



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

AFTERNOON SESSION: 3.55 p.m. – 6.05 p.m.

Gibraltar, Thursday, 5th July 2018

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The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 3.55 p.m.

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

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

Order of the Day

In Committee of the whole Parliament

Appropriation Bill 2018 – Consideration of clauses commenced

Clerk: The Hon. the Chief Minister.

Hon. F R Picardo (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move that the House
5 should resolve itself into Committee to consider the following Bill clause by clause: the
Appropriation Bill 2018.

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to appropriate sums of money to the service of the year ending on the
10 31st day of March 2019.
Clause 1.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 2. Head 1, Treasury; Payroll.
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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Other Charges.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, if I may, if I can ask the Government, on other charges,
20 subhead 6(a) circulating coinage expenses, which then cross-references down to Appendix N,
page 225, if I could ask the Government: is this in relation to the replacement of the pound
coins? And if I could just ask as well, what happens to the old coins?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, this debate is about the numbers here, which they have
25 said they are not going to be voting for, so I am surprised that they are asking us questions,
because in this part of the debate what one does is assist hon. Members who may be wanting to
support the Bill, try to make any changes that might allow them to support the Bill or to ask any
questions which might elucidate or clarify something. So I am surprised that they want to ask
30 questions. If he wants get nit-pickety and difficult and ask questions, I do not think I am going to

persuade him to vote in favour, given that he seems to have foolishly decided for other reasons not to be voting in favour, but I am surprised therefore that he wants to ask questions.

The answer to his question is that yes, it is for the replacement of the pound coins.

35 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, I thank the Chief Minister for his answer. Does he know when the anticipated demonetisation date will be?

Hon. Chief Minister: During the course of this financial year.

40 **Mr Chairman:** Any other question on this subhead?
Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 2, No. 6 Convent Place; Payroll.

45 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, if I could ask the Chief Minister why the office of the Chief Technical Officer is now under No. 6?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, given that they are going to be voting against the Bill, I am surprised that they want to ask questions in respect of this Bill, unless the answers I am going to give them are going to change them.

50 The answer is because we think it is more appropriate that way.

Mr Chairman: Payroll stands part of the Bill.

55 **Clerk:** Other Charges.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, may I ask why it was that under subhead 2(b) other grants and donations, the outturn is going to be £1,064, over £1 million, compared to £575,000 in the estimates, and why the estimate for next year is £1 million?

60 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, in respect of the financial year that ends, which saw them not support the Bill that represents the outturn for last year, there has been other expenditure and this year we expect the expenditure will be around £1 million. That is why those figures are there.

65 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, can the Chief Minister give some indication of what sort of grants and donations he is giving from his office?

Hon. Chief Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I have given him on a number of occasions at Question Time in respect of that.

Mr Chairman: Any other question?

Hon. T N Hammond: Yes.

75 **Mr Chairman:** The Hon. Trevor Hammond.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, under other charges, subheading 5 – Government communication, information and lobbying – I note that there is quite a substantial increase in the forecast outturn from what was estimated. It goes from £915,000 to a shade under £1.7 million, returning to £1.2 million as the estimate for next year. Is that purely associated with activities around Brexit, or is there another reason for that? And if it is around Brexit, is it

appropriate that it comes out of the No. 6 budget rather than the budget of the Deputy Chief Minister?

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Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, in respect of the outturn for the financial year that they did not support the estimate for when we brought it in, there has been more expenditure than expected as a result of a number of different reasons and we think it is appropriate that it should come out of No. 6 Convent Place.

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Given that we are the only ones voting for it, with Ms Marlene Hassan Nahon, I do not see why hon. Members want to go into this level of detail. If they were voting for the Bill, they might have the moral authority to ask us about where we are going to spend the money. They have said they are not voting for the Bill, not on the basis of what we have spent in respect of the outturn for lobbying or what we are going to spend next year.

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Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, so the Chief Minister cannot provide any detail whatsoever regarding the additional £700,000 almost of expenditure under that subheading?

Hon. Chief Minister: No, Mr Chairman, I can. It is related to that subhead.

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Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, that is not additional detail; that is just regurgitating what is in the book.

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It is quite a substantial increase, I understand, but it was not that we were blind to the fact that Brexit was going to happen. The referendum had already come to pass by the time this estimate was put in and I just wonder if we may be provided with a little more detail, if such is available, as to where the additional £700,000 was spent.

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Hon. Chief Minister: There is detail in respect of every single penny, Mr Chairman. Every single penny of the money that was spent in defending Gibraltar internationally in respect of Brexit and all the other issues which required lobbying, which was spent as a result of the vote in this House of Mr Llamas and Ms Marlene Hassan Nahon and the Members on this side of the House – because they did not support the spending, they did not support that we should spend money defending Gibraltar internationally, and lobbying either in respect of Brexit or otherwise ... There is detail down to the last penny but I do not think it is appropriate to share it across the floor of the House; otherwise, those we are lobbying to keep at bay will know who we lobbied and how we lobbied.

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Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, we are not asking for the level of detail in respect of the naming of names, just perhaps as to how it subdivides between communication, information and lobbying perhaps, regarding the additional £700,000. Was it all in the lobbying box? Was it all information?

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My understanding was that the Committee Stage was not about debating, it was about just trying to determine facts. The Chief Minister seems quite keen to continue debating where we are with respect to the various positions on this Bill. Regardless of that, I think it is the obligation of those in this House to examine how people's money is being spent and try and drill down into some detail, whether we agree with it or not.

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): But you haven't voted.

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Hon. Chief Minister: Exactly, Mr Chairman. The whole point of this Committee Stage is to decide, by looking at detail, how one is going to vote, not to look into greater detail in respect of something that you are going to vote against.

Hon. Members have made a decision two years in a row not to support the spending, so the spending that we are looking at in the forecast outturn is spending approved by Marlene Hassan

135 Nahon, Lawrence Llamas and the Members on this side of the House. The spending for the
estimate for next year is the spending that is going to be done – because they have already said
this is the case ... They are not saying, ‘It depends on whether you convince me or you do not
convince me’; they have taken a position of principle that everything is hidden and there is
140 nothing here worth talking about because everything that is worth talking about is out of the
Estimates Book.

And so, Mr Chairman, they are not asking us for detail in order to be able to determine vote,
which is what the debate is about in this House, and what this Committee Stage is about. This is
part of the debate. The Committee Stage is about looking at the detail in the context of the
debate.

145 I have given them the detail, Mr Chairman, in the context of giving them a high-level view. I
am not going to give them a more detailed view, in particular on something as sensitive as
lobbying, where what they are asking me for could lead people to the work that we are doing.
Haven’t they heard the Deputy Chief Minister explain what happened in the course of his Budget
speech in the Second Reading when he talked about what happened in Washington when he
150 turned up, where people, before he appeared to meet them, had already indications from other
entities of what positions they should be taking in respect of Gibraltar?

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, under subheading 6, Protocol travel and entertainment,
again I note quite a significant overspend, about 30% over budget, from £150,000 to £260,000.
155 Is that again entirely associated with Brexit, or was it a predictable overspend? Should it have
been estimated last year? As I said, it is quite a significant overspend and could the Chief
Minister perhaps give a flavour of where that spending went?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, the position remains exactly as I have set out in relation
160 to the position that they have taken, which is if they are voting against the Budget I do not see
how they expect to be given more details. They have already indicated what their position is.

In relation to protocol entertainment, I think one of the problems is that hon. Members
opposite, when we invite them to parties, eat more than we expect and drink more than we
expect.

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Mr Chairman: Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 3, Customs; Payroll.

170 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, if I may ask, on subhead 1(a) Salaries – and this is perhaps a
generic question which goes across the book – does the estimate for 2018-19 take into account
the public sector pay rise as announced by the Chief Minister in his Budget speech?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, the Budgets that they have voted in favour of – because
175 he started in this House by voting in favour of Budgets – and the both Budgets that they have
voted against do not factor in public sector pay rises in any way. I think he has been told that on
a number of occasions before, but I do realise that he forgets some of the things that he has
asked us in other Committee Stages. In particular, we had an example of that this morning in
relation to his forgetting about the recurrent expenditure in respect of the University and the
180 capital expenditure in respect of the University.

Mr Chairman: Is there any other question?
Payroll stands part of the –

185 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Sorry, Mr Chairman, just one from me.

Mr Chairman: Yes, the Hon. Trevor Hammond.

