



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

**AFTERNOON SESSION: 3.00 p.m. – 3.54 p.m.**

**Gibraltar, Thursday, 18th June 2026**

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# The Gibraltar Parliament

*The Parliament met at 3.00 p.m.*

[MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Judge K Ramagge Phillips GMH *in the Chair*]

[ACTING CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT: K Balban *in attendance*]

## PRAYER

*Madam Speaker*

## Order of the Day

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Acting Clerk:** Meeting of Parliament, Thursday 18th June 2026.

Order of Proceedings: (i) Oath of Allegiance; (ii) Confirmation of Minutes - the Minutes of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Fifteenth Parliament which was held on the 24th, 25th, 26th February 2026 and 3rd, 4th, 16th, 18th, 30th, 31st March 2026.

**Madam Speaker:** May I sign the minutes as correct? (**Members:** Aye.)

*Madam Speaker signed the Minutes.*

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

### PAPERS TO BE LAID

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, with your leave, and before I lay the paper that is standing in my name, can I just, I am sure on behalf of the whole House, extend condolences to the Hon. Minister for Employment, Equality, Culture and Tourism, the Hon. Christian Santos, and to his family on the sad passing of his brother, Elliot. I know that many Members of the House have expressed their condolences to him personally, and that he has felt the support of Members on both sides.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, I would also like to extend my condolences to the Hon. Minister Santos on the passing of his brother. I hope that he and his family will draw strength and comfort from good memories and good times had.

20 **The Hon. D J Bossino:** If I may, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, and indeed the entire Opposition Bench, we wish to associate ourselves with both the words of the Hon. Chief Minister, and yours, in respect of the sudden passing of Christian's brother, which must be a very, very sad event for him, and indeed his brother, his surviving brother, and particularly his mother. So our condolences and our prayers and our thoughts go to each and every one of them.

25 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to join you in welcoming Members of Parliaments from around the region, from the Commonwealth. It is a pleasure to have the CPA amongst us in Gibraltar. I know a number of events have been organised by your team around the conference, and that Members on both sides of the House have attended CPA events. I very much look forward to hosting an event this evening for parliamentary colleagues from the CPA region. I have no doubt that the conference will be a success, given that, to a very large extent, it is not being run by the Government, it is being run by you.

30 What I am also very pleased to see, Madam Speaker, is that those Members of the Commonwealth who have joined us in Gibraltar have been able to help us do that thing that we in Gibraltar love, which is *estrenar* a new place, and we have had the opportunity to see the refurbishment of this Parliament building unveiled. If I may say so, to the team working with Carl Viagas and the Deputy Chief Minister as the Minister in charge, this is a magnificent refurbishment. I think it really does help to bring this building into its own.

35 Of course, as ever, the refurbishment from the moment that we acquired the units has not been without its critics. Isn't it ever thus? But I think that the work product speaks for itself, and I hope that it will also make for a much better environment for all hon. Members to operate in.

40 Finally, Madam Speaker, I do want to share with hon. Members that because of the fraught political moment in which we live, in terms of having to deliver the implementation of the UK-EU agreement and the dates which are relevant to that, both inside and outside of Gibraltar, I am not yet able to confirm the date on which we will take the Appropriation Bill. But I shall endeavour to let you and the Leader of the Opposition know the date when we intend to take the Appropriation Bill as soon as possible.

45 Madam Speaker, and with that, I have the honour to lay on the table the report of the Principal Auditor on the accounts of the Borders and Coastguard Agency for the year ended 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

**Madam Speaker:** Order to lie.

**Acting Clerk:** The Hon. Minister for Education the Environment and Climate Change.

50 **Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Prof J E Cortes):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2025, the Climate Methane Regulations and the Certification for Carbon Removals and Carbon Storage Regulations 2026.

**Madam Speaker:** Order to lie.

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## Questions for Oral Answer

### DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

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#### Q124/2026

#### Expressions of interest process – Rosia Bay

**Acting Clerk:** (vii) Reports of Committees; (viii) Answers to Oral Questions.  
Questions to the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister.  
Question 124/2026, the Hon. D J Bossino on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

65 **The Hon. D J Bossino:** Yes indeed, Madam Speaker. I thought that may have gone through to the Clerk, but clearly it has not. So, the Leader of the Opposition is not able to deal with his questions this afternoon. At the close of the expressions of interest process how many responses have there been to the invitation to express interest in the development of Rosia Bay?

