



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

AFTERNOON: 3.03 p.m. – 6.16 p.m.

Gibraltar, Tuesday, 5th December 2017

Contents

Prayer	4
Confirmation of Minutes	4
Communications from the Chair	4
Papers to be laid	5
Questions for Oral Answer	5
Infrastructure and planning.....	5
Q697/2017 Pedestrian experience – Measures to make safe and pleasurable.....	5
Q698/2017 Vehicle MOTs – Emissions testing	7
Q699/2017 No idling signs – Progress; introduction of legislation	9
Q700/2017 Government vehicle fleet – Expression of interest re leasing.....	10
Q701/2017 Fixed Penalty Notices – Updated schedule	11
Q703/2017 Private parking spaces and garages resulting in loss of public parking spaces – Technical Services’ support or objections	20
Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.....	25
Q704/2017 Sewage treatment plant – Technical specification; awarding of contract.....	25
Q705/2017 Urban Renewal Programme – Update	26
Q706/2017 Upper Rock – Entrance fees	26
Q707/2017 Dance and performing arts courses – Grants awarded.....	26
Q708/2017 School classes – Number of pupils	27

Q709-717/2017 New and refurbished schools – Timeline and impact of works on students; completion dates; consultation with experts; impact on traffic and transport; populating of co-ed schools; proposals for Bayside and St Martins sites	29
Housing and Equality	36
Q718/2017 Government rental homes – Urgent decanting of tenants	36
Q719/2017 Government rental homes – Eviction of squatters.....	36
Q720/2017 Government rental homes – Expenditure re contracts for making suitable for reallocation	37
Q721/2017 Government rental homes – Number reassigned from returned stock.....	37
Q722/2017 Mons Calpe Mews – Sign-off of remedial works	38
Q723/2017 Government rental homes – Outstanding arrears – Question withdrawn	39
Q724/2017 Government rental homes – Details of properties allocated since December 2011.....	39
Q725/2017 Government rental homes – Applicants on social and medical lists	41
Q726/2017 Purpose-built flats for the elderly – Allocation to non-Government rental tenants	42
Q727/2017 Beach View Terraces and Mons Calpe Mews – Information received at time of sale	42
Q728/2017 Affordable housing – Action taken re subletting in contravention of lease	44
Q729/2017 Affordable housing projects – Online application system.....	46
Q730/2017 Affordable homes – Restrictions on resale.....	47
Q731/2017 Charles Bruzon House – Cars barrier	48
Q732/2017 Fire retardants – Installation in Government estates.....	49
Health, Care and Justice.....	52
Q733/2017 St Bernard’s Hospital – A&E charge nurse posts	52
Q734-737/2017 Offenders – Number and ages of young offenders imprisoned; reoffending rates; young offenders not imprisoned or fined.....	53
Q738-739/2017 Substance abuse – Breakdown of RGP arrests; cases requiring medical care	55
Q740/2017 Access to justice – Legal assistance reforms.....	63
Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port	67
Q741/2017 LNG bunkering – Ship-to-ship operations in vicinity of Gibraltar	67
Q742-743/2017 Monarch Airlines routes to UK – Possible uptake by other airlines	68
Q744/2017 Small boats marina – Berthing fees	70
Q745/2017 Small boats marina – Rental costs re construction devices no longer in use	71
Q746/2017 Small boats marina – Plans re slipway	72
Commerce.....	73
Q747-748/2017 Mail delivery – Turnaround re parcels and letters	73
Deputy Chief Minister	74
Q759/2017 MoD site behind Cross of Sacrifice – Handing over to Government	74

The House adjourned at 6.16 p.m.....74

The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 3.03 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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Clerk: Meeting of Parliament, Tuesday, 5th December 2017.

Order of Proceedings: (i) Oath of Allegiance; (ii) Confirmation of Minutes – the Minutes of the last meeting of Parliament, which was held on 20th October and 6th November 2017.

Mr Speaker: May I sign the Minutes as correct? (**Members:** Aye.)

Mr Speaker signed the Minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Clerk: (iii) Communications from the Chair.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, yesterday the Hon. Roy Clinton formally signified to me his intention to step down as Leader of the Opposition.

In a parliamentary democracy such as ours it is the long-established convention that the post of Leader of the Opposition is held by that elected Member of the Opposition who commands majority support from his elected colleagues sitting on the Opposition benches.

I have also been formally notified in writing that the elected Members of the GSD decided yesterday morning that the Hon. Elliott Phillips should, as from today, discharge the duties of the post of Leader of the Opposition. Accordingly, I now formally recognise him and congratulate him as such. Consequentially, this Parliament will also now recognise the hon. Member as the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for that acknowledgement of the role of Leader of the Opposition.

Of course, I should comment from the start that the GSD has had a democratic vote insofar as the leadership of the party is concerned and returned Mr Azopardi with 65% of its members and 60% of a combined vote between the executive and the membership. Therefore, our view is and will currently be from now on that Mr Azopardi will lead the GSD. However, I understand

what Mr Speaker has said in relation to convention, practice and everything else that concerns the role of Leader of the Opposition in this House.

35 What I would say is this, though, Mr Speaker. I have no concern as to who addresses me as what; what I want to do is get on with the job that I have been asked to do and hopefully do it as well as I can and to the best of my abilities.

Mr Speaker: The Hon. the Chief Minister.

40 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, it is my pleasure to get up to congratulate the Hon. Mr Phillips for being recognised as Leader of the Opposition, therefore as Leader of the GSD in this House, and to thank Mr Clinton for the way that he discharged his obligations as Leader of the Opposition in the short time that he did so. I think we enjoyed a combative on-stage and convivial off-stage relationship, which I hope I will also be able to emulate with
45 Mr Phillips. Mr Speaker, Bob Peliza had one, Joshua Hassan had four, you had one, Joe Bossano had two, Peter Caruana had two and I have got four, three in just one year – Leaders of the Opposition, that is. It is a pleasure to see that we are going to have now the opportunity to cross political swords.

50 What we are referred to in the context of this Parliament is important in the context of our parliamentary democracy. We have a system of laws which requires us to refer to each other by a particular way. Hon. Members are the first to grab Standing Orders when they think that we are imputing their motive or otherwise breaching the rules. We will not do so. We will recognise the Hon. Mr Phillips as the Leader of the Opposition in this Parliament and outside it, insofar as parliamentary precedence requires.

PAPERS TO BE LAID

55 **Clerk:** (iv) Petitions; (v) Announcements; (vi) Papers to be laid – the Hon. the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Audited Accounts of the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority for the year ended 31st March 2017.

60 **Mr Speaker:** Ordered to lie.

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

Questions for Oral Answer

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Q697/2017

**Pedestrian experience –
Measures to make safe and pleasurable**

Clerk: We commence with Question 697. The Hon. T N Hammond.

65 **Mr Speaker:** I am glad to see he made it! *(Laughter)*

Hon. T N Hammond: Oh, barely caught my breath! Thank you, Mr Speaker.

What measures have been introduced since January 2016, and I quote, 'to make the pedestrian experience a safe and pleasurable one'?

70 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Speaker, there have been numerous pedestrian enhancements since January 2016.

75 Four new zebra crossings have been installed in several areas throughout Gibraltar, namely on Rosia Road by Bayview Terraces, Europa Road by Shorthorn Farm Estate, Europort Avenue at the entrance to the hospital, and by Midtown Coach and Car Park on Reclamation Road.

In addition to these zebra crossings we have also installed a much needed light-controlled crossing by Ocean Views facility on Europa Road to facilitate the users and visitors of the centre alike.

80 Following on from the highly successful countdown timers situated at the traffic-light crossing at the Line Wall Road junction by City Hall, we announced in July this year the installation of two new countdown timers to the light-controlled crossings in the area of Waterport Road, one by the eastern side of the Water Gardens complex and the other at Queensway junction with Waterport roundabout. Further enhancements to existing light-
85 controlled crossings are planned to be rolled out at other crossings throughout Gibraltar.

With regard to improving pedestrian safety and encouraging walking, several schemes have been rolled out, which include the following: a new pavement along Governor's Street and the beautification and pedestrianisation of Wellington Front.

90 Main Street and Irish Town delivery times and restrictions have also been implemented successfully to limit the amount of vehicles entering and conflicting with the main pedestrian zone. In addition to this, three new commercial loading and unloading zones have been created at Fish Market Road, John Mackintosh Square and Main Street South. These loading and unloading commercial zones have effectively and positively segregated commercial vehicles from the main pedestrian thoroughfare, thus making Main Street and Irish Town a safer
95 environment for the general public to enjoy.

New pedestrian walking sign improvements have recently been installed by Waterport Road from the Waterport roundabout to the Cruise Terminal. These improvements form part of the sustainable travel initiatives to promote walking and accessibility around Gibraltar, which builds on already installed signage by the area by Midtown Car Park and city centre directional signage
100 by Waterport Road, Reclamation Road and by Corral Road. Walking time signs will also, in due course, be implemented at key locations showing approximate route times, which will aim to enhance and encourage walking and at the same time highlighting distances to key destinations to pedestrians who are unfamiliar with the surrounding areas.

105 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, the Minister has certainly read out an extensive list of, when you add them up, relatively minor things in terms of improving the pedestrian experience.

My experience in general, walking around Gibraltar – Main Street excepted, because it is a pedestrianised area – is that obviously the majority of Gibraltar is not pedestrianised and therefore it is noisy, with often polluted walks; pavements are usually uneven and difficult to
110 navigate also, particularly in the area of the Frontier, around Queensway, Rosia Road – in fact many of the areas where otherwise it would and should be a rather pleasant experience to walk, and the conditions at present do not encourage people to walk.

Does Government have a programme in place to improve pavement surfaces to make them more easy to navigate? And are there any plans to pedestrianise other areas in order again to
115 enhance that pedestrian experience?

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, it very much depends on which side of the House you are on, because in my mind there have been vast amounts of improvements in terms of pedestrian safety and comfort. Obviously, the hon. Member will look at things from the other side and try to find where the potholes are and where the nooks and crannies are; that is part of the game we play here. But I think no one can deny the fact that vast improvements have been made and the Government continues, as recently happened with Governor's Street – an area where there has traditionally never been a pavement, an area where you would walk out of a business, walk out of an establishment and find yourself right on the road ... In certain places around Gibraltar it is impossible to make small narrow roads safer in that respect, but every effort and opportunity possible is taken to make the pedestrian experience safer. We also look very carefully at areas where there are vehicles constantly obstructing. For example, the obstruction to pedestrian access on pavements: when cars are parked on pavements we make sure that these cars are removed, or fined, or taken care of in that respect. As part of general highways maintenance, Highways is constantly looking at improvements, especially when it comes to accessibility. We look at drop curbs we look at the studded surfaces before you get to zebra crossings to ensure that people with disabilities are also able to enjoy the public footpath.

As part of the Sustainable Traffic and Transport Plan, clearly we want to encourage people to walk, we want people to adopt that form of transport, so to speak, in preference to the motorised vehicle, and every effort will be made to make the experience better – as we have seen as well in Main Street, where the filling of the tiles in Main Street has also made that a much better and more comfortable thing to do for people, especially persons wearing high heels, and that is something which has been mostly carried out. I think there is a small area remaining, but it is another important improvement.

As part of the Traffic Plan, as the initial question did specify, the next stage is actually quantifying distances so people are aware that the town centre is only a mere five-minute walk and it is probably going to take you a lot longer to find parking, if that is what you are inclined to do.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker, I would just like to point out that I do not actually go out looking for pot holes; they tend to find me – because there are so many of them – if I just happen to stumble into them.

You did raise Main Street, Minister, and you mentioned the cobbles being filled in. Has that project been completed? My understanding is that there are still areas of Main Street which have not been finished.

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, that project in fact should be close to completion now. A vast area has already been carried out. It has been done over two financial years. I have mentioned the project and I am pretty sure it is almost ready. I think there is a little bit of work left to do, but in the main it is almost ready. Obviously, if it is not ready, then it is very close to it.

Q698/2017
Vehicle MOTs –
Emissions testing

Clerk: Question 698. The Hon. T N Hammond.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker, having conducted a small survey with approximately 20 respondents, 90% of them indicated that their vehicles did not undergo emissions testing during their MOT. Can the Minister say why testing is not being conducted, despite this being a legal

requirement, and how he reconciles this failure with Government's commitment to improving air quality?

165 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Speaker, in order to answer this question accurately it would be useful to see how the survey was conducted and how the questions were defined – for example, the class, type and propulsion of vehicles and the dates
170 on which those vehicles were tested at the Vehicle Test Centre. This is because, under our legislation, certain vehicles – for example, vehicles registered or put into service before 1st January 1980 – are exempted from the Opacity tests, or it may have been the case that a vehicle emission analyser may have had to be sent to Madrid to undergo major repairs or calibration due to the fact that calibrating the equipment is a requirement for emission testing.
175 Therefore, without approximate dates it is difficult to give you an accurate answer.

Notwithstanding, if it were the case that the gas analysers were out of action, as specified in our legislation, when this equipment is out of service vehicle testers undertake visual inspection tests in order to ascertain if vehicles have leaks which could affect emission measurements.

180 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, surely just a visual analysis would not actually give you any indication as to whether the catalytic converter is working, whether what level of emissions, whether there is a tolerable level of emission; it is just quite impossible to tell in that respect.

I can tell the Minister that my own two vehicles were a motorbike – a moped 125 – and a saloon car. Both underwent MOT tests this year, neither was tested, and that seems to be the
185 general response when people are asked: that vehicles are not tested.

I understand if the equipment is not serviceable it would be unfortunate that there is not any kind of proper way of measuring and that vehicles may get through the net that way, but certainly it would appear to me that it would not account for the volume of vehicles which are not undergoing proper emissions testing.

190 Of course, this is a very important matter because it does directly affect the quality of the air we breathe, particularly as pedestrians if we are walking around alongside a highway and we are breathing those fumes, so it is very important that vehicles are tested. Therefore, I would ask the Minister to look at the way things are done in that respect to see how tests are conducted, to understand how frequently these emissions-testing machines are unserviceable, if that is the
195 case, and certainly for the legislation to be applied to ensure that our air quality is as good as it can be with respect to emissions from vehicles.

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, a survey of 20 vehicles – of which two were the hon. Gentleman's himself, as he seems to have alluded to there – is not a very big sample. It is very
200 unfair to say that the tests have not been happening for a long period of time.

I think we agree that air quality is paramount to us and obviously to increase the benefits to those people who do decide to walk.

The catalytic converters ... as I said, because I do not have an exact date I cannot really say whether it was as a result of a piece of equipment that had been down or otherwise. In fact,
205 recently there was a situation whereby the test equipment was down because of our proximity to salt water and sand at the actual MOT venue. The wind blows – it is always a very windy environment – it gets into the system and they need to be serviced more regularly than expected. So that can happen, there can be a period of that and I think there was a period where perhaps both of the items were down. But again, do we stop MOTs? Do we put a halt on
210 everything? The best thing that can be done under the circumstances is to carry out a visual inspection and, as the hon. Member has rightly said, they will be caught up in the next one, but there is little more that can be done in that respect.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

215

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, just one question in relation to that. It is an issue that has been raised directly with me by a number of young people who have not clearly taken part in this survey that my hon. Friend has conducted. What I would say is, given the fact that the Government is committed to the environment and certainly Dr Cortes has said to us on a number of occasions ... made submissions in relation to improving air quality – and I entirely agree with the Government's position with improving air quality – should we not encourage those that are working in the relevant Department to ensure that this legal requirement is conducted? Because the information that I receive from young members of the public who are interested in the environment, interested in air quality and improving it, is that they should be given that reassurance that the Government is doing everything it can to improve the air quality of our community.

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Hon. P J Balban: Indeed, Mr Speaker, everything that can be done is done. The only issue is, as I said, because I do not have the dates in particular I do not know whether this 18 or 20-person survey ... whether these are the ones that you have captured as well within your membership, or not.

230

But if there is a moment in time when the equipment that is used is down – and it has to be serviced in Madrid and it is sent away regularly ... If the machine has broken down and there are none available of the two I think we have in our possession, then obviously for that short period of time while servicing or repairs happen there is little we can do. I am actually looking with the Department at the possibility of purchasing a third unit to be sure, but again you could have a situation ... Where do you draw the line? It is a bad environment, a lot of sea water, as I have said, a lot of sand and a lot of wind. They are very sensitive pieces of equipment. Particles get into the system and make the system fail, and once they fail, obviously they do not provide accurate results and they need to be serviced and they need to be repaired.

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So I think it has been an unfortunate event that has happened because again this is not a complaint that has been happening or coming to us for a very long period of time; it has just been for a short period. As I said, I cannot specifically say without a time range whether it was to do with that.

Q699/2017

No idling signs –

Progress; introduction of legislation

245

Clerk: Question 699. The Hon. T.N. Hammond.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker, has Government made any progress regarding the placement of no idling signs in key areas around Gibraltar, and does it envisage introducing legislation accordingly?

250

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Speaker, yes, no idling signs have been installed before approaching the runway in both northern and southern approaches.

255

There are no imminent plans for introducing legislation at present, but this option is still a possibility.

Q700/2017

**Government vehicle fleet –
Expression of interest re leasing**

Clerk: Question 700. The Hon. R M Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, further to Question 101/2017 and Question 237/2017, can
260 the Government advise if it has made a decision in respect of the one expression of interest
received for the leasing of its vehicle fleet; and if so, what are the financial terms agreed?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Speaker, the answer remains
265 as set out to Question 101/2017.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, I would be grateful if the Minister could indicate to the House
whether, given that the tender, I believe, was in December 2016, whether the Government now
270 has abandoned the idea of leasing its vehicle fleet, seeing as we are now obviously in December
2017.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman and I have exchanged
views in respect of this on a number of occasions. In fact, I seem to recall that when the tender
275 came out the hon. Gentleman said something about the Government obviously being desperate
to sell every asset it had to raise money, including its vehicle fleet. Well, if nothing else, the delay
shows that he was wrong about that, but the Government is considering the best possible
options for the taxpayer. Making that determination is not an easy one because it is a fairly large
fleet that we have, so it is not that we have abandoned the idea but it is not something that can
280 move very quickly and it is not something that the Government needs to see move very quickly,
but it is an idea that is being analysed in great detail.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Chief Minister for his intervention.

If I may ask him: what is the main consideration? Obviously value for money for the taxpayer
285 must be at the top of the list, but is there anything in particular in respect of the original tender
that is causing the Government to consider it for over a year now? Or a year, let's say.

Hon. Chief Minister: And what a year it has been, Mr Speaker! Not just three Leaders of the
Opposition in one year, but also I worked out, once I was sitting down, that there are now more
290 Members of the GSD in this Parliament who have been Leader of the Opposition than those who
have not been. So, Mr Reyes and Mr Hammond, there are still two years to have a crack at the
whip, so to speak!

That aside, the issue is value for money. Making the assessment is not easy, because we have
such a disparate fleet that whilst in respect of some vehicles in the fleet the leasing option may
295 be a good one, when you start to get into the types of vehicles that we have it is not always clear
that when you bring the whole fleet together the maths stack up on the basis of this being
better value for money. Therefore, that is an exercise that has to be done in very great detail.