190 **Hon. T N Hammond:** It is purely to clarify for my understanding – no more than that, because I am not familiar with some of the terms, although I have read them before and if I am familiar I do not recollect. Overtime ‘conditioned’ – can the Chief Minister or the Government just explain what conditioned overtime is, as opposed to discretionary overtime?

195 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, exactly the same as it meant in 2016-17, which I think is a Budget year when they voted in favour of the Budget.

The Chairman: Payroll stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Other Charges.

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

Clerk: Head 4, Income Tax; Payroll.

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

Clerk: Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

210 **Clerk:** Head 5, the Parliament; Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? (*Laughter*) Payroll stands part of the Bill. (*Banging on desks and interjections*)

215 **Mr Chairman:** Other Charges. Any questions?

Clerk: Other Charges.

220 **Mr Chairman:** Otherwise I will not get my 1.89%! (*Laughter*) Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 6, Human Resources; subhead 1, Payroll.

225 **Mr Chairman:** Any questions?
Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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

Clerk: Head 7, Immigration and Civil Status; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

235 **Clerk:** Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Hon. Roy Clinton.

240 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Yes, Mr Chairman. Under 2(e) there is a line that appears: 'Post-Brexit printing of new British emergency travel documents, £10,000.' I would be grateful for some information as to why that appears now, in terms of what it represents.

245 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, I am surprised that the hon. Gentleman, given that he has decided to vote against this money being spent although we may need new British emergency travel documents post Brexit, now wants details. But what they represent are new British emergency travel documents required post Brexit.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

250 **Clerk:** Head 8, Government Law Officers; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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

Clerk: Head 9, Financial Secretary's Office; subhead 1, Payroll.

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

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

265 **Clerk:** Head 10, Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Rehabilitation Services; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: The Hon. Elliott Phillips.

270 **Hon. E J Phillips:** In respect of line 3, 'Secondment', can the Chief Minister give any indication as to the £553,000 – what that is for?

Mr Chairman: We have already voted You want to ask a question on that – is that it?

275 **Hon. Chief Minister:** No, we have already passed that.

Mr Chairman: Do you want to ask a question?

Hon. Chief Minister: It's okay, we will –

280 **Mr Chairman:** Head 10, Payroll, stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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

Clerk: Head 11, Public Service Support Unit; subhead 1, Payroll.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, if I may. I would be grateful for some information as to what the function of this new unit is for, given it is a new head of expenditure this year.

290 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, this is the section that they voted against last year when it was created also, and which they are intending to vote against this year also, which is to provide human resources support across the public service – which is not the Civil Service. Like everything else in this book, it is something that they are not supporting.

295 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, I am not quite clear with the Chief Minister's answer. What exactly does this unit do across the Civil Service? What is its actual function? You already have GDC employees seconded to other Departments. This, from what I can see, is a new Department this year – it was not there last year – and has 13 people in its establishment and two from the Gibraltar Development Corporation. That is 15 people. Again I ask: what is the purpose of this
300 unit? He said to support the public service, but in what way?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, it is not the Civil Service is what I have told him. It is the public service, which is not the Civil Service. This is a unit I have told him was created last year, which they also did not support last year, to provide human resources support for public
305 servants who are not civil servants, throughout the public sector. They did not support it last year and they are not supporting it this year.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, sorry to labour the point but I really do not see that what the Chief Minister has just said actually provides any light to my question. What does this unit
310 actually do?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, I do not know how many times I have to tell him. It is like human resources in the Civil Service but not for civil servants, because of the 5,000 people who are employed in the public sector not all of them are civil servants but only civil servants are
315 entitled to work with human resources of the Civil Service.

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Chairman, may I?

Mr Chairman: Yes.
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Hon. D A Feetham: Before those members of the GDC were invited to form part of the Civil Service when we were in government, there were two, effectively, a separate 'human resources department' for the GDC. Is this something similar?

325 At the time I think the decision was taken – I am not clear what happened when the hon. Gentlemen took over in 2011 – I think that even those who formed part – there were only two or three people who formed part of that 'department' or who dealt with human resources for the GDC – then transferred to the Civil Service. Is this sort of reinstating something similar for the GDC?

330 **Hon. Chief Minister:** No, Mr Chairman. This is across the public service. So now you have the Civil Service and then you have all of the rest of the public service, which includes the GDC, and what we are doing, which they did not support last year and they are not supporting this year either, is consolidating all of that in one section so that you do not have a human resources department in one agency and a human resources department in another authority and a
335 human resources department in another company. Instead, you have one human resources facility for all of the non-Civil Service public sector. It is more efficient, and if they were supporting any part of this spending – but they have decided not to support any part of the

spending, because they said this just represents a big lie – they would, I think, want to support this.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 12, Office of the Deputy Chief Minister; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Head 13, Civil Aviation; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Chairman, can I ask: why is all emergency overtime zero?

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Hon. Chief Minister: I thank the hon. Lady for that question.

Mr Chairman, the decision taken this year is that when we look at emergency overtime it does not seem right that there should be an amount specifically provided, because if it is an emergency that should be leading to that overtime then it should be something that should be covered from the provision that is made in the book for additional spending.

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If one provides an amount of money for emergency overtime – and in some heads the hon. Lady will see that there was actually a specific amount provided for emergencies – we felt that that should not be provided by way of emergency, it should be provided by way of discretionary overtime payment being made available, which could then be used in any emergency. The discretion would, of course, engage to allow the payment in the context of that emergency.

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It is not impossible to think that if you are providing amounts as emergency head, those emergency amounts could be found to be spent during the course of the year under the discretionary head because people would vire between one and the other. In the conversations we have had with controlling officers we have determined it is easier for controlling officers not to have the pressure of having an amount available for emergencies and it is better for them to be able to demonstrate that they have exercised discretion in appropriate circumstances, and that discretion includes in such emergencies as may become necessary when overtime is then required.

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So she will see in voting to support this Budget, as she is going to do, that we wanted to be careful to ensure that that which is described as emergency is actually emergency.

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Mr Chairman: That is Head 13, Civil Aviation, Payroll – stands part of the Bill.
And now Other Charges – also stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 14, Environment; subhead 1, Payroll.

390 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Mr Chairman, can I ask if the newly appointed Commissioner for Sustainable Development is contained within this payroll list?

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, the post of Sustainable Development Officer, which they are voting not to support the creation of, is not contained under these estimates which they are
395 voting not to support.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, can I ask then is the salary for the Commissioner for Sustainable Development coming out of head 14?

400 **Hon. Chief Minister:** It will come out of the head of Supplementary Provision, which they are also voting not to support, Mr Chairman, this year – unless anything I tell them persuades them to support it.

Hon. E J Phillips: Just a general point, Mr Chairman, in relation to the Chief Minister's
405 continual reference to the fact that the Opposition are voting against the Bill. We consider it quite close to tedious repetition. I think we all know where we stand in relation to the view on where the Opposition stands. If the Chief Minister could refrain himself from continuously repeating it in the tedious nature that he does and just answer the questions that we put to him relating to the particular point of our questions being asked. It is getting quite close to Mr
410 Chairman intervening in relation to that very point I have just made.

Mr Chairman: I do not feel that as Chairman really there is anything that I can do about it. I imagine the position is fairly unprecedented.

In the House of Commons the Appropriation Bill would be referred to a select committee,
415 and with the Opposition invariably having voted in favour at the Second Reading what goes on in the select committee I think would be fairly straight forward.

I do not have anything that I can base a ruling on. I cannot compel the Government to give the information which the Opposition is seeking. I am not in a position to do so. There is nothing that I can base my decision on.
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Hon. Chief Minister: The hon. Gentleman is not asking you to compel me to give information or not give information; the hon. Gentleman is asking you to stifle me in debate. He is asking you to stop me from reminding them that they are voting against the Bill. He has asked you to prevail upon me to refrain from reminding them every time they ask a question that they are
425 asking a question about the detail of spending that they are not going to support, Mr Chairman. That is what he is asking you to do, which I assume is because he is embarrassed to have himself reminded constantly that for the second year running the GSD is going to vote against the estimates, which means that they are not looking at whether we spend a pound more or a pound less here or there as a way to determine how they will vote; they have made a decision –
430 on the premise I have already demonstrated in the Second Reading, with the support of the majority of the House, including some Members on that side of the House, which is not to be found with any credibility – that they are not going to be supporting the Bill simply because they say there is nothing here. That is what they have said. They said that this is a Big Lie Budget and they do not want to be reminded, every time they ask a question about the detail of this, that all
435 of the recurrent expenditure of the Government of Gibraltar is in this book and they have an opportunity to look at every penny that is being spent.