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

70 **Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. J J Garcia):** Madam Speaker, there have been 5 applications in total.

75 **The Hon. D J Bossino:** Madam Speaker, there is a question next on the Order Paper which deals also with Rosia Bay, in respect of which there may be supplementaries. But I think I can legitimately ask this supplementary arising from the answer, in respect of both questions, from the answer that the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister has just provided to the House, in respect of Questions 124. The hon. Member says that 5 have been received. Is he able to identify when he thinks that he will be alighting on any particular one of them, in terms of a decision to proceed with the development of Rosia Bay?

80 **Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, I think the next question will lead to that answer. If the hon. Member will bear with me.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question.

#### Q125/2026

#### Rosia Bay expressions of interest – Nature of the proposals

85 **Acting Clerk:** Question 125, the Hon. D J Bossino, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** Has Government considered the responses to the Rosia Bay expressions of interest process and what has been the nature of the proposals?

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

90 **Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, 4 of the 5 applicants have already presented their proposals to the Government. The nature of the proposals were for a boutique hotel at the AHQ building, together with public leisure and recreational facilities at Rosia Bay.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** So, if I may repeat the question, do I take it that the answer may be to the question that I posed to him earlier, that he is not in a position, is this understanding correct  
95 to alight on any particular proposal until he has had a representation in respect of the fifth and final? He did say that there were 5, but 4 had made presentations. Is it that he is expecting to review the presentations in respect of the remaining fifth Expressions of Interest?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, I will explain the process so far, and I think the question will be answered with the explanation. The first group of 3 were considered by a panel  
100 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, so they came and they made their presentations. Then, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, there was another presentation to the panel. Then, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, the panel met without any of the applicants and has now agreed which one of those will be a preferred bidder. So a preferred bidder has now been informed.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** So the position is that of the 5, there have been 4 presentations, and of  
105 those 4, the Government has now alighted on the preferred. Is the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister able to say when he will be able to announce the nature of the plans? He has given us a very broad indication of what the development is going to be dealing with, but when does he think he is able to provide further details to the general public?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, normally these negotiations tend to be quite  
110 lengthy and detailed processes, most normally at a technical level with Land Property Services and other entities. So this normally will take some time. I do not expect it to be immediate. What I am saying is that the process has now started, there is a preferred bidder, and the negotiations with that preferred bidder have commenced.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** May I ask him or perhaps before I do ask him, remind him of his  
115 Government's commitment as set out in page 88 of their 2023 Election Manifesto, in respect of which there were in effect 2, but if I may deal with the second one first, the second one in order as is set out here, and it talks about bearing in mind the heritage and environmental value of the area. Is he satisfied that the proposals which the Government has decided to proceed with are sensitive to these 2 factors?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, the actual panel included the Heritage Trust and  
120 the Ministry of Heritage and for the Environment, so clearly there is a filter which this has gone through already. But when there is a kind of final proposal, that will need to be considered anyway in detail at a planning stage by all the entities represented in the DPC, which includes environmental and heritage NGOs, as well as the Minister for Heritage, and the end product will  
125 also need to be agreed and approved by the Government as landlord, in addition to the DPC.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** If I may, the other commitment that the Government set out in its manifesto was that the development of this particular area of Gibraltar was going to be done with public money, it said, and that they would not allow developers to become involved. Are they still true to that commitment?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, yes. I do not want to say anything which might  
130 prejudice the negotiations, but let me say that part of the requirement was that the developer should pay a premium, and the commitment of the Government was to invest that premium in the works that need to be done in that particular area. So I do not want to prejudice the detail of the negotiation, because some of that will be centred precisely on these issues, but at the moment

135 the main priority we have is to sit down and negotiate with the preferred bidder to establish what  
it is that is on offer, and then we will take a view as to whether that is acceptable to the  
Government or not.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** Madam Speaker, I have been taking a tally of the questions that I have  
posed, and whilst in my mind this may seem like quite a few, I think I am down to 5 at the moment,  
140 so given that there were 2 questions, this is the fifth one, isn't it? Yes, I am grateful. So I am within  
the quota.

Well, I thought there was. I get the sense often that there is.

**Madam Speaker:** I had not appreciated there was a quota, but perhaps we can have a  
discussion later, and you can tell me.