To give the hon. Gentleman some idea of the issues, if you are dealing with a vehicle like a
vehicle for conveying VIPs, that tends to have quite a long shelf life, it tends to be easy to look
300 after that vehicle, and so changing that vehicle every three years, which is the sort of thing that
a fleet option gives you, does not necessarily deliver the best value for money, depending on
how that lease is structured and what you pay for the lease of that vehicle. When you are
dealing with a refuse vehicle, then the turnover there might be slightly different but the vehicle
is also a more expensive vehicle to procure. You can extend the shelf life of that vehicle with

very able mechanics, and the Government has very able mechanical abilities at its disposal either in house or bought in. So, doing the exercise of what we expect a vehicle to give us in terms of shelf life and the replacement of that vehicle, which then needs to work for whoever is extending the fleet deal to us – they need to have something which is not just a wreck at the end of it, they need to be able to realise the value of that vehicle as well – is not an easy exercise, and that is what is taking time to determine. We could simply say, ‘This is too difficult, we’ll stop trying to do the exercise,’ but if the final conclusion of the exercise is that it is better value for money for the taxpayer, then we should not turn our backs on such an exercise simply because it is potentially harder to reach the conclusion that we might have wished or wanted that to be the case.

He can rest assured that there is no urgency in needing to hock the Government’s fleet of vehicles – as he might have, in a moment of madness, tweeted a year ago. The exercise is an ongoing one. It may be that it comes to a conclusion which sees no further action taken or it may mean that it comes to a conclusion that sees us act on the proposals put to us.

Q701/2017
Fixed Penalty Notices –
Updated schedule

Clerk: Question 701. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, further to Question 450/2017, can the Government provide an updated schedule, together with (a) the number of FPNs paid, (b) the number of FPNs pending payment, and (c) the number of FPNs cancelled, together with the reasons why?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Speaker, the information requested by the hon. Member is detailed in the schedule that I will now hand over.

No FPNs are cancelled as the speeding offences, as captured by the static speed cameras, are vetted by the RGP before they go to the next stage in the procedure, which is the issuing of NIPs (Notice of Intended Prosecution). The RGP will filter out all foreign-registered vehicles, emergency service vehicles and front-facing motorbikes. They will also remove from the system offenders caught speeding over 100 kph, as they will go to them directly and arrest them for dangerous driving.

Answer to Question 701/2017

Record Vehicles Caught Speeding													
2017	Goods	57-59.99	60-69.99	70-79.99	80-89.99	90-99.99	100-109.99	110-119.99	120-129.99	130-1000	Paid	To be Paid	Issued
May	60	103	124	24	3	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	3	35	38
June	81	176	207	26	12	2	2	nil	nil	nil	52	145	197
July	357	567	814	163	64	10	8	4	nil	2	142	206	348
August	220	406	546	98	41	13	2	1	2	1	201	101	302
September	32	60	111	26	7	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	123	49	172
October	124	153	189	30	9	4	nil	nil	nil	nil	205	91	296
November	21	61	68	9	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	n1	87	7	94
December													

Q702/2017
Vehicle towing's –
Updated details

Clerk: Question 702. The Hon. L F Llamas.

340 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, further to Question 589/2017, can the Government provide an updated schedule including (a) location vehicle was towed away from, (b) date and time the vehicle was towed away, and (c) whether the parking restrictions were in respect of cleaning campaigns or other?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Speaker, the information requested by the hon. Member is detailed in the schedule that I will now hand over.

Answer to Question 702/2017

[illegible][illegible]

Jan-17

Feb-17

Mar-17

Apr-17

May-17

GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT, TUESDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2017

10/05/2017	1305hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
10/05/2017	1355hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
10/05/2017	1654hrs	Romney Huts Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1655hrs	Bayside Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1738hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
11/05/2017	1753hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
11/05/2017	1629hrs	Romney Huts Car Park	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
11/05/2017	1026hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1028hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1014hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1008hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1023hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1035hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1030hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/05/2017	1032hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/05/2017	1305hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
13/05/2017	0950hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
14/05/2017	1030hrs	Airport Terminal	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
15/05/2017	1545hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
15/05/2017	1345hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
16/05/2017	1702hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
16/05/2017	1535hrs	Mons Calpe Road	Vehicle causing an obstruction	Obstruction
17/05/2017	0900hrs	Bayside Road	No permit	No permit
17/05/2017	1635hrs	Bayside Road	No permit	No permit
17/05/2017	1015hrs	Cumberland Road	Vehicle parked outside demarcated area	Obstruction
17/05/2017	1330hrs	Grand Parade	Contrary of a sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
17/05/2017	1310hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
17/05/2017	1305hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
17/05/2017	1350hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
17/05/2017	1033hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Other RGP Sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
17/05/2017	1820hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
17/05/2017	1200hrs	North Mole Road	Vehicle causing an obstruction	Obstruction
17/05/2017	1611hrs	Romney Huts Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
17/05/2017	1453hrs	Sir Herbert Miles Road	No permit	No permit
18/05/2017	1302hrs	Airport Terminal	P&D ticket expired	Pay and Display
18/05/2017	1016hrs	Harbour Views Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
18/05/2017	0945hrs	Harbour Views Road	Other	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
18/05/2017	0935hrs	Harbour Views Road	Contrary of a sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
18/05/2017	1515hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Obstructing the flow of traffic	Obstruction
18/05/2017	1245hrs	Rodger's Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
20/05/2017	0804hrs	Amar's Bakery- Linewall Road	Parked in a No Parking Zone	Obstruction
20/05/2017	1045hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
21/05/2017	0908hrs	Glacis Road	Obstructing the flow of traffic	Obstruction
21/05/2017	1324hrs	Waterport Road	Vehicle parked on yellow lines	Obstruction
24/05/2017	1625hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
24/05/2017	1750hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	Parked outside demarcated area	Obstruction
24/05/2017	1239hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Vehicle causing an obstruction	Obstruction
24/05/2017	1330hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Vehicle causing an obstruction	Obstruction
25/05/2017	1148hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
25/05/2017	0845hrs	Romney Huts Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
26/05/2017	0940hrs	Bishop Caruana Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
26/05/2017	1551hrs	Bishop Caruana Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
27/05/2017	1203hrs	Bayside Road	Parked in a pedestrian crossing	Obstruction
27/05/2017	1147hrs	Watergardens	P&D ticket expired	Pay and Display
27/05/2017	1552hrs	Waterport Wharf	Vehicle causing an obstruction	Obstruction
28/05/2017	1445hrs	Bayside Road	P&D ticket expired	Pay and Display
28/05/2017	1500hrs	Bayside Road	Vehicle parked on pedestrian crossing	Parking Restrictions
29/05/2017	1146hrs	Airport Terminal	Parked outside demarcated area	Obstruction
29/05/2017	1240hrs	Bayside Road	Vehicle parked on pedestrian crossing	Parking Restrictions
29/05/2017	0946hrs	Bayside Road	Vehicle parked on pedestrian crossing	Parking Restrictions
29/05/2017	1314hrs	Bayside Road	Vehicle parked on pedestrian crossing	Parking Restrictions
29/05/2017	1028hrs	Halifax Road	Vehicle causing an obstruction	Obstruction
29/05/2017	1703hrs	Linewall Road	Vehicle parked on yellow lines	Parking Restrictions
29/05/2017	1554hrs	Rosia Road	Other RGP Sign	Parking Restrictions
31/05/2017	0945hrs	Cumberland Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
31/05/2017	1752hrs	Landport Ditch	Expiry of P&D ticket	Pay and Display
31/05/2017	2230hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	RGP Request	RGP request
31/05/2017	2300hrs	Landport Ditch Car Park	RGP Request	RGP request

Jun-17

Date	Time	Location	Reason for Tow	Table Group
01/06/2017	1310hrs	Cemetery Road	Exceeding Max Stay	Exceeding max stay
01/06/2017	1515hrs	Coaling Island	Other RGP sign	Parking Restrictions
01/06/2017	0920hrs	Ocean Village	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
02/06/2017	0903hrs	Landport Ditch	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
03/06/2017	1315hrs	Bayside Road	Parked on Pedestrian Crossing	Obstruction
03/06/2017	0930hrs	Fish Market Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
03/06/2017	1302hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
05/06/2017	1257hrs	Glacis Estate	No Permit	No permit
06/06/2017	1708hrs	Both Worlds	Parked in Permit Only area	No permit
06/06/2017	1630hrs	Europort Road	Exceeding Max Stay	Exceeding max stay
06/06/2017	1540hrs	North Mole Road	Blocking Flow of Traffic	Obstruction
06/06/2017	1759hrs	Ragged Staff Wharf	Expiry of P&D	Pay and Display
07/06/2017	1122hrs	Jews Gate/ Engineer's Road	Blocking Flow of Traffic	Obstruction
07/06/2017	1448hrs	Linewall Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
07/06/2017	0045hrs	MOT Centre Devil's Tower	Customs	Customs request
07/06/2017	1140hrs	Romney Huts	Expiry of P&D	Pay and Display
08/06/2017	1646hrs	Bishop Caruana Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/06/2017	1750hrs	Bishop Caruana Road	Other RGP sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
08/06/2017	1020hrs	Western Beach	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/06/2017	1054hrs	Western Beach	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/06/2017	1207hrs	Western Beach	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/06/2017	1245hrs	Western Beach	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
10/06/2017	2130hrs	Devil's Tower Road (Coville)	Customs	Customs request
10/06/2017	1139hrs	Landport Ditch	Expiry of P&D	Pay and Display
10/06/2017	1029hrs	Prince Edward's Road	Aqua Gib	Works
10/06/2017	1029hrs	Prince Edward's Road	Aqua Gib	Works
13/06/2017	0945hrs	Gardiner's Road	Parked on Yellow Line	Obstruction
14/06/2017	1029hrs	North Mole Road	Blocking Flow of Traffic	Obstruction
14/06/2017	1248hrs	Watergardens	Other RGP Sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
15/06/2017	0832hrs	Fish Market Road	Other RGP sign (towed on the following day)	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
19/06/2017	1733hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	Expiry of P&D	Pay and Display
21/06/2017	1438hrs	Grand Parade	Blocking Flow of Traffic	Obstruction
21/06/2017	1500hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
25/06/2017	1500hrs	Bayside Road	Parking restrictions	Parking Restrictions
25/06/2017	0900hrs	Queensway	Parked on Yellow Line	Obstruction
26/06/2017	1426hrs	Harbour Views Road	Parked on Yellow Line	Obstruction
28/06/2017	1030hrs	Queensway	Other Sign	Parking Restrictions
29/06/2017	1615hrs	Landport Ditch	Expiry of P&D	Pay and Display

Jul-17

Date	Time	Location	Reason for Tow	Table Group
05/07/2017	1235hrs	Landport Ditch	Obstructing the flow of traffic	Obstruction
05/07/2017	0850hrs	Landport Ditch	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
06/07/2017	1020hrs	Corral Road	Vehicle parked in PSV area	Parking Restrictions
06/07/2017	1600hrs	Town Range	Vehicle parked on yellow lines	Parking Restrictions
07/07/2017	1554hrs	Landport Ditch	Obstructing another vehicle	Obstruction
07/07/2017	0920hrs	Reclamation Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
09/07/2017	2300hrs	Western Beach	Other	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
10/07/2017	0020hrs	Western Beach	Other	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
12/07/2017	0845hrs	Customs Frontier	Customs request	Customs request
12/07/2017	1635hrs	Fish Market Road	Other RGP sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
12/07/2017	1337hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
12/07/2017	1322hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
12/07/2017	1220hrs	Montagu Curtain	Other RGP sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
13/07/2017	0705hrs	Linewall Road	Contrary to sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
13/07/2017	0032hrs	Reclamation Road	Other RGP sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
13/07/2017	1435hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/07/2017	1220hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Other RGP sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
13/07/2017	1435hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/07/2017	1435hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/07/2017	1144hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/07/2017	1000hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/07/2017	1415hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
17/07/2017	1014hrs	Glacis Estate	Contrary to sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
18/07/2017	1430hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
19/07/2017	1550hrs	Coaling Island	Obstructing another vehicle	Obstruction
19/07/2017	1315hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
19/07/2017	1450hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
19/07/2017	1345hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
20/07/2017	1530hrs	Harbour Views Road	Contrary to sign	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
25/07/2017	1646hrs	Europort Avenue	Vehicle parked on yellow lines	Parking Restrictions
26/07/2017	1614hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	Parked in a non demarcated Zone	Obstruction
27/07/2017	1200hrs	Emerson's Place	Vehicle causing obstruction	Obstruction
27/07/2017	0900hrs	Mid Harbours	Obstructing the flow of traffic	Obstruction
28/07/2017	1530hrs	North Mole Road	Vehicle causing obstruction	Obstruction

Aug-17

Date	Time	Location	Reason for Tow	Table Group
02/08/2017	1123hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
07/08/2017	1250hrs	Harbour Views Road	Obstructing outside Morrisons Supermarket	Obstruction
07/08/2017	1700hrs	Sir Herbert Miles Road	No Permit	No Permit
08/08/2017	1525hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
08/08/2017	1523hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	Other	Portable Sign (None Cleaning)
08/08/2017	1315hrs	Zocca Flank	Vehicle parked on yellow lines	Parking Restrictions
09/08/2017	0940hrs	Cemetery Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
09/08/2017	1140hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
09/08/2017	1400hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
09/08/2017	1420hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
10/08/2017	0850hrs	Mid Harbours Estate	Gibeleg parking restrictions	Works
10/08/2017	1155hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/08/2017	1235hrs	Bayside Road	Parked on Yellow Lines	Obstruction
14/08/2017	2135hrs	Devil's Tower Road	Requested by Customs	Customs request
15/08/2017	1600hrs	Med Rowing Club	No Permit	No Permit
16/08/2017	1156hrs	Coaling Island	Coaling Island to be cleared	Fair Clearance - Coaling Island
16/08/2017	1305hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
16/08/2017	1320hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
16/08/2017	1050hrs	Harbour Views	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
18/08/2017	1150hrs	Coaling Island	(DVLD) Area cleared for Fair (HMGOG)	(DVLD)
18/08/2017	1100hrs	Glacis Estate	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
21/08/2017	1600hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
21/08/2017	1315hrs	Ragged Staff Car Park	Expired P&D ticket	Pay and Display
21/08/2017	1645hrs	Sir Herbert Miles Road	No Permit	No Permit
22/08/2017	1620hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
22/08/2017	1730hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
23/08/2017	0900hrs	Bayside Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
23/08/2017	1003hrs	Bayside Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
23/08/2017	1200hrs	Bayside Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
23/08/2017	1202hrs	Bayside Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
23/08/2017	1637hrs	Bayside Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
23/08/2017	1428hrs	Emerson's Place	Obstructing a vehicle	Obstruction
23/08/2017	1220hrs	Sir Herbert Miles Road	Parked on yellow lines	Obstruction
25/08/2017	1020hrs	Europa Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
29/08/2017	1643hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
30/08/2017	1220hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
30/08/2017	1320hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
30/08/2017	1434hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No permit
30/08/2017	1555hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit
30/08/2017	1630hrs	Grand Parade	No Permit	No Permit

Sep-17

Date	Time	Location	Reason for Tow	Table Group
04/09/2017	1259hrs	Air Terminal Car Park	No P&D ticket displayed	Pay and Display
01/09/2017	1010hrs	Bayside Road	Parked in Department of Education teacher's bay	Obstruction
09/09/2017	2030hrs	Bayside Road	Parking Restrictions	Parking Restrictions
15/09/2017	1300hrs	Bayside Road	Parked on yellow lines	Obstruction
28/09/2017	1033hrs	Bayside Road	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display
23/09/2017	0940hrs	Eastern Beach Road	Parking Restrictions at MOT Center	Parking Restrictions
10/09/2017	1320hrs	Glacis Estate	No permit	No permit
04/09/2017	1648hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
12/09/2017	1640hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
26/09/2017	1620hrs	Grand Parade	Residential parking	No Permit
28/09/2017	1549hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
18/09/2017	1126hrs	Harbour Views Road	Parking from 5pm- 8am	Parking Restrictions
26/09/2017	1110hrs	Landport Ditch	Double Parked	Obstruction
22/09/2017	1340hrs	MOT Car Park	(DVLD) Expired MOT	(DVLD)
06/09/2017	0916hrs	Queensway	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
06/09/2017	1118hrs	Queensway	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
05/09/2017	0931hrs	Rosia Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/09/2017	1125hrs	Rosia Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
04/09/2017	1226hrs	Sir Herbert Miles Road/ Cat	No permit	No permit
06/09/2017	1518hrs	Sir Herbert Miles Road/ Cat	No permit	No permit
01/09/2017	0910hrs	South Barrack Road	Vehicle involved in car accident- requested by RGP	RGP request
14/09/2017	1008hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
14/09/2017	1100hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
14/09/2017	1143hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
07/09/2017	1600hrs	Windmill Hill Road	Parked in a no parking zone	Obstruction

Oct-17

Date	Time	Location	Reason for Tow	Table Group
05/10/2017	1534hrs	Europort Avenue	Exceeding max time at Timeout school drop off area	Exceeding max stay
10/10/2017	0927hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
10/10/2017	1417hrs	Landport Ditch	Expired P&D ticket	Pay and Display
11/10/2017	0902hrs	Europort Avenue	Exceeding max time at Timeout school drop off area	Exceeding max stay
11/10/2017	1302hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/10/2017	1303hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/10/2017	1335hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
11/10/2017	1416hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
12/10/2017	1700hrs	Europort Avenue	Parked on yellow lines	Obstruction
12/10/2017	1007hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
12/10/2017	1600hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
16/10/2017	1007hrs	Glacis Estate	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
16/10/2017	1640hrs	Landport Ditch	Expired P&D ticket	Pay and Display
16/10/2017	1250hrs	Mount Road	AquaGib works	Works
17/10/2017	0930hrs	Governor's Parade	Obstructing road and exit	Obstruction
17/10/2017	1420hrs	Grand Parade	Resident parking only	No Permit
18/10/2017	1110hrs	Coaling Island	Parked outside area	Obstruction
18/10/2017	1302hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
18/10/2017	1324hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
18/10/2017	1344hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
19/10/2017	1415hrs	Bayside Rd	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
19/10/2017	1500hrs	Bayside Rd	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
20/10/2017	1000hrs	Grand Parade	Resident parking only	No Permit
20/10/2017	1430hrs	Line Wall Road	Cleaning Campaign	Cleaning Campaign
21/10/2017	1600hrs	Forbes Quarry	Resident parking only	No Permit
21/10/2017	1320hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No permit
23/10/2017	1024hrs	Town Range	Parked on yellow lines	Obstruction
31/10/2017	1025hrs	Cumberland Road	Cleaning Campaign	Cleaning Campaign
31/10/2017	1250hrs	Grand Parade	No permit	No Permit
31/10/2017	1610hrs	Landport Ditch	P&D ticket not displayed	Pay and Display

Nov-17

Date	Time	Location	Reason for Tow	Table Group
13/11/2017	1515hrs	Airport Car Park	No P&D ticket displayed	Pay and Display
14/11/2017	1225hrs	Bayside Road	Obstruction	Obstruction
03/11/2017	0930hrs	Cemetery Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
06/11/2017	1540hrs	Coaling Island	Blocking in other vehicles	Obstruction
01/11/2017	0920hrs	Fish Market Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
03/11/2017	1302hrs	Grand Parade	Was not displaying residents permit	No Permit
07/11/2017	1310hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/11/2017	1305hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/11/2017	1320hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
08/11/2017	1400hrs	Grand Parade	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/11/2017	0945hrs	Harbour Views Road	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
13/11/2017	1300hrs	JT Airport Compound	Private car park- no pass	Parking Restrictions
13/11/2017	1700hrs	Landport Ditch	Expired P&D ticket	Pay and Display
11/11/2017	1435hrs	Linewall Road	Poppy Day clearance	Poppy Day Clearance
11/11/2017	1700hrs	Linewall Road	Poppy Day clearance	Poppy Day Clearance
01/11/2017	1310hrs	North Mole Road	Exceeding max time at loading bay	Exceeding max stay
01/11/2017	1515hrs	Ocean Village	Parking in Keep Clear area	Parking Restrictions
09/11/2017	1015hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
09/11/2017	1045hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign
09/11/2017	1315hrs	Western Beach Car Park	Obstructing Cleaning Area (Cleaning Campaign)	Cleaning Campaign

Q703/2017

**Private parking spaces and garages resulting in loss of public parking spaces –
Technical Services' support or objections**

Clerk: Question 703. The Hon. L F Llamas.