And they do not like the attitude of the Government? Well, Mr Chairman, the Government does not like the attitude of the official Opposition (**A Member:** Absolutely.) and we have made it very clear we think that they are being irresponsible in the way that they are voting and that
440 they are breaching a convention and creating a new convention that is a convention of irresponsibility, which does not look in the Committee Stage at the detail of spending and then

enable hon. Members to determine how they will vote in respect of the Bill – it is a general in-principle view against the Bill on the basis that they do not have the information on the spending of the Government of Gibraltar, although there is £600-odd million of revenue here and
445 £600-odd million of spending.

That is what they do not want me to remind them of and I am going to remind them of it at every opportunity I have, and I encourage all my hon. colleagues to do exactly the same thing if they are asked any questions in respect of their subheads. And if they do not want to hear it, well, they can vote in favour or they can vote against, but we are entitled not to have our voices
450 stifled in the debate. It is not just oppositions that complain about their voices being stifled. I feel that Mr Phillips wants to stop me from saying the things which I think it is in the interest of the community that I should repeat so that everybody understands the negative consequence of the action that they are taking – and, Mr Chairman, I think it is absolutely appropriate and incumbent upon me as Leader of the House to do so.

455 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Chairman, just one further point. If one looks at the spirit of 52(4) on page 25 in Standing Orders, you have:

The Speaker or Chairman, after having called the attention of the Parliament or Committee to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members in debate, may direct the Member to discontinue his speech.

If one looks at the spirit of that, there is clearly tedious repetition of the same argument. It is very clear that the Opposition will vote against the Bill, as is common in other countries –
460 including the United Kingdom, Mr Chairman – and the point I make here is that the Chief Minister continues to tediously repeat the same point in respect of how we have voted on the Second Reading of the Bill. Mr Chairman, what we are undergoing now is a detailed assessment of the figures in the book.

465 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, how can it be tedious repetition – just dealing with that point – if I am dealing with a different question all the time but there is a principle underlying the answers that I am giving in every particular instance?

One does not put to them the Standing Order on tedious repetition when they make the same point for the past four years in respect of company borrowing although I have
470 demonstrated that they were doing the same company borrowing. I just refer to them as a scratched record.

Mr Chairman, I fully intend to remind them every time that they ask a question that they are asking a question under a particular subhead in respect of a Budget that they are not supporting, and if they are embarrassed about that they should just take a different view. If they do not
475 want to be reminded or they do not want to hear me, they can go out to the loo if they like, but I intend to say it because I think it is incumbent upon me, as Minister for Finance, as Leader of this House and as the elected political leader of this community, to ensure that the record reflects the action that they are taking.

480 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Chairman, can I just –?

Mr Chairman: Let me make my position clear – and I am the Chairman of this Committee now. The House is in Committee – we have a different situation completely – but as Speaker, generally when a matter is raised involving the Rules and Standing Orders, obviously, or the
485 proceedings of Parliament, I go by the Rules and Standing Orders. If there is nothing in the Rules and Standing Orders about the issue, then I have a problem because I then need to have recourse to other sources. The sources would be the proceedings of the House of Commons. You guide yourself by what happens in the House of Commons, you guide yourself by Erskine May. For all of that, time is required.

490 The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has raised an issue about the question of repetition.
That has to do with debates. I would submit – I may be wrong – that we are not in that territory;
this is not a debate which is going on. The estimates are now in Committee. If anything, the
Rules that might apply are from 43 on: ‘Committee on Estimates’. This is what this is now,
Committee on Estimates. That is all that there is about the Rules: Rule 43. Other than that, there
495 is nothing that I can guide myself by. This is not a debate in the accepted sense of what is a
debate.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Chairman, if I may, I just wanted to ask the Chief Minister
why, in his view, even though the GSD Opposition have decided not to vote – which, as you
500 know, is a different position to mine ... why themselves, sitting MPs, are any less entitled or
precluded from asking questions on the detail of this Bill.

Hon. Chief Minister: In a select committee like this one, in Committee, what we are doing is
trying to determine the detail that will decide how we vote –

505 **Mr Chairman:** It is irrelevant.

Hon. Chief Minister: – and hon. Members have said (**Mr Chairman:** Irrelevant.) that they are
going to vote against the Bill. They have already indicated that –

510 **Mr Chairman:** It is not a relevance.

Hon. Chief Minister: Exactly. Irrespective of the merits of the detail that we are looking at,
they have said that they are voting against, so it is a little bit rich, in my view, Mr Chairman, that
515 they should now be trying to drill into every penny of spending when they have decided that
they are going to vote against.

It is not as if we are not giving information; it is just that I am making the point that I think it
is unfair that they are denying the heads that we are looking at of any vote, that we are not
going to fill them in any way. In other words, they are voting against £1,000 going here or
520 £19,000 going there but they want to know the detail of why it is going there.

The detail is provided in the context of Committee to allow somebody to make a decision
about what they do in a vote, but they said they have a principle position in vote. That is what
we think is unfair, because it means that they almost have their cake and eat it. They decide to
tell the world they are voting against, but then they want the information that they would have
525 had in the context of deciding whether to vote against or vote in favour. It is a position which I
think is unfortunate for all the reasons I have set out, and that is why I think it is important,
when they ask us questions, to remind them of that position.

The hon. Lady is voting in favour, so when she asks us questions she will find us not repeating
the mantra to her because she has not said that she has made a decision already in principle to
530 vote against.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Chairman, just in relation to that point, the Chief Minister has expressed
an intention to continue to preface every one of his responses to questions put to him by this
side of the House in relation to the questions on the book. I would invite Mr Chairman to
535 reconsider the spirit of that Rule in the context of conduct more generally in respect of matters
in this House. I do not want to labour it any further than that, Mr Chairman, but that is the
submission I would make in relation to that point.

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, the hon. Gentleman seems not to have seen the House of
540 Commons when Members are asked a question repeatedly and they simply retort that they
refer the hon. Gentleman to an answer that they have been given before.

545 It is not by insisting or repeating something that hon. Members are entitled to change the answer that they get. Otherwise, if they do not like an answer, they just ask again in a different way and they expect that the answer they are given has to be different, otherwise it offends the Rule on repetition. Mr Chairman, I think that would be entirely unfair and, as I have said, I think I have an obligation to set out during the course of this Committee session, for the record and to be in our *Hansard*, that every time that they ask us a question they are in effect asking us questions and details about money that they are voting against spending. So their attitude is that each of these heads should be at zero, not at £19,000 or £216,000. They are saying it should be zero because it is a Big Lie Budget. That is what they have said in the debate, so when they come here the question I suppose they are entitled to ask us is whether we could agree with them to reduce the numbers in respect of payroll in head 14, for example, to zero, because that is what they want.

555 **Mr Chairman:** The only sub-rule that I can find which *could* have some relevance – I am not saying that it does; it is very difficult to say ... Look at Rule 52(4):

The Speaker or Chairman, after having called the attention of the Parliament or Committee to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members in debate, may direct the Member to discontinue his speech.

560 I am not convinced that that Rule applies to consideration of the Estimates in Committee. It certainly applies to a debate, to what I would call a normal debate on a motion or a debate during the Second Reading of a Bill. That, for me, is a parliamentary debate. I think what goes on and what has gone on over the years when the House in Committee considers the estimates in detail, I remain to be convinced to be sure... I am not sure that that is a debate and that therefore this Rule applies.

565 I may be wrong, but I am not prepared at this stage, without much more serious and further consideration of the matter ... that the cookie crumbles one way or the other. I am sorry.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Chairman, I am grateful for your clarification in relation to that. I would argue that, as Chairman in relation to a Committee where we are dealing with the conduct of a particular Member – in this case the Chief Minister – who is continuously and will continue to tediously advance his own argument in respect of the official position of the Opposition, which is well known to this House and well known to the public via television ... that the Chief Minister intends from now on in to continue to preface every answer to the questions that we put to him in relation to this point ... It is not a debate, it is a Committee Stage, but he is prefacing that in a tedious repetitious manner.

575 That is the point I would make and, if one were to look at it in the spirit of the Rules, for Mr Chairman to conclude that insofar as conduct we can dispense with the preface to every single answer to our questions in relation to that and just simply answer.

Mr Chairman: I take your point, but I am not prepared to give a definitive answer at this point in time.

580 Head 14: any other questions on Payroll? If not, it stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

585 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, I believe we have a substitution page.

