



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

**AFTERNOON SESSION: 3.10 p.m. – 5.20 p.m.**

**Gibraltar, Friday, 16th March 2018**

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# The Gibraltar Parliament

*The Parliament met at 3.10 p.m.*

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

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

## PRAYER

*Mr Speaker*

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Clerk:** Meeting of Parliament, Friday, 16th March 2018.

Order of Proceedings: (i) Oath of Allegiance; (ii) Confirmation of Minutes – the Minutes of the last meeting of Parliament, which was held on 14th, 16th and 23rd February 2018.

5

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

*Mr Speaker signed the Minutes.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Joint Ministerial Council – Statement by the Chief Minister

**Clerk:** (iii) Communications from the Chair; (iv) Petitions; (v) Announcements.

10

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Ombudsman's Annual Report for the year – (*Interjection*) oh, the statement. Oh, I see, I thought I had to lay on the table first.

15

Mr Speaker, last Thursday, 8th March, the Deputy Chief Minister and I attended the sixth session of the UK-Gibraltar Joint Ministerial Council (JMC), the Gibraltar EU Negotiations Council between Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on our exit from the European Union.

20

The JMC is the process which the United Kingdom has established to liaise with different relevant administrations in respect of the implementation of the decision to leave the European Union.

25

This sixth meeting was the final meeting ahead of the March European Council Meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, the Hon. Robin Walker and during the course of the JMC meeting and in culmination of the work leading up to it, we agreed a series of measures that will ensure that the valued and historic links between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar grow, deepen and endure.

As a result, Mr Speaker, the United Kingdom has now guaranteed Gibraltar Financial Services firms' access to UK markets as now until 2020. This date is important because it is the date being presently set by the EU Commission as the date on which the implementation or transitional period being sought by the United Kingdom will end.

30 As a result of the invidious inclusion by Spain of clause 24 of the European Negotiating Guidelines, some uncertainty has arisen as to the position of the UK and Gibraltar in respect of the application of the withdrawal, transition and future arrangements to Gibraltar. The Government of Gibraltar, Mr Speaker, has already made clear that we consider and are advised that that clause 24 of the Negotiating Guidelines is contrary to European Union Law.

35 The United Kingdom has made clear and is insistent in stating that it is negotiating for the whole of the Member State of the United Kingdom, including Gibraltar. Nonetheless in order to deprive from benefit those who might relish the existence of such uncertainty as a result of the potential exercise of the illegal Spanish veto, Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom and of Gibraltar have now made a statement that clarifies and puts beyond doubt that the  
40 existing market access arrangements between us would not be affected by the exclusion of Gibraltar from any such transitional period.

Of course, that is not the end of access. The United Kingdom has *already* – and I repeat, Mr Speaker, *already* – committed itself to the maintenance and where possible the enhancement of market access for financial services from Gibraltar – indeed, for *services* from  
45 Gibraltar, but that obviously includes financial services.

Indeed, in January of this year, the Secretary of State himself, the Rt Hon. David Davis, made the position of the United Kingdom abundantly clear in terms which cannot be misinterpreted. In his letter to the House of Lords European Union Committee, he said the following:

HMG and GOG intend to pursue a close economic partnership underpinned by shared high standards of regulation. It is the unshakeable objective of the United Kingdom Government to ensure the seamless continuation of existing market access into the UK and enhance it where possible ...

Mr Speaker, that is not a date-limited commitment, and it is just the latest iteration of that  
50 commitment to continue to allow market access to the UK after we have left the EU single market. I am not going to repeat each of the times that this wording has been employed by UK Ministers, starting with Secretary of State, Liam Fox during the events of Gibraltar Day in London in October 2016.

So I am able to confirm to this House, as I have already before, that the United Kingdom  
55 market will remain *open* to Gibraltar in financial services *even after* 2020. No one should be in any legitimate doubt about that. What we are seeking to do – and this goes to mechanism, not to principle – is to ensure that we create mutual confidence in and co-operation on regulatory and supervisory structures for the period beyond 2020.

But the statement last week is about 2020, insofar as it creates that immediate cushion to  
60 ensure that our potential illegal and nonsensical exclusion from the transitional period would have no effect as between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom. It does not operate as a limit in any way on the very clear and unequivocal *open-ended* commitments given by Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom to *maintain* – that is to say *keep* – and *enhance* – that is to say *improve* – market access where possible.

It is as a result of this that the United Kingdom Government will work closely with the  
65 Government of Gibraltar to design a replacement framework to endure beyond 2020 based on these shared high standards of regulation and enforcement of this regulation and underpinned by modern arrangements for information sharing, transparency and regulatory co-operation.

Mr Speaker, how will we do that? Well, we intend to carry out an outcomes review to ensure  
70 that regulatory outcomes in Gibraltar and the United Kingdom are aligned and designed to ensure consumer protection above all else. And the Gibraltar Order, made under the Financial Services and Markets Act, will be recast and redesigned to ensure that it is modernised and

adapted into a bespoke piece of UK legislation that will create the gateway for access into the UK under the new bilateral arrangements.

75 A Gibraltar team has already drafted this in Gibraltar and consideration of this is in train, and is part of the UK general legislation being prepared by Her Majesty's Treasury legal team. [*A mobile phone rings.*] I can hear one of the devils just next to me, Mr Speaker, already working hard on the Order! (*Laughter*)

80 This is better than excellent progress at this stage in the game, Mr Speaker, when operators in other jurisdictions do not have any certainty or clarity of what access they may have into the UK marketing services. This is particularly relevant in respect also of services in the on-line gaming industry. Mr Speaker, Gibraltar is the only jurisdiction to have the benefit of a firm UK commitment on continued market access after we leave the European Union.

85 Specifically, the UK has provided assurances that gambling operators based in Gibraltar will continue to access the UK market after we leave the EU in the same way as they do now. This is an important advantage for Gibraltar as no other EU jurisdiction at all can boast such a clear and unequivocal statement of continued market access post Brexit.

Additionally, we are working towards agreement of an MOU which will enable closer working and collaboration between gambling regulators in Gibraltar and the UK.

90 Further, Mr Speaker, and moving on to other areas, the UK has provided assurances to the Government of Gibraltar that following EU exit, British citizens resident in Gibraltar will continue to be eligible for higher educational home fee status at English institutions, both during the implementation period and afterwards, subject to concluding a reciprocal agreement for UK students studying at higher education institutions in Gibraltar.

95 Mr Speaker, hon. Members should note that higher education is an area of devolution and that therefore the UK Government is not able to enter into arrangements for the devolved administrations. That is why this commitment is expressed as being for England only. We are already pursuing the matter also with the other devolved administrations.

100 But just to give the House a flavour of what has been agreed, there are 867 undergraduate and postgraduate students from Gibraltar in England. To help the House to understand the value of what was agreed in the JMC last week, the average yearly tuition fees for home and EU undergraduate students undertaking standard courses at English universities is £9,250.

The average yearly tuition fee for overseas students undertaking standard undergraduate courses in English universities is £14,463.

105 The average yearly tuition fees for home students undertaking postgraduate courses at English universities is £9,974.

The average yearly tuition fee for overseas students undertaking postgraduate courses at English universities is £16,100.

110 The difference between the overseas undergraduate fees and the home undergraduate fees, is £5,213, whereas the difference between the overseas postgraduate fees and the home postgraduate fees is £6,126.

In order to calculate the difference in value between our students being charged an overseas fee or a home fee, we have relied on the under graduate calculations only, which are the predominant ones involved, which amounts to a total *saving* of £4.5 million – £4,519,671.

115 Mr Speaker, for the information of hon. Members, there are at the moment 108 Gibraltar scholarship students in Welsh universities and 15 in Scottish universities. There is one student studying in Northern Ireland.

120 Mr Speaker, we have also agreed that the United Kingdom is committed to work closely with the Government of Gibraltar towards transfer arrangements post EU exit that support Gibraltar's prosperity.

The UK will also maintain the current reciprocal health care arrangements between the UK and Gibraltar. This means that Gibraltar can continue to refer an unlimited number of their patients to the UK for free elective treatment.

125 The UK remains committed to fully involving Gibraltar as we leave the European Union and  
we will continue to work together through the JMC process to ensure we take account entirely  
of Gibraltar's priorities in the context of the United Kingdom's negotiations with the EU.

130 Additionally, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar have agreed to recognise the importance of  
enhancing our liaison on all of the environmental and fisheries implications of EU exit that are  
relevant to Gibraltar whether by sharing information as openly as possible by providing specialist  
expertise across a range of policy areas to support Gibraltar with its own preparations or by  
considering with Gibraltar where our interests might be promoted in future through regional or  
international arrangements.

135 Mr Speaker, this announcement and the benefit it brings is the fruit of hard work. The Brexit  
team I lead has worked flat out these past 18 months. There is a lot still to do. The Deputy Chief  
Minister has been fully engaged on these matters, together with the Minister for Financial  
Services and Gaming. All other Ministers are providing detailed input in respect of the areas of  
responsibility on which their input is required.

140 The Attorney General is part of that team and is leading on the European aspects of the legal  
work. The Financial Secretary is dealing with matters that relate to his area of expertise. This  
work, Mr Speaker, is therefore the work product of an administration that has got its teeth into  
Brexit, although it was not the dish we chose from the menu presented to us.

145 Finally, Mr Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to also thank the Prime Minister, the  
Chancellor, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for leaving the European Union for  
their support in delivering this enduring packet of measures.

I must also thank the Gibraltar team of officials in the Foreign Office and in the Department  
for Exiting the European Union for their work in delivering these measures. We are working  
honestly, openly and closely together to deliver results that work for the people of the United  
Kingdom and the people of Gibraltar.

150 We will continue to do so successfully as we finalise the process of our departure from the  
European Union. (*Banging on desks*)

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

155 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, whilst we broadly welcome this announcement by the  
Government as an interim package of measures that have been negotiated with the British  
Government and we note the Chief Minister's comment in relation to the open-ended  
mechanism in order to maintain and further enhance our access to specific markets, we also  
welcome the commitments in relation to gaming, health and particularly in education. But of  
course, education, every Government has always committed to the payment of tuition fees and  
160 maintenance grants for our students in the United Kingdom. What I would say about that is that  
we are clearly paying what we have already paid before in the past and we are committed to  
doing so.

165 Insofar as the Government's Statement, of course we remain cautious in respect of the  
commitment up until 2020 and what we have said fairly publicly in relation to that is that in the  
last two years the Government has, by its own admission, worked flat out in relation to this  
question on Brexit. But we would have thought, certainly on this side of the House, that we  
would have had a stronger commitment moving forward from 2020, although it is appreciated,  
the new words being echoed from the Government now in relation to open-ended  
arrangements and the maintenance of the status quo and enhancement of those arrangements.

170 One thing that I would like to point out, Mr Speaker, is in relation to the cross-border  
situation as well: that we have certainly noted that there needs to be an increase in our co-  
operation with our neighbours because ultimately when we are dealing with the very large  
issues that affects all of us in relation to Brexit, of course we need to maintain those  
relationships that the Chief Minister has spoken about previously – relationships of

175 consanguinity, I think is the word that he used, and commercial and business relationships  
across the frontier.

Mr Speaker, we broadly support and welcome the statements by the Government particularly in relation to financial services but we again echo our concerns and a note of caution moving forward from 2020.

