



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

**MORNING SESSION: 9.15 a.m. – 1.16 p.m.**

**Gibraltar, Thursday, 20th September 2012**

## The Gibraltar Parliament

*The Parliament met at 9.15 a.m.*

[MR SPEAKER: Hon. H K Budhrani QC *in the Chair*]

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

## Questions for Oral Answer

### TOURISM, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE PORT

**Airline business development  
Consultation services**

**Clerk:** Sitting of Parliament, Thursday, 20th September. Answers to Questions continue.  
Question 696.

5 **Mr Speaker:** I think we had reached the supplementary stage.  
Hon. Damon Bossino.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** I am grateful, Mr Speaker.

I am sure we have all had a well-earned rest after yesterday's proceedings and I look forward to these proceedings being a bit more calm and civil. (*Interjection*). Let's see... Let's see what happens.

10 Mr Speaker, I think the way we left matters in relation to my Question, which related to the provision of consultancy services to the Government in respect of airline business development in Gibraltar... The answer was, just to recap, that Mr Stuart Finlayson had been appointed in this respect and the Minister gave me some information as to the terms in which that appointment had been given. But can I ask the Minister... maybe home in and request further particulars as to what those terms of reference are.

15 In relation to that, does Mr Finlayson have any objectives which he has to achieve within the first six-month period of his appointment?

20 **Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Yes, Mr Speaker, the objectives that the hon. Gentleman speaks of are not contained in the consultancy agreement, but we have made it clear to Mr Finlayson that the whole point of his consultancy services to the GTB is, other than maintaining contact with the airlines and introducing Gibraltar as a potential destination to Nordic countries – in particular to Germany – and other operators in Spain and other operators in the UK, for us to take a positive view to renew his contract it would be ideal if we had a signed agreement of a new air route coming to Gibraltar.

25 That does not mean that if we do not have one then we will *not* renew his contract, because it may be that negotiations are well progressed in respect of various airlines that may well consider coming to Gibraltar, but it is, to answer the hon. Gentleman's question, a result-driven contract and it is perfectly clear that in order for him to continue to provide consultancy services to the Gibraltar Tourist Board he will need to provide results and, of course, that would be tangibly new air connectivity to Gibraltar.

30 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Perhaps just to confirm something that the Minister has just said, Mr Speaker, I would be interested, on this side of the House, to ask for the Minister's confirmation that the measurable target on which he, as the Minister responsible for this area of policy, will be able to assess whether Mr Finlayson's appointment has been a success or otherwise, will be the ability to secure connectivity, as he has just mentioned. Is that the target? And if that is indeed the target – I expect that the answer will be that it is – is there a timeframe that he has in his mind *now* as to when he expects Mr Finlayson to deliver in that respect?

40 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, in the first place – I did say this, but I will reiterate it – it is important that we maintain constant contact with airlines. There are, as the hon. Gentleman knows, a number of them, some of which *we* think are suited to come to Gibraltar because of their place in Europe. It is because Mr Finlayson has such an extensive experience of the airline industry and has worked, for instance, for Routes Ltd, which the hon. Gentleman knows sets up the Routes conference, he has worked for Airport Coordination Ltd, for airport slots as senior co-ordination executive, he has a Masters in air transport management... Because of his background, he therefore has a unique blend of contacts throughout the airline industry which we do intend to, in the best possible sense, possibly plunder so that Gibraltar becomes very much visible in their minds and on their radar.

45 So part of Mr Finlayson's value to the Gibraltar Tourist Board is, firstly, the contacts that he is able to establish and the relationships that he is able to pursue, and that cannot be, I think, belittled because it is very difficult for us to get in touch with airlines through which we have no contacts. So having a foot in the door, as it were, is crucial. Once we have that, of course, the target very much is that Mr Finlayson, where possible, secures an airline connection to Gibraltar.

50 All of the experts in the industry – whether it is local tour operators or international operators or, indeed, the executives of airlines that I have spoken to, have always told me that lead-in time to establish a new route could be anything between a year or two. The hon. Gentleman knows that we were successful, once the Liverpool route disappeared, to increase capacity, to maintain the capacity through Manchester through Monarch, and when Bmibaby announced that it would cease operations in October we were also able to move quickly to start operations, as from March, also through Monarch at Birmingham. So we *can* move quickly where it is absolutely necessary that we do so, and the hon. Gentleman will, I am sure, congratulate us in

being able to do so in those two respects.

That is one thing. Being able to develop relationships and secure airlines from partners with which we have absolutely no relationship... We have no relationship with airlines in the Nordic countries, no relationship with airlines in Germany, for instance. We need, as I say, to establish those contacts and then try to see how we best secure those routes.

I have impressed on Mr Finlayson, as I have already said, that for the Government, a sure sign of success would be that he is able to have a contract signed with an airline before the expiration of his first six-month term, but as I have also said, given that he has invaluable contacts in the airline industry, and if we feel that he has sufficiently progressed negotiations with any number of airlines, it does not mean that because he has not *secured* one contract by the end of his first six months, that we will not renew it for another six months for him to finalise and continue negotiations which are already in place.

I can already tell him, too, that Mr Finlayson has prepared a very detailed information booklet on the Gibraltar Airport as to passenger input, passenger throughput, the benefits of the Gibraltar Airport, the benefits of flying to Gibraltar and how that analysis will factor into airlines' *own* analysis as to why it would be commercially viable for them to come to Gibraltar, and this is the point that I am trying to make. For Monarch, even if they have no data from Birmingham to Gibraltar, they have been able to rely on the data from Bmibaby and, indeed, the data from Luton, so they have more or less an idea of numbers because of their relationship, but for those airlines that have no relationship this is where Mr Finlayson comes in.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** The answer I am now seeking may have been inherent in what the Minister has just said, but one of the concerns I have... because I can tell him that when we were in office... As he well knows, I was not in that GSD administration. The information that I get is that we had gentlemen – maybe it was Mr Finlayson himself, or people like him – who sold his wares to the Gibraltar Government at the time and that was never seen as a positive move, on the basis simply that the analysis made was that there were sufficient staff within the GTB, as well as the Minister himself, who would be able to carry out that work.

I would be interested to learn... and this goes really to the issue of cost, and I do appreciate that the cost outlay here is not necessarily great, given it is under £15,000 for the first six months but, given the issue of costs and given also the statements made by the Hon. Minister in this House in the past, Mr Speaker, that he lays a lot of emphasis on personal contact, and I assumed it was his personal contact with the players in the industry... how he expects – and I could home in on that – to marry what Mr Finlayson does and what he himself has told this House he is doing, as well as his Department?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, with respect to the hon. Gentleman, there is nothing mutually exclusive between a person who has the connections that he has as a result of having worked for so many years in the airport industry that introduce his Minister to those people to build those personal contacts and the work that he does. Mr Finlayson comes armed and equipped with an ability to analyse data in respect of passengers and throughput and can establish those contacts and introduce *us* – the Gibraltar Tourist Board and me – to those personal contacts that will eventually, hopefully, once he has done the groundwork in terms of passenger analysis – the number of people that can fly to Gibraltar, why it is commercially beneficial for them – for me to go eventually and sign whatever agreement is necessary.

My personal contacts are now very much, I hope, embedded with Monarch Airlines and also with British Airways. Of course, Monarch Airlines is a much smaller business, so to know the managing director is very much like knowing the actual owner, because there is this symbiosis between them, too, because it is a family-owned business and therefore very small. British Airways, as he knows, is a behemoth, it is *much bigger*, so as we do now have a special contact for Gibraltar – indeed, it is through this contact that we managed to obtain the two extra weekend flights with BA... It is a much bigger organisation, so just by knowing this one contact does not mean, of course, that we know people at the very top, but Mr Finlayson does, indeed, know certain people that he can introduce us to.

So the hon. Gentleman will note that, even when Mr Finlayson was now here, we were able to obtain the two additional flights from BA. Those were done, in fairness, through the efforts of the chief executive, Mr Guerrero, and my three meetings with this gentleman from BA. However, I think that Mr Finlayson's statistical analysis very much helped clinch the deal as to whether it was commercially viable or not for Gibraltar.

In respect of costs, I think the hon. Gentleman will agree with me that £13,000 for six months, when we have been able to secure already two extra additional flights from BA *weekly*, is very much a good deal.

115 In respect of staff, yes, the Gibraltar Tourist Board does have, I would say, a high complement of people, but I can assure him that they are very much busy in whatever areas they are contracted to perform.

120 Mr Guerrero does have a particular expertise on airports and air connections, which is why we brought him in as the chief executive, but because he is also the chief executive it means that at least half of his time is designed to administration, human resources issues, paper-clipping etc, so he was not able to fully dedicate himself to what we think is a vitally, critically important economic generator, which is air connectivity, and the hon. Gentleman will agree with me, without getting into the political squabble of whether €80 million was too high or too low – we know what the respective political positions are – because we do now have an airport that has a capacity for one million passengers a year and we only have air connectivity to the UK, we really do need to have the expert resources of those that we can obtain to make the airport, which we say was built over-excessively in terms of cost, a success.

125 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, the Minister has quite rightly said that we will always be at loggerheads as to the judgement that this side of the House has and the tick that this side of the House has in relation to the building of that airport. That is absolutely right and, just by way of emphasis, we certainly still support. He knows what the arguments are and he knows what I said in my Budget speech. I very much encourage the Government... [*Mobile telephone interference*] to make use of the Airport... [*Mobile telephone interference*] – I think we have some mobile interference – and get it operational as soon as possible.

130 Just by way of confirmation, basically Mr Finlayson at this stage, and I do appreciate that it is very much work in progress, since he was only appointed relatively recently... I think it was 1st July he mentioned yesterday. Basically, he is an introducer of business to the Government, but an introducer of business who has a particular expertise and knowledge of the industry in terms of statistics and data and all the rest.

135 **Mr Speaker:** I hate to be –

140 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Just by way of confirmation.

**Mr Speaker:** I hate to be critical. Sorry. I hate to be critical of the hon. Member, but at Question Time a supplementary is not about confirmation or reconfirmation; it is about eliciting information. That information has been provided. What was the need for *confirmation* of that same information?

145 Next question, please.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Well, Mr Speaker –

150 **Mr Speaker:** No, with respect, the answer, everything which the hon. Member asked the Minister to confirm has been answered in different ways over several supplementaries. What is the point of a *confirmation*?

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, this is a new initiative on the part of the Government.

155 **Mr Speaker:** I beg your pardon?

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, this is a new initiative on the part of the Government and I am just very interested to learn and to make sure that I have understood the responses that the Minister has given me in this House and I think it is –

160 **Mr Speaker:** But doesn't the sum total of all the answers encompass what the hon. Member has asked the Minister to confirm? Or is there something else you have asked him to confirm?

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, simply to... perhaps for the Minister to –

165 **Mr Speaker:** With respect, this is not a courtroom where –

**Hon. D J Bossino:** – to summarise what –

170 **Mr Speaker:** No, with respect, in Question Time, there was summarising of information that has been provided. It is not a courtroom where we have got to summarise the information for the benefit of the jury. The information *has* been provided.

175 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, but Mr Speaker, I have to say that Mr Speaker has, on a number of sessions, now with me accused me of asking questions of the Government in a way that is designed to batter a confession out of the witness. He has drawn this analogy with a courtroom on a number of occasions and I think it demeans this side of the House.

Now Mr Speaker may or may not have a point, but I think that Mr Speaker takes the analogy with a courtroom and playing to... What effectively you are saying is that we, on this side of the House, are playing to the gallery; and we, on this side of the House, refute entirely that suggestion.

180 My hon. and learned Friend, Mr Bossino, is asking questions. Sometimes one may overstep the mark. It is not the first time that it has happened, it will not be the last time, but what I would ask Mr Speaker to do is perhaps show some restraint in the use of his analogy, which he has used on a number of occasions, about courtrooms and battering witnesses and playing to the jury.

185 I personally did not see anything wrong with the questions; but, of course, you are the Speaker and he has to abide by your ruling. All I am saying is that perhaps you are going a little bit –

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, also if I could just to that and explain that this was, literally, my last supplementary.

190 This is, as I explained earlier, a new initiative from the Government. I am very interested in it. I do not think my questions – and I think the Hon. Minister would agree with me – have been aggressive in *any* way.

**Mr Speaker:** Not at all.

195 **Hon. D J Bossino:** In fact, they have not even been *political* in any way. It is simply – and I am very conscious of Standing Orders, Mr Speaker – an attempt to elicit information. As part of that process, Mr Speaker, I think it is important, by way of confirmation – and I do not think that the Opposition ought to be shackled in *that* respect – to be in a position on this side of the House to ensure that we have fully understood what have been – with all due respect to the Minister – rather lengthy replies. (*Interjection*)

200 I am sure that the response could easily have been – and I expected that the response would be, because I *think* I have understood, but I just wanted confirmation in that respect – a simple ‘yes’, and then I can assure Mr Speaker, and the Chair, that my supplementaries would have ended there.

205 **Mr Speaker:** Okay. First of all, may I say to the Hon. Daniel Feetham that I have *never* accused or suggested that the questions or the conduct of the Opposition are aimed at playing to the gallery – I never have.

When I have drawn an analogy, I have drawn an analogy in terms of trying to get the *answer*. If I talk about ‘beating a confession out of the witness’, I am referring to trying to get the answer in the manner in which the Opposition would like to hear it, in the manner which lawyers like to hear an answer from witnesses, in that context. I have *never*... I am sure if the Gentleman on this side were to cast their minds back, I have never suggested that any of the questions or any of the conduct of the Opposition is playing to the gallery. I never have and it would be wrong for me to do so. I never have.

210 Getting back to this point again, with respect, we must all understand (*Interjection*) that Question Time is about eliciting information or urging a certain policy. The hon. Gentleman has asked three or four supplementaries today in a perfectly proper manner – no criticism meant, or even suggested, of the manner in which questions are posed, or the questions themselves. The answers have been given in an equally straightforward forthright matter. There is absolutely no criticism of the question or of the answers.

215 The criticism lies in the last question, which asks the Hon. Minister to *confirm* the state of affairs, which the Minister has answered over a series of questions. That is not, in my understanding, eliciting information or urging of policies: simply asking him to reconfirm that that is a summary of what he has said over the questions this morning and one or two yesterday afternoon. That is not the purpose of supplementaries.

220 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, is the ruling from the House going to be... or the recommendation from the House that we are not to seek confirmation in respect of answers where perhaps the poser of the question

may not have understood the entirety of the answer given?

**Mr Speaker:** Ask for –

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Is that the position –

**Mr Speaker:** Just ask for clarification of the answer; but not *confirmation*.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** I will happily replace the word ‘confirmation’ with ‘clarification’.

**Mr Speaker:** Please do.

What would you like the Minister to clarify?

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Well, can the Minister *clarify*, because in fact, Mr Speaker, I have asked and used the word ‘confirmation’ in the past, and the Chair has not stopped me... but can the Hon. the Minister for Tourism clarify that Mr Finlayson’s duty, or the benefits of Mr Finlayson’s appointment, will be that he will be, in effect, the introducer of business to his departments? That in fact he is telling this House that he is a particularly attractive appointment because not only is he somebody in the know, in terms of whether he knows the contacts and all the rest of it, but he also has the data and information and that sort of nitty-gritty arsenal of information at his disposal? Can I ask him to clarify that?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman likes to test my memory first thing in the morning, but I think I can clarify the position.

The hon. Gentleman is right to say that one of the primary roles which will be discharged by Mr Finlayson, will be to introduce possible business opportunities to the Gibraltar Tourist Board and to the Gibraltar Government. As I have said, as a result of the extensive professional experience that he has had in the flight industry – he even was cabin crew from 1997 to 2004 for various long and short-haul flights and, as I said, he has a Masters in Transport Management... So as a result of all of that and having worked on the administration side and on the actual flying side of the business, he does know a wealth of people who we in Gibraltar would not necessarily have the contact. So yes, he is a *vital introducer* of potential business.

Secondly, as to whether he is attractive: yes, he is a very attractive proposition, precisely because he does have, by virtue of his own studies, an erudition – data and information – which he is able to put together in a very attractive brochure to send to all of the airlines that we wish to attract to Gibraltar. I believe that was the extent of my supplementaries to date. (*Interjection*)

The third point is that he is not my brother-in-law! I only met him whenever I met him the first time.

It is thanks to Mr Finlayson that whereas the personal contacts were held through me and Nicky Guerrero in respect of the new BA flights, it is my opinion that he did clinch that deal by producing and collating data for British Airways that showed that what Mr Guerrero and I were telling the airline as being a commercially successful route anecdotally, he was able to back up by figures because – let’s not make the mistake – airlines will only fly to Gibraltar if they are going to make money.

**Mr Speaker:** There is nothing new that I learnt over there, apart from the fact that this is a very attractive man!

Next question, please. (*Laughter and interjections*)

**Hon. N F Costa:** But I hope that I remembered everything, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Speaker:** Well, there is nothing new that I learnt over there.

**Hon. N F Costa:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question, please.

**DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER**

**Elliott's Battery development  
Public consultation**

**Clerk:** We are now very quickly going to take Question 810, which is to be answered by the Hon. the Deputy Chief Minister.  
Question 810, the Hon. S M Figueras.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Yes, good morning, Mr Speaker.

Can the Deputy Chief Minister confirm, further to the announcement in relation to the new housing development in the area of Elliott's Battery, whether it will be considering the views of the public, particularly residents and other stakeholders in the area, expressed in open meetings of the DPC, and to what extent such representations and the consequent opinion and guidance of the DPC will form part of the Government's process to determine whether the project will go ahead?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Deputy Chief Minister.

**Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr. J J Garcia):** Mr Speaker, the Government will indeed consider both the views of the public and the recommendations of the DPC as part of the process to determine whether the eco-housing projects will go ahead at Europa Point. This will be balanced against the housing needs of Gibraltar.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, perhaps the Hon. the Deputy Chief Minister could confirm whether there is any chance that the project will *not* go ahead following representations received?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the placing of the project before the DPC is the start of the public consultation. So now we are taking the views and then we will take a decision.

So the project could go ahead, or it could not go ahead. Yes, that is the correct position.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** I am grateful for the answer.

In the announcement of the project the Government – I will use two microphones... far better. *(Laughter)*

In the announcement of the project, the Government confirmed, indeed, that the project was going through the DPC for opinion and guidance. However, there is precedent, or rather there was some confusion in respect of what it meant to go to the DPC in respect of another issue earlier on in the year, but specifically in relation to Grand Battery, I would be grateful if the Deputy Chief Minister could confirm, or rather could clarify whether, by virtue of going to the DPC whether it is in fact – and I know he said it, but I just want to ensure that there is no confusion in this specific respect – whether going to the DPC means going beyond just the Committee of the DPC itself by a round-robin e-mail and beyond to a public consultation and public meetings?

I am aware that there have been public meetings. I would like to pin the Deputy Chief Minister onto whether or not the public opinion – as if the project were going to the full planning process – is going to be taken fully on board and whether that opinion, if there were significant strength of it, would actually result in the mothballing of the project in its entirety?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, what I can confirm at this stage is that the Government will take a decision, taking on board the views of the residents and the views of the DPC, and then will decide whether the project will go ahead or not. That is the whole purpose of the exercise.

**Clerk:** Question 697.

**Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Daniel Feetham.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, just on that. I have got a number of supplementaries here. I have got a question on the Order Paper later on for the Chief Minister. I might as well ask you, given that we are advancing, my

learned friend, Mr Figueras, has asked his question and we are advancing it.

Are you saying that... you answered first... You said one has to balance the views with the housing needs of the community, and I quite understand that. At the end you said you have got to balance the views of the DPC with the views of the residents. (*Interjection*) Is the Government's... Well, that is what I heard you say at the present moment. Is the position that, of course, the Government will take into account the views of the residents but, at the end of the day, one must balance that with the housing needs of the community and it may well be the case that the housing needs of the community are such that you have got to, in an appropriate case – I do not know whether it will be this one – ignore, or it will trump, the views of the local community because of those needs?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, I think what I said was that we need to take into account... the Government will take into account both the views of the DPC *and* the views of the residents, on the one hand –

**Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** And then take a decision.

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** – and then take a decision as to whether the project goes ahead or not. That is what I said.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** I understand what you said at the end, but I am just trying to understand the way that the Government actually sees this operating, not only in relation to this but in relation to other projects.

You may – Sorry, he is... the honourable... I do not mind giving you a moment to discuss it between you. No.

I quite understand what you have told me about the views of the DPC. Of course, the DPC has to provide its views on pure planning aspects, because that is what they are there for. Pure planning aspects. The residents will provide their views in terms of the impact on them, but there is a third element that is particularly important in the context of Gibraltar, where land is limited, and of course, very often it does not matter where one builds, there is going to be an impact on the people around.

Does the hon. Gentleman accept, therefore, and is it part of Government policy that one needs to take into account the housing needs of this community and, in appropriate circumstances, the housing needs of the community will trump the views of people around? That is what I am asking.

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, in this particular case, I think the Government needs to listen to the arguments being put forward first, so the whole idea of going to planning is to start the public debate on the issue. That has now started. We are listening to the views of the DPC, to the views of residents, and then we take a decision. So the matter is open at this stage.

