



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

**MORNING SESSION: 11.32 a.m. – 1.21 p.m.**

**Gibraltar, Wednesday, 18th January 2017**

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# The Gibraltar Parliament

*The Parliament met at 11.32 a.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, Wednesday, 18th January 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, 21st and 22nd December 2016.

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

*Mr Speaker signed the Minutes.*

## PAPERS TO BE LAID

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

10 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Gibraltar Annual Policing Plan for 2016-17 and the Annual Report of the Gibraltar Police Authority for the year ended 31st March 2016.

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

## Questions for Oral Answer

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE GSB

**Q82-87/2017**

#### **Public finance – Breakdown of figures**

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

We commence with Question 82/2017. The Hon. R M Clinton.

20 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government advise whether PwC have completed any audits of Credit Finance Company Ltd?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB.

25 **Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 83 to 87.

**Clerk:** Question 83. The Hon. R M Clinton.

30 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government please advise the total gross debt aggregate debt after application of the Sinking Fund to gross debt, cash reserves and net debt figures for public debt for the following date, being 1st December 2016?

**Clerk:** Question 84. The Hon. R M Clinton.

35 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government please advise the total liquid reserves figure and its constituents, namely Consolidated Fund, Improvements and Development Fund, Government-owned companies, deposits, contingencies and other funds for the following date, being 1st December 2016?

40 **Clerk:** Question 85. The Hon. R M Clinton.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government please advise how total liquid reserves are invested/held, giving details of all bank/saving bank accounts and cash held for the following date, being 1st December 2016?

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**Clerk:** Question 86. The Hon. R M Clinton.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government please provide a statement as to its financial performance by individual heads of revenue and expenditure as compared to the 2016-17 approved estimates for the six-month period to 30th September 2016, including Government authorities and agencies?

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**Clerk:** Question 87. The Hon. R M Clinton.

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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government please advise all companies, with the exception of Aquagib Ltd, in which it or the Gibraltar Development Corporation has a joint

venture interest and the monetary value that interest and the percentage of the joint venture company owned?

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**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB.

**Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB (Hon. J J Bossano):** Mr Speaker, the PwC audit is still ongoing.

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The position as regards total liquid assets composition, when, where and how these are invested on a particular date chosen by the Member opposite continues to be as previously stated.

The position of the public debt on 1st December 2016 is as it was estimated on 1st November 2016, except that the cash reserves were then £79 million and the net debt was £367 million.

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As regards the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the first six months of the current financial year which I volunteered to provide to the hon. Member, I can confirm that I will provide them to the hon. Member during the course of the month. As previously stated, these half-year figures cannot be interpreted as indicating what the full year result will be.

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There are no other joint ventures other than the one mentioned in the question.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for his response.

If I can ask him, in terms of the audits of Credit Finance Ltd, which he says are ongoing, could he advise for which financial years they are ongoing?

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**Hon. J J Bossano:** For all the financial years for which they are being undertaken. I think they are being undertaken for all the years since it started, because none of them have been done so far. So we will get them all together, I imagine.

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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, as I am sure the hon. Member is aware, audits are usually done on annual rotation and you would expect the audit report to be signed within at least six months of the year end. Are there any issues that PwC have identified that are delaying the audits, or is there a delay, or is this actually a planned process whereby four or five years are done in one go?

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**Hon. J J Bossano:** No, it is not planned to be done every five years in one go, although we have been doing more than five years in a go because we inherited 15 years of his Government when none were done. So, by this standard, five years is one third of the time.

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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful for that perhaps predictable reply. But would he not agree that this company was obviously incorporated under his watch, and therefore he has had complete control over the management and the finances of this entity? Therefore, would he not wish the audits to at least be completed on an annual basis?

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**Hon. J J Bossano:** Yes, I would wish it to be done on an annual basis but this is what it has taken. I do not know whether it is that accountants and auditors have the same practice as lawyers, which usually is that the longer they take the more they charge. All I can say is that the sooner I have it the better, and the happier I will be.

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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I would perhaps advise the hon. Member to make sure he agrees his audit fee in advance so that we do not get landed with a big bill. In any case, I look forward to seeing the accounts when they are prepared.

Mr Speaker, if I may, turning to the response to Question 86, in which the hon. Member has kindly agreed to provide information – and I understand what he says when it does not

110 necessarily mean that it is on a pro rata basis reflective of what the end-of-year results will be,  
as there will obviously be tidying issues – in what way does he hope to get that information to  
me, given that this is a question that I am asking in this House and I would want it reflected in  
*Hansard*?

115 **Hon. J J Bossano:** He will get it the same day as I get it and I will deliver it to him, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, if I may address you, how would we get this information into  
*Hansard*?

120 **Mr Speaker:** There is no way in which a private communication between a Minister and the  
hon. mover of the question ... there is no way in which it can be entered into the *Hansard*. It can  
only be entered into the *Hansard* if the information is provided here in Parliament.

125 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, would it perhaps then be – and I excuse my use of English in  
this way of saying it – more correct perhaps to wait until February, when the Hon. Minister will  
have the information to hand and can provide it in this House?

**Mr Speaker:** If the Minister is prepared to provide the information here in the House, I can be  
liberal in allowing a question to be put by the hon. Member that will enable the Minister to  
130 make the information available here. It is up to him.

**Hon. J J Bossano:** I am not sure why he is so keen to have it in the House, Mr Speaker, but ... I  
used to get it the way I propose to provide it to him – that is, when it was ready the Chief  
Minister's office used to send me a letter giving me the information. When I get it and I am  
135 ready ... I am prepared to give it to him as soon as I get it.

**Mr Speaker:** The other thing, of course, is –

140 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Unless he wants me to repeat what he has already got here.

**Mr Speaker:** Apart from that, whether it is in the *Hansard* or not, that does not stop the hon.  
Member from making use of it subsequently, either by way of asking further questions or by  
referring to that information in the course of any debate.

145 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Let us clarify that I am not saying that I am providing it to him confidentially  
and that he cannot make use of it; I am just providing it in the most convenient way.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, on that basis then that will be fine, and then, as you say, we  
can refer to it in this House later on. I look forward to receiving the information in due course.

150 If I may ask: in his experience, not having seen the previous presentation and information  
that he used to receive, to what level of detail would this information be? Would it just be  
headline numbers, or would there be a breakdown?

155 **Hon. J J Bossano:** In effect, it is an update of the summary, the pages that we get in the  
estimates... It is the summary that we get in the estimates by head of expenditure. That is what I  
used to get, and in fact normally the expenditure ... you can then see which head ... if a lot of  
money has been spent on that head at the beginning of the year, then you are almost heading to  
be overspending in that head, because usually it comes in at less than 50% by 50% of the year.

160 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Hon. Minister and I look forward to  
receiving the information in due course.

**Q88/2017**

**Gibraltar Health Authority –  
Efficiency measures; frontier workers**

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**Clerk:** Question 88. The Hon. D A Feetham.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, is the Government planning to introduce any efficiency measures within the GHA?

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**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB.

**Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB (Hon. J J Bossano):**  
Mr Speaker, I will answer this question with Question 89.

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**Clerk:** Question 89. The Hon. D A Feetham.

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**Hon. D A Feetham:** Does the Government intend to change the employment status of frontier workers employed directly by the GHA as nurses on short-term contract from direct employment by the GHA to placement via the services of a recruitment consultant?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB.

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**Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, the Ministry for Economic Development is responsible for identifying potential efficiency measures throughout the public sector, which includes the GHA.

As regards contract workers in the GHA, no one is being changed from being an employee of the authority to being an employee of a consultant.

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**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, what he has said is that his Department is responsible for efficiencies, and we all know that, but does his Department, or the Minister, plan to introduce any efficiencies in relation to the GHA?

