



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

MORNING SESSION: 10.02 a.m. – 11.53 a.m.

Gibraltar, Wednesday, 18th March 2026

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The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 10.02 a.m.

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

[CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT: P A Borge McCarthy *in attendance*]

Order of the Day

5 **Clerk:** Meeting of Parliament, Wednesday the 18th of March 2026. Suspension of Standing Orders. The Hon. Chief Minister.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

Clerk: Papers to be laid. The Hon. Chief Minister.

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PAPERS TO BE LAID

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the report of the Charity Commissioners for Gibraltar 2025.

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Madam Speaker: Order to lie.

Clerk: The Hon. Minister for Health, Care and Business.

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Minister for Health, Care and Business (Hon. G Arias-Vasquez): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the table the Mental Health Board Gibraltar Annual Inspection Report 2025.

Madam Speaker: Order to lie.

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BILLS

FIRST AND SECOND READING

**The Medical and Health (Amendment) Act 2025 -
First Reading approved**

40 **Clerk:** The Order of the Day. Bills, First and Second Reading. A Bill for an Act to amend the Medical and Health Act 1997. The Hon. Minister for Health, Care and Business.

45 **Minister for Health, Care and Business (Hon. G Arias-Vasquez):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Medical and Health Act 1997, be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Medical and Health Act 1997, be read a first time. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

50 **Clerk:** The Medical and Health (Amendment) Act 2025.

**The Medical and Health (Amendment) Act 2025 -
Second Reading approved**

55 **Minister for Health, Care and Business (Hon. G Arias-Vasquez):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for the Medical and Health (Amendment) Act, be read a second time. The Bill amends the Medical and Health Act 1997 primarily by expanding the regulation-making powers contained in section 66 of the Act. It also makes a number of consequential amendments.

60 The amendments made by the Bill will allow me to make regulations so that certain pharmacists and paramedics employed by the GHA and who have undertaken specific training and have acquired certain qualifications will have such prescribing rights as will be set out in the regulations. The regulations in question are the Medicines Prescriptions Only Regulations 1987 and the Drugs Misuse Regulations 2005. The 1987 regulations govern who can prescribe and administer prescriptions-only medicines.

65 Any prescribing or administering of a medicine that is also a controlled drug is governed and regulated by the Drugs Misuse Regulations 2005. These regulations will also require amending. The regulations will provide that for a pharmacist to be given prescribing rights, he or she must be registered as a pharmacist in accordance with the Act, be employed or otherwise working for the GHA, be registered in the UK with the General Pharmaceutical Council and have an annotation against their name in the register signifying that they are qualified to prescribe certain medicines as a pharmacist-independent prescriber. To obtain that annotation against their name, a pharmacist must complete an independent prescriber training programme that is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council.

75 Similarly, for a paramedic to be allowed to prescribe, similar provisions will apply, except that the regulatory body for paramedics in the UK is the Health and Care Professions Council, so they will need an annotation against their name in the register maintained by the Council, which signifies that they are qualified to prescribe certain medicines. The annotation is made following the completion of an approved programme of preparation and training for independent prescribing. Pharmacists and paramedic prescribers will only be allowed to prescribe a medicine from the Gibraltar National Formulary and that is within their clinical competence, scope of practice and level of experience to prescribe.

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In addition, the GHA sets out the scope of practice for each practitioner. The scope is presented at the GHA Drugs and Therapeutics Committee and each individual drug on the scope is approved on or otherwise. The GHA then reflects this scope on the electronic patient record system, adding another safeguarding measure, ensuring that only the drugs approved are able to be prescribed on the system.

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In the UK, pharmacists have been able to prescribe since 2003, following the success of nurse prescribing. Pharmacists were the second group of health professionals to become non-medical prescribers following nurses. Non-medical prescribers are healthcare professionals who are not doctors or dentists, but who, after attaining an advanced qualification in prescribing, are legally permitted to prescribe medicines.