**Clerk:** Question 697 –

**Mr Speaker:** No, no, I think the hon. Gentleman has another question.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, and the other question, which I was going to ask the Chief Minister: did you consult the residents of the area around Grandy Close before you made your announcement as to eco-housing and, if not, are you effectively setting a precedent for the future, that the consultation exercise will take place as part of the planning process and there will not be any consultation beforehand with residents of the area?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the policy of the Government is that, in relation to these large projects – particularly housing ones – the act of going to planning is the start of the public consultation.

So what we have done with these cases is to announce them beforehand, they come out on the DPC website before the meeting takes place, and people are then free to come and express an opinion, either at the DPC itself or in writing, as many have done. Many people have written to the Government. We take all that on board in coming to a decision on whether the project then proceeds or not.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, so effectively, Government policy is there will be no consultation prior to the, prior to effectively, the planning process, because that is the formal consultation. That is the position, is it



not?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** In relation to these housing projects, the formal consultation starts at the point of making the announcement and going to planning and then people are free to write in, express opinions, have meetings, and the Government then takes a position.

## TOURISM, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE PORT

### Gibraltar Tourist Board Costs of new lifeboats and trailers

**Clerk:** Question 697, the Hon. D J Bossino.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port advise this House what the costs of the lifeboats and trailers, recently purchased, reportedly, by the Gibraltar Tourist Board was?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port.

**Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, this information is already available to the hon. Gentleman on the Government's website.

**Clerk:** Question 698 –

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, if I may, can the Minister... and I do appreciate what the rules say, so I will not pursue that line of enquiry. If the Minister is willing to indulge me as he did yesterday and provide me with information... but he may not have it with him, because he has a prepared answer with him, but I take the point, and I will look at the Government website.

The question I was going to ask is what, if any – I am not aware that there was any – tender process was undertaken in relation to the purchase of these items?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I do understand that the gentleman was obviously too busy to look at the Government website, but I do have the figures for him and I shall give them to him.

The total cost of the new boats and trailers was £5,730. It does give me the opportunity to also tell him that, as a result of advice received, we approved the purchase of trailers and sand tyre kits to avoid the deterioration and the need for continuous repairs to the boats, as unfortunately happened with the last ones.

There were three quotes obtained. The successful company was a local company.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** But is it the case – by way of clarification, Mr Speaker – that, so that I understand the response that there was no...? I can understand the Tourist Board seeking and obtaining those quotes, but presumably there was no formal tender process.

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, given the extremely low amount of £5,730, it was not deemed suitable, appropriate – indeed a waste of time – to go through a formal EU tender process, which would have taken months. Yes. It takes a very long time. We are talking about three lifeboats, a very low sum. I trust the members of the Gibraltar Tourist Board to be independent and fair when deciding which company to go for. They sought three quotes and they went for the best quote that, in their view, was available to them at the time.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister answer whether it is the Government's view that it will only go to tender when there is an EU requirement? As I understand it, it does not necessarily have to be the case, if it is just for local purposes. But I have to admit that I am ignorant of the law in this respect.

**Hon. N F Costa:** No, Mr Speaker, that is not the policy of the Government. What I have said is that, as a

445 result of the very low amount of the cost, it was decided, on this occasion, not to go through the formal tender procedure and simply obtain three quotes.

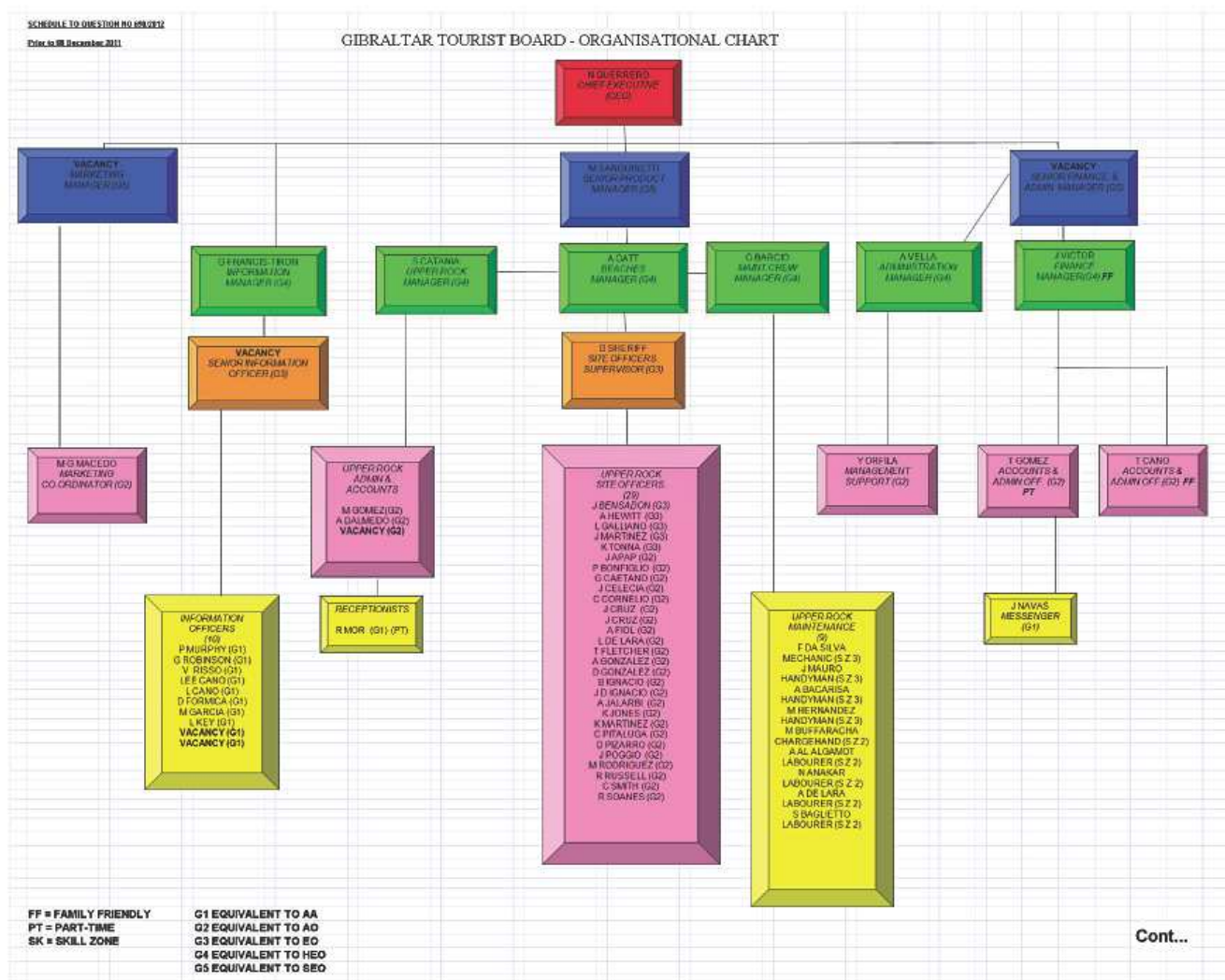
450 **Gibraltar Tourist Board  
Restructure**

**Clerk:** Question 698, the Hon. D J Bossino.

455 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port provide full details of the restructure that the Government has carried out at the Gibraltar Tourist Board?

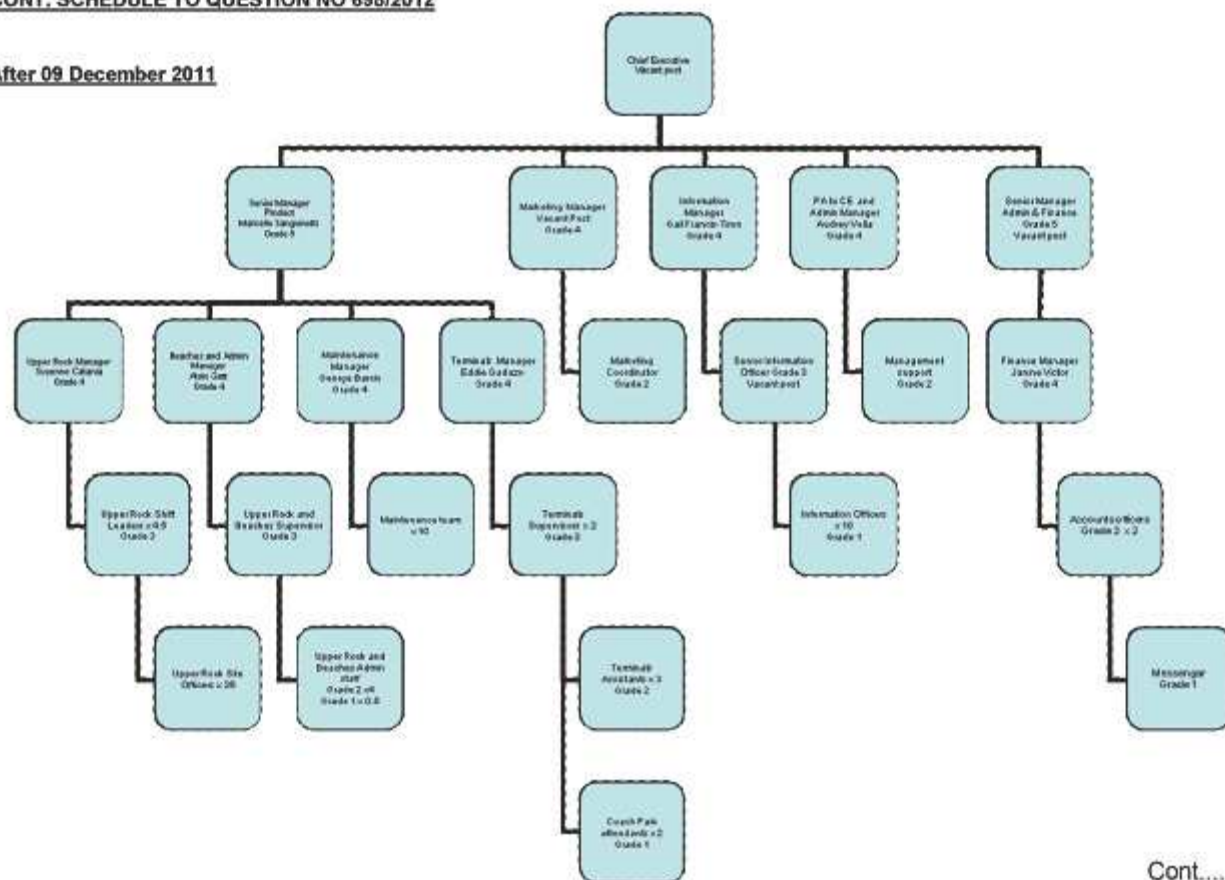
**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port.

460 **Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Gentleman the information requested on the Gibraltar Tourist Board as it stood prior to 9th December 2001. I also hand over an organisational structure of the GTB as it stood after 9th December 2001 and a diagram of the current state.

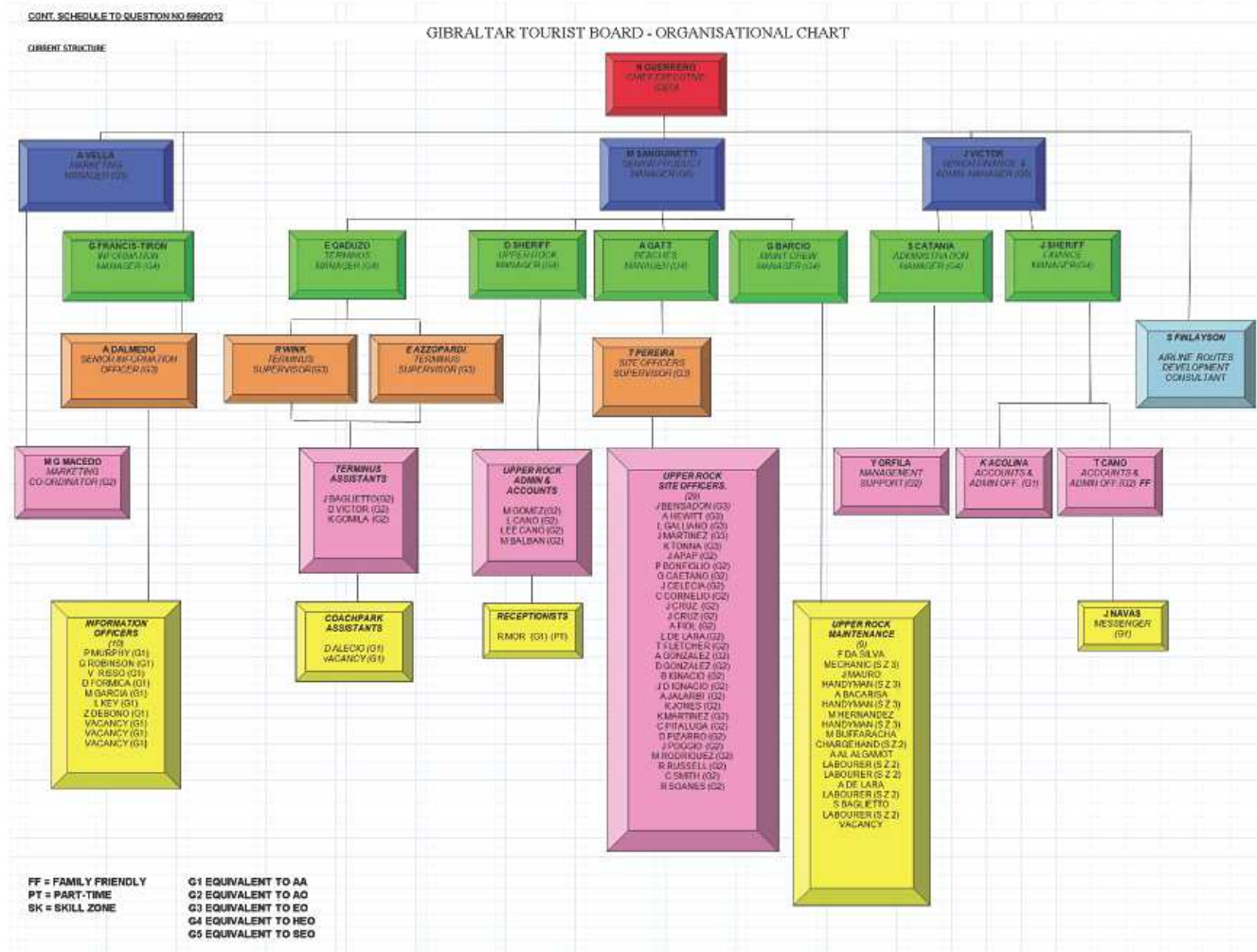


CONT. SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 698/2012

After 09 December 2011



Cont....



**Hon. D J Bossino:** Just by way of clarification, for the record, I think the Minister was intending to refer to 9th December 2011, rather than 2001.

**Hon. N F Costa:** And 11, yes... Not 2001.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Just bear with me a moment.

Mr Speaker, there is a lot of information which the Minister has kindly provided to me, which I will study, I think, when I am back in the office, but I think – I am hopeful – that what I am seeing will be very useful indeed, just so that the public listening in or in the Public Gallery is aware, what I have been handed is an –

**Hon. N F Costa:** Organisational chart.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** – Organisational chart with nice colours and I am sure that will assist. I am all for that type of thing, and I am sure that will assist my understanding. In fact, one of my supplementaries was going to be the difference between one and the other, so I am very grateful to the Minister for anticipating my supplementary.

But can I just press him further, if I may? He did say in his Budget speech that the restructure of the Board had been undertaken in order – and I quote him – ‘to enhance the responsive approach of the Board in attracting visitors to Gibraltar.’ So therefore there was a very clear purpose behind the restructure of the Board, which I myself, as I have just said a few moments ago, have not had the opportunity to analyse, but I

will.

485 Now, in relation to that, is he satisfied now whether that restructure is fit for purpose? (*Interjection by Hon. N F Costa*) Whether that restructure is fit for purpose, Mr Speaker, and whether he thinks that it has met his requirement?

490 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I think it is fair to answer this question by telling the hon. Gentleman that the restructure has only been in place for nine months. As a result, whereas it is my view that it is currently working well, I always have in mind different ideas formulating in my head as to perhaps how things may be further tweaked to better the response of the Gibraltar Tourist Board. On that I rely on the advice of my officials.

495 So the answer is yes, so far, so good. Could it be bettered? Perhaps, but at this moment, things are in my view working well.

500 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Presumably, Mr Speaker, the Minister stands by his statement, that as far as *he* is aware – I appreciate that this could be work in progress – but the way that things currently stand, he still stands by his statement that the restructure has enhanced, from the position as it was prior to 9th December, the responsive approach that he was talking about in his Budget speech.

505 **Hon. N F Costa:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I very much think so, and given that we are led by results, the fact that we have been able to, as I said – I mentioned the Birmingham route, I have mentioned the Manchester route, I have mentioned the BA flight – I believe all of that has been... the speed at which we moved on those issues, I believe, is partly due to the restructure that was effected. There were other things, of course: the fact that we have been able to allocate what we think is a fair amount of capital expenditure, which is the £1 million, for this financial year, in terms of the existing tourist attractions on the Upper Rock. We intend to start the capital expenditure on that, which has been, as the hon. Gentleman knows, quite neglected for quite some time, and as I say, that is because it is my belief that my ministry, my office is obtaining the right advice from the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

510

**Clerk:** Question 699 –

**Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Edwin Reyes.

515

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can I please ask for a little clarification?

520 The first page shows the organisational chart, headed 'Prior to December 2011'; the last page, that is the third one, says 'Current structure', so one can take it that the date is today's meeting; but the one in the middle says 'After 9th December'. I am a bit lost. From 9th December to today is a nine-month period, so can I hone the Hon. Minister a little bit more to more or less what date he is referring to?

525

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, if the hon. Gentleman has had the opportunity to consider the diagrams in time – I appreciate, of course, he has not; he has just received them – he will see that we took the view that Terminal Management should be part of the Tourist Board and not part of Transport, because we believe that Terminal Management would have, being on the ground, the sort of specialist knowledge that the ministry would require to be able to formulate marketing policies and tourist policies. So Terminal Management is brought back into the Tourist Board after 9th December.

530

#### **Hotel development proposal NAAFI pool area**

**Clerk:** Question 699, the Hon. D J Bossino.

535

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port advise this House what developments there have been, if any, in relation to the proposal to build a hotel by the NAAFI pool area?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port.

540 **Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, as I understand the position, the proposal made to the previous administration, according to the promoter of the project, was on the basis that he had been promised that the landlord would provide the land free of charge, as long as he paid for the re-provisioning of the NAAFI pool at the estimated cost of £1 million. The promoter was informed by this administration that the land would not be provided for free and he has not returned since.

545 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, that is, in fact, not the entirety of the information that I have been given. In fact, I think the view taken by the previous GSD administration was that this was, indeed, a very attractive proposal. As I understand it, there was going to be an investment of some £50 million in building the hotel, which would have had – we thought at the time – untold knock-on benefits, in terms of employment and the provision of other facilities and amenities in the area.

550 I also understand that it could have been a three- or four-star luxury hotel and, in this connection, can I ask the Minister, who in particular within the Government did the investor have contact with? ... Was it with the Minister with responsibility for tourism?

555 **Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** No, Mr Speaker, it was with me.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Right.

560 Can I ask why it is that that was the case, instead of the Minister for Tourism? Is it because the Minister for Employment is also responsible, I think, for inward investment? Was that the view taken by the Government?

565 **Hon. J J Bossano:** That is correct. The person wanted to bring in money to invest in Gibraltar and asked for an appointment to see me, and I saw him.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Can I ask the Minister for Employment etc – I do not know what the full responsibility is –

570 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Inward investments.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** – inward investments, thank you – where he met the potential investor?

575 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Certainly. (*Laughter*) I do not think it makes any difference to the decision but I met him in the Employment Department. He was in London, he contacted me through the London Office, he said that he had been given the run-around by the GSD administration for years without being given any straightforward answers, and since I am notorious for giving straightforward answers I asked him to come down to see me, to the ETB – and I gave him a straightforward answer.

580 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, the straightforward answer given by the Hon. the Minister was... Can he confirm, or can he clarify, for my purposes, whether it was in response to the proposal which I briefly outlined as a preamble to one of my previous supplementaries? In other words, the £50 million investment and all the other things that I mentioned earlier, and was that his flippant response?

585 **Hon. J J Bossano:** I do not know whether the response is flippant or not, and I do not think the hon. Member is entitled to pass judgement on the nature of my responses. That is not what he is here for. He is here to obtain information. I can think *his* questions are flippant, but I do not tell him that.