145 **The Hon. D J Bossino:** Perhaps this is an obvious question, and one which I suspect each of us  
would not be willing to provide the answer to, but can I push that particular door slightly? Is he  
able to say who the preferred bidder is now? Or is that going to come across as part of the  
announcements as and when it comes?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, this will emerge when the time comes. I do not  
150 think it is prudent to give names across the floor of this House at this particular stage, as it is a  
very early stage in the negotiations, as I said. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, the panel met. The preferred  
bidder was contacted shortly afterwards, and I am not even aware whether the process has  
started in terms of talking to Land Property Services yet.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** I expected that reply, but if I can push the door even further, slightly ajar  
155 but not quite open, can he at least reveal to this House whether this is an outside interest, or is it  
a locally based bidder? Is he able to at least say that? Is this somebody from the outside?

He will recall that in respect, for example, of Road to the Lines, he was very open about who it  
was, and in fact he gave me the name after the Expressions of Interest process had concluded and  
all the rest of it. It was, at that time, I think an Irish gentleman, therefore somebody from outside  
160 Gibraltar. Is he able to at least answer the question that I pose in respect of whether it is an outside  
interest or somebody local?

**Hon. Deputy Chief Minister:** In relation to Road to the Lines, it was acceptable and practised  
to give the names after we had reached a very advanced stage in the negotiation. In this particular  
case, because the negotiation has only just commenced, I do not think it is prudent to give names.  
165 But I can say that the main person or entity we are talking to was a Gibraltarian. There may be  
other investors who may not be from Gibraltar, but as far as I am aware, the person we are talking  
to and that we met and who has been leading on this issue was a Gibraltarian architectural firm.

**Madam Speaker:** Next Question.

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**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, CIVIL CONTINGENCIES AND SPORT**

**Q126/2026**

**Stay and Play Summer Programme –  
Number of children registered**

**Q127/2026**

**Stay and Play Summer Programme –  
Extend the Stay and Play facility/premises**

**Acting Clerk:** Questions to the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport. Question 126, the Hon. A Sanchez.

**The Hon. A Sanchez:** Could the Government provide the figures for the number of children registered, accepted and attending the Stay and Play Summer Programme for 2020 to the present date, broken down by year?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

**Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 127.

**Acting Clerk:** Question 127, the Hon. A Sanchez.

**The Hon. A Sanchez:** Could the Government state what progress has been made in respect of its manifesto commitments to extend the Stay and Play facility/premises?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, the Stay and Play Programme keeps on growing and we continue to look at ways to improve the services on offer. Aside from the fact that the service now runs for longer than we have in the past, we have also made other additions. For example, by undertaking a relocation process, we have allocated an additional larger vault to the Boathouse. That will greatly supplement the programme. This has been kitted out and we offer extra amenities to the children. Madam Speaker, COVID-19 forced the GSLA to rethink the way it delivered the programme in terms of group sizes and the concept of bubbles. This proved so successful that the model that maintained the meaning of the Stay and Play Programme is now spread over several facilities, including the accessibility pool and the bathing pavilion. Therefore, rather than making large changes to the existing facilities, we are using areas that will meet and do meet the specific needs of the programme as it is delivered today. Madam Speaker, registration numbers for the Stay and Play Programme since 2020 are as follows. 2020, 26 children; 2021, 35; 2022, 36; 2023, 35; 2024, 42; 2025, 45; and 2026, as of today, 49.

**The Hon. A Sanchez:** I am grateful for the answer, Madam Speaker. Just to clarify the Hon. Minister's position, is the Hon. Minister then saying that there is no commitment to expand the base of the Stay and Play Programme, which has traditionally been the Boathouse? No plan to create an extension to this facility moving forward? Has that commitment been abandoned, to rather move or continue the model to continue this programme working out of different locations instead?

210 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, I assume that the final result is the same or better. We have extended the Boathouse by taking over an extra vault, so there are more facilities there. But we are also taking it out of the Bayside Sports Complex to the accessible pool and the bathing pavilion, so it is making it better for the children. So, we are expanding in that way, rather than just expanding the actual physical locations of the Bayside Sports Complex; we are actually taking the children out of there as well and giving them a different experience.

215 **Madam Speaker:** Next Question.