355 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since December 2011, can the Government provide details of cases where the Technical Services department have supported or objected to regarding the development of private parking and garages being constructed which have resulted in loss of public parking spaces, including (a) the date, (b) the number of public parking lost or potentially
360 lost, (c) the number of private parking/garages applied for, and (d) the reasons why the application was supported or objected to?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

365 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, the Technical Services department is a consultee to the Town Planning department on all planning applications received by them.

Technical Services comment on matters relating to civil engineering, highways and sewerage infrastructure. They do not, however, maintain a database of the comments that they provide to
370 the Town Planning department, as this is beyond their remit.

Since December 2011 there have been a total of 2,818 planning applications and 89 demolition applications and it would therefore be an extremely laborious task to check through all the applications and comments to identify those instances where the department supported or objected to an application regarding the creation of private parking spaces or garages.

375 Technical Services has discussed the matter with Town Planning, who hold the repository for applications, and they too have confirmed that checking applications for that particular information being requested would require a manual search, which would be laborious and time consuming. Minutes of the DPC meetings, which this Government made public and which are now online, may disclose some such information. The hon. Gentleman has access
380 to those minutes and can review them for himself.

Notwithstanding the above, the Technical Services department can confirm that, as a general rule, if the application involves the creation of more car parking spaces within the property/garage than will be removed from the public highway, then the proposal would be supported on the basis that this will produce a net gain of parking – e.g. removal of one car
385 parking on the public highway to create two or more within the property or status quo.

On a final point, whilst this is Technical Services' position on these matters, it is ultimately the Traffic Commission who have the authority on these matters and they in turn also advise Town Planning on whether particular applications are approved or not.

390 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, coming back to Question 701, can I ask what the Government is doing with regard to the unpaid FPNs, which seem to be quite a lot in some cases? There are more unpaid than paid, especially –

Mr Speaker: If we are going to discuss FPNs again, I think it would be useful for the general
395 public who may be watching these proceedings to know that FPNs are Fixed Penalty Notices.

Hon. L F Llamas: Yes, Mr Speaker, you are right; unfortunately, we have become accustomed to calling the abbreviated version of it in this House.

Could I ask what the Government is doing with regard to the unpaid Fixed Penalty Notices
400 going back ... from May, June and July in particular, which are quite high months, where the ratio is that there are more unpaid than paid Fixed Penalty Notices?

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, every effort is made to follow up and get offenders to pay for their FPNs. There are circumstances whereby it is extremely difficult because the addresses for the particular vehicle in question may not be correct and therefore the NIP may arrive at the wrong address because the person has not changed their details, for example, or a sale has occurred and the information is incorrect. There are quite a few occasions whereby we struggle to find the person in question, and that is predominantly, I think, one of the main reasons why fines remain unpaid, but every effort is made to chase up these records and, remember, these, do remain on file.

Mr Speaker: The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, just a supplementary question in relation to that. It is a good question that the hon. Member makes in relation to unpaid fines because, clearly, if you cannot identify individuals within the system who should be paying these fines, you have an inordinate expense of trying to locate them, for one, and you have hundreds of fines out there unpaid, which are unlikely to be paid because the system clearly has not been updated to include the new addresses of individuals.

Does the Government consider whether there needs to be a legal requirement imposed on individuals so that they have to update their details with the relevant Department?

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, as far as I am aware, there is a legal requirement that when a sale takes place the owner should, in terms of the forms provided and the log book, pass on the details to the Department. If that does not happen, then obviously it is another issue, but it is obviously serious because we cannot track these people down. Clearly, it is something which we are looking at as a Department because it is not acceptable, this question of chasing these people in that respect.

Hon. E J Phillips: Just one other supplementary question. I agree, it must be extremely difficult, but we are looking at hundreds of fines here where people should really be paying their dues when they become due insofar as the fines are concerned. It is very difficult if you are just relying on the sale of vehicles in order to update the information, particularly when you cannot locate individuals, and it is likely – and I am sure the Minister would agree – that these fines are likely to be unrecoverable in the future.

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, it could be the case where a fine could be unrecoverable. Every effort is made, but it is a legal obligation. When you sell a car on you need to notify the Department and they should keep up-to-date records for this particular reason. But obviously there are quite a few occasions when this is not possible. As I said, the Ministry is looking at ways to improve this, but this is something which has been the case for years and years and we do accept it is something that we have inherited and it is something which has been a fact for many years. But it is a legal obligation. I think people are aware and the forms do state when you pass on a vehicle ... And it does happen. In all fairness, when you sell a car, some of it is that goodwill that goes on. You sign your part of the form and the person is meant to sign their part of the form, and that does not happen. So all that process is being looked at together.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, I apologise, but just one more. Clearly, the example that my hon. Friend is giving, the Minister, is in relation to when a purchase is sold and bought by individuals, but what happens in the case where one just simply has a vehicle for years and does not sell it but does not update their details? Clearly there is an entire historical backlog of fines that remain unpaid. I appreciate that this may be something that he may have inherited from a previous administration, but clearly, in the context of that situation, surely there must be something that the Government can do to ensure that fines are paid.

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, the whole matter is being addressed, but as the hon. Member
455 rightly says, it is not just at the point of sale. People do move addresses, people do change
addresses, and at every single MOT, in theory, that should be carried out and there should be a
check of addresses.

It is very difficult because it does happen in Gibraltar where people remain at their parents'
address even though they have moved away. There is a lot of that happening, where people
460 remain at their old address because somebody related to them remains at that address, and that
is a problem. But as I said, the Department is looking at all these issues.

Because of FPNs related to speeding, it is something which has come to light even more so in
that respect because this is not a policeman at the end of the gun stopping you and taking down
details, this is an automated system which takes a photograph of the car and then it is up to the
465 Government or the officials to look and search for the person who committed the offence. As I
said, the Department is looking at this to see how we can, if possible, update the log books,
because it is an issue – and not just what we inherited, it is what the previous administration
inherited themselves. It is something that has been the case for many years, but as a result of
this new system of capturing FPNs automatically through machines, speed cameras, the
470 importance of it is being highlighted even more so.

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Edwin Reyes.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, if I may – and I know you like us to put things as a question – is
475 the Minister fully satisfied that the best type of customer service relationship exists?

I have spent the last month having to help a particular constituent who received a Fixed
Penalty Notice issued in his name to the proper address, claiming that there was an offence
committed by registration number such and such, and it was identified as a vehicle of a
particular colour. This constituent came to see me and said, 'The vehicle I own happens to be a
480 motorbike, not a car as stated in this fine,' and the colour obviously is now totally irrelevant and
the location where the parking offence is supposed to have taken place is nowhere near an area
where he frequents.

In trying to help this individual I picked up the phone and rang the office there. I was told in a
very courteous – not rude, but very courteous – manner, 'In order to cancel that, you have got
485 to come here to the office, fill in a form and sign it.' When I relayed that message to the
individual he said, 'I'm not going to take a day's leave to sort out what is an administrative error,
because I have made this attempt to correct it.' So I said, 'Well, look, it's up to you what you do.'
Within a month he got another reminder letter. This time, I went in person and they said, 'Look,
we know you mean well, but you are not the person named here. I am sorry, we cannot deal
490 with you.' So the matter remains pending and unresolved with the individual fearing that he is
going to receive a notice to make an appearance in court for failure to pay a fine, having to take
a day's leave to appear there to then find that the vehicle does not belong to him.

With a little bit of detective work, because Gibraltar is relatively small and we were able to
find out, it now appears that because one has the model of the car and the colour we have
495 found that the registration number is a mistake – made by the officer issuing the parking ticket –
with the letter at the end. This individual was able to do that in his leisure time. Surely those
who are being paid could, somehow or another, go on the computer system and say, 'Have we
made a mistake and put an A instead of a B or a C?' It is all to do with customer relationships
that may or may not help us collectively to solve this problem. I pose that to the Minister.

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for his positive contribution.

As I said, there is a cancellation process and sometimes ... This is the first complaint of that
nature that I have heard, and undoubtedly there may be others but if Notice of Intended
Prosecution is sent to you erroneously, then it should be possible to be able to sort that out
505 without having to go there. But if that fails, there is a process and the risk is that if the

cancellation is not carried out there could be the situation whereby you could receive a letter or summons to go to court for that purpose.

I thank you for your contribution and if it is somebody specifically we can have a chat behind the Speaker's Chair and I will look into the issue for the hon. Gentleman, but I suppose it is something that can happen – I cannot say that it will not.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker, if I may.

Mr Speaker: This is the last supplementary I will accept on this question.

Hon. T N Hammond: Thank you, and the question is not related to any question that has been asked so far.

Mr Speaker, during the Minister's initial answer to Question 701 he referenced the fact that the RGP screen a number of vehicles before sending out the Fixed Penalty Notices. I believe Emergency Services were one of those categories but I think he also said forward-facing motorbikes and I just want a clarification as to as opposed to a backward facing motorbike, or is that the aspect of the motorbike? Just a little bit of clarification. And is it the case, therefore, that motorbikes that are photographed by a speed camera in their forward-facing aspect are not being fined or cannot be fined, or are they taken down a different mechanism?

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, I think we have had this discussion before in Parliament. There are cameras at the moment ... not all cameras can take pictures in both directions, so what happens is that if a person is caught with a motorbike forward facing there is no number plate in the picture; hence at the moment, depending on the sight, unless the motorbike is going at a horrendously high speed – which I have mentioned before generally is over 100 kph, whereby the Police will then look at it as dangerous driving or careless driving and they will go for the individual in question by other means – they will try to visually recognise the person without having to use the number plate.

There are a few cameras that will not take rear-facing pictures and in fact we have already received equipment to be able to tackle that issue. Remember, when we brought out the speed cameras it was a pilot study, it was something that was needed, something that we had never had in Gibraltar before, and they were placed in different locations trying to maximise the use of these cameras as far as possible. It is not possible to have a camera facing each direction because it would not be viable in that respect. Now we are looking at other methods whereby we can start capturing vehicles from the rear or from the front.

But the screening process does happen where the RGP actually look at the speed camera results, making sure that they are not emergency vehicles, making sure that they are legitimately offenders, they are not persons who cannot be traced or are emergency services attending to a fire emergency, or whatever. That is why there is a screening process.

Mr Speaker: I am going to allow the Hon. Lawrence Llamas to raise a matter arising from the schedule to Question 702.

Hon. L F Llamas: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Looking at the schedule from Question 702/2017, which relates to the foreign vehicles which have been towed away, the majority of these vehicles have been towed away from cleaning campaigns and pay-and-display parking areas. I wanted to ask the Government if they will review the towing away of vehicles because obviously people have failed to display their ticket in the appropriate place in a public pay-and-display area. It would make sense that if they are

going to have to be fined and clamped, they do not then have to actually go and search for the vehicle because the FPN is going to exceed what the daily rate of that ticket would be.

560 Would the Government consider not having to remove the physical vehicles if they are not actually obstructing anything which can be avoided in terms of not having to tow them away and look at that policy so that the person does not receive a negative impact when they are visiting Gibraltar?

Hon. P J Balban: Mr Speaker, clearly the fine, whatever that may be, will generally be more
565 than the figure that they would have had to pay if they had done it properly and had paid at the pay-and-display machine, regardless of whether it is a ticket in the window for £25, whether it is a clamp which guarantees the same, or whether the vehicle is towed away.

If you look at the schedule, there are vehicles that are towed away but for different circumstances, different reasons. If there is a clear obstruction to the highway then it is towed
570 away. If it is obstructing the cleaning campaign as well and the company involved, Master Service, cannot get round and do the cleaning, a decision is taken whether to remove the vehicle or not. It is impossible to clean if the vehicle remains there.

Just generally there are a lot of complaints, because there are both sides to the coin: those people who feel that this poor person has come across, a tourist, and they have been punished
575 for illegally parking; and there are others who say, 'Well, if you just place a ticket on the window ... or a clamp on the car you immobilise it, but I cannot use that parking, it remains out of use for me.' That happens a lot as well and you get a lot of pressure from people saying, 'What do I do?' That has happened very often in residential parking schemes, for example, where there is a vehicle which is constantly offending and the residents are saying, 'This car has not got a permit.
580 What's going to happen?' We will place FPNs and we will try to control it to a certain level and not any further, and eventually we need to tow the car away.

So it very much depends on the circumstances, but if you look at the schedule provided it is not that any particular area has been targeted more than others. There is a very clear idea that it is happening throughout Gibraltar and not necessarily just areas where you expect tourists to
585 be.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker –
590

Mr Speaker: Well, briefly. We have to move on.

Hon. T N Hammond: I understand, but this is on Question 702 rather than ...

595 **Mr Speaker:** Okay.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker, it is just to understand whether Government has a particular policy or has implemented a policy or provided guidance to the companies who operate the towing of vehicles, considering that back in May 2016 we appear to have one
600 vehicle towed, in July 2016 one vehicle, and then we come to May 2017 and it is something approximating 100 vehicles towed, and that trend, although it subsides somewhat, continues after that point. Has Government actually given instructions for a ... And this is not a criticism in any way; it is just to understand whether Government has given instructions for more vehicles to be towed away or whether this has just happened organically in some way.

605 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the company responsible for providing this service operate themselves; they are not told to clamp more, tow away more or whatever.

There are certain key dates, if you look at the chart, where certain things have happened which perhaps have led to an increase in the fines or towing etc., and it could be, for example, when a residential parking scheme comes into effect or when there is an area which is due for
610 cleaning and it is a big area.

So it very much depends on the date in question, but I do recall that around ... For example, if you look at May, there are quite a few that have come from cleaning campaigns. Again, cleaning happens generally once a month. If, for example, an area is being left dirty because cars are constantly parking in the same places or the same cars keep on offending, then obviously there
615 is a need to clear those vehicles up and it could be that they are towed away.

But generally what has been the case with the residential parking scheme is that especially with zone 1 there has been an increase attributed to that, and as we roll out the other residential parking schemes that will happen. There is also generally a period of grace, so we will start off, we launch the scheme, give it grace, and then we have to start acting because
620 otherwise, if we are very lenient, the scheme fails from the start. It does not perform the function we expect it to and that is to the detriment of all residents.

This is obviously a tool that we have. It is the only way that we can actually make a scheme a success – or just turn a blind eye and it will not work. I think it is the company's responsibility to actually ascertain, to look, review and see how they manage this for us.

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND EDUCATION

Q704/2017

Sewage treatment plant – Technical specification; awarding of contract

625 **Clerk:** Question 704. The Hon. T N Hammond.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Speaker, further to Questions 449/2015, 8/2016, 332/2016, the Minister's speech during the Appropriation Bill and Question 630/2016, can the Minister provide an update on whether the technical specification for the sewage treatment plant is now
630 understood and when Government might be in a position to award a contract?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

635 **Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):** Mr Speaker, yes, sir, discussions have commenced with a preferred bidder, but given the position of the former Leader of the Opposition that we should not comment publicly on contracts until the ink is dry on agreements, it would be inappropriate to say more at this stage.

640 **Mr Speaker:** Next question.

Q705/2017
Urban Renewal Programme –
Update

Clerk: Question 705. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, what has happened to the Urban Renewal Programme announced on 13th June 2013?

645

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):
650 Mr Speaker, much has already been done in respect of urban renewal in the Upper Town in pursuit of the programme. Hon. Members can see progress for themselves if they care to wander in our magnificent Upper Town, although there is undoubtedly much yet to do.

Hon. Mr L F Llamas: Does the Minister have a schedule of what has been done and what
655 remains to be done?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: No, sir.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q706/2017
Upper Rock –
Entrance fees

660 **Clerk:** Question 706. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, is the Government reviewing the Upper Rock entrance fees? If so, can it reveal what changes will be made?

665 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):
Mr Speaker, yes, it is. Details will be provided in due course.

Q707/2017
Dance and performing arts courses –
Grants awarded

670 **Clerk:** Question 707. The Hon. E J Reyes.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Education provide details in respect of all grants awarded during this current financial year, other than mandatory grants, to any students in respect of dance or performing arts courses, indicating if these courses being followed will be

675 in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, as well as indicating the qualification expected to be attained upon successful completion of said courses?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

680

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes): Mr Speaker, all of our students undertaking a dance or performing arts course this financial year have been awarded mandatory grants.

685

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, may I clarify – mandatory grants being restricted to those who have completed A-level or A-level equivalent type of education?

690

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, mandatory grants in the normal manner of mandatory grants as opposed to the discretionary awards, which are for those who maybe come into a course later on or have not quite got the grades. That is the difference, as the hon. Member is well aware.

695

Hon. E J Reyes: Therefore, Mr Speaker, can I ... perhaps the wording in my question because I have asked in respect of grants awarded ... It could have been that a grant has been awarded but a course has not yet commenced. Is the Minister in his answer covering that? Or maybe because of the way I have put ... the answer ... I am giving him the benefit of the doubt, sir.

700

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, the team in the Department of Education have looked at students currently undergoing dance or performing arts courses and have checked against those who are actually undergoing it now whether they are mandatory, and the answer is that all of them are. Therefore, the ones that are not, the answer is zero, which is the answer that I have given.

705

If there is any specific course or any specific student the hon. Member is referring to, perhaps he could ask me separately and I will be very happy to look into any particular case, but this is the information that has been extracted from our database.

710

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, if I take your leave, perhaps it may be better and save parliamentary time if the Hon. Minister and I meet behind the Speaker's Chair later and then we can follow it up if required.

Mr Speaker: Indeed, because I seriously consider that the question as framed has been answered.