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NMPs are a large and expanding workforce in the UK who play an increasing role in supporting the needs of the NHS. The policy behind allowing pharmacists and paramedics to prescribe is to maximise the contribution that these health professionals can make and recognise and more effectively utilise the skills that these professionals provide to better meet the needs of our community. This work also forms part of the wider programme of reform being taken forward through the PCC Task Force, which I chair, and which is focused on improving access and freeing up GP appointments by making better use of their skills across primary and urgent care.

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With a unique and in-depth understanding of medicines, allowing specially trained pharmacists to prescribe within the GHA will enable us to deliver better clinical care by better utilising workforce skills. It frees up doctors to focus on more complex cases, whilst pharmacists can handle routine prescriptions and follow-ups. It will help to build greater capacity and capability within the GHA and ease pressures in areas such as primary care and emergency services, including out-of-hours services.

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Paramedics are highly skilled practitioners who are already empowered to administer a range of medicines on their own and to provide emergency treatment. They have extensive experience with medicines and patient care, as well as a broad understanding of patient assessment and diagnosis, and provide immediate, timely care in urgent and emergency settings. Paramedic independent prescribing will be typically undertaken in a primary and urgent care setting, but they may also prescribe in the community, such as in a patient's home, allowing people to receive care without unnecessary trips to the hospital or doctors, thereby improving service capacity, efficiency and safety.

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In the UK, paramedics who had undertaken specialised training were given prescribing rights in 2018. Increasing access to prescribing for paramedics has huge potential, potential to improve patient safety by reducing delays in care. This means timelier access to medicines, care closer to home, and an overall better experience for patients.

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Maximising advanced paramedic skills reduces demand for other services as well as reducing costs. Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mrs Ladislaus.

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Hon. J Ladislaus: Madam Speaker, the introduction of the term authorised prescriber in place of medical practitioner serves to more accurately reflect the position in Gibraltar now, where medical professionals who, as the Hon. Minister has stated, have undertaken further training in specific areas are given statutory recognition and therefore protections and clarity within which to prescribe medications. The intended amendments should also result in enhanced accountability and go some way to alleviating the workload of medical practitioners who at times do find themselves in a position where their time may be put to better use, carrying out other responsibilities. For those reasons, we are supportive of these amendments.

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Nevertheless, with that in mind, and on the basis that these amendments are derived from English legislation, and even though I do not think that we should necessarily copy-paste from those Acts, I do query the reasons behind certain specialisms within the proposed amendments

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135 to Section 60, within which I have been unable to find specific mention of podiatrists,
physiotherapists and therapeutic radiographers, all of which are identified within Regulation 214
of the UK's Human Medicine Regulations 2012, seemingly not included in this amendment. They
are, however, limited prescribing rights under those regulations in the UK upon which these
amendments are based, and perhaps the reasons behind the omission of those classes of
professionals is not necessarily clear at this moment in time, and it may well be that no training
has taken place by those professionals, and that is why they have not been included.

140 But perhaps the Hon. Minister could clarify the position in that respect, because in principle
we are supportive of these proposed amendments, but a question could this go further, and are
there perhaps any plans for the scope to be widened to those professionals in future?

145 **Madam Speaker:** Sorry, yes, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Dr K Azopardi: Madam Speaker, before the hon. Lady rises, can I just ask her, we are
supportive of the principle, but I just wanted to ask her a couple of questions if I may, perhaps she
can answer them so that I am clear. So, this extends, we welcome it, as my hon. Colleague has
said, we welcome this because to the extent that it lessens the burden on medical practitioners
and so on, and it has been the case in England for some time. In relation to paramedics though, I
am not sure how this is going to work in practice, so I wonder if the hon. Lady can assist me,
because I am certainly not aware of the English practice, but in terms of paramedics, extending
prescribing powers to paramedics, so the paramedics, as I would have understood, interface with
patients normally, they are called out, there is an emergency, the patient gets transported to the
hospital, they are engaging with a doctor at that stage, so in what circumstances would a
paramedic engage with a patient so as to need to prescribe, given what a paramedic does?
Secondly, my other question was about regulation, so how does the extension of these prescribing
practices to these professions get regulated? So I am making the assumption, for the purposes of
my question, that there are obviously criminal offences if people prescribe and do not have the
relevant expertise, qualifications and so on, and then presumably the professions are regulated
by their own individual regulatory authorities, if you are a doctor you get regulated by the doctor's
regulation, the nurses and midwives would be regulated by their board and so on, but is there
some other form of regulation that there would be in respect of this, or is it that that would be
the case and that assumption is correct and there is no other extra layer of regulation? I am
grateful.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Mr Sacarello.

