating in its application?

1305 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I share those concerns, some of them have come to my attention. Certainly, I did answer this question some time ago. Local experts have been and will be involved and what I can say is that we are not working in a vacuum. I have had discussions with the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic over recent weeks, with a view to in advance of the Plan enhancing the amount of contraception provided for female macaques and slight enhancement of monitoring, so we are working.

1310 The reason why we are enhancing contraception at this point of time in advance of the Plan is because this is the mating season and if we miss this mating season and we do not implant any contraceptives, then obviously there is going to be a large birth rate again next year. So with my encouragement, the Veterinary Clinic is actually enhancing the amount of contraception to females, in advance of the plan.

1315 **Hon. S M Figueras:** One final question Mr Speaker, is the Minister still satisfied that his Party's policy of not resorting to culling as a measure of last resort is the responsible one? Will he be open to reconsidering it, if the measures that he and his Government apply, in the attempt at resolving the issue, do not yield the solution acceptable to the community?

1320 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, the Government's policy remains one of not culling. I have, however, said in the past that, on occasion, particular individuals, for a number of management reasons, have to be put down; but the policy remains that there shall be no culling on a large scale.

1325



**SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND YOUTH**

**Question 844**

**Supplementary information**

1330

**Mr Speaker:** I call upon the Hon. Minister, Mr Steven Linares.

1335

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, it is in relation to Question 844, which the hon. Member asked me specifically if I could give him more details in 25, Hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events, Virtual Promotions.

I can confirm to the hon. Member that this relates to catering services for the event of the Strong Man League. It relates to catering at the Retreat Centre for the competitors and judges and there were 15. I can assure the hon. Member that they are people who eat a lot and therefore the amounts there might seem a lot, but they are strong men and the amount they eat is exorbitant.

1340

But that is what the breakdown is of that.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** I am most grateful for that.

Mr Speaker, can I, just for the sake of clarity, this £1,950 is in addition to the figure he provided last time, which I think was £20,000 for sponsorship contributions.

1345

**Hon. S E Linares:** Yes Mr Speaker, in fact there are two figures there. There is the Virtual Promotion, which is for the catering service and also, the Strong Man accommodation, which we hoped we did not have to pay for, but unfortunately, the men were so big that they did not fit in the bed and could not get in the shower in the Retreat Centre, so we had to put them up specifically, all of them. They were not happy; they could not sleep, so we had to get them double beds.

1350

These are things I hope that we learn for the next year, so it does not happen. But yes, they are two costs, over and above the £20,000.

1355

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Environmental Feedback Unit**

**Details of reports made**

1360

**Clerk:** Question 862, the Hon. S M Figueras.

1365

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker can the Minister for the Environment provide details of the number of reports made to the Environmental Feedback Unit since its creation, with details of the nature of the reports made, response time and action taken?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1370

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, there have been 91 reports logged up to 9th October, ranging from nesting of birds, noise pollution, dog howling, roaming cats, dead or injured seagulls and pigeons, street cleaning, smells, graffiti, accumulation of bulky items, loose paving stones, water and sewage leaks, refuse collection, street lamp hazards, public toilets, rat infestation, roads and fencing, abandoned vehicles, mosquitoes, palm weevil and tobacco-related litter.

1375

Response time has been within 24 hours in all instances reported during the working week and the action taken has varied depending on the matter and the related service provider. Details are provided in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon. Member.

May I add, while the schedule goes across, that the action taken is not included in that schedule because of the large number of different agencies involved who are tasked with them, with carrying out the responses and not all of them have reported back on them and therefore that is information that will have to follow.

1380

**Answer to Question 862 of 2012**

no.	Report Date	Nature of Complaint	Service Provider
1	25/06/2012	Noise Pollution	Environmental Agency
2	25/06/2012	Nesting	GONHS
3	25/06/2012	Dog Fouling	Housing
4	25/06/2012	Cat's	GONHS
5	25/06/2012	Pollution	Environmental Agency
6	25/06/2012	Public toilets	Master Service/Dept. of Env.
7	26/06/2012	Seagulls	GONHS
8	27/06/2012	Flushing	Master Service
9	27/06/2012	Cleaning	Silvia Land Properties
10	27/06/2012	Foul Smell	Environmental Agency
11	28/06/2012	Foul Smell/Graffiti	Environmental Agency
12	28/06/2012	Dead Seagulls	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
13	28/06/2012	Information Purposes Only	Env. Feedback Section
14	28/06/2012	Beach Cleaning	Tourism/Master Service
15	28/06/2012	Dead Seagulls	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
16	28/06/2012	Flushing	Master Service
17	29/06/2012	Foul Smells	Environmental Agency
18	29/06/2012	Dead Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
19	29/06/2012	Dead Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
20	29/06/2012	Accumulation	Housing
21	29/06/2012	Injured Seagull	GONHS
22	29/06/2012	Dead Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
23	29/06/2012	Cleanings	Master Service
24	02/07/2012	Dead Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
25	02/07/2012	Loose paving stones	Technical Services
26	04/07/2012	Accumulation	Master Service
27	04/07/2012	Foul Smell	Environmental Agency
28	05/07/2012	Injured Seagulls	Michael Informed
29	05/07/2012	Exposed Metal Bolard	Technical Services
30	05/07/2012	Salt Water Leak	Aquagib