180 I would also mention, Mr Speaker, that when you speak to the normal man and woman on  
the street in relation to Brexit, their concern of course is that the Chief Minister and his team  
navigate us safely through this storm that we appear to be in the middle of, Mr Speaker. But the  
concerns of the man and woman on the street are, again, repeated to me daily and to my  
colleagues about domestic issues that affect them and their families, Mr Speaker. Although I  
185 understand that the Chief Minister and his colleagues have been working flat out in respect of  
Brexit, it does mean that there needs to be also an increased focus, and I would respectfully  
encourage the Government to continue to focus on the domestic agenda and the concerns of  
normal working families during this Brexit situation and reconciliation with the United Kingdom  
Government when we come to further arrangements.

190

**Mr Speaker:** When the Chief Minister makes a statement of this nature, the practice is to allow the Leader of the Opposition to make a short statement in reply and to ask any questions of clarification that he may consider necessary.

I can also extend the practice of allowing questions for clarification purposes to any other  
195 Member of the Opposition who may wish to do so.

No, we will then proceed with the next item on the Agenda.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, I have been asked for clarification.

200

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, okay.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Well, Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the hon. Gentleman recognising the work that has been done by the Government in respect of these matters and I will deal with his final point at the end.

205 But the broad welcome that hon. Members give seems to be tainted by some suggestion that some aspect of what has been announced by the United Kingdom is limited to 2020. Hon. Members opposite have, through the Leader of the Opposition, expressed a desire that given all the hard work we have done already, we would already have a mechanism that would endure beyond 2020.

210

Well, Mr Speaker, I want to clarify the position by saying again that there is a mechanism for all financial services and other services that are presently provided from Gibraltar into the United Kingdom to *continue* to be provided into the United Kingdom. That is the *unshakeable commitment* of the UK Government, not on a time limited basis. That is why I explained to hon. Members, Mr Speaker, that the issue of 2020 was as to mechanism, not as to principle.

215

And so what the hon. Gentleman tells me he wished we had achieved, I am confirming to him again we *have* achieved, Mr Speaker, because that is the way that the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and the Secretary of State for International Trade and one of the Principal Under Secretaries at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Steven Baker, have specifically expressed the commitment. The time limitation has come in not as a limitation of principle; it is because the mechanisms that we have in place are the mechanisms that will be in place until then, and there will be other mechanisms in place in respect of thereafter because those will be the purely bilateral mechanisms, Mr Speaker.

220

What we are saying is we are holding the ring on the single market terms of access until 2020 and we are agreed there will be continued access after that. That is the *unshakeable* commitment and these are not new words. As the hon. Gentleman has said, these are words  
225 that come from January 2018, from December 2017 and from October 2016 and that is why,

Mr Speaker, I was surprised that hon. Members felt they had to somehow caveat their welcome in a way that might be picked up by some operators in the market who might think that there is not the certainty that there clearly, unshakeably is in respect of access by companies in Gibraltar doing financial services business beyond 2020.

230 One might have to ask themselves why it is that anybody would want to create any uncertainty in that respect. We know that the Spanish wanted to do that, but I would wonder why it would be that anybody in this House would want to do that. So I am going to assume that that is what the hon. Member did *not* intend to do.

235 On the issue of education, Mr Speaker, the hon. gentleman says that this is just a continued commitment to pay the amount that has been paid. Again, Mr Speaker, I have to clarify to him that that is *not* what we are dealing with. What we are dealing with was the potential that Gibraltar students could be charged overseas student rates once we leave the European Union and what we have achieved, Mr Speaker, is that Gibraltar students, Gibraltar scholarship students in the United Kingdom after Brexit, will continue to be charged as home students and therefore, the £4.5 million is money saved if the numbers stay the same.

240 So it is not just we are just confirming the commitment to continue to pay what we have paid; it is that we have been able to avoid, or avoid any uncertainty as to whether that would be increased by 50%, Mr Speaker.

245 Finally, Mr Speaker, I am always very happy when people remind me that apart from Brexit, there are domestic issues to deal with because I do not want to deal with Brexit. I do not enjoy dealing with Brexit, we do not want to leave the European Union but we are having to deal with it. But I do enjoy my domestic issues, Mr Speaker, because I was elected by the people of Gibraltar to serve them and that is what I principally do in the role that I discharge.

250 So, therefore, Mr Speaker, I do not need reminding that the Government of Gibraltar needs to deal with domestic issues. We are not a centralised Government. We have ten Ministers: two of us are dealing principally with Brexit; other Ministers are dealing with all the other matters that are relevant in domestic politics in Gibraltar.

255 But I do have to say, Mr Speaker, that it is slightly peculiar to be told one day that you have to continue to deal with the domestic issues and not forget them by the same person who told me six months ago, we were not doing enough on education and told me three months ago, we were doing too much, too fast, Mr Speaker. We will keep going. (*Banging on desks*)

#### PAPERS TO BE LAID

**Clerk:** (vi) Papers to be laid – the Hon. the Chief Minister.

260 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Ombudsman's Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2017.

**Mr Speaker:** Ordered to lie.



## Questions for Oral Answer

### CULTURE, THE MEDIA, YOUTH AND SPORT

#### Q202/2018

#### Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority – Update on Administrative Assistant post

**Clerk:** (vii) Reports of Committees; (viii) Answers to oral questions.

265 We begin with Question 202, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes.** Mr Speaker, further to the answer provided to Question 98/2018, can the Minister for Sport update this House in respect of the Grade 9 (Administrative Assistant) post which was vacant within the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority?

270

**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 vacant Grade 9 (Administrative Assistant) post which is currently vacant within the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority is being covered temporarily by a supply worker via S&K Recruitment.

275

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, Mr Speaker. Last time the Minister also said that the applications for the post had been invited. Is the Minister aware now – I think we can take it for granted that the closing date has gone past – of any details in respect of number of applicants and when the selection is expected to be completed?

280

**Hon. S E Linares:** Not at this moment, Mr Speaker.

#### Q203/2018

#### Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority – Update on five pool operative/lifeguard vacancies

**Clerk:** Question 203, the Hon. E J Reyes.

285 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Further to the answer provided to Question 99/2018, can the Minister for Sport update this House in respect of the five staff vacancies for pool operatives/lifeguards which are currently waiting to be filled on a substantive basis within the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority?

290

**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 Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority are in the process of interviewing candidates for the recruitment of five pool operatives.

**Q204/2018**

**Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority –  
Cancellations at facilities**

295 **Clerk:** Question 204, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports inform this House how many cancellations have been necessary at any of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority's facilities since the answer provided to Question No.100 of 2018; indicating the location, date and reason for the cancellation?  
300

**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, further to the answer provided in Question 100/2018, the use of the Victoria Sports Hall was cancelled due to water ingress on 7th March 2018.  
305

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Mr Speaker, from that answer that the Minister has given, it is just one date, yet some feedback from sports users, for example the Netball Association, seem to have had more than one days cancellation. Is there misinformation coming my way somewhere?  
310

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, sir.

**Q205/2018**

**Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority –  
Payments made by GFA for Victoria Stadium facilities**

**Clerk:** Question 205, the Hon. E J Reyes.

315 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Further to the answer provided to Question 103/2018, can the Minister for Sport update this House with details of payments made to date by the Gibraltar Football Association in respect of all facilities which they lease at Victoria Stadium and which are due within this current financial year?

320 **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, no payments have been made by the Gibraltar Football Association as, to date, the sale of the footprint in question has not been effected.  
325

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Minister for his answer. As he is fully aware, part payments was due of £10 million this financial year, out of the £16.5 million of which most of that, as I stated previously, was going to go towards paying for the new facilities at Europa Point and Lathbury Barracks.  
330

Is the Minister confident that these payments will be received and if so, when?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Before the end of the financial year.

**Q206/2018**

**Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority –  
Floodlights failure at Victoria Stadium**

**Clerk:** Question 206, the Hon. E J Reyes.

335 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports provide details in respect of the floodlights failure at Victoria Stadium since 1st January 2018; indicating the dates when such failures occurred, the length of time taken to correct the floodlights deficit and what action if any has been taken to try and avoid these reoccurrences.

340 **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, floodlight failures occurred this past weekend commencing on Saturday, 3rd March when the last fixture needed to be called off due to a couple of fuses blowing.

345 Patch-up works were carried out, however, an investigation into the problem was severely hindered with the torrential rain experienced over the weekend.

Both evening fixtures on Sunday and the last fixture on Monday were cancelled. In total, four fixtures were postponed.

350 The problem was fully assessed on Tuesday 6th March and the contractor has lowered the output by switching off a few bulbs in order for the existing infrastructure to cater for the light on offer.

A quote has been approved for a new switch fuse to be installed for the East side pylons in order to up the power supply and cater for the floodlights to work at full capacity. The switch will arrive in the next ten days.

355

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

360 A couple of things arising from there. First of all am I correct in assuming, because I asked about floodlight failures at Victoria Stadium that the references and the failures have only occurred in what is commonly known as the football pitch or pitch number one. And then I think the Minister as well in his answer said that a quote had been approved. Can he enlighten us as to the figure of that quote?

365 **Hon. S E Linares:** Well, Mr Speaker, he has not asked that specifically in the question so I do not have that information, but I could easily pass it to him at his convenience. Because we do have a three-quote system when we go through quotes and so yes, I have not got the information for him but I can give it to him.

370 **Hon. E J Reyes:** And the other part, I think the Minister was nodding yes, but I am not entirely certain. Can we confirm that the power failure was restricted to pitch number one, the main football pitch?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, sir.

**Mr Speaker:** The Hon. Roy Clinton.

375

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

Can I ask the Minister, given that the entire complex is going to be sold to the GFA within the next two weeks, where does the responsibility for maintenance for these lights lie in the future?

380 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, we are still in negotiation with the GFA on how we are going to approach that.

**Q207/2018**  
**Sports related grants –**  
**Payments made during current financial year**

**Clerk:** Question 207, the Hon. E J Reyes.

385 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Sports provide updated consolidated details of all payments made during the current financial year in respect of any sports related grants?

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

390 **Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Yes, Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Member opposite a schedule in respect of all payments made during this current financial year in respect of any sports related grants.

**Grants awarded for hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events**

Gibraltar Darts Trophy	137,499.20
World Pool & Snooker Championships	201,697.40
Commonwealth Games Reception	2,592.00
Gibraltar Kennel Club	10,012.50
Gibraltar Classic Vehicle Association	1,200.00
Gold Coast Expenses	5,965.00
U 23 Qualifiers International Darts Competition	110.00
World Pool Masters	160,000.00
Gibraltar International Backgammon Tournament	70,500.00
Hockey Challenge Cup	850.00
International Bike Rally	241.64
Harley Davidson Club	4,500.00
Maccabi Gibraltar	4,000.00
Eurafrica Trail	2,3339.39
Gibraltar International Junior Chess Championships	40,000.00
Kings Bowl Bowling Tournament	16,000.00
Gibraltar Squash Open	6,000.00
Gibraltar Chess Trophy Sponsorship	200,000.00
Commonwealth Queens Baton Relay catering expense	1,200.00
Sports and Media Management (Paulo Futre event sponsorship)	1,000.00
Mr Sebastian Coe visit reception	2,200.50

**Grants awarded to Sporting Societies**

Netball Association	13,340.51
Cricket Association	9,832.40
Shooting Association	17,679.54
Darts Association	15,812.50
Hockey Association	15,587.41
Tenpin Bowling Association	2,631.06
Athletics Association	6,896.61
Basketball Association	46,644.10
Triathlon Association	4,863.50
Rowing Association	2,381.56
Swimming Association	4,380.34
Pool Association	5235.00
Backgammon Association	3038.36
Sea Angling	5,518.54

**Sports Grants awarded for International Competitions**

Island Games	178,257.67
Commonwealth Games	42,000.00

**Grants awarded for Sports Development Projects**

Cricket Association	6,122.36
Rugby Association	442.50
Cycling Association	311.00
Shooting Federation	3,349.04
Badminton Association	3,242.14
Rowing Association	5,253.59
Hockey Association	3,684.00
Athletics Association	4177.25
Basketball Association	814.04
Karate Association	961.00
Taekwondo Association	311.99
Ice Skating Association	397.23

**Mr Speaker:** Could I ask the Minister, is this information on the Government website?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

395

**Mr Speaker:** Then there is no need to provide an answer here and take up Parliament's time unnecessarily.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** I know that the Minister, today he has not said it. In the past he has told me that the information is available on the website. As I was preparing for Parliament the Government website was not up and running and therefore I could not access this information, Mr Speaker.