Q708/2017
School classes –
Number of pupils

Clerk: Question 708. The Hon. L F Llamas.

715

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a schedule of the number of pupils in each class during each school year since September 2012 as prepared by the Department of Education in preparation for the commencement of each academic year, stating (a) the year the class relates to, (b) the school the class belongs to, (c) the number of children

with special needs, (d) the number of learning support assistants, (e) the number of teachers, and (f) any other staff allocated to each class?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes): Mr Speaker, questions (a) to (d) were answered by me in reply to Question 612/2017 as overall figures per school.

As I have explained previously, allocations can change on a daily basis and so numbers per class cannot be provided overall. This applies similarly to (e) and (f), in fact possibly more so.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, we always seem to stumble on this question. I find it hard to believe that the Department of Education would not have prepared a certain figure for each class and the number of pupils who would be attending each class. I understand that things could fluctuate but I am asking for class figures in order to know what the statistics are in all schools and an overall figure will simply not suffice.

Is the hon. Member able to answer this question, albeit following this session by e-mail as he has done on other occasions?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, the hon. Member has asked very similar questions repeatedly over the last few sessions, always with a slight difference in wording. I have asked him –

Mr Speaker: That is why it gets by the Speaker, otherwise it would not. It is because there is a difference and it is not quite the same question that I am allowing it, but I can recognise the problems that the Minister has in trying to provide the information to the questions.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, I was not at all questioning that they had got through because, as I said before in my answer, there are subtle differences in the questions. But I fail to see what the hon. Member is getting to. If he were to sit with me and tell me, 'This is my concern and this is why I am asking,' then perhaps I would be able to assist.

We get asked for huge quantities of information on a regular basis, all very similar, when I have explained that the classrooms themselves have to be flexible and particularly when we get to learning support assistance and special educational needs when, as I have explained before, some children are assessed and they move on to the SEN group and then perhaps issues are resolved and they move back. It is very difficult to give this information.

If there is a specific problem that the hon. Member wants to catch me out on, ask me point blank and I will try and assist him in catching me out, but it is very difficult to get the information together in this way time after time.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, I am not trying to catch the Hon. Minister out on anything other than to get the information which I think is relevant. *(Interjection by Hon. Dr J E Cortes)* Well, it is relevant concerns with which parents come to me about class sizes. *(Interjection by Hon. Dr J E Cortes)* Well, Mr Speaker, all I want to do is to get statistics in order to just allay those fears and just lay out what the statistics are, and I do not think I am asking for any information which is too difficult to compile when the Department would have compiled this information in preparation for each academic year.

770 Obviously, I do have to tweak the questions in order to get them through, because I am not getting the answers I want – and it is not the answer that I want the Minister to give me; I just want the answer of what the statistics are.

Mr Speaker: If the hon. Member is not getting the answer that he wants here in Parliament, I would suggest to him that he accept the invitation of the Minister, go and see the Minister and try to thrash the matter out, and then come back to Parliament if necessary.
775 Next question.

Q709-717/2017

New and refurbished schools –

**Timeline and impact of works on students; completion dates;
consultation with experts; impact on traffic and transport;
populating of co-ed schools; proposals for Bayside and St Martins sites**

Clerk: Question 709. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government explain what construction works will be carried out beside schools whilst in use and the estimated timeline of the same?
780

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):
785 Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 710 to 717.

Clerk: Question 710. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government reveal what changes will current pupils be expected to adapt to from September 2017 until the new/refurbished schools are delivered?
790

Clerk: Question 711. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government reveal the estimated timeline for delivering each new or refurbished school?
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Clerk: Question 712. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, has the Government consulted with experts outside of Gibraltar on the new schools?
800

Clerk: Question 713. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, has the Government undertaken a traffic and transport impact assessment for the proposed new schools?
805

Clerk: Question 714. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, how will the Government conduct the populating of the two co-educational schools?
810

Clerk: Question 715. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

815 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Can Government give details of the proposed future for the Bayside and St Martin's Schools sites once these have been vacated?

Clerk: Question 716. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

820 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Will the existing schools that will be undergoing refurbishment be worked on while pupils are present in the schools?

Clerk: Question 717. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

825 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Following last week's – or actually a couple of weeks ago now, given the parliamentary postponing – attendance by the Chief Minister and Minister for Education at the general meeting held with teachers, can Government confirm whether teachers are happy with the proposed new schools as well as with the plans for the schools that will be undergoing refurbishment?

830 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):
835 Mr Speaker, construction of Notre Dame will be carried out next to the current Notre Dame, after which St Anne's will be built next to the new Notre Dame. Construction will be carried out in a timely manner with as minimum disruption as possible and plans are in place to achieve this. This will be done by September 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Current pupils are just as important as those entering the system in 2019 and therefore their educational journey will not be compromised or affected in any way.

840 In answer to Question 711, Notre Dame School, 8.45 a.m., Monday, 3rd September 2018; the remainder 8.45 a.m., Monday, 2nd September 2019.

In answer to Question 712, yes, it has.

In answer to Question 713, the Government is, of course, undertaking this.

845 In answer to Question 714, details of the options of how this is to be achieved are given in the published Co-Education Report.

In answer to Question 715, expressions of interest have been invited for these sites.

There will be occasions – in relation to Question 716 – when this is inevitable, although we clearly will keep disruption to a minimum and ensure in particular that teaching and examinations are not affected and that absolute safety is ensured.

850 In answer to Question 717, our guiding principle has to be whether the proposed changes will improve the education of future generations of children who will go on to become the citizens of tomorrow. We have carried out a wide consultation exercise, and every indication is that teachers and the general public at large are happy overall. With any major change process there will always be diverging opinions and I, of course, respect these.

855

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Marlene Hassan Nahon.

860 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, if I may interject on Question 713 as a supplementary: considering the transport impact assessment, wouldn't it have been more practical to have undertaken this assessment before designs were put out, because at this point whatever result comes out is pretty limited anyway, considering that the schools are going ahead, so even if we get a very negative report how can we change things anyway at this point?

865 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, we are in a stage when we can still make changes to the actual layout, particularly in those that are being designed now beyond the concept stage. Obviously, we are limited to the sites we have available in Gibraltar and there will be a certain amount of adaptation, but I am confident that if any major problems are identified we will be able to address these in the best manner possible.

870 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, following up on Question 713, from my understanding the parking underground at co-ed schools, for example, is going to be sold off. Will the Government be increasing public transport links to that area?

875 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, this is one of the matters that will be assessed in time for the opening of the new school in September 2019.

880 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Given, for example, Mr Speaker, that we will now have two co-educational schools where 2,000 pupils will be in one location and then we are going to have St Anne's and Notre Dame both together in the new location, this is going to come with its own impact in terms of transport and access. Is this not something that the Government has already taken into account?

885 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, is what something that the Government has already taken into account?

Hon. L F Llamas: The access to these new schools.

890 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, it is taken into account. We are now refining as to how we can ensure that there is only minimum adverse effect, if any at all.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, in relation to Question 712, I did not catch whether the Government has consulted with experts. However, the Education Minister has stated that schools that cater for over 2,000 pupils are undesirable and therefore I would like the Government to explain how they have concluded that two co-educational schools within the same campus is any better and of more benefit to the students.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, because they are two schools and not one.

900 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Is there a model that the Government has based this idea on, or is it a concept that this Government has come up with?

905 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Mr Speaker, we have two comprehensive schools at the moment. The Government committed to that, as opposed to the party that the hon. Member stood with, who wanted to convert into one, and we are being consistent because that is our policy and that had the wide support of the teaching profession at the time.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, a point of order, sir.

910 **Mr Speaker:** Yes.

Hon. E J Reyes: The Minister has referred that the party on this side obviously referring to the GSD, wanted to merge them into one I disagree with that completely, Mr Speaker. I think if we leave that out then the Minister, the hon. Member, can continue answering the question, but to bring us into it with a fact, or with what is alleged as a fact, which I would then need to refute is just wasting parliamentary time.

Mr Speaker: As I understand it, the Minister is referring to the policy that was promulgated by the GSD – is that the correct position, or isn't it?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: That is what I said.

920 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, the policy that was announced during the last General Election was clear. The GSD was not a proponent of a mega-school, the language that was used by the Government. In respect of our policy it is quite clear what we decided we wanted to do and that was to create an option for co-education, and of course we would have consulted with those
925 stakeholders in relation to education. There was never the inkling of one mega-school; that is completely wrong. There was a TV debate that I had with the Hon. Neil Costa in relation to that very issue and it was language that was used by the GSLP to denigrate the policy of the GSD in relation to the principle of co-education. This party had put forward the policy and it is the Government on the other side that has sought to copy the idea of co-education completely.
930 Therefore, we commend them, of course, for taking on board our ideas on co-education, of constituting a committee to advise the Government in relation to co-education, but of course we commend them for bringing forward a GSD policy.

Mr Speaker: Which we are not going to debate. The GSD policy is not going to be debated.
935 We have a number of questions seeking information. Information is being provided by the Government. I am not allowing a debate on the education policy either of the Government or of the Opposition at this stage.

If you want to have a debate, by all means put down a motion for the next meeting of the House. Perhaps it will be a very salutary thing to do, given the announcements which the
940 Government has made. I invite you to do that.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, I think it is absolutely right that we should not have a debate on GSD policy because, first of all, we are dealing with an individual who is no longer in the GSD, although he stood with the GSD and the issues that were being put to him
945 were the things that were in the GSD manifesto.

I think actually we are debating PDP policy, because I think the first to propose co-education were the PDP. I recognise that there is, in effect, what one newspaper this morning has called a takeover of the GSD by the PDP, so I would be delighted to pursue the issue there.

But let's be very clear, Mr Speaker: in our manifesto, the manifesto which people selected at the last election by a ratio of two to one, there was a commitment to look at co-education in the way that we have done.
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And so, Mr Speaker, the only issue that really falls to be considered is whether or not – and this is the issue, I think, being explored by Mr Llamas and which I wish to give him comfort on from here, as the Hon. Minister has done – whether we are looking at a mega-school or whether
955 we are looking at two schools. The policy that he defended at the General Election was to have one comprehensive. You cannot have anything other than co-education, Mr Speaker, if you only have one comprehensive, whatever consultation you may do, unless you have one comprehensive with classes just of boys and classes just of girls, and I think also including the college. We are not going down the route of one institution; we are going down the route of two
960 institutions, two separate institutions.

Whether hon. Members want to get into a tug of war with the building and say, 'Right, if those two buildings are 500 metres apart, then I'm satisfied it's two schools; if they're half a mile apart, they are definitely two schools; if they're 450 metres apart, then I'm going to call it one school even if it is two schools.' I put it to the hon. Gentleman that that is what they are going to get into if they start looking at the geography of this issue. You have two institutions here. They are close to each other and they share one area, which is the library, and there is a simple reason for that in terms of the resources of this community: do you put cash into building two
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libraries? Let's just say, for the purposes of this argument, you put £100,000 into building the libraries and you then put £200,000 into acquiring books for each of the libraries; or do you put one set of building costs in and have double the resources available to purchase books for the boys and girls who are going to be in the institutions? That is what we have been consulting on, that is what we have been working on and that is what we think produces the best result; and it is a better result than a mega-school, which – the hon. Gentleman is absolutely right – is not what they said they would do at the last election. It is what we said they said they would do at the last election because we just had to look at the plans to see that the proposal that they were making created the sort of school that had been roundly rejected in the United Kingdom by the teaching profession as being bad for the pupil and being bad for the teachers. That is what we are not going to do, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Hon. E J Phillips: One question in relation to ... I am grateful to the Chief Minister for explaining his position in relation to GSD policy, but it is evident from the numbers of questions that have been asked by the opposite sides of this side of the House, Mr Speaker ... it is quite clear that there is a genuine interest from parents and members of the community as to the detail of the Government's ambitious – in their own words – programme to deliver education for our community for the next 30, 40, 50 years for our community.

My question to the Minister is this: is he willing to explain more of the detail as to their programme on rolling out new schools for our community? It is quite clear from questions that have been asked in this House, that not enough answers have been given by the Government in relation to schools.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, of course the details will be given. The details are being shared already. I have held meetings with teachers, I have held meetings with parents; the Director of Education has had meetings with both. More meetings are scheduled. Some of the matters are currently under discussion; some of the more intricate designs of the comprehensive schools are currently being worked through in working groups of teachers. So of course the details will be made available and anybody who wants them, all they have to do is ask.

I have answered the questions here. Every question that has been asked has been answered. They may not like the answer or agree with what I am saying but we are hiding absolutely nothing at all.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, sir, arising from the Chief Minister's explanations, he said – I hope I deduced it correctly – the only shared facility would be that of the library. Can the Chief Minister or the Minister then reconcile why teachers of secondary schools are being told as recently as this week that, for example, for the teaching of a hairdressing type of course the students will only be set up in one school and the students have to commute? Is that not the same as sharing the facility?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Speaker, a point of order. Crossing the patio has never been described seriously as commuting in the English language.

Hon. E J Reyes: Sorry, Mr Speaker, then I amend that word as being that of taking a walk across a brief area.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, we are currently involved in designing the precise allocation of space in the two new comprehensive schools, and we are currently involved at the same time in developing new vocational courses. Therefore, we have to consider in the two schools, where

1020 we do not believe there will be enough take between all the boys and girls to, for example, have two hairdressing facilities, which of the schools will host that, and then the other school will host possibly something completely different.

Hon. Chief Minister: As is the case today.

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Exactly, as is the case today when there is a sixth form consortium. It only means that if we start vocational courses at the equivalent of GCSE we may have to have the consortium working further down for specific things which we should not, in a space the size of Gibraltar, provide two of, and the fact that the schools are different but close together means it is easier for students of the two schools, where there are two separate uniforms, to not commute but walk across the patio in order to make use of those facilities. It makes –

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Hon. Chief Minister: Which is what happens today.

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Exactly, instead of going further. So, Mr Speaker, it makes absolute sense and it is being developed in conjunction with the teachers.

Hon. Chief Minister: And that was through consultation.

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Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, the Chief Minister has referred to efficient use of cash and effective economies of scale, and the Minister has just referred to efficient use of resources. Can I ask the Minister whether his Department has undertaken any kind of economic impact analysis as to allocation of resources and indeed the funding of the schools? And does he have at this moment in time any indication of what the cost of building these schools would be to share with us; or if he were not willing to share that with us today, would he be willing to share that with us if I tabled a specific question?

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, I am asked by the current Leader – I will not say ‘temporary’, the *current* Leader of the Opposition – as to whether I am going to provide information, and the former Leader of the Opposition obviously did not hear information that has already been stated in the past. We have said that, because there is going to be a tender process, we are not in a position and we are not willing to put across in the public domain our estimated costs of the school.

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Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Minister.

May I ask him just one supplementary on this? In his estimation, is it the Government’s expectation that the costs of construction less the sale of the existing land would effectively be cost neutral to the Government, or will there be a net cost to the Government – or you just do not know?

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Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman seems to want to make everyone the Minister for Finance except the Minister for Finance and he is asking questions of the Minister for Education, who is very good at finance, what the issues of the financing of the schools are. The answer to the question in relation to the financing of the schools remains as I set out in my answer to him in the last Parliament. But, Mr Speaker, that calculation that he wants us to do I do not think is a wise one for him to invite us to do if we are both keen to ensure that we get the best possible value for the taxpayer when it comes to the competitive process for the building of these schools that I have told him we are going to embark on.

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Mr Speaker: The Hon. Lawrence Llamas.

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Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, I would like to ask if the Government will be engaging in a formal consultation with teachers and parents in the coming months before the details are finalised.

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, I am not sure in relation to what – obviously not co-education; that is done and dusted.

Mr Speaker: Before the plans are finalised.

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: The teachers are currently involved in developing and designing the content of the school, the detail, the allocation, and so the answer to that is yes; and I have already reached out to those schools which have a parents association in order to give an opportunity to discuss it with them.

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Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, I think this will be the final supplementary.

Did the Government consider providing secondary education at schools in other locations in Gibraltar – for example, in the north and the south?

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Hon. L F Llamas: Would it be possible to know what other locations the Government did consider?

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Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Speaker, I have said publicly on a number of occasions and I will say again that one of the hardest things to deal with in politics in Gibraltar is the Rubik's Cube of where you put one thing and where you put another. So, when you consider an issue like this you consider *every* potential location, because even if hon. Members might think that there is something on it today, the Government is in a position to move something that may be there today or harry along those that may be there today with inducement or otherwise. So every possible location has been considered and this is the location that has been considered, for a number of reasons, to be the most appropriate.

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We are entirely committed to ensuring that we deliver on our manifesto commitment and the additional opportunities that we have identified; we think this is the right way to do it. The hon. Gentleman is now conducting that consultation exercise. He is taking people's views on board, whether they are teachers or whether they are parents. I do not know how many times we can say it, Mr Speaker, but if the hon. Gentleman simply wants to give us an opportunity to just reaffirm that, the Government is entirely committed to that process of consultation which we have indicated we are embarked on.

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Hon. E J Phillips: Just one question in relation to Question 712 in relation to the experts the Government has consulted, or taken opinions from, in relation to the new schools. Can the Government confirm who and what type of experts they are?

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: This is in the form of visits to highly regarded schools in the UK and discussions with the education authorities in that part of the UK. Both a part of my Department's team and some teachers have attended meetings in the UK at those schools, which includes a – *(Interjection by Hon. Chief Minister)* Oh, yes, thank you, a very relevant point that had escaped me for a moment. Apart from the fact that the team has visited schools in the UK, the design models are based on the latest Department for Education modelling of school construction and design in the UK. So we have actually used the latest UK Department for Education types of modelling and we have been in touch with people in the Department for Education who design

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schools. So we have done both the general guidelines for design and also visited actual schools to learn from their experiences there.

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HOUSING AND EQUALITY

Q718/2017

Government rental homes –

Urgent decanting of tenants

Clerk: Question 718. The Hon. E J Reyes.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Housing provide details of how many tenants required urgent decanting from their homes since the answer provided to Question 179/2017, indicating the reason why, the date when said decanting became necessary and the date when the tenants were able to return to their home?

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Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, since the answer to Question 179/2017, six tenants have required urgent decanting from their homes as a result of fires, substantial water ingress and major works. One was decanted in March, one in April, one in August and three in September. Except for one household, all tenants have returned to their flats in June, September and October.

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Hon. E J Reyes: And the one who has not returned, Mr Speaker, is the one who left the house in which month, so at least it gives an indication of how long that person has had to be away from their home?

Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: The remaining one, Mr Speaker, was decanted on the last day of September and is due to return imminently – hopefully this week.

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Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q719/2017

Government rental homes –

Eviction of squatters

Clerk: Question 719. The Hon. E J Reyes.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Can the Minister for Housing say how much expenditure has been incurred in respect of legal costs relating to the eviction of squatters from Government rental homes since the answer to Question 180/2017, providing a breakdown showing the number of homes involved and to whom payments were made?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, Triay & Triay have been paid a total of £1,045 in relation to evictions from two properties.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

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Q720/2017

**Government rental homes –
Expenditure re contracts for making suitable for reallocation**

Clerk: Question 720. The Hon. E J Reyes.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Can the Minister for Housing provide details of all expenditure incurred since the answers to Question 181/2017 and Question W74/2017 in respect of contracts awarded for making empty homes suitable for reallocation, stating to whom payments were made, how much has been paid, the number of residential homes pertaining to each payment, as well as indicating the type or nature of repair works or cleaning services undertaken?