170 **Hon. C A Sacarello:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon.
Minister as well how risk will be mitigated in the circumstances that pharmacists will be
prescribing. There is often the case where GPs and health professionals admit that someone has
overprescribed the amount of medication over the years, and also a combination of medicines are
important to know, for which the pharmacist will need to know the full medical background of the
patient.

175 Will that be the case, will they have the full medical history of the patient available, or is the
scope for the pharmacist to prescribe much more limited, and therefore the risk mitigated thus?
Thank you.

180 **Madam Speaker:** Any other hon. Member wish to speak? Alright, in that case I call upon the
mover to reply.

Hon. G Arias-Vasquez: Thank you Madam Speaker. I will take each of the questions in turn. In
relation to the hon. Lady's questions, why we are limiting it solely to paramedics and pharmacists,

185 there has been a policy decision, we have taken advice on this, particularly from the division leads of the Primary Care Centre.

We have set up a task force for the Primary Care Centre for the more efficient use of the resources in the Primary Care Centre. In fact, we have been advised that by extending pharmacists and paramedics in this way, there will be more efficiencies that will be made. The roles are already identified and the roles that they will play are already identified within the Primary Care Centre and within the A&E Department, within the ambulance section.

190 The reason that it has not extended further is because the policy decision right now is limited to paramedics and pharmacists, and the roles that they will play with this extension in mind have already been identified and spoken about. In fact, that ties into the Hon. Mr Sacarello's question, because we are limiting it to these professions, or to these specialities, simply in an attempt to safeguard patients, because we are limiting it slowly and surely. In the UK this has been up and running for 10 years, and it has been working very efficiently.

In fact, when it comes to overprescribing, it is often the pharmacists themselves who identify that there may be cases in which patients are overprescribed. The idea is to have a pharmacy looking at prescriptions and, of course, the whole gamut of the patient's history, rather than a limited section of the patient's history, and having the pharmacists have access to the entire patient history in order to be able to identify whether the patient needs all the pharmaceuticals that are identified on their prescription, or it can be limited, or indeed whether it could be improved. So, the idea is specifically to safeguard the patients by limiting it to these roles.

200 And obviously the way that it is being implemented is being discussed, both with the divisional leads in the Primary Care Centre, with the pharmacists, with the GPs, and with the paramedics. To address the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's question, the way that the paramedics in particular will be engaging in the community is when they go to someone's house, for example, there is oftentimes not a need for them to go to the hospital, to go to A&E, but they sometimes go to A&E for medicines to be prescribed. So, the idea is that in certain limited circumstances the paramedics themselves will be able to prescribe certain medications at home, thereby limiting the need for that person to go to hospital.

205 Obviously, this is done in consultation with clinicians, and if further advice is taken, or if there is indeed any risk, the patient is always taken to A&E. But if it is a simple case of prescribing something in order for that patient not to require the journey to A&E, then the paramedic can do so. The information that I am given is that it is often the case that the paramedics are aware of what could be done at home to ameliorate the situation and to prescribe, but they cannot do it because they currently do not have the powers.

In answer to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's questions relating to regulations, of course there are some criminal offences, and they are regulated by their own bodies. So, the General Pharmaceutical Council and the Health and Care Professional Council regulate them, but they do indeed regulate them from a distance. But what has happened and what does happen in Gibraltar, and we have seen that recently, is that if someone is operating outside their ambit, we have seen our own medical registration board coming into play and Public health and the Medical Registration Board taking action against individuals who are practising outside what they are actually allowed to do.