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**Hon. J J Bossano:** The plan is to introduce the measures that are identified as producing greater efficiency in the use of existing resources, whether it is in the GHA or anywhere else. It is not that there is a different policy for the GHA from what is being applied in the rest of the public service. As I think I have said before, I welcome any ideas that others may have that will lead to a more efficient use of public funds.

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**Hon. D A Feetham:** May I ask the Minister where is he with the plan to introduce possible efficiencies – is this at drawing board stage? Has he been able to identify areas already where there are going to be efficiencies? Has he sat down with the employees and with management in order to consider whether there are any efficiencies to be made? If he can give me more information in relation to where we are at with that potential plan I would appreciate it.

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**Hon. J J Bossano:** I am already having monthly meetings with different unions and I am happy to report that they have been very co-operative to date, once I explained to them what it was and they got over the initial anxieties. I have asked them, in fact, to involve their memberships because I actually believe that the people who are doing the job are the people who are best placed to tell us whether the way they are doing it is the most efficient way of doing it, or not, particularly because there is a tendency, I think, in any organisation and certainly in Government organisations that things are initiated and, unless somebody comes back and says 'we do not

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215 need to be doing that anymore because it is no longer relevant', people tend to keep on doing the same thing or doing it in the same way until a new instruction is issued to stop it.

220 So the whole idea is that we already started on the process of getting feedback where ... For example, I have been told of particular things that happen in the preparation of the estimates and in the presentation of them to the House and in the work that the Treasury has to be done – and this has come from the union, not from the management, where they have said to me that it involves a lot of man hours being expended on doing something that would save resources if we found a way of getting to the same result without doing it in the way that it is being done. That is one example.

225 I will not be making public specific things that we do, but what I hope is that the results will be seen in the money that we need to spend as the financial year progresses and as the new estimates have been brought in, because the whole idea is, as I have already explained to the unions, that what I am looking for is improvements in the service that we provide or that additional services that are provided should be achieved by better use of existing resources rather than the expectation that every year there will be an automatic increase in manning levels or an automatic increase in the provision of funds. If this succeeds it will succeed in us being able to take on the responsibility of delivering things within the resources that we have got because we are using those resources better.

235 **Hon. D A Feetham:** In terms of the plan for efficiencies – and, as I understand it, that is an ongoing situation and it is not definite at the present moment because he is still talking to employees and he has spoken to the union – when does he think that he will be in a position to have that plan or list of actions that he thinks need to be taken? And will that then be presented to the unions and to the employees before the plan of action is executed, or is this on the go – effectively a live plan of action?

240 **Hon. J J Bossano:** It is intended to be a permanent thing. It is not that we have got a plan, and then we save that plan and then it is finished and then there is no more efficiency needed. That is to say on a daily basis we will be introducing changes that people suggest to us or that we ourselves think can be applied, having first done an exercise to make sure that the effect of the change will not be that we finish up paying more for what we are doing than we were before – clearly, because the whole idea is to be able to make savings in order to be able to do things within the budgets and money levels that we have got today. Therefore, if it succeeds it will be seen to be succeeding because that is the position that Members will find when they are being asked to approve funds in this Parliament. If it does not succeed, then Members will see us having to come back and ask for more money or ask for more man power in order to deliver things because we have not been able to achieve efficiencies.

250 They were persuaded, Mr Speaker, if I may say so, that the efficiencies potentially were there before I was asked to do something about it, so presumably ... If they have got a plan and they are willing to share it with me, I will be happy to look at it.

255 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, of course success is measured by much more than just simply money; it is also measured by the delivery of service, and we would hope that the delivery of service is not actually affected by the efficiencies. But that is not what I am ...

260 The next question that I am going to ask ... On current predictions at the moment we are spending over £100 million annually in relation to health. My understanding of the situation is if we transposed past increases to the future, we would have rapidly got to about £120 million annually – that is a £10 million per month spending on health. Does the hon. Gentleman hope to have a decrease in the amount that we are spending, or does he hope to have a situation where there is effectively a freeze on any projected future increases of the amount that we spend?



265 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, we will have an opportunity to debate the estimates when the  
estimates are presented to the House, but certainly in terms of the size of the budget the  
efficiency is not necessarily going to lead to a smaller budget, but it can lead to a situation  
where, with the same budget and without a further increase, we are able to do more things or  
270 provide the services to more people. So, in fact, let me say that in terms of the introduction that  
he made, if there was a decline in the service to the public or a decline in the service to the user,  
there would not be any efficiency involved. Efficiency, by definition, means that you are  
delivering at least the same as you were before at a lower cost, or that you are delivering more  
at no higher cost. But there will be a process of identifying things and that will be reflected in the  
results that we achieve.

275 It is true that the Health Service grows substantially and has grown substantially in the term  
of office that we were here. I think it is important to recognise that the service that we want to  
provide is one which meets all the needs of our community but that if one particular  
Department kept on growing faster than anything else, eventually we would all have to be  
working in that Department.

280 For the sake of comparison let me say that, in percentage terms, the increase in the first eight  
years of the GSLP administration between 1988 and 1996 was greater than anything we have  
seen recently, because we went from £8 million to £20 million, so we actually increased the  
budget of the Health Service two and a half times in those eight years. We certainly have not  
done that this time because otherwise we would now be in the £300 million area!

285 I would hope that, given the concerns that Members opposite have previously expressed  
about the prudential use of public resources, I would enjoy their support in the efforts that I am  
going to be making.

**Mr Speaker:** May I intervene to say that of course we are now getting into specific details  
290 which are well outside the ambit of the original questions. It is the responsibility of the Minister  
to what extent he opens himself to further supplementaries, but I also have a responsibility to  
try to keep the matter within reasonable control.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, turning to the second question – the one about the change  
295 of employment status of frontier workers – the position at the moment is that there is a  
substantial number of frontier workers that work, particularly nurses, at the hospital. A lot of  
those are on short-term contracts. Although they are on short-term contracts – not permanent  
and pensionable, if I can call it that – they are ... If I may please ask my question: although they  
are on short-term contracts ...

300 Does the Hon. Chief Minister want to say something? I will give way to him.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I am very grateful to the hon. Gentleman  
giving way to me. I am having a conversation with Members on this side of the House, which I  
intend to continue.

305 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, thank you very much. He can continue to be rude.

There are a substantial number of these nurses, my understanding is, on short-term  
contracts. But short-term contracts are in themselves also recurrent expenditure – it is there, it  
is recurrent expenditure. Is there a plan from the Government to reduce recurrent expenditure  
310 by effectively reducing those frontier workers on short-term contracts working at the hospital  
and then allow them to be re-engaged via recruitment consultants, which would then of course  
basically substantially reduce potentially the recurrent expenditure burden on the Government  
–on the GHA in this case?

315 **Hon. J J Bossano:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman knows I am always happy to answer his questions, but all he has done is ask the original question in different words, and the answer he has already had.

320 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, as always I am grateful for the Minister's interventions in respect of public efficiency. Can I ask him: is this review purely internal? I know he has no love of consultants from outside, and neither do I, but is there any plan to bring in any particular experts in the field of healthcare in terms of identifying any greater efficiencies, or ways or management systems that might produce not just a financial outcome but also a positive healthcare outcome?

325 **Hon. J J Bossano:** I am glad that the hon. Member and I share the same view of consultants. In my experience they tend to cost more than the savings that they produce, so there is no improvement in efficiency.

330 No, I think the experts are the people working in the system. Clearly, what we want to do requires their co-operation, and I have sent a very clear message that this is in the interest of everybody because we are all taxpayers and we are all consumers of a service.

335 This is not about making people work harder, but making people work better so that the things that do not need to be done we stop doing, or the things that are being done in ways that may require more effort which is unnecessary are done. So it is more an organisational thing than doing anything else.

At the same time we are going to be looking logically at the way we procure things, because all those things are not exclusively within the workload of the Department in the sense of delivering the service to the customer where the service is consumed at the point of delivery.

