



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

AFTERNOON SESSION: 3.00 p.m. – 4.16 p.m.

Gibraltar, Thursday, 29th January 2015

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# The Gibraltar Parliament

*The Parliament met at 3.00 p.m.*

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

[CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT: P E Martinez Esq *in attendance*]

## PRAYER

*Mr Speaker*

## Questions for Oral Answer

### CHIEF MINISTER

**Q76-78/2015**

**Fire at Sunborn Hotel –  
Cause**

**Mr Speaker:** Question 76, to the Chief Minister, the Hon. Mr Netto.

5 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, has the Government obtained a report detailing the cause of the fire at the service entrance of the Sunborn Hotel at Ocean Village and provide Parliament with a statement as to what is known so far from this incident?

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

10 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 77 and 78.

**Clerk:** Question 77, the Hon. J J Netto.

15 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, can the Government confirm or deny the rumours that the fire that started at the Sunborn Hotel emanated from a portacabin which had butane gas bottles stored therein, and if so, could the Government supply the name of the company that owns the portacabin and whether all due licences to comply with existing legislation were in place prior to the incident?

20 **Clerk:** Question 78, the Hon. J J Netto.

25 **Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, given the fire that broke out in the vicinity of the Sunborn Hotel at Ocean Village, can the Government state if there had been envisaged at the planning stage through the DPC, or is now a requirement to dredge the sea bed underneath the Sunborn Hotel in order to create a safe channel in case of an emergency and, if so, when is this likely to happen?

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

30 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service has produced a report in relation to a fire which occurred at the entrance of the Sunborn Hotel at Ocean Village on 28th December 2014, at approximately 17:00 hours. A copy of the said report has been provided to the Government.

The report can be summarised as follows. The structure where the fire occurred was approximately 12 metres long by five metres wide and four metres high. It is not a portacabin but a service access, although the dimensions are similar to some portacabins seen around Gibraltar.

35 This was divided into two levels, the lower of one metre in height approximately and the other three metres. Most of the unit had been destroyed by the fire, leaving only part of the lower storage unit. The upper level had been mostly affected by the fire on the western end and decreasing towards the eastern end.

There was a hole on the floor approximately five metres from the western entrance. The fire had spread from the lower level to the upper level via this hole. This was later confirmed by CCTV cameras from  
40 inside the unit and the Sunborn Hotel.

It had then spread upwards and devastated most of the roof and walls of the upper level. There was also extensive damage to the facade of the Admiral Casino in the Leisure Island Business Centre. The predominant wind that evening was a strong westerly and the fire had spread from this direction and been accelerated due to this.

45 In conclusion, there are two options. In the opinion of the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service that the fire seems to have been accidental by a person or persons. The source of ignition would have been a naked flame – possibly a cigarette, as it is an area used for smoking – that has found its way under the unit. The strong winds funnelled by the corridor between the ship and the casino building lead to the rapid spread of the fire. We, that is the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service, cannot discard the possibility of an electrical fire,  
50 but this is less likely.

The Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service can confirm that there were no butane gas cylinders inside the above mentioned structure.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the information the Hon. Chief Minister has provided. In  
55 relation to, I think it is my last question, which was Question 78, in relation to the possibility of having to dredge underneath the Sunborn Hotel in order, in an emergency, for the Sunborn to move away quickly, has that been considered either at the early stages of the planning process or thereafter, as a result of the accident?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the Sunborn floating hotel looks like a cruise ship but it does not have engines and it is attached to the marina by two very strong arms. It is a floating structure but it is not designed to sail like a cruise ship.

Therefore the idea that it may need to have a channel which allows it to sail in or out is not relevant in the context of understanding emergency procedures about this vessel or structure. It really is like a building.  
65 So in the same way as the casino would not have been able to sail away as a result of the fire in an attempt to deal with it, the Sunborn is not designed in that way either. I think that is why the answer was structured not to respond to that particular part of the question.

#### Q79/2015

#### Chamber of Commerce/GFSB economic study – Details

**Clerk:** Question 79, the Hon. D J Bossino.

**Hon. D J Bossino:** Can the Chief Minister provide details of the economic study which he stated, in the *Gibraltar Chronicle* edition of 5th January 2015, was being conducted in conjunction with the GFSB and the Chamber of Commerce?

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

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, yes sir. The economic study referred to is underway and the study that I was referring to is the one I referred to on a number of occasions inside and outside this House, about the potential effects were Gibraltar to join the Common Customs Area of the European Union as well as the Excise areas of the Union.  
80

A team of economists from the United Kingdom with the appropriate expertise for such a study has been established by the Government and the Chamber working together. Members of the team have come to Gibraltar to identify the issues and in particular, the economic data that they require in order to carry out the study.

85 Data has already been forwarded to them by Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar and further data is being collated with a view to a further meeting which will take place shortly. That will leave the Government, the Chamber and the Federation to likely put together a questionnaire to businesses on this issue, as I previously also stated in this House, I believe.

90 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Chief Minister for the very complete reply. Is he able to tell me who the economists are? Is that information which he would be willing to divulge across the floor of the House?

95 **Hon. Chief Minister:** I believe I have the information. I do not know whether it is appropriate to divulge it across the floor of the House without asking them but I am quite happy to give him the information when we recess for a moment, so he knows who we are dealing with.

These are economists from Oxbridge and they have been identified by individuals in the Chamber and individuals in the Government's EUID Department as having the right sort of expertise. Because I have not checked whether they are happy for their names to be made public, I do not feel comfortable making them public today. I am quite happy to give them to him today and once I go back and check whether they have any difficulty with their names being made public, I am quite happy in the future in exchanges if necessary, to mention them by name. I cannot imagine why they might not want to be referred to in public. The instructions of a Government are usually things that people like to boast about, but I have not quite checked and therefore I will give him the names, and later we can determine whether publicity is appropriate.