400

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, the information is always updated in the website. It could well coincide that we have Question Time and it is not uploaded, but it is always uploaded once we have the Parliament because the questions might have been put a week ago and therefore, during that week they are updated and they are constantly updated.

405

**Mr Speaker:** Does the hon. Member have any supplementary arising from the schedule he has been provided?

410

**Hon. E J Reyes:** It being a lengthy one, Mr Speaker, would you indulge me the privilege as you have done in the past – if I see in a few minute's time I have something arising from it I will then ask? Because it is one and a half pages of details and I need to do a quick comparison in case I cannot identify a particular item.

415

**Mr Speaker:** Okay. Next question.

**Q208/2018**  
**Cultural grants –**  
**Details for current financial year**

**Clerk:** Question 208, the Hon. E J Reyes.

420 **Hon. E J Reyes:** Can the Minister for Culture provide updated consolidated details of all cultural grants awarded during this current financial year?

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

425 **Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the Hon Member opposite updated details of all Cultural Grants awarded for this current financial year.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Hon member that updated information is posted again on the HMGoG website.

**Answer to Question 208/2018**

**CULTURAL GRANTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-2018**

MH Bland & Co — Book Grant "What on Earth?" "The Story of Gibraltar"	5,000.00
Gibraltar Productions — Sponsorship for the Gib World Music Festival	50,000.00
State Media Ltd — The Art Bermondsey Project Space	4,000.00
M.O Productions — Organisation staging and production of the 16 <sup>d</sup> Gibraltar International Dance Festival	5,000.00
Gibraltar National Dance Organisation — GNDO for IDO affiliation fee/dance workshops	11,700.00
Bayside & Westside Drama Group to travel to Medway Theatre in Rochester, UK to participate in the Duncan Youth Festival	2,000.00
Urban Dance — support to cover costs of participation at the "Vive to Sueno" European Dance finals in Paris	2,000.00
Gibraltar Face & Body paint Association — Assistance for the Gibraltar Body Painting Festival 2018	3,000.00
Regina Danino — Installation cost for exhibiting work with group of artists at Bermondsey Project	3,000.00
Ayelet Shay — Book Grant for the translation, production & printing of her book "Relocation Darling Relocation"	6,250.00
Stylos Studios in support of their participation at the World Dance Movement Competition in Italy in July 17	3,000.00
Shane Dalmedo — Purchase of materials and tools for the project of the Encyclopedia of Migrants	2,000.00
Gail Francis Tiron — Book Grant for the production and printing of book "Don't you Just Love Them"	4,100.00
Sunbow Projects — Virtual Gibraltar Festival	10,000.00
Miss S A McLaren — Assistance for final year at the Northern Ballet School in Manchester, UK	4,260.00
Group 2000 — Assistance for the WWI Play presentation at the Gibraltar Garrisons Library	500.00
The Gibraltar Photographic Society — Purchase of equipment	1,700.00
The Gibraltar philharmonic Society — Support for various concerts promoting classical music	10,000.00
Gibraltar Cultural Services Ltd — Gibraltar Berlin Artist Exchange student sponsorship	6,000.00
R Barabich — The reprint of the book "The memoirs of Arnold Barabiscio"	1,320.00
Davinia Baglietto — Assistance for return flights post Mrs Europe Pageant	488.00
Gibraltar Cultural Services in conjunction with Leisure Cinemas Ltd — Cultural Development Programme	500.00
Gibraltar Horticultural Society — Forthcoming events and projects	2,000.00
Gibraltar Artisans Market — Support towards the Gibraltar Christmas Village 2017	5,000.00
Karen Avellano — Book Grant "Queendom of the Skies"	3,805.00
GibMedia — Gibraltar International Magic Festival Sensory Performance	2,000.00
DSA Old Tyme & Modern Sequence Dance Club — Junior Dance couple travel assistance to Gibraltar	2,000.00
Gibraltar Arts and Crafts Association — St Bernadette's School workshops	2,000.00
Gibraltar IDF Dance Association — Participation at the IDF World and European Championships 2018	3,000.00
Gibraltar Academy of Music and Performing Arts—Trophies for Festival of Young Musicians	1,500.00

430 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I am grateful for that, Mr Speaker, but I must explain to you that there is a particular deadline, a date and a time by when one has to submit questions and if I cannot

access it at that time, I have no alternative, but in order to make it valid to pose the question, Mr Speaker. I am sorry, I cannot be the loser.

**Q209/2018**  
**Skate park –**  
**Update on current status**

**Clerk:** Question 209, the Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

435

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Can Government update the House on the current status of the skate park?

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

440

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the skate park currently located at the east side of the Victoria Stadium is open daily from approximately 8 a.m. until 10.30 p.m. This skate park falls within the footprint of land soon to be sold to the Gibraltar Football Association.

445

The Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority are working closely with the Gibraltar Skating Association with regard to a new site for the skate park. Skate park installers have already been approached to provide conceptual designs.

450

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for his answer, but if I may just say that I was approached by some young lads who made representations to me about the closure of the skate park. I will take his word for it if it is open but if these young teens are telling me that they are not finding it open, could it be that it has been down temporarily for maintenance? Because from their point of view they do not seem to find access to it.

455

**Hon. S E Linares:** No, Mr Speaker, the only reason that – and I am thinking aloud – that might have happened is that cars might have been parked in front and therefore they could not have access or that the lorries had been loading and unloading and they have not been able to go in. But I know because I attend that place quite often and it is usually open from eight o'clock in the morning to 10.30 at night.

460

The fact that maybe one or two youngsters might not be able to access on one given day, because a car might be parked or lorries might be unloading or anything like that, is a bit unfortunate. But I can tell the hon. Lady also that we are satisfied with what we have got now but we are going to make it much better. We are going to make a skate park, because like I said, I have already had representation from the skating fraternity/association, young people coming to my office, wanting this skate park – and some of them who are not even members of the association have approached me on this matter.

465

470

**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, just one supplementary question, because the Minister has raised the question of possible blocking of cars at the skate park. It is something I experienced yesterday when I was watching my son run and I know that the Chief Minister also attends that area on a frequent basis and I think the Chief Minister will probably agree with me in respect of this point, that the traffic issue there is horrendous. It has been a difficult one for many, many parents who experience that.

475

I suspect that the reason why many of these children cannot access the skating park is because of the very, very difficult drop off parking issues concerning that particular area and I was wondering whether the Minister knew, in order to alleviate the issues clearly to the skate

park but to other parents who drop off their children or indeed try to park in order to watch their children play sports, whether the Government had any solution to that in the interim period before that area is sold off.

480

**Hon. S E Linares:** Well, Mr Speaker, there has been a solution of sorts, because if you look now at the way the parking slots have been painted, there is a circulation in order to come in and out. But one cannot stop parents who stop the car in the middle of what is supposed to be flowing. You drop off your child, you then drive round where the cars are parked in the middle. But sometimes parents are – I would not say inconsiderate, but they are in a rush or they want to see their children in and therefore park the car in the middle. These are things that we can mitigate as much as we can but there are times when there is no actual solution.

485

### Q210-211/2018

#### Football pitch and play park, Moorish Castle Estate – Restoration

**Clerk:** Question 210, the Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

490

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Does Government intend to restore the football pitch in Moorish Castle Estate to working order?

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

495

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 211/2018.

**Clerk:** Question 211, the Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

500

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Does Government have intentions to restore the play park at Moorish Castle Estate to working order?

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

505

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, the football pitch within Moorish Castle Estate is currently being used as a lay down/storage area by GJBS Ltd under the Major Works Refurbishment Project and will be refurbished to a standard which is fit for purpose.

510

With regard to the play parks, there are two parks within the confines of Moorish Castle Estate. One is located within the vicinity of Key House and is open for use. The other play park is located behind Tarik House and Wall House and has been closed for a very long time. This particular park is currently part of the works envisaged under the Major Refurbishment Works Project to the estate.

These works are scheduled to commence shortly.

515

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for his answer. On the question of the football pitch, from what I understand – of course like he says, it is to do with using it as a depot for the construction materials – but I know that it has been out of use for apparently about three years and the children there are desperate to be able to get it back and play and have somewhere where they can physically do some exercise.

520



Is there any way that the Minister could maybe relocate that construction equipment because it has been a very long time and these children, effectively they are in the upper town and they need to exercise a little bit and are really desperate to get it back, so I am echoing their sentiments?

525 And on Question 211 it is the same, is there any way that they could recoup these areas so that they can actually have a bit of extra sport and leisurely time up there?

**Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, I cannot agree more about what the hon. Lady is saying. I do completely agree. Again I go there often because we have the Plater Youth Club – I know she is  
530 going round seeing the youth clubs and all the good work that the youth service do and these are the things that the young people who go to the youth club say that they cannot play football and all that.

But it is one of those things that we try and mitigate as best we can and all I can do is to try and say to the contractors, 'Could you please finish as quickly as possible' so that the children  
535 can have these playgrounds back. Other than that, there is not much more that I can do.

**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Sorry to harp on. So the Minister is saying that there is no way to find another location to store construction equipment for the moment, right?

540 **Hon. S E Linares:** Not that I know of.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question. Yes, the Hon. Mr Reyes.

**Q207/2018**  
**Sports related grants –**  
**Supplementary questions**

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. With your leave, can I make a quick reference back to the answer of Question 207.

545 I am very grateful because as the Minister and I have spoken last time, it is now consolidated under the same headings.

One small question, Mr Speaker, there is a payment under 'Grants awarded for hosting of Special Sports and Leisure Events' of £5,965, classified as Gold Coast Expenses, which is the same as the previous time. But on the next page under 'Sports grants awarded for International Competitions', it says Commonwealth Games, £42,000. Surely those Commonwealth Games are  
550 the same, unless the location has changed, is the same as the Gold Coast which is happening now, so I am a bit sort of uncertain of why they are separate rather than having them both together, like for example the Minister has decided to do for Target Shooting and the Shooting Association because they are all shooting related. So that one gives me an uneasiness of exactly  
555 what is what.

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I am not fully aware of why that is. I will be asking the question myself, but I am sure it is something to do with the actual games which is not payment to the association itself. It could well be some sort  
560 of ... to the International Association or maybe the Gold Coast organisers or something like that, but I will ask.

**Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. So if the Minister, when he does have an answer could inform me of that. Could I also query something because I had queried it last time?

