



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

AFTERNOON SESSION: 3.07 p.m. – 6.20 p.m.

Gibraltar, Friday, 3rd May 2019

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Declaration of Climate Emergency – Debate concluded – Amended motion carried
unanimously..... 44

The House adjourned at 6.20 p.m. 48

The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 3 p.m.

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

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

Standing Order 7(1) suspended to proceed with laying of paper

Clerk: Meeting of Parliament, Friday, 3rd May 2019.

Order of Proceedings: Suspension of Standing Orders. The Hon. the Chief Minister.

- 5 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move, under Standing Order 7(3), to suspend Standing Order 7(1) in order to proceed with the laying of a paper on the table.

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

PAPER TO BE LAID

- 10 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Gibraltar Annual Policing Plan 2019-20.

Mr Speaker: Ordered to lie.

Tribute to William Serfaty

Clerk: We now move to Questions. We commence with Question 49. The Hon. L F Llamas.

- 15 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Mr Speaker, I think before we proceed to that stage of the proceedings, if I might just prevail upon your discretion to enable me to say a few words about a member of the community who has recently passed – and with the leave of Mr Llamas?

- It is with great personal sadness, and indeed sadness of the members of the Government I represent in this House, no doubt all hon. Members, and of the political party that I represent in particular, that I want to just reflect for a moment on the sudden passing of a staunch
20 Gibraltarian patriot – and, I think it is fair to say, friend of everyone he knew and most people in this House – earlier this week.

- As the House is well aware, William Serfaty passed away at the beginning of this week. He was an energetic and hardworking member of our community, both in his private capacity as a successful businessman – principally from the iconic Red House that his family has represented
25 for many years – and indeed as a political activist. It was in that later capacity that I best knew him and in which he really was in his element. Willy contributed extensively, of course, to the business community through the board of the Chamber of Commerce as well, and he

30 campaigned on initiatives to promote the democratic rights of the Gibraltarians, including the right to vote in European elections and the struggle against joint sovereignty amongst many others. He also contributed in the field of law enforcement. I have just laid on the table the Policing Plan, and Willy was a member of the Police Authority and Police Complaints Board when it was first instituted.

35 When I first came across him, it was to discuss the evils of the Brussels Agreement. He was one of those who then helped to carry the coffin of the Brussels Agreement symbolically, as part of an SDGG event, to this place, to Parliament, in defiance of the British government, and indeed, I think, of the Government of the day. But perhaps Willy's greatest contribution, and in which I had the most contact with him, was as Chairman of the SDGG. He was a founder member of that Group. I remember being there in my late teenage years. It was a meeting every 40 Tuesday at seven o'clock, and in the summer I was there religiously. I learnt a lot from him and the other leading lights of that organisation. Indeed, it was with Denis Matthews in the chair and with Willy on the committee that the decision was taken to pursue the Denise Matthews case, and indeed later this month I hope we will be voting in European elections as a result of exactly that decision.

45 Willy then went on to lead the SDGG for some years and he went on to address the United Nations Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee in his capacity as Chairman of the Group. He and I coincided in New York on a number of occasions as a result and I will remember with great fondness those moments that we enjoyed together in New York.

50 I am sure that the whole of the Gibraltarian family and Willy's family in particular will feel justly proud of the contribution that he has made to help us all develop a democratic British Gibraltar, and I am going to ask the House to observe a minute's silence – perhaps not now but, if other Members want to say something, once we have all had an opportunity to reflect on his contribution.

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

Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, Her Majesty's Opposition joins the Government, of course, in remembering the life of Mr Serfaty.

60 I did not know Mr Serfaty that well, unlike many Members in this House. It is right that we have recently reflected on a life well lived in relation to his contribution to trade unionism and his nine long years as Chairman of the SDGG and it is right to remark on his contribution to public life and service to the people of our community. Our sincere condolences to his family.

I know that others on this side of the House wish to share some more special memories of Mr Serfaty. Indeed, my hon. and learned Friend Mr Feetham wishes to do so.

65 **Mr Speaker:** May I also express my sadness at Willy's passing away. Apart from being a close personal friend of mine, he had been – not for a long while, but he had been a co-opted member of the Executive Committee of the AACR. This perhaps is not very well known. It was, of course, before the Brussels Agreement. *(Laughter)*

70 **Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr J J Garcia):** Mr Speaker, I would like to add a few words of tribute of my own to what has already been said.

75 Willy was a friend and we worked very closely at the time when the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group was launched. I understand he was a founder member of that organisation. I remember talking to him relatively recently after a talk I gave at the Garrison Library a few weeks ago, so it was very sad to learn of his passing.

80 He took over from Dennis Matthews in September 1998. Denis was the Chairman of the Self-Determination Group; Willy preferred to be known as a spokesman of the Self-Determination Group. He was there for nine years and I have to say that some of those nine years were very difficult for him in that context.

He was, as the Chief Minister has already said, a patriot. He was a Gibraltarian first and foremost, almost a Gibraltarian nationalist in his love for his homeland and for his country, a staunch defender of our right to self-determination and of our right to decolonisation, so I would like to add my own tribute and my own condolences to his family. (*Banging on desks*)

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Mr Speaker: The Hon. Daniel Feetham.

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Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, first of all, I associate myself entirely with the words of both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, and no doubt other Members of the House who will speak in due course.

Willy was a very good friend; he was a better friend of my father. Something that perhaps is not known is that Willy did his best to persuade me not to go into politics. He and John Gomez, I recall –

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Hon. Chief Minister: He was right!

Hon. D A Feetham: Well, he was right, indeed.

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He and John Gomez, I recall, had me downstairs in the Piazza for what seemed to be an eternity, trying to persuade me to take over from him in the SDGG and not to go into frontline politics.

Indeed, as the Chief Minister also records, on the trips to New York in order to address the United Nations when I was part of the Gibraltar delegation, and indeed when I addressed the United Nations – I think it was in 2002, as Leader of the then Labour Party – Willy was also there and we would have long discussions about politics.

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He was, Mr Speaker, a gentle person, very easy to befriend – anybody who knows him knows that that is true – always with a big smile on his face. From a young age he was committed to free association and in his later life he was committed to independence for Gibraltar. Indeed, in that context both myself and Maurice Xiberras, as supporters of the concept of devolved integration ... we would have long discussions and I can tell you that I would just simply leave, at the end of the discussion, the arguments to him and Maurice, and neither of them would give way.

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He was a man of principle. Willy made an early contribution – and this is not widely known – to Gibraltar public life when he was asked to go to Morocco. I think this is apposite at this moment in time, given what has been said over the last week about the Moroccan community and the contribution of the Moroccan community to Gibraltar after Franco closed the Frontier. He was asked to go to Morocco in order to assist, to evaluate Moroccan labour for skills and experience, on behalf of the Government, before they entered Gibraltar. He dealt with hundreds of Moroccan nationals on that basis.

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Willy helped his father, Abraham – as we all know, a former AACR Minister and a distinguished member of our community – to run their construction business. My father knew Willy very well and they were lifelong friends. Again, something that is not widely known: when my father led – one of the leaders – the General Strike in 1972, he then went to the United Kingdom in order to lead one of the cloth makers' unions there. We came back because the family was homesick and my father, because of his trade union activities, was blacklisted by businesses in Gibraltar, so he could not obtain employment here in Gibraltar. Willy employed my father in his father's construction business in order to ensure that my family could manage in what were very difficult times.

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William made sure that his Moroccan labour force were well looked after and my father tells me that he and William would go to the company's property where they were housed, every week, to ensure that his Moroccan labour force ... anything they needed, they were well taken care of – essentially that his workforce was well taken care of – and I think that that is a measure

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of the gentleness and the kindness of the man. My dad describes him as one of the most humane people he has ever met, and by all his friends he will be sorely missed.

135 Mr Speaker, all that remains for me is to offer my condolences to his family. To his son who is here in the Gallery today: for you ought to be extremely proud of your father. (*Banging on desks*)

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Marlene Hassan Nahon.

140 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Chief Minister and other hon. Members of the House for their beautiful tributes to Willy Serfaty, a man who gave so much of himself to Gibraltar, a man who will no doubt leave a mark on our political landscape, and a man that Gibraltar owes a lot to. Without looking for any protagonism and without any airs and graces, he was a man who was always present to strengthen our plight for the right to self-determination
145 simply because it was the right thing to do, while wanting nothing in return.

Willy Serfaty's political roots are deeply ingrained in our community. He was raised in a political family with his father, the late Abraham Serfaty, having been a formidable politician and Mayor of Gibraltar and also a great influence, friend and mentor to my late father, Sir Joshua Hassan, during very difficult times in Gibraltar. This would have certainly shaped Willy Serfaty's
150 values and convictions to become the defender of Gibraltar that he became when he founded the Self-Determination Group for Gibraltar. Delivering speeches and strong messages from Casemates on National Day and to the UN in New York, Willy Serfaty remained a strong ambassador for the Gibraltarian cause right up until the day he died.

Further, as my hon. Friend Mr Feetham has just said, Willy Serfaty is largely responsible for
155 recruiting many members of the Moroccan workforce decades ago, when they were so badly needed in the building trades particularly to advance our tiny and challenging economy at the time. His initiative was a great resource to us all.

This man was an intellectual, though, through and through. In the last couple of years he had the ongoing mission where he was writing a book on his family history and his family business,
160 and when he was not doing that he was managing his family business or collecting pieces of interest and even undertaking deep studies and analyses on the Phoenicians and the Pillars of Hercules.

For me personally, I will forever treasure the conversations I had with Willy, especially in the last couple of years, and his unwavering support for my political project, inspiring me each time
165 to keep working for the people of Gibraltar – apparently the opposite tack to the one he took with my hon. Friend to the right – assuring me that it was the right time to bring about a new brand of politics to our community. His loyalty and belief in my work is something that has helped me tremendously in my own trajectory, so I thank him, albeit posthumously, for his support to me and the many people like myself he has inspired during his lifetime to fight the
170 good fight on behalf of the people of Gibraltar. It is people like him that make societies better and more advanced, and for this we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

I take this opportunity to extend my most heartfelt condolences to Willy's children, Sasha and my good friend Lisa, his siblings, cousins and of course his beloved grandchildren, who will
175 most certainly be feeling a huge void right now, but one which I am sure will be healed in time as they encounter wonderful memories and the values that this special man has left with them, as he has done with the rest of us, Mr Speaker.

Thank you. (*Banging on desks*)

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Speaker, I am, given what I have heard, confirmed in my view of
180 Willy's wily political judgement and thank all hon. Members for their kind words. In friendship, in solidarity and in sorrow, I would ask the House now to observe a minute's silence.

The House observed a minute's silence.

Questions for Oral Answer

HEALTH, CARE AND JUSTICE

Q49/2019

Bayside Sports Complex – Drugs seizures

Clerk: (viii) We now move to answers to Questions and we commence with Question 49. The questioner is the Hon. L F Llamas.

185 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide details regarding drugs seized by law enforcement officers at the Bayside Sports Complex since January 2013?

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

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, as I noted to the hon. Gentleman in my answer to Question 576/2018, the RGP does not record statistics on venues where drugs are recovered.

Q50/2019

Drugs-free workplace policy – Numbers tested and results

190 **Clerk:** Question 50. The Hon. L F Llamas.

195 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since December 2018, how many employees in the Civil Service and the public sector have been tested under the drugs-free workplace policy announced by the Government in August 2018, including the number of positive and negative tests and substances found?

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

200 **Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, further to the press release issued on 2nd August last year, I am delighted to be able to say that the RGP, in consultation with my Ministry, introduced the drugs-free workplace policy. The RGP are now able to test, with a total of 25 officers tested so far, all of which have come back negative.

Q51-52/2019

**Electronic patient record, health record and ambulance dispatch systems –
Suppliers and costs**

Clerk: Question 51. The Hon. L F Llamas.

205 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, further to Question 545/2018, can the Government provide the dates for which the EPR and EHR systems payments correspond and explain why there are three providers involved in this system and what each invoice actually relates to?

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

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 52.

215 **Clerk:** Question 52. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government provide details regarding the ambulance and emergency dispatch system it purchased, including the supplier, the date purchased, the date commissioned and the cost?

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

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, Cloud 21 assisted the GHA in identifying a supplier for the electronic health record portal system as part of the GHA's electronic health record procurement support. The contract provided the framework by which Cloud 21 would procure the electronic patient record services on behalf of the GHA. This supplier provided the project assurance.

225 Egton Information Systems Ltd, taken over by EMIS Health, were responsible for the provision of electronic health records and associated services, including A&E software called Symphony; Ecamis PMI, which is the Patient Master Index, which sets out patient demographics; 230 and EMIS WEB for PCC, pharmacy and prescribing

I now hand over to the hon. Gentleman three schedules containing the requested invoice details in respect of each service provider.