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Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, details are as follows: Keyway, £17,227 for two properties; Accoria Services Co Ltd, £7,140 for one property; A&K General Services Builders, £35,933 for two properties; GJBS, £89,945 for 23 properties; Elite, £29,554 for two properties; Strait Overseas, £9,809 for one property; Ace Plumbing, £7,400 for one property; 501 Construction, £18,805 for two properties.

The works carried out by these companies were all for general refurbishment works, such as plastering walls, ceilings, taking down walls, painting, replacing floor tiles, doors, plumbing and electrical works.

Q721/2017

**Government rental homes –
Number reassigned from returned stock**

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Clerk: Question 721. The Hon. E J Reyes.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, further to the answer provided to Question W161/2017, can the Minister for Housing provide details of how many of the 11 rental homes which were in the process of being cleaned and refurbished have now been allocated and/or assigned, inclusive of room composition of said homes, from the stock returned by new tenants who have recently moved into Charles Bruzon House?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, since the answer to Question 161, a further five flats have been allocated.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I know from the previous answer that it was 11 and is now five, but I have asked here inclusive of the room composition of said homes. Looking at the answer I got to Question W161, where the Minister kindly listed all the 66, I have no idea of the room sizes or the composition of the 11 that had to be cleaned. Of those 11, five have been allocated but I have no idea what the size of those homes were, nor of the remaining six what the homes are. Perhaps the Minister

has that information, just to satisfy my ... I need this answer in order to continue my talk with constituents.

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Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Yes, Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman is right: I do not have it in my answer, nor do I have it as a supplementary. I am sorry, but I will provide it to the hon. Gentleman. I apologise, it has not been provided to me.

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Mr Speaker: Next question.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, may I? You know that the hon. Lady and I quite often are able to exchange information behind the Speaker's Chair. Can we have that undertaking, that as and when she gets the information from her staff she just passes it on to me? If it happens to be during a parliamentary session, so much the better because I think the Speaker then allows it to be tabled. If not, I am as not finicky. It does not require to be finicky – I will even accept it at any other stage, but as soon as humanly possible, given that her staff could be quite close to having that answer.

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Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Yes, Mr Speaker, I certainly undertake to provide it, though unfortunately I will not be able to do so during the course of this afternoon because the staff have now left. But as soon as I have the information, I will.

Q722/2017

Mons Calpe Mews – Sign-off of remedial works

Clerk: Question 722. The Hon. E J Reyes.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Further to the answer provided to Question W191/2017, can the Government say if and when the Mons Calpe Mews management company or management committee signed off all the remedial works as duly completed to their satisfaction, indicating if the said signing off has been done by the individual blocks or in respect of the construction project as a whole?

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Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, as in any construction project, it is the developer who signs off completion works and moneys are retained to ensure that any defects which may appear during the defects liability period are corrected. The management company or committee do not sign off on the works, although they are consulted and meetings arranged, if necessary, if they feel that there are problems that are not being solved.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Thank you, Mr Speaker. So the hon. Lady has at least corrected me in the right direction: it is not the management company who needs to sign it off. Could she indicate who it is that needs to sign it off? And if it is Government or a Government entity, what position are we at?

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Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Yes, Mr Speaker, of course. Government was the developer in relation to these projects and the contractor has not yet been issued with a making good certificate, so we have retained moneys in case anything arises, as is normal in the process of

1250 construction works, and we will deal with it as and when issues arise. As far as we are, I am satisfied that we do not have anything untoward or undue, but of course we will continue to retain these moneys until we are absolutely satisfied that there are no defects at all.

Hon. E J Reyes: I am grateful for that part of the answer, Mr Speaker.

1255 So that I do not necessarily repeat this again next month, is the Hon. Minister in a position to say, 'I expect it to be in three or six months,' so that I can make a note in my diary of when to pick up the question? I know you, Mr Speaker, even prefer me not to repeat it quite so often, so if the Minister indicates that it should be perhaps within the first quarter of 2018 or the second quarter, I can then flag it up and we will have an official answer for the record upon completion.

1260 **Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** The issue that we have outstanding, Mr Speaker, relates to water ingress issues that arose last year. These have been rectified, but before we can be satisfied whether they have been rectified properly or not we need to await the rains to pass. So, in terms of a time frame, perhaps the hon. Member can ask me in early summer, once we know that the heavy rains have ceased.

1265 **Mr Speaker:** So, in other words he should put down another question before the summer recess?

1270 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I would like to say that, because the Minister has been extremely honest in the way she has answered that, I am going to interpret 'early summer' as being once winter has been completed. So probably straight after the Easter recess, if we have one, or whatever, could be a good time.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Q723/2017

Government rental homes –

Outstanding arrears –

Question withdrawn

Clerk: Question 723. The Hon. E J Reyes.

1275 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, I have spoken with you, but for the benefit of Parliament this question is withdrawn.

I will be honest: there was an error in the way it has been written, it makes absolutely no sense and I apologise if I have wasted the Minister's time in drafting what would have been a ridiculous question, knowing what both she and I know is a true fact.

1280 I apologise. I hope my maths teacher forgives me as well!

Q724/2017

Government rental homes –

Details of properties allocated since December 2011

Clerk: Question 724. The Hon. L F Llamas.

1285 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since December 2011 to date, can the Government provide a schedule with a breakdown of Government rental homes which have been allocated, including (a) the room composition allocated, (b) the date the applicant had originally joined the housing

waiting list, (c) whether the property was handed over as a self-fix or Government furnished, (d) the points the applicant had, and (e) the date the property was allocated?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, of a total of 1,145 allocations that have taken place since 9th December 2011, 188 have been on a self-repair basis. I am handing over a schedule of the flat composition and dates of applications.

Mr Speaker, while we wait, I would like to thank the hon. Gentleman in relation to the previous question. I must say that I was somewhat bemused as to what the angle could possibly have been.

Answer to Question 724/2017

Room composition	Allocations
1RKB	68
2RKB	452
3RKB	428
4RKB	172
<u>5RKB</u>	22
6RKB	

Date of application	Allocations
1994	
1995	
1996	
1997	
1998	
1999	11
2000	10
2001	16
2002	23
2003	15
2004	27
2005	35
2006	28
2007	39
2008	40
2009	82
2010	131
2011	216
2012	135
2013	82
2014	95
2015	65
2016	49
2017	28

Q725/2017

**Government rental homes –
Applicants on social and medical lists**

Clerk: Question 725. The Hon. L F Llamas.

1300 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a schedule with the breakdown of housing rental applicants who are on the social and medical lists, including (a) the year the application was accepted, (b) the number each individual is on the list, (c) the room composition required, and (d) the number of points as at the end of each calendar year since December 2011?

1305 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, there are a total of 96 applicants who have a medical category and 31 applicants who have a social category. The breakdown is as follows.

1310 In terms year of application: two in 2011, three in 2012, six in 2013, 16 in 2014, 20 in 2015, 34 in 2016 and 46 in 2017. Their position on the list is fluid and it fluctuates.

In terms of room composition, this relates to 80 1RKB, 15 2RKB, 19 3RKB, 10 4RKB and three 5RKB.

1315 Points are calculated on the anniversary of each applicant's application date and therefore increase yearly. However, no points are allotted for the medical and social categorisation, so they will not have additional points.

1320 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, going back to Question 724, the question asked for a breakdown with room composition, the date the applicants joined the housing waiting list and so forth. On the schedule provided, unfortunately you cannot marry the allocation with the date the person joined, with the number of points the person has or when the property was allocated. Is this information that the Ministry is able to provide?

1325 **Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** Mr Speaker, I do not agree with the fact that the question asks for that information to be married. I have looked carefully at the question and at the answer. The question is broken down in categories and the answers have all been provided in the answer.

1330 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, there is no way that the question has been properly answered. There is no column indicating when the dates of the property were allocated, the number of points the applicants had when they received the property, and there are other elements from this question which have not been answered.

A question like this I believe would require that the components of the question be married so that you can properly analyse the allocation process that the Government has had since December 2011.

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Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Mr Speaker, with the greatest of respect to the hon. Gentleman, I cannot possibly predict what it is that he wants or what he intends to marry, but the question is very clear and the answer is very clearly in answer to the questions as they are broken down.

1340 I am asked, for example, to include the room composition allocated – that is in the first box overleaf; the date the applicant originally joined the housing list – there is a box saying when applicants joined the housing list. Then I am further asked whether the property was handed over as a self-fix – I think he meant self-repair, which is the term that we use – or Government furnished, and that is answered as well. There is a question in relation to the points that is answered; and a date when it was allocated, and that is all answered, Mr Speaker.

1345 The hon. Gentleman needs to understand that the question will be answered in the way that it is asked. If he wants a different answer, then maybe the hon. Gentleman may wish to consider asking it a different way on the next occasion.

1350 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, the fact that the question is one question and not five questions I think in itself explains what the answer should be.

With regard to points, there is no way that the Minister has answered that question because there is no way that from the 1,145 allocations it can be analysed the number of points the person had; nor can it be analysed the period that each person has been on the waiting list at the same time.

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Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Mr Speaker, in relation to the part on the points, that is not here but that is something that would be such a voluminous exercise to undertake in any event that it would be disproportionate for us to undertake, particularly in the period of time on the resources that are available.

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Again I maintain that the questions have been asked in a particular way and the answers have been provided in the way that they have been asked. As I said, the hon. Gentleman may wish to consider asking them a different way on the next occasion if he wants the answer in a particular way. I cannot possibly be in the hon. Gentleman's mind and be guessing what he is trying to get at and the format that he wishes me to answer.

Q726/2017

Purpose-built flats for the elderly – Allocation to non-Government rental tenants

1365 **Clerk:** Question 726. The Hon. L F Llamas.

1370 **Hon L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since December 2011, can the Government provide a schedule of non-Government rental tenants who have been allocated a purpose-built flat for the elderly, such as Albert Risso House, Charles Bruzon House etc., including (a) the reasons why in each case, and (b) whether or not the person was on the Government housing waiting list?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

1375 **Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento):** Mr Speaker, everyone who is allocated a flat is a housing applicant and allocation of all flats is treated on this basis.

Current records do not provide a breakdown to show the extent of a successful applicant's previous housing situations and the task of looking through every single allocation of an elderly flat going back to 2011 would be unduly onerous on resources.

Q727/2017

Beach View Terraces and Mons Calpe Mews – Information received at time of sale

1380 **Clerk:** Question 727. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a schedule based on the information received as at the time of sale of Beach View Terraces and Mons Calpe Mews,

including (a) family composition of applicant or applicants; (b) room composition purchased and (c) the purchased share?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, the Government does not hold a database of the family composition of purchasers.

The room compositions are as follows. There were 47 one-bedrooms, 312 two-bedrooms, 477 three-bedrooms and 59 four-bedrooms.

Trust deeds are required to be registered and, as such, they are public documents and in the public domain, Mr Speaker.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, given that the policy of the Government was that priority was given to housing applicants, surely the Government would have the information based on the family composition and the applicants were linked to the application being successful. Is this something that the Government does not have?

Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Mr Speaker, I think that the hon. Gentleman has just answered his own question in that applicants were given priority and not the family composition of the purchasers.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, the Hon. Minister has said that they do not hold this information, but surely the Housing Ministry holds the information of the family composition of its housing applicants and which list they are on. Therefore, they should be able to provide an answer with the flat composition that they purchase in the end. Is this something that the Government seriously does not have?

Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: No, Mr Speaker, because it is not the Housing Ministry that deals with the sale or the allocation of these flats; it is the Government through Gibraltar Residential Properties Ltd.

The hon. Gentleman does not seem to understand procedure and he is just huffing and puffing and saying 'for goodness' sake'. It may help proceedings if the hon. Gentleman were to inform himself of the procedure, because maybe by doing so he may be in a better position to formulate his questions if he wants to derive the answers he is seeking.

This information is provided to me by Gibraltar Residential Properties Ltd. If Gibraltar Residential Properties Ltd tell me that they do not have this information at their disposition, then that is the answer I have been provided. It may well be that GRP would have to liaise with the Housing Department and go through all 1,000 applicants one by one to look at that, but that, I would say, is an unduly onerous use of resources in the circumstances.

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Roy Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I am not sure I heard the Hon. Minister correctly. Did she indicate that, rather than provide my hon. Friend with the information as to the purchase share, the information was available on the purchase deeds, which would be presumably registered at Land Property Services, but she is not prepared to provide the House with that information directly?

Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Well, Mr Speaker, only because Standing Orders provide for this situation. Where documents are publicly available – and these documents are publicly available on a public register that is available to the public – it is Standing Orders that are giving me this direction and I am merely following Standing Orders, which are the matrix that rule this House.

Q728/2017

**Affordable housing –
Action taken re subletting in contravention of lease**

Clerk: Question 728. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, since December 2011, can the Government provide details regarding affordable properties where subletting has been identified contravening the provisions in the underlease and what action has been taken in each case, including the estate the property belongs to?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, when subletting is identified in estates where Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar is or has been the developer, such cases are investigated. In the event that there is a breach of the underlease, appropriate action will be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the underlease.

In some cases, subletting has ceased upon receipt of our notification. In other cases, investigations are ongoing to establish the necessary evidence. There are no instances of illegal subletting where the tenant is the Government, as was the case prior to December 2011.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can she provide a breakdown of figures on how many follow-ups have been done by let and how many cases are currently being investigated?

Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: No, Mr Speaker, because it did not form the body of the question, nor do I have the information, otherwise I would of course disclose it. From memory, I know it is a handful. In terms of the ones that have been brought to my attention, I would say roughly four. It may be a bit more, it may be a bit less, but no more than four I think have been brought to my attention.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, may I ask the Hon. Minister: I know that in respect of Government rental we did set up an anonymous hotline where members could report and say, 'I think so and so is not actually living in that flat,' and so on. Is there a similar sort of setup? I know we could be opening up a can of worms, but I am asking so that I may guide constituents in the future.

I have heard people within the co-ownership estate where I live – they tell me, 'Don't you remember so and so used to live there? The people who are there now do not even look like Gibraltarian belongers.' So there is a reasonable doubt whether that house is being ... because the management company ... If you are a shareholder within one of these co-ownership estates, the management company can disclose to you, as a shareholder, who the particular house belongs to, so we then have the police detective work to be done on is it being sublet or not.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, I do not know whether the hon. Gentleman will recall – I think we were both Members of the House when, as a result of similar anonymous tip-offs resulting from similar identification, we brought to the House similar concerns only to find that a very candid former Minister for Health rightly put his hand up and said, 'Well, now that you mention it, the Government has been subletting those apartments for people of another origin who have come to assist the Health Authority.' The former, former, former, former Leader of the Opposition, Sir Peter Caruana, when he was Chief Minister, agreed in this House that he had just found out about that and that this should not continue.

So there are many circumstances where those things can arise and any information hon. Members have which they might be able to bring to our attention, I would ask them to do so,

not in this forum necessarily but to please alert us to those. If there are breaches of the underlease, we need to know because these homes are provided at the low cost at which they are provided not for speculation, not for rental so that people can make a profit other than the capital value of sale; they are prepared in this way and there has been an agreement, between both the parties for some time that this should be the case since it was instigated by the Government led by Joe Bossano, that these homes should be for owner occupation so that we can house and grow Gibraltarian families, not that people can use these to turn a fair penny either by realising capital value or rental value. So any information hon. Members have they should bring to our attention. I do believe that there has been an edict from the day that we were elected that certainly the Government does not involve itself in renting these properties now in breach of its own underleases as was the case before.

Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Yes, indeed, Mr Speaker, as the Chief Minister points out, that is exactly why in my substantive answer I said that there had been no instances of this since December 2011. Having said that, the hon. Gentleman refers to a hotline which may have existed in the past – I do not know, I do not remember – but in the last six years I think that the need for a hotline has declined because it has all been overtaken by a phenomenon called social media, and you will find that in any event if someone finds out about anything untoward going on in anything you will find a post at some point on Facebook or Twitter or on something, and when it does not ... I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman that he once came across a post of some irregularity and he immediately brought it to my attention, and in the same way that he does, many people who come across this information in public fora do bring it to my attention. And of course people do also contact the Housing Department in the normal way as well when they hear of irregularities or perceived irregularities.

So I am quite satisfied that the channels of communication in that respect work. We do of course follow them up and, where necessary, we do engage with the Police or the Borders and Coastguard Agency to go and investigate and verify occupants for us.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Hon. E J Phillips: Just one question in relation to that. Just out of interest, has the Government conducted analysis when individuals apply, for example, for residency, targeting effectively the question at those that acquire rentals in Gibraltar possibly from affordable housing, as to whether there is a joined-up system where the relevant civil status department would understand this individual is now renting in an affordable house? Is there a joined-up process by which they can acknowledge and recognise those individuals and therefore enforce the terms of the underlease and deal with that problem head on?

Hon. Chief Minister: Yes, Mr Speaker, the system is joined up in that respect, so the addresses are obvious because the Government has been the developer and promoter of those addresses, and whenever an application comes in from an address which should not house an individual that collects those characteristics that the hon. Gentleman has referred to, the individual's ability to reside in that address is questioned.

There are some circumstances where it is acceptable. For example, I can recall an instance, which the hon. Gentleman will be interested to note, of an individual seeking resident status from such an address when he had not been in Gibraltar for long enough to avail himself of residence in that address. It turned out he had arrived in Gibraltar as a child not many years before, because he had arrived, I think, after the age of 14 but before the age of 18. He had resided there as a result of a relationship between one of his parents and a local and was now emerging from that relationship seeking his own status, but he was rightly resident there and had not in any way been in breach of any underlease as a result. Therefore, it was accepted that he could be a person to use that address for that purpose. But in most instances the hon.

Gentleman will see from the detail I am giving him this is questioned, we understand what is happening, and if somebody is using that address for purposes of an application when he should not be resident in that address, it is spotted.

1540 The issue the hon. Gentleman refers to, which is one the Government is very alive to, usually arises in the context of private lettings, private dwellings, not in affordable housing estates, so usually in the context of areas which have never been the subject of Government development. Sometimes in the Old Town the hon. Gentleman will have heard the stories, as I have, of 20 or 30 people residing in one address. Those tend to be noted, because as we head towards computerisation it is immediately easier to say, 'Well, hang on a minute, you live in an
1545 apartment where there are two bedrooms and 40 alleged residents, so can you explain to us the miracle of the fishes and how you all feed yourselves each night, let alone sleep?' and that system is throwing up anomalies.

Q729/2017

**Affordable housing projects –
Online application system**

Clerk: Question 729. The Hon. L F Llamas.

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Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, why did the Government not set up an online application system for the affordable housing projects?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, the application phase has not yet commenced and the process is at expressions of interest stage, the questionnaire for which is available online.