340 For example, a number of different outfits doing more or less the same thing, we may find that it is more efficient to do it. In my own Department, Members will see that I am making some changes in the structure of my Department, although my budget never goes up. Nevertheless, I believe in leading by example, so I am making some savings in my Department and that will be reflected in the estimates.

345 So, where it has an impact on the way that the work is organised, Members will see it. There may be lots of small things that change, but at the end of the day the cumulative effect of those changes hopefully will lead to a situation where Parliament has the satisfaction of seeing that more is being done for the same amount of money that has been voted, and that is really part of the role that we have, whichever side of the House we are on.

## CULTURE, THE MEDIA, YOUTH AND SPORT

Q1/2017

### Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority – Update re vacancies

350 **Clerk:** We now move to Question 1/2017. The questioner is the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Following on from answers provided to Questions 732/2016 and 842/2016, can the Minister for Sport update this House in respect of the two vacancies within the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority?

355 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the selection process for the Centre Manager, grade 5, vacancy was undertaken in late December 2016. The successful candidate has been informed and will start official duties in the new role on 1st February 2017.

The interview board for Assistant Resource Manager, grade 4, will be undertaken in the very near future.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** I am grateful for that, Mr Speaker. We now know that for the grade 5, where the Minister had indicated last month it would be taking place shortly, we now know there has been a successful candidate due to take up the post on 1st February. But in December, in respect of the other post, the assistant admin post, the Minister said that he expected to hold interviews, or the selection board would meet in January 2017. We are now halfway through January 2017. He is not specific on the date in today's answer. He said 'shortly': is it outside the scope of January now, or does he mean January but just in other words than the way he has answered today?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, knowing the efficiency of the GSLA management, I am sure that they will be doing it during January, if not then the first week in February. But the hon. Member must understand that this has been ongoing, all these vacancies, and it is being done in a very efficient way. What I would suggest is that if they have indicated to me 'in the near future', for the GSLA the near future could be a couple of weeks.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker.

One small thing I forgot to ask before: the successful candidate for the grade 5 post – was that an internal successful candidate, or is it someone externally now moving into the GSLA?

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, Mr Speaker, as in the norm, these vacancies are usually internal unless there is no suitable candidate, and then they could be looking for somebody else outside. But obviously people who are SLOs – sports and leisure officers – would like to get the post. It is like being in the Civil Service: if you are an AO you want to be an EO. In this case it is the same thing. It is all done internally and they have been able to get a successful candidate.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** So, Mr Speaker, can the Minister confirm I am right then in deducting from there that there will now be a further vacancy somewhere down the road because someone is moving up to grade 5? And when will that vacancy be filled and will it just be an internal process first; or is it at such a low grade, for example, that it just goes straight out to the public on the first go?

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, Mr Speaker, because this is part and parcel of the whole restructure of the GSLA. As the hon. Member knows, we are still working with the unions and the workforce in the GSLA on what is the right manning level. So there might be, for example, people moving up, and therefore at the bottom you might not need ... because we might have over and above what we need.

This is what the GSLA is currently doing. As the hon. Member knows, we started this restructure with the management and it is working all the way down. It could well be that we might not need it. It is part and parcel probably of the efficiency strategy where you might not need an SLO or an SLA at the bottom of the line. But this is ongoing, and again, like I said, the management ... if people go up the ladder and a manning level is agreed, that will be kept, and if at that point we need to go outside we will do.

**Q2/2017**

**Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority premises –  
Details of any further cancellations**

**Clerk:** Question 2. The Hon. E J Reyes.

410 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sport provide details of any further cancellations since the answer provided to Question 845/2016 at any of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority's premises due to the facilities being unfit for use, inclusive of reasons why the cancellations were necessary and the dates involved?

415 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, since the answer provided to Question 845/2016 there have been no further cancellations due to the premises being unfit for use.

420 **Mr Speaker:** I am not sure whether I can allow the hon. Member to ask the same question at the next meeting, given the answer to this question. When there is an ongoing process where information can change from one month to another, when we know when it is established that information can change from one month to another, I do allow the same question to be asked essentially, because the answer is going to be different, it is going to be an update. But in this case you cannot just automatically ask a question on the assumption that there may have been cancellations. Does the Member get the point?

425 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker, sir. I am quite content with that and I concur with what you said.

430 The reason why I posed this question was, looking at the date of the December meeting when I was given the answer, and seeing that some inclement weather had occurred after that ... I posed this question keeping my fingers crossed that you would see my genuineness in getting the updated information. The Minister was able to provide last time the information up to the date when the answer was tabled in this Parliament, but because there has been bad weather since then I was just asking.

435 Certainly, Mr Speaker, unless something drastic happens – which we all hope in this House does not happen again – then there will be no need for me to pose the question. I know that there are occasionally minor cancellations due to some minor works. The reason for posing this question in December is, as the Minister explained in his answer, it was a rather big job from something that does not happen ... that bad weather does not happen luckily every month. So I do not foresee, Mr Speaker ... and should I have a need, what I will do is via the Clerk I will contact you and say, 'Look, Mr Speaker, what do you think is correct in that case?' But there is no need for us to have any disagreement on this matter; we are both on the same wave length.

**Q3/2017**

**Albert Risso House exercise equipment –  
Accessibility**

445 **Clerk:** Question 3. The Hon. E J Phillips.

**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, can the Government explain why the installed exercise equipment adjacent to Albert Risso House has been fenced off and made inaccessible for a period of four years?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

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**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the exercise equipment adjacent to Albert Risso House has neither been fenced off nor made inaccessible for a period of four years as the hon. Member asserts in his question.

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The exercise equipment was installed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority in May 2015 at the request of the residents. The area is used on a daily basis by those who reside there. A gate controls access to the area to avoid unauthorised entry, thus reducing the possibility of damage via instances of vandalism etc.

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**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, just one supplementary. I walk past that gate every single morning. It is locked with a bolt; it is inaccessible. I would like an explanation as to why the residents of Albert Risso House are not allowed to access that. Surely it is in the interests of our elderly to have exercise equipment available to them in that area; it has been put there for their use and for their health and welfare and to promote that. It is inaccessible. I have walked past that area. I walk my dog every single morning at seven o'clock and it is inaccessible, Mr Speaker.

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**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, he might walk with his dog every morning and it might be locked. That does not mean that a resident of ... The residents, what they do is if they want to use it there is a caretaker where they can get the key and open the place – and probably somebody goes and helps them to open the place – in order to use the facilities. I have just answered that in saying that when he walks his dog it might be closed, but he obviously has not gone when somebody is using it. So it is a question of the management there having the key and the people who reside there going to the management and saying, 'Can I have the key? I want to do my exercise.' They go and open the gate, they use it and then they close it again – because of instances of damages or vandalism.

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So the hon. Member might walk his dog in front of the gate every day, and if he finds it closed it does not mean it is not being used. The residents have access to it when they want to use it, and all they have to do is go to the janitor or the caretaker, get the key, open the place, use it and then close it up again.

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**Q4/2017**  
**Victoria Stadium floodlights –**  
**Maintenance programme**

**Clerk:** Question 4. The Hon. E J Phillips.

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**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide details of maintenance programmes in place in respect of the floodlights at the training pitches at Victoria Stadium?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

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**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority has a maintenance contract with a local electrical contractor which includes quarterly maintenance checks, including periodic replacement of fittings as and when necessary. In addition, there is an agreed callout service for emergencies and ad hoc repairs or replacements.

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**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, is the Hon. Minister aware ... As he knows, I am a regular. I frequent that area three times a week and for the last three months lights have been

495 inoperative at pitches 3 and 4 and there has been low-level floodlighting from two of the six that operate each pitch.