Answer to Question 51 - Schedule 1**SUPPLIER: CLOUD 21**

<u>Inv Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
05/02/2014	EHT (IT) - Consultation Fees	
13/02/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
13/02/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
19/02/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
14/04/2014	EHT (IT) EHR Programme Management	
02/06/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
02/06/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
12/06/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Procurement Support
30/07/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
01/09/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Hotel/Flights/support contract
09/09/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Contract discussion
10/11/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Procurement Support
21/11/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Electronic Patient Record
18/12/2014	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EHR
22/01/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Procurement Support
05/03/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Programme
20/03/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EHR
22/04/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Procurement Support
20/05/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Programme
20/05/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
26/05/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	P Anderson visit April 15 (EHR)
11/06/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Flight/Apt/Hotel
09/07/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Support
01/09/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Procurement Support
14/09/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Karen Ma
09/10/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Programme assurance & expenses
18/11/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Procurement Support
14/12/2015	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	EPR Support
04/02/2016	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
07/03/2016	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Process Maps-Flights-Hotels
07/03/2016	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Process maps-flights-hotels
07/03/2016	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	Process Mapp'g Proj-Expenses
10/03/2016	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
10/03/2016	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
31/05/2016	EPR - EHT (IT) - Project Assurance - Cloud 21	
17/06/2016	EPR - EHT (IT) - Project Assurance - Cloud 21	EPR Procurement Support
13/07/2016	EPR - EHT (IT) - Project Assurance - Cloud 21	Electronic Record Project
30/09/2016	EPR - EHT (IT) - Project Assurance - Cloud 21	
14/10/2016	EPR - EHT (IT) - Project Assurance - Cloud 21	EHR Programme Project
21/11/2016	EPR - EHT (IT) - Project Assurance - Cloud 21	M Beckett - GHA Assurance
01/03/2017	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
07/03/2017	EHT (IT) EPR Project Assurance	
02/06/2017	EHT (IT) - Maintenance & Licencing Agreements	
02/06/2017	EHT (IT) - Maintenance & Licencing Agreements	

Answer to Question 51 - Schedule 2

SUPPLIER: EGTON INFORMATION SYSTEMS LTD

<u>Inv Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
09/06/2015	(GIBHAID01) GHA - CORE SERVICES - CORE DELIVERY - PHASE ONE PID (LD7211) LOT 1 - PAS/ED
	(GIBHAID01) GHA - CORE SERVICES - CORE DELIVERY - PHASE ONE PID (LD7211) LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE - PHASE 1 PRIMARY CARE
	(GIBHAID01) GHA - CORE SERVICES - CORE DELIVERY - PHASE ONE PID (LD7211) LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE - PHASE 1 - COMMUNITY
	(GIBHAID01) GHA - CORE SERVICES - CORE DELIVERY - PHASE ONE PID (LD7211) LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE - PHASE 1 - COMMUNITY PHARMACY RECEPTION
02/07/2015	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% INSTALLATION - LOT 1
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% UAT - LOT 1
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% GO LIVE - LOT 1
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% INSTALLATION PCC - LC
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% UAT PCC - LOT 2
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% PCC GO LIVE - LOT 2
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% PCC COMMUNITY INS
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% PCC COMMUNITY UA1
	GIB HA001 - PHASE 1 20% PCC COMMUNITY G
10/09/2015	EMIS HEALTH GIBHAREV ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/06/15 TO 25/09/15 - LOT 1 PAS/ED PHASE 1
	EMIS HEALTH GIBHAREV ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHAREGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 25/09/15 TO 25/12/15 - LOT 2 PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1

Answer to Question 51 - Schedule 3**SUPPLIER: EMIS HEALTH**

Inv Date	Description
17/09/2015	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES LOT 3 MENTAL HEALTH HARDWARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15 EMIS CONTRACT REF LD7211 FROM 26/06/15 TO 25/09/15
15/01/2016	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/12/15 TO 25/03/16 LOT 1 PAD/ED PHASE 1 HARDWARE - ED - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/12/15 TO 25/03/16 LOT 1 PAS/ED PHASE 1 - ED - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/12/15 TO 25/03/16 LOT 2 PCC PHASE 1 - HARDWARE BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/12/15 TO 25/03/16 LOT 2 PCC PHASE 1 - PCC BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
09/02/2016	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/12/15 TO 25/03/16 LOT 3 MENTAL HEALTH HARDWARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	GHA-CORE SERVICES - CORE DELIVERY -NOTE: LOT 1 - AS/ED - PHASE 2 - PAS - PID - APPROVED 22/01/16 LD7211 - 3RD PARTY ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS & ASSOCIATE SERVICES GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY GIBHA06
05/04/2016	GHA-CORE SERVICES - CORE DELIVERY -NOTE: LOT 3 - MH - PHASE 2 - MH PAS - PID APPROVED 22/01/16 ID7211 - 3RD PARTY ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS & ASSOCIATIVE SERVICE GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY GIBHA06
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/03/16 to 25/06/16 LOT 1 - PAS / ED PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/03/16 to 25/06/16 LOT 1 - PAS / ED PHASE 1 - ED - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/03/16 to 25/06/16 LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/03/16 to 25/06/16 LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1 - PRIMARY CARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
22/06/2016	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/03/16 to 25/06/16 LOT 3 - MENTAL HEALTH HARDWARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/06/16 - 25/09/16 LOT 1 - PAS/ED PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/06/16 - 25/09/16 LOT 1 - PAS/ED PHASE 1 - ED - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/06/16 - 25/09/16 LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/06/16 - 25/09/16 LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1 - PRIMARY CARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
06/10/2016	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/06/16 - 25/09/16 LOT 3 - MENTAL HEALTH HARDWARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/09/16 TO 25/12/16 LOT 1 - PASS/ED PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/09/16 TO 25/12/16 LOT 1 - PAS/ED PHASE 1 - ED - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/09/16 TO 25/12/16 LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1 - HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/09/16 TO 25/12/16 LOT 2 - PRIMARY CARE PHASE 1 - PRIMARY CARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/15
	ANNUAL RECURRING CHARGES - CHARGEABLE QUARTERLY ADVANCE ON BUSINESS GO LIVE FROM 26/09/16 TO 25/12/16 LOT 3 - MENTAL HEALTH HARDWARE PHASE 1 -HARDWARE - BUSINESS GO LIVE 26/06/16

235 **Hon. N F Costa:** A training package and licence to operate an ambulance dispatch system was purchased from Priority Medical Dispatch in October 2011. The cost of the project was £83,605.54. This system has not yet been commissioned.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, whilst we wait for the schedule to be distributed, could I ask a supplementary on Question 52, please?

240 Can the Minister explain why, seven years later, the actual system for the emergency dispatch for the Ambulance Service has not actually become operational?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, this is a system that would require input from different Departments and agencies, not just the GHA. It would also require input from Departments that are the responsibility of some of my colleagues.

245 I know that the Commissioner of Police is in fact very keen to be able to use this system and he tells me that he has started the process of being able to consult with the different agencies to see whether the system could become operational.

250 **Mr Speaker:** Any other supplementary? The Hon. Roy Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
Can I ask the Hon. Minister if he is satisfied with the implementation of the prescription system, or whether he has encountered any problems with software on implementation?

255 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, there seems to be a technical issue in respect of automation. It is important, of course, to be able to reconcile the number of pharmaceutical item products that are sold on by the pharmacist to the end user, and whereas EMIS as a whole does seem to be working well and operates effectively, there seems to be an issue with the automatic reconciliation, and so the GHA and EMIS have been working to make sure that that reconciliation happens in an automated fashion, correctly.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Minister for his answer. Would that therefore be the reason why there may have been reported delays in payments to pharmacies on amounts on the prescription system in terms of medicine that they have dispensed and obviously are waiting for payment from the GHA?

265 **Hon. N F Costa:** That is correct, Mr Speaker. Until the automated functionality is sorted out entirely the GHA has to conduct this exercise manually. As he can imagine, given the volume of items that are prescribed, the exercise of manually carrying out this exercise takes a bit of time and sometimes an item here or there could be missed.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q53-58/2019

Gibraltar Health Authority –

Accommodation re sponsored patients in London hospitals; average waiting times re audiology and pain clinic; COPD and cancer diagnoses

275 **Clerk:** Question 53. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, what is the Government's accommodation policy with regard to sponsored patients when visiting London hospitals?

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

280 **Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 54 to 58.

Clerk: Question 54. The Hon. L F Llamas.

285 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide details regarding the room rates paid for sponsored patients staying at Calpe House when located at Prince's Square in London, together with the current nightly rates paid at its new Norfolk Square property?

Clerk: Question 55. The Hon. L F Llamas.

290 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, what is the current average waiting time for service users requiring audiology services?

Clerk: Question 56. The Hon. L F Llamas.

295 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide the number of diagnoses of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease by type since January 2012?

Clerk: Question 57. The Hon. L F Llamas.

300 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide the number of incidents of cancer by type since January 2012?

Clerk: Question 58. The Hon. L F Llamas.

305 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, what is the current average waiting time for patients to receive treatment at the pain clinic?

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

310 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, the policy in respect of the accommodation of sponsored patients and their escorts when visiting London hospitals is that, wherever possible, Calpe House will be the first option. If, for any medical reason and/or because Calpe House accommodation is not available, then the GHA's Sponsored Patients team will identify a suitable alternative.

315 The room rate at Calpe House at its new location is £50 per night. Room rates, however, were not applied at its former location. Previously, Calpe House had received an annual grant of £50,000 from the Government.

Audiology services can be divided in to two key areas: hearing tests and hearing aids. There is no waiting time for hearing tests. On receipt of a referral from a clinician for a hearing test, a patient's test can be scheduled in the same week, or soon after, at the convenience of the patient. With regard to hearing aids, there are currently 104 patients waiting for hearing aids. Twenty hearing aids are fitted each month. This is due to the need to make an individual mould for a patient's ear and then to have the aid made and fitted.

320 A new full-time audiologist, Miss Michelle Quinn, started work with the GHA on 7th January this year. She is currently being supported by Mr Tony Loddio, who is conducting a handover of the role. Michelle is also working very closely with Mr Julian Danino, a newly appointed ENT surgeon, to review audiology services overall.

Mr Speaker, COPD is a singular condition and is not divided by type. The GHA is not able to provide exact data regarding the number of COPD diagnoses per year since 2012. Since the

330 GHA's patient database (EMIS) was introduced in 2015, both existing and newly diagnosed COPD patients have been systematically added to the database. I can, however, confirm that there are currently a total of 581 COPD patients registered.

In relation to the incidence of cancer, the information requested is contained in the schedule I now hand over the hon. Gentleman.

Answer to Question 57

Type	* 2012-2016
Malignant neoplasm of breast	117
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	69
Malignant neoplasm of colon	55
Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung	40
Malignant neoplasm of lip, mouth and pharynx	29
Malignant neoplasm of bladder	23
Malignant neoplasm of rectum	20
Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	10
Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction	14
** All other malignancies	78

* The GHA is currently processing figures for the period after 2016

** Data for rarer cancers has been aggregated to protect confidentiality

335 Mr Speaker, the current average waiting time for patients to receive treatment at the pain clinic is as follows. Invasive/infiltration treatment: urgent, no wait up to two weeks; routine, 16 weeks.

340 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, with regard to Question 58/2019, I have actually got more than two constituents who claim to have been waiting for in excess of a year to be seen at the pain clinic. Given the answer of the Hon. Minister, which claims that there is not any waiting time, I shall therefore be writing to him with the details of these constituents to see if he can look into the matter as a matter of urgency, please.

345 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, certainly the patients should not have been waiting that time or anywhere close to a year. As I have just explained, urgent referrals should have no wait whatsoever or up to two weeks; and for the non-urgent, routine referrals, a maximum of 16 weeks.

350 The hon. Gentleman of course can proceed however he likes, but he does not have to wait for Parliament to tell me that he is going to write to me in respect of a constituent; he can do so at any time.

Q59/2019
Ocean Views –
Psychology services

Clerk: Q59. The Hon. L F Llamas.

355 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, since the in-house consultant clinical psychologist commenced employment at Ocean Views in October 2018, how many service users have received one-to-one sessions and how many have received more than the single one-to-one session?

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

360

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, since the consultant clinical psychologist commenced employment with the GHA in October of last year, 41 in-patients at Ocean Views have received one-to-one sessions, of whom 36 have received more than one one-to-one session.

365 In addition, Dr Barber has provided psychology services to 21 persons who are not patients at Ocean Views and five outpatients of Ocean Views.

Q60-62/2019
Health and care workers –
ERS transfers; PCC counter staff; supply workers

Clerk: Question 60. The Hon. L F Llamas.

370 **Hon. L F Llamas:** Mr Speaker, can the Government provide a schedule with the details for each transfer executed within the Elderly Residential Services since October 2017 to date, including the post held by the employee, origin of transfer, destination upon transfer, and whether their original post has been replaced by a supply worker or ERS employee?

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

375

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, I will answer this question together with Questions 61 and 62.

Clerk: Question 61. The Hon. L F Llamas.

380

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, since January 2017, can the Government state on a quarterly basis the composition of counter staff at the Primary Care Centre, detailing how many are employed directly by the GHA and how many are employed via a supply worker business or company?

385

Clerk: Question 62. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, as at 21st January 2019, how many workers providing services in the health and care sector are employees of a supply worker agency?

390

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

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Gentleman a schedule with the information requested relating to transfers within Elderly Residential Services since October 2017.

Mr Speaker, just for the purposes of *Hansard*, I have just told Frances that I cannot find the schedule, so I am asking for that to be printed and then I will send it to the hon. Gentleman.

Answer to Question 60

post held	original dept	destination	replaced by
Personal Secretary	ERS Admin	GHA Admin	Interview to fill this post to take place on 27/06/19
Admin Officer	ERS Admin	Social Services	Replaced by permanent appointment on probationary period
RGN	ERS Nursing	GHA Nursing	Interview to fill this post to take place on 16/05/19
Nursing Assistant	ERS Nursing	GHA Nursing	Replaced by permanent appointment on probationary period
Nursing Assistant	ERS Nursing	GHA Nursing	Replaced by permanent appointment on probationary period
Nursing Assistant	ERS Nursing	GHA Nursing	Replaced by permanent appointment on probationary period
Nursing Assistant	ERS Nursing	GHA Nursing	Replaced by permanent appointment on probationary period
Nursing Assistant	ERS Nursing	GHA Nursing	Replaced by permanent appointment on probationary period

In respect of the answer to Question 61, I now hand over a schedule with the information requested in relation to the counter staff at the Primary Care Centre.

Answer to Question 61

Quarter	Primary Care Centre Counter Staff	GHA Employed	Agency Worker
Jan – Mar 17	25	5	10
Apr – Jun 17	23	7	8
Jul – Sept 17	23	13	2
Oct – Dec 17	23	13	1
Jan – Mar 18	24	12	1
Apr – Jun 18	27	12	6
Jul – Sept 18	27	11	7
Oct – Dec 18	27	10	8

Mr Speaker, as at 21st January, there were 321 agency workers providing services within the health and care sectors.

As at 3rd May, there are currently 184 agency supply workers providing services within the health and care sectors.

On 14th, 16th and 30th May and on 27th June – of this year, of course – interviews will be taking place for industrial and non-industrial posts within the health and care sectors. On the conclusion of the recruitment process, the only agency workers providing services in the health and care sector will be those conducting domiciliary care within the Care Agency.