**Q128/2026**  
**Public facilities –**  
**Play pickleball**

**Acting Clerk:** Question 128, the Hon. E J Reyes.

220 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** What public facilities are currently available for those wishing to play pickleball?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

225 **Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, at present, the locations available for pickleball are as follows. The MUGA Sports Complex, Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm, Saturdays 9am to midday and Sundays 9am to midday and the Europa Sports Complex Sports Hall, Thursdays 8pm to 11pm. Madam Speaker, additionally, the Pickleball Association form part of the GSLA's Family Fund Evenings that are available as part of the Summer Sports Programme. I encourage families to attend and try this relatively new sport.

230 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** Grateful for the information, Madam Speaker. If I recall correctly, in previous exchanges across the floor of this House in respect of pickleball, the Minister hinted that there might be construction or development or modification of facilities in the Mount area. Has anything transpired in respect of that? Is it a plan, are we in a planning stage, or, given the recent announcements in respect of the future of the Mount, has that now been done away with?

235 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, ironically, I was having a conversation with the Chief Minister yesterday about this very same matter. So yes, we are looking to develop the tennis court at the Mount, which would double up as pickleball courts. And we are under instruction from the Chief Minister yesterday, chasing that as soon as possible.

240 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** Grateful, that is good news for sports lovers, especially those involved in pickleball. It is part of my job to press the Minister. Any particular timescales that we are at least aiming for? I know if the Chief Minister is involved, it either gets done immediately or it sits amongst all the many things he has to handle. So I can understand the reasons why it may or may not happen as soon as sports lovers would like. But can we hear some sort of commitment or target dates?

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, I have no issue in putting on record in this House my disappointment in the fact that it has not started yet.

245 **Madam Speaker:** Any other supplementaries?

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** Can I simply ask a question? Because I think my hon. Friend knows the answer to it, but I am not clear. The Hon. Minister in response to the first supplementary said that he was chasing in respect of this issue. Which entity is the Minister chasing in order to get this off the ground?

250 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, as per previous answers in this House, it is privately funded and therefore we are chasing the developer in question.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** This is being privately funded. The particular tennis court at the Mount that my hon. Friend is referring to, is that in the hands of the GSLA, but the works are being done privately? Is that the case?

255 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** And who is funding this?

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, the hon. Gentleman knows we will not give that information until we are ready to do so, but it is one of his clients, so he should not have any concerns.

260 **The Hon. D J Bossino:** I have many, many clients and my firm certainly has many clients and I do not shy away from that at all. Is the Government, given that now the Chief Minister has chosen to intervene on something which I think is rather anodyne, able to state when it will be in a position to announce this? I recall that I asked of the Deputy Chief Minister something similar in relation to this issue and this was many, many months ago. Indeed, it may even have been in the  
265 other Parliament, but I think it was within this Parliament that this question was asked. But is the Government able to state when it will be in a position to provide all the details that we are entitled to and indeed the public is entitled to?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, I did not think that I said anything to suggest that his clients included only this firm. Of course he has many clients, amongst them His Majesty's  
270 Government of Gibraltar, which regularly instructs the firm of which he is a member. But I am surprised that the hon. Gentleman, who was even announced a moment ago as the Leader of the Opposition in a slip of the tongue, should consider that the issue is both anodyne — although he is pursuing it in various supplementaries — and that somehow, given its increased importance because I have got up to answer questions about it, well, as I think the Hon. Minister has indicated  
275 on a previous occasion, which I think the Hon. Mr Reyes is aware of, this is an issue that has been negotiated in part by No. 6 Covent Place. That is why I have become involved in dealing with it.

We will therefore make an announcement in respect of which entity it is, when we have cleared with that entity that they are ready to make the announcement, because this is private money in support of the public sector, the GSLA's offering, and therefore we want to ensure it is done in a way that is in keeping with the wishes of the benefactor that is going to be involved in assisting the community in having an additional facility for sports. I hope, Madam Speaker, that that is neither anodyne nor involving a senior politician in a matter which he should not be involved in, except that he has negotiated it.  
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**The Hon. D J Bossino:** What is anodyne is the subject matter. We are talking about pickleball. Now, can I ask for a confirmatory answer from the Government? Because in fairness to them, I think they have answered this point before. Again, I cannot remember if it was in this Parliament or previous ones, but I do recall that it was the Deputy Chief Minister who said that the use of this facility will be exclusively, entirely exclusively, for public use. Is that the case? Is that the position?  
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290 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, one of the rules of this House, which applies to everyone asking questions, is that we are not allowed to ask questions of things which are public. The Government is not there as an aide-memoire to the putative Leader of the Opposition. So, when the hon. Gentleman gets up and says, you have said it before, but I cannot quite remember, was this what you meant? I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer we gave some time ago, which is in Hansard.