225 So that is the way that they are regulated. That is the way they are currently regulated, and that will just extend to pharmacists and paramedics. And that is indeed the other layer that we are envisaging happening.

230 So yes, there will be regulations that sit under this, which will go into the powers that they have, what they can do, what they cannot do, what they can prescribe and what they cannot prescribe. But the way that on the ground it is regulated, it is through our own Medical Registration Board and Public Health.

235 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Medical and Health Act 1997, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Medical and Health (Amendment) Act 2025.

240 **Hon. G Arias-Vasquez:** Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)
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The Animals (Amendment) Act 2025 – First Reading Approved

250 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Animals Act. The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Animals Act be read a first time.
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Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Animals Act be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Animals (Amendment) Act 2025.
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The Animals (Amendment) Act 2025 – Second Reading approved

265 **Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time. Madam Speaker, the Government works closely with local animal charities and animal loving individuals and continuously reviews developments in other European countries in order to monitor the legislative standards of animal welfare. Upon such a review, we found opportunities to improve our legislation to ensure that we uphold higher standards of animal welfare in keeping with modern values and attitudes to animals and pets.
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The Bill incorporates a well-known international framework known as the Five Freedoms or Five Welfare Needs of Animals. These are the needs for: 1. A suitable environment; 2. A suitable diet; 3. The need to exhibit normal behaviour; 4. The need to be housed with or apart from other animals, however the case should be for that particular animal; and 5. The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
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The Bill places a duty of care on owners of animals to ensure they take all reasonable steps to meet the five welfare needs of their animals to the extent required by good practice.

When a person fails to comply with this duty of care, police officers will be able to enforce the law by serving an improvement notice on animal owners. This notice will explain and specify what steps need to be taken by the animal owner in order to improve the animal's welfare and should identify a time frame for those steps to be taken. Whilst failing to meet the welfare standards is a
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criminal offence, these improvement notices set out a collaborative approach towards the enforcement of animal welfare which we expect will improve the welfare of the animals concerned in the majority of cases without having to resort to the criminal courts.

285 Madam Speaker the theft of pets is unfortunately a reality, especially for pet species which are commercially profitable for sale. These offences are treated currently in the law like the theft of any other piece of property.

This fails to take into account the emotional impact on victims whose pets are stolen. These victims have essentially lost a family member. As a result, the Bill introduces a new offence of theft of pets which applies to cats and dogs with the potential to extend its application in future to other species.

290 The penalty is 12 months' imprisonment on summary conviction and on indictment 5 years imprisonment with a statutory maximum fine. The Bill creates a number of additional offences which brings the Animals Act in line with UK legislation on animal welfare and reflects modern attitudes to the keeping of pets. These include the following.

It would be an offence to dock a dog's tail or allow a dog's tail to be docked whether in Gibraltar or elsewhere. It would be an offence to mutilate any part of a dog, typically dog's ears, or allow this to be done to a dog again whether in Gibraltar or elsewhere. And the use of electronic collars, choke collars or prong collars on cats or dogs shall be prohibited given that these collars are shown to cause pain and discomfort to animals and have no demonstrative benefits to their training.

300 The Bill also improves on the enforcement of offences against animals. New provisions have been introduced to the Animals Act which detail that judges convicting any person of a cruelty offence under the Act can disqualify the offender from keeping animals. This was previously only possible after a second conviction for the offence of cruelty to animals.

305 This disqualification provision is aligned with the equivalent legislation in the UK. In addition, provisions have been included by the Bill to remove pets and animals from people who are convicted of cruelty offences in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed by the relevant court. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, there are cases where animals which have been the subject of cruelty offences may be suffering and putting the animal down may be the kindest thing to do.