Mr Chairman: Notice has been circulated regarding a number of amendments to page 59. All hon. Members are in receipt of the proposed amendments.

Does anybody want to make any comment on them and ask any questions on those amendments? Yes, the Hon. Roy Clinton.

590 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Thank you, Mr Chairman.

You will forgive me if I adopt the same approach as the Chief Minister. As I have said in debate, this is a nonsense Budget. I believe the Chief Minister is playing games with the public.

Can he now explain to us, under Other Charges, 4 Subhead (d) Cleaning of streets and public places, where the amount for next year, £5.5 million, reflects the new contract just awarded?

595

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes): Mr Chairman, as I have not yet contributed to this discussion at Committee Stage, what I am about to say by definition cannot be repetition, tedious or otherwise.

600 I cannot understand how the Opposition, who are voting against this Bill, are even contemplating spending time asking questions which are of no relevance to them because they are opposing it anyway. Having said that for the first time, if I am asked again I might repeat it until it is or is not considered tedious.

605 On this particular occasion, no, this is based on the still existing contract. The contract has just been awarded and it will have to be refined and so on, but we obviously have to publish the estimate based on the previous contract.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, I thank the Minister for his answer.

In that case, would I be correct in saying he would expect to see a saving on that amount?

610 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Mr Chairman, I cannot say that at this point in time.

A Member: Not in his interest.

615 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Well, surely – you have signed a contract – you must know the amount of the contract in relation to this number.

Hon. Chief Minister: No, Mr Chairman, the hon. Gentleman is completely wrong and he is as wrong about this as he is about all of the other nonsense that he told us during the course of the first part of the debate which is leading them to vote against this.

620 We have not signed a contract, Mr Chairman. A contract has been determined to be awarded by the procurement but there is first the hardening period, when all of those who applied have an opportunity to challenge if they did not receive the award, and then the contract will be signed.

625 **Mr Chairman:** Any other matter?

May I ask the Committee whether the amendments as circulated are agreed to? (**Members:** Aye.) Stand part of the Bill.

630 **Clerk:** Head 15, Utilities; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

635 **Mr Chairman:** There is the small sum of £54 million there. Any questions? Right – how quickly £54 million are voted through. Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 16, Collection and Disposal of Refuse; subhead 1, Payroll.

640 **Mr Chairman:** Other Charges.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

645

Clerk: Head 17, Upper Rock, Tourist sites and Beaches; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

650

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 18, Education; subhead 1, Payroll.

655

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, if I may, again, given the nonsense of this Budget in that none of the cost of the schools is included, why is it that we have under the establishment a new position called Director of Estates? If all the schools are now going to be held through a Government-owned company, this salary presumably is going to be included within payroll – is that correct?

660

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Chairman, I am going to repeat something once, and therefore by definition it cannot be tedious and therefore it would fall outside the definition anyway. I still cannot understand why I am being asked, and not only are they voting against but they are actually calling it nonsense every time. Perhaps that is something that could qualify as tedious repetition after it has been said a few more times.

665

This is a post which is a transfer from elsewhere, from the Gibraltar Health Authority. It is the person who is dealing within the Department of Education, directing it as part of my Ministry, and that is why it appears here now.

670

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, I am grateful to the Minister for his response.

Is he suggesting that this is a secondment or an actual direct transfer across of the previous position? I do not think, in looking at Appendix Q ... which appears at Appendix Q this year – starting salary £63,000, rising to £91,000 ... Is he saying that was under a different type of heading under the GHA before? Because it seems to me to be a new position entirely.

675

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Chairman, a slip of the tongue. This a post that was formerly in No. 6, I believe ... No, then I am correct. It is a post that was formerly within the GHA and was transferred to the Education Department during the course of last year but could not be picked up in time for the last estimates and now appears here instead of in the GHA.

680

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Chairman, may I? In Payroll 1(d)(ii) there is £600,000 allocated to 'Special Needs Learning Support Assistance', and I am rather confused in how does that work or how does that differentiate to ... If you will allow, Mr Chairman, although it comes under Other Charges in 2(2)(p)(i), there is 'Assistance to Pupils'. By nomenclature alone I cannot understand the difference. They do seem to be assistances because one is of a temporary nature but is there every year and the other one seems to be more static. Perhaps the Minister can enlighten me on what the difference is and why under those two separate headings.

685

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Yes, once again – with the high regard I have for my old school friend, the Hon. Mr Reyes – I do not see the point of repeatedly asking about something on which by definition again he is going to disagree with, no matter what I say, because he is going to vote against it.

690

695 Nevertheless, there is a distinction. The first one is the learning support assistants who are brought in to support particularly children with special needs. The second one is different. This is when children for example have special medical needs, like needing for PEG feeding a diabetes nurse may have to attend, for very young children who need injections and so on, and that is what the second one covers, not the more normal provision of learning support on a regular basis.

700

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

Can I come back very quickly – I think it comes under this area. The Minister was trying to explain that under the establishment the staffing levels ... he has given an explanation of the Director of Estates. Is that the same as –? Again, I may be jumping the gun, but under Other Charges there seems to be a contribution to Gibraltar Developments Staff Services. Is that part of the payroll? If not, I will wait for the other part and then ask that question.

705

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: I can answer it now. Again, I repeat – at the risk of becoming tedious now – that I do not think it makes sense to have this discussion, but nevertheless I will provide that information.

710

That is the person that I mentioned in my Budget speech who has been transferred from No. 6 Convent Place to deal with the maintenance and the refurbishment of all the schools that are not being moved to another location as new schools.

715

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

So then, under the establishment section there is a post for a GDC staff introduced new for the year 2018-19 that was not there before. Can we have some light on what particular duties that member of staff will be undertaking?

720

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Yes. There are two posts. There is one who is Director of Estates transferred from the GHA, and the other one who is a GDC who was transferred from No. 6. There are two.

725

Hon. E J Reyes: Yes, Mr Chairman, but my question ended with what particular duties does the GDC employee ... and there is only one accounted for in this book.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Well, I just said he is a person who is dealing with the maintenance of the schools and the refurbishment of those schools that are not going to be built anew.

730

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Chairman, I am sorry –

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: We have one person who is dealing with and leading on the new schools project, getting all the information and liaising with the teachers and so on; and we have a second person who is dealing with supervising the maintenance, assessing what refurbishment is needed in order to keep those schools that are not moving in a good condition. I have said that three times already. I do not know how else to explain it, Mr Chairman.

735

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Chairman, in this last –

740

A Member: But you're not tedious. *(Interjection by Hon. Dr J E Cortes)*

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Chairman, I was just going to say that in this last explanation the Minister did clarify that now there are two different individuals, and therefore I have at long last, thanks to the Chairman's ... or what I hope the Chairman will feel relieved I have now understood.

745

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, just returning to the subject of Director of Estates for one moment, the Minister said that last year that post was within the GHA. I cannot actually find in last year's Budget Book a salary or a position associated with the post of Director of Estates. There is a position, Head of Estates and Clinical Engineering; I do not know if that is the post that will be referred to and that post has been renamed. Either way, within the salary section I cannot find a salary under the GHA for a Head of Estates and Clinical Engineering, so again we would like to ask: is this a new post, and if it is a transferred post, which post in last year's Budget Book is it and is it the same salary structure as is the case for this year under the title Director of Estates?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: The person who is currently the Director of Estates transferred from the GHA was not replaced in the GHA in that role, so you would not find him this year in the GHA. *(Interjections)* Then it may have been removed in last year's book.

Hon. T N Hammond: So, Mr Chairman, is the Minister saying that the post has been transferred from the GHA to the Education Department this year but that the post was not in the GHA last year?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: I think what happened in last year's book – although clearly that is another book that they voted against anyway, so again I am getting terribly confused about all this – if I remember correctly, is it was removed from the GHA but it was included in the Department of Education under 'temporary assistance'. *(Interjection)* I am assisted and I can see in last year's book 'Director of Clinical Engineering and Estates' – that is the one.

Hon. T N Hammond: Thank you. I thank the Minister. That is actually how I phrased the question. I asked him if Head of Estates and Clinical Engineering is now Director of Estates in the Department of Education. It was not clear and can the Minister clarify, because I cannot either find in last year's book the salary associated with Head of Estates and Clinical Engineering under the GHA or whether it had last year the same salary structure as that of Director of Estates this year.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Well, I do not know what the GHA did, but the GHA I think changed the title from Director to Head.