**Answer to Question 862 of 2012**

31	06/07/2012	Fly tipping	Master Service
32	09/07/2012	Sewage Leak	Environmental Agency
33	09/07/2012	Foul Smell	Environmental Agency
34	09/07/2012	Rubbish Accumulation	Environmental Agency
35	09/07/2012	Litter Bins	Environmental Agency
36	09/07/2012	Asbestos	Environmental Agency
37	09/07/2012	Refuse Collection	Master Service
38	09/07/2012	Dead Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
39	09/07/2012	Dog Lice	Housing
40	09/07/2012	Cats Roaming	Environmental Agency
41	10/07/2012	Rubbish Accumulation	Master Service
42	10/07/2012	Rubbish Accumulation	Master Service
43	11/07/2012	Exposed Street Lamp	GEA
44	11/07/2012	Accumulation (Sundays)	Master Service
45	11/07/2012	Sewer leakage	Technical Services
46	11/07/2012	John Mackintosh Toilets	RGP
47	11/07/2012	Broken Water Meter Cover	Aquagib
48	11/07/2012	Broken Water Meter Cover	Aquagib
49	12/07/2012	Graffiti	Master Service
50	12/07/2012	Accumulation	Master Service
51	12/07/2012	Rats	Environmental Agency
52	12/07/2012	Broken Fencing/Rubbish	Unclear Responsibility
53	12/07/2012	Dead pigeon	General Veterinary Clinic
54	13/07/2012	Line Wall Road Toilets	Dept. of Env.
55	16/07/2012	Salt Water	M.O.D
56	16/07/2012	Accumulation	Master Services
57	16/07/2012	Noise Pollution	Environmental Agency/RGP
58	16/07/2012	Dead Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
59	16/07/2012	Building Colours	Town Planning
60	17/07/2012	LPS	Unclear Responsibility

**Answer to Question 862 of 2012**

61	19/07/2012	Abandoned Vehicles	RGP
62	19/07/2012	Blocked Sewer	Environmental Agency
63	20/07/2012	Noise Pollution	Environmental Agency
64	20/07/2012	Overgrown Tree & Mosquito Infestation	EA/Housing
65	24/07/2012	soiled pavement	Master Service
66	03/08/2012	Graffiti	Unclear Responsibility
67	06/08/2012	Refuse	Dept. of Env.
68	06/08/2012	Dumping of WEEE	Environmental Agency
69	13/08/2012	Stained/smelly litter bin surrounds	Master Service
70	16/08/2012	Dead Cat/Seagull	Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic
71	17/08/2012	Foul Smells	Environmental Agency
72	20/08/2012	Stained Pavement	Morrison's
73	20/08/2012	Public Toilets	Dept. of Env.
74	21/08/2012	Obnoxious Smells	Environmental Agency
75	24/08/2012	Cleaning	Environmental Agency
76	27/08/2012	Refuse	Dept. of Env.
77	27/08/2012	Dismantling of Scaffolding	JBS
78	31/08/2012	Cleaning of Beaches	Master Service
79	03/09/2012	Tree affected by Palm Weevil	Dept. of Env. - Planted Areas
80	11/09/2012	Tobacco-related Littering	RGP/Environmental Agency
81	11/09/2012	Accumulation	Dept. of Env.
82	12/09/2012	Refuse Cubicle	Dept. of Env.
83	20/09/2012	Park Toilets	Sports & Leisure Authority
84	24/09/2012	Access Obstruction & Lack of Lighting	Dept. of Env.
85	26/09/2012	Seal at Coaling Island	Dept. of Env.
86	28/09/2012	Obnoxious Smells	Environmental Agency
87	02/10/2012	Rubbish Accumulation	Housing
88	03/10/2012	Litter	Master Service/Greenarc
89	04/10/2012	Dead plants	Dept. of Env.
90	08/10/2012	Accumulation	Master Service
91	09/10/2012	Skip	Environmental Agency

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, it would be very helpful if the Minister... Oh, you have provided the schedule – sorry, I did not know you were providing one, I apologise.  
I am grateful for the answer, thank you.

1385

**Queensway car parks  
Solar powered lighting**

1390

**Clerk:** Question 863, the Hon. S M Figueras.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for the Environment confirm whether any issues have arisen out of the installation and operation of the solar powered lighting at the new car parks in Queensway?

1395

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, two of the lights were not functioning earlier this week. However, as they are within the warranty period, they will be replaced or repaired at no cost to the Government.

1400

**Hon. S M Figueras:** I am grateful, Mr Speaker. The reason for the question was I had received representations that there had been, at least on the one occasion, an issue in relation to the power being stored by the unit not being enough for the lights to be on throughout the duration of the night. Is the Minister aware of any of that?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, it appears that on one particular day after a succession of cloudy days, there seems to have been an issue, but because it is within the warranty period, the Electricity Authority is looking at the batteries. It may be that the batteries have to be slightly different, so that they retain more power. That issue is being addressed.

**Climate Change Forum  
Meetings 2012**

**Clerk:** Question 864, the Hon. S M Figueras.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Can the Minister for the Environment provide details of meetings of the Climate Change Forum during 2012 and information about its work so far.

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the Climate Change Forum, which had not met since 2008, has met on three occasions this year, with the next meeting already scheduled for early January. It has been expanded to include the Technical Services Department and a representative of the Health Authority, two organisations with a crucial role to play in this team.