In terms of periodical attendance there has clearly been a failing there. Is he aware of those particular failings and the lack of lighting in the evenings for children's football?

500 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I am not aware, but the hon. Member must be made aware there are times when the flood lights cannot be on. We had the issue with the hockey where ... Remember, we are just beside an airport and the hon. Member, who works for NATS, must know that if an aeroplane lands at a given time, the lights have to be put off. So it could well be the case that when the children were training and all that, aeroplanes were landing or were scheduled to land and therefore the lights were not on. They might put some dimmer lights on  
505 in order for training to continue.

I can assure the Member, like I have just said, that there is a maintenance programme and the maintenance programme is that if they are not working they are fixed. So it cannot be the case that you go there training and ... If they are not working, there is a callout system. Somebody comes and fixes it. It might take an hour or it might take half an hour, and maybe that  
510 session might have been cancelled, but the hon. Member must understand that these are things that, if they happen, will be fixed as soon as is possible.

I can assure the hon. Member that there have not been any cancellations of allocations. As far as the previous question to do with the stadium inside and outside it is the same case – if not, they would have informed me.  
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**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, in relation to the incidents – just to clarify the incidents that I am referring to – within moments of this question being filed it was fixed, so obviously it is effective. We made a complaint, or I may have raised a question which alarmed the individual concerned, maybe your office, and the contractors fixed the lights. But it did take a number of  
520 complaints from parents, who approached me as well, to have the lights replaced. It is not a question of flights landing, Mr Speaker. It is a question of them just not being replaced within a reasonable period of time – that is the point made – and it took parents to complain several times and a question put to remedy the situation.

525 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I do not agree with him that it has to be three parents going to complain in order for it to be fixed – that is not the case. If the parents complained, fine, they complained; but even if they had not complained, the management would have realised that the lights were down and they would have made the call and people would have fixed it. So it is not a question of going to complain.

530 Fine, if you want to complain, you complain. You can have 20 complaints. You do not even have to complain – you just probably have to inform them and say, 'Look, the lights are out. Can you please have someone to ...' And like the hon. Member said, within a certain period of time, a short period of time, it was fixed. So I do not know what the issue is, Mr Speaker.

**Q5/2017**  
**Gibraltar Music Festival –**  
**Net cost of 2016 event**

535 **Clerk:** Question 5. The Hon. R M Clinton.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, can the Government advise the net cost of the 2016 Gibraltar Music Festival?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

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**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, full details of payments and income generated from the 2016 Gibraltar Music Festival have not been finalised. Government will be publishing full details once it has been finalised.

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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, given that this is a multi-million-pound event, I find it surprising that the Minister, in pretty much the same vein as last year, has responded that he does not yet have the figures available.

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This was an event that was held in September last year, and somehow ... I would ask the Minister whether he thinks it is acceptable that his Department is unable to tell him whether that event made a profit or a loss.

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**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, it is because this event is a multi-million-pound event that finalising the accounts of it in a way that we can give figures in this House which are ones that we can rely on, which can then be in *Hansard* and which can then form the subject of debate, takes longer than the hon. Gentleman might wish. The event took place in September. That is last year, of course, but it is four months into last year; it is not 12 months into last year. The figures that the hon. Gentleman has said will be available shortly and a statement will be made reflecting those precise detailed and accurate figures. That is the sort of figure that I would have thought the hon. Gentleman would want to see us bringing to this House.

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That does not mean to say that we do not have an idea of what the figures are, that we do not know what the ballpark of the figures are and we do not know what the budget of it was and that there has been strict control of that to ensure that it comes in as close as possible, as with any event, to the budget. Those figures will be made public as soon as they are available.

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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I would ask the Minister to give an undertaking to this House that he will have those figures presented to us by no later than the end of March – *before* we get handed the Budget Book and then he refuses to answer the questions in this House.

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**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, we will give no such undertaking. What we will do is to prudently deal with the finances of Gibraltar, as we have been doing until now, and provide a statement, as the hon. Gentleman has said, as soon as the figures are ready.

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The hon. Gentleman should have now known – he has been here for one cycle already – that 1st April is a new financial year, that the Government works to that new financial year, that he will have his estimates during the course of April, that he will not be able to refer to them until the Budget debate but that he will have them and that will give him a forecast outturn for the year before.

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When the hon. Gentleman asks for undertakings he needs to understand what he is asking for. He needs to understand that it is not relevant to the sort of argument we are having today. The Government will provide the figures as set out in the first answer.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Chief Minister for his intervention; naturally, he has not been able to shed any light on the matter.

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I would ask the Minister again. He must have some idea, or, as the Chief Minister himself just said, some kind of ballpark figure in his head – and I am willing to accept that it maybe not entirely accurate, but would he be willing to share with this House what that ballpark figure is?

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**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, I could not disagree more with the hon. Gentleman. I have shed a lot of light on the issue. I have made clear what it is that the Government is doing in respect of these figures and how they will be available. I have also indicated to him that at the

very least he will have the forecast outturn by April. It is very likely that before then we will have the detailed statement that he is requesting in the context of the statement that the Government will make. But this is not a place where people are going to be given ballpark figures. This is a place where they are going to be given precise figures that can be relied on and we will not be baited into giving those ball park figures. But I will tell him this, Mr Speaker: if he wants a ballpark – better referred to as an estimate – all he needs to do is open the relevant page of the Estimates Book and he will know what the ballpark was. He has had it for a year.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** So, Mr Speaker, if I understand the Chief Minister correctly he is saying that on a ballpark basis he expects the Music Festival of 2016 to come in at least at a loss of £½ million. Would I be correct in saying that?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, I do not know which remarks I made that the hon. Gentleman heard that might have led him to that conclusion. What I have said is that he should go to the Estimates Book and see what the estimate was for this year, and that is the only legitimate ballpark that he can refer to.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, at the risk of trying your patience, the ballpark net loss of £½ million I referred to came precisely from the Estimates Book he is so fond of. So again I ask him: does he confirm that in his view there would be at least a loss of £½ million on the Music Festival 2016?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, although he has been here already for a full cycle, he does not seem to get it. The Estimates Book contains the forecast outlook for the year before, which is where he is getting that figure from, and then it contains the estimate for this year.

What I am saying to him is that in the context of asking for a ballpark AKA, an estimate of what the Festival has cost this year, we gave him in April last year a book that said ‘this is what it cost last year and this is the net cost to the taxpayer and this is what it is going to cost next year’. He has had that information now for almost a year. I know that he will have looked at it. That is the ballpark that he can refer to until there is a detailed statement that tells him exactly every penny that has been spent, how much was recovered and how much was not recovered.

It is becoming increasingly clear to me – not that it took much since his statements last year – that he is an enemy of the Gibraltar Music Festival. He does not believe that we should be holding a Gibraltar Music Festival and he is probably therefore not going to want to congratulate the Government for the magnificent deal that we have been able to do with MTV which has been ushered in by the Minister for Culture with the former Minister for Tourism, Samantha Sacramento, doing a considerable amount of work which is now going to produce for Gibraltar, in the context of the Music Festival this year, the advertising value that will be measured in many millions of pounds, because we are going to benefit from exposure on MTV and the advertisement of the Gibraltar tourist product around the world – not just on MTV in the United Kingdom and on MTV in Europe, but also on MTV channels and derivative channels in the United States and around the world.

So, Mr Speaker, I could not disagree more with every aspect of the premise of his question, in particular his enmity for the Gibraltar Music Festival.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, what a wonderful speech! I have no particular aversion to music or even to the Music Festival. What I have an aversion to is the misuse of taxpayers’ money in which last year they blew £2¼ million pounds on the Music Festival and this last year they were due to blow £½ million on the Music Festival – but he cannot tell us how much was actually spent.



So, Mr Speaker, I will wait for the Hon. Mr Bossano's half-year numbers to September, and hopefully they will include those numbers. In the meantime, I would ask the Chief Minister to perhaps invest a little bit more time and effort in getting the Music Festival to make a profit.