Q63/2019

Gibraltar Health Authority –

Service level agreements entered into since January 2012

Clerk: Question 63. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, can the Government provide details regarding any service level agreements which have been entered into by the GHA since January 2012?

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

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, since January 2012, the GHA has entered into service level agreements with the following medical centres: Great Ormond Street Hospital, Imperial Health Care Hospitals, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Royal Marsden Hospital, Guys and St Thomas' Trust, South London and Maudsley Hospital, University College London Hospitals, St George's Hospital, Leicester University Hospitals, NHS England, Xanith Hospital, Quironsalud, Medrano, Clinica Radon/Genesis Care, Clinica Universidad de Navarra and Grupo Hospiten.

Mr Speaker, I will provide a photocopy to the hon. Gentleman – it could have been easier than just reading off the list.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker could I ask if any of the healthcare providers listed whose service level agreements were entered into have now been terminated?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, we need notice of that question.

Q64/2019

Stillbirths –

Amendment to legislation re registration

Clerk: Question 64. The Hon. L F Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, is the Government committed to amend the current legislation for stillbirths in Gibraltar in order to allow parents who may wish to register the birth of their baby delivered still prior to the current 24-week threshold, if they so wish?

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

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, as the hon. Gentleman knows, at present, parents are able to record their loss in a book of remembrance if there has been confirmed gestation of 20 weeks or less. After 20 weeks, parents can be issued with a plaque to have their own message inscribed and returned to Maternity Ward for recording on the marble plinths in the GHA's Garden of Serenity.

I have explained to the hon. Gentleman that to register stillbirths below the 24-week threshold raises an important legal issue, namely reducing the defined period of 24 weeks for the registration of stillbirths in the Births and Deaths Registration Act. I cannot amend the Births and Deaths Registration Act, as I am not the Minister for Civil Status and Registration.

As I think I have suggested to the hon. Gentleman, he should seek a meeting with the Hon. the Chief Minister to discuss the legal issue.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, may I, before you move another question?

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Edwin Reyes, yes.

Hon. E J Reyes: The Minister for Health passed round the schedule in answer to Question 61, and it says the Primary Care Centre counter staff ... If I can take the first one, there is a total of 25 for the first quarter of 2017, and then he lists five as being GHA employed and 10 agency workers. That only makes it 15. None of the numbers tally with the total. Perhaps I am misreading something, or ... Where are the missing figures?

460 **Hon. N F Costa:** No, Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman is correct, they do not tally because the
question relates to GHA employees, so the other employees are public sector workers not
directly employed by the GHA; they could be GDC or they could be civil servants. I do not have
the exact detail ... or maybe I do. No, I am afraid I do not have the exact detail of the
465 composition of the balance of the directly employed workers, but if they do not feature as GHA
directly employed it can only be because they are public sector workers – not GHA but either
GDC or civil servants.

Mr Speaker: Next question.

Q65-74/2019
Prison Act 2011 –
Release of offenders on licence

Clerk: Question 65. The Hon. D A Feetham.

470

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, in relation to all offenders convicted of violent or sexual
offences released on licence since the Prison Act commenced, please provide details of their
sentence and time served before release.

475

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

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, I will answer this
question together with Questions 66 to 74.

480

Clerk: Question 66. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: In relation to all offenders convicted of violent or sexual offences
released on licence since the Prison Act commenced, please state whether there have been any
cases where an offender has been released on licence without notifying the victim or their
485 families.

Clerk: Question 67. The Hon. D A Feetham.

490

Hon. D A Feetham: In relation to all offenders convicted of violent or sexual offences
released on licence since the Prison Act commenced, please state in how many cases offenders
have been released with conditions on their licence designed to protect the victims or their
families.

Clerk: Question 68. The Hon. D A Feetham.

495

Hon. D A Feetham: In relation to all offenders convicted of violent or sexual offences
released on licence since the Prison Act commenced, how many instances of breach of licence
conditions have there been?

500

Clerk: Question 69. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: Has the Law Commission considered reform of the parole system or the
Government invited victims to provide submissions to them about their experiences of the
parole system?

505 **Clerk:** Question 70. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: Since the Prison Act commenced on 23rd September 2011, how many victims of violent or sexual offences or the families of such victims been asked to provide representations or their views to the Parole Board pursuant to Schedule 1 of that Act prior to their advice to the Minister?
510

Clerk: Question 71. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: In relation to the previous question on the number of victims of violent or sexual offences who have been asked to provide representations or their views to the Parole Board pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Prison Act, please provide details of the length of sentence and the time served before that offender was ultimately released.
515

Clerk: Question 72. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: Since the Prison Act commenced, how many victims of violent or sexual offences or the families of said victims have not been asked to provide representation or their views to the Parole Board pursuant to Schedule 1 of that Act prior to the Board's advice to the Minister?
520

Clerk: Question 73. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: In relation to the previous question on the number of victims of violent or sexual offences who have been asked to provide representations or their views to the Parole Board pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Prison Act, please provide a breakdown of the offences for which the offenders were convicted.
530

Clerk: Question 74. The Hon. D A Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: In relation to victims of violent or sexual offences or the families of such victims who have not been asked to provide representation or their views to the Parole Board pursuant to Schedule 1 of that Act prior to the Board's advice to the Minister, please provide a breakdown of (a) the offence, (b) the length of sentence and (c) time served before they were ultimately released on licence.
535

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

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, I now hand over to the hon. Gentleman a schedule which includes the sentences imposed on prisoners in relation to violent and sexual offences who were released on parole licence since the Prison Act 2011 commenced, together with the length of sentence served.
545

Answer to Question 65

PRISONER	SENTENCE				TIME SERVED (DAYS)
	YEARS	MONTHS	WEEKS	DAYS	
1	2	2			303
2	4				799
3	3			21	373
4	4	6			550
5	7			135	1246
6	1	6			186
7			46		182
8		22			358
9		18			186
10		22			327
11	3				367
12	4	6			915
13	2	8			449
14		16		14	217
15		24			243
16	3				365
17	2	4			482
18	4	5			729
19		12			184
20	5	7	20		819
21		16			199
22	3	3		45	409
23	4				659
24	2	8			326
25	2	11			354
26	13				1609
27	7				925
28	2	8			347
29	2				326
30		20			204
31	4	3			639
32		18			189
33		12			209
34	3				396
35		20			200
36		18			182
37	4				660
38		16			196
39	4	8			853
40	2				253
41	7	8			962
42		21	6	72	482
43	3	4			495
44	1	8		15	207
45	1				186
46	5	6			690

The number of offenders convicted of violent or sexual offences and released on parole licence since the Prison Act commenced is 29 for violent offences and four for sexual offences. Overall, parole licences inherently focus on managing all risks and predominately risk of harm to the public. The Parole Board routinely applies specific conditions in all cases involving sexual offences and in cases in which a specific victim is assessed to be at risk of violence from the offender.

The number of breach of licence conditions for offenders convicted of violent or sexual offences released on licence since the Prison Act commenced is eight. The breach of licence conditions have all been in respect of offenders convicted for violence-related offences. None of these breaches have been in relation to any incidents involving victims of their original index offences.

Mr Speaker, as Government has stated on numerous occasions – in particular in answers to Questions 354/2017, 53/2018, 569/2018 and Press Release 753/2017 – the Law Commission,

comprised of leading experts in their respective fields, is carefully scrutinising the Prison Act, in particular the point at which a person serving a sentence of imprisonment becomes eligible for release on parole, and will be considering all options, especially how to protect the victims of crime and the general public. The Law Commission will issue a consultation document for the public to submit representations on the proposed reforms to the Prison Act.

Mr Speaker, the Government is not able to answer Questions 66 and 70 to 74, as the Parole Board is an independent statutory body. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Prison Act 2011, specifically section 52(11), where it states that 'Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the courts, in the exercise of their functions the Parole Board and its members shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.'

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, just in relation to the last part of the Hon. Minister's answer, that relates to the questions about representations provided by victims and their families to the Parole Board on the parole process and whether in fact representations have been sought in all these cases and whether representations have been given.

I understand that the Parole Board is an independent body and its main function is to advise the Minister, or one of its functions is to advise the Minister on the release of prisoners. The Minister has no desire and indeed no one is suggesting that this particular Minister or any Minister would place pressure on the Parole Board to act in a particular way, but does he not think that it is important as Minister for Justice to monitor the workings of the Prison Act and indeed to monitor how far and to what extent are victims and their families asked to provide their views so far as that is commensurate with the Act? That is not interference. If I were the Minister for Justice, those are the types of questions that I would ask, to inform myself as to whether the system is working well or the system is not working well and needs reform. To that extent, therefore, it is not interference.

Does he not agree with me that if it is possible and indeed appropriate for him to inform himself in that way, therefore he has a duty to inform the Parliament when somebody in Parliament asks the question?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman should know that I do keep a watchful and indeed a close eye in all areas that are my responsibility. However, the Parole Board is, by virtue of his Act, an independent Statutory Board. He says that keeping myself informed or seeking that the Parole Board take representations from the victim or the family is not interference, and I am not saying that it is interference but the Act which he brought to this House and which was enacted does not set the threshold so high. It says 'direction', and for me direction means that I am not even to tell the Parole Board 'I am directing you to seek representations.' Therefore, I take that duty as Minister, and also as Minister for Justice, very seriously, and because the wording is 'shall not be subject to the direction of' anybody, that would include myself and therefore I am not even going to get caught in the mere suggestion that I may have given a direction in breach of the relevant section, section 52, of the Prison Act.

Having said all of that, do I think that the Prison Act requires reform? I think that the hon. Gentleman knows, without getting into a debate we have had outside of the House, that the Law Commission is looking at the Prison Act and it is looking, in particular, as a first order of business, at the point at which a prisoner ought to be eligible for parole. So the hon. Gentleman knows, by way of answers I have given to the House and also by way of press release, that the Law Commission, apart from being comprised of eminent professionals in the field is also comprised of the learned stipendiary magistrates and of a Supreme Court justice.

So the question of parole is being looked at very carefully and thoughtfully by the Law Commission and in fact we are ready to make an announcement. I have not, for two reasons: the first being that we are tying down the language for the press notice, but also because I had these questions before the House and I thought it was only proper, given that I knew I would be answering them today, to wait with the announcement until I answered his questions today.

So, in short order, in answer to his question, the Law Commission – not just me on my own – which includes myself, is looking at the question of parole and is looking at the question of the factors that the Parole Board takes into account when deciding the question of parole.

615

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

I understand perfectly that under the Act the Minister cannot direct the Parole Board to do anything. The words in the particular section are essentially there in order to make it clear that the Minister does not direct the Parole Board to act in a particular way. That is understood and it is also understood – subject to criticism as to how long it has taken, but that is another matter altogether; I do not want to mix one thing with the other – that the Government is undertaking a review of parole legislation. But, you see, I have to come back. He knows that I have a lot of respect for him, and I think that out of all the Ministers there he is one of the most competent Ministers on the Government side – I say that without hesitation – but he is being evasive in the way that he is answering the question because he knows that I am focusing on a very specific issue, and that is the number of representations that have been made by victims or their families to the Parole Board – it is the number; no details, it is the number – and the number of cases in which the Parole Board has not sought representations.

I realise that there may be a difference of opinion in terms of interpretation, but one provision in the Schedule is quite clear that representations are sought. Look, I know that representations are sought on a particular aspect. I know because I have been sent letters myself. I know that representation is sought. What I am asking is whether the Government knows the numbers of times that the Parole Board has asked for representations of victims and their families and also the number where they have not sought, because that is tremendously important – from the Government's point of view and from the Law Commission's point of view in informing themselves as to whether the system is working well or is not working well, but it is also important for us here because we are tasked in a democracy with holding the Government to account. And as much as I do not actually like probing this particular Minister because I know that he is a Minister who on the whole does his job very well, that is our job. It is our job to hold the Government to account.

Again, I have to come back to this: does he know ...? At least can he answer this: does he know the numbers in terms of the number of times that victims or their families have been asked to provide representations and the number in terms of cases where they have not been asked to provide representation? He must know that; and if he knows, he has got, in my respectful view, an obligation, a duty, to provide that information across the floor of the House to us, the Opposition.

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, I know what the job of being a Member of the Opposition is; I was one for four years, so he does not need to tell me his job description. I understand it and I accept it: he is here to ask me questions and I am here to provide him with information.

But if I may take an analogy, when I was Minister for Commerce I was never asked questions about the Trade Licensing Authority because it is an independent board. I have never once sought to give them anything other than the resources they may require to do their job. This is even more important, insofar as the community needs to know that the Parole Board is totally independent and entirely free of any sort of direction from the Minister. The community needs to feel comfortable that that is the case; otherwise, he will say, as he has in press releases, that I could be lobbied. He may recall that he said that in a press release in 2017. So let's keep the politician out of the process.

I have to tell him, Mr Speaker, he did not have to say to me that the Law Commission is taking a little bit of time, it is taking a little bit longer, 'But', he says 'let's not get into that.' Well, Mr Speaker, he did introduce the Act himself, so he should have seen these issues at the time that he brought it into Parliament. It has to be said, given that he is going to criticise the Law Commission for not having done its work quicker, there was no discussion during the course of

the introduction of the Prison Act about the point at which a prisoner ought to be eligible for parole – it was not even debated, so it could not have been at the forefront of his mind as a question of policy.

I know that this is an issue for him which is not just political, which is the reason why I am answering him in the way that I am, which is not to get into a political fight. This is a delicate, sensitive issue that affects people directly and therefore we must treat it with the seriousness that it deserves.

The Law Commission has met, I think, four or five times. It has not been an easy job to decide, first of all, the point at which a prisoner ought to be eligible for parole, and that has required not just discussion among the Law Commission but also in respect of the evidence that it sought – and it sought evidence from the Parole Board, from the Probation Services and from Her Majesty's Prison.

So, yes, ordinarily I like to do things quicker, but on this occasion it has not been a quick thing because ultimately we are deciding on the constitutional right of a person to be deprived of their liberty, even someone who has committed a criminal offence for which he is serving a prison sentence. So this is not the usual run of the mill policy; this is serious stuff that has required legal input and questions of constitutional importance.