The forum is concentrating on a revision of the 2008 Climate Change Programme to reflect the new initiatives that this Government is spearheading, in terms of climate change mitigation, as well as to include a section on adaptation to climate change.

The forum is also working on the calculation of a carbon footprint for Gibraltar and is in contact with a number of universities and research bodies to develop this idea.

**Clerk:** Question 865, the Hon. –

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, if I may, (**Mr Speaker:** Yes.) just a quick supplementary on this particular question.

I do not know whether the Hon. the Minister for the Environment can tell us, as a result of the meetings he has held during the course of this year, what are the climate change challenges that he foresees – the major ones not the smaller ones – which need to be addressed?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Presumably, Mr Speaker, the hon. Member is referring to in Gibraltar?

**Hon. J J Netto:** Yes, of course.

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Yes, this is something that obviously is not prepared in response to the Question, but I can answer that some of the challenges include the possibility of sea level rise, which is probably the biggest immediate threat and how that would affect our coastal areas; and also how a possible, if not expected, increase in weather issues such as heavy rains might increase in frequency and how that would affect things like drainage and possible flooding.

Those are the two main areas that affect us directly in Gibraltar.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Could I ask a further supplementary question, in relation to the first example that the Minister cited, which is a possible rise to sea water level on the coastline. Is there any particular area within the coastline in particular which is vulnerable to any possible expectation of sea water level rises?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, this is one of the matters that is being addressed by the Forum. I would not like to speculate now on what the response would be. I may have my own personal views, but I think I would rather wait until the Forum responds in the programme it is developing.

**Thinking Green Conference  
Costs**

1465 **Clerk:** Question 865, the Hon. S M Figueras.

1470 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, in light of the publication of the identity of the sponsors and ticketing arrangements for the forthcoming Thinking Green Conference, can the Minister for the Environment now provide full details to this House of the anticipated cost of the conference, broken down by gross costs including, but not limited to, the fee payable by the Government for the guest speakers, costs associated with travel and security detail for said speakers and anticipated revenues from ticket sales and sponsorship, broken down into ticket revenue and sponsor revenue, identifying the extent of the participation of each sponsor, and the total anticipated amount of contribution by the Government to this initiative?

1475 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1480 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this Question together with Questions 866 and 867.

**Thinking Green Conference  
Sponsorship**

1485 **Clerk:** Question 866.

1490 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Can the Minister for the Environment confirm the process by which sponsors for the Thinking Green Conference were identified and approached, the amount of their contribution and details of the contractual arrangements entered into in respect of that sponsorship, including, but not limited to, information about terms relating to access during and after the event, to the guest speakers and in particular, former Vice President Al Gore and Juan Verde?

1495 **Thinking Green Conference  
Visit of former Vice-President Al Gore**

1500 **Clerk:** Question 867.

1505 **Hon. S M Figueras:** Can the Minister for the Environment tell this House how long former Vice-President Al Gore is expected to remain in Gibraltar during his visit for the Thinking Green conference this month and whether he will be hosting a press conference in Gibraltar for local and international press during said visit? If not, why not?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1510 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the financial information requested is not yet available, as the event has not taken place and final arrangements are still to be confirmed. This information will of course be available sometime after the event.

In relation to the sponsors, it was they who made contact with the organisers. There have been no final contractual arrangements for the sponsors, who have, however, been given complimentary tickets to the seminar and dinner.

1515 The visit by Vice-President Gore, a former US Vice-President and former presidential candidate, clearly has security implications so that details of his travel, length of stay and other such information cannot be divulged in public in advance of the visit.

He will not be specifically hosting a press conference during his visit, as has already been stated. This is his usual practice. He will, however, be answering questions as part of the seminar itself.

1520 **Hon. S M Figueras:** It strikes me as peculiar that, even at this late stage – and the conference is on Sunday and I am hoping to get my tickets from the hon. Member in the House this morning – but, it strikes me as peculiar that, even this close to the event, there are no final contractual arrangements in place with the sponsors, that we might reasonably be expected to receive the information that I am asking

1525 for in relation to the contribution from the sponsors. Does the Minister not concede that it is peculiar that, at this late stage, there is no such arrangement in place?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, the sponsors are sponsoring the event and the only thing they are getting is access to the tickets to the seminar and the dinner. There is no complicated contract, therefore.

1530 As to the closeness to the event, because of the security level of a former Vice-President and a current campaigner in the US presidential campaign, which is only several weeks away, the travel arrangements are liable to change up to the last minute and that will have a bearing on costs.

Similarly, some of the sponsors are sponsoring in kind, providing services which they are not charging for and until those services have been provided, we are not sure what the value of those will be.

1535 Those are some of the reasons in which giving any figure now would be inaccurate and therefore I think would be irresponsible of me.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** In relation again to the sponsors, in light of the comments made by the ESG publicly in relation to specifically the Nature Group's participation in the event, does the Minister have any concerns that their participation might have any kind of reputational impact on the event?

1540

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** No, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Further in relation to the sponsors, Mr Speaker, the Minister has told us that the sponsors involved in the event approached the Government to offer their sponsorship of it. Would the Minister agree with me that it might not have been a bad idea, in terms of generating even more sponsorship and reducing even further the contribution the Government would have to make to this initiative, to have approached the wider business community in Gibraltar?