295 **Madam Speaker:** Next question.

**Q129/2026**  
**Football facilities –**  
**Bayside Sports Complex**

**Acting Clerk:** Question 129, the Hon. E J Reyes.

300 **Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Mr Reyes. Yes, is the question coming or not?

**The Hon. E J Reyes:** What football facilities are available for public use at Bayside Sports Complex?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

305 **Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, under normal circumstances, pitches 3 and 4 are available for public use at the Bayside Sports Complex, although these are currently undergoing a resurfacing programme which is nearing completion. Additionally, Madam Speaker, the mini-MUGA is available for use to the general public, with no allocations required.

310 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Two small things arise from that. The first one is, pitches number 3 and 4 should be available for public use, but are currently undergoing refurbishments, the Minister has said. Do we have an estimated date when those works will be completed and therefore things are, let us call it, back to normal?

315 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, I did ask for an update before Parliament, and I was told that the resurfacing itself has finished. They are just finishing erecting the new fencing. But I do not know how long that is going to take. Surely it should not take long erecting the new fencing around the pitch.

320 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** The other part that arose from his answer was he makes reference to availability of the MUGA, but I know the MUGA is a multi-use area. In fact, in the previous question, he even gave me a set of timings when it is available for pickleball and so on. So what sort of time frame is available for the MUGA as such, for football?

325 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** No, Madam Speaker, just to be clear, there is the MUGA, which is a multi-use games area for pickleball and table tennis and netball and so on. And then there is the mini-MUGA, which is a much smaller pitch next to the Boathouse. And that is, again, it has got a basketball net and it has got football markings or whatever, and that is available for use on a basically first-come, first-served basis. So you normally see young children playing there whilst the adults are playing paddle tennis or whatever.

**The Hon. E J Reyes:** Yes, and since he has clarified the mini-MUGA, he has had to clarify the lot. But is the mini-MUGA, as the name implies, multi-use and therefore used on a first-come, first-served basis by sports other than football? Is that what is happening? So it is a question of who is first to get through to making a booking.

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, the mini-MUGA basically replicates the standard *patio* that you find in a housing estate. So you have basketball, you have whatever you want, and people just turn up and use it as and when they want without needing to go through any formal process of booking or whatever. It is just there for people to use. During the summer, it is used as well for the Stay and Play Programme.

**The Hon. E J Reyes:** And I think I know what areas are pitches number 3 and 4, but those are different areas to what was originally known as the hockey training pitch, adjacent to hockey. Am I correct in that assumption? Let us start with that.

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Yes, Madam Speaker. It is 2 separate areas.

**The Hon. E J Reyes:** So what used to be, or perhaps still is, the hockey training pitch, the word out among sport lovers is that that is going to be a shared facility between hockey and football. What I am getting at is, is that going to come under the booking system and maintenance system of the GSLA, or is that something that has been entered into a lease with another sporting body?

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** So, Madam Speaker, what has happened with the hockey training pitch is that the playing surface has always been in the process of being re-turfed with a more, shall we say, multi-use turf rather than just purely hockey. So it will allow other sports to use the training area. When I talk about the main hockey pitch, the main hockey pitch will not change. Only the training area will now be available for multi-use rather than just hockey warm-up and training. But it will still come under the GSLA booking system. So the GSLA control it. It will carry on being used in the mornings by schools and during the summer by the Summer Sports Programme. Nothing will change. The only thing that changes is that the turf itself can be used for cricket or football or anything else — training, of course.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question.

355

**Q130/2026**  
**Refurbishment works –**  
**GSLA's swimming pool facility**

**Acting Clerk:** Question 130, the Hon. E J Reyes.

**The Hon. E J Reyes:** Can Government confirm that all refurbishment works at the family's changing room facilities at the GSLA's swimming pool facility at the Westside area have now been completed and what was the total cost of these works?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

**Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, the works at the changing rooms have been completed as per replies to previous questions. The total cost for the works was £4,150.

365 **Madam Speaker:** Next question.