Therefore, I am not being evasive – I can assure him I am not being evasive – but if I am going to give strength and if I am going to mean what I say, that the Parole Board is independent, the hon. Gentleman knows, and I think I may have suggested this to him during the course of a telephone conversation, that because the Parole Board is an independent body, if he wants information from them he is perfectly able to write to them directly. I am not going to substitute the work of the Parole Board for myself. I need to be very clear what my role is as Justice Minister and what the role of the Parole Board is, and my role as Justice Minister is simply to accept the advice of the Parole Board. If I disagree, I send it back. If I still disagree, I send it to the Supreme Court.

To enter into any other discussion, for me, would be a breach of Standing Orders because we are going to start debating the fine points of the law, and as Mr Speaker will have noticed, I have stayed clear of quoting the section and saying why I disagree with his interpretation. So he can believe me when I tell him that I am not being evasive. It is simply that I did not think it was the role of the Minister to answer the question that he asked in respect of the number of victims that have given statements to the Parole Board, but I have answered the questions which I thought were appropriate for me.

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, I have asked about the number of victims and their families who have been asked to provide representations to the Parole Board and the numbers that have provided. Now let me ask this question – it is the last question I am going to ask him. Does he know the number?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, I know of the cases that have come before me.

Hon. D A Feetham: The question is: does he know the number of victims and families in all these cases that have been asked to provide their representations as part of the Parole Board?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, he was Minister for Justice during a time, so he would have the numbers during his time. I know in respect of the cases that have come before me; that is all.

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, indeed, but because I ceased to be Minister for Justice, unfortunately, in December 2011, he or his colleagues – because of course he cannot hermetically seal himself from his colleague to his left, Mr Licudi, who was Minister for Justice before him, and therefore it is the Government – he must, as a Government, have the figures post December 2011. Therefore, does he not agree with me – and this time it will be the last

question that I ask – that in the light of the fact that he knows the figure, does he not have the duty to provide me with that figure when I ask it as part of the democratic process in this Parliament?

720 **Hon. N F Costa:** Mr Speaker, I disagree with him because the Parole Board is a statutory, independent body and is perfectly able to speak for itself.

Q75/2019
Benzodiazepine drugs –
Excess local supply

Clerk: Question 75. The Hon Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

725 **Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Has Government been made aware of the excess supply of benzodiazepines locally; and if so, is there a reason why such excessive amounts raised alarm bells by suppliers?

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

730 **Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa):** Mr Speaker, yes, the GHA has been advised of an excess supply by a manufacturer.

Benzodiazepines are sedatives recommended for short-term treatment only because they can quickly become addictive. They are used in anxiety disorders, such as managing panic attacks, insomnia, as well as for muscle spasms as in back pain, and for alcohol withdrawal. It has
735 been recognised for some time that it is generally inappropriate to use these drugs – for example, Xanax and Valium – beyond four weeks. Not only does the effect of the drug decrease and require higher doses for the same impact, but they create dependence. In older people they can lead to confusion and falls.

When the drug is stopped, users can experience severe withdrawal symptoms such as
740 insomnia, irritability, tension, panic attacks, tremor, sweating, poor concentration, nausea, palpitations, headaches, muscle aches and sometimes even seizures and psychotic reactions.

Withdrawal can be difficult, since the initial symptoms for which the drug was prescribed might return, made worse by the symptoms from the withdrawal itself. Some people are therefore reluctant to stop the drugs. For these reasons, withdrawal should be gradual and
745 guided by clinicians, who can help patients cope with any symptoms. A doctor with special expertise in this area has commenced a new service to address this, has been informed of the patients with the greatest level of addiction and is planning to reduce this in a managed way.

Mr Speaker, there do appear to be higher rates of use than is ideal for a community such as ours. The GHA has carried out an audit to examine the use of these drugs in Gibraltar with a
750 view to improving the effective use of these drugs and managing a process of withdrawal for those who have been using them for longer than is optimal. The GHA is also looking to see how big a problem this is in the private sector, though the ability to influence behaviour in this sector is limited.

The GHA regards this as an important health issue and is taking measures to address it. All
755 prescribers in the Primary Care Centre are also being informed individually of the patients who are on long-term benzodiazepines, so that they can take steps to reduce their dependence in a managed way.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Thank you for that detailed explanation.

760 Mr Speaker, is Government satisfied that these sales have been based on prescription-only and not over-the-counter supply?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, there is nothing on the information that I have been provided with to indicate that. The question does catch me a little bit ... I am surprised by question, so I do
765 not have that information, but there is nothing to indicate that that is the case.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, I ask because there has been a large dependency on this drug over decades in Gibraltar, and I ask the Minister again whether there will be some sort of policies or guidelines in order to wean patients off the dependency. Has this plan already
770 been set in motion? Are people already reaping the benefits of these guidelines or policies as a result of your new substance and misuse GP?

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, the hon. Lady may recall that last year we announced the start of Dr Chimene Taylor, who is a GP with a special interest in alcohol and drug addiction. She has
775 carried out the audit on behalf of the GHA and we have been able to identify quite clearly the patients who should be managed carefully to relieve themselves from dependence on these particular drugs. As I have said to her during the course of my answer, this doctor has been tasked with managing those care plans. All prescribers in the Primary Care Centre have been informed individually of the patients who are long term on these drugs. All the GPs know which
780 patients are on these drugs, so they can take the steps necessary to reduce the dependence in a managed way.

In short, yes there has been a full audit, yes steps are already being taken, and it should assuage the hon. Lady's concern the fact that we have a special interest GP on addiction who is managing the process.

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Mr Speaker: Next question.

Hon. E J Reyes: Mr Speaker, would you be so generous? **(Mr Speaker: Yes.)**

May we refer back to the schedule given in answer to Question 65, which was the previous
790 answer the Minister gave us? The question had asked for the sentence given to the convicted person and the time served. The time served column is given in days, but when it comes to the actual sentence, instead of days it is given in years, months, weeks and days.

If I give one example, if we take prisoner 42, it is giving 72 days – six weeks. Surely anything after 30 or 31 days, or 28 days for February, should have become a month. The same in six
795 weeks – surely that have become ... I am confused in coming to a calculation of the actual sentence given because anything over seven days surely should become an extra week, and 72 days does not make sense if you are also going to have it in weeks and then you are going to have it in months – and 21 months is one point something years.

Perhaps the Minister would like to get it reviewed and set it right for the record, because the
800 actual time served is given in days but the sentence given could just be taken as how the court handed it out. But I have not ever heard of a judge saying 'I sentence you to 21 months, six weeks and 72 days.' It does not make sense.

Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, the hon. Gentleman is absolutely correct. I will have to go back
805 and check those dates.

In respect of his first question, about the time served, the days, the reason why it is given as days and not as years is because the Prison have a particular way of calculating to make sure they do not miss the eligible date, but I will certainly get back to him in respect of those days. Thank you.

Q76/2019

H M Prison –

Number of prisoners having drugs counselling in 2018

810 **Clerk:** Question 76. The Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: How many prisoners have had drugs counselling in prison in 2018?

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

Minister for Health, Care and Justice (Hon. N F Costa): Mr Speaker, during 2018 a total of 72 inmates received drugs counselling in prison.

820 **Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Mr Speaker, is there a dedicated drugs counsellor in the Prison with the right knowledge and expertise to deal with prisoners simply with drug issues?

Hon. N F Costa: Sorry, Mr Speaker, I was having trouble locating the supplementary information.

825 The information that I have been provided is that there are two counsellors that currently provide drugs counselling to inmates.

I am afraid that is the only information that I have. If she has any questions in respect of the qualifications of those two particular counsellors, she can either write to me and I will provide it to her, or she can ask me at the next session of Parliament.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, I ask because unfortunately I get a lot of reports of people who have been in prison, ex-addicts, and they report that there is no dedicated drugs counsellor, that there is nothing like group therapy, lectures, disease and addiction workshops, and of course when they come out with what they feel has been zero support they are less

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ready to face society and be productive and upstanding citizens of society.
So I ask the Minister, if he has no more detail – I appreciate that perhaps this question may have caught him off guard – if he could allocate priority to the agenda of drug services in prison, because of course it has a massive domino effect on people when they come out, and from my dealings with many prisoners who come out they are deeply unsatisfied and feeling very lost about their treatment in terms of drug therapy addiction whilst they have been inside.

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Hon. N F Costa: Well, Mr Speaker, just to say that I do not think it is fair to say that they have zero support. The fact is that you have had 72 inmates during the course of last year who have received drugs counselling in prison and the information that has been provided to me sets out that these inmates have received counselling exclusively in relation to drugs and dependency

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issues. So we already have 72 inmates who have received that counselling support. In addition to that, there is also the work done on the 12 Step Programme, so I do not think it would be fair to characterise the support given at zero.
Like always in any service provided by Government, I am sure that we could improve on the service currently provided, but I think it would be somewhat disrespectful to the two counsellors who are providing the service currently to say that they have no support whatsoever.

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As I have told the hon. Lady, I would be happy to look into this matter further.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Thank you for that answer.

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Firstly, I would like to say I mean no disrespect whatsoever to the two counsellors, but drug addiction is a very specific disease and therefore perhaps the two counsellors themselves who are there, who are not specialised drugs counsellors, may be feeling disrespected themselves

because they are not getting the support – so it is nothing to do with disrespecting them. The issue is whether there are dedicated drugs counsellors, whereas maybe these other two

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counsellors are dealing with a myriad of many other issues going on in prison.
If I can just ask: when the Minister talks about the 12 Step process, what actually happens if that is the case, that they are receiving the 12 Step process? Can I ask if there is follow up on that process, once they have had the closure and they have come out of prison, in order for them obviously not to relapse? Is there a follow up after they have come out?

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Hon. N F Costa: Mr Speaker, I am afraid the hon. Lady cannot get away with characterising the counselling as zero support and then saying that she meant no disrespect. If there is zero support, then that means that the 72 inmates who received drugs counselling did not have any support. It can be only one thing or the other, but I do not want to dwell on that.

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As I have explained to the hon. Lady, one of the counsellors receives referrals solely in respect of prisoners with drugs and other dependency issues. In addition, as I have explained to her, there is work that is conducted of course on the 12 Step work with prisoners and there is also a comprehensive programme entitled 'Cycle of Change', which also relates to drug and alcohol addiction. So there are, from the information that I have, three stages. There is the individual counselling, there is also the 12 Step Programme and there is also the Cycle of Change strategy.

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Mr Speaker, I will remind the hon. Lady that the Government hired a GP with special interest in drug addiction and alcohol dependency and she is also involved in assisting Her Majesty's Prison in respect of drug counselling.

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I hear what she says in respect of more being able to be done. I think I know the source from which she says that and I have already told her that I am happy to look at what else can be done, but what I am telling her is that we cannot characterise it as zero support. What I am telling her is that perhaps more can be done but not that there is zero support of inmates who wish to discuss drug dependencies.

Standing Order 7(1) suspended to proceed with Government motions

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Clerk: Suspension of Standing Orders. The Hon. the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move, under Standing Order 7(3), to suspend Standing Order 7(1) in order to proceed with Government motions.

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

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Declaration of Climate Emergency – Debate commenced

Clerk: Government motions. The Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes):
Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move the motion standing in my name, which reads as follows:

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This House notes that:

'Climate Emergency' is an internationally recognised declaration being used by Parliaments, Councils and Local Authorities, predominantly in the UK, Canada, Australia and the USA, to publicly declare concern over the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings which recognise the adverse global impact of the changing climate. The declaration also serves as a commitment to take urgent action and aspire towards carbon neutrality.

It is a call to action that engages the entire community and is not just about the practical actions that a Government might take.

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.

Global temperatures have already increased by 1 ° Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), and far exceed the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society, and Governments, needs to respond, to make low carbon living easier and make it the new norm.

The Government has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, including by the replacement of diesel power generation by the less polluting LNG and by being further committed to increasing the use of renewable sources of energy, to at least 20% by 2020.

Society, and young people in particular around the world are asking governments to act on Climate Change.

Recognises that such initiatives need to be urgently stepped up, and further notes that:

The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and subnational authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Governments around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

And further recognising that:

It is important for the residents of Gibraltar that we commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

This House therefore believes that:

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown;

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's main priority;

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

And therefore resolves to:

- 1. Declare a Climate Emergency;*
- 2. Pledge to make Gibraltar carbon neutral by 2030;*
- 3. Pledge to reduce emissions by 50% by 2035;*
- 4. Work with other governments in the UK family, including the devolved administrations, the UK Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;*
- 5. Work with partners across Gibraltar and in the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;*

– and I have a minor amendment here, Mr Speaker –

6. Report to Parliament by the end of 2019 with a climate emergency action plan which will include carbon reduction plan.

Mr Speaker, the Earth's climate has never stood still. There are cycles and there are events in the millennial history of any planet with consequences to the climate upon it. We all know about the receding ice sheets and glaciers, rises in sea level that threaten communities and coastal regions around the world, from documentaries and increasingly from the news channels, so I do not intend to go through that again, but until the last 200 years all these changes have been due to natural processes and not to the activity of just one species: ours. Our impact upon the face of the Earth is now undeniable. The debate is clearly over. It was over a long time ago, but somehow it persisted until quite recently. When this Government brought Vice-President Al Gore to Gibraltar in 2012 there was a campaign even in Gibraltar to question climate reality, while what we were doing was trying to get Gibraltar to catch up with this reality.

Mr Speaker, let us just look at some facts: carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is up from 357 parts per million in 1993 to over 400 parts per million, the highest since records began; average temperatures worldwide were 1° higher in 2018 than the average in the 1900s; in 2018, 62 million people were affected by climate events and 35 million people were made homeless by floods and in Europe, Japan and the United States, 1,200 people died through heatwaves and fires, many unseasonal; in Gibraltar, severe weather events are becoming more common, with severe storms occurring at least once every year for the past 10 years.