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Hon. L F Llamas: Well, Mr Speaker, it is online but you have to download, print and then submit, and from what I have understood from *Viewpoint* there have been over 4,000 expressions of interest. Therefore, my question is: why was this not online as a form which you would have submitted and a database would have been created, rather than have such an onerous task of civil servants or Government employees having to go through each and every
1565 application for expression of interest?

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Hon. Miss S J Sacramento: Mr Speaker, the way that the form has been devised requires applicants to complete it in a way that we, as prospective developer, are analysing all these applications. One of the things that can happen, for example, is that people can forget to complete a particular box, whether there is a narrative required or ticking a box.

This is the way that we have done it, Mr Speaker. We had to, in the interest of expediency as well, issue these forms which are expression of interest forms, which are available online, because we wanted to get them out and, at the time, to have commissioned and had a database in place would have taken us longer.

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It may be something that we consider for the formal application stage, but certainly it is working for us now because of the manner in which the applications have been returned. Some applications have been returned to us in a phased process because we gave quite a long time for applicants to return their applications and it has not been as onerous a process as the hon. Gentleman wants to make it out to be. It has been completely workable.

1580 The deadline has now just recently closed. The database is complete, so the manual entry of the database has not caused us any delay whatsoever and we are in the process of analysing the results of that process.

1585 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Then surely, Mr Speaker, if 4,000 applications is not an onerous task, provided in answer to 1,145 allocations, it should not be that much of an onerous task using the same benchmark the hon. Lady is using.

1590 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman is mixing apples with pears and trying to see them through the same lens. It is impossible to explain to him again why these things are different.

If you have a tick box exercise, you can do it on a Google form. So people can be asked to fill in not a handwritten form and just on a Google form say how many bedrooms do you want etc. But this is a form that actually requires also an expression of some of the circumstances of individuals, and that is something that is being collated in the exercise that is being done for the purposes of producing better affordable developments.

1595 In the context of five days, which is the period in which we are to answer questions, going through 1,500 different forms to extract the information in the manner in which the hon. Gentleman has decided this month that he wants it is not something that is a worthwhile use of Government time that can be deployed in the time available to produce the answer available.

1600 We do not choose what information hon. Members wish to have. If they wish to have it and it is something that the civil servants can produce in the time available, we provide it to them. Members on this side of the House do not tell those who are in the Civil Service not to produce something. We do not tell them to tell us that it is onerous to produce it. They simply say to us, 'Look, it's impossible for me to produce an answer to this question without entirely paralysing the Department for three months in doing the exercise if we are going to be able to stand by the accuracy of the information.' That is the reality of the situation.

1605 The hon. Gentleman can continue to ask questions which pile up the requests for statistical information over an exceedingly long period of time, but we simply will not be able to provide it unless he prefers that the Government should stop work on everything that it is dealing with at a political and administrative level in order to answer his questions. I think everybody in this community would agree, probably himself included, that we should just get on with the job and not be side-tracked by some of the things that he makes us try to produce for him and which are statistically almost impossible to provide with accuracy.

1615 **Mr Speaker:** Next question.

Q730/2017
Affordable homes –
Restrictions on resale

Clerk: Question 730. The Hon. L F Llamas.

1620 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, how will the Government ensure that affordable homes are not bought by those seeking to make a profit moving forward?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, the Government is considering various measures to prevent those seeking to profit from resale primarily by reviewing the restrictions on resale.

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Q731/2017
Charles Bruzon House –
Cars barrier

Clerk: Question 731. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Is Government satisfied with how Gibraltar Car Parks is handling the issue of the cars barrier at Charles Bruzon House?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

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Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, initial teething problems with the barrier have been rectified. As far as the Housing Department is aware, no further issues have been reported.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, the barrier has already come down on some vehicles and individuals and on the head of a workman, but the response from Gibraltar Car Parks has been that they are not responsible for any damage, injury or theft. Can the Minister confirm whether this is the case; and if so, does Government make itself responsible for injuries in place of Gibraltar Car Parks?

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Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, the Government has not had notice of any person being injured by a barrier or any of the things that the hon. Lady has referred to. We do not answer questions in the hypothetical. If she wants to write to us with the information we will look into it, but if we have not received claims then it is impossible for us to be able to make any assessment.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, I am not dealing in the hypothetical. These incidents have happened and the question remains: who is responsible for injuries? Can the Government say one way or another? Gibraltar Car Parks is saying that it is not them, so can Government confirm that they are responsible? Somebody has to be responsible.

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Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Speaker, she may say that she is not dealing in the hypothetical, but we on this side are because what I am saying to her is we have not had notice on this side of the House and after her question those at the relevant Department have not brought to the attention of those on this side of the House any such claims.

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If the hon. Lady has notice of when these claims were made we can go back and look at on what basis it is alleged that liability has been denied, but we are genuinely telling her that for us this is hypothetical because it has not happened.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, I have been in touch ... or rather the tenants association of Charles Bruzon House have been in touch with me because they felt that they were not being listened to. From what I remember, I think (*Interjection*) they have made representations. Excuse me, I would like to explain this, if anybody wants to listen. I think that they have made representations already and they have tried through Gibraltar Car Parks first and they have been told that they are not responsible.

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I think that the question still remains, which has not been answered: who is responsible for injury? And why do I have to bring, anyway, a specific case to get an answer for that? Who is responsible for injury? If the Gibraltar Car Parks are saying that they are not responsible for injury, will Government confirm that they are?

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Hon. Chief Minister: No, Mr Speaker, because injuries can arise as a result of many different circumstances, and depending on the circumstances different parties may be responsible for injury or for damage. Those issues are legal issues. Neither the Government nor Car Parks, nor Charles Bruzon House tenants association can get away from that; it is a straightforward legal issue. If you slip on a banana, the person who left the banana skin is the person responsible, but it does not mean that the Government is ultimately responsible.

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So if the hon. Lady is saying that a tenants association has not been listened to on something as serious as injury or damage, I put it to her that I would be aware of this because I would have had at least a letter from the tenants association that may or may not have been copied to her and to the Leader of the Opposition – whoever he or she may be at a particular point in time – to the Hon. Mr Llamas and to the Speaker. I get these letters all the time and I pay attention, whether or not they are copied to the hon. Lady or the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition from time to time, whoever he or she may be etc. *(Laughter)*

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I think there is a developing mutual frustration between the hon. Lady and this side of the House in respect of this question because she thinks something has happened and we are telling her we have not had notice. Can I just say to her, Mr Speaker, that we are happy to look into this with her and to try and address any similar situation she may say has arisen, but we do not have notice of Car Parks denying liability in respect of a tenants association claim for either injury or for damage.

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Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q732/2017

Fire retardants – Installation in Government estates

Clerk: Question 732. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Can Government confirm whether they have any plans to install fire retardants in Government estates; and if so, by when?

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Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Housing and Equality.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Speaker, concrete, which is the main component in most modern-day buildings, and most certainly so in Government estates, is inherently a fire-retardant material. This together with other composite materials whose structural abilities are not debilitated quickly by heat and fire constitute the main build in Government estates, thus fire-retardant qualities are integral in this type of build.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, on 29th September I issued a press release, just after the Moorish Castle Estate fire in Keightley House, asking about fire retardants. I have been waiting for two months for an answer and I do not think I actually have received an answer.

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In the wake of Grenfell and indeed the Keightley House fire, and in view of all the money and the priority that this Government puts to other important elements of our society, like building new schools and refurbishing them, how is it that placing fire retardants – which are necessary, concrete or no concrete ... alarms and sprinklers are necessary, or will they be happy to tell

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tenants across Government estates that they are not needed or that they should rely on the two dogs who saved them in the last fire?

1720 **Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** Mr Speaker, two points here. One, a point of order: I answer to this House and I answer to questions in Parliament; I do not answer to press releases, because if I were to be answering every single press release that everybody from the Opposition were to issue, then I would not get any work done. I have my agenda, there are things that I have to do, so I find it completely unacceptable that I should be accused of not having replied to a press release in two months. I do not reply to a press release because I do not want to, Mr Speaker; I will reply to a question in Parliament. That is number one.

1725 Number two, Mr Speaker: I do not think the hon. Lady understands what a fire retardant is. Therefore, she may be asking me a different question but she has used the wrong language and therefore my answer is in relation to the language that she has asked. I think she wants to ask me a different question; she may want to consider formulating a different question on the next occasion.

1730 I can reassure the public that the Government is taking the issue of fire, fire risks and fire hazards extremely seriously. Immediately upon the disaster at Grenfell Tower, the Chief Minister and I met with key individuals from the Government Departments and we set up a working group that has looked into every single issue of fire in relation to our high-rise buildings and our estates. That has been an in-depth consideration of everything that may be relevant to fire, fire prevention, fire safety and fire awareness, Mr Speaker.

1735 The matter has been dealt with very responsibly, taken very seriously, and I am afraid that the hon. Lady is asking the wrong question.

1740 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, just one supplementary question in relation to that point.

Given that the Government has considered every single issue in relation to fire risk and fire retardants in relation to public housing, my question is: is the Government satisfied with the Government's response to this and indeed satisfied with the measures that are in place to reduce and in an attempt to eliminate that risk of fire?

1745 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, the Government is satisfied with the Government's response to this.

1750 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, is the Government satisfied that our housing estates are safe in light of the investigations conducted by the Government themselves and also in relation to the point that my learned and hon. Friend opposite said in relation to looking into every single issue?

1755 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Yes, Mr Speaker, absolutely, in particular in the context of the safety of the housing estates. But arising out of the question where we have been asked in respect of fire retardant aspects of concrete, as all hon. Members will know, concrete is not flammable.

1760 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** So, Mr Speaker, how would the Government answer the victims ... well, not victims in fatalities but those who were affected by the fire in Keightley House who ended up having to thank the two dead dogs who barked their way into their death and alarmed them? Wouldn't they have done better to have some fire alarms over there?

1765 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, we would answer those who have suffered fire by commiserating with them, by being delighted that there were no injuries, but in the same way as fires occur, unfortunately ... and not everybody has a smoke alarm, but not every Government property is going to be fitted with a smoke alarm by the Government. These are issues of, in fact, sheer intrusion.

1770 I do not know whether the hon. Lady is aware that modern smoke alarms even have the ability to listen into a property. Technology has developed to such an extent that most smoke alarms have the ability to communicate. If what the hon. Lady is saying is that every Government property should be fitted with a smoke alarm, then that is not where she started, and if she is making that proposal I will put it to her that it is something that not everybody will support and some will consider it entirely intrusive. But everybody has the right to fit a smoke alarm in their home if they wish to.

1775 The rules in relation to sprinklers, fire alarms etc. apply to certain buildings of a certain height and the Government is satisfied that all of its buildings comply with those rules and that if there are changes to the rules, then we will ensure that our buildings comply with those changes to the rules. If there are changes in the United Kingdom to the rules, we will have an eye to those changes to understand whether they are changes which must be applied in Gibraltar as well, and if necessary we will make available funding to comply with those requirements. I think I already said to you within the context of my Budget speech that that would be the case, that the hon. Lady would have funding available if she needed funding for that purpose.

1780 What I am very keen to do is that people should not be put to any unnecessary concern today because somebody had an accident x months ago and a fire was caused in somebody's home. What we cannot do is ensure that there are no fires in anybody's homes. We cannot be on top of everybody's toaster, we cannot be on top of everybody's turkey at Christmas. Unfortunately, these things happen but we feel genuinely that the mechanisms are in place to deal with such exigencies when they occur. There may be accidents again in the future, and please God there will not be any serious injuries or fatalities but there is no mechanism to stop that if that is what the hon. Lady is pushing us to.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

1795 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, if I may?

Mr Speaker: Yes.

1800 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, I know that the Government, in the very early stages of the initial concerns after Grenfell, were very quick to conduct analyses and reply to letters, certainly from me, with respect to concerns about areas such as cladding, and those fears were allayed. I understand Government was at that stage still only looking at whether any further measures ... and I know they have undertaken some other measures, like clearing the communal areas as well, which is something ongoing, controversial though that is in some places.

1805 As part of those exchanges the Government said they might look at the possibility of whether the fire risk assessments that were being undertaken in the Government-owned estates might be extended to those estates which were partially Government-owned, obviously the 50-50 the affordable housing. Has any progress been made in that area and has Government undertaken that analysis?

1810 **Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** Mr Speaker, yes, as the hon. Gentleman says, it is indeed true that this committee has looked at all the aspects, made recommendations such as the clearing of anything that may cause obstruction in communal areas; and, controversial as it may be, it is the right thing to do – we are advised by the Fire and Rescue Service that this can cause risk to life and therefore we follow advice.

1815 The Fire and Rescue Service have been working very closely with the Housing Department, advising us on several issues. There are some action points that we have as a result of that committee which we are working on, and one of the major ones is that we are soon to embark on an awareness campaign on fire prevention.

1820 In relation to moving on to estates that may be co-owned by Government, we have been
liaising with them through the management companies, as is the proper structure to do so,
through our agents, Land Property Services. So, insofar as covering our bases through that
committee, I have to commend the committee for working extremely hard and looking at all the
eventualities and advising us through the process.

1825 **Mr Speaker:** Next question.

HEALTH, CARE AND JUSTICE

Q733/2017

**St Bernard's Hospital –
A&E charge nurse posts**

1830 **Clerk:** Question 733. The Hon. E J Reyes.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, further to the answer provided through supplementary
questions arising from Question 658/2017, can the Minister for Health say on which dates the
three charge nurse posts at St Bernard's A&E department were filled?

1835 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Care and Justice.

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, as I noted to the hon.
Gentleman in answer to his supplementary question, since the staffing levels in A&E were
increased from one to three charge nurses on 1st April of this year, these posts have been
continuously filled.

1840 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, so that we do not have any unnecessary misunderstanding,
normally those who have dealt with trade union backgrounds and so on – I am sure the Father of
the House would not mind perhaps clearing any misunderstandings we have – when we talk
about a post being filled it is normally understood that that post is now being allocated to
someone on a substantive basis, otherwise the post is just being covered.

Let me try to explain. If the establishment covers for three nurses, whilst you choose those
who are permanently going to be promoted to that grade and therefore take up that post, we
say the post is being covered, whereas the terminology that a post has been filled means that
three applicants have been successfully chosen through their applications and have been filled.

1850 Are we in the same language? If not, Mr Speaker, we are never going to clarify this. I
understand and I accept and never doubted that three persons are physically covering that
position, but that is very different to three persons who are actually filling that position. Can we
clarify once and for all, so we do not necessarily lead to any misunderstandings?

1855 **Hon. N F Costa:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I think that the difference between the hon. Gentleman and
I is one of terminology. When we talk about posts being filled by the GHA we are talking on
either an acting capacity, on rotation or permanently. I think the hon. Gentleman, when he
approached me after he asked me the supplementary question ... his question was 'Have boards
been held and are these positions being permanently filled?' and when I went back to the GHA
they advised that there have always been charge nurses occupying those posts but that the
adverts were issued in July, the interviews were held on 9th November, there were seven
applicants, and of course three were successful.

Hon. E J Reyes: Yes, great, and, Mr Speaker, taking that following 9th November this year – let's call it the board selection or whatever – three were successful, is the Minister aware, are they now already taking that post? Sometimes one needs a couple of weeks' transition – to vacate your old post you have to hand over to somebody. It is just so that I have an indication if they are already there permanently or about to become ... one would take it that it would be happening shortly.

Mr Speaker: But by the same argument that you are making, the posts have been filled on 9th November. Interviews are held and on 9th November appointments are made and the posts are filled.

Hon. E J Reyes: Yes, the posts are filled, Mr Speaker. No doubt – I am not disputing that. The posts were filled as from 9th November; I am just asking is the person *in situ*. Have they moved already to A&E?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, the successful applicants require approval from the Public Services Commission, so I am not certain whether the successful applicants have already been notified or not. The board, as I said, only took place quite recently, on 9th November.

Mr Speaker: What that means is that boards have been held on behalf of the Public Services Commission, recommendations have gone to the Public Services Commission and then the Public Services Commission has to confirm those and then advise the Governor of the appointments.

Hon. E J Reyes: And as and when the Public Services Commission advise the Governor it is filled as from then, not as from 9th November?

Hon. N F Costa: But to be clear, Mr Speaker, there have always been three charge nurses in those roles since the increases were announced on 1st April.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q734-737/2017

Offenders –

**Number and ages of young offenders imprisoned; reoffending rates;
young offenders not imprisoned or fined**

Clerk: Question 734. The Hon. E J Phillips.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, can the Government confirm the ages of young offenders who have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment from 15th November 2016 to 15th November 2017, i.e. in the last 12 months?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Care and Justice.

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 735 to 737.

Clerk: Question 735. The Hon. E J Phillips.

1910 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Can the Government confirm the number of young offenders who have received custodial sentences from 15th November 2016 to 15th November 2017?

Clerk: Question 736. The Hon. E J Phillips.

1915 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Can the Government confirm the re-offending rates of the current prison population by reference to percentage over the last three years?

Clerk: Question 737. The Hon. E J Phillips.

1920 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Can the Government confirm how many young offenders received disposal by the courts other than financial penalties and periods of immediate imprisonment?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Care and Justice.

1925 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I can confirm that during the past 12 months two young offenders were sentenced to imprisonment, one aged 13 and the other aged 14.

We are not able to advise of the reoffending rates of the current prison population over the time period required unless the reoffending has led to a prison sentence. In this respect, 21.6% of the current prison population have had previous convictions resulting in prison sentences during the past three years.

1930 I can confirm that seven young offenders' cases were disposed by the courts other than by means of financial penalties and periods of immediate imprisonment.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, with your leave, there is a reference I would like to make to the rehabilitation of offenders question that I put. I know I am not going to get an objection from my hon. and learned Friend in relation to this point but I can link it certainly to the reoffending rates, which I think is an interesting statistic, that 71% of the current population, as I understand the question, have reoffended but have had previous periods of custodial sentences served. I think that is the analysis that the Hon. Minister for Justice gave.

1940 Just linking it to the rehabilitation of offenders and the Government's programme to do that through employment, through work and through opportunity, I asked a question last time round in relation to whether the Government had any intention of amending the rehabilitation of offenders legislation and I just wanted to correct the record in relation to that question because I made the comment that the Minister may have been mistaken in relation to one aspect at the top end. The Minister was very helpful in that period of time. We have had a discussion about it offline, as it were, and the Minister is correct and I am grateful for the clarification that both he and his Department have afforded me in relation to that question. I am grateful.

1950 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, in respect of the answer to Question 736, just to be clear that the hon. Gentleman has understood the answer that I have given him, what I have told him is that I am not in a position to advise him of reoffending rates unless the person who has reoffended is sentenced to a sentence of imprisonment. That is the only data available to us. By that measure, only 21.6% of the current prison population are serving an additional prison sentence over the past three years. That is not to say that there are 70-odd percent of the prison population who have not reoffended. In other words, the only measure that we have is that there are 21% of the current prison population who have had previous convictions resulting in prison sentences. We cannot provide any additional data other than that, but to be of further assistance to him, if you exclude the fine defaulters, there are currently 51 prisoners in custody as at the date that the answer was drafted. Excluding fine defaulters, the number of reoffenders goes from 11 to seven, which is 13.7% of the current prison population. Of these seven, three

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have reoffended once during the last three years in addition to the current sentence. So that is additional granular information for him.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

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Q738-739/2017

Substance abuse –

Breakdown of RGP arrests; cases requiring medical care

Clerk: Question 738. The Hon. L F Llamas.