105 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Yes, thank you for that as well.

Mr Speaker, as I understand the reply the purpose of the reports was basically... Is this understanding correct, if I can put it to him? The purpose of the report is to inform the type of questions which are then going to be issued to the relevant parties in Gibraltar. But is that report going to be shared with the GFSB and the Chamber of Commerce once ready?

110 If so, can he give advance notice to the House as to how he intends to treat that report once it is finalised? In other words, is he going to publish it? He is shaking his head. Is it something which he would be willing to share with the Opposition? And he is nodding – so he is answering my questions! So basically I would like some information as to how he intends to treat the report once it is complete and available to him?

120 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, let us be very clear about what it is that we are doing here and what I have said before. In the event that the United Kingdom were to choose to have a referendum on potential exit from the EU and therefore potentially in the event of that referendum resulting in the United Kingdom negotiating an exit from the EU, Gibraltar needs to understand what its positions should be in a negotiation.

That I do not think is an issue which is simply for the purview of the Government. That is why I think it is important that we do it with the Chamber and we do it with the Federation which are the relevant business organisations. And indeed, Mr Speaker, that is why I am nodding when asked whether I would share the information with the Opposition. I think it is information that the Opposition *should* have in order to formulate policy, which I hope will likely be the same policy that whoever may be in Government at the time may be dealing with.

125 We are probably dealing with issues that will visit us in 2018, 2019 or thereafter because my prediction would be that in the event of there being a referendum decision that the UK wants to exit the EU, the permutations are not simply in or out. It is EEA status or non-EEA status for the UK – what does that mean for Gibraltar? – etc. So the referendum result, if a referendum were to occur and if it were to be an exit result in the UK, is only the beginning of the UK's negotiation with the EU. So we need to understand in what context this information then becomes important to the Government of Gibraltar.

At that stage, what the Government of Gibraltar needs to understand, what the Chamber and the Federation and businesses in Gibraltar need to understand, are the realities that could be visited upon us, depending on what type of status we were to choose.

130 So we know that we are comfortable and that we are prosperous in the status that we enjoy at the moment. How might that change? Would those changes be changes that we might seek through negotiation or would they be changes that might be imposed on us as a result of the United Kingdom's negotiations but that we might have to be ready for however much we might fight against them? Because we might then be fighting against the UK choosing to do a particular thing in terms of its status in Europe and we might be the only enclave of 30,000 in the UK holding out for a different sort of status.

140 So we need to understand what the reality of the Common Customs Union regime is today in legal and economic terms and how the economy would be affected by entry into that mechanism. The only way to do that is to carry out this in-depth economic analysis and then share it with the business community as a collective, i.e. Chamber and Federation and then seek information from individual businesses through questionnaires also through the Chamber and Federation, to then be able to produce a report that informs the Government, the Opposition, the Chamber and the Federation.

145 Why not the whole community? Why not simply publish such a report? Well look, such a report is likely to be determinative of what negotiating positions we take *vis-à-vis* the EU and *vis-à-vis* the UK and

150 what we do not need, is that those who would be doing their best to argue for us to have the worst possible economic scenario in the future, to have that data too. And by that of course, I mean Spain.

So this is information that I think the Chamber needs to have, the Federation needs to have and Members of this Parliament should have, but not information that should necessarily be in the public domain and the people should be able to download and then necessarily have the ability to use against us.

155 **Hon. D J Bossino:** I am grateful. Mr Speaker, just for my own understanding of what the Hon. Chief Minister says in the totality of the reply that he has just given us, is the remit of the report, from what I understand, is it as wide as looking at all the possible permutations, even to the extent as to what would be the effect of the UK, and therefore Gibraltar, leaving the EU? Because, I think, certainly the last  
160 pronouncement that he made in relation to this issue was in the *Gibraltar Chronicle* article that I referred to earlier, and it was in the context of his view as to what the dire economic consequences that leaving the EU would be for Gibraltar.

So is the report wider than I originally understood from his answer which was it was only looking at the possibility, what the effect of Gibraltar's entry into I think the Customs and Excise Union would be, is it  
165 wider than that or is it simply looking at that specific discrete issue?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** It is about looking at that and other issues. In other words, that and other permutations of different types of membership alternatives for Gibraltar within the EU and the EEA. So, in other words full EU – what does full EU mean in terms of excise duty, in terms of VAT etc? What does  
170 partial EU mean in terms of VAT but not excise, or excise but not VAT? What does EEA mean, which can probably mean both of those or three other scenarios potentially also being relevant to Gibraltar? And I think you can also draw a conclusion, given the numbers that we are going to be given, of what not being in EEA or not being in the EU would mean.

So I think the data we will have will enable us to churn information and see all of those potential scenarios or as close to an analysis can take us to seeing those potential scenarios. That is the data I think  
175 we need to have, and it is data we can only get in my view by talking to economists of the sort that we are talking to, talking to the representative bodies and then talking to individual businesses and asking them questions once we have the right questions to put to them about how particular aspects of those changes would affect those sectors and industries.

180 **Clerk:** We now move to Question 47, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, can I invite the House to recess for five minutes before we continue with this question. I need to have a discussion with the Minister who has just arrived in Gibraltar on another  
185 matter.

*The House recessed for five minutes.*

## EDUCATION AND JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

### Q47/2015 New fire station – Establishment

**The Clerk:** We continue with Question 47, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

190 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister with responsibility for the Fire Service say if he is still committed to delivering his manifesto commitment of establishing a new fire station during this term of office?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

195 **Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the manifesto commitment was to commence work on a new fire station within this term of office and not establishing within this term of office a new fire station, as set out in the hon. Lady's question.