565 There are some expenses given in the answer to Question 101/2018 where the three related to extra cleaning services. One was for the Gibraltar Song Festival and the other was for the boxing event and the other one was for the Philharmonic event and I do not see them in the answer to Question 207. It could be that they have been changed over to another sub-head. If the Minister has information on that it would clarify matters.

570 **Hon. S E Linares:** Well, Mr Speaker, because he actually mentioned that to me last time and he was absolutely right because it should not have been here, it has actually been moved from here to another head and therefore it does not appear here anymore. Because in fact when I did get the original schedule there were these things in it and I said they should not be here and that is why they were removed.

575

**Q210-211/2018**

**Football pitch and play park, Moorish Castle Estate –  
Supplementary questions**

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, may I go back to the Plater Youth Club question the hon. Lady asked. I am just slightly worried by the answer that the hon. Gentleman gave.

Is the Government's position that there is nowhere else in Gibraltar where they can store this material and it has to by necessity go in an area that has previously been used by the youth of that area to basically enjoy their activities?

580

And if that is the case, when does the Government expect that state of affairs to end because surely, we cannot have a situation where that just simply continues open-endedly?

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, as to the first part of his question, if the materials are to be used in Moorish Castle, I would assume that there is no other place in Gibraltar to put them other than in Moorish Castle Estate. They would not be stocked up somewhere else as opposed to in Moorish Castle.

585

But I do accept that these are works which are unprecedented works that we are doing which should have been done nearly 20 years ago, when he was in Government, and they were not done. Now we are doing them, we are fixing up all the estates and these are the consequences sometimes of trying to fix up the estate.

590

Like I said in my answer to the hon. Lady, I will try and pressurise the contractor to hurry up and get on with it, so that the children do get that playground back.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** I think I am the only person that used to play in that particular playground!

595

**Q212-213/2018**

**Victoria Sports Hall; Tercentenary Sports Hall –  
Expenditure on water ingress from roof**

**Clerk:** Question 212, the Hon. L F Llamas.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a monthly schedule from December 2011, stating how much has been spent on water ingress related works on the roof at the Victoria Sports Hall, including the name of the contractor/s?

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

605 **Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 213/2018.

**Clerk:** Question 213, the Hon. L F Llamas.

610 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a monthly schedule from December 2011, stating how much has been spent on water ingress related works on the roof at the Tercentenary Sports Hall, including the name of the contractor/s?

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

615

**Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares):** Mr Speaker, details of payments relating to water ingress works on the roof of the Victoria Stadium and the Tercentenary Hall are as follows:

Victoria Stadium:

<i>Financial Year 2015-16</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Date</i>
Bright & Co.	£1,200.00	21/12/15
<i>Financial Year 2016-17</i>		
Site Trading	£1,048.40	10/02/16
Site Trading	£732.00	10/03/18

625

Tercentenary Sports Hall:

<i>Financial Year 2012-13</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Date</i>
GJBS	£4,993.90	30/01/13
<i>Financial Year 2013-14</i>		
A&K	£66,768.00	12/08/13
630 <i>Financial Year 2014-15</i>		
Bright & Co.	£20,000.00	16/04/14
<i>Financial Year 2016-17</i>		
Bright & Co.	£8,200.00	28/10/16
	£12,800.00	12/12/16
635	£3,600.00	27/01/17

**Mr Speaker:** May I ask the hon. Minister to check the first part of his answer: financial year 2016 and 2018 for Site Trading he gave 10/03/18 – is that correct or should it be 10/03/17?

640 **Hon. S E Linares:** Mr Speaker, is it financial year 2016-17? (**Mr Speaker:** Yes.) Site Trading, £1,048 –

**Mr Speaker:** The next one.

645

**Hon. S E Linares:** £732.00.

**Mr Speaker:** 10/03/18 you have got as the date. That is not the financial year 2016-17. Should it be, if that is correct, it is not that – I am just asking should it be 2018 or 2017?

650

**Hon. S E Linares:** It should be 2017 because it is in March, so it is wrong, yes. So therefore, can I just say that if the hon. Member just amends that from 2018 to 2017.  
Thank you, Mr Speaker.

655 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, in relation to these works, given that there are different companies and contractors undertaking these works, is it a fact that these works are different and unrelated to each other or is it possible that a company is repairing works done by another contractor?

660 **Hon. S E Linares:** No, Mr Speaker, this is a system which the hon. Member usually asks us about, do we go out to tender and it is a question of getting three quotes from different companies to do the works. So when we identify the problem, companies are called in, they submit their quotations and then we decide which one is the value for money and the one we pick. That is why you get different companies coming in. That is the answer, it is the three-quote system that we use so that we give a chance to all the companies to bid in.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

#### Q272-277/2018

#### Rock falls in various locations – Risk assessments made; planned mitigation

665 **Clerk:** We now move to Question 272, the Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, were any assessments made of the risk and impact of rock falls on Beach View Terraces prior to the construction and if so, by whom were they approved?

670 **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 273 to 277.

675 **Clerk:** Question 273, the Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** Prior to the rock fall that occurred on 2nd March onto Devil's Tower Road, had any surveys of the rock in that area been conducted recently and if so, when?

680 **Clerk:** Question 274, the Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** What measures are Government intending to take to mitigate the risk of further rock falls landing on Devil's Tower Road?

685 **Clerk:** Question 275, the Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** Is Government intending to provide improved alternate access for the residents of Beach View Terrace to mitigate the impact of any further rock falls in this area.

690 **Clerk:** Question 276, the Hon. T N Hammond.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** With the planned construction of a visitor centre in almost the exact location of where the largest rock fell, is Government satisfied that it is safe to proceed with this project as planned or are further measures required to ensure public safety?

695 **Clerk:** Question 277, the Hon. E J Phillips.

**Hon. E J Phillips:** Can the Government state how many checks/tests were conducted on the rock face and other areas which are prone to or present a risk of injury or damage to property from rock falls over the last 24 months?

700

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

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, the Beach View Terraces development falls a considerable distance away from known rock fall trajectories from the rock face.

705

When the development was reviewed by the Technical Services Department in 2013 there was no reason to suggest that the development was at any risk of the impact of rock falls.

This conclusion was reached on the strength of reports carried out in 2005 and 2009 when works were being considered on the Aerial Farm site. These clearly showed that rock fall trajectories were contained well within the Aerial Farm site.

710

Various studies have been commissioned in the area of the Aerial Farm between the North Face and Devil's Tower Road. These have included the following: in 2005 there was a Golder Report for Bassadone Motors for the development of the site; in 2009 a Golder Letter Report for Government for use of site for storage of rubble; in 2014 a Golder Scoping Study for the wine vaults site; in 2014 a Golder Report for Government following a major rock fall of December 2014.

715

Following the rock fall of 2nd March 2018, Technical Services Department carried out a visual inspection of the North Face together with Golder Associates to determine the possible causes of the rock fall and identify immediate and longer-term solutions to mitigate the risk of further rock falls in the area.

720

The initial assessment has concluded that the rock fall has occurred from a similar area to the rock fall of 2014 and it appears that the residual risk of further rock fall from that location is small.

The rock fall trajectory modelling carried out in the past, together with observation of recent rock fall patterns, provides confidence that primary rock falls are contained within the Aerial Farm site. There is, however, some concern on the effects of fly rock from rocks shattering upon impact.

725

In the first instance, a robust hoarding will be constructed along the boundary of the site to contain the fly rock. This will then be followed by a more detailed survey of the rock face to determine whether large magnitude rock falls are likely. This will then provide information on the type and extent of mitigation measures which can be put in place to reduce the impact of further rock falls as much as possible.

730

Although it is still too soon to say what these mitigation measures will be, it is likely that they will include ditches and screens to minimise the impact of further rock falls as much as reasonably possible.

735

Mr Speaker, in light of the recent rock fall event, HM Government of Gibraltar can confirm that it is considering keeping the rear access to Beach View Terraces that was created following the rock fall, as an emergency relief road.

Mr Speaker, as part of the planning process, all developments which are proposed within a known rock fall area are required to engage a reputable geotechnical engineering consultant, who would need to be approved by the Government, to carry out the necessary risk assessments for the proposed development and provide advice on any works that may be considered necessary to allow the development to proceed and to ensure its continued stability and safety thereafter.

740

Further discussions will be carried out with the developer as initial proposals for the visitor centre did clearly not anticipate the magnitude of rock fall which occurred on 2nd March 2018.

745

It is important to try and identify the residual risks of further rock falls and whether the initial proposals to mitigate these risks are acceptable in the long term.

750 Mr Speaker, over the past 24 months numerous inspections have been carried out by the Technical Services Department on a number of cliff faces around Gibraltar. These have mainly been carried out at the Upper Rock Nature Reserve in areas which have included Signal Station Road, Engineer Road, the Apes Den and Mediterranean Steps. Other areas have included Green Lane which is currently still closed off to vehicular traffic as a result of the known risk of rock falls in the area.

755 Other study areas carried out by the Technical Services Department have included the East Side Slopes and this has seen the construction of two sections of high capacity rock catch fences being installed at the base of the slopes just to the south of Both Worlds. Both these phases have seen the construction of 50m lengths of high capacity fence with total construction costs of just over £300,000 for each phase. This clearly demonstrates Government's continued commitment to the issue of rock safety.

760 Mr Speaker, the Rock of Gibraltar is a live geological feature with a number of geological faults and different rock strata. The total surface area of the cliffs surrounding Gibraltar and the various and often complex mechanisms that trigger rock falls make it an impossible task to predict, and therefore mitigate against every rock fall event which can take place.

765 The Technical Services Department, who has responsibility for rock safety, therefore focus their efforts on those areas where there is a known history of rock falls and where the impact of these would be greatest on the general public. They also react to rock fall events as they occur and where necessary and provide additional measures to reduce the impact of these.

770 It must also be noted that for almost 20 years, responsibility for mitigating against the effects of rock falls has fallen on developers who wish to develop in areas in which there is a known rock fall hazard. As previously mentioned, part of the planning process is to engage a reputable geotechnical engineering consultant, who would need to be approved by the Government.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar is fully committed to the issue of mitigating against the risk of rock fall and will continue to invest in this area as they have done so far.

775 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, just in relation to my Question 277, I think I asked the Minister how many checks/tests were conducted and he described it, I think the answer was 'numerous'. But does the Minister have any further information in relation to the numbers? That is the nature of my question

780 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, I have laid out the locations as to how many in each specific location. The total amounts I have not got figures for. Needless to say, numerous studies have been carried out in all those locations that I mentioned previously in the question.

785 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, the Hon. Minister mentioned two reports, one in 2005 and one in 2009. Can the Minister confirm who commissioned those reports?

790 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, what normally happens as I said in my reply is that when a developer wishes to develop a certain site, it is they who consult and get a geotechnical engineer to provide them with the information necessary. That is the procedure and it is based upon that report as to what is done. It is their responsibility otherwise they cannot progress along the planning process.

795 **Hon. E J Phillips:** So in other words, Mr Speaker, the assessment of particularly vulnerable parts of the rock, insofar as the health and safety of people and potential damage to property, is only assessed when developers are considering using sites for development?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker no, this is ongoing. But when there is a specific application for a specific site then there is a very detailed study which is carried out by a consultant approved by

800 Government. In this case, one that Government has used for many, many years has been Golder Associates.

**Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Speaker, I think Golder's deal with environmental ground engineering remediation and deal specifically with governments in relation to risk concerning complex geological features, such as our Rock.