**Q131/2026**  
**Ladies' and Men's toilets and showers –**  
**Lathbury Sports Centre**

**Acting Clerk:** Question 131, the Hon. E J Reyes.

370 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** Can Government confirm that all the Ladies' and Men's toilets and showers at Lathbury Sports Centre have now been fully repaired and what was the total cost of these repair works?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

375 **Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, all toilet and shower facilities at the Lathbury Sports Complex have been repaired. Works have been completed at no cost to the taxpayer.

380 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** Madam Speaker, the Minister confirmed there has been no cost. From previous answers, my understanding was that what was going to be at no cost was the faults on the staircases leading from the parking area at Lathbury to the top. To my understanding, it had never been alluded that the toilets and the changing facilities upstairs. So if that is the case, has that also been absolved by the contractor within the repair works guarantee? I want to know: it is not costing the taxpayer a penny, but who is footing that bill, and how do we manage to get that?

385 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** So, Madam Speaker, the damage to the stairwell and the other areas was eventually put down to the roofing membrane, which had failed. So, this was officially put down as a latent defect, and therefore, being a latent defect, all repairs have to be carried out by the original contractor, which in this case was GJBS.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question.

390

**Q132/2026**  
**Fire service responsibility –**  
**Safety of the airport**

**Acting Clerk:** Question 132, the Hon. J Ladislaus.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Which fire service has responsibility for the safety of the airport as from 21:00?

395 **Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

**Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, the airfield normally closes at 2100 hours, but quite frequently remains open beyond that time to cater for aircraft movements. Upon the airfield closing, AFRS informs the GFRS, who then become responsible for the airfield. The air terminal building and parking area fall under the responsibility of the GFRS at all times. However, in the event that the AFRS is made aware of an incident occurring whilst on duty, they will attend, always informing the GFRS and handing over the incident upon their arrival.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** So just to be clear then, Madam Speaker, the GFRS take over from the AFRS in respect of the actual airfield at 9pm at night. Until when do they take over? So what time of night or morning does it switch back to the AFRS?

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, 9 o'clock is the usual cut-off time. If there are plane movements after 9 o'clock, then they stay there until whenever is needed. What time in the morning? I am not sure whether it is 6 o'clock in the morning, I think, but that is what is on the top of my head, so do not quote me. I think they start again at 6, but do not quote me on that one. I would have to check.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** So is the Minister, or rather is the Government, satisfied that the GFRS are adequately remunerated for those extra unsocial working hours that they work overnight when they take over from the AFRS?

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Absolutely, Madam Speaker.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, is the Government aware of how much it equates to per hour that the GFRS officers are in fact earning, on average?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Does the Government feel that £18.56 is adequate remuneration for the risks undertaken by GFRS officers?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, the Government negotiates with the GFRS directly, not through the hon. Lady in this House.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, we have heard that the Government negotiates, but we have seen protests recently by the GFRS, under which we were informed as a public that the Government were not, in fact, engaging with the GFRS. I believe that it was reported widely in the press that no Government Minister was present at any of these demonstrations. So is it the case, therefore, that those negotiations have concluded?

**Madam Speaker:** I am going to caution that that is not a supplementary that is directly flowing from the question. The negotiations on the GFRS, whether they have concluded, does not flow from who has responsibility for the airport after 9pm, so I am going to disallow that question.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, if I may, with respect, the Hon. Chief Minister has just stated that I am, in fact, undertaking these negotiations in respect of the GFRS.

**Madam Speaker:** That is not what was said, but I will move on. If there is another supplementary that is relevant to the question, then you can have it, otherwise we will end it there.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, how many hours a week are the GFRS, in fact, contracted to work?

440 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, that question also, in my view, does not arise from the question that has been posed about the airport, and if the hon. Lady wants an answer to that question, she should pose it specifically so it can be answered accurately. There are many different grades within the GFRS and all of them will work different times.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question.

**Q133/2026**  
**GFRS –**  
**New fire station**

445 **Acting Clerk:** Question 133, the Hon. J Ladislaus.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Please provide an update as to the GFRS' new fire station and an estimate as to when it is expected that works will commence on that project and when they will be completed by.