645 **Mr Speaker:** No, that question does not arise. We will now move on to the next question.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** It does not, Mr Speaker, but the hon. Gentleman surely cannot make a speech without having a response. The idea that the Government 'blows' anything is really quite preposterous and unbecoming a Member of this House. The idea that the Gibraltar Music Festival is the Government 'blowing' taxpayers' money does not just betray that the hon. Gentleman is against the organisation of the Gibraltar Music Festival; it betrays that he must therefore consciously be against any spending whatsoever on any matter of culture. Or is it that if the Government sponsors a classical concert in the sum of £1,000 and we do not recover the £1,000, that is not blowing £1,000 on a concert, but if the Government invests in an event which entertains 13,000 people, which attracts people to Gibraltar, which provides an opportunity for businesses in Gibraltar to bring their international boards to Gibraltar, and which projects the image of Gibraltar abroad, then we are blowing taxpayers' money?

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665 Mr Speaker, I could not consider that the hon. Gentleman has failed in his duty to the people of Gibraltar more than in the context of what he has said today. It is perfectly proper to look at the detail of every penny that we spent and ensure that it is being spent in a manner that is appropriate and that is value for money. But from that to the statement that the hon. Gentleman has made now I think is just a headline-grabbing attempt by somebody who has failed to demonstrate any imagination whatsoever in the time that he has been here in the context of the way that we invest in culture in our community and how we project the image of Gibraltar abroad. And I must say to him, Mr Speaker –

**Mr Speaker:** May I ask the Chief Minister, please, to bring the matter to a close.

670 **Hon. Chief Minister:** I will round up. I must say to him, Mr Speaker, it would be a pity indeed if he ever had an opportunity to get his hands on the purse strings of Gibraltar and did not continue to organise events like the Gibraltar Music Festival. We would go back to the desert that Gibraltar was under the GSD when it came to these issues. We would go back to the desert of events for our young people, the desert of culture that Gibraltar was becoming under the GSD. I am very happy and very proud of the work that we have done on the Gibraltar Music Festival, and now, in particular, our alliance with MTV.

680 **Mr Speaker:** I am not going to allow for the rest of this session exchanges of that nature or of that length. I warn hon. Members: they know the attitude that I am going to take. I made a statement at the beginning of the summer precisely as to how I was going to deal with Question Time, but the hon. questioner invited that kind of response from the Chief Minister, so that is why he is getting it, but I am not going to allow any further exchanges of that nature.

We move on to the next question.

**Q6/2017**  
**Gibraltar Music Festival –**  
**MTV**

**Clerk:** Question 6. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

685 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, this question may come as a little outdated, given yesterday's press conference on the upcoming alliance with MTV, but I shall ask it anyway.

Can the Government confirm or deny whether there are plans to move the production and organisation of the GMF from our local setup to MTV?

690 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, as announced yesterday in the press release, HMGoG has signed an agreement with MTV as a media partner for the 2017 Gibraltar Music Festival.

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**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** If the hon. Lady would give way before she gets up, the Government respects the convention that if a question is put on a matter that the Government has not yet acted upon, the Government would not act upon it until we answered the question. And so, if the hon. Lady had asked us about something which was local and we had not somehow programmed already, for some other reason, an announcement on a particular date, then we would simply have waited and given the information to her in the Parliament.

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When I saw her question come in I realised that in this instance we were going to be unable to do that because the announcement yesterday, as she may have seen from the media, involved members of the company she refers to, MTV, having flown out to Gibraltar, having made the arrangements and needing to move on to other things that they were going to announce elsewhere. Therefore, we were not able to respect the convention in this case, but we meant no slight or disrespect in having done so.

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**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, may I just add that I have been looking at my e-mails, and in order to clarify all this, if there is an issue, we started planning the press conference and the reception we did yesterday way back on 23rd December, so it was not a thing that came out of your question; we were already planning the actual date. I have been looking at the e-mails and we homed in to 17th January way back on 23rd December.

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**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Chief Minister and the Minister for Sport and Leisure for their explanations, and I have no issue with that at all.

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If I may, a couple of supplementaries to this effect: can I just ask who will be the local agent, or who will be the intermediary between Government and MTV?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, there is a company that works for or with MTV that does the production. MTV does the broadcasting, or the television side, and then there is a company that works for MTV that does the production. But I can assure everybody in Gibraltar that most, if not all, the things that the GMF have previously done will be done by probably the same people or agencies that are local, because when MTV moves into, for example, Plymouth, or moves into wherever they go – Malta, for example – what they do is they use the local expertise to do the actual production. They will not fly from London, say, stages, lights or sound equipment. They will get it from where the locals have previously done. So I can assure the people of Gibraltar and I can assure all the people who have been involved in the GMF that they will continue to be involved in the GMF. It is not a question of MTV taking over the GMF. It is an evolution. It is a completely different step that we are taking. MTV will come in and will use all the footage of GMF in order to, as the Chief Minister said, to broadcast the news on MTV in order to expose Gibraltar and put Gibraltar on the map in the question of music.

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**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Thank you for that. Can I just ask: can the Government guarantee the same level of local contributions from our very own local bands and artists, or would this be down to MTV? Do we have control over such an inventory or schedule for the event?

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740 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday in the press release and I have just mentioned now, the GMF will continue to have the same concept that we have had previously. It has been very successful. That is why it took the attention of MTV itself.

Of course we are going to have local bands. In fact, I am pleased that we can have the local bands playing with MTV watching them and listening to them, which might give opportunities to our local bands to become even bigger. So we always say, and I am convinced, that Gibraltar is 745 full of talent, and having MTV here with us, looking at and listening to our talent is a very, very big plus.

So not only will bands in Gibraltar now have to do their own marketing, but they will have MTV actually listening to them, seeing the act and maybe getting them to become big stars. So of course the local is going to be involved. Not only is he going to be involved in the music sector 750 but he is going to be involved in all the organisation.

Also, the concept of the GMF, which has been very successful, is the fact that it is a family ... and I do not know whether the hon. Member would like to come to it, but it is very much a family festival. Therefore, the whole community enjoys it, because you see parents with prams, grandparents, aunties and uncles seeing and listening to different types of music – music that I 755 like from the 1970s and 1980s to what is current today. That is what has attracted MTV, and MTV has realised the value of the GMF that we have produced with the producers, and therefore the value is intense.

What they will do is, because they have different types of channels in which they have an MTV which have the update, which has the most current musicians that are coming, they also 760 have channels for the retro – that means the bands that I might like that are around – and they will use that footage in another channel. So, basically, whatever the GMF has done has drawn the attention of MTV and they are quite happy to come to Gibraltar, and I am really proud that they are coming here. It is a great thing for Gibraltar. It is going to attract more people. The social media network that MTV has goes to the hundreds of millions of followers, and all that 765 will be exposing Gibraltar.

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, thank you for that explanation. Are costs expected to go down as a result of this partnership?

770 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, there will be set budgets to the companies. Will costs go down? In actual fact, they might do, and I am convinced they will do because of the artists. You see, when you have an independent Gibraltar Music Festival like we used to have, hiring an artist costs more because the exposure that the artists are coming here for is one gig and then they go, whilst with MTV it is a completely different kettle of fish because they can attract artists for a 775 better price because the artist is exposed on MTV and its promotion for them. Therefore, we will be able to get not only ... I would not say better, because the line-ups the GMF have had have been brilliant. MTV have actually said, 'Your line up has been excellent', so they were really happy with the sort of line-up we have had. But now they can attract big stars coming here for less money because of the exposure that they get on MTV. The same will happen with all the 780 other things around MTV – sponsorship, exposure, all these issues that can market Gibraltar – so it pushes the GMF to another level.