805 One question I would have in relation to that of course is I have asked how many, is the Government satisfied that we have the necessary expertise, technical expertise within Technical Services, to carry out these tests and checks on either the North Face and other parts of Gibraltar, because clearly, as a huge geological feature, certainly on this side of the House, I  
810 would expect that we have very detailed knowledge and expertise in relation to the Rock itself, given that it is a huge geological feature and is a complex geological feature that we have lived with for generations.

Is the Government satisfied as to the level of expertise and experience that we have in terms of testing in response to potential rock falls and any health and safety risks associated with falls?

815

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, for years and years this is the way ... The Technical Services Department is as expert as they possibly can be in numerous fields within the civil engineering and engineering specialities. But when it comes to specifically to rock falls, this is why companies like Golders are engaged for this purpose.

820 So if they feel that by inspection there is a certain risk or they can see that there is something not right, then the fall-back position would be to seek the advice of the consultants. And as you said yourself, it is Golder's who are considered the experts and approved by Government for this purpose.

825 **Hon. E J Phillips:** The reason why I asked those sets of questions relate to the fact that clearly, the reports of 2005 and 2009 commissioned by developers, I think referred to by the Minister as the Golder's Report, clearly demonstrate that there was no risk of rock fall trajectory insofar as what we have experienced of late.

Therefore, the risk that was exposed clearly was not foreseen in the context of the Golder's  
830 Report and therefore you will understand and appreciate the concern obviously by many of our residents and certainly from this side of the House, that we are trying to drill down on what types of assessments are made to the North Face and other parts of Gibraltar that present a risk to injury and therefore, that is the type of question that we have been asking the Minister and that is why we would like very specific answers to our questions regarding the numbers of tests  
835 and how invasive these tests are in relation to particularly vulnerable spots.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman wishes a detailed schedule of all the different dates that can be provided, but I do not have that information with me.

840 But rock falls have changed in time, we have never experienced the size of a rock fall that we have recently. There was 700 tonnes of rock which fell on this occasion. The previous rock fall in 2014 I think I said was 500 tonnes, so this has been the largest rock fall.

845 And when rocks do fall, generally the rock falls and we can predict where it is going to fall, but the issue of fly rock, which is what has happened on the past two occasions, is something new to us in that respect, so it is not where the rock falls; it is where splinters reach to and that is a new phenomenon because we have not seen the magnitude of rocks falls that we are seeing now.

In the past they have been much smaller rock falls in different areas where the height has been less, but you look up to the rock face and you do not know when or if ever, there is going to be another rock fall and it is impossible to see exactly whether there will a lot ever be another  
850 rock fall again or whether there will not.

The consultants in their preliminary studies have looked at the rock face and they think – and again it is just an opinion because we can never guarantee this – that what has fallen it is good that it has fallen because if anything that was what was remaining there that could have fallen and they believe that the risk is substantially reduced now but then we cannot say that it is never going to happen again.

855 So it is something which is ... but we do live very close to the rock and there are many estates that surround the Rock and there is a happy balance, what we must ensure is that the people who work and live in the area are sufficiently outside of the area so that when rocks do fall they fall where they should.

860 But again, it is very difficult for us to predict these things. It is like living beside the sea and you do not know when the next hundred-year storm is going to hit the shores and sweep part of ... so it is one of those things.

**Hon. E J Phillips:** Whilst I appreciate the explanation, Mr Speaker, that the Minister has given in relation to the new phenomenon of large rocks falling in our community – (*Interjection*) It was described by the Minister himself as a new phenomenon. (*Interjection by Hon. Chief Minister*) Therefore what I would say -

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, if the hon. Gentleman will give way, what the hon. Member has said is that *fly rock* is a new phenomenon. Fly rock, Mr Speaker, is when a large rock falls, splits and then when it splits, the shrapnel flies from there. It is not that falling rock is a new thing; it is the impact followed by shrapnel is something that had not been assessed. That is what the hon. Member said.

875 **Hon. E J Phillips:** I am grateful for the assistance of the Chief Minister and the technical expertise on fly rock and how it splits. But, Mr Speaker, generally speaking, people that come to us and speak to us about the new phenomenon in splitting rock on our roads, Mr Speaker, is the Government commissioning an extensive review of significantly prone areas to rock falls or splitting rocks across our roads, so that the community generally can be reassured as much as possible and reduce the mitigation possible to injury, to personal injury or damage to property.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the hon. Member has mentioned this phenomenon – I did not actually say the word ‘phenomenon’, it was not the word I mentioned – but the reason why this has not happened before is because our rock falls in the past have been significantly smaller.

885 So when there is a couple of tonnes that fall, it is just absorbed by the earth below it and that is the end of it. But when you consider what 700 tonnes of stone and the power that comes down at about 10 metres per second acceleration, when it hits the ground – I mean this has never happened before, save back in 2015 I think I mentioned, so it is a new phenomenon, if you want to call it that, because we have never had rock falls of this size before.

890 But the process of what Technical Services do, because it is the responsibility of Technical Services, they are constantly looking at the Rock but the Rock is huge, although it is small compared to our geology around us – it is a huge rock and at risk, it is always at risk and to be able to identify and to actually see where potentially the next rock could fall is very, very difficult.

895 It is impossible, and anything can cause a rock fall, for example even a bird nesting in the rock can cause rocks to fall; even trees growing, the roots could cause rock fall. There are also times of the year when it is raining, as it has been raining, bad weather: statistically that is when rock falls do occur and that is when we are most vigilant in that respect.

900 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, I would like to ask a question. Bottom line, had there been a tragedy or had there been loss of life or even substantial damage to human life,



who would have borne the consequences of this, the Government, the contractor, where does the buck stop here?

905 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Well, Mr Speaker, the hon. Lady is asking us a hypothetical question and I think we all agree it is a good thing that it is a hypothetical question.

But there are some things that we cannot plan for and unfortunately there are clauses in contracts of insurance which used to be known as the clause on act of God, which is also described as a *force majeure* clause, where what we are dealing with is something that is a natural event that is unforeseeable.

910 And, Mr Speaker, short of planning for the whole of the North Face to fall, it is impossible to do anything other than that which successive Governments of Gibraltar have done now for generations, which is to have an active, current and ongoing programme of cliff stabilisation, which means that the Technical Services Department of the Government every year brings to the Government those areas where they believe it is necessary to do cliff stabilisation in that financial year and they seek budget for it. We come to the House and we approve it and we deal with those issues of cliff stabilisation.

920 Now, Mr Speaker, there will be areas which are not dealt with in cliff stabilisation which are the areas which happen to create rock fall in that year. Minor rock fall or larger rock fall, then creating the new phenomena that we seem to disagree we are talking about. Mr Speaker, that is the reality.

925 Now, if somebody comes to the Government and seeks access to a tunnel which is accessed through the rock face and the Government says we are unable to give you access to that tunnel, absent risk from rock fall from the North Face, you have to deal with your experts and our experts putting in place whatever plan they agree is the plan that you need in order to create a canopy to give access there safely and the method statement for how that is done – that is not a Government issue. That is an issue of experts having agreed a methodology which was working until the rock fall happened with their assessment of risk. That is what we are dealing with here and this is an act of God, an act of *force majeure* and thank God, Mr Speaker, I am able to give a short answer to the hon. Lady, which is that her question is hypothetical.

935 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Thank you for the answer. If I may ask a couple of questions, from what I understand the wall was removed by the contractor so that is why I was asking who bears ... If something happened that could have led to a tragedy, it is not just because *force majeure*, earthquakes, volcanoes and things happen. Something was removed which could have led to a disaster and who is responsible for the fact that there was a void in the protection by the effect of that removal?

940 And the other question is, I do not know if I am actually allowed to ask, but can I just find out if it is possible, what is happening with the wine vaults? Is it happening or is that not allowed in this supplementary?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the rock fall could have happened, could not have happened; it is something which there is no certainty about.

945 Now, why was the wall that the hon. Lady mentions removed? Well, because the wall had to be removed so that construction could take place and so that access could be gained. Now the unlucky part of the situation was again no one had no control over it, that the rocks decided to fall at that given moment in time when the wall was not there.

950 Who is to blame? Well, again it is *force majeure*, nothing could have happened and something did so there is absolutely no way of scanning the rock or doing an MRI scan on the rock face to see where potentially a rock can fall when the wall is going to be removed for a specific purpose.

Now, regarding the second part of the question, which is what happens now to the project of the vaults, in light of what has happened, a more thorough investigation will need to be carried

955 out and we need to take into consideration this new phenomenon that has just been  
mentioned – although I did not say ‘phenomenon’ – of fly rock because it is something that we  
have not experienced in the past.

960 Now bearing in mind that fly rock, if ever there were to be a rock fall of the magnitude that  
we experienced recently happening again, and fly rock becomes the issue, then we would have  
to mitigate for that as well. But that is something new in that respect because in the past rock  
falls have been substantially smaller and the impact has been absorbed by the surface of the  
land.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, just picking up on the question of this statement that the  
Hon. Minister has made that you cannot MRI the rock face: I recall about three years ago that I  
965 was sitting with my wife, Julia in the living room in my house and I heard a buzzing sound  
outside the house. I came out and there was a drone flying in my garden. For a second, I thought  
it was the Chief Minister from his living room controlling this drone, spying on the Feetham  
house, although I disregarded it completely by the next second!

970 However, I did phone the RGP because I thought maybe it is somebody controlling a drone  
and being a nuisance in the garden and they put me in contact with a contractor that was  
conducting, apparently, a cliff survey all around Gibraltar, because that is the only way that you  
can establish where there are potential ... well, not the only way, but one of the ways you can  
establish where there are potential weaknesses.

975 Now, my question is that given that information, did that information on that survey reveal  
any particular weakness in this particular area of the rock face that would have alerted the  
Government that there was a potential problem in this area?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, obviously the drone is for visual inspection; it is hardly an MRI  
in that respect but this is the process, this is the method the consultants will use to see whether  
980 to carry out a visual inspection, because there is no other way from the ground at certain  
elevations so that is the method used in that respect.

985 Had the drone, or whatever method they used, picked up that there were areas which were  
significantly at risk and that was the conclusion made by consultants, then clearly something  
would have been done in that respect. But because it is spotting things which look out of place –  
and again, I may be speculating because I have not got that information with me – I am sure, had  
the consultants found a reason which was of concern in the rock face, that would have been  
brought to our attention and something would have been done about it.

990 Part of my question refers to Green Lane as well: with Green Lane the mitigation,  
unfortunately for residents, was that we had to close that road because the risk was considered  
substantially large enough for us to do so. And perhaps it was not a popular thing at the time,  
but it is for the safety of individuals.

995 Just like people have been complaining that they have not been able to access certain areas  
and the road has remained closed, but it is because the proper measures need to be taken to at  
least mitigate and ensure that we are as confident as humanly possible that the risk is reduced  
to a significant level or low enough level to be able to permit access once again. That will be  
happening, the road is due to reopen later on this evening, I have not heard anything to the  
contrary so that is what we are aiming for.

So based on that, that is the position we are at the moment. *(Interjection)*

1000 **Hon. Chief Minister:** You were right about the drone.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** I beg your pardon?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** You were right first time about the drone.

1005

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Oh, was I? It *was* controlled by you! *(Laughter)* Simply because one is paranoid does not mean that they are not out to get you, as they say! *(Laughter)*

1010 But is the Minister satisfied – and if he does not have the information, I do not want him to answer the question based on incomplete information and perhaps, if he is not satisfied, he can go back – that as a consequence of that inspection three years ago with these drones looking at the rock face, there was no information that came to the attention of the Government at the time that indicated any kind of particular weakness in this area that would have alerted the Government to the need to do something about that area?