1545

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, some other possible sponsors were approached, but did not express an interest in time for them to be included in the advertisement and so on, so there were other approaches; but the successful sponsors were all ones who approached the Government.

1550

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Would the Minister – not publicly certainly, because I can understand that there might be an issue relating to the sensitivity of the information – be happy to confidentially share the information of who the sponsors they approached were?

1555

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** I am not sure that it would be appropriate, because I do not know if I am at liberty to give information of sponsors and of conversations with entities without their permission, so I would seek their permission before I would share that information. If they grant me that permission, then I have no problem.

1560

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I would be grateful for that, simply because there have been concerns raised to me, in relation to the fact that a fair crack of the whip was not had by the wider business community, and it is an issue that I think is worth pursuing.

1565

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Yes, certainly. The business community has been very supportive in participation in the Trade Fair, so I suspect that those that may have expressed concern are those who are not participating in the Trade Fair. But they, I think, would have known that if they had an interest in sponsoring the event, they could have approached the Government and, obviously, they would have been considered.

1570

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I disagree with the Minister in relation to the point that he makes about willing sponsors could have approached the Government to offer their sponsorship of the event, if they were not aware that it was happening or no public announcement was made. We will agree to disagree and I will look forward to receiving the information, or rather confirmation of whether he is able to disclose that information confidentially.

1575

However, moving on to the issue of the press conference, or rather the non-event of the press conference here in Gibraltar by Vice-President Al Gore, does the Minister not consider it peculiar that such a high profile figure as is former Vice-President Al Gore and indeed a presidential candidate, who has spent the best part of a decade travelling the world, spreading the climate change message, that he should not host a press conference on the occasion of his visit to Gibraltar?

1580

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I do not find it peculiar, but perhaps the hon. Member will put it to him himself at the dinner, where I am sure he will have the opportunity to speak to him.

In any case, the speaker will be answering questions at the end of his lecture for anything between 30 and maybe 45 minutes, I cannot remember exactly what the programme has allowed, and therefore, that in itself can take the place of a press conference, in the sense that not only members of the press who may be sitting there in the audience, but also members of the public will have the opportunity to put questions to him.

So I think that is not as big an issue as the hon. Member seems to suggest it is.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** But, Mr Speaker, yes, I will look forward to having the opportunity to speak to Vice-President Al Gore. I would be a fool if I did not concede that it is of course a very good opportunity to speak to a personality such as Vice-President Al Gore.

Whilst I will be happy to ask him that question on a one-to-one basis, I asked that question in this House merely to give voice to concerns that have been raised to me as part of my responsibility in this House.

However, in relation to the point that the Minister has made that at the end of the speech there will be a question-and-answer session which is scheduled, is it not the case that the press is required to leave the premises after the first five minutes of the speech?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** No, Mr Speaker, it is cameras that have to leave the premises after five minutes. Reporters can remain sitting in the auditorium, making notes and participating like any other member of the public. It is cameras that are asked to leave.

I suspect one of the reasons is that these are lectures which could then find themselves on U-tube or one of these things. I think it is standard procedure that in events of this nature, people are asked not to take cameras into the auditorium. On this occasion, we felt and Vice-President Gore's team responded that there was enough media interest to warrant some filming of the initial bits of the talk, very much as cameras are here in this House at the beginning of sessions, but do not necessarily have to stay, but nevertheless reporters can sit in through the whole of the proceedings. There is no difference.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I suspect at expensive events of this nature, that would of course be the case and I am grateful for the clarification, as I was not aware of it.

One final supplementary, Mr Speaker, does the Minister consider that this represents – whatever the cost may be and I am not meaning to press him any further, because I am obviously not going to get the answer, I am not one to embark on a fool's errand – does he consider that whatever the cost of this event – which we will eventually know about after it – represents a value-for-money initiative of the kind that is necessary, appropriate and called for in the current climate – if you will pardon the pun – and in particular in the context of the ruinous state of public finances that the Government appeared – so they say – to have inherited on 9th December 2011?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, we cannot understate the significance of a personality of the stature of Vice-President Gore. Whether you agree with him or not, whether you agree with what he says or not, whether you agree with his lifestyle or not, we cannot understate the significance of former Vice-President Al Gore coming to Gibraltar and speaking to us. That in itself has a value. Sometimes, unfortunately, the way that the economy of the world is calculated, monetary value is not placed to matters of such value. That I think is sad, but nevertheless, that is the way the world is.

However, the generation of interest that this has already delivered in companies wanting to take part in the Trade Fair, in companies who may not be taking part in the Trade Fair but who have contacted the Department with an interest in bringing new initiatives to Gibraltar in relation to sustainability and renewable energy as examples, the interest that that has led in myself personally having been asked to a number of meetings and had a number of meetings requested by people in International business and by people in International politics, because they are quite impressed about the way that Gibraltar is moving forward with a green agenda will most likely bring large economic benefits to Gibraltar in the future.

Therefore, I think, Mr Speaker, that answers the hon. Member's question.

#### **Anti-smoking legislation Cigarette-end bins outside buildings**

**Clerk:** Question 868, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for the Environment state whether the Government will be placing more cigarette-end bins in town as a result of the increase in smoking that is taking place outside buildings after the implementation of the 1st October legislation?



**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1650 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, Government has commenced a pilot programme in this respect and a small number of cigarette-bins in the town area will be installed and monitored over the course of the next few weeks.