A Member: It does not matter.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Where do you have 'Head'? Is that in this year's book? In this year's book it is as Head?

Yes, it is the same post. It just says Head in one and Director in the other, but it is the same post. There has been no replacement, so there is no net increase in post; it has just been named differently.

Mr Chairman: Any other questions? Payroll stands part of the Bill. Other Charges.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Hon. E J Reyes: Yes, Mr Chairman, on subhead (2)(12) there is Student Support. I am grateful for the explanations given to me before about the special needs support assistance and the assistance for pupils, but what is this student support then catering for?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: I hope I will not be asked much more now, or I will become tedious.

800 I believe this is a sum of money that is available which is provided to students away from
Gibraltar who are suffering particular financial hardship. They have to make a case to a panel
and there is a Budget there allocated to give temporary assistance to students who are away
from Gibraltar who may be suffering particularly difficult circumstances.

805 **Minister for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the GSB (Hon. Sir J J
Bossano):** It has been there all the time.

810 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** Yes, it has been there forever. Fortunately, there has not been a great
need to use it the last couple of years, which is why rather than just having the money there to
one side we reduced the budget, and clearly there were exceptional circumstances – a little bit
like the Chief Minister explained on emergency overtime we would have to see how we could
support it, but this is a way we have been more realistic, rather than having a large figure there
which we are not going to use, and this is why it is slightly reduced. But it is nothing new; it was
probably there, Mr Chairman, when the Hon. Mr Reyes was Minister and he may not recollect.

815 **Hon. E J Reyes:** It may, Mr Chairman. In the state of cordial friendship and exchange of
information that we have, he has now confirmed it is being used for exactly the same purpose as
it was when I was a Cabinet Minister – and I am glad to see that at least that has been
maintained, because therefore not everything the GSD did was bad. *(Interjection by Hon Sir J J
Bossano)*

820 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Yes, Mr Chairman, not only have we maintained that, but if the hon.
Member continues to look through the book he will find that we have increased the number of
people who are on scholarships since he was a Cabinet Minister and there are now over a
thousand at any one time, so I think he will be very pleased with what he sees. And not just that:
825 we are also developing more schools, although he will not find them all in the book, and we
think that is a very important investment for our children's future – although they are voting
against all of those things at the same time.

830 **Hon. E J Reyes:** And I concur wholeheartedly with the Chief Minister that it is thanks to the
professionalism of our teachers that we are able to boast about having more students in further
education.

A Member: Hear, hear.

835 **Hon. Chief Minister:** And only, Mr Chairman, as a result of this House voting £20 million that
we can pay for them.

Mr Chairman: Any other question on other charges? Yes.

840 **Hon. E J Phillips:** Mr Chairman, just in relation to item 2.14, Project Search, of the Big Lie
Budget, will the Chief Minister explain or one of the Ministers explain why the decrease in
funding towards this particularly important project?

845 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, given that their response was no more than a tissue of lies
designed to try and persuade the community that this £625 million of spending is not something
that should be supported, and given that they do not even believe – given that they say that our
Budget is a lie – that there is this recurrent revenue, I am surprised he is not trying to persuade
us to take the Project Search figure down to zero.

850 All he needs to do is cast his eye over it and see that last year we provided 10, we spent zero – and therefore why provide 10 again if we spent zero last year? – so we have left enough in, in case there is some spending to be done in the future. And we will support spending in respect of Project Search, although they are going to vote against it.

Mr Chairman: Other charges stands part of the Bill.

855

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman –

Mr Chairman: The Hon. Trevor Hammond.

860

Hon. T N Hammond: If I may refer to subparagraph 10, Training and Development courses, can I confirm whether those are teacher training courses or student training courses?

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Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Chairman, repeated repetitions of a ‘Big Lie Budget’ make me hesitate in answering anything, because almost by definition then they are calling me a liar and I am sure that that is not allowed in this House. I think that is what perhaps is becoming tedious.

These are training courses for professional staff.

Hon. T N Hammond: I thank the Minister for that response.

870

With reference to subparagraph 9, Nurseries, I notice a nominal figure of £1,000 is in the estimate this year. The forecast outturn for last year was zero. What does Government envisage potentially having to spend money on with respect to nurseries under this particular heading?

875

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: The assistance to nurseries, should they require them and should it be deemed appropriate to give nurseries which do not come directly under the Department some assistance under exceptional circumstances.

Hon. T N Hammond: So, Mr Chairman, would that be private nurseries then that may need assistance?

880

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Yes.

Mr Chairman: The Hon. Roy Clinton.

885

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, given the incomplete nature of this Budget, can the Minister explain why there was, in fact, no expenditure on Project Search in the outturn 2017-18, given that there was an estimate of £10,000?

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Chairman, I am going to give him an incomplete answer – that was it.

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Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, the Government does not for one moment accept the premise that this Budget is anything other than entirely complete. It is a complete picture of all of the revenue of the Government in the Government revenue section of this book and a complete picture of the Government expenditure proposed to the House in the book, which is in fact an annexe to a Bill which is before the House and which we are debating today. Therefore, Mr Chairman, the Government does not accept for one moment any suggestion that this is an incomplete picture, and anything that we say henceforth must be taken with that caveat.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Sorry, Mr Chairman, I thought I had given my incomplete answer.

900

The Department has – as I said in my Budget speech, but again I know they were not listening because they did not change their responses – as I said in my Budget speech, we have engaged

an officer who is doing the sort of work that Project Search was doing in a different way. So we are not engaging so much specifically in that project, although we may possibly re-engage in that, and that is why we have put a small amount there but we are doing the work in a different way.

905

Mr Chairman: Any other questions?
Education, Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 19, Heritage; subhead 1, Payroll.

910

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

915

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, if I may. Given that the Government has excluded large chunks of capital expenditure from this Budget, which obviously then affects its entirety, can I ask the Minister for Heritage about item 2.5, Contracted Services in Heritage, which in the outturn 2017-18 was effectively £1.5 million and is now reduced to £1 million? Can he advise how he has achieved a saving of about £½ million?

920

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, how can a reference to capital spending be relevant to the pages on recurrent expenditure that we are dealing with at the moment?

Minister for Commerce (Hon. A J Isola): He needs to go to university. (*Interjections*)

925

Hon. Chief Minister: He has made a point about capital expenditure, and we are dealing here with recurrent expenditure! (*Interjections*)

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, is the Minister refusing to respond?

930

Hon. Chief Minister: No, Mr Chairman. What the Member is doing is prefacing a question for us in a way that makes it unintelligible, because he is asking questions of us in respect of recurrent expenditure and he has prefaced it by a remark in relation to capital spending. So what does he want to know about this recurrent spending head? If he makes that clear and he does not connect it to capital spending we may, despite the fact that they are not going to vote in favour of this Budget, demonstrate that we are trying to provide some information – which will not change their minds in any particular respect because they have come here with their minds closed to argument and they have come here to try and seek a shutdown of Government and they have come to try and seek a stopping of all Government services. Nonetheless, if he asks the question in a way that does not connect it to capital spending, we may be able to provide him with some sort of answer.

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940

He is just finding himself in exactly the same position he found himself in relation to the University all over again.

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Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, I am still waiting for an answer from the Minister.

Hon. Hon. A J Isola and Hon. Miss S M Sacramento: You have had it.

950

Hon. R M Clinton: The question is quite simple, Mr Chairman. Given that the Government does not know the difference between revenue and expenditure and recurrent expenditure, can the Minister confirm on item 2, Other Charges, subhead 5, whether the reduction in contracted

services in Heritage from 2017-18 to 2018-19, in which he seems to save £½ million ... How has he achieved this?

955 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, I will start by dealing with the point that he makes at the beginning of the question which then makes the rest of the question impossible to deal with: the Government does know the difference between capital spending and recurrent spending.

960 **Hon. R M Clinton:** In which case, Mr Chairman, at the very real risk of trying your patience –

Mr Chairman: Could I suggest, because my patience is also running out and I may decide to call it a day here and now ... I may decide to say a plague on both your houses, I am not going to waste my time here with this business.

965 Why don't you ask a straightforward question? I would suggest, as Chairman of this Committee, that you ask the Minister how does he account for a decrease from the forecast outturn of £1,465 to £1,095. Do not premise your question; ask the question and see what kind of answer you get.

970 **Hon. D A Feetham:** Mr Chairman, may I?

Mr Chairman: Yes. I hope you do not add wood to the fire!

Hon. D A Feetham: Well, Mr Speaker, no, what I – (**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Chairman.) Mr Chairman, I beg your pardon – thank you very much.