1015 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, I would not be able to give a concrete reply to that question because I have not asked that question to my Technical Division.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** If I may, Mr Speaker, and I genuinely thank the Minister for his comprehensive answers so far, because I think this is a matter of significant public interest and relevance at the moment.

1020 I note the comments on the removal of a wall for the construction. Is the Minister aware whether that wall was in place to prevent falling rocks or fly rock from reaching out into Devil's Tower Road and beyond, or was it just a wall to segregate the existing site?

1025 And also, is the Minister aware if there were any other measures in place which may have been removed since, for the restriction of and mitigation of rock fall onto Devil's Tower Road?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, the wall itself would have helped mitigate. It was not the reason why the wall was there, I think it was just a barrier wall dividing the road from the Aerial Farm site but it would have provided some protection in that respect and that was removed, as I said, to gain access into the site.

1030 There was also a bund there and that was removed in part as a result of the developments to the wine vault area. So again, as I said previously, rock falls prior to these last two occasions, as far as we have known them, have simply fallen and the impact has been absorbed by the land because they have been small rock falls. We have never experienced rock falls of this magnitude before.

1035 So now obviously, we are looking at measures. So what we have done, which we have actually been putting out in the public domain, we have moved the road, diverted the road towards the beach and using part of the roundabout which is still under construction which will form part of the new road into the tunnel to try and move cars further away from the area which will give us time to build a wall which will probably be provisional in nature, it is a wooden hoarding which will help prevent to some extent, further fly rocks should more rocks fall.

1040 As I said earlier, the risk is considered relatively small now after what has fallen, but again we can never say it is never going to happen again. That is what the consultants have come back with but again it is no guarantee. So the wall will go back and once the wall, that hoarding is back in a couple of weeks' time as a mitigation measure, then we will bring the road, we will realign the road as it was once again.

1045 Remember, the risk of rock fall statistically has always happened when it rains and when the weather is bad and when it is windy. That is not to say that it will not ever happen when it is dry so it is something which, and then we will say is a phenomenon if it has never happened before and rocks are falling in dry weather. But because the weather has been unsettled, we always err on the side of caution and obviously we try to mitigate as far as possible. It has taken a while for us to be able to create now this diversion in this respect and obviously following the advice that Golder's provides us and that is what we act and respond to.

1055 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Speaker, I know the Minister has referred to the Aerial Farm on numerous occasions now, can he define that because my understanding of the Aerial Farm was actually the area on which Beach View Terrace and the Eastern Beach car park were

constructed, not the other side of the road, albeit there were areas on that side of the road as well. But that whole piece to me always meant the Aerial Farm. He seems to be taking a narrower definition of the Aerial Farm.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, I had the same view on the matter just a few days ago. I actually asked the same question because in my mind the Aerial Farm was always that part closest to the sea, to Eastern Beach and I was informed that the Aerial Farm in fact is both sides with the road in between.

So now the Aerial Farm we are referring to is the Aerial Farm stuck to the Rock and not where the new building is.

**Hon. T N Hammond:** And just one final question, Mr Speaker, again on the removal of the bund and the wall, when it was determined that that would be necessary as part of the latest construction project, was the risk of doing that, of removing that rock fall protection, captured within any assessments made by the developer and presented to the DPC or was it missed entirely? Because clearly, those measures may have prevented some of the worst of the damage to property and thank goodness no injury was sustained from this particular rock fall.

I think we have to be careful talking about a new phenomenon. Historically at least we are aware, even if we have not had any recent memories of quite significant rock falls. I think that if you look at Catalan Bay there are one or two rocks there that have fallen at some point in the past which are very substantial indeed. I am not suggesting that a repetition of such an event could be prevented by any means that we take, and I certainly welcome the fact that Government is looking at additional measures and is hopefully doing so in a hurry and has already taken some measures to mitigate.

But I would be interested in whether or not the risk of rock fall was accounted for as part of this construction project during the phase of the project.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, I am sure it was. There is an exclusion zone and all properties are outside – or what they call 95% – of that exclusion zone. You asked whether they went to the DPC: I would have to ask whether it did or did not. But, again it was considered ‘safe’ enough to not need the bund in that respect and we think that the wall itself would probably have been enough.

Again, the behaviour of fly rock, we need to now look into further because we need to analyse how rock reacts when it falls in this manner and magnitude. So now we will need to look at this in further detail, we need to assess what is happening there, what the developments are and ensure that we are fully aware of what needs to be done and we are looking at, as I said in my question, perhaps building ditches and building other forms of measures – even looking at the rock face itself to see whether anything needs to be done to the main North Face.

But again, it is still very early days and we are waiting for a final report from Golder’s because it is still far too soon to be able to see where we go from here.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, just one final question on this. There have been questions of the Government about the wall that was taken down and this issue about whether it is *force majeure* or act of God, etc. But the Government is satisfied that the taking down of the wall did not contribute to the rock fall, at least that is something that the Government can state it is satisfied, or is it an ongoing investigation? I do not know. It is the first time that I have heard about the wall in this Parliament.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, Government is 100% satisfied.

**Q278-279/2018**  
**Redibikes –**  
**Running costs; reduction of fees**

**Clerk:** Question 278, the Hon. L F Llamas.

**Hon. N F Costa:** Don't mention the wall!

1110

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, further to Question 587/2017 can the Government provide an updated schedule including: (a) monthly revenue generated and (b) monthly cost of running the scheme?

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**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 Question 279.

1120

**Clerk:** Question 279, the Hon. L F Llamas.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, is the Government considering reducing fees on Redibikes considerably to make them more attractive?

1125

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

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, the monthly revenue generated is detailed in the schedule I now hand over. The monthly cost for running the scheme is £12,400.

1130

Mr Speaker, Redibike went live in May last year and Government has closely monitored usage since inception. I can confirm that pricing has already been reduced since September 2017 from £2 to £1 per day. The project will be reviewed after a year and the possibility of relocating some stations to areas where usage will be optimised is also being considered.

**Schedule to Question 278**

Month	Revenue
May-17	£386.00
Jun-17	£369.00
Jul-17	£355.50
Aug-17	£516.80
Sep-17	£201.00
Oct-17	£204.20
Nov-17	£111.00
Dec-17	£132.20
Jan-18	£221.00
Feb-18	£223.00
Mar-18 (to 9th)	£21.00

1135 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, just looking at the schedule, the original schedule provided in answer to Question 587/2017 did include the number of users per day. Does the Minister have that information with him?

1140 **Hon. P J Balban:** No, Mr Speaker, the schedule I have handed over to the hon. Gentleman is the revenue generated by the scheme.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, I would appreciate it if the Minister could perhaps email that after the session.

1145 With regard to the costing, would the Government agree that whilst we have free parking within the mid-town parking which provides 12 hours of free parking, that people are not going to embrace this scheme and obviously the Redibikes will not take off in a way which obviously people if they did find a more convenient way of travelling, then they would embrace.

1150 But obviously having free parking in mid-town parking, and not having, and finding that we are using the Redibikes is actually more expensive to the pocket, is this something that the Government could actually agree on and pursue?

1155 **Hon. P J Balban:** I do not think that the actual cost is what is detracting people from the scheme as such. I mean £1 a day for the use of the bikes, you can use the bikes all day long for £1. It used to be £2. I do not think that is the issue, there are a lot more factors surrounding why people may choose to cycle or not and the weather has a lot to do with it as well. If you look at statistics and when the weather is bad there is less usage. When the weather is better in August, there is a lot more usage in that respect.

1160 But I think that as part of the STTP we are looking at how to try to encourage people to adopt sustainable alternative forms of transport and I think it is one of the challenges we are having to face: how do we get people to use bicycles as opposed to their cars? That is the major issue. But I am happy that there is usage, they are being used on a monthly basis, not to say that no-one is using them.

1165 I would love to see them used a lot more, definitely, and I think we need to look at locations because we are finding that usage perhaps happens, although the scheme was originally intended to be a commuter route, we were piloting it for commuter use, I do not think that it has been taken up as much as I would have liked to have seen in terms of commuters because most people can buy a bicycle and they are relatively cheap. If I buy a bicycle it is my bicycle and I can take it all the way to my office and take it all the way home. I do not need to leave it somewhere and then walk the rest of the distance.

1170 So it is convenient in that respect and I do not think that making it a free service or one penny per day or ten pence a day is going to make much difference in that respect. So we are looking at moving some of the lesser used stations because we are coming to that one year mark now, I think it is May we come to the year and then we will have statistics for one year and beyond that point we will be in a position to compare year on year usage. What I am hoping for is to see an increase in usage, but it is still very early days.

1175 But we are looking at the stations which have been used the least and we are considering moving those, in fact more than considering, we are actually looking to where we can move them to and perhaps spreading them out further towards the hotels and to the east side as well and more towards the sports area in that respect.

1180 We hope that will help encourage further use, but I think it is a lot more complex than just reducing, 'Let's just reduce it' – we could say, 'let's do it for free – I do not think that the usage will make much difference. I think it is a very good rate and it has come down from £2 to £1 already.

1185 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, if I can just pick up on something that the hon. Member just said. Just as the Government is looking to find ways relocate the stations for the

bike usage and all that, isn't it just as important or even more so, to consider finding, actually building routes for bicycles so that our bicycle users are not riding through pot holes on the road and have designated bicycle routes as we see in other cities in the world?

1190 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, that is part of the bigger picture that I was alluding to earlier when the hon. Gentleman asked his question. There is more to it than just the money; it is how safe people feel and that is what we are actively doing as part of the Traffic Plan. We are already quite advanced with looking at routes. Unfortunately we live – or fortunately, it depends on how you look at it – but Gibraltar is a place where our streets are narrow, we do not have the luxury  
1195 that we will find in other bigger cities where you can have a segregated bicycle lane which provides the safety that people may wish to see for them to be able to adopt cycling.

But as far as possible, we will be finding ways of giving people routes which are feasible in certain areas and which will provide safety and we will see whether that will also help. But you are right in that respect, it is more than just what we charge for use of the scheme. It is  
1200 providing also, if possible, alternative routes which we are very actively doing at the moment.

**Q280/2018**  
**Refurbished buses –**  
**Age, cost and usage**

**Clerk:** Question 280, the Hon. L F Llamas.

**Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since 2011, can the Government provide details for each bus it has refurbished including: (a) the year the bus was manufactured; (b) the cost of the  
1205 refurbishment; (c) the usage purpose of each bus?

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

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, the information  
1210 requested by the hon. Member is contained in the schedule I will now hand over.

**Schedule Tto Question 280**

Registration Number	Registration Date	Make	Cost of Refurbishment £	Details
G 96381	2000	Toyota Coaster	1,880.00	Upholstery & Paintwork
G 4584D	2013	Ford Transit	440.00	Paintwork

The usage of both vehicles is for the carriage of passengers.

**Q281-284/2018**

**Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2 –  
Parking spaces; applications; demand; consultation**

**Clerk:** Question 281, the Hon. L F Llamas.

1215 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government state how many parking spaces have been made available for residents of the Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2?

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

1220 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 282 to 284.

**Clerk:** Question 282, the Hon. L F Llamas.

1225 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government state currently how many applications have been received for Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2?

**Clerk:** Question 283, the Hon. L F Llamas.

1230 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government state if it will be looking to interim measures given the apparent lack of demand in Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2, in particular, outside the city walls?