200 The Government has already commenced work on a new fire station, as it promised it would do. The work on the planning for the new fire station has been finalised and an announcement with full details will be made when the Government is in a position to do so, certainly within this term of office.

205 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Hon. Minister say when the work, either the refurbishment or the building, will be starting?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Well as I have said, we are working on plans on this matter. This is something that the Government has been working on for a while. Work continues, it is in an advanced stage and we will certainly make a full announcement as to what is going to happen and I expect work will actually  
210 commence within this term of office, before the elections are called.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** I know the Hon. Minister has said that it will be within this term of office but is there any indication as to where the site is?

215 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, we will make an announcement on that when we are in a position to do so.

**Q48/2015**  
**New Medical Priority Dispatch System –**  
**When expected to go live**

**Clerk:** Question 48, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

220 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister with responsibility for the Fire Service say when the new Medical Priority Dispatch System will go live and if it will be within this term of office?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

225 **Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, we are working at having the new Medical Priority Dispatch System go live within this term of office.

**Q49/2015**  
**University of Gibraltar –**  
**Applications**

**Clerk:** Question 49, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

230 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Education say how many students have applied to the University of Gibraltar for the new academic year 2015-16?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

235 **Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, recruitment of students for the University of Gibraltar has not yet started.  
This will commence once the University is established, when the Act which we will be bringing to Parliament is passed.

240 **Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, the Hon. Minister said that the university would be open for business as from 1st September 2015. My understanding is that students are applying now to universities for the September 2015 entry, and this is why I have asked the question.

245 Is there any way that students can start to apply in preparation for the opening in 2015, or will they be allowed to apply at a later stage and perhaps have a late entry onto the courses?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, it is not a question of late entry. This is something that has been planned and will be open in September 2015. We are finalising the legislation, which I hope to be in a position to

publish very soon. I am intending to bring the matter to Parliament within the next couple of sessions at most. Once that is established, then the announcement will be made as to the precise courses and students will be invited to apply.

There will be plenty of time, if that is what the hon. Lady is concerned about. There will certainly be time between the announcement being made, between the Act being passed, the announcement as to the specific courses, enrolment for those courses being started and the students actually starting in September 2015.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, has there been any revision of the plans for the Gibraltar University by the Government since the announcement was made in terms of the scope of the courses that are going to be on offer by the Gibraltar University? Has there been an expansion or perhaps a contraction of that original vision that the Government presented to the people of Gibraltar when it made the announcement for the first time?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Well, Mr Speaker, this is as I said when I announced the project, when we made a joint press conference at the Chief Minister's Office. This is going to be a process which will evolve and will develop over time and as we do that, then clearly new things will be added.

So yes, of course there have been new things. There is a lot of work which has been done but the core structure which we announced remains the same. Four faculties: Health and Sports Science; Tourism and Hospitality; Business; and Life and Earth Sciences. Those four faculties remain as they were when we announced. What we are now doing is fleshing out what precisely each of the faculties will be doing.

In addition, we will of course have the Institute of Professional Development and Continuing Education, as announced. Also as announced, we will have a Language Centre. What we are doing is developing specifically the areas which we are going to be in a position to announce very soon and start the recruitment of students, as I have indicated earlier in the question.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** So, Mr Speaker, and I know this will relate to Question 51, students obviously will be applying outside of the UCAS system. There will be a separate system set up and that is how students will be able to apply and therefore enrol for September?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Yes, Mr Speaker, the hon. Lady pre-empts another question in the Order Paper but students will be applying directly to the University.

**Q50/2015**  
**University of Gibraltar –**  
**Awarding body**

**Clerk:** Question 50, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Education say which recognised body will be awarding degrees at the new University of Gibraltar?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

**Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, programmes at the University of Gibraltar will include degrees awarded by the University of London in relation to Business and Computing and the University of Kingston and St George's in relation to Nursing and Paramedic Science.

In addition research post graduate students will be engaged in programmes carried out in conjunction with other universities, depending on the various specialisms that are followed by those students.

**Q51/2015**  
**University of Gibraltar –**  
**Management by UCAS or another method**

**Clerk:** Question 51, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Education say whether undergraduate applications to the University of Gibraltar will be managed by UCAS, which is the Universities and Colleges Admission Services?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

**Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, applications to the University of Gibraltar will not initially be managed by UCAS. We do, however, envisage that in due course discussions will take place with UCAS on the possibility of applications being managed by them.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Hon. Minister say who will be..., has it been determined who will be entitled to apply to the University and who will be setting the entry criteria and the requirements, if not UCAS?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Well, Mr Speaker, UCAS does not set out any entry criteria or requirements for any university. The universities themselves set out entry criteria; all that UCAS does is process the application and then transmit those applications to the universities for a response. So that element of somebody receiving the application and transmitting it to the University of Gibraltar will not happen.

But in relation to degree programmes which we are doing in conjunction with other universities, for example if it is a University of London programme that a particular student will follow, then the University of London will set out the entrance criteria, in the same way as with the University of Kingston.

We are, as I have already announced, been developing collaborations with other universities, we already made an announcement in relation to Seychelles. I have today returned from a trip specifically on that and we will be issuing a press release in relation to further collaborative projects with other universities. So as we develop these collaborations, we will certainly have to discuss with those other universities that we partner with, the entrance requirements and criteria for those particular courses.

#### Q52/2015

#### University of Gibraltar – Recruitment of lecturers; research funding

**Clerk:** Question 52, the Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Education advise where the lecturers for the University of Gibraltar will be recruited from, what research will they be conducting and where will funding for faculty research be coming from?