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

450 **Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, I hold regular meetings with the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service and its senior management team. The proposed new fire station was among the matters discussed at our most recent meeting last week. Madam Speaker, whilst we are in a position to commence works at the Rooke Site, the GFRS requested that we consider an alternative location for the new station, which  
455 they believe will be better suited to their operational requirements. Given the complexities associated with the alternative site, which falls within the Ministry of Defence's estate, the Chief Minister has been directly involved in these discussions. Madam Speaker, should the alternative site prove unavailable or unsuitable, His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar remains ready to proceed with the project at the Rooke Site. However, if the decision is taken to relocate the  
460 station, we would need to work closely with the GFRS to develop a new design for the alternative location. In practical terms much of the design and preparatory work has already been done but we would have to revisit it and replicate it for the new location.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, can the Hon. Minister comment as to where that location is?

465 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** No, Madam Speaker, not at this stage.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, in February 2023, the then Minister Sacramento confirmed in Parliament that the plans, in fact, in respect of the Rooke Site and this fire station that was to be built, had been approved by the Chief Fire Officer and the relevant officers at the GFRS who had, in fact, been involved in these discussions with Government. So, what has been  
470 the hold-up in those three years and why is there now a change, again, in respect to this? This is a manifesto commitment that has been there since 2011, so why this change now?

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, the hon. Lady has to understand that I do not tell the GFRS what they need, or the requirements on equipment or buildings or anything. They tell me what they need and I then work with them to try and get them what they want, not what I want.

475 **The Hon. J Ladislaus:** So, Madam Speaker, is it the case then that they were not being listened to or that they had not had those negotiations and those discussions, rather, not negotiations, back in February 2023? Which is it? Because if they were speaking to the GFRS, why have those needs suddenly changed? They must have changed.

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** They indicated the change to us, Madam Speaker.

480 **The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Can the Hon. Chief Minister perhaps clarify what the nature of the changes are?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** There are various changes, Madam Speaker, about the nature of the building and what it can be used for and the multi-generational use that the building will be put to, so that the building that is developed should not be a place that might be no longer fit for  
485 purpose a decade or two decades into the future, but one that is able to withstand the test of time. Madam Speaker, the view from the senior members of the GFRS put to the Government was that there were reasons why the proposal that they had previously sought and agreed needed to change. This is not a political issue. hon. Members are politicians and they may wish to turn this into a political issue, but it is not. The Government are not experts in designing fire stations. We  
490 do not pretend to know what needs to be in them. We seek that advice from the experts who are the senior leaders of the GFRS. When they tell us that they have what they need, we start to move on developing. When they tell us to pause because they have reconsidered and they think that it needs to be redesigned, the proper thing to do is to follow their lead and not press on to avoid us being politically embarrassed because it is a manifesto commitment and we very much want to  
495 deliver it, but to listen to the experts and accept their view that we need to pause and consider redesigning. If hon. Members think that is not the right thing to do, it is up to them, but we think it is the right thing to do.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, is that plot on the Rooke Site now being earmarked for another project, like perhaps the police station that was initially planned to be built on that plot?

500 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, I refer the hon. Lady to the first answer.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** I think what the Hon. Chief Minister is referring to when he is referring to the first answer given by the Hon. Minister is that it could be, within the realms of possibilities as far as the Government in its answer has provided to us this afternoon to my hon. Learned Friend Mrs. Ladislaus is concerned, that the fire station may indeed be located at the Rooke site. Now,  
505 as I understand it, as we understand it, the reason why the police station was not going to be located at the Rooke Site is because it had some sort of offensive effect on the historical wall, the views of the historical walls behind it. So, on that basis, should they not be resiling from their manifesto commitments in respect of the location also of the fire station? I will give them another reason to resile from their manifesto commitments which clearly are not worth the paper that  
510 they are written on.

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Admiral Nelson said I see no ships. The hon. Gentleman deserves only one answer. I hear no question.

**The Hon. D J Bossino:** There was a question, with the greatest respect to the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister, sorry, I have just demoted him. He could be the Vice Chief Minister at some point in the  
515 future, whatever that means. Now, the point is whether, given the answers that the Government has provided in respect of the RGP station, which was that the location was not, although they had earmarked in their manifesto the possibility of building the police station at the Rooke, is it not the case that it is not possible to build the fire station in that same location for the same

520 reasons that the police station, they say, cannot be built at the Rooke, because it is offending a historical structure, that is to say a historical heritage wall behind it?

**Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, how good it is to know that the hon. Member's promotion or demotion of me means absolutely nothing, other than in his own, if I may say so with respect, little world. He is entirely and completely wrong about the reasons which he has attributed to what we have said is the reason for the police station perhaps not going there, the reasons why, therefore, the fire station might not be able to go there, and indeed principally wrong about how seriously we regard our manifesto commitments.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question.