**Clerk:** Question 284, the Hon. L F Llamas.

1235 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government disclose the public feedback sought when designing Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2?

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

1240 **Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban):** Mr Speaker, within the area designated as Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2, there are 505 on-street residential parking spaces available.

1245 Holders of Zone 2 Resident Parking Permits are also allowed to park in loading and unloading bays after the operational hours and therefore the overall residents' on-street parking stock at night increases to 627 spaces.

Mr Speaker, as of Thursday, 8th March 2018, Gibraltar Car Parks Limited have received a total of 531 applications for the Residential Parking Permits for Zone 2.

As to Question 283, Mr Speaker, the Residential Parking Scheme Zone 2 has not commenced yet, hence there are no interim measures to consider for a scheme that has not started.

1250 Although 531 applications have been received, applications continue to be received, hence we will not be in a position to assess the demand for the scheme until a later date.

Mr Speaker, a vast public consultation exercise was carried out in all aspects of the STTPP. So vast, that Members opposite criticised the Government from consulting what they thought was too much.

1255 Furthermore, the Residential Parking Scheme has undergone even greater consultation with Tenants Associations and other interested parties when this has been deemed necessary or upon the request of representative groups.



1260 Mr Speaker, there is also an STTPP working group specifically dedicated to the Residential Parking Scheme which includes technical staff that analyse and recommend improvements to existing and future schemes.

I want to emphasise, Mr Speaker, that these are pilot schemes and account will be taken of any teething problems we may experience.

1265 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, I appreciate with any scheme which is being introduced there are always bound to be teething problems. However, Mr Speaker, looking from the statistics, there seem to be quite a lot of applications and a lot of vacant parking spaces during the day. Is it a possibility that from the 531 applications received, people do not actually have their permits issued yet or is it that the 531 have already been issued with a permit? Because walking round Gibraltar you also see a lot of cars parked in Zone 2 which are not displaying any permit whatsoever.

1275 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, although the scheme went live, the policing of the scheme will not commence until 3rd April because we have allowed sufficient time for people to get their permits. One of the reasons why we went out so early was to try and announce and let people know, tell people that there was a process required to get a permit. You do not apply for a permit today and get it tomorrow. There is a process whereby we will check, especially if there are any arrears because having arrears would deem that that applicant would not be able to get a permit in that respect.

1280 Now, that is why you see cars without permits parked in these parking spaces and why not? I think until 3rd April people can enjoy these parking spaces, even whether they live in the zone or not. The time that it is required for it to go live is a time which is necessary and the PMOs out there will actually place, it is not a fake or dummy fine; it is an information leaflet that goes in the window saying 'You have parked in a place where you should not be parked' and advising them so that they get used to the idea.

1285 Coming to the question of the permits, of the 531 permit applications that have been received, 268 have been collected. So there are still for example, 37 permits waiting to be collected at the counter and there are 226 awaiting checks with the Central Arrears Unit to see whether they are eligible. Of those, 27 applications have already been notified that they cannot, unless they pay their arrears.

1290 So this requires time and although we would have liked people to have been in possession of their permits by now, and there was ample time for them to have done so, human nature is that 'We will let it go for another day and we will go when we can' and this is what we are faced with at the moment. But I am sure that when 3rd April does come, those people will be looking at the scheme, it is human nature, to see how it works and people will then be part of the scheme.

You also mentioned that there are lots of permits that have been or you thought had been issued and yet so many parking spaces, but there are 2,700 households so even at 531 applications, it is still quite low in that respect.

1300 So take-up of the scheme, I am hoping that because there are a lot of parking spaces in town which are private and which are within car parks and perhaps people are not using them because they find the parking on the street, and those people who pay for those parking spaces, either they rent or own them, may say 'Well, why have a permit if I really should be using my car parking space?' So I am hoping that if that is right then it may be something positive.

1305 But I reiterate, this is a pilot scheme. The comments are that people may be unaware, they do not know how it works. I mean, it is something which we had a manifesto commitment to do. This is what people wanted and it appeared in our manifesto in that respect. Now, a residential parking scheme is exactly that: it is a residential parking scheme for residents which means that if you live in an area you will be able to benefit from parking in your area. But it

1310 does not mean that you will be able to park where you work as well and when you go and visit  
your mother or whatever. It is a scheme for residents and that is something which I think,  
maybe, people are starting to grapple with at the moment.

Alameda Estate. In Alameda Estate we had similar issues, there was a massive uproar,  
people were not happy, change is change and people do not like change. I had a lot of  
1315 complaints from a lot of people, we held our ground and we need to give it time. And now I am  
being stopped and being told, 'Look, it is the best thing that has happened for Alameda  
residents, we can go out and go shopping, we can come back, we are not guaranteed a parking  
space, but really the probability is that we will find a parking space and we are finding parking  
spaces.' So it is working and they are happy.

1320 So Main Street and Zone 2 is a different kettle of fish completely and I am not a glutton for  
punishment, I do not like ... Obviously there is a lot of attention, a lot of public interest in this  
but this needs to settle because otherwise, we are just jumping, if we react. We have had  
comments of 'Why is there parking in Queensway, they have all got parking?' But that is for  
Zone 2 because Zone 2 extends all the way to the walls, to Southport Gates. So it is in an area  
1325 which is relatively close. They are not for people that live in Queensway Quay which are not  
part of that scheme, they are not for people that want to go and eat there. For that they have  
Romney Huts car park where there is a pay and display so we have catered for that as well.  
That is the only way that you can get people moving from one area to another; that is where  
cross-fertilisation occurs. So you can go and visit parents or go and visit family members. That is  
1330 why there has to be pay and display in different areas so people can go and visit.

If we just keep it purely residential as what we inherited because that is what the scheme  
was when we took office in 2011. We had a scheme which was so fixed in that respect that  
people just could not visit, carers could not get in and that is how we have addressed it through  
pay and display which allows people to move about.

1335 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's understanding. In particular I want  
to pick up on one of the things that he said which comes to me often, which is people who  
complain about the parking spaces in car parks which have been built in and around town. They  
see many of the car parking spaces empty because people are parking in the street. So would it  
1340 mean that somebody then who has one of these parking spaces will not be able to apply for a  
street parking permit? That is one question.

And also, with regard to the loading and unloading and these things, I do get a lot of  
complaints in particular from parents who need to, who cannot seek any alternative transport  
because they need a vehicle to move around Gibraltar to take children to extracurricular  
1345 activities and so forth, that they do struggle to find a parking space now with the residential  
scheme in order to do their activities during the day and in the afternoon. Is this something  
that the Government will look into and alleviate the situation for this particular demographic?

1350 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, I will try and see if I can answer both questions from the  
Member opposite, because there was quite a lengthy preamble to the questions.

But the first point is that everyone can apply, everyone has the right to apply for a permit  
whether you have a parking space or whether you do not. The schemes vary in different  
locations so certain conditions that we applied for example in Grand Parade and Alameda  
Estate have not been reproduced in Zone 2.

1355 Every area is different, every residential scheme has to be different because otherwise in  
one area there is perhaps ample parking facilities and in others there is less. So what we have  
done as far as possible, people who are in possession of a parking space have to buy a permit at  
the next tier level. So there has to be a cost involved because otherwise there is no  
disincentivisation.

1360 There are many ways of skinning this cat. You could say, 'I will give every household one  
permit and if you have got two or three permits, you do what you have to do, it is not our

problem.’ But the fair way, the way that we have decided to do this is to allow people to apply for more permits if they want to but the permits start at a different level.

1365 Now, what we hope to see is people will start using those parking spaces more and that is ...  
There are areas in Gibraltar where you drive past an open car parking space which is rented and it is pretty empty. That is because unfortunately we are that way. I think we are all like that and I include myself in it. If you drive past your house with your three children and your shopping and there is a parking right outside your door, you are not going to go and park... even though you pay rent for that parking space, because it is much more convenient.

1370 So there is a lot of that that does happen and that is why you sometimes pass by a car park and see that it is empty. But with this, because there is a financial cost to a permit, which is not a huge financial cost but there is a bit of a cost, then people start thinking twice, ‘Well, why don’t I use my parking space?’ or let go of it, let’s give The parking space to somebody else, or let somebody else rent it out and ‘I will get a permit because I may stand a better chance on  
1375 the street because I park 99% of the time on the street anyway and do not use it.’ Well, that is the decision that we have to make.

Now, as to the second part of the question, the reason we place pay and displays is actually for that purpose: so that people who need to move around from one place to another can find parking because ideally you say just give people free parking for say a maximum stay of 10 or  
1380 20 minutes, but it is impossible to police. You would have to have a PMO at every single place all the time because people will park and stay there longer and then when somebody else comes after them they find there is no space and ‘Now what do I do with my car?’

So by charging it is at least one way, it is a lot easier to police in that respect as well and that allows the movement of people. But remember, I did say and I have said it publicly, these are  
1385 all parts of the jigsaw puzzle. It is still very early days because we have only got the residential scheme that we inherited which is the one that is at Glacis, Laguna and the North District which eventually we will review at the end, but it is there, it is working in its own right and it is working differently to other schemes.

We have got the Alameda Estate and now we are going to Zone 2. Then there will be Zone 3  
1390 and then Zone 4 and until all the pieces of this puzzle are altogether, then that is when we will see how this works and how zones interact with each other. This is a very difficult task. It is difficult, it is very technical and it is also a lot of trial and error as well. It is very, very important to stress that it is a pilot scheme, it is something which the Opposition when they were in Government started doing themselves but they just had one scheme. They did not get past that  
1395 election and they could not see that scheme progress but if you look at many modern societies and modern cities, there are residential parking schemes and they have encountered all the issues we are having now.

But at the end of the day, Gibraltar is small enough to try to encourage people to use alternative modes of transport. We have got to that stage where we just cannot continue the  
1400 way we are going, there are just too many cars. We have gone past that breaking point and there are just not enough parking spaces any more.

And this is just one other method that we are using to see whether we can change and instil a different way of thinking. It is difficult, change is hard and all I ask is, I predict that between  
1405 six and eight weeks’ time those parking spaces which are empty will probably be all full. And if they are not full and say in three months they are still empty, then I need to review what is going on with these parking spaces and decide whether I just get rid of the pay and display or place a pay and display there or whatever needs doing because we have to make this work for people. At the moment it is something that appears for some an aggressive measure, with time they may say this is the best thing that happened.

1410

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

May I refer to certainly my own personal experience in relation to this? Perhaps the Government might find it helpful. Not only mine, but actually people that have come to me with their experiences that coincide with mine.

1415 That is that prior to the Zone 2 parking scheme introduced in Queensway, people like me that for example need to do a school run – there is no other way, I have got to get into my car, take my son to St Joseph’s and then from there I have got to come down. I cannot from the Upper Rock, go to St Joseph’s walking, it is impossible. And there are people like that, even though I accept that there are too many cars in Gibraltar.

1420 But if I was at ten past nine, even quarter past nine at Mid-Town Car Park, I would virtually always find a car park at Mid-Town. In fact, very often I find myself thinking to myself, actually the Government has done a good job here and you would find car parking spaces.

1425 What has now happened as a consequence of this scheme is that the people who used to park in Queensway are now parking in Mid-Town and you find that of course you cannot find a parking spaces in Mid-Town. So people like me and others like me, there are others like me who have been very, very severely affected by this Zone 2 parking scheme.