**Clerk:** Answer the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

**Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the intention is to recruit locally, but if required skills are not available, these will be sourced externally.

Most of the research will be based within the faculty of Life and Earth Sciences with Gibraltar and Mediterranean Studies. However, there will be opportunities for research stemming from any of the other faculties.

Research will be funded by the present funding streams provided by the Department of Education, as well as the university's own funds. It is expected that there will also be some funding from private sector sponsorships.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, would it be possible to allow any industry that is happy to invest in research to be able to fund facilities, perhaps linked to marine or the environment; or will it be totally state funded? Would you allow flexibility for private and state funding?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, the Government would most certainly welcome anybody who wants to come in and fund the university to do so. As I have said in the last part of the answer, it is expected that there will be some funding through private sector sponsorships and we are already in discussions with some elements of the private sector specifically on that area.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** If I may, Mr Speaker, has the Minister at least embarked into seeing it from those different categories within the EU funding that go towards education purposes and so on? Can he confirm that he is exploring those to see if some could be applicable and therefore Gibraltar become a beneficiary of such a thing such as the Erasmus Schemes and all those?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Yes, Mr Speaker, this is certainly something that we are exploring and I have been advised in relation to. The Erasmus Scheme which involves an exchange of students also involves certain universities being approved for that scheme and given that we are in the process of establishing that university, it is impossible to seek that approval yet. But that is certainly a process that we will want to follow because we will want to be part of a European process in terms of standards, through the Bologna process, Erasmus through exchange of students, and also tapping into funds at a European level which will be available for research based in various areas including Sports Science.

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, just one final supplementary. The Hon. Minister mentioned the Institute of Professional Development and Continuing Education that will be offering CPD and professional qualifications for both the private and public sector. My understanding is that this is a role that at present the College of Further Education has been offering through evening classes and the use of Bleak House as well. Does this mean that the remit of the College will be reviewed alongside the evolution and development of the university?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** It is not so much that the remit will be reviewed, but certainly it will in fact be enhanced through the collaboration with the university and in particular with the institute. As the hon. Lady says, some of the areas of the institute will be embarked upon are already being done through the college and those will be done through the university by engaging with the college and tapping upon their expertise and getting their involvement fully in this process.

But it will not be limited; the institute will not be limited solely to the work that has been done currently by the college. There will be enhanced programmes, locally developed programmes and in particular, short courses developed with industry associations and I have given some examples as possibilities, on human resource management, on compliance and money-laundering issues, with the Association of Compliance Officers, on insurance through the Insurance Association.

By working in conjunction with the private sector, by working with employers who we expect will be able to provide their staff to these courses and will be able to provide an element of day release, whenever the day or the half day that the person is engaged in this, so that the student can further his or her career within that organisation or elsewhere in Gibraltar.

So there will be a range of programmes developed within the institute and it is in fact one of the exciting parts of the university, as of course are all the other parts of the university.

#### Q53/2015

#### Gibraltar College of Further Education – GCSE re-sits

**Clerk:** Question 53, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, further to the answer provided to Question 758/2014, can the Minister for Education now provide the missing details in respect of the number of students, broken down by gender, who are repeating subjects pertaining to GCSE examinations which they sat for during the academic year 2013-14 and currently enrolled at the Gibraltar College of Further Education?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education, Justice & International Exchange of Information.

**Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the number of students broken down by gender, who are repeating subjects pertaining to GCSE examinations which they sat for during the academic year 2013-14 and are currently enrolled at the Gibraltar College of Further Education is 40 boys and 60 girls.

Q54/2015

**Supply Teachers/Auxiliary Staff –  
Number employed by Education Department**

405 **Clerk:** Question 54, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Education provide details of how many ‘Supply Teachers’ or ‘Supply Auxiliary Staff’ are currently engaged by the Department of Education, indicating at what educational establishment they are based, together with the reasons why their employment is necessary and estimated temporary contract time?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

415 **Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the information requested by the hon. Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand to him.

Schedule to Question 54 of 2015

Table 1

Number of supply teachers at each school	School	Reasons for cover	Estimated length of contract
1	Governor's Meadow First	large intake/ pupil numbers	11 months
2	Governor's Meadow First	large intake/ pupil numbers	11 months
3	Governor's Meadow First	maternity	8 months
1	St. Joseph's First	maternity	7 months
2	St. Joseph's First	to meet optimum class size in sector	11 months
3	St. Joseph's First	large intake/ pupil numbers	11 months
4	St. Joseph's First	maternity	10 months
1	Notre Dame First	large intake/ pupil numbers	7 months
2	Notre Dame First	maternity	11 months
1	St. Mary's First	large intake/ pupil numbers	11 months
2	St. Mary's First	large intake/ pupil numbers	11 months
3	St. Mary's First	large intake/ pupil numbers	7 months
1	St. Paul's First	to meet optimum class size in sector	7 months
2	St. Paul's First	maternity	7 months
1	Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	maternity	7 months
2	Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	maternity	7 months
1	St. Joseph's Middle	to meet optimum class size in sector	7 months
2	St. Joseph's Middle	maternity	7 months
1	Sacred Heart Middle	to meet optimum class size in sector	7 months
2	Sacred Heart Middle	maternity	7 months
3	Sacred Heart Middle	long term illness	7 months
4	Sacred Heart Middle	maternity	10 months
1	St. Anne's Middle	maternity	8 months
1	Hebrew Primary	large intake/ pupil numbers	11 months
1	Bayside	sabbatical	11 months
2	Bayside	to meet subject demand (IT)	11 months
3	Bayside	maternity	11 months
4	Bayside	to meet optimum class size in sector	11 months
5	Bayside	to meet subject demand (mathematics)	11 months
6	Bayside	maternity	11 months
7	Bayside	to meet optimum class size in sector	11 months
1	Westside	maternity	8 months
2	Westside	to meet optimum class size in sector	7 months
3	Westside	sabbatical	11 months
4	Westside	maternity	7 months
5	Westside	maternity	11 months
6	Westside	maternity	7 months
1	College		11 months
2	College	to meet optimum class size in sector	11 months
1		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
2		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
3		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
4		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
5		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
6		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
7		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
8		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
9		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
10		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
11		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months
12		short term absences	Not fixed-less than 3 months