310 The Bill provides for a mechanism for such animals to be put down if a veterinary surgeon determines that it is in the interest of the animal to do so. There are also sad cases of animals used to carry out fighting offences which results in such animals becoming a potential danger to public safety and to other animals as they have been trained to fight. While such animals do not necessarily pose a danger and therefore are not necessarily liable to put down, the Bill provides our courts with the power and a discretion to order that an animal should be destroyed if there has been a conviction for a fighting offence. This should deter people from using animals to commit such offences.

315 The Bill also makes provision for equipment used for the carrying out of offences such as for the docking of tails or ears to be forfeited and this will help ensure that offenders are less likely to become repeat offenders. In addition, new provisions will allow a court to cancel any licence held by an offender under any legislation. This sends a message to offenders that if you commit animal cruelty offences you may not be considered a suitable person to hold licences for other purposes. Mistreatment of vulnerable animals reflects on the type of person an offender is and wherever character and suitability are in question, such convictions are highly relevant.

325 Last but certainly not least, Madam Speaker, a new part has been introduced by the Bill into the Animals Act which recognises in law that all vertebrate animals and invertebrates such as crabs, lobsters and octopuses are sentient beings. This statement will be the driver of animal welfare policy in the future. This Bill provides recognition of animal sentience in Gibraltar and will see Ministers required to consider animal welfare implications in their decisions. This brings Gibraltar law in line with the European Union which recognised the sentience of animals in the Lisbon Treaty which amended the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, Gibraltar is a nation of animal lovers. Many Gibraltarians keep
335 pets in loving homes where they are well cared for. This Bill helps to ensure that no animals in
Gibraltar are kept by those who intend to harm them.

It will deter and prevent those who mistreat animals to be able to do so and will replace
animals' ability to feel and perceive as a matter for consideration across all levels of policy making.
Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.

340 **Madam Speaker:** Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the
general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mr Origo.

Hon. G Origo: Madam Speaker, the Bill recognises for the first time in statute that animals are
345 sentient beings. It establishes a clear duty of care for owners to meet their animals' needs and
modernises enforcement powers to ensure that that duty has meaning. These are significant and,
I must say, commendable advances that align Gibraltar's standards with those of progressive
jurisdictions across the world.

The creation of specific offences for taking or detaining dogs and cats acknowledges that our
350 pets are not mere property but companions whose loss causes real emotional harm. Likewise, the
ban on shock collars, choke chains, mutilation and non-medical docking are grounded in sound
veterinary advice and basic compassion. However, I do have some queries on the Bill, which I hope
the Hon. Minister can address in his reply.

355 Firstly, the new duty of care in Section 4A in our view is drafted in very broad terms. It provides
that the duty of care of those responsible for animals should be reasonable in all circumstances.
That flexibility, on the one hand, is welcomed, but without guidance it risks uneven enforcement.

360 So can I ask, does the Hon. Minister intend to, or would he otherwise commit to developing
some form of guidance which would help set out examples of what reasonable in all circumstances
would entail in common scenarios, or at least those referred to within the Act? And secondly,
Madam Speaker, enforcement will require resources, inspectors, shelters, trained personnel. It is
essential that adequate funding and guidance accompanies these new powers.

365 Is the Minister therefore satisfied that adequate resources are currently in place to discharge
the supervisory functions expected of the inspector under this new Section 4A and 4B of the
proposed amendments, which specifically relate to the duties of persons responsible for animals
and the improvement notices issued by those inspectors? Madam Speaker, whilst I have made
some comments and sought some clarifications from the Hon. Minister on the merits and purpose
of the Bill, we, the Members on this side of the House, support the merits and principle of the Bill
and intend to commend this Bill to the House.

370 **Madam Speaker:** Any other hon. Members wish to speak? In that case, I call upon the mover
to reply.

375 **Hon. Prof. J E Cortes:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. Member for the support. I am
very happy to clarify. On the question of guidance, yes, we are preparing, once this Bill is
published, some guidelines, and we are talking with the relevant experts to prepare some
guidelines.

Also, because it is very closely aligned to UK law, the Court will be able to use UK sentencing
guidelines to advise them and to help them in determining whether there should be a conviction
and what sentencing there should be. So that also is covered there.