590 Let me say that, in fact, Mr Speaker, the gentleman in question produced some artist's impressions of these things. If he has had any previous knowledge of the way these things work, he will know that the fact that somebody brings a pretty picture of a hotel and says it is going to cost £55 million is not, of itself, an indication that there is anything solid, because there was nothing produced in terms of where the tourists were going to come from, what would be the costs of operating, where he was going to get the labour from, or anything else. The essence of the thing was that the clinching factor was whether he had to pay for the land or



not, and the gentleman told me that he had been promised by Mr Holliday – he might have been making it up, for all I know – that he could get the land free, provided he spent £1 million on reproviding the NAAFI pool because one of the conditions was that the land would transfer to the Government but a NAAFI pool had to be reprovided, and that he had been told that if he took on the cash responsibility for reproviding the pool at his own expense, then the land would be given to him on a long lease without any further payment. I said, ‘Well, look, unless you can produce something in writing which is a binding commitment which we have to honour, the answer is we do not agree with that.’ He then told me that unless the land was provided free, the investment would not work. So, that if he had to pay the market value for the land, then it was a no-go. He has not come back with any alternatives, but if he came back willing to pay for the land, or if he came back willing to pay for some other land, then we would reconsider the proposals.

He is an important customer of Gibraltar because he actually brings quite a lot of people and his main argument for the hotel, as he explained it to me, was that the other hotels in Gibraltar are charging him too much for his package tours and that he wanted to have his own hotel in order to put in his own customers. We are interested in having the hotel, we are interested in him investing the money, but of course if we are offering people land for nothing in Gibraltar we will have a long, long queue of investors.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, if the reason for pouring cold water over this particular potential investment, which I think, I am given to understand, reached quite an advanced stage when we were in Government, to the extent that there were formal plans which had been reviewed by the Town Planner and there had been a series of negotiations with senior people – and it may have been also the Minister, I am not too sure, but certainly senior civil servants within the Department of Trade and Industry... So there had been quite a lot of work and I think the view taken by the Government was that this was a serious investment [Interruption by mobile phone] ...a sort of fly-by-night matter and, in fact, there had also been negotiations with the Ministry of Defence in relation to the land where the hotel was going to be located.

I am not too sure, Mr Speaker, that, if I have understood the Minister correctly – and no doubt he will correct me if I have not – what he has said is entirely true, in the sense that there was an understanding on behalf of the investor that the investment in Gibraltar would require a payment of a £1 million outlay in relation to the premium over the land. So that was understood and the land was not going to go for free to the investor, but I am sure the Minister will clarify the position to this House.

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I do not know the source of the information of the hon. Member opposite. I do not know whether it is that the investor has been in touch with him and told him these things, or that somebody in the Government has been in touch with him and told him these things, because he was not in Government before so he cannot possibly know what was happening before any more than I do.

I know nothing of any of the things that he is telling me, and I can tell him that the investor that came to see me did not appear to know anything about those things either, because if he did he chose not to tell me. He did not use any of the arguments that the hon. Member has used in support of the investment... was used by the investor.

The investor used three arguments. One was that the shortage of hotel beds meant that he could not bring more people and that, anyway, the shortage of hotel beds was having an effect on the price of the beds and that meant that he was having a problem in the charges that he had to put on the package holidays and that he could bring more people and bring them at a bigger profit if he could have his own hotel – which is fine. But it does not mean necessarily, when you look at that, that that is going to be, whatever the investment is, is not going to be in that scenario, a net gain. It may be a gross gain, that you gain  $x$  number of hotel beds but, of course, if some of those... If there are 23,000 people that he brings – so he told me – and those 23,000 people are a big chunk of the hotel beds we are now selling, if they are just shifted to a new hotel, then I am sure he can see that that is not necessarily a scenario in which we gain 23,000 extra sales, because it will be at the expense of what is being sold already. I am giving the hon. Member the information that I was given by the investor. I have no other source.

He then said that the viability of the hotel – which is odd for a hotel which is £55 million – was not on once I told him he had to pay whatever the LPS, or whoever, decides the land is worth, that reprovioning the swimming pool, which was estimated to cost £1 million, would not be sufficient.

So the answer is that *he* told me that he had been given the run-around by the previous administration. He had been made a lot of promises that had not been delivered, from meetings that had never materialised... and that he was on the point of giving up, and that because there had been a change of Government he had

contacted the London Office and said, 'Well, look, is it worth me trying again?' because he has got a commitment to Gibraltar.

Certainly we want to encourage him to keep on using Gibraltar and keep on bringing people here but, at the end of the day, there was nothing of the nature of a detailed business proposal put before me and the impression I got from him was that he had talked to the MOD, that he thought the understanding was that the MOD would pass the land to him, which I told him would be, in fact, in conflict with the long-established principles under the Lands Memorandum – that land is given to the Government of Gibraltar and the Government of Gibraltar gives it to whoever it has to go to, that there is not a direct movement from the MOD to the developer, and I am not aware whether that has happened on any occasion, but it certainly did not happen in the past – and that therefore it was quite simple: if he could come up with a proposal which included a price, meeting whatever the price for the land was, either there or somewhere else, we will consider it.

We have not told him we do not want him here. We have told him we are not... If the condition for you proceeding with this thing in Rosia Bay is that the net payment that you make is whatever it costs you to put the swimming pool somewhere else, then that land is not available on that basis. If the land was available on that basis, I think we would have to then announce that there is land available and open it to others, but if the man comes along with a specific proposal that is for a hotel to expand the traffic he is bringing to us, which is interesting and good but it is not enough to say, 'Okay, we will make a direct allocation without giving any other party the opportunity of using that area and on the basis that we are not charging for the land.'

He claims that that is what was on offer before. I told him that if he could produce written evidence of that, then we would have to see whether there was a commitment. If there is any evidence that the matter had proceeded along the road, as the hon. Member claims – and he knows how I can establish that – and he passes me the information, fine, I will look at it again. But my source of information is the client and the client did not claim what *he* claims, but if there is evidence that there was a commitment and that we should be honouring it, we will look at it again because we believe that the commitments that are given by one Government have got to be considered by the succeeding Government.

**Lester Hotel, Devil's Tower Road  
Progress of development**

**Clerk:** Question 700, the Hon. D J Bossino.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port advise what progress has been made, if any, in connection with the development of Lester Hotel at Devil's Tower Road?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port.

**Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, in the absence of payment of the application fee, the planning permit drafted on 28th June of last year has not been issued.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** So do we take it from that, that the investor is the Lester Hotel Group that was going to build this hotel. Presumably they have no interest in the matter now?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, as I say, on this question I spoke with the Town Planner, who explained to me that the planning application had been approved by the Development and Planning Commission, but that the planning permit has not been issued given that he has not paid the planning fee or the premium for the site. He has not come back, essentially.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Has the Minister with responsibility for tourism had any contact with this investor, trying to find out why it is that the matter has not progressed?

**Hon. N F Costa:** No, Mr Speaker, since the Election there has been no contact by the applicant's agents with the Town Planning Office. Remember, that this was already before the DPC and approved, so any



progress would have had to have been from them by paying the fee and getting on with the works. There was nothing else to discuss.

**Clerk:** Question seven hundred and –

**Hon. D A Feetham:** May I, please?

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, the Hon. Daniel Feetham.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, may I ask the Hon. the Minister, doesn't he accept that, as I understood the answer, there are two separate aspects to this? Or perhaps I am wrong. One is the planning fee; the other one is the premium. The planning fee goes to the Planning Department; the premium goes to the Government's agents, LPS, so it is a matter for the Government. Is the position that both are outstanding?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** And no-one on behalf of the Government – their agents or otherwise – has actually been in contact at all with these investors and said, 'Well, hang on a minute, why haven't you paid this particular premium?' Nothing at all? No contact?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, once again, the application has already been approved by the Development and Planning Commission and there is a permit laying in wait, drafted on 28th June, and all that the developer has to do is go in, pay the fee and pay the premium for the land. If they were to do that, they can forge ahead.

The fact that they have gone through the planning process and have not paid the fee nor the premium for the land would seem, to me at least, to indicate a loss of interest, because they know that they have got the approval, they know that they can start, and they have not done anything about it.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** A loss of interest, Mr Speaker, he says, which is rather odd in this context. If he is able to confirm, if he knows, if he has enquired about it, is he aware that this developer actually purchased the land on which the hotel was proposed to be built? So, basically, as far as that side of matters is concerned, there was certainly a rather key level of commitment to proceed with this project.

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, as I said, this was an ongoing project of the previous administration, so I obviously had to contact officials for them to provide me with the advice. The advice that I have been given is that the planning permit was not issued because neither the planning fees nor premium for the site have been paid. That is the information that I have.

I remind the hon. Gentleman too that the planning permit was drafted on 28th June 2011. I imagine, given that he is pressing *me* about not contacting *them*, given that it was so important and it was drafted in 2011, Mr Holliday would have had to have contacted them in July, August, September, October, November and December to ask, 'Why haven't you paid the fee?' They did not. It has not happened. He can ask *him*.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, I am afraid that you are in Government; therefore you have to take responsibility for Government affairs. (*Interjection by Hon. N F Costa*) No, hang on a minute, no.

Does the Hon. the Minister know by when, under this particular contract, that premium was payable?

**Hon. N F Costa:** No, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** If he does not know under the contract and he has not bothered checking when that...

**Hon. N F Costa:** Perhaps you should have given me written notice of the question.

**Mr Speaker:** Order! Order! Order!

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Please may I –

**Mr Speaker:** Of course.

760 **Hon. D A Feetham:** This was not supposed to be contentious. We are trying to just elicit information here.

765 If he has not bothered checking the contract as to when the premium is payable under the contract – because premiums and fees for planning are quite separate issues altogether – how can he sit there and then turn round and say that *we* ought to have spoken to the Minister for –

**Hon. N F Costa:** The *former* Minister.

770 **Hon. D A Feetham:** The previous Minister, when the reality is that perhaps the premium had not actually been payable prior to December. I do not know. Does he know?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, with respect, this is a preposterous question.

775 The progress of this particular project lay on the table of the former Minister for Tourism and Transport, Mr Holliday. No fees have been paid. Whether or not they are payable, no fees have been paid. The premium for the land has not been paid, whether or not it has been payable under the contract, but particularly importantly I would have thought, given the importance the hon. Members opposite now appear to have for this particular project... If it is so important for them now, surely they would have been urging Mr Holliday to have got on the phone to the developers at the time in July and in August and in September and in October and in November and in December of *their* administration, but they clearly did nothing because the fee has not been paid!

780 We have been in Government since December. No fee has been paid, no premium has been paid. They were in Government when they were seeing the project through. The last stumbling block, it would appear, would be the payment of the fee. I do not know whether Mr Holliday called or did not call, brought them for coffee or for lunch or whether he cycled to work or he didn't, but what I can tell him for sure is that it was not progressed to the point that there has been any progression of the works. (*Interjection*)

785 Which is, by the way, Mr Speaker, the question. The question is whether there was any progress in connection with the development, and the question falls at the first hurdle, which is no fee has been paid for the planning permit, so there cannot be any progress. (*Interjection*) The question has certainly been answered.

790 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Is the position of the Government in relation to this that because the premium has not been paid, the investor is in breach of its obligations and therefore the Government has decided not to honour whatever commitment there may have been by the previous Government in relation to this particular project?

**Hon. N F Costa:** No, Mr Speaker, that is not what I have said. I have already told him.

795 **Hon. D A Feetham:** We are all at sea.

**Hon. N F Costa:** No, we are not all at sea.

800 That is not at all what I have said, so he cannot extrapolate from my answers or interpret them in the way that he suggests, because I have not said that.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** So is the position, then, that if the premium is paid – and the fee is payable to the Department – these individuals will be allowed to continue with the development?

805 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I can answer that very simply by saying that this Government will honour whatever contractual obligations arose from the previous administration.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** We do not know what the contractual obligations are.

810 **Hon. N F Costa:** Well, absolutely, which is why if he does not know and I do not know about them, instead of asking questions about an invisible piece of paper that neither of us have read!

**Clerk:** Question –

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker –

815 **Mr Speaker:** No, the Hon. Damon Bossino.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** I am grateful, Mr Speaker.

820 The Minister makes reference to Mr Holliday. I am not in a position now to get that information for him, although I do understand that contact was made and he talks about telephone calls and all the rest of it. Given that he has implied, by admonishing the previous Minister in post for not having done those things, I think what my hon. and learned Friend Mr Feetham is seeking to elicit from the Minister is whether he himself has taken an interest, given his responsibilities, to establish what the reason has been for the matter going cold.

825 We are now facing, as a result of these two questions which I have posed, a situation where there have been two potential investors – two potential investors who were each going to build a hotel which, for one reason or another, has not happened since 9th December. So that is why I am now slightly concerned that the Minister responsible for this area of Government policy appears not, Mr Speaker, to have taken it upon himself to make what I think... what he himself considers to be the relevant and pertinent enquiries if he has been put on notice of the fact that there could be a loss of interest on the part of this investor.

830 At the end of the day, they are building a hotel in Gibraltar. Let's not forget that. They are making an investment in Gibraltar.

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, if he has a question I can answer it, but –

835 **Hon. D J Bossino:** They are making an investment in Gibraltar.

**Hon. N F Costa:** – the preamble is so long I will no doubt forget.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, I do acknowledge that my preamble –

840 **Mr Speaker:** I must ask you to ask the question.

845 **Hon. D J Bossino:** And I am couching this question in a rather lengthy way, but I would seek your indulgence, because I do not normally do that, Mr Speaker. (*Laughter and interjection*) The record is there, in relative terms! (*Laughter*) But, given that, is the Minister... I am just concerned whether he does not think that, given that he was put on inquiry that there may have been loss of interest by the fact that there has not been a payment of this planning fee, why it is that he has not made those inquiries himself?

850 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, the rather lengthy supplementary presumes too many things that I really do not care to answer, but even his question presumes something which is not true.

855 On receiving notice of this Question, the first thing I did was to call in the Town Planner and the officials who are relevant to the planning application etc and ask them what the state of play was. Given that I found out that there was this interest in building a hotel on that site, I went to the website and obtained the press release and that press release from the Lester Group said every effort would be made to minimise the carbon footprint of the new building – very exciting for us already; the Minister for the Environment certainly was leaping for joy there – and work is expected to commence in early summer 2011.

860 At the time that I received notice of the Question, as I said, I looked at this press release, I brought in the Town Planner and I have given instructions to my officials to find out whether there is still an interest on this or not.

#### **Cruise liner terminal Construction of new terminal**

865 **Clerk:** Question 702, the Hon. D J Bossino. (*Interjection*) It is 702. (*Interjection*) It is 702 because 701 is to be answered by the Chief Minister.

870 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port advise what the Government's plans are in relation to the cruise liner terminal and, in particular, whether it has the intention of proceeding with the construction of a larger and better-resourced terminal?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port.

875 **Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, the Government is considering a number of options in respect of its cruise facilities. These include determining whether a new cruise terminal structure is actually required and, if so, the size and the facilities it should have. All the cruise lines are being consulted on what they expect of a modern cruise port and the Government is taking due note of the feedback received. Once all of this data is collated, the Government will make a decision on the best way forward to ensure the needs of Gibraltar's cruise industry are met for many years to come.

880 Consultation with *local* operators, however, has already revealed that in their professional view a new cruise liner terminal at the North Mole is entirely irrelevant to attracting additional calls or to attracting new companies. Further, a discussion I personally had with one top executive, of what everyone would agree is probably one of the most important cruise companies said to me, over dinner, in no uncertain terms, that the existing terminal was perfectly adequate and that funds were better spent elsewhere – a sentiment with which I, in fact, do fully agree, subject to finalising the above consultation process.

885 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, I am very quickly coming to the view that, unfortunately, the new Government is labouring under the same difficulty that they say that we were labouring under, which is that life started on 9th December 2011.

890 Is he aware and has he made the relevant enquiries in this respect, Mr Speaker, that in fact there had *already* been undertaken a rather lengthy process of consultation in relation to the cruise liner terminal, and is he aware that, in fact, there were already advanced plans when we were in Government to proceed with the building of a new terminal, in fact that it was poised and ready to go out to tender? Is he aware of that?

895 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I am aware of many things, some of which are as follows.

The first is that I do not think that life began on 9th December, for the following reasons. I do know that there were plans quite developed, because I remember the former Minister for Transport, Mr Holliday, giving a press conference about this – I do watch the news – amongst my personal contacts with tourist companies. The overall budget for that construction of the new building was around £3.8 million, just at the threshold so that they did not have to go to EU tender. Interesting point, that.

900 The design costs were £160,000. *The design costs were £160,000* for a design which all local operators in Gibraltar tell me is entirely irrelevant to bringing new calls and new companies to Gibraltar: £160,000 thrown down the drain without consulting the experts in the industry. As I have already told him, one particularly renowned executive of the cruising world has told me, 'Don't waste a penny on a terminal because the one that you have is perfectly wonderful and it does the job' – envisaged by the old GSLP and brought to fruition by the GSD in 1997.' (*Interjection by Hon. D A Feetham: Old GSLP... laughter*)

905 So if we are going to take leave from someone, Mr Speaker, we shall take our cues from the people on the ground – or at sea, in this particular case. They know what they are doing and if all local operators are telling me, 'Don't spend a dime or a penny on something which is not needed,' we certainly will not do so.

910 **Hon. D J Bossino:** We seem to be living in parallel realities.

**Hon. N F Costa:** Thank God, Mr Speaker!

915 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Well, we will be the judge of that after the three years which are now left. (*Interjection*) Yes. Thank you for that contribution!

920 Is he aware... and I understand that this is what informed the Government's decision to proceed with the construction of a new terminal and it concerns me that it has not formed part of the response that he has given to me in this House, and that is: is he aware that, in fact, one of the main driving forces behind the idea to build a new cruise terminal was in order to provide adequate facilities for the what I understand will be the new thing coming into the industry, which is the hop-on hop-off... (*Interjection*) Yes, basically where you can embark or disembark at any point in any given route. At the moment, what happens is that you embark at

a particular point and then you do the tour and then you normally return to that point or to another, but you cannot get off the cruise in the ports in the interim in that particular tour.

So what the Government wanted to do is to ensure that the Gibraltar port was able to provide the facilities for this service. In other words, that passengers could disembark or embark in Gibraltar port. Is he aware and has that formed part of the decision-making process?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, my advice from those who were involved at the design stage and in looking at the possibility of a new cruise liner terminal advise me that that was not the reason at all. Apparently, the reason for having a redesign in any event was for security aspects and to better that, and there is nothing stopping people from disembarking in Gibraltar getting on a plane and going anywhere, and *vice versa*, right now, as the current set-up is.

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, I wonder whether perhaps the Minister is just missing the point, for no other reason other than he has not been made aware of the developing trend in the cruise industry in that direction. It may well be that the Minister has not been made aware, and if he hasn't, well, then he certainly cannot answer in that regard.

Could the Minister clarify whether the advice he received was based on anything other than enhancement of the facilities in the regards that he has mentioned?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, in respect of his preface of the supplementary, as he knows... he must know. The hon. Gentleman must know that I have met with 14 cruise companies over the last nine months. They certainly know what they are talking about, I would have thought, given that they are in the business and not one of them has mentioned this idea to me as being necessary for a new cruise liner terminal building.

As I say, my advice is that of those people who were involved in the design of the new, possible new, cruise liner terminal building and the reason, the principal focus for that was to enhance passenger and security control, and that therefore, I think, importantly for the Hon. Mr Bossino, the consultation was with Gibraltar Port Authority staff, terminal management, security and immigration, which confirms that the design was principally for, as I say, passenger control and security aspects – nothing to do with the hop-on, hop-off ideas that they are extolling to me now.

#### **Miami cruise convention Value for money**

**Clerk:** Question 703, the Hon. D J Bossino.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port advise whether he has come to a conclusion as to whether the Miami cruise convention provides value for money?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port.

**Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, the Government believes that attendance at this specific event does provide value for money, but not at the level of expense incurred over the last several years.

As the hon. Gentleman knows, the Cruise Shipping Miami Convention, which was known as Seatrade Miami, is the major annual showcase for cruise ports and destinations which is held in the cruise capital of the world and draws tens of thousands of delegates, exhibitors and visitors.

The Government, however, believes, as the hon. Gentleman knows, that its most powerful marketing tool is the personal contact with decision makers, and we say, Mr Speaker, that this is a marked difference between this administration and the previous.

In March, only three months after the General Election, I visited all the major cruise lines in the week prior to the Convention in order to start the process of establishing personal contacts with itinerary planners. The process is ongoing, Mr Speaker, and both my officials and I are in continuous contact with operators to keep them briefed and up to date on all cruise-related developments in Gibraltar. A stand at the Convention

consolidates our position in the public eye, reinforcing the Rock's status as a major cruise port in the Mediterranean. However, the Government is of the view that because the major players now know us personally, there is no need to spend so many tens of thousands of pounds on a huge stand which is better served in providing the sort of hospitality to the decision makers that will make the executives remember Gibraltar and consider us not just business partners but friends they want to do business with.

As a result of my personal meetings, Mr Speaker – as the hon. Gentleman knows, because he does give me plenty of opportunities to remind him – I met with the top executives of cruise companies in Miami, followed by my visit of nine cruise companies in the UK. We achieved, Mr Speaker, an increase of nine calls this year, bringing the expected number of calls for 2012 to 180 from the inherited 171 when we came into office. In addition, as the hon. Gentleman knows, we are currently in discussions with such companies to explore tailor-made shore excursions and initial calls.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Yes, he keeps on reminding me about the wonderful things that will come and are coming, apparently, as a result of his policy of personal contact. Of course, I need to remind him also, and he gives me plenty of opportunity to do so, that he is building – and I have used this word before – on a bonanza which was there on 9th December 2011. I can only hope for Gibraltar plc's sake that we continue to succeed in this industry.