1970 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since 2011, can the Government provide a schedule of arrests made by the Royal Gibraltar Police on drug-related offences, detailing (a) whether the arrest was in relation to possession with intent to supply, (b) personal use, (c) age, and (d) type of drug/s involved?

1975 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Care and Justice.

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 739.

1980 **Clerk:** Question 739. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, since December 2011, can the Government provide a schedule of substance abuse related cases requiring medical care from the GHA detailing (a) age, and (b) type of drugs involved?

1985

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Care and Justice.

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, the information requested is contained in the schedule that I now hand over to the hon. Gentleman.

1990 Please note that the database for the year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 had corrupt files, therefore rendering the information unreadable or, if readable, indecipherable. However, we have been able to extract some information over the time period 1st April to 31st March in a different format to the other tables.

1995 In respect of the answer to Question 739, the GHA is unable to provide the specific statistics for the period December 2011 to May 2015. The information requested from June 2015 to October of this year is contained in the schedule I now hand over to the hon. Gentleman.

Mr Speaker: These schedules are lengthy, so we are going to move on to the next question and if any supplementaries arise we will come back to them.

2000 Please call the next question.

Answer to Question 738 of 2017

01/12/11 - 22/11/12

Age	Cannabis	Cocaine	Prescription Drugs	Extasy	Ketamine	MDMA	Methadone	Amphetamine
12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
16	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	33	1	0	2	1	2	1	0
18	34	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
19	35	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
20	40	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
21	25	3	1	1	0	0	2	0
22	11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
23	11	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
24	17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
25	11	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
26	15	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
27	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
28	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
29	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
30	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
31	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
33	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
34	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
35	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
36	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
37	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
38	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
39	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	1
40	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
43	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
46	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
47	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
48	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
52	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
59	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
66	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Cont...

Continued Answer to Question 738 of 2017

23/11/12 - 31/03/15

Age	Cannabis	Amphetamine	Precription Drugs	Cocaine	Extacy	Ketamine	MDMA
12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
15	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	12	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	33	0	2	0	0	0	0
18	39	2	0	0	1	0	0
19	34	0	2	1	1	1	1
20	24	0	1	2	1	0	1
21	23	0	1	2	1	1	0
22	23	0	1	3	0	0	0
23	18	0	1	1	1	0	0
24	17	0	2	2	1	1	0
25	13	0	1	3	0	2	0
26	20	0	4	3	0	0	0
27	13	0	3	5	0	0	0
28	13	4	2	3	0	0	0
29	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
30	8	0	0	2	0	0	0
31	10	0	3	0	0	0	0
32	15	0	1	2	0	0	0
33	8	1	3	0	1	0	0
34	9	1	3	2	0	0	0
35	9	1	1	2	0	0	0
36	7	2	1	1	0	0	0
37	5	0	3	2	0	0	0
38	5	0	2	3	0	0	0
39	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
40	5	2	1	0	0	0	0
41	8	0	1	0	0	0	0
42	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
44	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
46	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
47	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
48	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
49	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
50	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
51	2	0	1	2	0	0	0
52	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
53	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
54	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
56	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
57	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
58	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
66	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Cont...

Continued Answer to Question 738 of 2017

01/04/15 - 31/03/16

Age	Cannabis	Prescription Drugs	Cocaine	Amphetamine	MDMA
12	2	0	0	0	0
13	1	0	0	0	0
14	3	0	0	0	0
15	5	0	0	0	0
16	7	2	1	1	0
17	8	0	0	0	0
18	16	0	2	0	0
19	22	3	0	0	0
20	13	0	0	0	0
21	8	0	0	0	0
22	15	0	1	0	0
23	11	1	1	0	0
24	11	1	0	0	0
25	8	0	1	0	0
26	9	1	2	0	0
27	9	1	0	0	0
28	3	1	0	0	0
29	1	0	0	0	0
30	7	2	0	0	0
31	4	1	0	0	0
32	5	1	1	2	0
33	5	0	2	0	0
34	3	1	1	1	0
35	5	1	3	0	0
36	4	1	0	1	0
37	3	0	2	0	0
38	1	0	0	0	0
39	2	1	2	0	0
40	1	1	0	0	0
41	1	1	0	0	0
42	0	1	0	2	0
43	1	1	0	1	0
44	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0
46	1	2	0	1	0
47	0	0	0	0	0
48	2	0	0	0	0
49	0	0	0	0	0
50	3	0	1	1	1
51	2	0	0	0	0
52	0	1	1	0	0
53	0	0	0	0	0
54	0	1	0	1	0
55	0	0	0	1	0
56	1	0	1	0	0
57	0	0	1	0	0
58	1	0	0	0	0
59	1	0	0	0	0
60	1	0	0	0	0
61	0	0	0	0	0
62	0	0	0	0	0
63	0	0	0	0	0
64	0	0	0	0	0
65	0	0	0	0	0

Cont...

Continued Answer to Question 738 of 2017

01/04/16 - 31/03/17

	Cannabis	Cocaine	Prescription	MDMA
Possession on Controlled Drug:	255	42	15	1
Possession with Intent To Supply:	10	8	7	1

Age	Persons
12	2
13	1
14	3
15	5
16	10
17	10
18	18
19	24
20	14
21	8
22	23
23	12
24	14
25	12
26	22
27	15
28	3
29	1
30	9
31	7
32	7
33	12
34	4
35	11
36	5
37	7
38	1
39	2
40	1
41	2
42	5
43	5
44	0
45	1
46	2
47	0
48	44
49	0
50	5
51	2
52	2
53	0
54	1
55	1
56	1
57	2
58	1
59	1
60	1

Cont...

Continued Answer to Question 738 of 2017

01/04/17 - 14/11/17

Age	Cannabis	Cocaine	MDMA	Ectasy	Perscription Drugs	Amphetamines
13	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	2	0	0	0	0	0
16	4	0	0	0	0	0
17	9	1	0	0	0	0
18	5	0	0	0	0	0
19	3	0	1	2	0	0
20	7	1	0	0	1	0
21	3	0	0	0	2	0
23	2	0	0	0	0	0
24	2	2	0	0	0	0
25	2	2	0	0	0	0
26	1	3	0	0	0	0
27	4	0	0	0	2	0
28	1	0	0	0	0	0
29	1	2	0	0	1	0
30	0	1	0	0	0	0
31	3	2	0	0	1	0
32	3	2	0	0	0	0
33	3	0	0	0	1	0
34	0	2	0	0	0	0
37	0	1	0	0	0	0
38	2	0	0	0	0	0
39	2	1	0	0	0	0
40	1	0	0	0	0	1
42	1	0	0	1	0	0
43	1	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	1
46	0	1	0	0	0	0
47	1	1	0	0	0	0
48	2	0	0	0	0	0
50	1	1	0	0	0	0
53	1	0	0	0	0	0
54	0	0	0	0	0	1
55	1	0	0	0	0	1
56	1	0	0	0	0	0
57	0	1	0	0	0	1

Answer to Question 739 of 2017

AGE	Diagnosis
3	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection, Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr
16	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Major Head Injury (gcs<13)
17	Other Mental Health Disorder (see F, Recreational Drug Use
17	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F
17	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Head, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face
17	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face
18	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
18	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion Hand, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Abdom, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion Toe
18	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection, Recreational Drug Use
19	Simple Tooth Fracture, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
19	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Toxic Effect Of Alcohol
20	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Forearm
20	Infectious Gastroenteritis, Toxic Effect Of Alcohol
20	Gastritis, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
21	Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Neck, Sprain/ Ligament Injury - Elbow Joi, Sprain/ Ligament Injury - Wrist Joi, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion Hand, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
21	Other Gi System Disorder (see Free , Other Gi System Disorder (see Free , Recreational Drug Use
22	Depression, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
22	Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face, Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite Knee, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
25	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Depression
25	Depression, Overdose (see Free Text)
26	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Anxiety, Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr
27	Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr, Other Urinary System Disorder (see
28	Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
28	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
28	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
31	Schizophrenia, Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, Social Problem
31	Gastritis, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Drug Reaction
31	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F
31	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F
31	Recreational Drug Use, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion Hand
31	Closed Fracture - Ankle, Other Toxicological Disorder (see F
31	Anxiety, Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr
31	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Hyphaema, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face
31	Recreational Drug Use, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F, Asthma
34	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
34	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
35	Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, Pr Bleeding
35	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face
35	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Recreational Drug Use
35	Anxiety, Overdose (see Free Text)
35	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
37	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head
37	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Thigh
38	Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
38	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face
38	Gastritis, Other Gi System Disorder (see Free , Dependence On Opioids
39	Anxiety, Alcohol Dependence Syndrome
40	Other Mental Health Disorder (see F, Recreational Drug Use
40	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
41	Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
41	Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite Foot

Continued Answer to Question 739 of 2017

- 42 Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 43 Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Head, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Thora, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 44 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face
- 44 Anxiety, Overdose (see Free Text)
- 44 Recreational Drug Use, Other Ophthalmic Disorder (see Free
- 44 Cellulitis, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 45 Lower Respiratory Tract Infection, Side Effect Of Medication, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 45 Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, Gastritis
- 46 Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F
- 46 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 46 Depression, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 46 Paracetamol Overdose, Other Gi System Disorder (see Free
- 47 Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 47 Anxiety, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 47 Injury Of Liver, Recreational Drug Use
- 47 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Closed Fracture - Ankle
- 47 Depression, Overdose (see Free Text)
- 47 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face
- 48 Postural Hypotension, Toxic Effect Of Alcohol
- 49 Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome, Infectious Gastroenteritis
- 49 Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 49 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 50 Delirium (acute Confusion), Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 50 Hypoglycaemia Without Coma, Allergic Reaction Unspecified, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 50 Upper Respiratory Tract Infection, Recreational Drug Use
- 52 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Gastritis, Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
- 53 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Muscle Injury - Shoulder
- 53 Depression, Overdose (see Free Text)
- 53 Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, Dental Caries, Gingivitis / Gingivostomatitis
- 53 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head
- 53 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion Back, Chronic Renal Failure
- 54 Anxiety, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 54 Other Mental Health Disorder (see F, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 54 Alcohol Withdrawal Seizure, Lower Respiratory Tract Infection
- 55 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F
- 55 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 56 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Face, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 57 Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr, Atrial Fibrillation & Flutter, Lower Respiratory Tract Infection
- 57 Overdose (see Free Text), Lower Respiratory Tract Infection
- 57 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Epistaxis
- 57 Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 58 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
- 58 Injury Of Liver, Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infect, Toxic Effect Of Alcohol
- 59 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
- 60 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 60 Grand Mal Epilepsy, Overdose (see Free Text)
- 60 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 63 Osteoarthritis, Toxic Effect Of Alcohol
- 63 Dental Abscess, Alcohol Dependence Syndrome
- 64 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 64 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Acute Coronary Syndrome (acs)
- 65 Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, Bruise/ Contusion/ Abrasion - Thora
- 66 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Other Mental Health Disorder (see F

Continued Answer to Question 739 of 2017

- 67 Hypothermia, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 68 Other Nervous System Disorder (see , Toxic Effect Of Alcohol
- 72 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Hypoglycaemia Without Coma, Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face
- 72 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12)
- 74 Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 74 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Minor Head Injury (gcs>12), Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Head
- 75 Vasovagal Syncope, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 76 Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication, Hypertension
- 79 Wound: Lac/ Incised/ Bite - Face, Alcohol (ethanol) Intoxication
- 85 Lower Respiratory Tract Infection, Overdose (see Free Text)
- 95 Closed Fracture Hip, Other Drug/alcohol Disorder (see Fr, Lower Respiratory Tract Infection

Q740/2017

**Access to justice –
Legal assistance reforms**

Clerk: Question 740. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

2005

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Is the Minister for Justice confident that the legal assistance reforms he will enact will sufficiently expand access to justice?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Care and Justice.

2010

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, I quote:

Although at this stage it is only a proposal for a pilot scheme, my sense is that it strikes the right balance between enhancing access to justice by those of limited means and not imposing an inordinate burden on the taxpayer. It is an exercise in lateral thinking which allows for the introduction of the much needed duty solicitor scheme.

Those are the words of the Hon. the Chief Justice at the opening of the legal year. I agree with his assessment of the proposed reforms. The proposed legal assistance reforms were circulated on 2nd October of this year as a consultation paper attached to Government Press Release 575/2017. This was a joint paper and proposal for a three-year pilot project in terms agreed between the Government and the Bar Council.

2015

As set out in the consultation document, the proposed new statutory architecture would see an increase in the financial eligibility threshold for legal assistance from £5,000 – a sum set in 1990 – to over £14,000, being 50% of the average annual income in Gibraltar. This would, in effect, mean that persons in full-time employment and on the minimum wage would be eligible to receive legal assistance.

2020

The proposed new system also increases the amount of capital and the amount of equity in an applicant's home that the Registrar may disregard when deciding to grant legal assistance.

The reforms also include changes to the scope of legal assistance to ensure that taxpayers' money is not used in respect of cases where there is no strong or compelling public interest in making legal assistance available or where controls of expenditure are being introduced in the interest of the taxpayer by limiting the cost payable in certain cases.

2025

I am meeting with stakeholders on Thursday to progress matters now that the consultation has been completed. I am certain that the changes agreed will sufficiently expand access to justice, especially when combined with the duty solicitor scheme that will be introduced at the same time for criminal matters.

2030

Mr Speaker, may I conclude by quoting a local Queen's Counsel, who said:

The proposed reforms to legal assistance and introduction of a duty solicitor scheme that form part of this consultation exercise are very far-reaching and significant. The proposed increase of the legal assistance threshold would increase the potential pool of applicants for legal assistance significantly and for the first time give financial assistance to many individuals who need access to the courts or who have been prevented in the past from recourse to the courts for determination of any dispute because they could not afford the cost of litigation. It will significantly improve access to justice. Likewise the introduction of a duty solicitor scheme has been longstanding and will secure advice and representation to persons in custody thus securing a basic fundamental right. The Council looks forward to responses to this consultation exercise.

Those, Mr Speaker, are the words of the then Chairman of the Bar Council, Keith Azopardi QC, on 2nd October 2017.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, thank you for that lengthy answer from the Minister for Justice.

What I am more interested in also is what will be done to correct and repair this perception of injustice which the community is feeling in the wake of a trial like the Marrache trial, which cost in the region of £12 million.

I am aware of the difference between legal aid and legal assistance, but following a trial where millions have been made available just for one case when there are so many other cases of innocent people who are vulnerable and needy, will the Government be raising more public and community awareness about these reforms to make it evident to needy members of the community who might not be so aware and tuned in and need to know that these changes have been implemented?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, a few matters arise from the preface to the supplementary. In the first place, as the hon. Lady was quick to recognise, these reforms relate to legal assistance which relates to civil matters and not to criminal matters.

Mr Speaker, whereas I was not the Minister for Justice at the time – at the time it was the Hon. Minister Licudi – if I recall the Cabinet discussion correctly, there was robust advice that said that legal representation *had* to be afforded to the defendants if it were not to result in a miscarriage of justice. Therefore the legal aid had to be provided appropriately to the Marrache brothers for there to be equality of arms, if I recall the advice correctly – and I stand to be corrected if the Hon. Minister wishes.

Mr Speaker: Again, we are not going to have a debate about the Marrache case.

Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port: (Hon. G H Licudi): Mr Speaker, just to clarify what the hon. Member has said in relation to the advice – and I have given this information to the House before. It is not quite that the advice was that this needed to be done to avoid a miscarriage of justice; this needed to be done to avoid the case being thrown out on an abuse argument with the courts. That was the clear advice we had from Triay Stagnetto Neish and therefore we acted in accordance with that advice.

Hon. N F Costa: Thank you to the Hon. Minister.

Also, Mr Speaker, in respect of and focusing on legal assistance, as I told the House, this is now at the stage where the consultation documentation has been issued and the consultation period concluded.

I am meeting with the Bar Council on Thursday as a result of representations received by some law firms, especially the smaller law firms, that have some concerns and we are meeting to discuss those concerns. But as I have pointed out by quoting the Hon. the Chief Justice and by quoting the words of the former Bar Council Chairman, we are all agreed that the reforms will in fact usher significant increases in access to justice for civil cases.

In respect of promoting the reforms further, I think that we will certainly be in a position to do so once we are in a position to finalise and agree the final product, which will require changes to our legislation. Certainly at that point a press release will be in order to once again explain how the reforms have been concluded and what the reforms mean in terms of legal assistance eligibility to the general public.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, just in relation to the question that was posed in relation to legal assistance and access to justice, I agree with the Hon. the Minister that these reforms will potentially usher in potentially large swathes of access to justice, which has been long overdue.

In relation to the confusion that is alluded to by my hon. Friend on this side –

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: I wasn't confused. I have said that I know exactly –

Hon. E J Phillips: I am not saying you are confused, but the confusion she alluded to in the public as to whether people get confused between legal assistance and legal aid. Only yesterday, Mr Speaker, there was a comment by a member of the public to me that ... why can't her daughter-in-law get access to justice, why can't she get legal assistance vis-à-vis why the Marraches have been afforded this gold-plated legal aid.

There is a confusion amongst the public and although there is a clear distinction between the two funding arrangements – I think my hon. Friend now understands what I was getting at on that point – it would be helpful if the Minister would consider explaining the difference possibly to the public in relation to the differences between criminal legal aid and civil litigation which is funded by way of legal assistance. I think it is important to help and to assist the public in communicating that. I know that the Government has previously set out communiqués generally to members of the public, but I think it would be helpful because there is this underlying confusion within our community relating to those two points.

And just one question that adds on to his question in relation to the duty solicitor scheme. I too have been in correspondence with members of the Bar in relation to this very point, particularly those that practise in criminal law and how law firms generally, as proposed, those that have five members and above, will be obliged to take part in the duty solicitor scheme. Is the Government considering whether to target those that specialise in criminal law so that they can perfect their practice and actually increase their specialism rather than making an obligation on law firms that may well practise in commercial law – for example, property? My view would be that we should try to ensure that those criminal practitioners within our jurisdiction are able to develop their skills and to create that expertise that we need in our community.

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, in respect of explaining the difference to the public between legal aid and legal assistance, I take the hon. Gentleman's comments on board and it may be that at the conclusion of the reforms and once the legislation is enacted there may be some benefit in having an explanatory note online and also producing leaflets to explain the eligibility of the public once the thresholds have been changed.

In respect of the question that he asks me as to the duty solicitor scheme, I refer the hon. Gentleman to page 5 of the consultation document and I will read from it:

A protocol to be introduced by the Registrar and thereafter adopted by the LSRA, once established, to enable the introduction of a compulsory duty solicitor scheme on the basis of a roster of law firms. All firms with more than four practitioners must take part. Firms of one to four practitioners can opt in.