1430 I wonder whether the Government might want to consider a variation of the scheme whereby from let’s say nine o’clock in the morning to six o’clock in the afternoon, it is open to members of the public to park there, but by six in the afternoon – six or seven – you have got to take it out so that residents then have evening parking spaces.

1435 But it really has caused – and I say that not wanting to make political capital out of this, I am giving the Hon. Minister my honest experience about the effect that this has had – it has become a real nightmare for people who unfortunately have to use their car because of where they live, to park in the mornings in the area as a consequence of this. And it is rubbing salt in the wound, so to speak, to be driving down Queensway in the mornings to look to your right and to see empty spaces all the way along at the Ragged Staff end and also in Commonwealth Park!

1440 Now, the Minister today has said that enforcement will only become effective as from 3rd April. It would have been helpful if that information could have been provided to the public because then we would not have had as many empty spaces as we have had over the last week or so, and perhaps that would have also helped people that really need to have the car.

1445 But my question really is, will the Government consider a variation of the scheme to at least allow people in Queensway – and Queensway remember has always traditionally been used by people to park their cars that need to come into town with their cars ... during that time period, for others to use it as well.

1450 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, yes I agree. Coming down Ragged Staff and looking to the right and seeing all those empty parking spaces, it is a funny thing – *(Interjection by Hon. D A Feetham)* What happened, if you go back say a few months ago and you drove past that road, how many parking spaces were available for you to use? None at all. In fact, they were all taken and they were taken in effect for ... there were many vehicles that were being sold and you could not really and there was nowhere ... Now it is salt in the wound, because before you could not get a parking space, now you cannot use them either but for a different reason. *(Interjection by Hon. D A Feetham)*

1455 Yes, but I just need the hon. Member to realise, this is a huge, huge challenge and I am sure that when they were doing it on that side, I think they realised how big this challenge was because I have looked at how the plan went and in fact the GSD decided to keep Zone 2.

1460 **Mr Speaker:** Please try to answer the specific question that you have been asked. Will you consider, the question was, a variation. You have just been 10 minutes answering a supplementary and now you seem to be winding yourself up for another few minutes. If you start talking about what went on before, in the days of the GSD, we finish up with a debate and we are not here to debate. We are here to answer questions.

1465 I cannot control the length of your answers, but I must tell you, within reason, to answer the specific supplementary that you were asked, which is a variation on the scheme in certain hours.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, thank you, not being one I think who would be considered very verbose in Parliament, I am quite enjoying for once (*Laughter*) having a bit of –

1470 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Limelight!

**Hon. P J Balban:** A little bit! (*Laughter*) And the reference to the GSD was not in a negative capacity, it was a statement of fact, I was saying that –

1475 **Mr Speaker:** Please try to get to the point.

**Hon. P J Balban:** I will try to speak even less then. But it was because Zone 2 was left till the end because it was the hardest one.

1480 Now we have gone through, we have looked at all different ways of skinning this cat. There are many different options, we have looked at different schemes throughout different cities and what is best and the scheme that you are asking specifically about, we do not think will work in Zone 2. But it could well work in Zone 3, which is going to be starting – and I will tell you why. Because people who live in town, work and play in town generally, okay? So their requirements are for long-term parking. They do not get their car to go to work because they probably work and live in the same area; whereas people in the South District will tend to ...

1485 there will be an exodus of cars moving from the south to work and maybe a scheme like that is something that we should be considering for Zone 3.

1490 But we do not believe that there is going to be sufficient parking to allow for that sort of scheme but we have thought about as it and I have reiterated already, this is a pilot scheme. All options will be looked at but I think we need to let this scheme, the way it is, breathe. Give it time, we will see how it works and I think it is very unfair to criticise it or to say it is not working. Let it start first and once it starts, then let us analyse and this is what the STTPP is all about. We review, we look at things and then we change it if necessary. But we have to give it

1495 time and that is the last I will say, unless there are other supplementaries.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Well, Mr Speaker, what about considering something else which is if somebody is in a situation, not in Zone 2 but has to use his car for whatever reason, makes out a case, why just simply exclusively allow these parking spaces to be used by Zone 2? The problem here is, the situation that has been created is that for a class of people that need to use their car for whatever reason, they just cannot get around that, you have a situation where there is misery in the mornings in trying to find a parking space. And I mean misery, because it really is *misery* to be driving and driving around and even driving all the way to the small boats marina and to find that even the small boats marina has been taken by, usually now, foreign-

1500 registered licence plates that have been shifted from somewhere else and are parking there. It is just proving to be an *impossible* situation.

1505 Finally, can I ask the Minister, what is Zone 2, what area is included in Zone 2, if he knows or can direct me as to where I can find that information?

1510 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, booklets were actually prepared and obviously we issued press releases and there was a press statement made on the internet, a press launch. Zone 2 is from Wall to Wall, from Southport Gates all the way to Landport Ditch, it stops at the wall adjacent to Queensway and it goes all the way up Prince Edward's Road, Flat Bastion Road and down Prince Edward's ... It does not include the Upper Town, it is confined to that area.

1515 And as I said earlier, there are 2,700 households in that area and only 505 parking spaces there, so logic will say it is not possible to fit 2,700 cars, assuming one per household, into 505 spaces so that is why at the moment we are seeing what happens in that respect.

But you have hit the nail on the head, it is an impossible task. It is an impossible task because we have got to that point where it is just not possible to sustain the amount of vehicles. Again, in all fairness, these past three or four weeks since the scheme started the weather has been atrocious, so that has not helped either. A lot more people used their cars than they would normally, a lot less motorcycle use as well. A lot less walking, a lot less cycling.

1520 So it is not just because of Zone 2 has been implemented, that is why life is a misery. When there is school there is more traffic, when there is no school Gibraltar is a lovely place to drive around. But the scheme needs to settle and from then on, we will take ... It is not my intention to create something and create misery for people, that is not the intention behind this. On the contrary, it is trying to help, this is what people wanted and we are starting to see already a flicker of 'wow' this is working. I am starting to notice that but it will take time. All I ask is let the scheme settle for one, and then we will see where we go from here.

1530 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, can I just ask, is the eligibility for the parking spots just for residences or also for businesses in the Main Street or town area?

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, residential parking scheme: it is for residents. It is not a commercial parking scheme, it is not a visitor parking scheme. It is a residents' parking scheme. Everyone in Gibraltar is a resident. Not everyone is a business owner or a user or a commercial entity but everyone is a resident.

1535 So this scheme is to help people who reside in the areas to have a better chance of finding parking where they live; and how they move from place to place, well that is dictated whether they use the pay and displays around the area. But it is a residential parking scheme.

**Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Speaker, having been brought up in the Upper Town area, especially in Prince Edward's Road, my father used to park his car at Grand Parade because it was virtually impossible even then to find a parking space on Prince Edward's Road and we are talking about the 1970s and 1980s.

1540 The Minister has now introduced a scheme where by his own admission, you have a less than or an 18% chance of obtaining a parking space if you obtain one of these permits in the Upper Town. What is the policy objective here? He is asking people to buy a permit which effectively gives them an 18% chance of getting a parking space, no guarantee of a parking space and yet they are being asked to pay for something that they are effectively not going to be able to get or depend on luck to get.

1550 So what really is the policy objective he is trying to achieve in what he has already admitted is an impossible task?

1555 **Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, absolutely right – but if there are only on-street parking spaces. So there are 505 on-street parking spaces for 2,700 houses. But when you look at the whole parking pool in town, it does not comprise of only on-street parking. There are a lot of parking spaces within garages and car parks, etc. which are rented, owned privately or within houses.

1560 So 2,733 parking spaces exist within town but they are not on the street; they are off the street. They are in Theatre Royal, they are in Engineer's Lane car park, they are in Mid-Town, they are in Engineer's Lane, and within private residences, Gavino's Dwellings have some parking spaces, Centre Plaza has some parking spaces within so the whole parking stock is over 3,000

1565 What we are doing is, we are controlling the amount of on-street parking spaces and this is why we look at the amount of applicants. At the moment the numbers are looking quite good

1570 because of the 505 spaces, as I mentioned earlier, there are 531 applications. Some have been denied and some are awaiting collection but so close to D-day – the scheme went live already, but so close to 3rd April there are not 2,700 applications coming through. So again, we have to suck it and see, we have to see how this goes. I think it is too early days to actually have an opinion on that.

**Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Speaker, just finally on this because I think it is important, it is an issue that is vexing the community generally, the issue of parking.

1575 But why has the Government not imposed a condition that if you do have a parking space for your car, which is a private parking space that you own, that you will not get an off – road... a parking permit? Because that is really the only way you can grab the bull by the horns. You can say, 'Well right, you have got a parking space: you park in your parking space.' Why leave that parking space empty and park in a road-side parking space that is going to take away the  
1580 opportunity from somebody else?

I can understand that in certain cases, when we did it, residential parking schemes are good but the reality is that this involves taking very difficult decisions and having the political bravery to take very difficult decisions. It appears to me that if you have got a parking space in Mid-Town or you have got two parking spaces in Mid-Town, you should not be entitled as well to  
1585 have off-road parking at Queensway where you can occupy that space and leave your parking space empty.

**Hon. P J Balban:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman –

1590 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Or rent it out, yes.

**Hon. P J Balban:** – I am grateful to the hon Gentleman for saying that it does require quite a bit of political bravery. This is something that is not easy at all. We need to look at the bigger picture, and where we are going in terms of the environment and how this is affecting pollution  
1595 and the way we live and our health, etc. This is one of those measures.

Yes, there are many ways of doing this. We could have been a lot more draconian we could have said, 'Okay, you have a parking space, you are not going to get a permit.' But we felt that we would start off by disincentivisation in terms of increasing the cost of a permit. So if you are in possession, for example, of a car parking space in Engineer's Lane, you cannot get a permit  
1600 for £60 a year; your permit will cost £120 a year.

And there are families that own three, four and five cars and they double on each car. So if you are not using a car and you have got a car on the street which you rarely use or do not really need or you are waiting for the clutch to come in and it never comes and you never fix it, then you would probably get rid of it and that is the end of it.  
1605

So it is a start. It is a start to where we want to go. I think what we are doing is brave enough, and again it will be reviewed and if it is felt that we need to approach it from a different angle, fine. But if what you are saying is that is how perhaps you would have tackled it, it is quite positive to hear that on your side you probably would have been even more draconian in that respect because you would have had the political bravery to do so.

1610 At this moment in time – *(Interjection by Hon. D A Feetham)* Well you would have done it because it was part of – *(Interjection by Hon. D A Feetham)* Your predecessor was doing it. But the elections stopped that from progressing any further but that is the inevitable truth. If you start a residential parking scheme, you have to go the whole hog. What you cannot do is start a residential parking scheme and say, 'This is hitting us in the face, let's just pack this in!'

1615 There are consequences, we need to look at the whole picture and we will see. We are not here to make people unhappy, to make people's lives difficult. But you have said it, Gibraltar is becoming impossible in terms of vehicles. If we can adopt alternative forms of transport, we should, but this is I think something which ... We have got all eyes on it, we have teams working

1620 with it and we are getting comments which are worthwhile for us, we are looking at social  
media, we are looking at letters, complaints and also positive comments as well, because there  
1625 is always two sides to a story.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, if that is a convenient place to park the issue,  
(*Laughter*) I suggest that the House should now adjourn until next Thursday, 22nd March at  
1625 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

**Mr Speaker:** The House will now adjourn until Thursday, 22nd March at three o'clock in the  
afternoon.

*The House adjourned at 5.20 p.m.*