380 Madam Speaker, yes, enforcement is critical. We will be discussing this with the Royal Gibraltar
Police that have powers, but we will also be engaging with the Environmental Protection Research
Unit and the Environmental Agency in order to step up the enforcement of the Act as a whole, not
just the amendments.

385 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Animals Act be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Animals (Amendment) Act 2025.

390 **Hon. Prof. J E Cortes:** Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)

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The Food Delivery Service Act 2025 – First Reading Approved

400 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to create a framework to establish a licensing authority dedicated to maintaining safety requirements relating to food delivery businesses, including registration of persons engaged in the delivering of food on behalf of a food delivery business, introduction of delivery person permits and company branding on vehicles and for connected purposes.

The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

405 **Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to create a framework to establish a licensing authority dedicated to maintaining safety requirements relating to food delivery businesses, including registration of persons engaged in the delivering of food on behalf of a food delivery business, introduction of delivery person permits and company branding on vehicles and for connected purposes be read a first time.

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415 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to create a framework to establish a licensing authority dedicated to maintaining safety requirements relating to food delivery businesses, including registration of persons engaged in the delivering of food on behalf of a food delivery business, introduction of delivery person permits and company branding on vehicles and for connected purposes be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Food Delivery Service Act 2025.

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The Food Delivery Service Act 2025 – Second Reading Approved

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

425 Madam Speaker, the Bill introduces a framework establishing a licensing authority dedicated to setting up registration of persons engaged in the delivery of food on behalf of food delivery businesses. As part of this, the licensing authority's duties are set out, with the primary focus being the issuing of permits to those seeking to operate in this sector of work.

430 The introduction of this Act will see the regulation of a sector that has seen substantial growth over the last few years. The Government is of the view that it is now the right time to introduce

435 legislation that will ensure this growth is met with appropriate standards both in the manner in which the sector operates as well as how our roads are used to execute the many orders that have led to this growth. As part of this exercise, businesses that will be expected to comply with the Act, as well as any subsidiary legislation that will flow from it, have already been consulted and made aware of what is to come and have embraced this change wholeheartedly.

440 In fact, Madam Speaker, many of them are already implementing the requirements of the law even before it has become law. The information drives from the Department of Transport has already seen them adapting to this regime. The Act provides for subsidiary legislation to be introduced and this will go into the requirements that are to be set along with penalties that are to flow from non-compliance.

The Act contains a requirement that any regulations made under it will need to be laid before Parliament. Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.

445 **Madam Speaker:** Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mr Origo.

450 **Hon. G Origo:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, firstly I would like to say that we welcome the Food Delivery Service Bill 2025 being tabled before us. In principle, it represents a constructive step to bringing greater regulation, accountability and safety in a public area of life which has been growing rapidly but in which the regulatory space has lagged quite far behind.

455 The Bill before us seeks to create a Food Delivery Licensing Authority to issue delivery person permits and requires company branding on vehicles and also makes it possible for the enforcement of conditions, training and record keeping. Madam Speaker, we are all too familiar with instances where delivery drivers, particularly cyclists, are always under pressure to meet tight delivery deadlines. They end up running red lights, they ride the wrong way along a one-way street, weave dangerously in and out of traffic.

460 This is not only a matter of enforcement, but it is also an issue of identification, oversight and training. Without the requirement for permits or registration, these delivery drivers have effectively been operating in a semi-unregulated space. They are often anonymous and difficult to track.

But that said, we need to ensure that these permits are easily obtainable and affordable. Some delivery businesses operate on slim margins. The permit fee should be fair and not overly burdensome, especially in our view for small operators.

465 So, can I ask, does the Minister have in mind the proposed fees to be incurred in order to obtain these permits under the new provisions proposed under this Bill? Because Madam Speaker, I noted that in closing that this is not a cure-all piece of legislation, but it is a much-needed step in the right direction. In our view, with strong regulations, fair implementation and proper enforcement, we could see a real improvement in the safety of our roads insofar as food delivery driver services are concerned.