According to a United Nations report this week, the activities that lead to climate change, like deforestation for timber or the food industry, and their effects – like flooding, temperature rise, habitat loss and desynchronising of nature, especially of migrant species – risk the extinction of a million species with which we currently share the planet.

To drill a little deeper into this, between May and July 2018 a 5 million square kilometre area was affected by extra-hot days. That, Mr Speaker, is 22% of populated and agricultural areas in the northern hemisphere. According to research presented recently at the Earth Geosciences Union Conference in Vienna, the extent of the area affected is such that it could not have occurred without man-induced climate change.

In all, extreme weather cost the global economy over \$500 billion in damages in 2017 and 2018. Wall Street and other financial centres are now measuring up the risk of extreme weather to assets. Maybe that is the language that former climate change sceptics need to understand.

For too long the concerns about climate change have been heard in the relatively close circles of scientists and environmentalists, with the rest of the world, including the business communities and organisations, keeping conveniently silent. But this has changed. Just recently, the UK's largest money manager, Legal and General Investment Management (LGIM), have themselves acknowledged that the world is facing a climate catastrophe and that businesses around the world must urgently address it. They say that if they remain ignorant to this crisis they face shareholders refusing to back them anymore. A new report published by LGIM has revealed that they have voted against a record number of companies in 2018 and a factor for this was climate change. The banks said that climate change was an ongoing priority and that this is increasingly factored into capital allocation decisions. As part of its climate impact pledge in 2018 LGIM announced that it will not hold eight large global companies in the future world funds. Where such companies are seen to take insufficient actions on climate risks, LGIM will also vote against the chairs of their boards across the entire equity holdings. This follows the British-Dutch corporation Shell scrapping their membership of US trade group American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) over climate change policies. AFPM and Shell do not align on a number of issues, including the Paris Agreement and carbon prices. And other companies, such as Coca-Cola and Unilever, who have also contributed significantly to the

climate crisis are finding that they have no choice but to change through pressure from both consumers and investors.

945 Mr Speaker, the impact of climate change has compelled governments and corporations to act. Catalysed by the Paris Agreement, governments around the world are putting policies in place to limit the global rise in temperatures to 2° and preferably as close to 1.5° as possible. The actions undertaken by individual countries must deliver a collective transition to a low-carbon economy. To achieve this, carbon emissions have to decline by 45% from 2010 levels over the next decade in order to reach a net zero by 2050. This requires a massive reallocation of capital.
950 It is clear now that those companies and industries that fail to adjust to this new world will fail.

Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, recently warned of the climate change threat to the financial system. He said:

The prime responsibility for climate policy will continue to sit with governments. And the private sector will determine the success of the adjustment. But as financial policymakers and prudential supervisors, we cannot ignore the obvious risks before our eyes.

Mr Speaker, business is finally taking heed. It is late, it should not have taken so long, but this is a world whose economy is not governed by those who are in contact with nature or by those
955 who understand the real priorities of humanity's survival. The stakes are high, but if a climate-driven Minsky Moment is to be avoided, the financial sector must act.

Many have run out of patience and this is being expressed in the streets. Young people are walking out of schools to strike for climate around the world, including Gibraltar. Hundreds of people were arrested recently during protests organised by Extinction Rebellion, a group
960 demanding that the UK set legally binding targets to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025. The UK's current position is to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, although this will almost certainly be reviewed downwards. This motion commits to carbon neutrality by 2030.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made clear last year, limiting warming to the safer level of 1.5° requires the world to hit net zero carbon emissions by about 2050, so we
965 have to aim for better if we have a chance of achieving it. European countries including France, Sweden, Norway and Portugal, as well as nations elsewhere such as Costa Rica, the Marshall Islands and New Zealand, all have plans to hit the target, some by 2050, some earlier. The Swedish Climate Act came into force last year, demanding net zero emissions through an 85% reduction in domestic greenhouse gas by 2045. The remaining 15% will need to come from other
970 options, probably planting trees, removing carbon from the air, or carbon offsets, with a Swedish government commission examining the options.

Government is following all these lines as it develops its strategy, which is committed to report by the end of the year to this Parliament. Before then, I intend to bring a Bill for a Climate Change Act to this House, which will set targets and reporting obligations, as I have mentioned
975 previously here.

Mr Speaker, we have a real chance in Gibraltar to achieve carbon neutrality. Already we have reduced emissions from power generation by 21% since 2013. LNG, which produces approximately 25% less carbon than diesel, will produce a further drop. We are committed to tackling emissions from traffic and shipping and we do not have methane-producing farming to
980 deal with, often one of the greatest obstacles to carbon neutrality. Commitments by Government include those mentioned by the Chief Minister in last year's Budget speech of having no vehicles fully fuelled, other than hybrids, to be registered by 2030 and only electric vehicles by 2035. We are planting more trees, replacing any that are removed to ensure always a net gain in greenery and will be further encouraging green roofs and green walls.

985 Progress on renewables in Gibraltar has been slow but will shortly move much faster. We continue to look at developing sea-current technology and nature-friendly wind generation as options, but even with the expected increase in solar power I am confident that the aim of 20% in 2020 remains achievable.

We have made tremendous progress over the past few years in achieving green efficiency in business. This is now a standard condition in all planning and most new buildings are achieving energy-efficiency ratings close to level A. It is no longer such a struggle to convince developers and contractors about the measures needed to achieve sustainable buildings, but sustainable construction systems also need to feature. I am pleased to say that my discussions with the developers of Victoria Quays have been extremely positive and we are aiming for a carbon-neutral development at the very least. This is the way we need to go if we are going to see further development.

Mr Speaker the world does not have all the answers yet, but technology is moving. Many of the key tools are untested at large scales, in particular capturing and storing carbon emitted from power stations and industrial processes and ways of directly removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. Without ways to actively capture carbon dioxide, effectively creating negative emissions to balance out the positive ones, it will be impossible to achieve global net zero, but Gibraltar will have an eye on developing technologies and grab them as soon as they become available and viable.

Mr Speaker, declaring a climate emergency must be more than just words. Not enough has been done globally or in Gibraltar, and the declaration – which I hope will pass unanimously in this House today – will be a call to all of us here and in the rest of our community to not stand in the way of doing what has to be done.

The ESG, in response to both the school strike and the publication of the text of this motion, issued what was a useful summary of what they see as the challenges to overcome. There will of course be a formal and direct reply both to the school strike petition to the Chief Minister and the statement. In the representations there is a call for a public debate, which is of course already happening. It includes this debate, it includes the recent World Earth Day Conference, it includes GBC *Viewpoints* and much more. In Gibraltar, up to the end of 2011 there had been no significant public debate. The public debate started with the Al Gore visit – questioned, as I have said, by some, but so important in retrospect to make an impact and drive the point home. But I know that the ESG agree with me when I say that public debate is not enough. They point to the regional situation: how so much of the economy of the bay depends on fossil fuels. That is why the motion commits to showing regional leadership and leadership elsewhere in the UK family, including the Overseas Territories. And Gibraltar is being listened to: a tweet by UN Oceans Ambassador and friend of Gibraltar, Lewis Pugh, on this motion gained nearly 3,000 retweets and likes in just a few days.

Gibraltar, like most other countries, still relies on fossil fuels. We need to continue to work on reducing this dependence. The move from diesel to gas is one step in this transition, a hugely important step and we must keep on.

Some measures are easier than others. For example, our water desalination plants have recently had major replacements to equipment which will increase their efficiency tremendously with a significant drop in their use of power and hence of carbon emission from producing our drinking water. But bunkering and sale of fuel to vehicles is still important economically. If we are to make an effective transition we must work with industry to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Greater use of LNG as a fuel, both in shipping and in vehicles, would be another important step. The use of hybrid cars as a step to fully electric vehicles and the rolling out of charging points also need to be part of the strategy. We must continue our search to find electric buses that will suit our heritage and our topography. In this, the STTPP plays and will continue to play a full part. Moving into the green economy and making Gibraltar a world leader in carbon trading using blockchain technology and riding on the strength of our digital legislation can play a tremendous part in an economic transition that would fuel our energy transition too.

Mr Speaker, this declaration must be seen as a recognition by the Parliament, as representative of the people, of the crisis facing the Earth. It is a call to environmental arms. We need to question how we do things. We need to change potential decisions that may be tempting economically in the short term to those that make long-term sustainable sense. All of

us here and all of us out there need to do this – and not just to be eating less meat and switching off lights, but that too. Those of us who make and influence policy in public and private sectors need to think carefully each and every time and to do next time something different from what we would have done the last time.

1045 The world is in the midst of a climate emergency and I call on this House to recognise this and to commit to making a difference. I commend this motion to the House. *(Banging on desks)*

Mr Speaker: I now propose a question in the terms of the motion moved by the Hon. the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education.

1050 The Hon. Lawrence Llamas.

Hon. L F Llamas: Mr Speaker, it is absolutely right that this House joins with parliaments, political bodies and organisations around the world and in Gibraltar in declaring a climate emergency, for there is no doubt that our climate is changing, that global temperatures are rising and that this, with the accompanying rise of sea levels, will have a severe impact on the future of mankind.

We must make every effort to try to repair and reverse the evident effects of climate change. The overall targets set out in this motion, challenging though they are, must be seen as a minimum objective over the coming years. If elected into government the GSD would pursue those targets, in opposition we will support Government in achieving those targets, but let's be bold and brave in developing and publishing details of how those targets can actually be achieved.

The Government claimed to have foresight and leadership on climate breakdown by switching from diesel to LNG, and although as a fuel LNG will enhance local air quality it does nothing with regard to a global climate change crisis being declared around the world. We have urged the Government to review this line within the motion to allow Her Majesty's Official Opposition to support the motion, but sadly the Government has refused and, by consequence, failed this House in seeking unanimity on such an important issue. Consequently, we shall be abstaining from the motion, **(A Member: Oh!)** given we agree with the rest of the motion.

1070 Carbon dioxide is undoubtedly the greater contributor to the insulating effect currently taking place in our atmosphere, and controlling emissions is vital. We are reminded in the motion of the Government's foresight with respect to power generation and the upcoming switch to LNG, but this is not a credible achievement when it comes to global warming, and the Government compounds its flawed reasoning by suggesting that LNG is the future. LNG is methane. Between 1.5% and 3% of the methane produced escapes into the atmosphere in the production and transportation process. By increasing the demand for methane we are party to encouraging the increase of its production. Methane is estimated to contribute about 28% of the global warming gases in the atmosphere, primarily because it is so potent as a greenhouse gas, about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 10-year period. We cannot ignore this fact and should certainly not congratulate ourselves or pretend that it is foresight that this industry be encouraged in the context of this motion.

1080 There has been little progress in the increasing amount of power we generate from renewable sources. We keep getting told of objectives, but these do not materialise. In 2016, when the Minister was asked what proportion of Gibraltar's energy was produced from renewable sources, he answered 0.05%. Three years down the line and that figure remains almost static. Let's develop and publish a roadmap that can be unanimously agreed with short, medium and long-term initiatives committing this House long term. We need a plan, as declarations by themselves are worthless.

1090 To have foresight and leadership would have been to have achieved a radically alternative non-fossil-dependent form of energy and recycling. This Government has pledged not to raise electricity in order to prove a political point. I criticised that during my Budget speech this year. The time has come for political parties to disregard votes and commit to policies which will

prove unpopular. There is no time to wait to the end of the year to implement policies which can be introduced today. Let's action a staggered removal of the subsidy of the electricity in this Budget and invest that revenue in a ring-fenced climate breakdown Budget.

Let's amend legislation in a more punitive manner to those, particularly corporates, involved in the ship repair yard and bunkering, and raise revenues for a climate Budget too.

Let's do away with the free parking at Midtown and focus on greener methods of transport. Let's bring back the cash initiative for hybrids, which was reduced from £1,000 to £250.

Let's introduce construction levies which will give back to the community, especially at the height of construction we are seeing today. Let's introduce subsidies for renewable energy initiatives in private properties.

Let's have greater communication between local organisations to share resources.

Let's increase the price of diesel. As for carbon dioxide, what are we doing? Diesel is still incredibly cheap at our pumps. Vehicle ownership has risen under this Government and incentives to buy greener vehicles are ineffective, probably because they are insufficient.

Let's not talk about leadership and foresight. Let's not congratulate ourselves. Let's take a long, hard look at where we are, what we have to do, work together and do it. Let's achieve those targets that are established in this motion in a carefully planned and effective way. Above all, let's have the courage to admit we have failed thus far and we must do better because our planet, our culture and our futures depend on it. *(Banging on desks)*

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Roy Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Mr Speaker, I had not originally intended to speak in this debate. However, in order to inform myself better about the climate emergency, I did attend the World Earth Day at the University last week, as the Minister will know, and I also attended the ESG event last night.

It is a matter of deep regret that we in the Official Opposition are not in a position to support the motion because of the way in which it has been drafted – and the Minister knows this. The Minister knows that if the politically biased language had been removed, we on this side of the House would have had no problem supporting it unanimously – and he does not have to shake his head, because he knows that.

In terms of the action plan that this House is committing itself to, I have already pointed out to the Minister that point 6 is senseless. This House is resolving to come back to itself to report, but how are we going to come back to report to us? What is the mechanism? If the Minister was serious, what he would have in point 6 is that this House resolves to either set up or appoint a commission, or perhaps to set up a select committee to take evidence and then report back to this House. *(Banging on desk)* But this House cannot just have a line that says 'come back to Parliament by the end of 2019 with an emergency plan'. It does not make sense and I would like the Minister to explain to his House how this House is going to report back to itself. Or is it that it should say that *he* will come back to this place with a plan? In which case, I would welcome that clarification. As it stands, I do not see that anybody is going to report to anybody, so I would welcome him clarifying that.

Mr Speaker, in terms of the Climate Change Act, which the UK has had since 2008, we are obviously a bit slow off the mark. I will welcome the draft Bill when it arrives in this place and of course the debate that follows, but I would invite the Minister to engage with Members on this side of the House so that we can also have input into that Bill and this House could perhaps then arrive at a position which is unanimous.