1655 **Primary Care Centre one-month advance appointments  
Improvements to system**

**Clerk:** Question 869, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

1660 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Health explain how the new one month advance appointment system will be improved in order to avoid the scenes witnessed on 1st October at the Primary Care Centre?

1665 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the new advanced appointment system was – as was clearly stated in public – a pilot system, subject to improvement. Following the implementation, a number of multi-disciplinary meetings have been held, involving GPs, nursing and administration staff and a number of further measures are being planned.

1670 It should be noted that this system – while inconvenient to some of those who attended – has seen many positives. For example, as from the afternoon of 1st October, appointments have been available with most of the doctors and no ‘did not attends’ have been reported. This was one of the main aims of the pilot, as it in effect releases more slots.

1675 The need now is to ensure that so many people do not feel they need to queue up or call first thing in the morning on the first of the month. We will now attempt to reassure the public to this effect.

In addition, patients requiring repeat prescriptions and patients asked by the GP to return on a given date will not be restricted to the month of open appointments. They will be able to either present their last complete prescription or a note that the doctor will provide and the appropriate appointment will be given. This means that these patients will not have to present or call on the first of the month.

1680 This, Mr Speaker, is a developing process. Inconvenience to our patients is deeply regretted. but it is the first time that a concentrated multi-disciplinary effort is being made to solve this long-standing problem once and for all, and I would like to pay tribute to the hard working staff at the Primary Care Centre for all their efforts and hard work.

1685

**Additional GP support for winter  
Arrangements**

1690 **Clerk:** Question 870, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, will the Minister for Health be arranging for additional GP support for the winter months to come?

1695 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, at present the GP workload is being regularly monitored.

1700 An additional locum GP has been employed already to assist with the increase in attendance to the emergency clinics and will probably continue over the winter period.

Unlike previous winters, we now have two fully prescribing nurse practitioners and hope to recruit a third one, which is in complement. These competent practitioners will assist with emergency clinics and provide additional appointment availability.

1705

1710 **Primary care clinic for children  
Establishment**

**Clerk:** Question 871, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

1715 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Health advise when the primary care clinic for children will be established in the Rainbow Ward at St Bernard's Hospital, as per the Government's manifesto?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1720 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the passage of children through the health system is a subject of discussion with the professionals concerned, as I stated in my Budget speech. Recommendations will be considered at the end of the process.

1725 **A&E Department  
Changes and improvements**

1730 **Clerk:** Question 872, the Hon. I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Health outline the changes and improvements to the A&E Department he said in his Budget speech would be 'seen very soon' and to which, according to the Gibraltar Senior Citizens' Association he said 'that the system needs reviewing but is already looking into ways of improving the service'?

1735 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

1740 **Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, as announced during my Budget speech, the GHA has already commenced a series of works to the Accident and Emergency Department, in order to improve the services offered to our patients. Works have been planned fully involving Nurse Management and other clinicians.

1745 The works entail the following aspects: (1) improved triage facility for patients presenting through the main reception waiting area; (2) a new triage area for patients brought in by the Ambulance Service; (3) new Charge Nurse/Sisters' office within the Majors zone; (4) new reception counter to improve the privacy afforded to patients whilst presenting at A&E – this will also enhance the communication and co-ordination between the reception and A&E staff base; and (5) enhanced clinical storage facilities, which releases more space.

1750 The above measures have also been considered from the perspective of enhancing staff security. It is expected that these works will be concluded before the end of November.

An additional non-consultant hospital doctor was engaged on 6th June 2012; and the manning of the reception is being reviewed.

1755 **Stroke unit within St Bernard's Hospital  
Establishment**

**Clerk:** Question 873, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

1760 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Health advise when the establishment of a stroke unit within St Bernard's Hospital will take place, as per the Government's manifesto?

1765 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the matter is currently being considered by the professionals concerned and we are awaiting recommendations.

1770

**GHA's Zero Tolerance Policy  
Effectiveness**

1775 **Clerk:** Question 874, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, what will the Minister for Health be doing in order to make the GHA's Zero Tolerance Policy more effective, given public concerns raised by GHA medical staff that it is ineffective in protecting employers against harassment and intimidation?

1780 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, a policy, however well drawn up, will never be able to stop the public harassing or intimidating staff.

1785 The principles set out in the Zero Tolerance Policy are ones which I support.

Management has my full backing in the implementation of this Policy. I am not aware that the policy has lost its effectiveness, since it was first introduced.

1790 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, has the Hon. Minister not looked into the allegations and concerns raised by the GHA's medical staff in the media?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** My point is that the existence of the Policy will not stop people harassing. That, sadly, is in the condition of the harasser. The Policy will deal with harassment, but will not necessarily stop it. The fact that there may or may not be one, two, three or four, on any particular period of time, instances of harassment, does not reflect on the Zero Tolerance Policy.

1795 The Zero Tolerance Policy is *zero tolerance*. We cannot have a 'minus five' tolerance policy or something like that. There is no tolerance of these sorts of events and any events that concern harassment or intimidation are regretted, but it is not the Policy that is at fault.

1800 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, so is the Hon. Minister not concerned that some GHA medical staff feel the GHA Zero Tolerance Policy is ineffective? Will he not be taking their recommendations on board and speaking with them?