Simply to add, Mr Speaker – and I will be posing a question – that, of course, to suggest that there was not personal contact when we were in Government is simply not acceptable and we refute that. (*Interjection*). Well, we have a different... Again, parallel realities, Mr Speaker. The question – (*Interjection*)

**Mr Speaker:** Order! Order!

**Hon. D J Bossino:** The question is what form will attendance at the Miami Seatrade Fair take?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, in respect of his first point in the preface to his supplementary, talking of a bonanza, I think it was particularly clear and stark in my analysis during the course of my Budget speech that, in fact, cruise calls were in decline. If he wants to reiterate that we inherited a bonanza, he can carry on saying it, despite the statistics. Having said that, I do accept from the hon. Gentleman that cruise calls during the time of the GSD did enjoy a surge for a particular amount of time and we can, of course, continue that, and for the sake of Gibraltar we all obviously hope that there will be an increase in cruise calls and an increase in passenger numbers – I do not think there is any disagreement on that across the floor of the House – but I do not think, Mr Speaker, that the hon. Gentleman really wants to challenge me as to personal contacts and to what I now know happened in respect of the absence of personal contacts with cruise companies. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman, instead of challenging *me* about it, should speak to, no doubt, his colleague, Mr Holliday, as to what were his personal contacts and maybe he can provide him with a list of the number of times he had dinner or lunch or coffee or walked or cycled to work with any of these people and spoke about what was important for the cruise industry.

The way we shall take part in what is now called the Cruise Shipping Miami Convention is simple and it is implicit in my answer. We will attend – the Minister will attend – a few days *before* the Convention to make sure that he continues the personal contacts with itinerary planners and the top executives, and the reason is very simple, because obviously the hon. Gentleman knows that during the course of the Convention it is absolute mayhem when you have tens of thousands... Perhaps what it is, actually, Mr Speaker – I have just realised – is that he is angling for a trip with me to Miami, which, if that is what he wants, he should just ask me and come out and I will consider it. During the course of the Convention it is absolute mayhem. You have tens of thousands – (*Interjection*) There are tens of thousands of delegates who go and put up the stalls; these are people at a medium-tier level of their respective companies showing the wares to each other. There is only perhaps half a day or one day we actually have people from the public coming in. So these are medium-tier employees talking to each other about Gibraltar and all different port calls.

The real business of the world, to call it that, is never done at the Convention. It is done either before or after, so it makes perfect sense to us that we should go, meet the top guys and discuss itinerary planning, tailor-made shore excursions for them, trying to ask them to come to Gibraltar more often, asking them to come and stay overnight, which is part of the legislation that *they* passed when they were in Government and we supported in Parliament, and it is therefore fair enough to have officials staffing the stand at the Convention because, as I say, the top executives hardly attend, and if they do it is already for pre-planned

meetings, so you do not get to talk to, for example, *Giora Israel* or other top people in the cruising industry because you will not catch them walking down the corridors of the Convention.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, the Minister really ought to realise... I know he is new to the post and he is young, but the fact is... and maybe he ought to make enquiries about what used to happen before, but the fact is that Mr Holliday would also attend the Convention before it actually started, as he has just mentioned. *(Interjection)*

Mr Speaker, I do not think I have had a full answer to my question. As I understand it, there are three manners in which participants can participate at the Convention. One is to have one's own stand, which is what we used to do when in Government, and we did that because we thought that that was the best way that we could advertise and market and sell our wares. It is still work in progress: let's see what happens, but I do not have much hope in what the Minister is telling me as to whether it will be successful or not.

The second way is to have a stand as part of the Medcruise stand, and the third way to participate, as I understand it, is to simply send delegates.

Can he clarify to me – and I think I can justifiably use the word 'confirm' to me – whether the form that participation will be taking in the future is by way of presence of a delegation, as opposed to the other two forms?

**Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, certainly I am young, but I certainly have the wealth of knowledge and experience of the Minister for Employment, who has taught me many things, and I think quite effectively, very soon.

In order for us to determine whether or not we spend a penny of taxpayers' money on anything has to be subject to stringent criteria and it has to be results-driven and mathematical. If no-one from the Tourist Board or from my ministry can tell me that, as a result of attendance at a convention, there have been any additional calls, then why attend the convention? I am sure that the hon. Gentleman would agree.

However, I can tell him with mathematical precision, which is demanded rightly by the Minister for Employment, *(Laughter and interjection)* that, as a result of meetings with top cruise executives, following those meetings we have had an increase of nine calls during this year. So, meetings with top cruise executives results: nine additional calls. That is what I would think the taxpayers would demand: that when we spend money – especially where we are shuttling officials and Ministers off to expensive conventions – that they expect a return for their money, and I certainly adhere to that philosophy.

As I have said in my answer, it is very simple: we will have a delegation – which will basically be me and the chief executive – that will go to Miami to meet the top executives. *(Interjection)* Yes, and then, secondly, for this *particular* fair, we will have a smaller stand at the Convention, manned by officials – staffed, I should say, because there are also women... staffed by officials, to exchange information at the Convention. So it is two-pronged.

## SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND YOUTH

### Heritage Department training Budget

**Clerk:** Question 704, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Heritage state what type of training has been/will be undertaken, the cost of which has been/will be debited to the financial provision made in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2012/2013, as at Appendix K – sub section (45)?

**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 time to raise issues such as this, of course, is the time of the committee stage of the Appropriation Bill. Nonetheless, I will

give him the information now.

1090 The Heritage Agency is exploring two ways of providing training from this budget: (1) provision of staff training through work-based higher degrees education in the field of archaeology, heritage and museums management via accredited United Kingdom universities; and (2) short courses in Gibraltar on specific areas of heritage and heritage management by external specialists for Heritage Department staff.

1095 In the latter case, and depending on the subject, there may be room to expand the scope of such courses to include persons outside the Department, such as volunteers and helpers. Over and above this, the Department will continue with its in-house on-the-job training programmes, which are not expected to have budgetary impact.

1100 **Gibraltar Museum**  
**Waiving entrance fees**

**Clerk:** Question 705, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1105 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Has the Minister for Culture and Heritage considered waiving entrance fees for all visitors to Gibraltar Museum, save for opening during non-standard opening hours so as to bring Gibraltar closer to ever increasing international trends which seek to promote heritage and historical matters?

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

1110 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the waiving of entrance fees for all visitors to the Gibraltar Museum is something that at present is not being considered. As far as the Cultural and Heritage Agency is aware, it is *not* an international trend.

1115 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker may I ask the Hon. Minister to please put down on the agenda and consider the waiving of fees. If we look at the statistics available on the Government's website in the first six months of 2012 the income derived from admission fees was just over the £7,000 mark and I do for the record say, that I disagree with the Minister, it is an ever increasing trend to have free entrances into museums and the United Kingdom itself and the Natural History Museum is but one example.

1120 **Hon. S E Linares:** The question, Mr Speaker?

**Mr Speaker:** Please consider.

1125 **International Folklore Festival Prague Fair**  
**Details of delegation and costs**

1130 **Clerk:** Question 706, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Culture and Heritage provide details of the composition of the delegation, as well as all costs incurred, which attended the International Folklore Festival Prague Fair, held in late August this year?

1135 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth

1140 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the delegation consisted of (1) Myself, Minister for Sport, Culture, Heritage and Youth; (2) Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Culture and Heritage Agency, Mr Carl Viagas; (3) The Gibraltar Culture Officer of the Gibraltar Culture and Heritage Agency Mrs Yvette Zarb; (4) The Director of the Garrison Library, Mrs Jennifer Ballantine.

The total airline costs, including the four of us, were £1,258.00. Accommodation and travel costs during



the festival were kindly covered by the Folklore Association of the Czech Republic.

1145 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I take it, then, Mr Speaker there were no subsistence costs or anything like that also incurred.

**Hon. S E Linares:** None at all.

1150

**Gibraltar International Jazz Festival  
Breakdown of expenditure**

1155 **Clerk:** Question 707, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1160 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Culture provide further detailed breakdown in respect of the £19,875 expenditure incurred, as stated in his answer to Question No. 602/2012, thereby clarifying exactly how much and to whom payments were made in respect of (a) the stage (b) management fees and (c) presenters' fees, all of which pertain to the first Gibraltar International Jazz Festival?

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

1165 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, details in respect of the £19,875 expenditure appertaining to the first Gibraltar International Jazz Festival are as follows: (a) the stage – £8,600, Planet Projects Limited; (b) Management fees – £10,000 George Posse, Gibraltar Jazz Society and (c) Presenter's Fee £1,275, James Neish.

1170

**Gibraltar Music Festival  
Breakdown of expenditure**

**Clerk:** Question 708, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1175 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Culture state who are the members of the Gibraltar Music Festival management board or committee and provide full details of any payments or allowances made to any of its members, stating how much was paid, to whom and in respect of what services?

1180 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth.

1185 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the members of the organising board or committee are (1) Dylan Ferro, representing Axel Media; (2) Les Roberts representing Axel Media; (3) Owen Smith representing Word of Mouth; (4) Jonathan Scott representing Word of Mouth; (5) Steven Linares – myself – as Minister for Culture; (6) Dennis Cardona appointed by the Minister for Culture; (7) Peter Cabezzuto appointed by the Minister for Culture; (8) Daniel Guerrero appointed by the Minister for Culture. Those appointed by *me* did not charge *any* monies for the services they provided.

1190 As for Axel Media and Word of Mouth, the Government is not in a position at this stage to provide any details of payments in respect of the production and organisation of the Gibraltar Music Festival until final receipts are collated. It should be possible to provide this information by the next meeting of Parliament for Questions or earlier.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in any way for having helped the Government stage what has been labelled as the best ever concert in Gibraltar's history.

1195

**Cultural Grants  
Commitments given**

1200 **Clerk:** Question 709, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Culture state what expenditure it has already made, or is firmly committed to make, in respect of cultural grants for which financial provision is made in the estimate of revenue and expenditure 2012/13 as at Appendix K, sub section 13?

1205 **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, £93,929 has already been firmly committed to date in respect of cultural grants for which financial provisions have been made in the estimates of revenue and expenditure 2012/13 Appendix K, sub section 13.

1210 **Clerk:** Question 710.

1215 **Mr Speaker:** No, the Hon. Edwin Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, does the Hon. Minister have any breakdown of that £93,929 available?

1220 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, as I understand it, the associations and the groups that have applied have not yet been informed of it, but as soon as they are informed I will give him the whole list of how much each association has been given.

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

1225 Yes, there is no great urgency as long as we get the information during the course of the year.

Can I clarify, then, Mr Speaker would the Hon. Minister wish me to raise it at as a Question at a future meeting or will he, as and when the payments are made, provide information. I ask this, Mr Speaker, because it could become repetitive every month saying, you know, have you now made any payment or whatever. So I do not know which of the two options the Hon. Minister would prefer we took.

1230 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I could give it to him on a confidential basis, because I have got it with me and I can give it to him in the ante room on a confidential basis until I actually tell him that he can use it because it is not, I don't think it is fair...

1235 **Hon. E J Reyes:** That is perfectly acceptable to me, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Can he just finish what he was saying: you don't think it is fair ....

1240 **Hon. S E Linares:** It is not fair for me to give, publicly, for the hon. Member on the other side to publicly announce what are Government funds. It is the Government and the actual Cultural Grant Committee, because there is a committee that actually decides on how much money is given to each group and it is not fair, for example, if I give the hon. Member the list that he can then go publishing it if he wishes before the actual people who get the monies are informed. I think it is only fair.

1245 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes I quite understand. So the information is going to be provided on the basis that once, of course, the Government then, the Hon. the Shadow Minister can make use of it for, obviously his own *[inaudible]*.

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

1250

**Gibraltar Fair Week**  
**Reason for change of date**

1255 **Clerk:** Question 710, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Culture state why the 2012 Gibraltar Fair Week was held approximately a week later than all previous years' established dates, thereby creating a clash with the start of the Government schools' new academic year?

1260 **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 Fair was organised by the Self Determination Gibraltar Group with the assistance of the Ministry for Culture. The SDGG decided on those dates similar to those when the Fair was held back in the 90's, when the event was organised by their volunteers.

1270 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, is the Hon. Minister aware that although it may have been at that date at its very origins it was later changed because representations had been made by professional bodies such as the Gibraltar Teacher's Association who requested that the Fair dates did not clash with the start of the academic year?

1275 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, even consultation was made this year because of the change and the Government side actually consulted the professionals and the professionals did not see or actually voice a strong objection to the fact that the Fair was changed, but I can tell him that we will be looking at the whole aspect of when the Fair is done.

It was the decision of the SDGG this year and we will again consult the SDGG and the professionals again to see if we need to readjust and move this at any stage.

1280 **Minister for Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, can I just supplement what the hon. Member has just said in relation to consulting the professionals. This is a matter that was referred to me as Minister for Education as to the possible educational impact and I did discuss this matter with professionals at the Department of Education.

1285 It was felt, with the representations that were made, that it would not impact on the attendance at school, particularly because it was the first week of school, it was half days and it was a short week in any event. As I understand it, the issues that were raised subsequently have nothing to do with attendance at school but attendance at the Fair as a result of school.

1290 So it did not have any *educational* impact and what is being considered is that it appears to have had an impact on the attendance at the Fair and not attendance at school. So the educational side was taken care of but the issue is the practical attendance at the Fair and that is what is being considered for next year's purposes.

1295 **Hon. E J Reyes:** So, then, Mr Speaker I think the Hon. Minister for Education, like me, should rejoice that parents chose to give priority to attendance at schools rather than to attendance at the Fair. (*Laughter*)

**Hon G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, it would be nice for everybody to be able to enjoy absolutely everything but it is not a question of rejoicing or not rejoicing, there is an issue that has been raised as to the effect on the Fair itself and that is an issue that my hon. Friend has taken on board and is considering for next year.

1300 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I am grateful to the Minister for Education who told me about the consultation with his Ministry and, obviously, in turn, he did it with his senior officials. Can one or the other of the Ministers confirm that there was some consultation at least with the Gibraltar Teachers Association?

1305 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, I certainly did not speak directly to the Teacher's Association on this particular issue. I consulted officials and got some feedback from them.

1310 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Did the Minister consider also the implications on parking before agreeing to the shift of the timetable for the Fair from August to September, bearing in mind that that was the week where children were back at school and therefore parents on school runs and also people coming back from holidays and that, therefore, inevitably there would be more people at that time looking for parking rather than at the end of August when usually people are on holiday?

1315 **Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Mr Speaker, parking was provided opposite straightaway. I mean that was part and parcel of the idea of doing the parking so quickly, because of the fact that Commonwealth Parade was going to be used but, yes, I take the point that we have to look at parking with the finite land that we have got and parking *is* an issue all the time, not only in the Fair.

1320 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, for example, does he know how many parking spaces there are in Commonwealth Parade and also the car park next door that was used for the Fair and how many parking spaces there were provided opposite Commonwealth Parade? Did he make that analysis?

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, I did not, I do not think it was that important.

1325 **Hon. D A Feetham:** So the Hon. Minister does not think (*Laughter*) that it is actually important to plan ahead and consider the implications on parking for people before making a decision of this nature. Is that the answer he is giving? I am giving him another opportunity. (*Interjections*)

1330 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, we have had Fairs since, I think, the 1990s, and during the time that the hon. Member was on this side of the House, I cannot remember them even *thinking* about the parking implications. The fact that Commonwealth Parade was emptied of cars and no other provision was made *at all* just goes to show that the hon. Member is just trying to make cheap political points at the fact that we actually provided parking and that I do not know how many, and I do not think that it is important, because at least we provided... Even if we provided even *one* parking extra than what the hon. Member used to is better.

1335 So the fact that I do not know whether there was 500 parkings and that I only provided 300 parkings is irrelevant. That is why I think it is not important – because, quite frankly, it was not even in their minds about the parking. The fact that we did it, we did hard work, we laid the tarmac, we put solar panel lighting on it, which we are very proud of. Those are the things that people will be looking at – not whether there is one parking less or one parking more, Mr Speaker.

1340 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, the Hon. Minister is factually incorrect in stating that no parking has ever been provided by the GSD when it was in Government. I ask him to search back in past press releases and he will find that alternative parking spaces were made to at least cater for part of the loss of Commonwealth Parade car parking during the Fair Week.

1345 In any case, then, Mr Speaker, further to that, what we were trying to say was, if the Fair Week is held at the time of the year when schools have still not commenced, it makes life a bit easier for parents to perhaps consider – and the Minister for the Environment would support this – walking to work, because it just requires an adult to walk to work and so on and therefore adopt a healthier and greener lifestyle; whereas if it coincides with the start of school week, it becomes a bit more complicated to walk to work, carrying along children who walk at a much slower pace and are much younger and therefore cars do become necessary. So that was the point, as well, we were trying to put in, Mr Speaker.

1350 **Mr Speaker:** I think he is clarifying the point that has been made by the Hon. Daniel Feetham.

1355 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, can the Minister confirm – because this is what I understand by his answer; maybe I have got it wrong – that they provided the parking opposite to Commonwealth Parade specifically to take into account the lack of parking for the Fair, during that week? Is that what he is saying? Because, of course, the answer... that particular parking is provided as part of the Government's commitments in respect of other policies the Government has. But maybe – I do not know – I was wrong in my assessment of that, as well.

1360 **Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, you are. And why? Because what we have done... It is the timing of it. We could

have left that and said, right, when Commonwealth Park starts its development and we have to shift it, we could have done it then. The fact is that we did it just before the Fair, in order to alleviate the shortfall that was there. That is exactly why we did it before and not after.

1365

**Hon. S M Figueras:** Mr Speaker, by way of clarification – and I will need two microphones to make this point – we have had this discussion in Parliament in recent sessions, where I have had the debate with the Hon. the Minister for the Environment in respect of the Commonwealth Park, in rather heated fashion and a very entertaining one, that the plans for the Commonwealth Park – or rather the logistics as they have mapped out – were that, just before the Fair, the Commonwealth Park area would be vacated and the parking would be provided elsewhere on the other side of Queensway and that, after the Fair, the Commonwealth Parade would no longer be used, because work would continue. I remember that we had that discussion.

1370

So now for the Minister to pretend – the Minister for Culture – that they somehow provided that parking because they were going to deprive the users of the parking during the Fair is somewhat disingenuous, given the fact that we had that debate – and that *will* be on *Hansard*.

1375

So I just offer that by way of clarification, because I think it is an important point to clarify, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Speaker:** There is no question there.  
Next question, in that case.

1380

**Clerk:** Question 711, the Hon. E J Reyes – (*Interjections*)

**Mr Speaker:** Well, I will allow the Hon. Daniel Feetham.

But I must make the point that when we end up with a statement as opposed to a question, I must reasonably assume there are no further questions.

1385

Anyway, the Hon. Daniel Feetham.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** What does the Hon. the Minister think that the SDGG bring to the party, so to speak, in terms of the organisation of the Fair, other than the fact that they organised the Fair in the early 1990s?

1390

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, they are a group of volunteers who help, in conjunction with the Ministry for Culture, set up everything to do with National Week and National Day. That is exactly what they do.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** They are also an organisation that, obviously, deals with, that represents, rights of self-determination – although they perhaps do not want to go this far, but it is the logical conclusion of their philosophy – independence or certainly the right to self-determination.

1395

There are many other organisations that are volunteers that do a perfectly good job during the 16 or 15 years of GSD Government it was dealt with. There were other volunteers that dealt with this. Why the SDGG? What is it that they bring to this other than the fact that, historically, under Mr Bossano's Government, they were the ones that organised it, that you feel they bring to bear in terms of expertise or experience to the organisation of the Fair? Or is it just – (*Interjection*) I just want to understand it – that, historically, they dealt with it, when the GSLP were in Government and therefore you are returning to that, simply for historical reasons?

1400

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the SDGG was the group that actually started National Day. (*Interjection*) Yes, hold on – National Day. They then proceeded by doing the Fair and all that was around a National Week.

1405

So it is only fair – and, yes, he is right in saying 'because of historical reasons'. It is their 'baby', for want of a better word, which the previous administration then ostracised and ignored and did not want to know and had to do rallies in Casements in a private property, because the previous administration did not like what they used to organise. They were volunteers, they were... It was only until the GSD came into Government that they took over completely, the whole of National Day, the whole of National Week, manipulated in their own way for their own political ends and we believe that it is only right that the people who started National Day, the people who started National Week and all its festivities should have at least involvement and working together with the Ministry of Culture.

1410

1415

**Hon. D A Feetham:** I am afraid I do not understand the logic of that. Actually, we did away with the

political... (*Interjection*) *We did* –I do not think *you* understand the logic of that. But we did away with the political rally. I do not understand how you can possibly say, in the same breath, that we actually politicised the event. On the contrary, we tried to do the opposite of politicising the event.

1420

But is your point of contact on this within the SDGG, Mr Cardona. Is that the position or not?