Schedule to Question 54 of 2015

Table 2

Music Instructors	School	Type of Cover	Estimated length of contract
1	Bayside	provision of subject specialism	9 months
1	Westside	provision of subject specialism	9 months
1	Hebrew Primary	provision of subject specialism	9 months
Same person as at Hebrew School	St Martin's	provision of subject specialism	9 months

TABLE 3

SCHOOL	NUMBERS (Learning Support Assistants)	REASONS FOR EMPLOYMENT	ESTIMATED TEMPORARY CONTRACT TIME
Bayside	1 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support(f/t)	3 months
Westside	1 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support (p/t)	3 months
St. Martin's	3 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support (f/t)	7 months 3 months 3 months
Notre Dame	1 LSA	Temporary extra	7 months
St. Mary's	1 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support (p/t)	7 months
Notre Dame Nursery/ Varyl Begg Nursery (split)	1 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support (f/t)	3 months for Notre Dame Illness for Varyl Begg until 10 <sup>th</sup> February
College	1 LSA	Cover a new SEN course.	7 months
Governor's Meadow	1 LSA	sickness (p/t)	unknown
Notre Dame	1 LSA	sickness (f/t)	unknown
Bishop Fitzgerald	3 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support (p/t) and (f/t)  sickness (f/t).	3 months. 7 months  13th February
Hebrew School	1 LSA	Temporary SEN extra needs support (p/t)	3 months.

Schedule to Question 54 of 2015

TABLE 4

POST	SCHOOL	HOURS PER WEEK	REMARKS
Assistant (Art & Design)	Bayside	30	In the process of being recruited
Bus Escort	Notre Dame	18.75	Special Needs Pupil requiring Escort
Senior Technician	Gibraltar College	17	Secondment to GFA
10 x Part Time Cleaner	2 x Westside 1 x Bayside 4 x St Joseph's First 1 x Bishop F 1 x St Paul's First 1 x Hebrew	20 20 20 20 20 20	In the process of being recruited
1 x Full Time Cleaner	Gibraltar College	37	Vacancy has been advertised. Interviews will be held on 22 January 2015

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, may I ask for a bit of clarification? Towards the very end of the first page, there is one college but the reason for cover has been left blank, followed by two supply teachers also at the College to meet optimum staff sizing sector and then below that there is no educational establishment identified whatsoever.

They all seem to be not fixed less than three months: short-term absences mainly tend to be of a medical nature and so on, but the educational establishment has been omitted, as has that one in respect of the College, two lines before that.

Can the Minister enlighten me?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Yes, Mr Speaker. The one where it has been left blank, that is one which I did not pick up, so I do not have the specific information on the one entry which is blank. I could assume that it relates to meeting optimum class sizes in the sector but I do not want to give that as a definitive answer and I will therefore check the information. I apologise, I just did not pick up that there was one item where one column was left blank.

The bottom part simply relates to – apart from the supply teachers which are set out at the top – a total of 12 additional teachers that are not on fixed contracts and simply cover short-term absences wherever and whenever they might be required.

I am not sure that the hon. Member wants a list of so and so spent three days in Bishop, so and so spent two days in Bayside, my understanding is that that relates to the rest of the pool of supply teachers that do cover as and when required and not on a fixed-term contract.

The hon. Member will remember that when we overhauled the system of supply work, including by employing those who we considered to have been on permanent supply and those were part of the intake of 47 new teachers that we did at the beginning of our term of office, we also added the additional benefit that whenever a supply teacher was engaged, was needed, for at least three months, that supply teacher would be given a fixed-term contract with all the necessary benefits that an employment contract brings.

So whenever there is an *ad hoc* need for a particular teacher, say for a week, or someone is off sick for two weeks, those teachers are taken from the pool of these additional teachers. It is not a fixed contract because it is on an *ad hoc* basis and they are certainly for less than three months because if it is beyond the three months then that is when the fixed-term contract kicks in, as we said we would do at the beginning of our term of office.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker I think it has been clarified but can I double check, because the numbers 1 to 12 there are running consecutively. It is a grand total of 12 – not one plus two is three and then another three is six and four is ten – am I correct in that deduction?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Yes, Mr Speaker, otherwise the number, if you add up all those individuals, 12 plus 11 plus 10, the number would be very great and we certainly do not have that many supply teachers.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, that is what caused a big question mark in my mind! That is understandable. Can I assume and the Minister confirm that I am correct in the deduction that really, what these 12 members of staff is... they would report somehow or another let us say to the central Department of Education on a daily basis and then would be fed out into schools as and when needed, and that is why they are not going to be based in a particular school and is then able to provide the information? Is it something similar to that effect that he was trying to explain?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** No, Mr Speaker, that is not quite how the system works. It really depends on school requirements. So school heads, or whoever is in charge of the particular issue on a particular day in the absence of the head, will report and will ask the Department of Education. In particular there is one of the education officers that deals specifically with the supply and one of the first jobs that he does in the morning is look at the requirements on any particular day for any particular school.