1805 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, the GHA staff know very well how concerned I am about their work conditions, their safety and so on. Of course, if any member of staff raises any issue at all with me, including particularly when they may be concerned about harassment and intimidation, they will be listened to very seriously and whatever action can be taken will be taken. That is absolutely the case.

1810 There have been several instances in the last 10 months, and I can assure the hon. Member that they have all been dealt with very, very seriously. However, I repeat, any member of staff who wishes to raise any matter is more than welcome and will be listened to.

**GHA waiting lists  
Table 24 on Government website**

1815 **Clerk:** Question 875, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

1820 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Health explain the GHA Table 24, as updated on 2nd August 2012, obtainable on-line from the statistics section of the Government website, namely 'Number of people on the GHA waiting lists for operations at St Bernard's Hospital with a breakdown by the type of surgical discipline', and whether the numbers are cumulative over the months; and where is it indicated how many cases are awaiting surgery by type and for the one month only?

1825 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the numbers are not cumulative.

The total waiting list is based on the last month in the tables shown, those are the active figures.

1830 The totals given are – *were* – a mathematical calculation – maybe I can call it an artefact of tabulation – which is not significant in real terms and no longer appears on the table.

The columns, Mr Speaker, had been added up, but it made no sense because it was not cumulative. Every table represents that month's waiting list.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, if I may refer to... I do not know if the Hon. Minister has the –

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** I may have it.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** I have a copy if the Hon. Minister would like... (*Interjection by Hon. Dr. J E Cortes*) Mr Speaker, if I may go to the table that the Hon. Minister now has a copy of, for example in July 2012, is the Hon. Minister saying that 316 people were still on the waiting list for general surgery?

Perhaps, could the Hon. Minister explain, what is that figure of 23 in brackets next to the 316?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, yes, it is correct. That means it is 316.

What was an artefact of tabulation – if I may use that term again, because I think it sounds absolutely marvellous! – is the total at the bottom... Clearly, you cannot add the months together to give you the figure at the bottom of that. It in fact no longer appears on the website.

I believe Mr Speaker, that the 23, the number in brackets – but subject to confirmation, as I do not seem to have those notes with me – are new cases in that particular month. But I will have to confirm that and I will be happy to give that information to the hon. Lady within the next day.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** I am grateful for that, Mr Speaker.

So Mr Speaker, can the Hon. Minister, then... is it true to say that, in July, there were 316 waiting for general surgery; in June there had been 321 people waiting for general surgery? Does this mean that only five general surgeries took place in that month?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** No, because if you add the 23 – if that is new cases – those then will be added to the figure and then are cancelled out, because they have been done. I think that is what it means – but as I say, I will confirm that later.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** One last supplementary, Mr Speaker.

Can the Hon. Minister confirm then that in total for the month of July, there were 934 people waiting for surgery?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, that is what the table says. I think this is a totally unsatisfactory level of people waiting. It is an issue and it is very similar to what was inherited, when I took responsibility for the Health Authority. It is something that I am actively working on with management and with the professionals to try and cut this waiting list drastically and I hope we will be able to succeed.

#### Staff Nurse vacancies GHA actions to fill posts

**Clerk:** Question 876, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, in response to Written Question 109/2012, 27.5 Staff Nurse positions are identified as vacant. Can the Minister for Health explain how those vacancies are being filled at present and what the GHA is doing to fill those positions on a permanent basis?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, some of the staff nurse positions above are being filled by officers in the nursing bank; others are covered by officers carrying out overtime, whilst some posts remain vacant.

The GHA wishes to fill these posts and has recently undertaken interviews for all of these positions. Successful applicants have, in the main, been informed. It is a process ongoing, and it is envisaged that the positions will be covered within the next three months.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, the vacant positions that the Hon. Minister has identified, are those or can those be filled by agency nurses?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, agency nurses are extremely expensive, particularly as they would have to be recruited most likely in the United Kingdom and there are horrendous charges for them.

1895 Therefore, we... I seem to recall one exception in that it was a particular specialty, it may have been children but I do not recall, when I authorised agency cover because of the critical responsibilities of that post.

1900 We feel that we can at the moment cover, on the understanding that the bank and the overtime will be short lived, in the sense that we hope that the nurses interviewed will be able to take up their posts shortly. But, agency nurses we do resist because they are extremely expensive, although when they are necessary for the safety and care of our patients, we will obviously engage them.

1905 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Finally, Mr Speaker, I know I have not given notice of this question, but does the Hon. Minister know how many positions remain vacant, after bank nurses and overtime?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** No, Mr Speaker, I am afraid I do not have that information with me.

1910

**Dr. McCutcheon, previous Chief Executive Officer of the GHA  
Compensation awarded**

1915 **Clerk:** Question 877, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Health inform this House how much Dr. McCutcheon, previous Chief Executive Officer of the GHA, was awarded as compensation for having cut his employment contract short by three years?

1920 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. Dr. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, Dr. McCutcheon resigned as CEO.

1925 As the GHA has already announced, Dr McCutcheon resigned on 11th September. He himself announced his resignation and explained that he had resigned for personal reasons.

The Question seems to imply that the GHA cut short his employment contract. This is not the case.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, does that mean that there is no compensation?

1930 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, that means that the appointment was not cut short. The terms of the, shall I say, termination of contract have to remain – (*Interjection*) yes, yes, let me finish – have at this moment to remain confidential.