470 So, Madam Speaker, whilst I have posed a clarification to the Hon. Minister with respect to the prescribed fees, I would like to indicate to him that the Members from this side of the House, we intend to support the merits and principles of the Bill and will be commending this Bill to the House.

475 **Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Mr Bossino.

480 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Yes, I just thought that this would flow nicely from what my learned and hon. Friend Mr Origo has just mentioned at the tail end of his contribution. Given also that, it seems that a lot of the meat of this Bill is going to be really set out in the subsidiary legislation by way of regulation and it deals with the issue of fees and licensing and things of that nature and permits issuing. My question is very simple.

Is the Hon. Minister in a position to state when he expects those regulations are going to be published? Because I am sure that is going to be extremely helpful to Members who apply this trade. And I must say that I do welcome that the regulations once published need to be laid before this House at the next available meeting.

Madam Speaker: Any other hon. Member wish to speak? I call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I am grateful to both hon. Members for their support. I am happy to clarify. Yes indeed, a lot of work has gone into this.

There have been meetings with different stakeholders who have expressed the need for this and obviously we have come up with this. So, we have the regulations in a very advanced form, and I think that they should be published. There is a lot of pressure now, as we are well aware, in relation to the Treaty on Legislation that might lead to a slight delay.

But we should have the ability to publish this, I would say, within the next few weeks, three to four weeks at most, provided we have the legislative time to do it in view of all the other things that are happening.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to create a framework to establish a licensing authority dedicated to maintaining safety requirements relating to food delivery businesses, including registration of persons engaged in the delivering of food on behalf of a food delivery business, introduction of delivery person permits and company branding on vehicles and for connected purposes, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Food Delivery Service Act 2025.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today? (**Members:** Aye.)

**The Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026 –
First Reading Approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Traffic Act 2005 and the Transport Act 1998.
The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Traffic Act 2005 and the Transport Act 1998 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Traffic Act 2005 and the Transport Act 1998 be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2025.

**The Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Second Reading Approved**

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill for an Act to amend the Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2025 be read a second time. Madam Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to build on the introduction of registered keepers of vehicles, which was done previously in the Traffic Licensing and Registration Regulations. These changes have been designed to help the enforcement of our traffic laws and ensure that our systems target the appropriate individuals should any legal requirement concerning a vehicle not be complied with.

Simply put, Madam Speaker, these changes impose a requirement on lenders to register a registered keeper of the logbook of a vehicle which has been purchased through the use of a lending scheme. Should they not do this, they will be liable, as the owners of the vehicle, for a breach under this legislation. Should a lender meet their new registration requirements, they will continue to enjoy the exclusion of liability that is currently offered under the Traffic Act.

The remaining changes pass on the liability of an Act of omission under the Traffic Act and the Transport Act to the registered keeper of the vehicle where they have been entered onto a logbook. To provide a few more details, Madam Speaker, any vehicle purchased on finance remains in the name of the lender until the finance agreement is settled. The Traffic Act acknowledges this in Section 13 by providing an exemption for lenders from any liability for any Act of omission contrary to the provisions of the Act.

Our amendments place the owners on these lenders to submit the relevant paperwork to the DVLD to have the keeper of the vehicle registered on our systems and in the vehicle's logbook. If they fail to do so, the exemption no longer applies, and they will be liable for the previously mentioned Acts and omissions. The intention is for lenders to complete the paperwork so that the purchaser of the vehicle is clearly identified and assumed responsibility for it as the registered keeper.

These changes have been carried out in consultation with the relevant departments that will administer the regime and its enforcement. The lenders themselves have also had the opportunity to provide input to ensure that everyone is on the same page when it comes to understanding their responsibilities. Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mr Origo.

Hon. G Origo: Madam Speaker, thank you. This Bill provides for, in my mind, certain housekeeping changes to reflect that registered keepers, that is those persons who are registered on the certificate of registration of a vehicle, to be subject to the provisions of the Traffic Act. Therefore, we see no issues with these housekeeping changes.