**Mr Speaker:** Before the Hon. Minister answers, I will allow that supplementary as it is, but I should point out, we are now deviating far away from the original Question, which was the dates of the Fair Week in conjunction with the schools' academic year. Now we are moving it around to debating the justification or otherwise of entrusting this whole thing to the SDGG. I will allow that question, but no further questions on that line.

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**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I have connections with *all* the members of the SDGG, including Mr Dennis Matthews, who is now the Chairman.

1430

#### **Youth Clubs Weekend opening**

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**Clerk:** Question 711, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Youth confirm if resources have now been made available in order for Youth Clubs to be open at weekends, as per his Party's manifesto commitment and, if any, provide details of these?

1440

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

**Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Yes, Mr Speaker, resources have been made available, in order for the Youth Clubs to open at weekends.

1445

I would like to add that the Youth Service is currently conducting a recruitment campaign to recruit volunteers to help in fulfilling our stated manifesto commitment.

I now hand over to the hon. Member opposite a schedule of the detailed information.

*The schedule appears on the next page.*

**ANSWER TO QUESTION No: 711/2012**

**December:**

Dolphins Youth club met at its premises before travelling to the nearby Rio Miel for a club whole day outing.

The Youth Centre opened and used the sessions; usually the whole afternoon, in the preparation for the construction of the 3 King's Cavalcade float.

**January**

The first Saturday In January including members and friends from other clubs who were encouraged to come to the Youth Centre and assist with the decoration and preparation of the float.

Dolphins youth club again met on a Saturday and went with members and some friends on a walk to Mediterranean steps.

Members from Plater Youth Club and the Youth Centre met at their respective clubs and from there went on "driving tours" to the Upper Rock; local beaches; Rosia Bay and enjoyed local natural history sites and open space away from their normal meeting venues.

**February**

Plater Youth Club members met on a Saturday and helped organise and deliver a cake-stall and raffle next to the Moorish Castle children's playground to raise funds for club projects.

Laguna youth club also met on a Saturday to travel to a nearby river in Spain.

**March**

Dolphins Youth Club members met on a Saturday morning and went to the Piazza to hold a cake stall and raffle at the Piazza to raise funds for club projects.

Later that month they too went to Spain, this time to Tarifa where they took part in a walk along the coastline and natural park in that area.

**April**

The Youth Centre members met on a Saturday to go on a "local" hiking venture taking in Anglian Way, the Great Siege Tunnels and the Upper Rock in general enjoying the views and identifying local landmarks.

**May**

Dolphins Youth Club again met on a Saturday morning and this time walked inside the rock on a tunnel tour including the Great North Road.

Laguna Youth Club members met on a Saturday to take its members on a "dolphin spotting" trip out in the bay.

**June**

Plater Youth Club members enjoyed two Saturday outings; one to the Marbella ski park and the other to Bahia Park also in Spain during the month of June.

**August**

The Youth Centre held one last trip on a Saturday in August for members from various youth clubs and some friends.

1450

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Minister.

He has provided me with this detailed breakdown, highlighting some of the activities that have taken place at weekends, during the course of last December up to last month of August, but can I be more specific in asking him is it his intention that youth clubs will be open at weekends on a permanent basis and not just once or twice a month?

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**Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Mr Speaker, that is precisely why we are doing the recruitment campaign, because in order to open during the weekends, you need more people to man it. It would include youth workers but it will also include many volunteers, and that is why we are doing the recruitment campaign that we are currently engaged in, so that we can get as many volunteers as we can, in order to open them even

1460

further.

**Hon E J Reyes:** And by when, Mr Speaker, would the Minister dare to say he hopes to have this implemented?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Well, Mr Speaker, in the *Chronicle*, it had a closing date. I cannot remember, I think it was 24th September, on which the actual closing date is, but we are open all the time for volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity to try and encourage people to come and work with our young people in youth clubs and everywhere we can. We are currently also working very closely with the Heritage Trust, with the Heritage Division. We are currently also working through Education, everywhere we can, so that we can recruit volunteers and have our youth in youth clubs in the right place and atmosphere that they should be.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, the Minister referred me to a closing date of 24th September, he believed in the *Chronicle*. Does that mean that, as from 25th September, youth clubs will be open at weekends?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I added to that that it is not a finite date. Because the Youth Service has to run courses and have to run screening and things like that – which is ongoing – it does not close on 24th September, but they have given themselves a target of 24th September, because they want to conduct a course.

They will have to see from 24th September how many they have got. If they have not got any people, then they will say, 'Well, we need to extend it, we have not got any volunteers. Why are we going to run the course?' If they have got 30 people or they have got three, it is up to them to decide whether they will continue with the courses. It is ongoing all the time, and these courses are how to deal with young people because not everybody can. It is not academic at all. It is just a question of how you relate with young people.

**Clerk:** Question –

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Once again, expressing gratitude for all those explanations, does the Minister dare to give me a projected date by which he hopes the youth clubs will be open at weekends?

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, Mr Speaker, I have already answered the question.

We will have to view it as and when we get applications, we get people, volunteers and all that. I would love, and I hope he concurs with me, that we should have it by tomorrow or this next weekend, and he should be happy that at least this Government is trying to work to have all the youth clubs open all weekends. This is a goal that I am sure he probably had when he was on this side of the House, so the fact that we are actively pursuing it... he should be congratulating me for trying to at least move this forward.

**Clerk:** Question 712 –

**Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Jaime Netto.

**Hon. J J Netto:** I would just like to ask the Minister whether, in relation to the Laguna Youth Club, over there, the refurbishment which I started in my previous term as a Government Minister in order to allow the usage on certain days of the week by the elderly people in the catchment area of Glacis and Laguna, is that still going on? Or perhaps that project has now been abandoned for some other reason?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, yes, the project that *he* started was nearly two years stopped whilst he was there because there was nothing happening. The fact is that the users... even the youth club itself was shut for a very long time. The hall was divided into two, in which one side – and that is the place that we have all used when we have elections, one side... That side was apparently to be for a place where the elderly were supposed to have gone there. Nothing had moved for a very long time. It was stopped.

So, what happened was that I tried to... because the users... because we opened and it was opened... I think it was opened in October or November last year when the youth club was opened. Half... not the other side. The other side was never used as a day centre, ever, and what happened was that the users of the Laguna Youth Club were telling me, 'Look, we are crammed in here. What is happening? There is nothing happening



1520 on the other side.' So, in consultation first to try and get the tenants' association, who have a big premises, to see if they can reconcile having the day centre... But I am happy to say that, in consultation with the Minister for Social Services, we have been able to do something different, which is not have the centre there. The centre that you used to have in the Laguna is now opened and is now a youth club. The whole thing is a youth club because they needed it. Therefore, it was like robbing Peter to pay Paul in that sense. So what we have done is open it all and the day centre has been relocated elsewhere.

1525 **Europa Point**  
**Cricket and rugby facilities**

**Clerk:** Question 712, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1530 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sport and Leisure provide details of his Ministry's plans to provide renewed facilities for the playing, teaching and development of both cricket and rugby at Europa Point, as per his Party's manifesto commitment?

1535 **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 details can be provided at this stage for the renewed facilities for the playing, teaching and development of both cricket and rugby at Europa Point, but discussions are ongoing with the relevant sporting bodies about potential locations for such facilities.

1540 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can I please ask for some clarification?

Is what the Minister is saying that he is discussing with both the Cricket and Rugby Associations as to perhaps providing the facilities *elsewhere*, other than Europa Point?

1545 **Hon. S E Linares:** Wherever it is possible, either Europa Point or wherever we can find places and they are happy with. It could well be Europa Point.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** So what happened to the firm manifesto commitment of providing these facilities at Europa Point?

1550 **Hon. S E Linares:** The fact is that if the Associations are happy with the fact that we are moving somewhere else, you can then put a little cross on our manifesto commitment that it is not in Europa Point but the facilities – the brilliant and wonderful facilities which the Associations will be really happy about – are not in Europa Point. We can contest that in an Election on that one.

1555 **Hon. E J Reyes:** And what would happen, Mr Speaker, in the circumstances that the Association is *not* happy vacating Europa Point?

1560 **Hon. S E Linares:** We will work as hard as we can to make them happy.

1565 **Sports grants**  
**Expenditure**

**Clerk:** Question 713, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1570 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sport and Leisure provide full details of what expenditure it has already made, or is firmly committed to make, in respect of 'Sports Grants' for which financial provision is made in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2012/2013, Appendix J, in the following sub sections:

- (22) Grants to Sporting Societies;  
 (23) International Competitions;  
 (24) Sports Development Projects; and  
 (25) Hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events?

1575

**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, I now hand over to the hon. Member opposite the details requested in relation to the expenditure already made in respect of sports grants for 2012-13. Further details on committed expenditure will be provided once the sporting associations have been informed. *[Inaudible]*

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

**(22) Grants to Sporting Societies - £67,914.00**

Breakdown of expenses for the period 1/4/12 – 14/9/12

Hockey- Competition in Athens -	£3500.00
Billiards and Snooker- Competition in Spain-	£400.00
Basketball- Competitions in Macedonia-	£6510.00
Basketball- Competition in San Marino-	£4960.00
Sea Angling- European Shore Championships-	£6054.00
Sea Angling- European Boat and line Championships-	£6638.00
Basketball- Two European Competitions in Gibraltar-	£17000.00
Hockey- Competition in France-	£6053.00
Hockey- Competition in Portugal-	£5000.00
Ten Pin Bowling- Med Cup in San Marino-	£1056.50
Rowing- International Competition in Belgium-	£6000.00
Triathlon- iron man Hawaii-	£1000.00
Swimming- Competition in Andorra-	£3742.50

Pending commitments for this account, for which the GSLA is awaiting confirmation of completion and/or submission of relevant application forms, are those included in the following table of recommendations made by the Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council:

Governing Body.	Details of event/project.
Gib Athletics.	21st European Championships Helsinki, Finland
	14th IAAF Indoor Championships, Istanbul, Turkey 2A+10
	14th European Cross Country Champs Dec 2012 2A+10
	European Junior Championships, Barcelona, Spain 2A+10
Gib Basketball.	European Championship Div C U18 Men 12A + 3C +1Ref San Marino
	European Championship Div C U18 Women 12A + 2C+1D +1R Cyprus
	European Championship Div C U16 Men 12A + 2C+1D +1R Gib
	European Championship Div C U16 Women 12A + 2C+1D +1R Gib

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

Gib Chess	Late Applications Awaiting revised quotes
Gib Cricket.	Iberia Cup
	World Cricket League ICC
	U17 European DWZ Tournament ECB
	Girls U15 ECB County Festival Tournament
	Senior Women Cricket Board T20 Tournament ECB
Darts	Torre Open
	Med Cup
	EU Cup
	Winmau
	EU Youth Cup
	Pro Tour
Hockey	European Cup Mens Eagles HC
	European Cup Mens Grammarians
	European Cup Ladies Hawks HC
	European Cup Ladies Eagles HC
	World Series Cup July Mens squad 2012 Portugal
	U21 European Mens Junior Cup Portugal
	U21 European Ladies Junior Cup Portugal
	U16 European Boys & Girls Nations Cup
Ice Skating	Competition
Gib Netball	Comp to qualify for IFNA Champs May
	Netball Europe Festival Gibraltar+ Coach Ed
Gib Pool.	Netball Europe U17 Wales
	European Championship UK
	World Championship, Turkey
Gib Rowing.	FISA App Ghent Int Junior Championships
	EU Rowing Championships
	World Rowing Championships
Rugby	FIRA Int Comp x2 ( subject to membership Approved)
Gib Sea Angling	European Boat Angling Championships Norway
	European Shore Angling Championships Iceland
	World Shore Club Championships Holland
Gib Squash	ETC Malta 9A+1C+1R
	ECC Czech 5A+1C+1R

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

	<b>ESF Junior Squash Qualifying event</b>
Pistol	CSF ED
Clay	CSF ED
Rifle	CSF ED
Gib Swimming.	FINA World Championships Istanbul 4A+2O
	LEN International Swimming Champs Andorra 16A+2O
Gib Tenpin Bowling	Med Challenge Cup Serravalle, San Marino
	EU Mens Champs Vienna, Austria
	World Singles Champs in Den Hague, Netherlands
	EU Champions Cup Netherlands
	Commonwealth Champs
	Amf World Cup
Gib Triathlon	Iron Man Frankfurt Germany
	Ironman world Champs
Volleyball	Malta Med Games
	Junior tournament

**(23) International Competitions- £30.22**

Breakdown of expenses for the period 1/4/12 – 14/09/12

Subsistence Ministers meeting in London- £30.22

Pending commitments for this account, for which the GSLA is awaiting confirmation of completion and/or submission of relevant application forms, are those included in the following table of recommendations made by the Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council:

<b>Details of event.</b>
Common Wealth Games Glasgow
General Assembly
European meeting
Straits Games
Island Games Bermuda 2013

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012****(24) Sports Development Projects-****£14938.03**

Breakdown of expenses for the period 1/4/12 – 14/9/12

CSLA Tutor accommodation	£310.00
First Aid Course	£450.00
Exercise Instructor Fees	£90.00
Swimming Coach Expenses	£112.50
Elec and Water Boxing Club and Body Building	£80.38
Elec and Water Boxing Club and Body Building	£213.14
Elec and Water Boxing Club and Body Building	£123.76
Elec and Water Boxing Club and Body Building	£75.13
Premises minor works	£25.40
First Aid Courses	£320.00
Equipment for SDU	£678.43
Equipment for SDU	£1221.76
Equipment for SDU	£213.99
Sports Trust UK- Trainer	£489.54
Basketball Schools Sports Development	£4987.50
Football- Competition in Portugal	£1800.00
Coaching – Karate	£620.00
Cheerleading- Coaching	£732.00
Ju Jitsu- Competition in Japan	£1000.00
Ice Skating Schools Development	£325.00
Sub Aqua Courses	£709.50
Squash- European Federation AGM	£360.00

Pending commitments for this account, for which the GSLA is awaiting confirmation of completion and/or submission of relevant application forms, are those included in the following table of recommendations made by the Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council:

<b><u>Governing Body.</u></b>	<b><u>Details of event/project</u></b>
Artistic Gymnastics	Crash mats, Floor mats and a Spotting block
Athletics	Electronic photo finish
Climbing	Anchors and Bolts at recognised sites in Gib
Rhythmic Gym	New Carpet Needed
Gib Clay Shooting	2 Additional Traps
Gib Pistol Shooting	ISSF Rapid Fire targets

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

	ISSF Air Pistol Target x8
	Change of shooting points to meet ISSF Standard
	Turning Target (1 piece bank of 5)
Taekwondo	Timing equipment
Gib Artistic Gym	UK Artistic Gymnastics Level 1 coaching course for Shane Israel
Gib Athletics	IAAF Congress – Convention Malta
	Youth Development Programme (10-15)
Gib Badminton	Badminton Europe and COMEBA AGM
	Badminton Summer Camp,
	ETB Ongoing Coach Education Programme
Gib Basketball.	Fiba Europe General Assembly, Slovenia
	Sec Gens Conference Germany
	EBE level 3 award
	Commissioner's Clinic in Germany
	FIBA Refs Clinic in Germany
	NRI Clinic in Spain
	Cadiz League Transport 2011/2012
Gib Cheerleading	UK Cheerleading Qualifiers x2
Gib Chess	Monthly junior coaching from Mr D Escobar
	Monthly training For S Whately via Mr D Escobar
	Monthly Senior coaching from mr D Escobar
	2 Day Arbiring Course and exam UK
	Arbiring Tournament in UK req to get Arbiring qualification
Gib Climbing	Junior Climbing competitions Via BMTC
Gib Cricket.	ECB Administration and governance forum
	ICC Annual Conference
	European Centre of Excellence Participation 2A+1C

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

	Girls U15 ECB Country Festival Tournament
Gib Football	Junior Tournament -Portugal
	Senior Football
	International Challenge Trophy Jersey, Guernsey IOM + Gib (FIFA sanctioned)
	Senior Football
	International tournament Slovakia
	Dev Officer work in schools
	level 1 UK FA x24
	Level 2 UK FA x12
	referee instructor course
	Dev officer qualification (UEFA A)
	Junior Football
	Tournament in Sweden
	Tournaments, Seniors, Juniors, Ladies
Gib Hockey	Level 2 Coaching Course
	International Hockey federation Malaysia
Ice skating	Summer NISA Excellence and performance Clinics Madrid
	Easter Family Fun day Gibraltar
	Hull Open
	Dundee Open
	Bracknell Open
	NISA Exam 1 & 2
	Competitions
	Consultative Form
Gib Ju-jitsu	Butoku Sai Congress Japan
Gib Karate	Instructor development course Southampton
	Training Course with Harada
	Instructor development course UK
	instructor development course Wales
Gib Netball.	Coaching UKCC Level 1
	Coaching UKCC Level 2
	Umpire level C tutor / resources
	Umpire level C Assessor
	NE Coaching Conference
	Umpire level C tutor / resources
	Umpire level C Assessor

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

Gib Paddle	Level 1 paddle Tennis - Course x 3 Junior Development Course 4 juniors
Gib Pool	Courses for Juniors and Seminars 2 visits professional mentoring of local coaches
Gib Petanque	FIPJP Congress
Gib Rhythmic Gymnastics	GB national grade testing x6 GB Grade Finals GB National Finals GB Coaches training Course GB Judges Course british Group National Championships National Coach Training Spanish level A and B 30 -50 girls Spanish level copa 10 girls
Gib Rowing	ARA training Course level 2 and 3 FISA Junior Coaches Conference TBA FISA Senior Coaches Conference TBA British Rowing Coaches Conference UK ARA Umpires training Course British Rowing Championship Nottingham England FISA Ordinary Congress Elite training camps in Seville
Gib Rugby	FIRA general meeting Insurance Barbarians Travel Costs Andalucian League
Sailing	Equipment for schools RYA Sailing Instructor Course - 6
Gib Shooting	
Gib Clay Shooting	2 Visits by Qualified UK Coach CPSA Coaching Course in UK 4 British Selection Events
Gib Shooting Pistol	1 Visit By Qualified ISSF Coach ISSF Range Course x2 ISSF coaching Course -2 Junior Training Material France Grand prix ISCh Hannover British Air pistol Champs



**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

	Intershoot Holland
	Jersey Open
	Welsh Air Champs
Gib Squash	ESF AGM
	ESF Junior Squash -Qualifying event
Sub Aqua	BSAC Advanced decompression Procedure x12
Gib Swimming	Elite Swim Camp Specialist Centre Tenerife
	Lifeguard Course
	LEN Congress
	Accredited Teacher Training
Gib Taekwondo	International Poomsae Seminar / Championship
	International Sparring Champ UK
	International Patterns Champ UK
Gib Tennis	Level One Coaching Course – 6
Gib Triathlon	Triathlon Coaching Course
Gib Volleyball	Referees Course + paper work
	Scorers Course
	FIVB Congress
	CEV Congress
Sports Specific Schools Development Projects	Football
	Basketball
	Ice Skating
	Rugby
	Badminton
	Cricket
Sports Development	Holiday programmes & generic coach education

**CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 713/2012**

**(25) Hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events. £111231.20**

Breakdown of expenses for the period 1/4/12 – 14/9/12

Classic Vehicle Rally	£1500.00
Kennel Club- Dog shows	£10000.00
Gib Fit Congress	£295.00
Minister's Reception UEFA	£616.75
Harley Davidson Rally	£2000.00
Minister's Football Reception	£415.60
Squash – Gib Open Prizes	£4500.00
Junior Chess Festival	£15000.00
2 X Minister Reception UEFA	£1558.75
Basketball hosting of 2 European Competitions	£51215.00
Minister's Reception Netball Europe	£1500.00
Football Expenses	£378.10
Minister's Contribution Man Utd Gib Anniversary	£1500.00
Strongman Champions League	£20000.00
Chess Festival Official Hosting	£236.00
Gibraltar Regatta- Official Accommodation	£516.00

There are still four pending commitments for this account:-

The Gibraltar Regatta recently held,  
The Masters Ten Pin Bowling Championships,  
The Chess Festival  
Professional Darts Corporation.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the information, which I can look at with greater time on my hands.

1585 Can I clarify from the Minister as and when he makes the additional grants or whatever under these sections, will he automatically then pass on to me the information?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, as I understand it, it will also be... Yes, I will do that, and not only that, all this is now going to be on the new Gibraltar Sports and Leisure website. They are going to have an independent... Well, it will be run by Government but they are going to have their own website on which *all* this information will be, as soon as it can be provided.

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**Hon. E J Reyes:** It prompts me to ask something, Mr Speaker.

I am very grateful that that sort of information is being provided through the Government website and so on. I would like to bring to the Minister's attention that when, on the Opposition side, you come to tabulate your Questions and hand them in before the deadlines, because this side of the House does not enjoy all these facilities to automatically have access to the online information...

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I must express some gratitude to the Clerk of this House who actually made available to me the use of one of the officers' PCs so that we can have access, and it is something the Government may wish to consider, because information has been provided – we are grateful to the Ministers – but the facility for this side of the House to access the information has not been provided. So we are here, and other than Mr Netto, who happens to have his own personal laptop... I cannot look into it and verify or tabulate, or in fact, do the legitimate work of the Opposition, which is to see what is being provided or what further questioning from there may be needed. So that is something that this House should consider for the future if we are going to have increased

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1605 information being provided via these types of services.