Then, what that person does is call people from the list and get the people who are available and put them in the schools which are required. So it is not that the supply teachers turn up every day and say, 'Where am I going today?' The supply teachers are on a supply list and as and when they are required by a particular school, the school informs the Department and the Department calls the teacher and says, 'Can you go to such and such a school where there is a position for, a cover for two weeks?' or a week or whatever the amount of time is.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker, so therefore not all 12 are going to be engaged every day. Can I take the Minister to the last page, the posts of ten part-time cleaners which are in the process of being recruited? Although they are going to be part-time, and by that one normally understands that to be around about the 20 hour per week mark, 15 or 20 hours which is half of the working week of the school or

whatever. but if they are in the process, why – is it the intention then, despite being part-time that they will be on a permanent type of contract or will they be on a supply contract because...? And that is where the question mark comes in.

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, the comment in the remarks column is ‘in the process of being recruited’. So my understanding is that these are posts of part-time cleaners which are available and the cleaners for those posts are in the process of being recruited.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, so therefore I did not explain myself properly. The process of being recruited, are they going to be recruited as supply workers or are they going to be recruited so that they become P&P workers?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, my understanding is that they are in the process of being recruited as part-time workers.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, it is written there ‘part-time cleaners’: on a supply basis or on a permanent and pensionable basis?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, I will be happy to double check. I can tell the hon. Member what my understanding is: that these are positions, posts which are being recruited and therefore they will be offered those jobs as part-time cleaners, not as supply, not simply going on a supply list, but actually engaged as part-time cleaners. That is my understanding but I will be happy to double check.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, I would be grateful if he could double check because I understand all that he is saying but they are being recruited to become part-time cleaners but will they be on a supply basis, for example an 11-month contract or something, or will they be on an indefinite type of contract. I don’t know if the Minister is able to understand what I am trying to get at. They may be part-time...

The second one there; perhaps my explanation will help him understand what I am trying to get at. The bus escort works for 18.75 hours a week – special needs pupil requiring an escort: as long as the special needs pupil requires an escort there is employment for that person. Once that child leaves the education system that post will not be required so one understands why it is a supply basis. Hence when it comes to the part-time cleaner, will they be employed until their eventual retirement or is it just to cover a very short period of time?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Well, Mr Speaker, the position as I understand it – and if I am wrong in this I will let the hon. Member know, but my understanding when I asked about this – is that these are positions that are currently being filled because the question relates to supply workers in the Education Department, whether it is learning support assistants, teachers, cleaners, so this is the list of supply workers. Therefore these positions which currently exist are being filled currently by supply workers, but the posts exist and are in the process of being recruited.

So whilst the recruitment is ongoing and until the recruitment for the position ends, they are being filled by supply workers. Is the hon. Member with me?

**Hon. E J Reyes:** I think so, Mr Speaker – let me double check as a pedantic teacher. So for example, at the moment there is an assistant arts and design person who is on a supply contract but the Department is already in the process of recruiting one that will become permanent – great. So then, Mr Speaker, can he shed some light on the senior technician who is at the Gibraltar College, employed for 17 hours a week, but then gets seconded out to the GFA? I mean what needs does the College have that it has to be from the College to second to the GFA? That one, I am again, I am a bit lost and I need pointing in the right direction.

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, this is someone who was engaged as a senior technician at the College and is now currently seconded to the Gibraltar Football Association and works for the Gibraltar Football Association.

We are looking at what precisely we do because we have a person employed in that position but the person is not physically there at the college because he is actually working with the... I know who the person is, he is actually working with the GFA because the Government agreed to second him to the GFA for that particular position. There was a request for a secondment, rather than a resignation and an engagement by the GFA and the Government agreed. But now we need to be clearly at some point need to regularise the position and we need to fill that position.

So the position is again, I go back to the table, of supply workers. So we have supply workers, my interpretation of this table is that we have supply workers filling these positions, the remarks are the reasons why these positions are being filled. In some cases because the posts are in the process of being recruited, in another one because there is an additional need for a particular purpose at a particular time and this one, because the officer that was doing that particular job has been seconded elsewhere and therefore there is a need for a supply worker to fill that position and to do that work.

What we cannot do is recruit for that position because there is somebody who holds that position already, albeit seconded somewhere else. So in the meantime, whilst that person is seconded we have to fill that position with a supply worker.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, that has helped to clarify it quite substantially. However, if my understanding is that the senior technician who is now seconded to the GFA – and it may be a separate question that requires separate notice – if he is on secondment is he still being paid for by the college or the GFA is footing that bill, then we can enter it another time.

The cover for that senior technician is only for 17 hours a week. That is way, way less of what the senior technician used to work at the College. Does the Minister have any idea why there is only a need for 17 hours? Either the other fellow was under-utilised or there must be some other explanation. It is not a like-for-like replacement from a full-time officer to someone being replaced for only 17 hours in the week; 17 hours in the week just about covers three days a week of actual school teaching time.

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, I do not have a specific answer to that. It may be that the rest of the time that the senior technician used to do in the College is being covered in another way with existing staff at the College; it may be that that is the position. But what this table reflects is that we have a supply teacher covering this position for 17 hours a week which is what the hon. Member has asked. Now if the hon. Member says well why only 17 hours and what happens to the rest of the time that the senior technician who has been seconded would have been working in the College, then that is information that I do not currently have with me.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** If I may, because I hinted at this, does the Minister happen to know by chance whether the senior technician seconded to the GFA is his salary still being paid from the College as a sort of gratuitous secondment to the GFA or is the GFA footing that bill and therefore that money is not being paid out in that salary and thus the college making a saving in salary?

**Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, I do not know for sure as I was not involved in that specific arrangement. I can only assume, subject to confirmation that the person is actually being paid by the GFA. He is actually working at the GFA and therefore I would expect that the GFA would be paying for that officer.

#### Q55/2015

#### Nature Protection Act contravention by Spanish fishermen – Applications for summons

**Clerk:** Question 55, the Hon. J J Netto.

**Hon. J J Netto:** Yes, Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Justice say if applications for summons to the Spanish fishermen who allegedly contravened the Nature Protection Act due to raking of the sea floor on Boxing Day just opposite Catalan Bay has now taken place and if so, please indicate if such summons will apply to one vessel or to the six?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Justice.

**Minister for Education and Justice & International Exchange of Information (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, I am informed by the Royal Gibraltar Police that they have not yet laid information before the Magistrates' Court for a summons to be issued in respect of this matter.

**Follow-up information to earlier questions**

590 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, may I, before you move on to any other item, may I... as I think we all cordially agreed this morning that the Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth was going to try and look up on the chart and I said if we had it, then it rested in the record of *Hansard*.

Also whilst I am on my feet, Mr Speaker, I do not know if the Minister, the new Minister for Housing has had a chance to reconfirm that what she thought was going to be the terms and conditions of the  
595 seconded, that they were out. Has she had a feedback from her Ministry that they were actually seconded out or is she still not 100% certain on that one?

If we know it in this session it does save and then if I have to have any follow-ups I can give you due notice for next month.

600 **Minister for Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, in relation to the question that was addressed to me, I did ask and the information was given to me, but I would rather wait because the information might be more confusing to the hon. Member. Therefore I would like to clear with the staff, which I have not had time because I have to go through it.

But rest assured that I will be sending him a letter with that information, most probably before the next  
605 session.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, I am grateful, Mr Speaker, if I do have that like the Minister is trying his best to achieve before the next session then if I need to have any follow up I fall within the category of giving due notice of questions.

610 I do not know if the Minister for Housing wishes something or a similar situation that she will double check and if there is a change to seconded out, then she will give me any due information.

## Questions for Written Answer

### Questions W1 to W18/2015 tabled

**Clerk:** Answers to Written Questions, the Hon. the Chief Minister.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to table the answers to Written  
615 Questions numbered W1 to W18/2015 inclusive.

## Order of the Day

### BILLS

#### FIRST AND SECOND READING

#### Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014 – First Reading approved

**Clerk:** Order of the Day. Bills – First and Second Reading.

(i) A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Services Ombudsman Act 1998 and related matters.  
The Hon. the Minister for Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

620 **Minister for Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, before I move that the Bill be read, let me just explain that although this is a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Services Ombudsman Act and I am not the Minister responsible for the Ombudsman, in discussion with my colleague, because this Bill pertains exclusively to matters relating to complaints  
625 against the Gibraltar Health Authority, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Services Ombudsman Act 1998 and related matters be read a first time.

**Mr Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Services Ombudsman Act 1998 and related matters be read a first time.

Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

**Clerk:** The Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Act 2014.

**Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014 –  
Second Reading approved**

**Minister for Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill now be read a second time.

Mr Speaker, the Bill amends the Public Service Ombudsman Act 1998 so as to, as set out in the Government's manifesto, pass the responsibility for the investigation of complaints against the Gibraltar Health Authority for non-administrative matters from the GHA and the Panel constituted under the Gibraltar Health Authority Complaints Review Panel Act 2004, to the Public Service Ombudsman. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

The Bill provides for this transfer by amending the definition of an action which may be investigated by the Ombudsman so as to include complaints against the Gibraltar Health Authority, allowing the Ombudsman to specify certain members of his staff to be tasked specifically with investigating complaints against the Gibraltar Health Authority, creating a power for the Public Service Ombudsman to appoint one or more clinical assessors who must be external to the Gibraltar Health Authority, so as to advise him in relation to complaints against the Gibraltar Health Authority, setting out the circumstances where the Ombudsman may obtain medical records in addition to the powers already in the Act and deeming that a person who has made a complaint has waived his or her rights of confidentiality against the Gibraltar Health Authority with respect to the passing of the records and information to the Public Service Ombudsman and repealing the Gibraltar Health Authority Complaints Review Panel Act 2004 and making transitional provisions for outstanding matters.

I commend this Bill to the House. (*Banging on desks*)

**Mr Speaker:** Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles and merits of the Bill?

**Hon. Mrs I M Ellul-Hammond:** Mr Speaker, the Opposition will be voting in favour of this Bill. We are satisfied that the Ombudsman and his staff, who have now set up a health jurisdiction for Gibraltar, will continue to discharge their statutory duties in a professional, impartial and thorough manner.

The track record of this independent public service is evidenced where most complaints and disputes are arbitrated successfully to the satisfaction of all involved.

However, the Opposition would like to learn in more detail, how written or GHA formal complaints will be processed in practical terms and whether regular reports will still be submitted to the GHA Board for scrutiny on the range of complaints made, whether they have been upheld or not and what has been learnt or improved as a consequence of the complaints.

Will the Public Services Ombudsman with its clinical assessors, as the Hon. Minister has mentioned, will these clinical assessors have a presence in the GHA, an office where service users can submit a written complaint and fill in the required paperwork, or will they need to attend the Ombudsman's Office in person to do so? We hope the process will not be overly cumbersome so that members of the public do not feel reluctant to access the service.

Now, if the service user is dissatisfied with the outcome of the written or formal complaint, can the Hon. Minister explain if the Ombudsman will provide another tier of appeal by a higher authority, such as an independent panel, and how this appeals process will be different to that of the present GHA Independent Complaints Review Panel? And obviously we understand that this is of course, was the main reason for the Government's manifesto commitment for the Ombudsman to adopt the GHA's Complaint Procedure.