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Thank you. If I may just ask one more question: is the Government confident that we have the resources, in terms of hotels and catering, to 785 accommodate the expected rise in this event-led tourism for this festival?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, to be honest, there are many, many events that we organise, like the darts, like the pool, like the Literary Festival and the snooker. There are many events that we do. It is attracting the sort of tourists we want. We are short of beds, yes. We have 790 about 700 beds available and sometimes we get events that we cannot handle, but it means that

the hinterland will get the benefit. That is why we are attracting ... or trying to get investors to do more hotels and more beds, because the more events we do and the more we are attracting people, it means Gibraltar is being more successful. Therefore, the more beds we have the better. Instead of the money going elsewhere, it will come to Gibraltar. So, yes, in a way ...

795 I have had proposals of people wanting to bring the Formula 1 here to Gibraltar, and it is a no-no; we would not be able to handle that. There are many events I get proposals for and, look, Gibraltar cannot handle it. So what we are doing is ... and if you can see the type of events that we have been attracting for the past four or five years are events that we can manage: snooker, pool and darts. These attract 300 to 400 people at a go, and this is what events-led tourism means.

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**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, if the Government appoints any intermediaries or local agents ... I understand what the Minister has just said, that it will most likely be the people who have already worked with the GMF, which sounds about fair because they have been fostering this event and growing it; but if there are any new local agents, will that be by direct allocation, or will these positions go out to tender?

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**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Lady must understand that it is a partnership with MTV, and it is MTV that then procures most of the things of which most of it will be local, like I said. It is not a question of the Government having to go out to tender or anything; it is MTV.

810 This is like a franchise. When you have a franchise you have quality control. MTV puts in the quality control, and therefore it is MTV that contracts their companies. And anyway, the company that MTV is working with does this everywhere else. They go around doing the organisation everywhere else. So it is MTV that decides, it is not us that decide who does it, and then those companies will get all the locals to do all the other things.

815 **Hon. Ms M D Hasson Nahon:** Mr Speaker, sorry, maybe I just do not understand, but if MTV is deciding, then we cannot at the same time guarantee that it is going to be the same people.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, we have put the people who were organising the Music Festival and MTV together and they are working very well together. They could fall out tomorrow and they may not do the festival together, but the Government has appointed MTV to do it for all of the reasons that the Minister has indicated and all the reasons that I gave yesterday – but they have to come to a commercial arrangement.

825 The hon. Lady has to understand what she is saying to us. There was a process by which people have been appointed for some time now and they have delivered a festival, but the people they appointed below them were not something that the Government was responsible for or went to tender for. So, if they decided to have Mr X sell hot dogs or Mr Y sell hot dogs, or Mr F bring the stage or Mr E bring the stage, that was a matter for them. The Government had an agreement with them and they dealt with it.

830 We now have an agreement with MTV. MTV will be delivering the festival, and of course it makes sense that in the context of doing that the people they will want to work with and whom they are already in contact with etc. will be the ones who have been doing it until now, and they are already working together on that basis and the logistical exercise will be one which will be harder for MTV to do without those who have been delivering that festival for the past five years than if they do it with them. It is that simple.

835 What there is no replacement for in this equation is MTV. As the hon. Gentleman has told her a minute ago, and just to put this in context, MTV UK has 2.8 million followers on Twitter social media, which is one of the ways that they will be reaching out to people to advertise Gibraltar and the product. In the United States, the President-elect, Donal Trump, has 19 million Twitter followers. The White House and the Office of the President of the United States each have 840 17 million Twitter followers. MTV has 48 million Twitter followers. That is the reach into which

we are buying for the Gibraltar brand and for the Gibraltar product at this time in our history, when we are looking to open up new markets for Gibraltar. That partnership will result in people being appointed in Gibraltar to do certain things. We have put them in touch with the people  
845 who were doing it for us. They are working very well together until now and we hope that that will be the way it continues. But it is not possible for us to say that MTV are not able to contract in some parts or in others with parties who have not provided services to the Government of Gibraltar until now and that they may do so in that way produce a saving to the taxpayer, because as the hon. Lady has been told, if we go out and contract artist X for September, artist X  
850 comes out with the cost of doing one concert. If MTV contract artist X to do 10 concerts around the world and one of them happens to be ours in September, the cost of that artist in respect of the September gig – to use a term not often used in Parliament – may be much lower and therefore a huge benefit to the Gibraltar taxpayer. That is what we need to be looking for here: the benefit for the taxpayer. If we have a wider reach for the Gibraltar product and we  
855 potentially are able to bring some of the artists' costs down also in that context, I think that is a very good thing, and in particular when you layer on top of that the exposure that local bands are going to have to the people from MTV who discover bands etc. and the potential for those Gibraltar bands to form part of the product produced by MTV for its television station ... Well, look, it is going to be like gold dust for a local band to have 30 seconds on an MTV programme  
860 and expose themselves.

There is nothing to sneeze at here; there is everything to applaud in my submission.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, can the Government tell us whether it is also taking any of the financial risk. Are there, for example, any guarantees in place in relation to the income that  
865 MTV will take from this? Or are there any guarantees in relation to the expenditure that the Government might share with MTV?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the Government is unable to guarantee without coming to the House and asking for a resolution of the House.  
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**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, with respect, he knows the drift of my question: is the Government taking any financial risk shared with MTV in relation to this particular event?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, the Hon. Minister has made it very clear: we have  
875 contracted MTV to deliver this product. There is no question of there being a joint financial risk in any way. There will be an estimate of what the concert is going to cost the Government of Gibraltar, and that is going to be it. There is no question of the Government guaranteeing anything with MTV that might produce a financial risk to the Government. It just does not arise. And that is why, whether I catch the drift of his question or not, if he uses the word 'guarantee' I  
880 have to refer him to the public finance legislation, which says that the Government is unable to guarantee anything without having a resolution of this House.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Effectively, Mr Speaker, what he is saying is that there has been a contract with MTV for a specific price and then MTV take any risk over and above that specific  
885 contract price. Is my understanding correct?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, there is a contract with MTV. That contract with MTV and Neon Angel which was announced yesterday is a contract for the organisation of concert and for the sourcing of artists in exactly the same way as there was previously a contract with a local  
890 consortium that did exactly the same thing for us. So we are as at risk now as we were before.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the Chief Minister's response there.

895 Looking at the press release, they characterise it as a partnership, but am I correct in saying that this is not in fact a partnership in the legal sense and that this is a simple contractual relationship where party A contracts party B to deliver a service? And can he advise the House for how many years this contract is in place? And in terms of the administration of the concert, is it still the case that all the revenues of the concert will accrue to the Government?

900 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, he is referring to a press release and therefore the use of the word 'partnership' in a press release is not used in its legal terminology. So I can confirm to the House that the Government of Gibraltar and MTV have not entered into a legal partnership under the Partnerships Act, but we are describing our contractual relationship, as is common, as a partnership. We have a rolling agreement, so we will renew every year.

905 We are not committed to any particular period and the revenue of the concert will accrue to the Government.

**Q7/2017**  
**New stadium –**  
**Location**

**Clerk:** Question 7. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

910 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Has Government made a decision on where the new stadium will be constructed?

**Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport.

915 **Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the Government is not undertaking construction of a new stadium. Otherwise, the answer remains the same as the answer to Question 705/2016.

920 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, perhaps the Government does not construct the stadium, but surely it has a say or the authority to authorise the location of the stadium in the same way as we saw when it was going to be in Europa Point and when the whole of Gibraltar were up in arms about it it backtracked. The Government had something to do with that as well, so it cannot just say that it has nothing to do with the construction of the stadium. Maybe not per se, but I am sure maybe they could tell us one way or another if they know, or there are any plans for where the new stadium will be held.