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, just to say that if we do put it in the website, he can still ask the question and I can tell him that he can look at it on the website or, if he wants, he can ask somebody else to look on the website for him, but I have no problem in giving him the information – even if he asks in this House – straight to him.

**Mr Speaker:** I think this was a wider plea, rather than just the information. A wider plea to the Leader of the House to provide iPads and laptops to all the Members, which I must say I do endorse.

1615 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for helping to clarify that.

1620 **Gibraltar Olympic Movement**  
**Application to join International Olympic Committee**

**Clerk:** Question 714, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1625 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, further to his recent announced support in respect of Gibraltar's longstanding application to join the IOC, can the Minister for Sport and Leisure provide details of what specific course of action his Ministry will be taking to sustain the bid submitted several years ago by the Gibraltar Olympic Movement?

1630 **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, as the Leader of the Opposition, who is not here in the Chamber today, will know, the Gibraltar Olympic Movement commenced legal action against the International Olympic Committee before the Swiss civil courts many years ago and that action went all the way to the Swiss federal courts and was unsuccessful.

1635 The Gibraltar Olympic Committee is exploring what further avenues are available to succeed and the Gibraltar Government will support any initiative they or any other relevant parties may take in this respect in order to advance further.

1640 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you for that, Mr Speaker.

So, what I gather is that the present Government will continue with the same level of support as this party did when it was in government, and I therefore publicly announce that I wish to join wholeheartedly with the Minister's efforts and he can count 100% on support from this side of the House in respect of the Gibraltar Olympic Movement's application to the IOC – in fact, I will even go further: in respect of all applications submitted by any legitimately registered sport associations – and I hope that we can work together in partnership, even, if need be, speaking outside meetings of this House so that we are mutually updated and there is a common approach for the good and benefit of all sports persons in Gibraltar.

1650 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, just to say that it is a thing that we welcome. It is not a party political issue. It is an issue that we should all be united on, and in this case I welcome any help or anything that the hon. Members on that side or anybody in Gibraltar might give.

1655 **Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority facilities**  
**Bookings/allocations made to sporting bodies**

**Clerk:** Question 715, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Sport and Leisure provide details of all fixed

1660 bookings/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?

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

1665 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the tables of all fixed bookings/allocations provided for use by sporting bodies in respect of all facilities managed and administered by the GSLA for the 2012-13 season are in the process of being finalised. The hon. Member will be sent a copy of what will become a public document on completion of the exercise.

1670 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I am grateful and I accept that, Mr Speaker.

Just so that it goes in the record, I had a similar thing which I accepted once from the Minister for Housing, and when he actually handed me the document we needed guidance from the Clerk so that that schedule or whatever was handed over could actually then be recorded and become part of the *Hansard*.

1675 So although I am patient enough and will wait and understand that the final allocations still have to be made, when that is available, somehow or other, Mr Speaker, I wish that to be recorded in Parliament. So perhaps at the next meeting, if it is ready by then, the Minister can actually table it – I think that is the advice that the Clerk gave us. The Minister can then table it and then he can legitimately make it form part of the *Hansard* for the sake of perhaps when it comes to a future reference.

1680 As a Member of the Opposition, one only has to look into *Hansard* and find all the information there. Otherwise, it ends up being lost. A piece of paper can easily be lost in my home, given that the Opposition does not even have offices available here within the Parliament building.

**Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Mr Speaker, suffice to say that, as he well knows, they are finalising it because of the time of the year where we are. It is August/September, so the season is changing, some seasons are starting and all that.

1685 But I can also say to him that in this case, yes, we will go through the process that he has mentioned, through the Clerk, so that it is in *Hansard*. I have no problem with that. But again, next year, all this will be on the website as soon as it is available, so there might not be a need next year to come through Parliament in order for this because it will be a public document that will be on the website. But this year I have no problem; we will do that.

1695 **Strongman Champions League 2012  
Sponsorship arrangement**

**Clerk:** Question 716, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1700 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports and Leisure provide details of the sponsorship arrangements, inclusive of its financial value, granted by Government towards the staging of the Strongman Champions League in Gibraltar during September 2012?

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

1705 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, Government, through the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority, agreed to provide £20,000 sponsorship towards the staging of the Strong Man Championship League. Non financial assistance was also provided relating to resources, facilities and venues necessary for the event.

1710 It is important to understand that this event will be televised as a one hour programme in Eurosport and coverage of the event will also be transmitted on Channel 5 and ITV. Therefore, the event is seen as an *excellent* opportunity to market Gibraltar.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker thank you for that information.

Within welcoming this type of events – and this party has always supported Gibraltar being a host nation

1715 for international events and so on – does the Minister know if the timing of events, did it infringe and therefore cause cancellations for other sporting events that were scheduled or, I am going to give him time perhaps to look it up and I can get the answer from him at any future date?

1720 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, as I understand it, it did not because the organisers came, if I remember correctly, it was about April/May time and by then they had already notified the dates that they wanted to use. As I understand it, the GSLA did not have any problem on the facilities exactly for the reason that I have just mentioned because August/September there are, it is like the summer and therefore associations and bodies are not using the facilities as they do during the winter time.

1725 But I can also say that it is not a firm date. Those are not firm dates for every year because we want it to be maybe an annual event and the sponsorship deal might change – we don't know. But, what I am saying to you now is that we want it to be an annual event because of the importance that Gibraltar is put on the map at least on this sport and Gibraltar itself, the one hour programme that apparently Eurosport is going to do, will include lots of shots of Gibraltar, lots of places in Gibraltar, so it will be like a story of the men coming to Gibraltar, seeing the place and that, in itself, is marketing. It is marketing tourism so we thought that it was very important to do this first one and then the next one, next year, things might change. Even the dates might change.

1730 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can I then just simply to round it up, Mr Speaker, just ask the Minister that, although he will continue receiving our support on that, just to bear in mind for future dates requirement, the sensitivities of other sporting associations. I mean he has probably heard it the same as I have, you know those within for example the football fraternity who wish to have allocations now in order to get ready for the formal start of the season, end up feeling that their slots may have, in the same way that slots were found for the Strongman thing, that no slots were offered for them in order to prepare themselves better for a championship, more so with Gibraltar's pending and imminent membership of UEFA.

1740 **Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Mr Speaker, we will look into that and I can assure you that the MUGA area, as it is called, was not a place where the footballers actually lost any allocations at all. The footballers themselves, if the MUGA is not a place where the footballers... *(Interjection)*

1745 Well, yes, fine. Yes, we will be sensitive towards all... because, like I said, we want – it is *events* that we want to do and we have to be both sensitive and see the value of the event and, at the same time, see it not affecting associations. Maybe we can think of more venues but, at this stage, we are not there yet.

1750 **Hon. E J Reyes:** And, once again, for clarity, Mr Speaker, I hope the Hon. Minister accepts my wholehearted support for Gibraltar to host international events and perhaps I can receive his assurance that we will work in an un-political manner in a joint effort to ensure that Gibraltar gets as much promotion in sporting events as possible.

1755 **Hon. S E Linares:** That is appreciated Mr Speaker.

**Locally registered sports associations  
Government assistance for sports development officers**

1760 **Clerk:** Question 716, the Hon –  
I beg your pardon, Question 717, the Hon. E J Reyes.

1765 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sport and Leisure provide details of any financial contributions it has made, or is committed to make, during this current financial year to any locally registered sporting association in connection with any expenses incurred in respect of, or by, their sports development officers?

**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, financial

1770 assistance through funds available for the sports development projects is made available to the sports associations in respect of previously approved projects which their sports development officers do in schools, but do not work there, they do directly for the... but work that they do directly for the association.

1775 In the current financial year, to date, the following payments have been made: Basketball £4,987.50; Ice Skating £325.00.

#### Procedural

1780 **Mr Speaker:** Would that be a convenient moment for a short recess before I move to the Questions for the Minister?

*It was agreed.*

1785 **Mr Speaker:** This House will recess for ten minutes.

*The House adjourned at 11.40 a.m. and resumed its sitting at 11.57 a.m.*

1790

#### ENTERPRISE, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

##### 1795 Graduate Employment Scheme Three year contracts for research assistants

**Clerk:** Question 718/2012, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

1800 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Employment explain how the Graduate Employment Scheme offering graduates three year contracts as research assistants works?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.

1805 **Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, the graduates that are currently undertaking research are primarily engaged in sourcing information as and when required in relation to a number of areas. These are primarily in following up sources of information relevant to employment issues, legislation changes, innovation and inward investment possibilities relevant to the 'enterprise' element of my Department or as relevant in the Department in which they have been placed.

1810 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, when did this Graduate Employment Scheme start? Was this as from 9th December?

1815 **Hon. J J Bossano:** No, it was launched at the same time as the employment training scheme for non graduates, which was in February.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, how does a graduate go about signing up for the Graduate Employment Scheme?

1820 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, we have got fifty-six graduates who were unemployed at the time. The hon. Member has asked for a number of additional pieces of information in writing and there she has got the breakdown of when they started but I think something like ten of them started in February and the others have been coming through and there are now, for example, people are making enquiries and, essentially, very much like the ETCL, we take them in as we have something for them to do and we can place them somewhere. Some are in the private sector, some are in the public, I have got that all in the written breakdown and if she

1825 wants more information, I am happy to provide it.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Yes. Thank you for that.  
So, Mr Speaker, registration is via the ETB. The graduate will go to the ETB to register.

1830 **Hon. J J Bossano:** It is only open to people who are graduates, who are in Gibraltar and therefore resident and registered as unemployed.

1835 **Hon. D J Bossino:** For the purpose of clarification, can I ask the Minister is there... are these graduates going to have some sort of input in relation to legislation, did he say? Can I ask him to clarify that?

1840 **Hon J J Bossano:** Yes, there are a number of lawyers who are unemployed nowadays. (*Interjection*) Yes, (*Laughter*) and given that there are so many in the pipeline studying, (*Laughter*) I would not be surprised if the biggest element in the graduate scheme is going to be lawyers in the future. But those that have got a legal background... For example, I have had some people doing research in my Department for me in relation to some of the legislation we have brought to the House, which means that we have got people that look at UK or other places and help me formulate policy before I ask the Gibraltar Government's Legislation Unit to prepare the draft. So they carry out research in areas of employment law for me or in areas of investment for me.

1845 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Do I take it that it is the Minister himself who identifies the expertise that is relevant to the particular area that the graduate who will be assisting him on?

1850 **Hon J J Bossano:** Well, no, the expertise that the graduate has depends on the degree that he has.  
For example, I can tell the hon. Member I have got a graduate who has got a First Class honours in Physics and a Masters in Physics and I cannot provide him with anything that can use his specialist knowledge, but the whole concept is that people who are able to do studying at that kind of level in a UK university have got the ability to apply their *analytical* skills to any task that you give them – but it doesn't mean we are in a position to provide, for somebody that does nuclear physics, the equivalent of CERN. For somebody like that, we don't have that, but it is better that some of these people... I mean we are getting, I suppose, a situation now where, in the United Kingdom, there are 136,000 graduates out of work, who come out of University.

1855 So, before, we used to lose people the moment there was nothing here for them in their specialist field. They tended to go back, they used to come usually for the summer and then, if they couldn't find anything... and in terms of employment the openings for graduates are very limited outside, for example, the gaming companies.

1860 We are looking, also, at some of the graduates who may be interested – and there are a couple – in doing a second qualification in an area like accountancy, where we are having to give work permits to people who are non-EU nationals because the industry demands cannot be met from our local supply. So the whole idea of the scheme *partly* is to give Gibraltarians an opportunity to come back home and be available in the Gibraltar market and doing something worthwhile in return for the money that we pay them. That is the philosophy of it.

1865 **Hon. D A Feetham:** The position, when you talk about graduates doing research and I think that in my firm certainly there is at least one that has been placed there, one of the many lawyers in Gibraltar. But, is it the hon. Member that, effectively, says 'Look, I am interested in this particular area and I want you to do research in this particular area' or are you giving these particular graduates a very wide latitude to look at areas? What is the brief that is being handed to these individuals?

1870 **Hon. J J Bossano:** In my Department the brief is mine. That is to say, there are things that I want done for me either in the enterprise field or in the employment field or in the legislation field. There are some people... for example, that may be with Dr. Cortes and they are being asked to do research in an area of environmental products that we can be looking at in terms of investing in the programme that we want for, say, solar energy or anything like that. Most of this research is done on the internet and we have got people who have got the skills, because they have done research in order to get their degree. Nowadays, a big chunk of the first degree

1880 today is, in fact, researching projects so it is the research skills that they have already learnt that we are putting into use.

1885 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, the question was 'how does the scheme work?' What I would like to know, and... forgive me if the answer has been given, but I do not think... If it has, I have not understood it. Who decides, of the pool of 56 graduates we currently have, who goes where? Is that the Minister? Yes. And doing what? Is that the Minister for –

**Hon. J J Bossano:** No, no, no. Look, the –

1890 **Hon. D J Bossino:** – Employment who could answer this question? For example, he has mentioned that there are two or three graduates working in the Ministry for Health, presumably because they have a certain expertise in that area. He has also mentioned that he has certain graduates – law graduates – who are assisting him in relation to the legislative aspects of the work of Government.

1895 What I want to know is who is the person who decides, or which body, if it is not one individual, which graduates should go where?

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, there is a Higher Executive Officer who is the manager of the company. He is the one dealing day to day with the graduates.

1900 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Just for example... It is just that we are trying to look at the way that this works. For example, you mentioned legislative changes. Of course, when I was the Minister for Justice, I had a programme on crime. We want to reform our criminal offences, we want to reform evidence of procedure. We then delegate to people who can do the drafting.

1905 These are lawyers that have just come out of university. *Presumably*, the hon. Gentleman, when he talks about, 'They are doing some research on legislation for me', *you* are telling them, 'I want you to specifically research this particular area of the law or legislative change that I am thinking of introducing in Gibraltar'. Is that the position or is it somebody else? Or are they given a wide latitude – I do not know – 'Have a look at, in this wide field, in terms of the environment, what are the laws that they have introduced in Gibraltar in relation to this, because we perhaps are interested in introducing it in Gibraltar'? I do not know how the process is.

1910 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, the process is dependent on what the area is that is being looked at. In my case, when I have given them the brief to look at labour legislation, I have done it on the basis of getting them to look at Labour legislation in the UK, compare it with what we have got here, identify particularly what the requirements are for the things that I want to achieve. Then that preparatory work means that, when it is passed to the Legislation Unit, it should shorten the process, because some of the stuff has already been done ahead of time, and I can give them a brief with which I am more satisfied that it will not be going backwards and forwards, because it will be more focused.

1920 In other areas, for example, there are things that, as a result of my recent trips, there are things that I have come back with that I want to follow up, on the enterprise side, and I need background information.

1925 **Labour market skills audit  
Details and findings**

**Clerk:** Question 719, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

1930 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Can the Minister for Employment provide the details and findings of the skills audit of the labour market that was to be ready by April of *this* year, according to the Government's manifesto?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.



- 1935 **Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Yes, Mr Speaker, the skills audit was conducted in the Department in March and was limited to the construction sector, and particularly to manual workers in the construction sector, since this is the area in which the priority is being given, in terms of future training.
- 1940 This produced a breakdown of 1,912 construction workers, broken down in the following areas: general craft operatives, 286; scaffolders, 50; labourers, 381, semi-skilled labourers, 112; masons, plasterers, renderers and bricklayers, 302; carpenters and joiners, 200; plumbers, 80; painters and decorators, 166; stores operatives, 30; welders and metal workers, 87; electricians and electrical fitters, 101; window fitters, 24; roofers, 19; lift operatives, 23; and drivers, 46.
- 1945 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Thank you for that, Mr Speaker.  
Can the Hon. Minister say if the skills audit will be conducted now in other sectors of the labour market?
- 1950 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, there is, in addition to this, a skills audit included in the survey questions for the year census which I think starts in October. So that means that the entire population will be subjected to questions which will reveal the... in a much detailed form than we can do it. One of the things is that here we are talking about historical data that has been inputted into our computer, whereas what we are going to have in April is a snapshot of the economy which will be completely up to date.
- 1955 The gap, when the Statistics Office produce the census report this year, they will have a very detailed breakdown which will give us the age profile, the nationality profile, the gender profile and the skills distribution of the whole of the workforce of Gibraltar that is resident. Obviously, we have got something like 7,000 non-resident workers which will not be reflected in that.
- 1960 In terms of what the Department is doing, since we are still at the stage of increasing the labour content in the construction industry, where it was very low, we have not yet moved into other areas. Therefore, I think the next target area for us after the construction is likely to be the retail and wholesale trade. Essentially, the selection of the area is determined and has been decided by virtue of the size. Since construction is the biggest area, the most obvious thing to do was to start with the area which had the greatest possibility of people acquiring skills and us increasing the resident workforce share of the industry.
- The next one on the list would be retail and wholesale, if we go by that criteria.
- 1965 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, the survey, as I understand it, is effectively the supply side of the skills market. It is not a survey of the demand side. Does the Government intend to do anything on the demand side – in other words, what employers, what kind of skills employers need, as opposed to what is there already in these particular sectors?
- 1970 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, no, it is not the supply side; it is, indeed, the demand side. People have got jobs because there is a demand for those jobs. This shows what the market in Gibraltar currently uses. That is the demand side.
- There may be, amongst the 1,000 unemployed, 200 people who want to be carpenters, but that is not reflected here.
- 1975 So he has got it wrong – the wrong way round.
- 1980 **Hon. D A Feetham:** That does not necessarily follow.
- There may, in fact, be people who are unemployed who may actually have skills that you are not taking into account in the survey. There may well be employers that require certain skills that are not reflected in an exercise of that nature, because if you are only analysing... If you are doing a skills audit, just simply by looking who is in employment with what skills, that cannot surely – and I am asking him the question – be reflective *entirely* – it may be *partially* reflective – of what skills the economy and employers in particular require. For all we know, there may be employers that require different skills or, alternatively, for example, if there are 80 carpenters within the sector, there may be a demand for 200 carpenters. It cannot be reflective.
- 1985 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, Mr Speaker, we know there is no demand for 200 carpenters, because we have not got 200 vacancies for carpenters. That is obvious. But there is nothing to suggest that the proportions here are exceptional, and therefore it is not an unreasonable deduction from this which will be proved right or wrong when we do the one in October, anyway.

1990 The one in October is going to show what everybody in Gibraltar is doing and that will give us a picture of the whole economy and the distribution of skills. The number of vacancies are a very small proportion of the number of jobs at any one time, but if you look at the nature of the construction industry, the only thing that is likely to produce, I would say, a shift in the composition is if we have got – as we may well have – in the future, a situation where we are moving more to a higher dependence on maintenance work in the industry and a lower dependence on new construction.

1995 The reflection of the industry today, I would say, given the fact that there are no big construction projects going is probably a better snapshot of the long-term core construction industry profile than if we had done this, for example, when we had hundreds of workers in the tunnel, the airport, *Bruesa* and so forth, which might have given us a very distorted picture of the degree of numbers of people in one particular area where there might be a lot of people, for example, putting up steel girders, but who then come in and go.

2000 So I think, in some respects, the snapshot here is likely to reflect more the long-term basic core, which is, in my judgement, going to be around the range of between 1,500 and 2,000 jobs. Here we have got 1,912. But the industry, for example, in the October survey last year which has been tabled in Parliament was that there were 3,500 people in the construction industry. But many of those jobs would not be very useful to us if we are planning the training that we want to provide.

2005 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, I understand what the hon. Gentleman is saying. The hon. Gentleman is saying ‘Look, we have reached a basement level now, in terms of jobs within the construction industry, which is reflective of what those jobs... the number of jobs in a situation where there is no peak in terms of construction demand for whatever reason.’ But, of course, does he not agree with me that cannot possibly be an accurate picture of skills requirements within the economy? Because he was very critical for example, when we were in Government, of the fact that there was an influx coming into Gibraltar of foreign labour – particularly skilled foreign labour, in particular areas, which... Those jobs were taken over by foreigners because we did not in Gibraltar have those skills. That is the point that... I know that his point is wider, but that is one of the points that he made.

2015 Therefore, does he not agree that he needs to undertake a survey of the skills that employers, for example, may say, ‘Look these are skills that we always require within this particular industry’, because you are undertaking a number of Government projects, for example? When those Government projects launch and start, then there will be a spike and, unless you are well prepared in terms of matching future projected skills with the skills that we have in the market, particularly amongst Gibraltarians, the jobs are always going to be taken by people that come out from the outside, because we do not have the skilled labour here.

2020 Hence why I am urging him to not just simply focus on what there is now at a basement level, but to undertake – and I think I have said this before to the hon. Gentleman across the floor – also undertake an appropriate survey of the skills that the employers themselves, within these particular industries, think are necessary in terms of skills and skills that, actually, from my own knowledge of speaking to employers, are always needed within the sector.