975 That is why actually the point that my learned and hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition made earlier has some merit, because we are now at risk here of descending into farce that does no credit to this House at all, and I would invite hon. Members to just ... We will, on this side, ask straight questions and they on that side could just simply answer them without getting involved with something that is really turning into something that I have not experienced since I was in
980 the sixth form at Bayside Comprehensive School – (*Interjections*) which I used to enjoy, I have to say, but it just becomes –

Hon. Mr Chairman: I must seriously warn hon. Members in this sense. We have been here since Monday. I have been sitting here for very many hours at the same time as I have been
985 taking, every single day, three dosages of amoxicillin 500 g. Notwithstanding that, I have been very patiently here, doing my job, and I intend to do it to completion because when all is said and done it is a job that I enjoy – and if I do not do it, somebody else is going to have to do it and find themselves in the same position as I do.

I think that, in spite of the differences between the Government and the Opposition, we have
990 had good debates in the House, good speeches in the last few days. We have now come to a situation where the procedure has always been relatively easy, but because of the fundamental dispute arising from the fact that the official Opposition did not support the Estimates of Expenditure ... arising from that there is a dispute between the Government and the Opposition and I am caught in between.

995 I am caught in between in a situation where I have reflected on that Rule. As I say, I think that that Rule applies to debates. It is the Rule for debating – debating motions, debating the Second Reading of Bills; I do not think it applies to Committee. A Committee on Estimates, usually speeches are not made. Questions are asked and answered, speeches are not made, and therefore I honestly, seriously do not think that that particular Rule applies to this situation.

1000 You have raised the matter. Since then I have made a few notes and reflected upon it. I am convinced that it does not apply. I may be wrong. I am not saying that I am infallible, like the Pope is supposed to be – which I seriously question in any case. I am not infallible, I may be wrong, but that is the extent to which I am able to give a ruling at the present time. Look, if I am

wrong, I am wrong and next year we will have a different situation perhaps, but that is the position as I see it now.

I think it should not be beyond the realms of possibility, where genuinely information is being sought, to phrase the question in such a way that it is a straightforward question – and you may, as a result, elicit a straightforward answer. Try it. If it does not work, then I am wrong and you can preface whatever preamble you want to a question. (*Interjection*) That is all I can say in the interest of bringing this matter to a close.

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, I think that your advice to hon. Members opposite in respect of how they might get an answer to the question in respect of the contracted services in Heritage is very good advice and it would enable us to provide perhaps some of the information that they want.

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Chairman, we will test the guidance that you have given in relation to that point. The next question that my colleagues on this side of the House will deliver to the Government will be a very straightforward question about particularly the figures. If it is met again with a preface by the Chief Minister in relation to that question, Mr Chairman, we will have to continue down the line of questioning with prefacing our questions, which will elicit the same response from the Chief Minister. We are willing to narrow the question as per your guidance, Mr Chairman; however, I expect, given the intention expressed by the Chief Minister that he intends to preface every single one of his answers with the restatement of our position, he should also take the guidance from the Chair.

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, this is not about the preface that they are giving.

Mr Chairman: Let me say that since the matter was first raised by the Leader of the Opposition, I have noticed the Hon. Dr Cortes has been answering ... even the Chief Minister, they haven't... All the answers have not, since then, been prefaced by the same remark. I have noted that.

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, what the Hon. the current interim Leader of the Opposition does not seem to appreciate is that this is not about the preface. The Hon. Mr Clinton said that the Government does not understand the difference between capital spending and recurrent spending. (*Interjection*) That is not 'I'm going to vote against because this is a Budget which is a lie, etc.'; this is an allegation that the Government does not understand the difference between the recurrent and capital expenditure. What on earth that allegation, which is an asinine allegation, has to do with asking a question at the Committee Stage is entirely lost on me.

I think you have given them very good advice as to how they could ask a question that might elucidate an answer; if they follow it, they might elucidate an answer.

Hon. R M Clinton: Very well, Mr Chairman, here goes. Under Other Charges, subhead 5, Contracted Services Heritage, would the Minister advise how he has arrived at savings between the forecast outturn for 2017-18 of about £1.5 million to effectively £1.1 million in 2018-19?

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Chairman, the straight answer is in order to rise even higher in the esteem of the Father of the House, who would have been delighted to see the drop.

Yes, very clearly this was because last year we had initial setting-up costs in relation to the World Heritage site, which will not be necessary this year.

1055 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Sorry, Mr Chairman, this has nothing to do with – (*Interjection by Hon. Dr J E Cortes*) No, looks like a shift ... (*Interjections*) Yes, sorry, Mr Chairman.

Given what the Minister has just said, the new subhead 6, World Heritage Site Expenses, that is presumably just maintenance for the site?

1060 **Hon. Dr J E Cortes:** That is correct. It is ongoing expenses following the set-up last year.

Mr Chairman: Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 20, Technical Services; subhead 1, Payroll.

1065

Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, if I may ask, under Payroll, subhead, subparagraph (f) Salaries, I note that there is no significant change in the full-time equivalents indicated. There is the removal of a messenger and the addition of a security guard/car park attendant, and yet the overall salary rate goes up by nearly £62,000. Can I ask why that increase exists?

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Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Mr Chairman, if we look at the estimate for the year 2017-18 and then the forecast outturn, you can see there has been an increase then. This is why the difference between the estimated 2018-19 is slightly higher; it is not significantly higher, so it is reflecting more or less a similar figure to the forecast outturn for 2017-18.

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Hon. T N Hammond: I am sorry, Mr Chairman, I do not understand the answer. The forecast outturn for 2017-18 is £698,000 and the estimate for 2018-19 is £760,000, indicating a £62,000 increase. If we look at the engineering and design FTEs, there is no change in personnel whatsoever, so is it just that the salaries of those individuals altogether are rising so that we arrive at a £62,000 increase? There are certainly no additional persons there to account for that significant increase.

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Hon. Sir J J Bossano: Mr Chairman, the hon. Member needs to understand that in looking at the salaries of any one year he has got to look in the context of what has happened over a number of years.

1085

There are people who start or finish in different months of the year and there is a situation where, if he looks at the £760,000, he needs to look at the fact that it was £744,000 two years ago and that there has been a pay rise since then. So, for the same number of people in 2016-17 there was £744,000, and two years later you have got £16,000 more for the same number of people, given that in the meantime there will have been two pay rises and people moving up the scale.

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This kind of difference between one year and the other has to be analysed and can only be understood in the kind of movements that take place over a 48-month period. There is no difference in the manning level or in the cost.

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Hon. T N Hammond: I can accept that answer from the Minister. That is what I was trying to get at – is it that it is probably attributed to people going up pay grades, which does make sense to me. I was just trying to understand that. (*Interjection*) Well, yes, perhaps £3,000. I can understand that answer. That is what I was just getting at. I wanted to confirm that that really was the case.

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Hon. Sir J J Bossano: Mr Chairman, the point is that if he just looks at the £698,000 and the £760,000, it may look as if there is an abnormal change taking place at that point, but if you compare the £760,000 with the £744,000 of two years ago, then of course the change is not significant.

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Mr Chairman: Any other question on Payroll?
Stands part of the Bill.

1110 **Clerk:** Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

1115 **Clerk:** Head 21, Driver and Vehicle Licensing; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill. Yes?

1120 **Hon. T N Hammond:** I have a rather similar question to the previous one in that again there is quite a substantial ... Whilst the overall headcount appears to be down one for the year, there is almost a £100,000 increase in salaries. Again, although I do recognise that the estimate for last year was £800,000, the forecast outturn was down quite substantially but then rises again to £750,000, which represents 15-odd per cent of the entire salary budget. I am just again asking is it down to the same reason – has the reduction in headcount had no effect and, bearing in mind there are only 26 staff there, can they all be going up? Can we have an explanation as to why the increase is so much?

1130 **Hon. Sir J J Bossano:** I think the... anticipation... for example, we get a very clear sequence. If the hon. Member looks at the Housing Works Agency, for years there has been a situation where they make provision for jobs which assumes the jobs being filled in the year and then it does not happen. That tends to happen with a lot of roles. That is to say, the fact that it went from £697,000 to £806,000 would imply certain vacant posts being filled. At the end of the year, if the posts have not been filled, then the outturn is closer to the previous year's actual of 2016-17. In £756,000 there will be some provision for jobs being filled, but they may not be filled within the year, in which case the final result will be closer to the £697,000 of two years ago.