**Q134/2026**  
**Fire and Rescue Service –**  
**Allowances received**

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**Acting Clerk:** Question 134, the Hon. J Ladislaus.

**The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Please provide specifics as to the allowances received by:

(i) the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service; and

(ii) the Airport Fire and Rescue Service.

535 **Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

**Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, as of 12 June 2026, the GFRS received the following: Continuous Professional Development Payment, CPD, £6,295; Ambulance Allowance, Senior Management, £1,238; and Firefighting Rates, £1,776; Mobilisation of Ambulance Allowance, that is for the Fire Control Operators, £2,935; Senior Management Flexi-Duty is 20%, which means that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer receives £15,186 and Divisional Officers receive £14,271.

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Madam Speaker, in respect of the AFRS, only the 2 AFRS Senior Officers receive allowances, this being the Flexible Duty Allowance in lieu of any overtime, which is calculated at 20% of the respective annual salary.

545 **The Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, a question. Do those allowances, in respect of both actually, take into account shift disturbance and night-time allowances?

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, I refer the hon. Lady to the statements that the Government has made about shift disturbance in respect of the GFRS. Those are in the public domain.

550 **Madam Speaker:** Next question.

**Q135/2026**

**Provide training pitches for football –  
Where and when**

**Acting Clerk:** Question 135, the Hon. D J Bossino on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

555 **The Hon. D J Bossino:** Do Government still intend to provide training pitches for football in Gibraltar and if so where and when?

**Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport.

560 **Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport (Hon. L M Bruzon):** Madam Speaker, the project that appeared in our 2023 manifesto for training pitches at the Little Bay area was one that was proposed by the GFA to the previous Minister for Sports. Madam Speaker, since then, discussions have taken place between myself, the GSLA and the GFA with a view to building those training pitches within the Bayside Sports Complex as part of other projects in the area. As already mentioned, we are recently working on pitches three and four along with the hockey training pitch. So we hope to start revisiting the training pitches projects after the summer.

565 **The Hon. E J Reyes:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is interesting to hear the Minister say that consideration is being given to providing these training pitches within the Bayside Sports Complex. Are we reclaiming more land? Because I think we are quite tight for space there. Can he expand further or where exactly can we squeeze these training pitches in?

570 **Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, we have other projects for the Bayside Sports Complex. So we aim to use those buildings that we propose to build to include training pitches, like we have done in schools, for example.

**The Hon. E J Reyes:** grateful for that answer he is confirming is not that we are going to reclaim land, given that there is a waterfront area that adjoins the Bayside Sports Complex.

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** No, Madam Speaker.

575 **Madam Speaker:** Yes, the Hon. Mr Sacarello.

**The Hon. C Sacarello:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, could I ask the Hon. Minister, please, if he could detail how many pitches, training pitches, that is, will be identified for the Bayside Complex, given there were originally 4 penned in, well, more than penned in, it was displayed via drawings and there were 2, I believe, from their manifesto, at least 2, at the Little Bay. Are there a total of at least 6 at the Bayside Complex?

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, the last designs I have seen are 3, which includes, I believe, a full-size seven-a-side and then 2 smaller pitches.

**The Hon. C Sacarello:** Okay, so there is a net deficit there. Is that so?

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Why a deficit if it was 2, you said, at the Camp Bay area?

585 **The Hon. C Sacarello:** That is correct. I also said that there were 4 originally planned for the Bayside Complex within the developments before advanced changes were made to those plans.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there a question there?

**The Hon. C Sacarello:** Yes, because he confirmed there was a net deficit. He asked me back.

**Hon. L M Bruzon:** Madam Speaker, I think that is incorrect, but we would have to look into it.

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### **Adjournment**

**Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, I move that the House should now adjourn to 9.30 a.m. on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, not least to allow you to continue with the programme of events for the CPA, which this session may have got in the way of. So, I move that the House should now adjourn.

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**Madam Speaker:** I now propose the question which is that this House now adjourn to Thursday the 25th of June at 9.30 a.m. (*interjections*) I now put the question which is that this House adjourn to Thursday the 25th of June at 9.30 a.m. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Passed  
This House will now adjourn to Thursday the 25th of June at 9.30 a.m.

*The House adjourned at 3.54 p.m.*

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