Having attended the World Earth Day, one thing that struck me was the frustration of environmental activists, who claim that they have heard it all before. They have heard it all before from parliaments like this and other parliaments elsewhere, that yes we think it is terrible, yes we think there is a climate emergency, yes we are going to pass motions – but

nothing actually happens. And he shakes his head again, but he knows – he was there. We need to do something that is practical and is seen to be practical.

One thing that I took away from the ESG meeting last night was that they felt that we in Parliament should be working together on a cross-party basis. We should. (**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Work together.) We should be all together, one big party representing Gibraltar as a whole. What we cannot do is fall into a trap, whether intentionally or unintentionally, of making party political points just because they are there for the taking. (*Interjection*) I have already told the Minister, and he knows this, that if he had removed that particular paragraph we would have had no problem supporting the motion, but he did not. He knows that.

Mr Speaker, the ESG last night, do not care whether we agree or not. They want us, as a Parliament, to work together. How on earth are we going to do this if we cannot even agree on a simple motion? (**Hon. Miss S J Sacramento:** You can't.) Yes, but we need to be able to. (**Hon. Miss S J Sacramento and another Member:** Right.) We need a mechanism in which we can come together and agree on a way forward. What we cannot have are one-sided motions which that side will pass because they have an inbuilt majority anyway. Even if we on this side of the House all drop dead, you still pass your motion; it makes no difference whatsoever. But if we really want to make a difference in this community we have to work together to come up with practical solutions.

I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that if they were genuine in their intention they would invite the House to set up a select committee in order to report back to this House as to what is the best way to achieve these targets. The invitation is there on the table. We on this side of the House are not adverse to that, but hey, if they want to take the credit for everything, so be it. But I say this now: it is not for want or lack of trying from this side of the House. The environmentalists who are watching this today – not that they had much advance notice that it was going to be taken today – will be shaking their heads at us and saying, 'Can't you guys get your act together?' I say it again: it is not for want of trying from this side of the House. I invite the Minister to think seriously about setting up a select committee. It does not have to be in this motion; he can set something up in another one.

In terms of what my hon. Friend said about putting his money where his mouth is, he needs to consider whether he needs a budget for whatever matters he thinks we need to change, because invariably there will be a cost. That cost, I think, has to be thought about to come up with whatever realistic measures we think in this place are necessary to achieve the ends which I think we all agree are necessary. What the Minister cannot do is come to this House with a motion singing his own praises when he is trying to declare a climate emergency. That would simply not do.

And so, Mr Speaker, I regret again that we on this side of the House cannot give it the unanimous support we would like to, and the blame for that lies fairly and squarely with the Government. (*Banging on desks*)

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker –

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Marlene Hassan Nahon – (*Interjection*) Previously I was waiting to see whether a Member from the Government bench was going to contribute. I did not detect that anyone was going to do so and that is why I called on the Hon. Roy Clinton, but if an hon. Member of Government wishes to speak now, they can do so. There should not be a problem.

The Hon. Mr Paul Balban.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. P J Balban): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The motion being brought before Parliament today is one of critical importance to us as a species. Although this may sound alarming and more in keeping with science fiction, this is our present day reality. This is our challenge, but we are faring very badly indeed as a generation,

1195 even though it is arguably our generation that has contributed mostly to the state of our global environment.

Mr Speaker, the term 'emergency' has very serious connotations indeed. The word conjures images of disaster, of people running desperately to save lives. Most of us cannot see those things that are deemed to be so critical in our daily lives, and that makes it so much harder to be concerned. Yet we are bombarded by constant images in the media of the effects of plastics in our ocean now making their way into our very cells, or the effects of global warming, of climate change, the catastrophic effects of weather and the statistics of the effects of the environment to our health.

1205 Personally, the most powerful images that drove the points home and really put things into perspective were those of divers swimming amidst the sea of plastic and that of female turtles turning back into the ocean unable to lay their eggs in the sand on an uninhabited island in the Seychelles, their paths blocked by plastic and other debris washed up on the shore.

Mr Speaker, climate emergency is an internationally recognised declaration and very urgent action is required if we are to divert disaster. But is there the will? Unfortunately, it seems not. A Sky data poll revealed that the majority of Britons are unwilling to significantly reduce the amount they drive, fly and eat meat in order to combat climate change; 56% of Britons surveyed would not be willing to drive significantly less to tackle climate change.

1215 'But surely this is not something of our making, individuals cannot be held responsible for the actions of industrialised nations and we as individuals surely cannot make much of a change to the global environment. Even the whole community, our Gibraltar, is merely one drop in the ocean.' Mr Speaker, this could not be further from the truth.

I ask Members here today: when was the last time you caught the free bus service? Do you walk your children to school? Do you walk to work? Do you ask for a plastic bag when you shop for groceries?

1220 But exactly why do we not walk? 'There are too many hills. I'm late for work. It's too hot. It's too cold. It's raining. It's ... It's ... It's ...' How far do you drive to get to work? How desperately do we need to use our cars to drive our children those 500m to school and then sit patiently in that traffic jam, longer when it rains, wondering and perhaps even asking ourselves who exactly is to blame for this traffic jam?

1225 We know that Gibraltar has one of the highest vehicle ownership rates in the world. Our cars are almost etched into our genetic makeup. But worse than vehicle ownership is vehicle use itself. How many of us own two or more cars per household? Own two motorbikes? How many of us drive ourselves alone to work? Our dependence on the car will never change unless we are prepared to make change happen.

1230 I must admit that I am not a strong believer in the electric car unless it comes hand in hand with a reduction of vehicles on our roads. Sure, changing a fossil-fuel powered car for an electric vehicle has very positive effects, it is a great start, but I believe that we will still own two or more cars and two motorbikes when we inevitably go fully electric in the future and we will still sit in that same traffic jam at Rosia Road – granted, almost emission free, but still wondering what exactly has really changed.

1235 We all have a part to play. Every little bit counts because each and every drop that falls into an ocean makes a ripple and that ripple can potentially reach and inspire many others in its path.

Will we have to look to our children to fix this mess? Will it fall on their shoulders? What legacy are we leaving them? Children and teenagers are a massive force for change. They teach us, they inspire us and children are respected. After all, it is the teenage Swedish activist Greta Sundberg whose recent ripples have been causing waves, and awareness is growing as this momentum grows.

1240 Mr Speaker, the STTPP provides us with a very powerful platform, a document that sets Government policy allowing us to make inroads to actively encourage the community to adopt more sustainable modes of transport – easier said than done and about as unpopular as removing a toddler's dummy just when they are ready to fall asleep. After all, the STTPP goes

deep within the fabric of society at large and human nature does not adapt easily to change at first. But we cannot underestimate what each of us can do in our own right and what a contribution to the environment can be, no matter how small but over time.

1250 The STTPP is nothing more than an environmental plan, a plan that sets aims and targets for the reduction of emissions to help improve air quality by tackling traffic and transport issues. It addresses car usage, encouraging the use of public transport, the bicycle by improving cycling infrastructure, and improving pedestrian routes. It is a slow process, frustratingly slow at times, but progress is already visible. A great deal of work is being done in this respect.

1255 The STTPP has, for the first time, made us delve into areas considered far too risky and politically fraught with danger. The STTPP is an easy target. Push too hard for common good, for our health and for that of our children, for the sustainability of our planet, and the effect could be palpable on polling day. It is far easier to criticise and point fingers than step off the veranda to see exactly what it is all about on the ground. If there is one thing that should bring
1260 Parliament together, surely it must be the environment. This should be not so much about differences of opinion and more about the alignment of environmental views so that the work being done can be built upon by others, no matter who sits on this side. The work being carried out today needs to be built upon not for any benefit other than for the good of the environment.

1265 Mr Speaker, I believe that we have seen improvements in the way we travel in Gibraltar – buses are fuller, more people are cycling, more people are walking – but we have a very long way to go. Initiatives need to be urgently stepped up if we are to try to prevent global warming and its catastrophic results.

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

1270

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Marlene Hassan Nahon.

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, I welcome the call for a climate emergency. A state of emergency is called when a disaster has occurred or is imminent, and standard constitutional
1275 procedures are suspended to address the issue with immediate effect. All resources available to the government are directed to the problem area in order to restore a sense of normality, and this is done with the utmost urgency. In terms of climate change specifically, it relates to our environment and that of the planet as a whole. A state of emergency should not be declared lightly, as it brings with it a responsibility to respond emphatically and with great urgency. I
1280 believe that in this particular instance a state of emergency is indeed pertinent, but I question the Government's ability to respond appropriately. There appears to be a chronic disconnect between the pros and the plot.

Mr Speaker, as with all complex problems, the devil is in the detail and in quantifying the deliverables. Parliament and the community need to know what the Government will be doing,
1285 how it will be achieving its goals and by when. Deferring any talk of action until the end of the year when proposals will be put to Parliament does not represent a state of emergency.

So, how has Government begun to quantify our own contribution, Mr Speaker? The motion proposes to reduce our carbon footprint per person from 6.5 tonnes per person to 2 tonnes per person per annum. As the Hon. Minister for the Environment knows full well, this figure does
1290 not include our bunkering industry, nor air travel. We cannot afford to selectively exclude the largest contributor to our carbon footprint in our footprint-reduction efforts. The need for an honest and open approach is paramount to tackle this constructively, and while we need to remain realistic we need to know where we are and where we want to be.

Further, the shift of emphasis from diesel to LNG for our power generation was a good move
1295 for our environment but one that can only be used as a temporary measure, as LNG is still a fossil fuel and therefore still a contributor to global warming. I strongly believe that the new power plant, which has taken eight years to be delivered and is still not fully operational despite

its mid-2017 target, should be used as a flexible complement to a mix of renewable sources of energy.

1300 Gibraltar, due to its size, unique circumstances and ability to be flexible, should be looking to attract top scientists and green-energy technologists and companies to roll out a mix of leading-edge technologies to best suit our purpose. Gibraltar could be used as a test case where cutting-edge technologies can be trialled and, if successful, rolled out across the globe.

1305 The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for Gibraltar produced in February 2015 detailed the commitment the Government of Gibraltar made to the EU in return for funding received. One area tackles our commitment to 'green' the transport sector. Despite repeated assurances, there is still a severe lack of infrastructure rolled out across Gibraltar. It is no surprise that, even with the reduction of import duties, our car dealerships have not seen any noticeable increase in demand for electric vehicles. Our public transport remains woefully short in its offering as a
1310 viable alternative to personal vehicle usage. Buses remain one of our biggest polluters, emitting a high level of PM2.5s, which are being linked with respiratory illnesses as well as strokes, coronary disease and other such diseases.

Another area shows our previous commitment under Gibraltar's Renewable Energy Action Plan to develop a minimum of 15% of renewable-sourced energy by 2020 using a mix of
1315 technologies. We are now on the verge of this deadline and Government have yet to demonstrate any tangible progress in this regard. The Government had projected that this year, 2019, we would be generating 13% of our energy through renewable sources. In reality, we generate less than 1%. The targets set were based on an output of 53 GW of energy. Our present and future demands will outstrip this power requirement by 2020, rendering our targets even
1320 harder to meet as a percentage of the whole. The climate emergency motion has moved to raise our renewable target now from 15% to 20% and, as I said, we are still to register any significant achievement in this area.

In a recent interview the Hon. Minister for the Environment declared that less than 1% of our energy production locally is sourced from renewables. In other words, the Government has
1325 comprehensively failed to deliver on this over two whole terms. What credibility can be assigned to Government's renewed vigour, which has been influenced by the recent local student strike for climate action? Gretta Sundberg's continuous calls to action are beginning to get through to the older generations and to those in a position of power and influence. Her quotes are direct and poignant:

You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake. You are not mature enough to tell it like it is, even that burden that you leave to us children. For way too long, the politicians and the people in power have gotten away with not doing anything to fight the climate crisis, but we will make sure that they will not get away with it any longer. We are striking because we have done our homework and they have not.

1330 Public statements made by Ministers, such as 'Government has already shown leadership in this field' and talk of inspiring our community, are pure bluster and merely paying lip service to the single most important issue of our time. When we talk about a climate emergency and in the same week we learn about a humungous new reclamation project which will last 10 years and will be bringing us pollution of all sorts, it is difficult to take this inspiration seriously. When, on
1335 the one hand, trees are rightfully treated as sacred but on the other hand pulled apart and thrown to one side in order to accommodate yet another building site, it is almost impossible to believe anything that we hear from Government on climate emergency.

The unfortunate reality is that the GSLP/Liberals have abjectly failed to transpose knowledge and enthusiasm into action and policy across the board, so far. Of course Gibraltar alone is not
1340 going to solve today's crisis, but we need to play our part. I strongly urge Government to bring forward its date for presenting its report to Parliament and to act seriously and responsibly in its response to the global climate crisis. Only then can we really expect to abide by a parliamentary motion or any other action plan.

And further, Mr Speaker, a cross-party approach is a must, as party politics should play no part in our climatic responsibilities. We do need to work together on the climate change agenda. There are three parties contesting the next elections and it is election year, so in theory all parties will be more willing to learn and listen than ever and promise goodies. The real issue is that the environment is a problem much bigger than any political party and the solutions need to be concerted and agreed long term, 10 and 20 years, not just with four-year pledges that are not met. It is absolutely necessary to come with a solution together. That means reaching a consensus, even if it is minimum consensus, so that whoever governs next is responsible to carry out green pledges agreed by all, no matter what, with an emergency climate budget. People need to know, especially the younger generations after the climate change march, that we are really going to do something about this.

If this is an emergency – and it is – then it requires emergency measures, and working together is how that is achieved. Anything less than that is not good enough, Mr Speaker. It is time to put arrogance to one side, eat some humble pie and work together for the future of our children, whose future we are taking away with our hollow words and inaction.