1135 **Mr Chairman:** Payroll stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

1140 **Mr Chairman:** Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 22, Town Planning and Building Control; subhead 1, Payroll.

1145 **Mr Chairman:** Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

1150 **Clerk:** Head 23, Statistics Office; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

1155 **Clerk:** Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, under subhead (I)(g) of Other Charges, there is some wording in italic, 'Office Rent and Service Charges'. May I ask why there are no office rent charges at all, given that their offices are now in the World Trade Centre?

1160 **Hon. Sir J J Bossano:** Because that is what they were paying in the office they were in before, and in the new offices there is not such a charge – presumably it is included in the rental agreement that there is.

The £3,216 of 2016-17 – which is the only one really he is legitimately entitled to ask me about, because I think that 2016-17 was when he voted in favour of spending that money ... So
1165 the money was spent, which he voted for. Last year we did not ask for any money and this year we are not asking for any money.

Given that he wants the whole book to be in zeros, he should be celebrating the fact that he has got two zeros to his credit.

1170 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, I thank the Minister, but still, if the Statistics Office is now in the World Trade Centre, is he telling us that the Statistics Office does not pay rent to the World Trade Centre, or does it pay rent to another Government Department?

Hon. Sir J J Bossano: No, Mr Chairman, the rent of the Statistics Office is included in the
1175 rental that there is for Government offices. This refers to what was being paid in respect of the area that they had in the New Harbours, where I think the parking facilities were shown as a separate element in the service charges, but in the new one, in the global amount of Government rents, which is in a global head, the Statistics Office is included as opposed to being included here.

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Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, I understand the logic of what he is saying. Can he point me to which part of the book the head is in which the global rent for Government offices would be?

Hon. Sir J J Bossano: Well, I imagine it is in the one that says ‘Rent for Government offices’
1185 [Inaudible] read the whole book. I know that I am supposed to have a better memory than him, but I know that there is a block vote on rent of Government offices, again which has been there every year. In head 1, subhead 9, in Treasury – which I cannot say he has already voted for, because he is voting against everything.

1190 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, I am grateful to the Minister for his answer.

Can I just, I guess for my information, understand the difference between this global vote that was done under Other Charges under Treasury, under subhead 9, to, for example the charges under head 22, Town Planning, which has its own office rents and service charges? What is the difference in approach?

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Hon. Sir J J Bossano: I think many of these things are historical – that is to say they were done in a particular way before. There tended to be, before, a situation where many Departments did the same thing and the same items used to appear in many different Departments. Generally there has been a tendency, in terms of doing things differently, like the Chief Minister mentioned in relation to human resources – there was Human Resources in the Care Agency, a
1200 Human Resources in the GHA. So I think the move is that when changes take place, where it can be rationalised it is all put under one head, which makes more sense in the whole area of looking at improving efficiency. Sometimes duplication happens because there are different people in different areas of the public sector doing the same thing, whereas if there is one person doing it
1205 for everybody, there are potential savings.

We have not got a programme to do that everywhere as a decision – let’s do it all at once – but whenever a change takes place, we look at it on the basis of ‘Is the fact that a change is taking place an opportunity to do it in a different way?’ and then the opportunity is taken.

1210 **Mr Chairman:** Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 24, Economic Development; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

1215 **Hon. T N Hammond:** Sorry, Mr Chairman, just one, again referring to a similar theme to the
last question that I asked, where we have a full-time equivalent reduction of four and yet we go
from a forecast outturn of £850,000 to an estimate of £1.24 million in salaries. That does seem
quite an extreme difference to account for simply in terms of pay grade increases, unless there
1220 are quite a significant number of vacancies in that Department. If that is the case, I will of course
accept the Minister's answer. I assume the high estimate must be down to a high number of
vacancies.

Hon. Sir J J Bossano: Well, Mr Chairman, if he looks at 2016-17 it was £1,206, so what he is
1225 talking about is a difference of £24,000 in £1¼ million in a period of 24 months. The submission
that is made reflects the complement, which is actually down by five.

Members will recall that one of the things I did a few years ago in the area of Economic
Development was to bring the administration together, which was previously spread into the
different units, particularly because the EU Funding Unit, which was a separate section in its own
right, is something that is going to disappear in the very near future. By combining the different
1230 sections, we have been able to make some savings in anticipation of the fact that we are going
to have a surplus of workers in that particular section who will have to be re-employed
somewhere else, so that the vacancies that are there that are not filled in the main are the
vacancies that may be covered temporarily in the knowledge that they are not going to need it
to be filled because the EU funding is going to dry up after 2019.

1235 The provision has to be taken into consideration on the basis that the original figure was
£1,206, we provided for less last year, and actually we spent considerably less than had been
expected because we have actually reduced the number of people. The provision that we have
got now is on the basis of 32 people being employed in all the areas. The only area where we see
1240 the figures going down is in respect of, for example, the EU Funds Controller. The different EU
programmes that are in the list, in these 22, is the area where the saving is. But the provision will
include the vacancies. The one there does include quite a number of vacancies – four or five
vacancies.

Mr Chairman: Head 24, Payroll, stands part of the Bill.
1245 Other Charges.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stand part of the Bill.
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Clerk: Head 25, Procurement Office; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

1255 **Clerk:** Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 26, Housing Administration; subhead 1, Payroll.
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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

1265 **Mr Chairman:** Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 27, Equality; subhead 1, Payroll.

1270 **Mr Chairman:** Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

1275 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, just a simple information question. Under 2 subhead 8 in capitals 'MAPPA', I would just appreciate as to what that stands for.

Minister for Housing and Equality (Hon. Miss S J Sacramento): Mr Chairman, I referred to it in my Budget speech yesterday. MAPPA is the Multi-Agency Public Protection forum.

1280 **Mr Chairman:** Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 28, Health; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

1285 **Clerk:** Subhead 2, Other Charges.

1290 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Chairman, I would like to ask: on subhead 2(3)(b), there was a provision in the estimates for 2017-18 of £350,000 but none of it was used, and then there is a further provision which is less the amount of 2017-18. Can the Minister explain why the Hospice actually has not followed through and what the intentions are, please?

1295 **Hon. N F Costa:** Yes, Mr Chairman. We had hoped to have been able to have commenced such a worthy cause in the last financial year; unfortunately, it proved impossible for us to do so. We think we may be on track to starting in this financial year, but of course we are already a few months into it, so it would not reflect the full amount.

1300 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Chairman, can I ask a question: why the estimate in the Cancer Relief Centre is so much lower than the previous forecast outturns and estimates of the last two years at £70,000?

1305 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Chairman, this relates to a bid made by the charity in relation to works to be carried out at the premises. Part of those works of course are being done in this financial year, as reflected in the forecast outturn, and the £70,000 reflects the estimate to complete the works in this financial year.

Mr Chairman: Any other question?
Head 28, Other Charges, stands part of the Bill.

1310 **Clerk:** Head 29, Gibraltar Health Authority Elderly Residential Services Section; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.
Other Charges.

1315 **Clerk:** Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 30, Care Agency; subhead 1, Payroll.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.
Other Charges.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 31, Policing; subhead 1, Payroll.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Chairman, I know they have explained before that the increases in pay reviews and so on in monthly salary are catered for already, but given that the Police announced recently that the post of Chief Superintendent was going to be now coming under the nomenclature of Assistant Commissioner, would that in itself bring a substantial variation?

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Hon. N F Costa: No, there is no cost at all.

Mr Chairman: Payroll stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Hon. T N Hammond: Mr Chairman, it is a very small point. Just regarding subparagraph 1(h), the cost of maintenance of security cameras seems to have almost tripled in the forecast outturn for this year. Is there any explanation for that? Clearly that is not expected to go forward, so there must be a very particular reason why it tripled in this particular year.

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Hon. N F Costa: Yes, Mr Chairman, it relates to mainly a cost of engaging a 24 hour security guard following the relocation of the compound from the Lathbury site. The CCTV has since been installed, so that is why the costs will then be reduced in this financial year.

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Mr Chairman: Other charges stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 32, Prison; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Head 33, Gibraltar Law Courts; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 34, Justice; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Head 35, Tourism; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 36, Employment; subhead 1, Payroll.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Head 37, Commercial Aviation; subhead 1, Payroll.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, may I ask, for my information, why would this Department justify a law drafter under establishment? I know it was there last year.