Where the Opposition requires some clarification from the Hon. Minister, Mr Speaker, is in relation to dealing with verbal or what are known as the GHA informal complaints and the provision also of a Patient Advisory Service, which at present is so adeptly, or has been so adeptly provided by the GHA's Complaints Coordinator and her team. With regard to these informal complaints, will the same process continue where a verbal complaint is made to the senior staff member of the Department where the complaint originated; or will the Ombudsman's Office provide permanent personnel in the form of clinical assessors at the GHA to deal with and arbitrate this, perhaps less serious complaints? Can the Minister advise who will process these recorded informal complaints so that the information can be reported to the GHA Board?

And can the Hon. Minister advise as to the continuation of the successful Patient Advisory Service, where up until now the GHA Complaints Team troubleshoots by assisting users who do not wish to complain but need help, information or advice on GHA services? Will some members of the GHA's Complaints Team continue with this role or will they be transferred as new employees of the Public Services Ombudsman's Office, or will this role just move to another Department of the GHA, for example the reception area of St. Bernard's Hospital? Or indeed will this service be discontinued completely?

All members of our community hope that the new Ombudsman GHA Complaints Service will – and I quote from *Health Matters 2012-13* here –

‘provide a mechanism for users to report their grievances if they are dissatisfied with the services, to provide a way for the GHA as an organisation to listen to users, to create an understanding of patients’ negative experiences and identify poor practice and gaps in service and to identify any poorly performing service or department so that the GHA can improve its standards of care and service in that area.’

Mr Speaker, we are confident the Public Services Ombudsman can deliver on this, which is why this side of the House will be voting in favour of the Bill. However, reassurance from the Hon. Minister as to the provision of a complete service, i.e. to include a Patient Advisory Service, informal and formal complaints arbitration and an appeals process, would be desirable.

**Mr Speaker:** Before I call upon the mover to reply, does any other hon. Member wish to contribute to this debate?

I call upon the mover to reply. Hon. Dr Cortes.

**Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. Lady for those comments. I want to reassure her and I think I will cover all the points that she has raised, that we will continue with a complete service and I would like to think more complete than it used to be. The aim is certainly to improve the service that users can access.

If I start from one point right away, and that is to confirm that clearly the new procedures will be reported on a regular basis to the Board and the Board will review them – and I know the hon. Lady knows as a former member of the Board – and the Board will review them regularly at its meetings.

The Ombudsman will be providing a Complaints Handling Scheme and I believe that the Members of staff who will be handling that have already been recruited, who will be based within the GHA. They will have an office there and will be accessible directly to the public and will be able to provide together with the support of the Unit Managers and the clinical staff and indeed, my own office staff, a very wide patient advisory service to, as often happens, clarify queries which often avoid the need for complaints to be carried out in a more formal manner.

The very basic complaints will, as now be dealt with in the first instance by the members of staff themselves and very often minor complaints can be cleared at that level. If that does not work or if members of the public want to take that further, then the Complaints Handling Scheme officers will carry out an investigation liaising with members of the GHA staff, but always answerable to the Ombudsman.

The next level, if that does not satisfy it, the complaints will be referred to one of the Investigation Officers at the Ombudsman's Office who will be the second level who will try and determine the effects or the results of the complaint. Finally, if that is not satisfactory, then – and this of course as I mentioned earlier – it will allow the possibility of independent clinical assessors to come in and look at any clinical aspects that have to be reviewed, and the appeal will be to the Ombudsman himself, who will then set up the necessary investigation, if there has to be a further level of investigation.

So I think that we will have the benefit of additional members of staff from the Ombudsman's Office working within St Bernard's Hospital. Clearly if the complaints are about other sites, people will be requested to visit St Bernard's Hospital, as is the case at the moment, and I believe that this produces a robust service which I think will benefit the members of the public as a whole.

I think, Mr Speaker, that that covers the questions that the hon. Member has raised and therefore I commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Services Ombudsman Act 1998 and related matters be read a second time.

Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

**Clerk:** The Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Act 2014.

**Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014 –  
Committee Stage and Third Reading to be taken at this sitting**

**Minister for Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

**Mr Speaker:** Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today? (**Members:** Aye.)

**Procedural**

**Mr Speaker:** I understand that we are not proceeding today with the second Bill, the one to amend the Parliament Act. It will be left over for the next meeting of the next meeting of the House.

**COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING**

**Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014 –  
Clauses considered and approved**

**Clerk:** Committee Stage and Third Reading.  
The Hon. the Chief Minister.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move that the House should resolve itself into Committee to consider the Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014, clause by clause.

*In Committee of the whole Parliament*

**Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Services Ombudsman Act 1998 and related matters.  
Clauses 1 to 3.

**Mr Chairman:** Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

**Clerk:** The long title.

**Mr Chairman:** Stands part of the Bill.

**BILLS FOR THIRD READING**

**Public Services Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014 –  
Third Reading approved; Bill passed**

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to report that the Public Service Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014, has been considered in Committee and agreed to without amendments and I now move that it be read a third time and passed.

**Mr Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that the Public Service Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2014 be read a third time and passed.

Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

775

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, for the beginning of the fourth consecutive year, it is my honour to move that the House do now adjourn *sine die* to return next month to continue its process of monthly meetings. (*Banging on desks*)

780

**Mr Speaker:** I now propose a question, which is that the House do now adjourn *sine die*.  
I now put the question, which is that this House do now adjourn *sine die*. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.  
The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

*The House adjourned at 4.16 p.m.*