Gibraltar needs to act now and this is why, despite my reservations about how and when the deliverables on this motion will materialise, I will support the motion, given that we must all stand together to support any incentive, whether poorly or well researched and planned, that targets environmental change for the better.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Is there any other contributor to the debate? The Hon. the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, this is an important debate in the history of this House because it is the House joining an international recognition of the level of negligence that humanity has visited upon the planet and the way in which we have failed to preserve the most precious inheritance that we have, which is our environment – in other words, the place in which we are able to survive. I think we sometimes fail to appreciate how fragile the environment in which we are so able to survive is. Sometimes, trying to understand why life does not prosper on other planets in the solar system or indeed in our galaxy, we realise that there are some planets which are close to being able to sustain life but because of a few degrees of heat or cold are unable to do so. Well, that is the level of fragility of the environment of planet Earth that we are trying to put under the microscope today, which the whole world is slowly starting to realise we all need to have an eye on and which there are still some who deny there is an issue with.

It is absolutely right that John Cortes should be the person leading this debate on this motion because he has a proud track record of having been raising these issues long before he ever donned the mantle of Minister or even thought of allowing me to persuade him to go into politics.

It is also true that we can say a lot of dramatic things – as Members opposite, if I may say so for a moment, have done – and those very dramatic things cannot lead to meaningful action, because the sort of meaningful action that would follow from some of their statements is not meaningful action that anyone is prepared to see endured.

The hon. Lady says this is an election year and in amongst the goodies that we put up we should be putting up goodies in respect of the environment and what the environmental groups want. This is not about goodies; this is about sacrifices. In other words, we can do our bit very quickly and we can say for 12 hours we will not produce electricity – whether we produce it from LNG or we produce it from diesel, for 12 hours we will cut by half our emissions of heat – but nobody would be prepared to consider that at this stage in the game. We have to be careful that we do not over-hyperbolise what it is that we are going to do and that what we do in the service of the planet and future generations is to now seriously look at how we can take the action that we need to take in a proportionate way in an economy that operates like an island environment.

In other words, we cannot be expected to be the ones who do the most in this area. Indeed, when you look at what it is that the developing countries have said to the developed world, there is a legitimacy there too. A nation that has been burning diesel for 20 years cannot be expected to bear the brunt of the reversal of global warming in the same way, surely, as a nation
1400 that has been burning diesel for 120 years and has had the benefit of industrialisation and development.

So, there is a balance to be done. If we are being serious about things, there is a balance to be done in order to get this right so that the young people who came to protest to us are able to enjoy the benefits of a planet that they can inherit ready to be able to continue to enjoy it and to
1405 redress even further the effects of climate change without having to suffer not having electricity at any time during the period of 24 hours.

So, the balance has to be got right and getting that balance right is to be serious about delivering in a proportionate and proper way. It was therefore absolutely right that we did not continue with the diesel-burning new power station in the area of the Upper Rock Nature
1410 Reserve that we inherited at the time when we were first elected. We took a lot of flak for that. We and hon. Members had a very strong general election debate about the subject and on this the hon. Lady will allow me to remind her, as I will all of them, that all of them stood on the manifesto commitment to stop LNG and to go back to the diesel-burning power station. That debate has passed and it is gone. We won the election, we won the debate: we are
1415 implementing LNG.

LNG, as the hon. Member has said – and we are under no misapprehension about it – is not perfect, it is continuing to burn fossil fuel and it continues to create heat, but it is better than burning diesel, which also creates other emissions and creates different problems. So, Mr Speaker, their option was worse than our option, although our option is not perfect.

This is not an attempt to win a political point, because we won that political point – we won it three and a half years ago – and therefore it would be wrong not to reflect that reality in this motion. It would be wrong not to reflect that this island economy that is not able to move immediately to renewables is doing the right thing by taking a step in the right direction, and in that I think the hon. Lady is right: the LNG plant has to be part of what she phrased a flexible
1420 complement of energy-producing resources, including renewable energy resources. And that is absolutely what it is.

I know that Dr Cortes has been working very hard indeed on the issue of other renewables. In terms of bringing to Gibraltar things that can be used here as a test, the hon. Lady knows that we also encouraged and supported the Israeli experiment on tidal energy, which is exactly the sort of thing I think she is referring to, although we have been also criticised for that. So, we really cannot win with Members opposite, but it is absolutely right to have done that.

If you look at where we are, therefore, Mr Speaker, what we have been able to do under the leadership of John Cortes in respect of this particular area is to start putting in place the building blocks for this community, as a society, to still be able to provide for itself the energy requirements it needs, whilst at the same time ensuring that it does so, insofar as possible, in a way that does not cause greater damage to the environment – and indeed, where possible, reverses that.

Hon. Members also insisted I was wrong when I changed the official vehicle of the Chief Minister of Gibraltar from a Jaguar to a Tesla. Well, we have done the exercise before of how much diesel or petrol the Jaguar burned and the emissions from it, compared to the Tesla. The Tesla is also not perfect because you have got to dispose of the battery, you have got to charge it, and if you are not using solar or renewable sources of energy into the grid then you are still just burning something else in order to charge it. Of course it is not perfect, but it is a step in the right direction.

The Hon. Mr Llamas says, ‘You’re not doing enough to promote the use of electric vehicles.’ Well, demonstrating that the electric vehicle is reliable and can be used in an official capacity by the political leader of a nation is a step in the right direction. There are now more Tesla vehicles
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in Gibraltar because people are seeing the Tesla function. Are there enough? No, there are not – of course there are not, Mr Speaker – but the reason why we have reduced the benefits payable in respect of hybrids versus the benefits payable in respect of electrics is because there are many more hybrids now in Gibraltar. When we introduced the measure, as part of the renewal of the Government fleet – for which we were also roundly criticised – we introduced also the hybrids into our fleet. We demonstrated that the hybrids were reliable and we gave a return for people who bought hybrids. Now, so many hybrids are bought in Gibraltar that the evidence tells us it is more important to now give less for a hybrid, a lot of cars now are hybrid vehicles and it is more important to up the amount that you give for a fully electric vehicle, which is what we did. That is exactly what I said in my Budget last year.

Last year, in 2018, in consultation with John Cortes, we prohibited the registration of vehicles with purely internal combustion engines from 2030. We were roundly criticised for that as well by them, but in the United Kingdom and in other countries the debate was to do it by 2030, not by the later dates that were being proposed. That date is now being brought forward there to the date that we implemented last year, 2030. That was 12 years away when I announced it. It is now 11 years away. Soon it will be a decade away, and then we will be into single figures. Vehicles are an important part of how we create global warming, and dealing with vehicles and making people see now with enough time to know how much their vehicles may be worth in future was exactly the right step to take.

The Hon. Mr Llamas says let's do things which are unpopular if we have to do things which are unpopular. We agree. I was roundly the subject of placards which were negative about me at the checkout at Morrisons when we introduced the measure on plastics, but we saw it through because we are not the sort of politicians, on this side of the House, who say that we should do things and then, at the first sight of a whistle or a placard, decide to do the opposite. We know that what we are doing is the right thing and we see it through. And there will be more measures to come, despite the fact that we have been roundly criticised when we have done things which are unpopular.

It would be good to have support from Members opposite when we do things which are unpopular but which are the right thing to do, because then we would be acting as a Parliament together. And if they say to us, 'Look, in the run of play we realise nobody is right all the time' – I am not right all the time, I never pretend to be; I know that every day when I get up I will do things wrong and my wife will point them all out to me, rightly so – I accept that, but they must not pretend that they are always right and we are the ones who are always wrong. So, if they say, 'We were wrong about the diesel power station in the Upper Rock Nature Reserve,' then we will be taking a step in the right direction to start to be able to do things together. But they are not collegiate on the subject, Mr Speaker, and if they want us to be collegiate on the subject, I extend the hand of friendship to them on this: let us start to be collegiate and demonstrate that by saying, as we say, 'LNG, not perfect; LNG, not the solution, but a step on the road; but diesel, worse,' which they have yet to recognise.

The Hon. Mr Llamas says the public, young people in particular, and the environmental groups – or Mr Clinton I think said it – say they have heard it all before but nothing happens. Well, yes, of course they have heard it all before. They have heard it all before from the GSD and nothing happens. We have heard about the programmes they were going to implement, all of the environmentally friendly things they were going to do – and we saw nothing done.

Mr Speaker, you may say of this Government, 'You haven't done enough,' and do you know what: if hon. Members opposite and members of the public said to us we have not done enough, they would find themselves in violent agreement with us because we can never do enough, we want always to do more. We are accused of wanting to do too much and hon. Members opposite oscillate between telling us that we should stop doing so much because it is costing too much and we will not be able to do it and telling us that we have not done enough – usually in the same breath and in the same debate. You do it in the same breath and in the same

debate. It is absolutely true, and this is not just politicians: every single one of us is letting down this planet. Every single one of us is failing to do enough.

My children are better advocates for the planet and for the future than I have ever been. I am proud of that. I am sure it is true of all their children also. To a great extent, those were the educational policies promoted by Mr Licudi and by Mr Cortes, both in education and in the environment, from the moment we were elected – and if it had started to happen before, even better. I know that my kids have a planetary conscience, an environmental conscience that I was not brought up to have, and I am hugely proud of that. At home, they are the recycling conscious of the family. If I may, Mr Speaker, call out – I am not going to be able to pronounce it – the Nautilus project for the fantastic work they have done in all the schools as well to make children aware and conscious of how plastics affect beaches, which is the environment that children enjoy. An excellent job. That is how we create people who do not see a great sacrifice in avoiding plastic. They see it as an obligation and the right thing to do, collecting plastic and then making sure that we recycle plastic.

Yes, a lot has been said in the past and very little has been done. A lot is now being done. We were very clear from the moment we were elected that this is what we were about. We have done less than we would have wanted to do, some of it was done not as quickly as we would have wanted to do it, but I think we have taken steps in the right direction.

If hon. Members want to join us taking giant steps towards the future, then we must always try and do this together – absolutely – but they have to do it from a position of political honesty, because if they do not then they will not be legitimate partners of ours. I have done what I think is a ‘mea culpa’ too. I have said we have not done enough and we have not done it quickly enough, in the way that I have said it, but they are still the party that says that their power station would have been a better option. They need to join us in the context of understanding this emergency by coming off that approach and joining us in understanding that here, whoever is not a sinner should be the one to throw the first lump of coal.

Mr Speaker, in that context I invite hon. Members opposite to reconsider – and I do not mean the hon. Lady here – the idea that they are going to abstain on this. If something is, in principle, important enough that you declare an emergency, then if you do not like the wording of some part of it, well, take a different view.

Hon. D A Feetham: We can propose an amendment, or rather a suggestion.

Hon. Chief Minister: You can do it, if you like. Propose an amendment, if you like, which may or may not succeed, but take that approach – do not take the approach that you are just going to abstain.

I would put it to hon. Members in this way. We are in an election year, as the hon. Lady reminded us. There may be weeks or months left before a general election. We are going to argue about everything until the cows come home. This should not be the thing that we are arguing.

The Hon. Mr Feetham and I have a much friendlier relationship now than when we were the two bulls that had to go out against each other at the last election. It is normal. When we are all older, I hope that we will reminisce on the days when we were in Parliament and look back on what we did, and no doubt when we are older think that we did a much better job than those who are there now. When we do that, Mr Speaker, and we are downstairs in the other Parliament, hopefully still having coffee and enjoying each other’s company – and perhaps I might be introduced to a totally new experience of being pleased to see some of them – we will look back on this motion, and if they abstained and did not vote in favour of it I think they will be very disappointed in themselves.

In the run of play, this debate might be more important than some of the other debates that we have had. Some of the debates that are more important now and more politically relevant, and some of the things that heat our blood pressure up the most today may turn out to be but

blips compared to this debate and what it is that we are concluding here. So, if there is a route to their supporting this which respects the fact that this Government has taken policy positions which it is going to defend, that this Government has taken policy decisions which we think are right and which we think they must now recognise, especially in the context of this subject, then they must take that route, they must pursue that objective and they must vote with us in respect of the subject of this motion because it is too important for them not to do so.

Mr Clinton, therefore, should not have got up and said, 'We're going to abstain because we cannot support this.' I think that was the wrong approach to take. I am getting used to it. Mr Clinton in the next few weeks is going to lead his party to once again not supporting the Appropriation Bill in this House and voting against it, so at once they are going to be supporting those who make claims for more moneys from the public purse and the other once they are going to be voting against that money being available. I am not surprised, but I offer even him an olive branch on this issue because I know that the environment has not oft been flavour of the month with financiers and bankers. But there is a value to doing this, Mr Speaker, beyond pounds, shillings and pence. There is a value to doing this beyond this moment, beyond the lifetime of this Parliament and in a way where, when we look back, recognising the work we have done, giving us due credit for it, they will have wanted to be supportive of it.

Mr Speaker, it is important to recognise that when you go into politics you do it because there is a higher calling than just achieving political office. If there is one man of whom that is true in particular in this Parliament, it is John Cortes. It was difficult to prise him away from his Botanic Garden, it is difficult sometimes to make him realise that he is a Minister in the Government and not a gardener in the Botanic Garden, and that is to his enduring credit because we have to make difficult decisions in Government. That is, of course, the case for all governments. He makes us take even more difficult decisions and he makes the difficult decisions sometimes even harder – and we want him to do that and we want him to continue to do that because this calling for him, in my view, is really just to achieve the sort of purpose that we are debating in this House. I want to recognise the contribution he has made in the past seven and a half years – and, I hope, for longer – in respect of turning the tanker that was the Gibraltar economy in the direction it was taking in the context of the environment and ensuring that we started to take those steps which I have identified to right the damage we were doing, to try and do less damage, to try and contain that damage, not to pretend that we can shoulder all the burden for the world but to achieve what we have achieved to date and what is to be achieved in coming weeks and months, which I know he is going to take great pleasure in announcing.

So, Mr Speaker, in that context I want to signify, as Leader of the House and as leader of the political parties represented on this side of the House, our full support for the initiatives that we have taken under the leadership of John Cortes and our full support for his leadership in bringing this climate change emergency motion to the House, and in particular the work that he does with young people, the way that he engages with young people, especially those young people whose environmental conscience has been really making itself heard, not just in Gibraltar but around the world, which I look forward to continuing to see, hear and feel in the context of this debate as we go forward.

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Mr Daniel Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, I will keep my contribution short because enough has been said by Members of Parliament and indeed it is not difficult for me to associate myself with the vast majority of what has been said on this side of the House and on the other side of the House.