925 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the simple answer is that the Government might provide a location for the GFA and then the GFA does its work towards whether they are going to do the stadium there or not. It is public knowledge where some of the locations she mentioned were – one, Europa Point, and we have mentioned Lathbury.

930 This is a decision that the GFA has to take. The Government might be able to provide some ideas of locations where they can put the stadium, but this is a GFA-run project. It is not that the Government is going to construct or contract people to do things. It is a totally independent thing that the GFA is doing.

935 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Thank you. So, Mr Speaker, there are no costs or funds anywhere in this scenario being spent by Government?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, this is public knowledge again about the loans the Government gave to the GFA at the time and all these issues.

940 As far as Gibraltar is concerned, this is a GFA with UEFA and FIFA project which the Government have nothing to do with. There might be loans advanced like what has been done previously, but we can assure the hon. Lady that this is not going to cost the taxpayer money. The stadium is done by the GFA together with UEFA and FIFA.

945 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, can the hon. Gentleman not give me any clues as to where the current location is being looked at for the construction of a new stadium? Yes, we spoke about Europa Point, but I believed that prospect was now done with.

950 **Mr Speaker:** No – (**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker – ) No, may I? (**Hon. Chief Minister:** Sorry.) The hon. Member has already said it is Lathbury. This is where the new stadium is now being considered. That is public knowledge, so there is no need for the Hon. Minister to answer that question –

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, it is –

955 **Mr Speaker:** – unless I am wrong.

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, ‘considered’. The word that you said about considered is what should be looked at –

960 **Mr Speaker:** This is a site that has been identified as a possibility. There is a due process, including the Development and Planning Commission and all that. All that is in due course, but we do not have to deal with that now.  
Any other supplementaries?

965 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, on looking at the guidelines one would have realised that an outside broadcasting van cannot get into Lathbury, so it is not even possible to do the stadium there.

970 **Mr Speaker:** No, no. That is not a matter, who can get in or who cannot get in. Sorry.  
(*Interjection by Ms M D Hassan Nahon*)

975 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Lady has said that that is not a possibility. I do not think either she nor I am qualified to say whether it is possible or not. This is where the GFA comes in. They bring their technicians, they bring their building surveyors, quantity surveyors, their architects, their engineers and everybody to see whether it is feasible there. What the Government does is say, ‘Right, this is the location that we have available – can you do it or not?’  
(*Interjection*) Exactly.

**Mr Speaker:** Any other supplementary questions?

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Q33/2017

Segways –

Confiscations by HM Customs

980 **Clerk:** Question 33. The Hon. L F Llamas.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, in connection with Government Press Release 905/2015 dated 9th December 2015, how many Segways have been confiscated by HM Customs?

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

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, no Segways have been confiscated by H M Customs. However, one was detained, which was imported by a tourist being unaware of its import provision and the visitor was therefore escorted out of Gibraltar.

990 On occasions, HM Customs have stopped visitors and locals who have declared these for duty purposes and, having been informed of the prohibition under the Imports and Exports (Control) Regulations, have not been allowed to be imported.

995 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, given that none have been seized or confiscated and there is obviously a surge, especially after the Christmas period, in Segways, is Government intending to at least regulate them or curtail the use of them, or something? Obviously, they are being used on the roads, in Main Street and in parks, so either we deal with them or we regulate where they can be used or not. I think to just allow an illegal item to be used everywhere and not deal with it is creating a problem, and it also creates a problem in the sense that other children see  
1000 Segways and ask their parents, 'Why can't I get one?' Obviously, you try to explain to children it is against the law, but the children are seeing these gadgets being used out there.

So what is Government's intention in dealing with the surge that we have had over the last 18 months?

1005 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, clearly the hon. Gentleman is not talking about Segways.

**Mr Speaker:** May I, as a dinosaur of a Speaker, (*Laughter*) have an explanation either from the Hon. Minister or the questioner as to what on earth a Segway is about, so that I know what it is that you are talking about? (*Laughter*)

1010 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, Segway is a brand name. It is a name for a type of vehicle which is a self-propelled electric vehicle. These are characteristic ones with handles. You move your centre of gravity forward and they go in the forward action and then reverse. They are often used in the US by police officers. The brand Segway also produce other ones where the handles are not so high – they are slightly lower, around this area – but that is a Segway.

1015 Clearly, the hon. Gentleman is not talking about this product, because, as I said, Segways are something which you will not find. I have never seen a Segway in Gibraltar to date. What I think the hon. Gentleman is referring to is other electric toy gadgets which are coming onto the market. They are loosely termed ... Some are called 'sweways' and hoverboards, electric  
1020 skateboards and scooters and all these types of contraptions. But that was not the question asked.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Sorry for my confusion. Obviously it is from the press release, where it does mention Segways as a self-balancing two-wheeled electrical-powered transport. It does not say  
1025 whether it has a handle or not. So, with reference to the press release, are the hoverboards illegal imports?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the hoverboards are classified, I believe, as self-balancing devices. Some of them do fall under the category and the Segways are also self-balancing  
1030 devices, so the generic term of all these types of devices are illegal imports. But because these are being developed at such a fast rate in the industry it is important to keep track of the products. Remember, Segway is a brand name. If any other company decided to produce a type



of vehicle and they called it a BMW or Mercedes or whatever it was, it would be impossible to legislate for all these types.

1035 Obviously, the Government is aware that there are these electric scooters. How they are defined is something we need to look at. In fact, I recently had a meeting with the Collector of Customs regarding these products and there is also a meeting scheduled with the RGP to discuss and get opinions and see where we wish to take this in terms of policy.

1040 **Mr Speaker:** Next question.

**Q34/2017**  
**Mid-Town Car Park –**  
**Cost of zebra crossing**

**Clerk:** Question 34. The Hon. L F Llamas.

1045 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government confirm whether the cost of the recently refurbished zebra crossing at Mid-Town Car Park has been in addition to the overall cost of the project, or not?

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

1050 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, the works to the recently refurbished zebra crossing did not form part of the original scope of works because in the initial design it was never intended for a crossing to be provided at that location.

A temporary crossing was provided at that location because pedestrian access through the adjacent Mid-Town development is not yet possible. This temporary crossing has now been made more permanent and upgraded to serve disabled users.

1055 The works were carried out by GJBS at a cost of £4,354.04.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** So is it intended that this zebra crossing will be moving at a later stage? Or what is the plan with this zebra crossing?

1060 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, with the whole development itself, the idea was that people exiting the car park would walk in a southerly direction through the complex itself. I believe the intention is that there will be some shopping facilities within the complex. This will then lead them straight to what we refer to as English Steps and the way into town.

We do not know how the project will develop and how people will decide to walk in the future. It could be that persons parking their cars at Mid-Town development may wish to walk in a northerly direction and we may need to consider that when the time comes. But the reason why the zebra crossing was not part of the project was because it was never intended to be put there. The intention was that people would walk, as I said earlier, south and up the steps into town.

**Q35-36/2017**  
**Parking offences –**  
**Clamping; fixed penalty notices**

**Clerk:** Question 35. The Hon. T N Hammond.

1065 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, can the Minister with responsibility for traffic provide figures for the number of vehicles clamped during the months of October, November and December 2016?

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

1070 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 36.

**Clerk:** Question 36. The Hon. T N Hammond.

1075 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Can the Minister with responsibility for traffic say how many fixed penalty notices were issued to vehicles for parking offences in November and December of 2016?

1080 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, according to the records held at Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd, during the month of November 2016 a total of 2,731 FPNs were issued. During the month of December 2016 a total of 1,582 FPNs were issued.

1085 **Mr Speaker:** FPNs being?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Fixed penalty notices.

1090 Furthermore, Mr Speaker, the records of the contractors of Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd show as follows: during the month of October 2016 a total of 366 vehicles were clamped; during the month of November 2016 a total of 252 vehicles were clamped; and during the month of December 2016 a total of 141 vehicles were clamped.