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Minister for Tourism, Employment, Commercial Aviation and the Port (Hon. G H Licudi): Mr Chairman, Commercial Aviation is essentially my Ministry. My Ministry had to come under one head. One of my Departments is Commercial Aviation and it was decided to put my Ministry staff and Ministry in general under Commercial Aviation. So it is the Ministry workers.

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Mr Chairman: Payroll stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 38, Port; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, just a quick question on 2(1)(b) Additional Contribution. There is an estimate of £1.4 million and the outturn is now zero. We are just wondering why that is.

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Hon. G H Licudi: Mr Chairman, last year, you will see from the estimate there was an estimated contribution from revenues received of £4.5 million. We needed essentially £6 million

1420 to run the Department and therefore there was a need for an additional contribution to be
made by the Government, as reflected in the estimates, of £1.463 million. The forecast outturn,
hon. Members will see under Contribution from Revenues Received, which is actually the
revenue of the Port Authority, has in fact been £5.7 million as opposed to £4.5 million, so we
have had £1.2 million more of revenue. The revenue for this financial year is estimated to be
over £7 million and therefore we are now running the Port Authority at a surplus rather than a
1425 deficit and we do not need the additional contribution.

Mr Chairman: Head 38, Other Charges, stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 39, Maritime Services; subhead 1, Payroll.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 40, Social Security; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Head 41, Civil Contingency; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Head 42, Fire and Rescue Service; subhead 1, Payroll.

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Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Head 43, Gibraltar University; subhead 1, Payroll.

Mr Chairman: Stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Subhead 2, Other Charges.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Chairman, if I may enquire as to why the other charges contribution to one has gone up from £½ million to £1.5 million for 2018-19?

1470 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the speech delivered by the Hon. the Minister with responsibility for the University and to the reply I provided this morning, which sets out in detail exactly why that was the case.

1475 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, if I may enquire: on what basis has the contribution been trebled on recurrent expenditure from £½ million to £1.5 million?

1480 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Chairman, all of that is answered in the contribution both of the Hon. the Minister for the University and my contribution. I recommend to the hon. Gentleman that when the *Hansard* is available he prints it out and reads exactly what we explained to him in detail. In fact, I think the contribution by the Minister for the University may already be up on all the news pages and that sets out a lot of the thinking. I think all of this information has been provided. Most people I think have understood it.

1485 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Mr Chairman, yes, but given that the accounts of the University for July 2017 are not available, I would like to understand from the Government how they have arrived at the level of contribution for 2018-19. Is this a request from the University? And if so, how has the Government been able to assess it in the absence of any audited accounts?

1490 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Speaker, in the same way as the Government assesses bids from any other Government Department that do not do audited accounts on a yearly basis at the end of March... or this particular year, and they present a bid as to what their requirements are going to be in respect of the year starting 1st April. This represents a contribution for this financial year of £1.5 million, which is actually a reduction of the trebling, a reduction of almost 25% of the total contribution that the Government made last year.

1495 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Yes, Mr Chairman, but we are talking here about recurrent expenditure in the books of the Consolidated Fund. How does the Minister assess the reasonableness of the University's request, given that, if I recall correctly, in 2016 the Minister went to great pains to tell the House as to the independence of the University? Does he have access to the University's management accounts? How does he assess the reasonableness of the request?

1500 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Mr Chairman, I have just explained it. The University makes a bid for funding in the same way as other Government Departments make a bid and substantiate what it is that they need. In this particular case, I then had a meeting at the offices of the Financial Secretary with the Financial Controller of the University as well as the Board of Governors of the University, where we went through that bid and we determined the level of contribution that was required by the University for this particular year.

1505 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Thank you, Mr Chairman.
1510 Can the Minister then confirm that none of this is obviously in respect of capital expenditure? And can he therefore confirm that in terms of the University accommodation block, that none of that will be funded through this £1.5 million contribution?

1515 **Hon. G H Licudi:** Of course not, Mr Chairman, and that should be obvious to anyone, especially the hon. Member. *(Laughter)*

Hon. R M Clinton: Thank you, Mr Chairman.
1520 Can the Minister then explain to the House how the University accommodation block is being funded and by whom?

Mr Chairman: I am not sure that that arises under this head. It may be a proper question later on under capital expenditure, but I am not sure that it arises under this head.

1525 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Thank you, Mr Chairman; I will ask that question then later on within capital expenditure. I will leave it at that, thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman: Head 43, Other Charges, stands part of the Bill.

1530 **Clerk:** Head 44, Culture; subhead 1, Payroll.

Hon. E J Reyes: If I may, Mr Chairman: section (c) under Payroll caters for allowances – perhaps the Minister could explain what type of allowances those are, because the actual expenditure in 2016-17 and the forecast for 2017-18 continuously surpass what we in the House have put down as an estimate for the last two years.

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Minister for Culture, the Media, Youth and Sport (Hon. S E Linares): Mr Chairman, despite the fact that they are going to vote against, and I am willing for the hon. Member ... since he deals with Parliament and ourselves in a cordial manner, I will answer the question by saying that this is allowances for people acting within our Department. Every year we try to solve that and we put the same figure, but sometimes because people are acting upwards and there are vacancies that we need to fill ... that is why it happens.

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Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Chairman, I understand that you incur the expenditure when you are acting for someone, but when you are acting for someone it means you are not paying the salary of that other person – so there should have been a saving in salaries rather than an overspend. How can we reconcile that position?

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Hon. S E Linares: Well, Mr Chairman, he will see that as we ... For example, in the estimates of 2017-18 there was £277,000 and there is an increase up to another extra approximately £30,000 in the total payroll. Therefore, he can see that we have gone at the same rate, and it should go even higher because, as the hon. Member knows, we are not now putting in the pay of the vacancies that are existing – we do not do that; we just put the pay of the people who are there. But there is acting and these are the allowances – these people who are acting upwards.

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Hon. E J Reyes: I am sorry, Mr Chairman, I do not quite follow. Perhaps I will explain myself. We have an estimate in salaries for 2017-18 of £219,000, yet we spent more because there have been pay reviews or whatever. But if the Minister is saying that those allowances have a high expenditure because they were people acting ... then you act for someone who is not being paid. This is why I feel there is somewhat of a discrepancy. There is not a saving in one and therefore an expenditure in another; there is an actual over-expenditure in both salaries and allowances which were for acting purposes.

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Hon. S E Linares: Yes, Mr Chairman, if he sees the forecast outturn of £230,000 at the very top, and then this year it is £260,000 – we are expecting to fill some of the posts. What we have done in the allowance, which is the question he is asking ... we had the actual of £22,000, we have put £19,000 in the estimates 2017-18, the posts were not filled and therefore there is a £30,000 expenditure there; but we are expecting those posts to be filled, therefore £260,000 at the top, the increase, and therefore the £19,000 goes down to £19,000 again.

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Hon. E J Reyes: I can understand we are expecting the posts to be filled and I have no problem in understanding that you have an estimate of £260,000. What I am saying is £11,000 more was spent in 2017-18 than had been catered for in basic salaries, so therefore it does not

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1575 tally that there was another £11,000 because people were acting for somebody. There is an increase in both. Had the salaries gone down, one could then logically follow – yes, all right, I have saved here and I have paid extra there – but we seem to have had twice the £11,000.

1580 **Hon. Chief Minister:** No, Mr Chairman, because that whole argument is based on the fallacy that when people are being acted for the person who was originally doing the work is not being paid or is not also receiving the full amount of salary. You are paying somebody who is away from their post to the full salary that they receive, including any amounts that they may have on top of salary, and you are paying somebody to act for them also. That is the situation. If you then deal with something in the complement so that you are then better staffed and that does not happen so much, your salaries are going to go up. That is why you have got temporary assistance going down, because you expect to have less temporary assistance. But, Mr Chairman, as he
1585 knows – he has been in government before – the emoluments are paid from Treasury once confirmed and approved as proper and appropriate.

1590 **Hon. E J Reyes:** I understand. The Chief Minister has shed a lot of light. I could understand that in basic salaries we are catering for an extra £30,000 because there is going to be an increase in the complement of one post, but because the Minister had made the reference that there was going to be increase of personnel – if it is more than one, then there should have been a saving.

1595 But I will leave it, Mr Chairman. There is not great urgency on that, and if there are any queries during the course of the financial year I can always pose a question and give him due notice.

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Chairman, if it is convenient, I think it may be appropriate to now seek to adjourn the House until tomorrow at 3 p.m. to continue with the session.

1600 **The Chairman:** The House will now adjourn to tomorrow afternoon at three.

The House adjourned at 6.05 p.m.