However, I would be happy to discuss with the hon. Member outside the House.

1935 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Yes, but why is it to remain confidential at this stage?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Dr. McCutcheon's lawyer requested confidentiality and this was agreed.

1940 **Hon. P R Caruana:** Mr Speaker, that may be the case, but the Government is accountable to this House for its use of public funds and how much it has paid a public servant for the termination of that service is not a matter that can be kept from this Parliament on the basis that one of the parties to it prefers that it be kept confidential. On that basis, this Parliament's ability to scrutinise the Government depends on other people's desire not to prevent it from doing so.

1945 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, in this context, we are talking about a specific individual and a remuneration package related to that individual which has led, on his resignation, to a payment to him, based on the contract entered into with the hon. Members when they were in administration.

1950 Let me say that I will look at the confidentiality clause, because it seems to me that the confidentiality clause cannot exclude our obligation to be answerable in respect of public funds, and come back to the House on that basis.

I think it is correct to say that there is a confidentiality clause there. I have not seen it, and we may have to take advice on how we can answer such questions in the House.

1955 At the end of the day, a payment will have to be accounted for and it is possible that we may just have to direct hon. Members to where that payment is going to be accounted for and they can then see the

amount as a result of that, in whatever part of Estimates or whatever it is that we put out, so that they can see the exact figure in a public way.

1960 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I would confirm that the reasons I have not divulged them are purely because of my concerns as to confidentiality and that clearly, if that is cleared by the Chief Minister, I would have no problem at all.

1965 **Hon. P R Caruana:** Yes Mr Speaker, I have to say I am much more interested in the generality than in the specific case, but it also has to be said that the Hon. Dr. Cortes carefully worded his answer which would lead a less inquisitive listener to conclude that there was no compensation payment, which is a wholly different position to the one that we are in, in which there has been one, but he feels bound by confidentiality.

1970 Can I just say in answer to...if I can just ask the Hon. the Chief Minister – and I am grateful to him for what he has said on the question of confidentiality and all of that, and I await to see what conclusion he comes to – but when we were in Government, would he bear in mind that we were frequently invited by counterparties, whether it was in commercial agreements or in other situations, to submit to confidentiality clauses, which we often did agree to, but worded in terms that excluded from the confidentiality clause the Government's obligation to account to Parliament and any other... So some wording of confidentiality clauses is okay, but not an absolute...

1975 Anyway, I am happy to wait until his review of the matter.

1980 **Hon. Chief Minister:** I am grateful, Mr Speaker, and I am sure that no confidentiality clause can exclude such disclosure as may be required by operation of law or other requirement. Of course we have a requirement to account to this House for the spending of public money, therefore it must be that we are able to give that information. That is why I am going to look at it.

1985 The question that the Hon. Minister was answering was also very carefully worded and a less inquisitive person might not turn their attention to the detail of how it was phrased, suggesting that somebody had had their employment cut short. I think that is why he was very careful to answer correctly exactly the question that had been posed, as is our obligation when answering questions.

1990 **Hon. P R Caruana:** Mr Speaker, I think the hon. Member is right. The Hon. Minister for Health *correctly* corrected the false premise of the question, which was the assumption that the contract had been cut short and he *correctly* pointed out that it was not; but then he stopped short there, therefore giving the impression that because he had terminated it himself and it had not been terminated on him, ergo it must necessarily follow that there was no compensation. It is true that those words were not added, but it is implicit.

1995 If I ask if the contract was terminated, how much compensation was paid and the answer is the contract was not terminated, he resigned of his own accord, the implication is 'and therefore no compensation was payable or paid'. I am not saying that is what the hon. Member intended to convey, that false and misleading impression, but that is what it did.

2000 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, can I just say that I am conscious that we have had a very good morning and it is often when we think that we are collaborating in exchanges like this and the words 'false' and 'misleading' creep in, that we then have an explosion. So can we just leave it there and I will come back with the information when I have it.

**Mr Speaker:** I would very –

2005 **Hon. P R Caruana:** The words 'false' and 'misleading' are perfectly okay when they are preceded with the words 'I am not suggesting that the hon. Member intended it'. It is only when they are not proceeded by those words that they might be aggressive!

2010 **Mr Speaker:** May I invite the Government to ensure that a statement is made here in Parliament, because it is a matter of public importance. I think the whole question of Dr. McCutcheon is one of great public importance and for the record, having regard to the question that has been made, I think for the record, some answer should also go into the record of our proceedings.

2015 **Hon. Chief Minister:** I am grateful, Mr Speaker, for that invitation.  
I think in the process of finding the information that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has asked for and looking at how we deal with this confidentiality aspect, I am quite happy to bring such information or give such explanation as to the operation of the confidentiality clause, by way of a statement, with your leave.

**KGV Mental Hospital  
Persons admitted below the age of 18**

2020

**Clerk:** Question 878, the Hon. J J Netto.

2025

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, could the Minister say if any person or persons below the age of 18 has been admitted to the KGV Mental Hospital and if so provide details of reason or reasons for the admission, the age, sex, duration and whether the decision for admission has been by sectioning, voluntary, or on any other account?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health and the Environment.

2030

**Minister for Health and the Environment (Hon. J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, the request for information regarding patients aged under 18 years admitted to the acute ward did not specify the period required. I have gone back as far as 1st October 2007, five years, in the admissions Book. Information is provided in the schedule I now hand over.