1095 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, could I just ask the Minister to repeat the figure for fixed penalty notices in December 2016? My hon. Friend cleared his throat at an inopportune moment.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Sorry, the amount of FPNs or ...?

1100 **Hon. T N Hammond:** FPNs.

**Hon. P J Balban:** For the month of December, 1,582.

**Q37-39/2017**

**Mid-Town Car Park –**

**Sale of additional spaces; renting of additional spaces**

**Clerk:** Question 37. The Hon. T N Hammond.

1105 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, in his Budget speech the Minister with responsibility for traffic stated that 326 parking spaces had been sold in the Mid-Town Car Park. In answers to questions in December, these sales figures had risen to 456. That constitutes an additional 130 spaces being sold. Can the Minister say what prompted the decision to sell more spaces which had previously been available to the public for parking?

1110 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 38 and 39.

1115 **Clerk:** Question 38. The Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** In his Budget speech, the Minister with responsibility for traffic stated that some parking spaces in the Mid-Town Car Park had been let out, the implications being that it was a small number. In answers to questions last month he stated the number of rented spaces was 131. What prompted Government to rent more spaces and remove them from public use?

**Clerk:** Question 39. The Hon. T N Hammond.

1125 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Can the Minister with responsibility for traffic confirm that the claim made in his Budget speech that with the parking in Mid-Town the Government has provided more than 100 additional public parking spaces than were previously available at the Commonwealth Parade and Naval Ground can no longer be substantiated given the sale of an additional 130 of the Mid-Town spaces and the rental of further spaces?

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

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the commitment set out in the 2011 GSLP Liberal manifesto committed the then incoming administration to provide double the number of parking spaces which will be free for residents of Gibraltar. That commitment is more than entirely provided for and complied with.

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Following the initial sale of 326 spaces, Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar sold two more levels comprising the additional 130 spaces as a result of the high demand from members of the public wishing to purchase parking's.

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During my Budget address reference to rented parking, spaces, although allocated, are also considered of public use and these serve members of our community.

Furthermore, Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar had a commitment to provide rental parking facilities at Mid-Town to meet an existing demand in the area and to provide rental parking for the people who were originally renting at the Naval Grounds before they were moved onto the ICC car park as a temporary measure whilst Mid-Town was being built. Again, the figures quoted in the past have always taken account of rented spaces that existed previously and therefore there has been a net gain in parking in the town area.

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Mr Speaker, spaces sold or rented have all been sold or rented to residents. In the circumstances, the manifesto commitment is complied with, exceeded and something to be proud of.

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**Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, the maths just does not add up. In his Budget speech, the Minister was saying that with Mid-Town they were not providing double the number of spaces previously available, but that 100 more additional parking spaces were available to the public. Last month he effectively stated, and he has repeated that statement, that 130 additional spaces had been sold. So, of that 100, even if we take the rental and the semantics as to whether those are public spaces or not and even if we take the rental out of the equation, that means of the more than 100 spaces that were previously available to the public, over and above those that had been available at Commonwealth Parade and at the Regal House car park, 130 spaces have been sold since that point. So, clearly it is not possible that we now have double the amount of spaces that were previously available. In fact, the maths would indicate that we have fewer

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spaces available to the public than were previously available to the public to access in their daily commute.

1165 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, as sold or rented parking spaces it does not mean they are lost parking spaces. They are still there for members of the community, and in fact it is the members of the community ... These have not been sold to people outside of Gibraltar; they have been sold to people who are residents of Gibraltar. Hence they are available for them to use, whether they have been rented, sold or free.

1170 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Clearly, without conducting an audit of specifically who has been sold a parking space it is not possible to determine whether all those parking spaces have gone to different individuals or whether parking spaces have gone to multiple individuals. However, the maths remain as I have stated: there are fewer.

1175 It is the Minister who made the claim, not I, that there were now more than 100 more spaces available than were previously available at the car parks of Commonwealth Park and Naval Ground. To my recollection, certainly the ground floor of Naval Ground and the entirety of Commonwealth Park were free public spaces that could be accessed on a daily basis. They were not sold spaces and they were not rented to anyone. We are now in a position where the  
1180 Minister has rectified or adjusted the figures last month that he made in his Budget speech because we asked questions last month on the new situation, the new scenario, and it seems that his claim that in his Budget there were 100 spaces more than were previously available cannot be substantiated because they have sold 130 of those spaces.

1185 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, there are a thousand spaces within the car park. There were 356 spaces, I recall, in the Commonwealth Car Park. And not only that, but clearly these parking spaces are still being accessed on a daily basis by either those who have rented or have decided to purchase, or by members of the public who, with the means of their electronic ID card, manage to access parking spaces for free.

1190 I think it is clear mathematics that what we had there before, the great park that was built, was 356 spaces. But a thousand spaces have been built, and I do not think anyone can dispute that.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, if I may ask the Minister – and before I ask the Minister, I  
1195 declare that I am the proud owner of one of those car parks in Mid-Town car park: was the decision to release more parking spaces for sale that of the Government?

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** It was, Mr Speaker, and it was the Government in the form of the person answering the question who made the decision.  
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**Hon. R M Clinton:** Thank you. So, Mr Speaker, would I be correct in surmising then that the company that is actually selling the car parking spaces and issuing the leases is in fact controlled by the Government?

1205 **Hon. Chief Minister:** No, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, perhaps the Chief Minister could clarify for the benefit of this House how it is that he makes a decision that more parking spaces should be sold to the public, and yet I presume from the answer that he has given that the benefit of the revenue of the sale of those parking spaces does not accrue to the Government. Is that correct?  
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**Hon. Chief Minister:** That is not correct, Mr Speaker.

1215 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Well, Mr Speaker, perhaps the Chief Minister, for the benefit of my sanity, would explain to me exactly how the structure works.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** It is very simple, Mr Speaker: the company that is doing the sales is not controlled by the Government; it is the Government's agent and it sells on behalf of the Government, and therefore the revenue accrues to the Government through its agent.

**Q40/2017**

**Government garage and workshop –  
Commitment to funding**

1220 **Clerk:** Question 40. The Hon. T N Hammond.

1225 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, is the Government continuing with its commitment, as set out in the Budget speech of the Minister with responsibility for traffic, to provide funding this financial year to the garage and workshop for new equipment, and also that the garage and workshop will continue to provide a service to maintain the fleet of Government vehicles, including the refuse collection vehicles?

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

1230 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Yes, Mr Speaker.

1235 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, is the Minister in a position to say whether that will continue for the next financial year, bearing in mind the request for expressions of interest that were put out reference the Government's fleet of vehicles?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the future of the garage and workshop is currently under review and is being considered with the union, especially in the context of the advertisement for expressions of interest in respect of the Government's vehicle fleet.

**Q41/2017**

**Camp Bay waterfall –  
Reason for diversion and costs**

1240 **Clerk:** Question 41. The Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** Can the Government provide the reason for the diversion of the waterfall at Camp Bay; and what costs, if any, have been incurred in the project?

1245 **Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

1250 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, the works to the Camp Bay waterfall are not a Government project. They have been undertaken by the developer of the Buena Vista Development. The developer is undertaking re-profiling works to the rock face to try and reduce the amount of salt water spray that is blown over the top of the cliff and impacts on the development above. The developer has installed pipes as a temporary measure to divert the waterflow while the re-profiling works are carried out.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, if I may, Mr Speaker, just ask: from that I surmise that there has been no cost to Government.

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**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, none that I am aware of, no.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn to Monday at 10 a.m.

**Mr Speaker:** When we return on Monday, just for the sake of convenience, the Hon. Minister John Cortes will be answering questions.

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I now put the question that the House do now adjourn to Monday at 10 in the morning. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.  
The House will now adjourn until Monday at 10 a.m.

*The House adjourned at 1.21 p.m.*