2025 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, the skills we always need are the skills that are here – not the skills when there is a sudden big project. If somebody comes tomorrow and starts investing in a big way, and there is a lot of construction then, throughout our history, there has been a situation where people have been brought in, from the days of the Filipino hostel onwards, done the job and gone. The hon. Member seems to be under the misapprehension that these are 1,912 Gibraltarians. All the imported labour is included in this.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** I understand that.

2035 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, then, if he understands that, he will understand that, in fact, by knowing that there are, for example, 60 scaffolders and if there are only six who are locals, I know that there is a potential for 54 more.

2040 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Unless, of course, what the hon. Member – and I am asking – I quite understand his analysis – unless of course what he is planning is, what he is saying to me is this: there are 1,500 people within this sector, or whatever the number is. ‘There are these skills: 40% are Gibraltarians; 60% are foreigners. I plan in the future to get rid of the foreigners so that Gibraltarians take that 60%’ – is that what he is planning?

2045 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, I cannot say...  
that it is not something that Gibraltarians will welcome, but the reality of it is that foreigners and Gibraltarians lose their jobs when construction projects finish. They do now and they did a year ago when the party that he now calls 'his' was in Government. Therefore, that will be a feature of the industry.

2050 The fact that we import people because we haven't got them does not mean that we have to say to our school leavers 'I am not going to train you so that we keep on importing people because we don't have locals'. The training will be determined by the prospects of employment, the selection of the skills. If we have got a situation where, for example, we have got very few carpenters and lots of painters, then the logic is to concentrate on training more carpenters. Why, because we want to have in Gibraltar the day when we don't need to import carpenters, except for exceptional things that are going to have a start and a finish.

2055 There is no reason why we should have non-Gibraltarians and non-residents in Gibraltar working long term on Government buildings or in Government Departments. No reason whatsoever. And that is the heritage that the previous administration, of which the hon. Member is now so proud, has left and which we intend to put right.

2060 **Hon. D A Feetham:** So effectively what the hon. Gentleman is saying is that he plans to get rid of foreign labour working within the public sector.

2065 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, Mr Speaker the hon. Member chooses to put it in a pejorative way and I choose to put it in a positive way. I intend to ensure that the proportion of *our* people in work in Gibraltar in the public and in the private sector increases for every single month that I am in office. *(Applause)*

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Is it true that the hon. Gentleman personally phones companies within the private sector saying: 'You are not getting a Government contract unless you sack foreign labourers and you employ Gibraltarians'?

2070 **Hon. J J Bossano:** No it is not true, I haven't found it necessary, but I will take his advice into account if I need to use his ideas. *(Laughter)*

**Clerk:** Question –

2075 **Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Isobel Ellul-Hammond.

2080 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, will the... Looking at the private sector, will the Government be identifying gaps in the market – for example, the number of accountants that are needed in order for our economy to progress? Will the Government be surveying the private sector and perhaps identifying and encouraging these educational programmes for young Gibraltarians to pursue in order to fill those gaps?

2085 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well we know, in fact already, that... accountancy, which has been identified by the hon. Member, is an area clearly where we have got a shortage. There have been, for as long as I have been in the Department, unfilled vacancies for people in accountancy which we are not able to supply. Therefore, whenever people come and register, if they have not got accountancy qualifications but they have got, for example, 'A' levels or degrees, the Department interviews them and tries to persuade them to look at the possibility of accountancy.

2090 It is quite obvious, for reasons that are not very clear to me, that accountancy is not everybody's cup of tea. So we seem to have a problem. It is an area where we are now, in fact, meeting a requirement from the industry for work permits for non-EU nationals to come in. What we are doing is granting those work permits but on the basis that we will look, in the future, to replace the people we are importing with locally trained staff.

2095 I think I want to take this opportunity of saying that this is an area which is one that gives secure, more secure employment, I would say, than almost anything else, other than lawyers, in the private sector, given that, irrespective of the industry, they all need accountants. So even if there is an industry that is shrinking and another one is expanding, these are transferable skills. It is something we should be encouraging and I hope that people will see this as a future.

2100 The Department is very keen to give whatever assistance, both technical and financial, to people who want to go into that area. In *other* areas the bulk of the vacancies that are registered are in the gaming industries and, there, at some point I will need to be educated by the people in those industries as to what exactly it is that they want – because I’m afraid that I cannot even understand the labels.

2105 **Hon. Mrs. I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, is this something that perhaps your Department will be working with the Department of Education on, in order to identify these skills – and maybe the Department of Education can market these to students to perhaps pursue as future careers?

2110 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, I believe that is something that has been absent in the past and we need to see what we can do to correct that in the future – what there should be in terms of the careers guidance. There should be a briefing about what are the demands for labour in the economy, as reflected in the vacancies that are open and the prospect of those demands changing or remaining the same.

2115 So, I believe very strongly that our young people should be given the opportunity to study whatever they want to study, therefore to develop their intellect and, their innate abilities to the full and that we, as a community, should be proud of them and be willing to finance that. But I think people have also got to be made aware that that may mean that, once they have studied that, there are no prospects of employment in Gibraltar and that, therefore, they have to balance whether they want to spend their years in higher education in the UK acquiring skills that are marketable in our economy or acquiring something that is their passion in life.

2120 I think we should finance both alternatives but I think more needs to be done, in terms of careers advice, as to indicating to people which are the kind of skills that give them the best chance of employment and which are the ones where, when they come back, they really have to learn to do something else to earn a living.

2125 **Clerk:** Question –

**Mr Speaker:** No. The Hon. Daniel Feetham.

2130 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, I thought he said, with his usual smile that sometimes spells trouble... when he said he would be turning his attention to the gaming industry, ‘I don’t understand the labels’ That made me quake slightly in my boots because the gaming industry unfortunately in Gibraltar is going to be facing some difficulty, particularly next year, in the light of legislative changes that are going to be made in the United Kingdom to betting tax source.

2135 May I urge, and does he not agree with me, that at this particular time, when that particular industry which, after all, employs 2,200 people in Gibraltar – the bulk of them may not be Gibraltarians, but in terms of the economic value of that through taxes and duties, and indirectly as well, a knock-on to other industries, that provides an immense benefit to Gibraltar – does he not agree with me that he has to tread with care in how he approaches the gaming industry in particular, listen to them very, very carefully and do nothing that can upset a very fine equilibrium, in terms of decisions that boardrooms and directors may make in relation to whether they stay or leave Gibraltar as a consequence of legislative changes in the United Kingdom?

2140 **Hon. J J Bossano:** First of all, Mr Speaker, I want to reassure him that he does not have to ‘quake in his boots’, because my bark is worse than my bite!

2145 **Hon. D A Feetham:** No, I don’t accept that! (*Laughter*)

**Hon. J J Bossano:** The industry wants to meet me, actually. So the initiative has come from them, not from me. I plan to sit down with them in a spirit of comradeship to learn from them. (*Laughter*)

2150

2155 **Basic Training Courses**  
**Availability and starting dates**

**Clerk:** Question 720, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

2160 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Training tell us when the following courses will be starting at Bleak House: (a) the OCR Levels 1 & 2 of Numeracy & Literacy; (b) the CLaIT Courses, which are the computer and IT courses; and (c) the generally known as 'life skills' basic courses for Special Educational Needs students who are no longer within mainstream education?

2165 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.

**Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, I am not in a position to say when the courses specified in (a) and (b) will be starting at Bleak House and, as regards (c), I am not aware that any such courses have ever been carried out before.

2170 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Can the Minister explain why these courses stopped in May?

**Hon. J J Bossano:** I answered that question in the last House, Mr Speaker.

2175 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Perhaps the Hon. Minister can enlighten us a bit further.  
In the last House he said that the course ran up to examination time that happened in the month of May, yes, but there has been no follow-up, no further courses for those who have a need to get these qualifications? One set was prepared for examinations up to May and that is when they sat their exams.

2180 My understanding, unless the dates have changed, is that there is probably another set of exams scheduled now for November. The course has not started yet, therefore those students would not be adequately prepared to sit the examination in November.

2185 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Apparently, I am told that these courses were offered to people on the VTS Scheme that no longer exists. Therefore, they are being looked at in the context that now we have got people who are in the Employment Training Scheme who are, in effect, in employment with ETCL, with an agreement with an employer that is going to take them on.

2190 So, unlike the people who were doing these things before, *so I am told*, because this came from what was then the Bleak House education side of the outfit, the people who are getting the £300 or £400 a month were given day release to do this. Therefore, we are looking at how we can provide the equivalent to those who are in the new system but may still benefit from this, which may not be in the same numbers that there were before, and whether we should continue to do it in Bleak House or whether we should be looking to the College to do it.

Therefore, the answer is I am not at the moment able to say whether this exercise that is currently being conducted is going to be finished in September or there may be a further delay.

2195 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, but can I add for the Minister's consideration, (*Interjection by Hon. J J Bossano: Sure.*) although the potential employer has that commitment to take him on, does it not help to improve the employability prospects of the individual if he were, whilst he is receiving the allowance – which comes from taxpayers' money – if he were able to complete these qualifications because they are basic skills that will be needed perhaps now and also for the future?

2200 We are looking, as well, at the long term prospects of the individual... So there is a lot of educational value on this. I just want to put it forward to the Minister that he considers it and, if need be, I am willing to sit down with him, as well, outside this Chamber and give him my personal view, from experience as well as an educationalist, so that we can give a package as good as possible for the individuals, even if it does mean, Mr Speaker, that the Minister may want to provide these courses outside, let us call it, the routine 9.00 to 5.00  
2205 working hours so that the individual has better prospects for future employment now and in the future, because someone starts in a junior post with a particular employer and then wishes to aspire...

So, in the same way that the Government has continued doing it, for example, for those in accountancy firms where we help them do after office hours, we do the AAT and ACCA courses so they can aspire to

2210 become accountants – and we do not have to import accountants, on which both sides of the House are in agreement – we can do this right down to basic level. Perhaps we can meet one day for a cup of coffee, the Minister and I, and share it in a manner that makes it more beneficial for these youngsters?

2215 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I welcome that offer of assistance and I will take him up on it. Thank you.

**Equalisation of Old Age Pension  
Commitment for both sexes at age 60**

2220

**Clerk:** Question 721, the Hon. J J Netto.

2225 **Hon. J J Netto:** Can the Minister for Social Security state if the Government is still committed to introduce equalisation of the Old Age Pension at 60 between both sexes during this term of office in line with their manifesto commitment?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.

2230 **Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 722, 737 and 738.

**Planned changes to Social Security Fund  
Confirmation and details**

2235

**Clerk:** Question 722

2240 **Hon. J J Netto:** Given the comments of the Minister of Social Security in his Budget address this year, in which he stated that he will be bringing about new arrangements to the Social Security Fund in this financial year to coincide with the increase in the Old Age Pension, could the Minister say if this indeed has happened, or will happen soon, and provide the details of such changes, if any, and whether this will be happening through administrative changes, or by primary legislation?

2245

**Social Insurance Fund  
Reform of structure**

2250

**Clerk:** Question 737, the Hon. D A Feetham.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** When will the Government be in a position to implement its manifesto commitment to reform the entire structure of the Social Insurance Fund?

2255

**Pensionable age  
Equalisation for men and women**

2260

**Clerk:** Question 738.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Does the Government intend to equalise pensionable ages for men and women in any new pension schemes?

2265 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.

**Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, the position remains as stated in the manifesto and in answer to Question 125/2012.

2270 All new pension schemes are required to equalise pensions for men and women. Should the changes to the Social Security Fund require primary legislation, a Command Paper will be presented in Parliament and the hon. Member will have 10 weeks in which to look at the proposed text.

2275 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, if I may, the reason why I ask in relation to Question 721 is because the last time I asked this Question, which was back in February, and looking at *Hansard* in front of me here there was perhaps slightly some confusion, which *I think* needed clarity... clarity in the sense that, regardless of the answer that the Hon. Minister gave me, the last time, back in February, inasmuch as saying, well, European legislation *will provide* that there will have to be equalisation... despite that answer which he gave me back in February, one has to consider the fact that when the GSLP/Liberals actually produced their own manifesto, it is a manifesto for Government over four years, if elected by the people of Gibraltar.

2280 In the context of that manifesto, as opposed to the context of what may be the legislation, or the legal position, in the European Union, I am asking the question whether it is the view of the Government that, in order to honour that manifesto commitment, as stated in the manifesto, they will do it within their term of office, as opposed to having to wait for it, whenever being told to do so by the European Union. This is what I am trying to obtain an answer to from the hon. Gentleman, if I may.

2285 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, since I have answered 'the position remains as stated in the manifesto', I think he has got his answer.

2290 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, can he tell me – perhaps provide me an answer – whether they will do it... because it is not clear from the previous answer whether they will do it within *this* term of office or they will simply put it to rest and they might do it if they get an instruction from the European Union to equalise it at some future date. That is what I am trying to find out.

2295 **Hon. J J Bossano:** As far as I am concerned, Mr Speaker, everything in the manifesto will be completed before the next Election. (*Interjections*)

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, I am glad to hear it.

2300 **Minister for Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice (Hon. G H Licudi):** That is the whole point of a manifesto.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Do I take it, then, that this policy will be implemented by the end of this term?

**Hon. J J Bossano:** As stated in the manifesto, Mr Speaker.

2305 **Clerk:** Question seven hundred –

**Hon. D A Feetham:** His answer is very clear: everything in their manifesto will be completed this term. That is the answer.

2310 Does he have any plans, and if he does, can he share it with the House, about the restructure of the Social Security Fund?

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Obviously I *have* got plans, but I am not prepared to share them.

2315 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, can I also ask a further supplementary question, and this is in relation to Question 722.

One of the things I would like to know is in previous answers to *my* Questions, the Minister did say that the increases in the old age pension, I think he stated would happen as from the second quarter, meaning... yes, from the second quarter. We now find ourselves in the position, from the Government press release on

2320 the matter, that the increases will be given to the old age pensioners as from 1st October retrospective to 1st August – I think that is the statement from the Government – but given that he has also made commitments in the past that he will honour no erosion in the purchasing value of the old age pension by applying the index of retail prices to it, it seems to me – and I am not an economist; perhaps he can enlighten me on this – that by applying the index of retail prices of 1st July, pensioners may be somewhat out of pocket for a small amount of money.

2325 I would have thought that if the increases were being made on 1st October, rather than make it retrospective to 1st August it would have been made retrospective to 1st July. I understand and I accept that, obviously, he got the latest available figure, which was the figure of 1st July – fair enough, I am not saying that... If that is the latest available, that is the latest available, but why make it retrospective to 1st August and leave a complete month outside of the equation, because even if it is a small amount of money – whatever the changes to the index of retail prices are – for pensioners it is something that they value.

2330 So, if that is correct, if my analysis is correct, why does not perhaps the Government reconsider its position and make it retrospective to 1st July and not to 1st August?

2335 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I am sure the hon. Members know that this is not the first time this has happened and that this has happened previously in their 15 years where the dates have not coincided but, be that as it may, we picked 1st August because the confusion in the question that he is putting is that what I told him was going to happen in that quarter was not the reform of the Social Security but putting in a way of revaluing the pensions so that the minimum income guarantee did not subsequently have to be reduced, which is something that happened when he was there, and therefore he will see that on *this* occasion, when the payment has been made from the beginning of August, we have not made any allowance for the increase of December of the minimum income guarantee of 2011. That has not been deducted and therefore what we are trying to do is review the relationship between the household cost allowance, the minimum income guarantee and the old age pension so that they all go up at the same time and you do not have different payments going to the same people on different dates, and then you find that, because some are means tested and some are not, it has to be clawed back and people do not understand it.

2340 Quite apart from anything else, the pensioners cannot understand how they get an increase in January and then, in July, they are supposed to be getting another increase, and when the second increase comes the deduction of what they got in January – which is what happened last year – in some instances happened to be higher than the new increase. So people were saying, ‘Well, how can I have got an increase and I finished up with less money?’ Never mind a percentage that did not cover – less money in pounds, shillings and pence! Therefore, that is the explanation that I gave him in the last Question when he asked me and that is what he is referring to about the increases in the old age pensions being brought in at a particular time of the year. It was to coincide with the increase in pension, the review of the household cost allowance and the minimum income guarantee.

2355 What we have done this year is that we have ignored the past increases in order to try and rationalise it. It has nothing to do with a new pension scheme. It may well be that people are slightly out of pocket for one month as a result of those who do not get the minimum income guarantee not being benefited by the other changes, but it is not the first time that it happens.

2360 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, I have not got the figures in front of me to know whether it has happened in the past or not, (*Interjection*) but there is definitely a recognition on his part that there will be at least some – I do not know how much to quantify how big or small the sum would be – who will be out of pocket, and all I am asking, and all I am suggesting, is for him to consider whether, instead of making it retrospective to 1st August, make it just retrospective to 1st July, which is where you are getting the figure from.

2365 **Hon. J J Bossano:** No. The answer is no, I am not prepared to consider that. No.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Sorry?

2370 **Hon. J J Bossano:** No. The answer is no. He is asking me to consider it and I am saying to him no, I am not.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Can you give me an explanation at least why not?



2375 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I asked him last year to consider not taking money away from pensioners and he said I was not telling the truth, and he was lying and I was telling the truth.  
He, last year –

**Mr Speaker:** Order!

2380 **Hon. J J Bossano:** – had representations from me –

**A Member:** Mr Speaker –

2385 **Mr Speaker:** Order!

**A Member:** Mr Speaker, on a Point of Order.

2390 **Mr Speaker:** May I just remind the Hon. Minister, we do not permit ‘lying’. So, perhaps, if he could rephrase that, the use of the word ‘lying’.

**Hon. J J Bossano:** I am only using it because he used it last year about me and now it is my chance to say it, too.

2395 **Mr Speaker:** Well –

**Hon. J J Bossano:** If he was forgiven for it last year, I can be forgiven for it this year. (*Interjections*)

**Mr Speaker:** If it escaped me last year, I apologise for that, but it has not today.

2400 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, the workings of how the minimum income guarantee operates, in taking into account all incomes of a particular person, is neither here nor there to the issue which I am raising. That is completely alien to the point I am making, and the point I am making is nothing to do with taking into account the increase of the old age pension or taking into account the increase of the household income support that he mentioned. The point I am making is he is making an increase of the old age pension on 1st October retrospective to 1st August, whereby he obtained the level of increase of 4.2% as it stood on 1st July. He has recognised the fact that some pensioners will be out of pocket, and all I am saying – which has nothing to do with how the workings of the household income guarantee operates – is to take it into account so that *nobody* is out of pocket. That is what I am saying.

2410 **Hon. J J Bossano:** And my answer to him is that ‘out of pocket’ for him means that some people might have got slightly more than they would have got if we had done it in July, obviously, and if I had done it in June they would have got even more, but being out of pocket is not this. Being out of pocket is what *he* did last year when he took the money out of their pockets. The money was *in* their pockets in June and he took the money out in July, and when the pension increases were given out last year, there were pensioners who came to see me, who made representations to me. I wrote letters. He said that the letters had been fabricated by me and that I had invented the people who existed!

2415 **Hon. J J Netto:** Yes. By you! By you!

2420 **Mr Speaker:** Order! Order! Order!

2425 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I was doing my job in the Opposition, advising people who had lost money from their payments by the Department under *his* ministry when *he* was there, and he was the one who took the money out of their pockets. *That* is how they were out of pocket. *He* put *his* hand in *their* pocket and took money out of it, and I gave him advice of the letters that they had to write to try to get the money back from him, and he refused to give it to them.

*This* year, I have made sure that those people that *he* prejudiced last year are in a better position, and therefore, just like he did not take my advice and my representation last year when people were affected –

2430 who were the people at the bottom of the income; the people who were means-tested were the ones that he took the money away from and he did nothing about them – I am not going to do anything that he is advising me, and that is the end of the story. He can take it or he can leave it.

2435 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, this is not about taking money away from any particular pensioners while I was the Minister, because it is... The actual formula of how the minimum income guarantee operates is that if any particular pensioner receives money from whatever source it is, it is taken into account in order to determine the level... whether that particular pensioner needs the minimum guarantee or a certain level of money within the minimum guarantee. So whatever money comes in from one side is taken into account, into the calculation. That is not taking money away. It is neither taking money away from what he is pretending to do, which is to say, 'I am going to put the two dates together so that the increase in the old age pension is taken into account and then pensioners do not see that there is a diminution. He is doing exactly the same thing as I was doing, albeit that, last year, it was on a different date. So it is not a question about taking money, and even if he wants to do all the shenanigans in the world to turn the whole issue upside down to confuse everyone, fine, but I am not talking about that.

2440 *Even if he is right, which he is not – even if he is right, which he is not – the issue is not that. The issue which I am making, and I am asking him to consider, although he is very obstinate –*

**Mr Speaker:** And he has answered.

2450 **Hon. J J Netto:** Although he is a very obstinate man –

**Mr Speaker:** Well, he has answered.

**Hon. J J Netto:** – is that given that –

2455 **Mr Speaker:** Order! Order!

If that is the question, it has been answered. You are repeating the same question, which is really not on. The question has been put and the Minister has answered, in no uncertain terms: no, he will not do it. You will have to leave it at that.