Hon. E J Phillips: I am grateful for the answer to the question, but it also builds in to ... Many lawyers and all of us in this room who have practised at the Bar have given of our time pro bono many times, I am sure across both sides of this House, in relation to the work we do for the public wearing our other hats. But I wonder whether the Government is going to encourage alternative forms of funding within our jurisdiction to also alleviate the public purse from

2125 possible pressures from these changes in legal assistance, because quite clearly there is a risk that many applicants will come forward to access that justice and create a bigger burden on the public purse. Is the Government considering other alternative forms of funding for litigation generally?

2130 **Hon. N F Costa:** No, Mr Speaker, we are not actively considering it at the present moment, because before we announced the consultation paper my Ministry in particular did a lot of work on what would be the estimated amount that the Government would pay once the reforms kicked in. As the consultation paper makes clear, we introduced scaled fees, and the hon. Gentleman may know what I am talking about when I say that it is a known fact that one particular area of the law has incurred, in the view of the General Bar, a disproportionate amount of public funds relating to simple cases, and therefore in the consultation paper we make the point that for matrimonial cases where there are no children we are limiting the amount and capping the amount lawyers can claim. But those are not the only categories in which we are capping and limiting the amounts. There are other categories and I refer the hon. Gentleman to pages 2 and 3 of the consultation paper where we introduce a schedule of fees – divorce proceedings where there are no children, probate and administration disputes – so that we strike the balance between those cases which are simple and which only require limited correspondence and perhaps one or two appearances in court, and other cases where you cannot, with the best will and intention in the world, be able to estimate until you get to know the facts of the case, how much a case is going to cost.

2145 So, having crunched those numbers and created new categories of cases which are scaled fees, we think ... and without being in the Hon. the Chief Justice's mind, I suspect that is what he meant when he said that in his sense there is a right balance between enhancing access to justice by those of limited means and not imposing an inordinate burden on the taxpayer in an exercise of lateral thinking. I think he may have been referring to that new category of cases, where we have introduced scaled fees to keep a cap on costs, which we know from experience and on hard cash analyses have perhaps produced a disproportionate amount of taxpayers' money previously in such cases.

2155 **Hon. E J Phillips:** In relation to the recent example of a single mother who was unable to access the system effectively and achieve access to justice so that she could fund her case, one of the criteria, I believe, is that the equity in the former matrimonial home is a key indicator for refusing access to justice and for refusing funding. It is a difficult one, I appreciate, because you may well have a mother living in a fairly valuable property when she is unfortunately estranged from her husband and therefore really cannot access the system because she does not have the means. I appreciate that it is a difficult subject, but quite clearly if someone on one hand has equity in their property but actually has to access a lawyer, who may be charging fairly large rates to conduct her matrimonial affairs not only in relation to the division of assets but also in relation to access arrangements with her children ... I am wondering whether the Government is working through those. I have seen the boundaries in the document that the Government has issued but it is obviously live to that point and the eligibility requirements for those where they have equity in the former matrimonial home.

2170 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I think this is the third supplementary that I have been asked by the hon. Gentleman. I called him before to congratulate him on having become the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, so I do not want to show him up by telling him once again to refer to the document which actually on the first page sets out the expanded limits which are disregarded for the purposes of being eligible. If he were to consider the very first page of the document, he will see that, without commenting on a particular case – because neither he nor I will have the full facts before us to know whether or not that particular mother would be eligible under the proposed reforms ... my instinct on having read, as he would have, the report in the

2180 *Gibraltar Chronicle* is that it is more likely than not that she would be caught by the reforms that we are proposing. But I make the point quickly that I am not commenting on that particular case because every case has to be determined on its facts and there may be many other reasons why a particular applicant, notwithstanding that she now fits in the new proposed thresholds, may fall foul because of other reasons. But from the little that I read on the report in the *Chronicle* it would appear that, given the amount of capital that we are excluding for the purposes of allowing eligibility to legal assistance, that particular case would have been caught by the existing rules.

2185 **Mr Speaker:** Next question.

TOURISM, EMPLOYMENT, COMMERCIAL AVIATION AND THE PORT

Q741/2017

LNG bunkering –

Ship-to-ship operations in vicinity of Gibraltar

Clerk: Question 741. The Hon. T N Hammond.

2190 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, has any ship-to-ship LNG bunkering taken place in the vicinity of Gibraltar since December 2016?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port.

2195 **Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the question talks about the vicinity of Gibraltar and I am of course assuming that the hon. Member is referring to British Gibraltar Territorial Waters rather than anything else outside that which might be considered the vicinity of Gibraltar.

I can confirm that no ship-to-ship LNG bunkering operations have taken place in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters since December 2016.

2200 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, is there any particular reason for that? Is it just demand – there has been no demand? We were certainly led to believe before the last election that there would be significant demand for this. I seem to recall Ministers bobbing up and down on boats and telling us all how this was the future, but then clearly there has not been a significant uptake from that response.

2210 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, we have to distinguish between ship-to-ship operations and ... The question talks of ship-to-ship LNG bunkering. We have to distinguish between STS transfers, or ship-to-ship transfers, and bunkering operations; they are two very distinct things. STS transfers are essentially cargo transfers between two ships; those are distinct from bunker supply operations.

LNG STS operations have happened. There have been transfers of cargoes involving LNG and there have been two operations that have occurred in March 2015 and June 2016.

2215 With regard to LNG bunkering, the Government has already announced that it is working with Shell in relation to developing the market following, in particular, the International Maritime Organisation's decision to reduce marine fuel sulphur emissions globally to 0.5% or less as from 1st January 2020. So that is something that we are working on and we are also

working on regulations, changes to the legislation. The legislation currently refers to bunkering generally, bunkering rules. We have to provide specific rules in relation to LNG bunkering.

2220 No STS LNG operations have taken place in BGTW as from December 2016. There have been two STS operations but not bunkering operations. There have been no LNG bunkering operations at all in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

2225 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker – because I am not an expert in this field, I will admit, in terms of the semantics and the abbreviations used – can I just confirm that what the Minister is saying is that LNG has not been transferred from one ship to another ship; other bunkering or other transfer of cargo activities may have taken place between LNG fuelled ships, but not actually LNG moving from one ship to the other?

2230 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, the information I have is that LNG STS ship-to-ship operations have taken place on two of them and that although the hon. Member's question about transfer of cargo and not transfer of LNG puts a little bit of doubt in my mind, I have absolutely no doubt that this involved the transfer of LNG from one ship to the other. That is very different to bunkering, which is the supply of fuel, whether it is through LNG or other types of marine fuel.

2235 We do not have a base in Gibraltar. We do not have anybody in Gibraltar currently offering LNG bunkering. We have other types of bunkering which carries on in Gibraltar, but we do not have a base with tanks or a mother ship involving LNG for LNG bunkering. That will come and that is a market that is being developed; that is the future and that will happen. But cargo transfers involving LNG vessels have happened on two occasions.

2240

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q742-743/2017

Monarch Airlines routes to UK – Possible uptake by other airlines

Clerk: Question 742. The Hon. T N Hammond.

2245 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, is Government in talks with any airlines regarding the possible uptake of the routes to the UK lost with the demise of Monarch; and if so, when does Government envisage a new carrier commencing operations?

2250 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port.

Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port (Hon. G H Licudi): Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 743/2017.

2255 **Clerk:** Question 743. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, following the collapse of Monarch Airlines, has the Government made any inroads with other airlines to increase our flight links with the UK?

2260 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port.

Hon. G H Licudi: Mr Speaker, since Monday, 2nd October the Government has been in contact with both existing airline operators to Gibraltar and other operators from not only the four airports that Monarch Airlines used to service but also other airports. The Government has also been in contact with the airports affected and also alternative UK departure airports. The Government has made a business case to all of these airlines and exchanged information with airports with the aim of recovering these links to Gibraltar left vacant.

As hon. Members will know from two press releases that we have issued recently, on 27th November we announced that SuperBreak was conducting a series of charters next summer over a four-week period, twice a week from Belfast International Airport, Humberside, Exeter, Bournemouth, Durham Tees Valley and East Midlands Airport. That clearly is significant in a number of ways. It fills a little bit of a gap. It certainly does not go as long a way as we would like to in filling the gap left by Monarch, but it does fill a little bit of the void left there. Secondly, we have a geographical distribution of destinations which are now serving Gibraltar in package tours which we have not had before, including Northern Ireland, the north-east of England, the south-west of England, the east of England and the Midlands. That is particularly significant because if there is good demand for those seats from those regional destinations it may encourage either more charters or may encourage someone to say there is a market there which needs to be exploited and a route which might not otherwise have been available to Gibraltar. So that is a very significant development. The other issue about this particular package which is significant for Gibraltar is that these are package deals to Gibraltar. This is not just an airline filling seats and many of the people that come on seats, as hon. Members will know, transit into Spain; these are charters to Gibraltar on package deals, meaning hotel beds are also going to be used in Gibraltar. So that is significant from those various aspects.

There was also an announcement on 28th November that easyJet, as from January of this year, are changing the types of aircraft operating between Gibraltar and London Gatwick and also from Bristol, which will mean that over 3,000 additional seats will be made available on these routes, increasing the Gatwick availability by 7% and the Bristol availability by 3%. Again, this does not fill what has been left by the unfortunate demise of Monarch – and it is worth recalling that the Monarch issue had nothing to do with Gibraltar.

We have had sustained load factors which are significant in terms of Monarch, British Airways and easyJet. We believe that there is capacity in the market, but as the hon. Member may well know with his knowledge of the airline industry, establishing a new route takes time and it is precisely as a result of engagement with airlines and with these tour operators that we have seen these developments so soon, particularly the charters and the increased availability in easyJet flights.

I want to pay tribute to the work done in this area by the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Tourist Board, Nicky Guerrero, and also Stuart Finlayson, who works at the GTB and who specifically concentrates on route development. It is not a new role, it is something that he has had for a long time but he is particularly concentrating in this area now and they are working very hard in contact with airlines, the existing airlines and new airlines. We are making some inroads but this is a slow process. I do expect ... because there is clearly demand, and if there is a demand for seats on a particular route we will see additional aircraft, we will see airlines expressing an interest, but these things take time unfortunately.

Hon. T N Hammond: I thank the Minister for that extensive answer and of course nobody in this House is suggesting that the Government had any involvement or has in any way affected the outcome with Monarch, which would certainly be very unfair.

Just regarding the discussions which may have taken place particularly with easyJet but potentially other carriers which operate to Gibraltar currently, I have good information which would suggest that those carriers have snapped up a lot of the slots out of the likes of Luton Airport and Gatwick Airport that belonged to Monarch previously. *(Interjection)* Therefore, I just wondered if we had specifically approached perhaps easyJet and asked them directly whether or

not they would consider just using those slots out of those airports – Luton in particular, which currently obviously we are not being serviced by – and whether they would consider using those slots to provide a Gibraltar route directly.

Hon. G H Licudi: Mr Speaker, yes, and not just EasyJet. The hon. Member also mentions other slots. British Airways has come up with slots from Gatwick and certainly both easyJet and British Airways have been engaged not just generally, as we have done with them and with other airlines, but specifically in relation to those issues and our knowledge of the routes.

As the Chief Minister has mentioned, there was a recent report in *The Times* about British Airways taking up some extra slots in Gatwick and certainly we would welcome those increased flights to Gibraltar. There is clearly also the possibility, from the British Airways point of view, of increasing the number of flights from Heathrow to Gibraltar, and that is something we are encouraging them to do as well.

So, yes, we are having general conversations with them and other airlines and specifically as a result of the information we have received in relation to the slots.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, I wonder whether the Government can confirm whether they have been in discussions with airlines in relation to scheduled flights to Birmingham. The only reason I say that is, given the clear benefits of linking with Birmingham and the advancing HS2 project in which Birmingham has really ... I was there a couple of weeks ago and it has changed phenomenally in terms of inward investment and the clear links between Birmingham and Gibraltar that we could see. I was wondering whether the Government has reached out. I know the Minister said in his answer to the question he was looking at several airlines, but in particular I know that East Midlands is governed by the charter market for the summer that he described before, but whether they are linking out to the scheduled flights from Birmingham.

Hon. G H Licudi: Mr Speaker, most certainly Birmingham was a route that was attractive and it is one of the areas that the Government is working on. The hon. Member has mentioned the charter flights from East Midlands, but it is important, certainly from our point of view, to have a continued scheduled service from the Midlands as well as from the north and the south of England.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q744/2017
Small boats marina –
Berthing fees

Clerk: Question 744. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, since the opening of the small boats marina, can the Government provide a monthly schedule of berthing fees in relation to vessels docking on the power boat berths area, including (a) berthing fees charged, and (b) berthing fees collected?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port.

Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port (Hon. G H Licudi): Mr Speaker, since its opening, superyachts berthing alongside the Mid Harbour Marina have

been charged the following berthing fees. I have a table here which is part of the answer, but rather than reading month by month how much was invoiced –

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Mr Speaker: You are passing as a schedule.

Hon. G H Licudi: – I am making a copy of the answer available to the hon. Members opposite so that they can have it as if it was a schedule.

2365

Mr Speaker, can I just add, whilst the schedule is making its way to the hon. Members, that what this shows is that since its opening we have charged – and collected just about all of it except the last month, which is in arrears and still has to come in – but we have charged close to £¼ million from berthing fees for superyachts, which prior to the establishment of the small boats marina would probably not have been charged at all.

2370

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Month	Invoiced	Paid	Still Pending
May-16	£5,248.15	£5,248.15	£0.00
Jun-16	£5,386.12	£5,386.12	£0.00
Jul-16	£7,361.23	£7,361.23	£0.00
Aug-16	£3,920.61	£3,920.61	£0.00
Sep-16	£30,348.21	£30,348.21	£0.00
Oct-16	£10,877.84	£10,877.84	£0.00
Nov-16	£10,520.40	£10,520.40	£0.00
Dec-16	£36,135.55	£36,135.55	£0.00
Jan-17	£19,140.80	£19,140.80	£0.00
Feb-17	£4,947.58	£4,947.58	£0.00
Mar-17	£1,368.49	£1,368.49	£0.00
Apr-17	£14,734.15	£14,734.15	£0.00
May-17	£18,282.56	£18,282.56	£0.00
Jun-17	£8,650.41	£8,650.41	£0.00
Jul-17	£6,642.94	£6,642.94	£0.00
Aug-17	£7,432.76	£7,432.76	£0.00
Sep-17	£13,747.14	£13,529.90	£217.24
Oct-17	£34,446.62	£13,262.56	£21,184.06
Nov up to 16.11.17	£4,604.56	£0.00	£4,604.56
TOTAL	£243,796.12	£217,790.26	£26,005.86

Q745/2017

**Small boats marina –
Rental costs re construction devices no longer in use**

Clerk: Question 745. The Hon. L F Llamas.

2375 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, is the taxpayer incurring any rental costs for the construction devices, used to build the small boats marina, no longer in use; if so, can the Government provide details?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port.

2380 **Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, the Government is not incurring any such rental costs.

Q746/2017
Small boats marina –
Plans re slipway

Clerk: Question 746. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

2385 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Has Government got plans to build or make provisions for a slipway at the small boats marina?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port.

2390 **Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port (Hon. G H Licudi):** Mr Speaker, it is simply not feasible to build a slipway at the small boats marina itself. The Government does, however, have plans for a service yard for boats at the small boats marina. I would refer the hon. Member to the answer to Question 202/2016.

2395 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, if I may come back to Question 745 and if I may ask the Minister: does the Government own the device that my hon. Friend referred to, or does it have an interest in that device?

2400 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, that device was, I assume, rented by the contractor. We had GJBS, who won the tender for the small boats marina. They brought the equipment – I assume they rented the equipment that was required for that, so the Government certainly does not have any interest ... As far as I am aware, the Government does not have any interest in the device that was used.

2405 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** If I could be of assistance, Mr Speaker, as far as we know, the people who own that device thought that they would wait here until they determined where they would be gainfully employing it next, whether it was here or elsewhere. Gibraltar, being at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, seemed to them a good place to remain and there is nothing to be read into that in terms of the Government owning any share or incurring any costs as a result.

2410

COMMERCE

Q747-748/2017

Mail delivery –
Turnaround re parcels and letters

Clerk: Question 747. The Hon. L F Llamas.

2415 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a daily schedule with the average turnaround for parcels received from arrival in Gibraltar to delivery of the notification notice at the respective address?

Sorry, Mr Speaker, the notice of questions was wrong and it did not make sense. Can the Government provide a daily schedule with the average turnaround for letters received from ... in arrival to Gibraltar ... It does not read well at all.

2420 Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a daily schedule with the average turnaround for letters received from arrival in Gibraltar to delivery at the respective address?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Commerce.

2425 **Minister for Commerce (Hon. A J Isola):** Mr Speaker, after all that I will answer this question together with Question 748.

Clerk: Question 748. The Hon. L F Llamas.

2430 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a daily schedule with the average turnaround for parcels received from Gibraltar in Gibraltar to delivery of the notification notice at the respective address?

Clerk: Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Commerce.

2435 **Hon. A J Isola:** Mr Speaker, letters, documents and parcels, goods from around the world, arrive either via the hubs of Madrid or London. The mail that comes from London is flown to Malaga Airport and arrives at the mail centre by three o'clock in the afternoon, Monday to Friday. Mail from Madrid arrives midday, Monday to Friday.

2440 The daily schedule for letter mail is next day delivery. The daily schedule for parcel mail is 48 hours after arrival as notification cards have to be produced. Any local letter posted before 7 a.m. is delivered on the same day.

2445 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Just one supplementary, Mr Speaker: is the Government confident that this timescale is being adhered to?

2450 **Hon. A J Isola:** Mr Speaker, we are currently conducting a review which includes the testing of that to establish how good or bad it is being. Obviously there are peak periods, particularly in respect of parcels, Christmas being one of the areas, so we are ensuring we have additional resources to enable us to meet the demand, and I am confident that we will.

We will be announcing in the first quarter of next year the results of the review we are carrying out into the postal service generally to see how we can use technology to improve and make the efficiency of the postal service even better.

2455 **Mr Speaker:** Next question.

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Q759/2017

**MoD site behind Cross of Sacrifice –
Handing over to Government**

Clerk: We now move to Question 759. The Hon. R M Clinton.

2460 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, has the MoD handed over to Government the site of the hangar behind the Cross of Sacrifice on which it is projected to build a college; and if so, on what date?

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

2465 **Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr J J Garcia):** Mr Speaker, no, sir.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, am I then to understand that the site of the college will be purely on the area between the hangar and the current Cross of Sacrifice, which encompasses the access road to the multi-storey car park? Would that be my understanding?

2470 **Hon. Dr J J Garcia:** Mr Speaker, the site of the college will not involve using MoD land in terms of its construction. There is an area about 1,000 square metres in front of the MoD fence, which is where we intend to construct the college.

2475 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I move that the House should now adjourn until tomorrow at 2.30 in the afternoon.

Mr Speaker: The House will now adjourn until tomorrow at 2.30 in the afternoon.

The House adjourned at 6.16 p.m.