2035

**Answer to Question No. 878 of 2012**

**SCHEDULE**

Sex	Age of Admission	Date of Admission	Date of Discharge	Status	Reason for Admission
M	14	10/10/08	13/10/08	Inf	Assessment
F	17	24/08/09	28/08/09	Sec 5	Anxiety Low Mood
M	17	14/05/10	28/05/10	Inf	Assessment
M	17	15/05/12	08/06/12	Sec 5	Assessment
F	17	21/09/12	01/10/12	Sec 5	Suicidal ideation

2040

**Clerk:** The Hon. the Chief Minister.

**Mr Speaker:** Yes? Does the hon. Member wish to ask a supplementary?

2045

**Hon. J J Netto** Yes, please. If I can...

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, please do.

2050

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, in relation to the figures being provided, in particular to the two last ones – and I would not necessarily want to, across the floor of the House, give particulars of the particular individual – could I ask, have they been admitted by sectioning or was it a voluntary decision between all the professionals and the families?

If the hon. Gentleman wishes, I might even withdraw the supplementary question and perhaps have it confidentially, I do not mind.

2055

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, it is in the table under 'Status'. The second last column provides the information.

2060

**Hon. J J Netto** Could I also ask, Mr Speaker, in relation to those two cases at the bottom of the chart, whether given their ages, are they being segregated from adults or not?

2065

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Yes, absolutely, as the hon. Member will know, the facilities in KGV are not ideal for this, but they are completely separated and supervised very closely at all times. The new mental facilities will provide much more satisfactory conditions for dealing with young people with this type of problem.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Could I also ask, Mr Speaker, presumably clinical diagnosis would have been made either by local professionals or perhaps given the circumstances of the cases, even by professionals from abroad. Is that the case Mr Speaker, in terms of diagnosing the condition of those particular individuals?

2070 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I would assume so. That specific information was not requested and therefore it is not included in the table, but I would assume so.

2075 **Hon. J J Netto:** Could I also ask in relation to those two whether... are these two in the care of the Care Agency or are they in the community prior to admission?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I am afraid I do not have that information.

2080 **Hon. J J Netto:** And does the Minister know, given their ages, has their education been hampered in any particular way and whether there has been any multi-agency meeting to discuss amongst professionals if this is so and whether it is possible to try and put it back on track?

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, they may not even be in school at that age, because it is past the compulsory school leaving age.

2085 Mr Speaker, I will have to have notice of that question. I have answered the specific points listed in the question. Any further information, I am afraid I do not have and that could follow, if the hon. Member wishes to write to me.

2090 **Hon. J J Netto:** Yes, probably, and perhaps my last supplementary question, although I take on board what he has just said, that he might not be in a position to provide me with information, but in relation to the last one, the one at the bottom there, it seems to me that there may be some underlying psychological issues there. If this is so, will the hon. Gentleman know whether there is a continual assessment, as a result of that, and any particular treatment as a result of that?

2095 **Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, again, I do not have any information, but in view of the professional abilities of the staff, I am sure that whatever has to be done will have been and will be done. There is no holding back in helping young people with this sort of problem.

2100 As to specifics that were not in the question, it is not part of my day-to-day duties and therefore I do not have it. It is not the same as asking me about climate change, which I tend to know about, so I cannot answer that question.

**Hon. J J Netto:** I will take the offer from the hon. Gentleman and write to him to see.

**Hon. Dr. J E Cortes:** I will be delighted to respond.

#### Recess

2110 **Mr Speaker:** I understand the Chief Minister would like the House to recess now until three this afternoon.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Recess or adjourn, Mr Speaker, whichever you prefer. The practice until now has been that I move an adjournment until three.

2115 **Mr Speaker:** I honestly do not think that it is necessary. The word 'adjournment' refers to another day. You adjourn to another day. To this afternoon at three, there is no need for an adjournment. What the House should have is a recess until three o'clock this afternoon.

2120 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, in Court –

**Mr Speaker:** It may be a practice which has been adopted in the last 20 years –

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Indeed, Mr Speaker –

2125 **Mr Speaker:** – but it was not in the previous 20.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, I think perhaps the influx of lawyers has brought in this new terminology of adjournment and what more salutary way to start your first day than to take a recess

2130 **Mr Speaker:** The word 'adjournment' is self-explanatory.



**Hon. Chief Minister:** So Mr Speaker, I am delighted that we should recess in fact until 3.00 p.m.

2135

**Invitation by Mr Speaker  
Members may approach the Speaker's Chair**

2140 **Mr Speaker:** Before I do that, there is another matter I wish to mention.

When I was a Member of this House 20 years ago, the Hon. Sir Alfred Vasquez invited Members who might wish to have a word with the Speaker to approach the Speaker's Chair – obviously provided it is not a controversial matter – but there may be instances when a Member needs to come and have a word with the Speaker and not wait for the House to recess. So I would invite hon. Members to do that. I am available, it is a practice that I always found very useful myself, as I said, when Sir Alfred Vasquez was Speaker.

2145

Obviously a controversial or a difficult matter is another matter, but a small routine matter that they wish to come and talk to me about, there is no problem. Please approach the Speaker's Chair, whenever you feel necessary.

2150

The House will now recess until three this afternoon.

*The House recessed at 12.20 p.m. and resumed its sitting at 3.00 p.m.*