2460 Next Question, please.

**Social Security Department  
Outstanding Higher Executive Officer position**

2465 **Clerk:** Question 723, the Hon. J J Netto.

2470 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, is the Minister for Social Security in a position to say when the outstanding position of Higher Executive Officer in the Social Security Department is going to be advertised so that civil servants can apply?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.

2475 **Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Yes, Mr Speaker, the post became vacant on 1st September 2010 and the vacancy was advertised on 21st September 2011 during the period that the hon. Member was in Government, so the answer is it was advertised by him already.

2480 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, have interviews already taken place for people to apply for the posts and are they being considered?

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I do not monitor the movement of people in the Civil Service or the promotion board.

The Civil Service does not come under me and this is done by the people in Human Resources and the

2485 Public Service Commission. All I can tell him is the Question is not whether the job has already been filled; the Question is to tell me when people are going to be able to apply, and the answer is they have been able to apply since he was in Government on 11th September 2011. For all I know, they applied before 9th December.

2490 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Sorry but don't you know, it is perfectly, you would have been able to see the supplementary coming, I mean it is a supplementary that is obvious. Don't you know whether this particular post has actually been filled or not?

2495 **Hon. J J Bossano:** No, I don't know whether it has been filled or not, all I know is that I find it very strange that somebody who is now in Opposition should not know that he advertised the job on 11th September and he is asking me when I am going to do it and he did it in September last year. So I don't know whether the post was filled before the General Election.

2500 Mr Speaker, the answer that I have been given is the answer provided by the controlling officer of that budget and the Head of that Department and this is not a political decision that I take in selecting who goes to an interview or who gets picked. But the hon. Member is asking me, as a Minister responsible, when I am going to advertise this HEO vacancy. I took it for granted that the Member knows that it is there and, therefore, I asked the Department whether you are going to advertise it and the answer the Department has given me is that they advertised it in September last year when the questioner was in Government. Well, what supplementary does he want?

2505 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Sorry so you come prepared to make a political point but you haven't come prepared – you are so –

**Hon. J J Bossano:** I have come prepared.

2510 **Hon. D A Feetham:** No, with respect, you are so blinded, you are so blinded with your desire to make a political point to try and embarrass the Member sitting to my right that you haven't made what are reasonable enquiries which are – because certainly I would have, I would have said well, if it has been advertised, has it been filled? Now, if the hon. Member is not really interested in providing the information to this House and all he is interested in is making petty political points and trying to embarrass his political opponents, well fine.

2515 Does he not know –

**Hon. J J Bossano:** What is the question?

2520 **Hon. D A Feetham:** The question is this, does he not know anything about this particular post in terms of the filling of the post, how many applicants there were, whether it remains vacant, none of that?

2525 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, let me make clear one thing to the hon. Member opposite. The work that I do in my Department is not dictated by the information that they may want or may not want. Therefore, if the hon. Member says to me when is the vacancy going to be advertised – I pass that question to the Department and get them to answer it. If the hon. Member is so incompetent and he may or may not be embarrassed – but in the forty years that I have been here I have never heard anybody ask when something is going to be advertised which *he* advertised when he was in office on 11th September. If his memory is already failing at his young age I hate to think what will happen to him when he gets to 73. All I can tell him is he has got the answer to the question on the order paper and, as far as I am concerned, there are no supplementaries to something which is so absurd that he is asking me about a vacancy to be advertised which he should know he was the one who advertised it.

2530

2535 So if the hon. Member thinks that I am doing this to embarrass the hon. Member he is wrong because I know that the hon. Member that is asking the question is *incapable* of being embarrassed. I have heard him say so many things from this side of the House and he never batted an eyelid when it was demonstrated that he hadn't a clue what he was saying and never became embarrassed. So there is *no chance* of him becoming embarrassed.

**Clerk:** Question –

2540 **Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Jaime Netto.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Can I come to the point. First of all, obviously, the Minister is not the person who advertises the vacancies. It is the department. So it is wrong to say that *I* advertised the vacancy. Secondly, I mean time has passed and we passed a new Appropriation Bill where in the Estimates Book of Revenue Expenditure, it tells you on the Head of the Department, the particular persons who are in post or not and I think I am entitled, with the passage of time, to ask what I think is a reasonable question without the hon. Member getting aggressive or hot and cold under the collar.

I think it is a perfectly reasonable and legitimate question and I would have thought that we are dealing not with an AO but we are talking about a senior manager in an important department like Social Security, in a position of HEO, that the Minister *would* be aware whether that particular vacancy has been filled or not. I think that Ministers ought to know that senior management are in post and, if they are not in post, why they are not in post or what is the process to get them advertised. As my hon. Friend said... I have just missed the point now. (*Interjection*) –

2555 **Mr Speaker:** Yes, would the Member get to the question.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Yes, indeed. So I would have thought... and perhaps he could consider whether the interviews have taken place and whether he wants to have this position fulfilled permanently, as opposed to an acting basis for a long period of time. After all, we are talking about how he has been in Government for nine months and I would have thought that he would want to see a permanent person in a higher position in the Department.

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, when *we* came in, the number of vacancies of EOs, HEOs and AOs that were vacant and had been vacant for years, would have filled a book (*Interjection by Hon. N F Costa: Especially in the GTB. For years.*) – before 9th December – and suddenly not to be on top of a HEO vacancy being filled in nine months is a dereliction of Ministerial duty. Well, look, I will provide the hon. Member for his benefit –

**Hon. J J Netto:** I didn't say that.

2570 **Hon. J J Bossano:** What is the hon. Member saying? I should know if the job has been filled and I should be interested in filling it. Well, does he want me to tell him all the jobs that were not filled before 9th December and how long they had been unfilled and how nobody in the Government of which he formed part, seemed to care at all that they were not filled.

2575 The answer is when vacancies are open within the Government for promotion, people apply. I assume that the vacancy that was open on 1st September 2011 produced applicants. I assume that the applicants were interviewed. I assume that they were selected before the Election because it would be an unusual thing – (*Interjection by Hon. D A Feetham: It is in the Estimate book as not having been filled. This is what he is saying.*)

2580 Well I don't know why – he says the Estimate Books, he says it identifies the people who are filling the posts, I don't think it does, we don't have names in these – we have got a complement that may say two HEOs or three HEOs. I mean at any point in time Mr Speaker where you have got a situation where the public sector has got five thousand people, five thousand at any point in time, while we are speaking there are jobs being filled and jobs becoming vacant constantly, all over the place. This is an ongoing thing. There are people who are permanently employed doing nothing else in the Government and therefore the reality of it is that when I read the Question, I assumed naturally, that it was a job that had been filled before the Election and had become vacant since the Election and that therefore the thrust of the Question was if the job had become vacant, why wasn't I filling it. That is what I took it to be. It was only when I asked the Department why are we not filling it, that I was told well look the advert came out in September. It would be very unusual if the advert had come out in September and nobody who was an EO anywhere in Government had applied. Yes, that would be very unusual. But, I am answering the original Question and the supplementary would have been logical and legitimate if the answer had been it has still not been advertised or it was advertised last week. But if it was advertised three months before I get there and he was there and he doesn't know whether it was filled, why does he expect me to have to know when he didn't know?

2595 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, because you are responsible for Government and for this area of Government business.

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I am responsible since 9th December and this happened on 1st September.

2600 **Hon. D A Feetham:** May I, May I because the hon. Gentleman is going to blow a gasket and you know...

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Oh don't worry about it.

2605 **Hon. D A Feetham:** And you talk about *his* young age, and at his age, I wouldn't want that to happen. Now, this kind of exchange does no credit to the House – tempers can flare, sometimes they flare and sometimes they flare with important issues. On this particular issue I don't see why tempers ought to flare and it doesn't do credit to anybody.

2610 Can I ask the hon. Gentleman that perhaps he might look into this and write to the hon. Gentleman, just to see whether this particular post has in fact been filled or it has not been filled. It may well be... he has probably asked the question in this particular format because he knows that the post has not been filled and, of course (*Laughter and interjections*)

Could I ask the hon. Gentleman to just write to us, to write to the hon. Gentleman, Mr Netto, as to whether this particular post has been filled or it has not been filled.

2615 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, first of all, I can assure the hon. Member – to put his mind at rest – that I am in robust state of health (*Applause and laughter*) and in no danger whatsoever of blowing a gasket or having to be visited by him on my deathbed. There is not the remotest risk of that happening! But I want him to be reassured because I know how worried he is about that possibility, because he keeps on saying it.

2620 Secondly, the answer is no, I am not prepared to write to him. If he thinks that this brings the House into disrepute, well, I don't know what he thinks of the performance of yesterday, but I was told that that was hair-raising. I wasn't here to enjoy it and I am sorry that I missed it, I must admit.

2625 So the answer is no. The hon. Member has put a question, the question, in my view, is not something for which I am responsible because the answer to the question is that he is asking me when it is going to happen: I have told him has happened already. I think that it is not my responsibility to go to the Department and find out what was happening before 9th December because the vacancy was there in September and it is inconceivable, not to say almost impossible, that nobody should have applied between 1st September and 9th December for an HEO vacancy That is unheard of. So, therefore, there must have been applicants when he was a Minister. Now he wants me to go back and say I am going to write to you to tell you what happened when you were there. Is that the idea?

2630 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Not necessarily.

**Mr Speaker:** Anyway, I think we should move to the next Question.

2635

**Drug or alcohol offenders  
Finding employment after prison sentence**

2640 **Clerk:** Question 724, the Hon. J J Netto.

2645 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, can the Government state how many individuals recently have finished a prison sentence arising to, or due to, the individual's addiction to drugs or alcohol and have been assisted to find employment or are still registered as unemployed and, if so, can the information be provided on a monthly basis?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment.

2650 **Minister for Enterprise, Training and Employment (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, I am informed that no individual serving a prison sentence arising from, or due to, the individual's addiction to drugs or alcohol has finished so far this year.

2655 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, does the Minister for Employment, or is he aware, perhaps, as a result of the interface between his employment officers and registered unemployed persons, that some of them may have, or do have, an addiction or an affliction to drugs and alcohol and, in the past, may have even have served sentence in prison?

2660 The reason why I am trying to focus on that particular point is because, at the end of the day, I am sure we all want to try and assist as much as we possibly can those particular persons who may find it very difficult to get back into employment. So really, my question is, even if he has not been informed in the manner in which the question is asked, I am sure that perhaps he may be aware by now, given that he has been there for nine months, that there are registered unemployed persons who, sadly, are afflicted by these circumstances and they need all sorts of help in trying to assist them into employment.

2665 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I am aware that there are people who have been in this problem, primarily because in the area of the public sector some of the candidates that we said do not get past the vetting because of problems in the past like this. That is something which I think needs addressing. That is a separate issue.

2670 But I can tell him that the people concerned that have got that kind of problem I have not found difficulty in getting into employment without having to give them special treatment, just on the basis that we are putting them in, with the effort that we are making to get people in the construction industry, where there are people who are capable of working in that industry. In other areas, it may be more difficult but, as I have said in the past, we have got a very high level of people unemployed, and the people in this category are a very small proportion of the total. It is not as if...

2675 If you had a situation where you have full employment and you have got a minority of people who have great difficulty in getting a job when everybody else is getting it, then it is a different issue. But the reality of it is that we have got a high level of unemployment, and that, notwithstanding the fact that there are more people working now than there were in the past, the figures are not coming down.

2680 **Hon. J J Netto:** I understand that and I accept that to be the case, but every individual is different in their own circumstances in life. But focusing on this particular group of people, I just wonder whether the Minister perhaps is aware that some of them are now what we call long-term unemployed, meaning registered unemployed for more than 12 months, and perhaps one of the reasons why they are long-term unemployed is because in some – I am not saying all of them – they may have literacy, numeracy problems in order to be able to sell themselves to an employer for a job. On other occasions, it may be that despite being academically suited or skill-wise suited for the particular vacancy, some employers may say, 'Well, shall I take the risk of employing someone with a track record, having served a sentence in prison?'

2685 Perhaps one of the ways, which is one of the ways I remember we used to do, back in 1996 to 2000, was in some cases, we used to have even a wage subsidy to those long-term unemployed persons with this sort of affliction, to try and induce the employer to get these particular persons back into employment.

2690 What I am trying to find out, in the form of a question to the Minister, is to see whether, with the data available in his office, whether there are people in this group, long-term unemployed, who may need specialised focus, in order to try and get them back into work.

2695 **Hon. J J Bossano:** There is no data in the records of the Department as such, but the people who have had problems of this nature in the past – who have had prison sentences in the past – that I am aware of are the people who have actually come to see me in the interviews that I have given.

A couple of weeks ago, for example, I saw 107 in one week. So I can tell him that there are a number of people in that category that have actually talked directly with employers and, as a result of, in effect, underwriting them and giving a guarantee about their reliability, they have been taken on.

2700 In one particular case, for example, there was somebody that I think had made great efforts to break with the past, had been going to do the AAT courses in the college and still could not break into a field where there is a huge shortage, which is accountancy, and I am happy to say that he is now working.

**Clerk:** Question 725, the Hon. J J Netto.

2705 **Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr. J J Garcia):** Mr Speaker –

**Hon. D A Feetham:** I had a supplementary – just one supplementary on the previous question. But of course, he is perfectly entitled to call the adjournment.

2710 **Mr Speaker:** Well, if it is only one supplementary, I am sure the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister does not mind.

**Hon. J J Bossano:** I will take the supplementary.

2715 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, well, first of all, can I congratulate him in relation to this particular gentleman. He came to see me, just before the General Election and I know that it was a difficult case, but I, like him, am totally convinced that the gentleman is a reformed character, despite the seriousness of the offence that we were talking about, that he committed in the past.

2720 But I thought that he said in relation to – maybe I misheard – the public service, that we cannot employ people with criminal convictions in the public service, because of General Orders. I thought he said that that is something that we have got to look at. Is that what you said? Can you elaborate on that?

2725 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Certainly, I can tell him, we had a case last week, where an applicant for the job of cleaner in the public service was told that she had not been successful in the vetting because, in the process of an acrimonious break-up of a marriage, she had a row with her former husband, who reported her.

Well, look, if that is what the vetting produces, then we have somebody from al-Qaeda who goes into people's houses and somebody who has a row with her former husband who cannot get a job as a cleaner! There is something wrong with that system – that is what I am saying, so it needs to be looked at.

2730 **Hon. D A Feetham:** But, for example, I know that... These are difficult issues.

When I was a Minister, I used to come across them, and they are frustrating, but in relation to the Future Job Strategy, for example, I know of a number of instances of individuals that have had quite serious prison sentences who are now, as a consequence of the Future Job Strategy, being placed within Government Departments, where if they would have applied to those Government Departments directly for a job, General Orders would have prevented them from actually being selected for the job.

2735 Is this part – those examples and what he has just told me – of a change of Government policy in relation to the applicability of General Orders to people with criminal convictions in respect of entry into the public service?

2740 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, this is not General Orders; this is throughout the public service. General Orders apply to civil servants, not to public servants. There is a distinction.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** General Orders and for example, in relation to the GDC, GDC General Terms and Conditions.

2745 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, yes, but look, it is... The previous Government chose to apply some things of the Civil Service to some people who are not civil servants, and not others. Therefore, when everybody in the GDC was made to comply with the pay and conditions of the Civil Service, there might have been legitimacy in applying General Orders to them, but not before. But in any event, I can assure him that there are people in the GDC who were made civil servants who would never have got through with that requirement in General Orders. That was done on 1st October by the previous administration.

2750 So whether the GDC had General Orders applied to them or not is highly questionable, because I can assure him that this is not what happened on 1st October.

2755 The point that I am making is that, in my experience, as Minister for Employment whose job it is to get as many people working as possible, I think that the interpretation that is being given to conviction is that it may be simply 'blowing a gasket' – to use the hon. Member's favourite phrase – or committing mass murder. There seem to be no criteria that are introduced to relate the severity of the alleged misconduct to the relevance to the work that is being done and the places that are sensitive.

For example, if you have got a situation where there are people with drug convictions, and it has been

2760 standard policy that you do not put them to work in a place where they have access to drugs. Quite apart from anything else, it is because you may be making life more difficult for them in putting temptation in their path.

2765 So what I am saying is that, as Minister for Labour, I feel, from recent experience, that there needs to be, if you like, a more intelligent and commonsense application of what is considered to be something that debars people from working in the public sector, in relation to the seriousness of the alleged offence that they have committed and the sensitivity of the place where they are going to work. It is not a matter on which we have taken a policy decision or introduced anything; it is just something that, frankly, it occurred to me as an issue in the context of helping people who come out of prison.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** I understand, and I apologise, but this is an important point.

2770 I understand and I said, I recognise, these are difficult decisions. There may well be, taking your example of a cleaner, somebody who has committed... has been cautioned in the past for a very minor drugs offence, and that should have absolutely no impact on his or her application in relation to a job as a cleaner.

2775 But, of course, it is always a question of fact and degree. You have said, there has to be an intelligent application. Whose intelligence are we talking about? Is it *your* intelligence? Because in the absence of proper policy underpinning and a proper analysis of how you treat these cases, then obviously it is *your* judgement as a Government Minister that is going to prevail in relation to these cases – hence my question about Government policy. Because otherwise, of course, you are going to receive criticism from this side of the House, in the absence of proper criteria and, quite clearly, when we have General Orders and they are there in order to maintain standards within the Civil Service.

2780 There may be cases that are really... Deserving cases, that unfortunately, are on one side of that line that one draws, but one could say, ‘Well, it should be on the other line’, but at least they set a standard. Unless one has a situation where, effectively, without a policy, *you* are going to be dealing with it, *you* are going to be taking these decisions – it is *your* intelligence that we are talking about – I would have thought that this is something that the Government surely must have a policy, perhaps in terms of a review of General Orders and including a different clause within General Orders or sending out a policy document or instruction to Human Resources after having reconsidered General Orders. I do not know. Or is it just simply going to be you?

**Hon. J J Bossano:** Well, Mr Speaker, the hon. Member opposite is wrong in thinking it is just going to be me, and I have not said it is just going to be me.

2790 What I have said, in answer to the previous supplementary question, was that in my view, the way that this law or system applies is that the Police are asked, ‘Has anybody committed an offence?’ and the answer is yes or no, and that is the end of the story. Therefore people are either put on one side or the other, and the offence can be anything from the insignificant to the serial killer and that in my judgement, we need to have a system that is refined so as to select criteria that determine what is serious and what is not serious and how relevant it is to the job in question. That is a position that I have volunteered that information in the context of a supplementary.

2795 Clearly, I have made a mistake and I must remind myself not to volunteer information that I am not asked!

**Hon. D A Feetham:** But you still have not answered the question!

2800 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Look, the question –

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Let me tell you about the Police –

2805 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, I *have* answered the question.

**Mr Speaker:** The Minister did say that there should be a system, so I think he addresses the point the hon. Member is making. He is not talking about himself choosing; he says there should be a system. I think that answers the question.

2810 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, there is a system in place. The system has not changed. I made the mistake of volunteering my own concerns about the system.

Now, the concerns about the system, the hon. Member is now trying to convert into a repetition of yesterday’s analysis that now the new Government is going to be putting their family, their party members



2815 and the convicts in the public service. Is that where he wants to get to?

**Mr Speaker:** No, I do not think –

2820 **Hon. D A Feetham:** The hon. Gentleman is really getting very, very paranoid in his advanced years, I have to say! (*Interjections*)

**Mr Speaker:** Order, order! (*Interjections*) I do not think the hon. Member should harp on about another Member's age or whatever it is.

2825 **A Member:** It is an insult.

**A Member:** Absolutely.

2830 **Hon. D A Feetham:** He has talked about the system that is in place. (*Interjection by Hon. J J Bossano: Yes.*) He has said it is not a perfect system, there are inadequacies in the system. I have personally said to him, I understand what those inadequacies are, there are difficult issues. In fact, when I was Minister, I spoke... I think I am right in saying that a new system was put into place because I did not feel it was right for the Police to be handing out this kind of information to any Government Department that asked for it and that it had produced some unjust situations.

2835 I remember there was a particular individual in the NHS, for example, who had been offered a job, and then the offer had been withdrawn on the basis of information that the Police had provided. One could have said, in relation to that particular case, well, actually the caution that was provided when that boy was young had no correlation with the job.

2840 I understand there are difficulties but, of course, if there are difficulties with a system – and this has all arisen out of you saying that is something we have got to look at – if there is difficulty in the system, then I suppose he is thinking of replacing it with a different system. I am asking, what is your thinking in relation to that system?

2845 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, the answer to the last question is that it is my view that the system needs to be looked at.

Nothing is being looked at at the moment. There is no policy decision. If a decision is taken, when it is taken, it will be made public.

2850 **Procedural**

**Mr Speaker:** The Hon. the Deputy Chief Minister.

2855 **Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr. J J Garcia):** Mr Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn to three o'clock.

**Mr Speaker:** Is that convenient to all the hon. Members?

2860 *It was agreed.*

**Mr Speaker:** This House will adjourn until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

*The House adjourned at 1.16 p.m. and resumed its sitting at 3.00 p.m.*