I will attempt to bridge the gap between the Government and the Opposition in a moment, but I will say this: that the honourable the Chief Minister is absolutely right when he says that this is not about general elections, it is not about the fact that this is a general election year, it is not about the fact that we are offering goodies to the ESG or anybody, or any other NGO, or

anything of the sort. This is about survival: survival of the planet, survival of mankind on the planet. That is what this is about and if we do not change the way that we go about our lives – not just as political parties and the policies that we may have, but our lives – then I fear the worst for humanity and for the planet that we live on. That is the reason why, for example, we can all talk about global warming and reducing greenhouse emissions and this, that and the other, but there is no point in talking about this and there is no point in voting for a motion like this and then taking the family out to an Argentinian grill on a Friday evening. It is about changing our lifestyle. That is what it is about. That is why, for example, in my own home – if I can be permitted to make the point – we do not eat red meat: not only because we do not like the way that animals are slaughtered but also because animal agriculture contributes between 13% and 19% to global warming. If we are not capable of really changing the way that we lead our lives, then unfortunately there is going to be a continued deterioration in these issues and unfortunately in the planet and everything else that everybody else has mentioned.

Mr Speaker, I promised that I would keep my contribution short. That is what I wanted to say, but I want to try and attempt to bridge the gap between the Government and the Opposition by proposing this wording. The offending paragraph, if I may read it – the paragraph that separates the Government and the Opposition, for anybody reading the debate – is this:

The Government has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, including by the replacement of diesel power generation by the less polluting LNG and by being further committed to increasing the use of renewable sources of energy, to at least 20% by 2020.

What I propose is this, an amendment to read in these terms:

The Government believes it has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, including by the replacement of diesel power generation by the less polluting LNG, and while there are differences between the Government and the Opposition on these issues, both are further committed to increasing the use of renewable sources of energy, to at least 20% by 2020.

That is the amendment that I am proposing and I would urge that we show unity in relation to this so that we can all vote in favour of this motion. I think they are small amendments, I believe them to be reasonable and I believe that it offers the basis for us.

We will put it in writing, but if the Government tells me really there is no prospect of that amendment succeeding, then I will put not it in writing. But if the Government says – I will give way, of course.

Hon. Chief Minister: Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the hon. Gentleman giving way.

The Government is not saying no. We want to see it in writing because we think it may be possible for us to agree it.

The first amendment is an easy one because it is just one word, from what I detected. It says 'believes', which I might come back to him and suggest might be 'considers' but I might accept 'believes'. I think 'considers' is probably a better motion word than 'believes', but we are not going to fall out over that.

I did not quite catch the second bit and I do not know that the –

Hon. D A Feetham: After 'by the less polluting LNG,' it says 'and while there are differences between the Government and the Opposition on these issues, both are further committed' –

Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: I am a third party. So, there's more than two parties involved.

Hon. D A Feetham: No, but I am proposing an amendment – *(Interjection)*

Hon. Chief Minister: We are debating the amendment before we have seen it, but if 'opposition' is with a little 'o' then it would include the hon. Lady – instead of a big 'O', which would be the Official Opposition.

The hon. Gentleman will just allow me to reflect, as the Hon. Dr Cortes was saying to me, that that does not recognise – and I think this is the point I was making to him earlier – that LNG is better than diesel. We do not need to have that debate, do we? LNG is better than diesel – they do accept that, don't they? – and therefore I would like to see the amendment in writing so that we can consider that.

I might invite the hon. Gentleman, therefore, if he wants, to prepare the new paragraph in writing so that we can consider that, and that we might just recess for 10 minutes – it is almost six o'clock on a Friday afternoon.

Hon. D A Feetham: Yes. Can I just mention, in relation to the question, that the debate between LNG and diesel ... It depends on what question you ask in relation to that. No, hang on a minute please. It is not as one-dimensional – and, you see, now we are getting into controversy but it is not as one-dimensional as is being suggested, nor was the debate three years ago, or four years ago, as one-dimensional as we are suggesting. It is a much more complicated debate.

What we are asking for is the opportunity to just simply take that out of the motion rather than effectively forcing us into a position which we feel uncomfortable with, and quite frankly should have no place in a motion where we are attempting to find a common ground and a way in which we can, as a Parliament, say – *(Interjection)* Sorry, he was shaking his head and I thought that he was saying no to me. I beg your pardon.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for giving way.

Mr Speaker: I am going to call a recess.

Hon. Dr J E Cortes: I was going to suggest that, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: So that we can come to an agreement on an amendment and also give me an opportunity to replenish the chairs. The House will recess for 20 minutes.

The House recessed at 6.42 p.m. and resumed its sitting at 7.02 p.m.

**Declaration of Climate Emergency –
Debate concluded –
Amended motion carried unanimously**

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Daniel Feetham.

Hon. D A Feetham: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

It appears that the entire House has reached terms in relation to an amendment. It stands in my name.

I beg to move the following amendment to the motion standing in the name of the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change:

1. That paragraph 7 be deleted and replaced by the following new paragraph 7:

'The Government considers it has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of climate breakdown, including by the replacement of diesel power generation by the less polluting LNG, and while there are differences between the Government and the opposition on these issues, the whole House is further committed to increasing the use of renewable sources of energy to at least 20% by 2020.'

2. At point 6 replace 'report' with 'that the Minister reports'.

Mr Speaker, there is, I have noticed, an amendment to take into account the hon. Lady: 'opposition' with a small 'o' instead of 'Opposition' with a capital 'O'. (**Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon:** Very elegant) I hope that takes the hon. Lady's position into account. Mr Speaker, that is the amendment.

Mr Speaker: Unless anybody wants to add anything – Chief Minister? – I will put it to the vote.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Mr Speaker, obviously just on the amendment, I welcome the fact that the hon. Gentleman has pursued the course I propose, because being able to pass this now in a way that is not going to require a division and that is going to enable us to see the whole House united I think is a positive thing. In particular, I am pleased that we are going to be able to have no differentiation at all between the different political groupings in the House and that the hon. Lady is going to be included in the wording that we are going to be able to all come around.

I think the second part of the amendment does actually improve the mechanism for the reporting-back process, so the Government is going to be happy to accept that.

In the context of this issue and in the context of this debate, the fact that we have been able to come to terms and that hon. Members have accepted the olive branch that I tendered I think in future will be seen as an important moment. I really do think that – in the history of the relationship the hon. Gentleman and I have had in particular – to be able to move to agreement on the issue of a motion that mentions LNG is indeed a red letter day compared to where we were the last time we debated the subject.

Mr Speaker: I now put the question, which is the amendment moved by the Hon. Daniel Feetham. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

What now stands before the House is the motion as amended. Does any other person wish to contribute to the debate? If not, I call on the mover to reply. The Hon. Dr John Cortes.

Minister for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Dr J E Cortes): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

I am grateful to the Members opposite for their eventual positive response to the motion. It is very welcome. I must say that I am actually quite chuffed at the way that some have been converted to the environmental cause over the last few years. (**Two Members:** Hear, hear.) If I have done nothing else – I have achieved that, although I must say that there must have been a crowd on the road to Damascus at some stage!

I am particularly grateful, of course, to the Chief Minister for his kind words about me personally. I must say that hearing the words, referring to me, that on environment I have hollow words and inaction still hurts somewhat and I am glad to say that politics has not completely hardened me.

I think that the outcome of the debate has been positive, but obviously I do have to answer, briefly, some of the points that the hon. Members opposite made.

One of the criticisms that have been made here – and I think the hon. Lady mentioned it – is that we have heard it all before. It is true, Mr Speaker, we have heard a lot of this before, but

never to this depth in this House and I think that this debate is hugely significant. We are the second country to – hopefully, when we take it to the vote – declare a climate emergency. We were only just beaten to it by the UK Parliament two days ago. He was probably reading my Twitter feed – Mr Corbyn – but I think that was a motion from the opposition and not a government motion, so I think there is a significant difference there. So I think it is more than just words and it is not the same words that we have heard before.

I am so pleased that we have had this debate. This debate would not have been possible with the political configuration of this House back in 2011, or rather before 9th December 2011. I think it is a huge achievement and that we must all accept that and that we have all moved on since then. In those days, renewable energy and energy efficiency were not even in the vocabulary, and the Government of the time, I must say – and I experienced it, and that is partly why I am here today – was, in fact, in environmental denial. Not one solar panel. We were even told that it was impossible to plug in solar power to the grid.

I have to thank in particular the hon. Lady for her largely positive contribution, although I do believe that some of the points were a tad less than fair, but I would like to reassure her that action will not wait to the end of the year and steps will be taken and are being taken, about which I will report shortly.

Clearly I believe that we need this declaration, because we can now use it. Those of us who believe in the need for climate action can refer to this motion and it strengthens us in working with other sectors of the community in taking these principles forward. One of the purposes of this declaration is to allow us to impress the importance of this on our community.

I assure the hon. Lady that the Government is in regular contact with experts on other renewable sources of energy, including marine and wind energy. I believe very soon there will be people here ... Unfortunately, marine current technology is not as advanced as we would like it to be, but we will be there to take them on board as soon as this is possible. I think that, overall, the hon. Lady's contribution was positive and helpful.

In relation to delays, I think it is true that for a considerable amount of time we were working very closely with a European Union source of funds that sadly Brexit put paid to, and that did cause a significant delay in us rolling our programme forward.

In relation to the students, yes, I think they are an inspiration to all of us, but I must say that I no longer feel as lonely as I used to feel when I was that age and I was almost a voice in the wilderness.

In relation to another point that the hon. Lady raised, the point of reclamation, as I said in my speech, we are aiming at a carbon-neutral and possibly a carbon-negative development there, and the developers are very excited in making this an example.

Mr Speaker, if I may refer, then, to the contribution by Mr Clinton, he felt that he and others may have wanted advance notice of the motion. I did mention it to him last Friday that I was hoping to take it today. But it should come as no surprise: if this is a climate emergency that we are declaring, we are going to take it at the first possible opportunity. The first possible opportunity is today. The motion was published for all to see and it should come as no surprise that it came today.

I was going to comment that I did not feel that the language that had been used in relation to LNG was politically biased, but we have resolved that, so I am not going to go into that.

In relation to the Climate Change Act, the hon. Member is well aware of my willingness to discuss. He has experience of this on the Heritage and Antiquities Act, where we worked together, and he can expect that I am going to be receptive to comments, as can the rest of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker, if I may refer now to Mr Llamas's contribution: renewables, 0.05%; in 2011, 0.00000 recurring per cent – not even in the vocabulary. But I am going to surprise Mr Llamas. Only a couple of days ago I visited the first of our solar plants, which was producing, I think, 0.6 KW or 0.7 KW at the time. There will be a public presentation on it as early as next week. And

others are being rolled out, including the ones that my hon. Friend is placing on the rooftops of the new sports facilities and that already will be making a higher contribution.

1780 Mr Speaker, LNG is not ideal – the Chief Minister confirmed that that is the view on this side of the House and it is clearly now the view of the whole House – but it is a necessary step in Gibraltar’s energy transition. It is clearly better than diesel. This is an energy transition. We cannot shut one thing down and expect renewables to take over immediately. So, it is a necessary, crucial and significant step and we have to bank that as progress and not deny that it is a positive development. Clearly, apart from the reduction in carbon, LNG does not produce as
1785 much sulphur dioxide or nitrogen oxides and virtually no particulate matter, and that is an air-quality issue – which is related but is not the issue being discussed today – so I think that that is something we have to recognise.

I think that Mr Llamas did, towards the end of his contribution, make a number of positive suggestions and I would be happy to discuss them with him and take them on board if we are
1790 not already taking action on those particular aspects.

I do think that our targets are realistic. If you add the 21% drop in power generation emissions from 2013 to last year to a possible 25% drop because we are using LNG, we are already getting quite close.

1795 Mr Speaker, I think, to sum up – and this is really my last contribution this evening – it is not about what has been done or what has not been done; this emergency is about what there is left to do – and whether we agree that enough has been done or not been done, we all know that there is a lot to do.

1800 Sir David Attenborough, who is once again leading the fight against all sorts of environmental catastrophes, said very recently we have 12 years to get this right. When you look into the future, it seems like a long time because it is 2031; but if you think back to 12 years ago, it was only 2007, and that is when one starts getting worried.

Clearly we have to change. We have to take action. Let’s do this, Mr Speaker, by unanimously supporting this motion, which I once again commend to the House. (A Member: Hear, hear.)
(Banging on desks)

1805 **Mr Speaker:** I now put the question, which is the motion moved by the Hon. Dr John Cortes. Those in favour? (Members: Aye.) Those against? Carried unanimously.
The Hon. the Chief Minister.

1810 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Mr Speaker, on that happy and concordant note I rise to seek to adjourn the House until next Thursday, 9th May at 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

1815 Mr Speaker, I would also give an indication to hon. Members – I know that they have had already the Estimates Book distributed by the Clerk – that I am considering the Budget debate occurring on Monday, 10th June. I say I am considering that date: it is the date that is in my diary at the moment, but because we have the issue that we have lurking in the background still, which is that Brexit could happen literally at any moment if there were an agreement between the Conservative government and the Labour opposition in the United Kingdom, it is possible that that may change. To share my thinking with hon. Members, this year we have the Island Games starting the second week of July. I know that we may have a lot going on in that period in
1820 June. Of course, there is also the UN session etc. So, the window that I am looking at is the window of 10th June, otherwise it would likely be much later. So, if hon. Members want to diarise that, then I think that would be of assistance to everyone.

1825 Finally, Mr Speaker, before I seek to adjourn, I am conscious of the fact that today is World Press Freedom Day and I should therefore, no doubt on behalf of the whole House, want to congratulate all journalists in Gibraltar and remind them that they enjoy around them a ring of steel of freedom to be able to write and say what they wish, when they wish in the discharge of their obligation to keep us all informed at all times in as free and fair a way as they wish.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. The House will now adjourn to next Thursday at 3 p.m.

1830 **Mr Speaker:** The House will now adjourn to next Thursday, 9th May, at three in the afternoon.

The House adjourned at 6.20 p.m.