Looking at the amendments that the Bill has on the Transport Act 1999, the amendments here also include housekeeping measures to reflect that these registered keepers of vehicles are also subject to the relevant provisions of the Transport Act. In short, references to registered owner throughout the Act shall be also taken to include references to registered keeper of a motor vehicle. Therefore, Madam Speaker, given the proposed changes that this Bill is conferring on the Act in question, the Members on this side of the House will support the merits and principles of the Bill and commend it to the House.

Madam Speaker: Would any other hon. Member like to speak? No? In that case, I call upon the mover to reply.

580 **Hon. Prof. J E Cortes:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the hon. Member's support and for the Opposition's support. I think this will help the enforcement of our traffic laws and I think will be welcomed by the courts as well as by the public. So, I have nothing further to add.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Traffic Act 2005 and the Transport Act 1998 be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026.

590 **Hon. Prof. J E Cortes:** Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today? (**Members:** Aye.)

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The Gambling Act 2025 – First Reading Approved

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and to make new provision for the licensing, regulation and supervision of gambling, and for connected purposes.

600 The Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.

Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and to make new provision for the licensing, regulation and supervision of gambling, and for connected purposes be read a first time.

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Madam Speaker: I now put the question which is that a Bill for an Act to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and to make new provision for the licensing, regulation and supervision of gambling, and for connected purposes be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

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Clerk: The Gambling Act 2025.

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The Gambling Act 2025 – Second Reading Approved

Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Madam Speaker, this Bill must be one of the most carefully and expertly considered and consulted upon Bills in the legislative history of this House, not least because as I acknowledged in my address to UK Parliamentarians in October last year, it was drafted under the careful and experienced pen of Sir Peter Caruana KC. Madam Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the constructive engagement of the hon. Members opposite, particularly the Hon. Mr Clinton, with whom I have discussed the Bill and shared the various proposed amendments that I will be bringing forward at Committee stage.

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The Gambling Bill has its roots in the 2016 report, A Vision for Continuing Success, which was a review of the gambling legislative, licensing and regulatory regime and related issues. The

authors of that report were Sir Peter Caruana, Peter Montegriffo, Peter Isola and Peter Hewitt. Three of those Peters, together with my predecessor Albert Isola, have continued to act as policy advisors on the development of this Bill.

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There have been delays. 2016 was the year of the Brexit vote, followed by a long transitional period which eventually saw the migration of EU gambling business away from Gibraltar. 2019 was the start of the MONEYVAL FATF process which is well documented.

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2020 saw the start of a Covid-19 pandemic and during this period the global online gambling landscape has changed significantly. Further still, last year we were involved in lobbying the UK Government in respect of the then proposed gaming tax increases, now law. Alongside this, we have seen the development of cloud IT infrastructure providers, a challenge for our own local providers, a shift towards gambling companies adopting a multi-jurisdictional approach, and many more jurisdictions moving away from a restricted or monopoly model to one where local licences have been offered to commercial gambling companies on an open market and non-discriminatory basis. An Act is needed that brings into scope any business where substantive management or control of their operation in or from within Gibraltar is present rather than over-reliance on the location of technology.

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Furthermore, the nature of the industry B2B supply chain has changed. No longer are there a limited number of games or platform providers, but a plethora of competing multi-jurisdictional suppliers harnessing, accelerating technological developments and providing plug-in innovative solutions. Some of these B2B suppliers have chosen Gibraltar as their primary base.

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The marketing of gambling services has also developed, not least in the area of social media promotion. Player acquisition and retention are the lifeblood of the industry, but marketing gambling products and customer relationship management is controversial and has the capacity, if unchecked and unregulated, to damage the reputation of the industry and the wider regulatory regime.

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Gibraltar is a centre of excellence for gambling marketing and some of that activity currently sits outside the scope of regulation and needs to be brought within regulatory control. Using gross gambling yield as a proxy, the Gibraltar gambling sector is over 75% UK facing. Whilst not slavishly following regulatory developments in the UK, note needs to be taken of certain developments and adjustments made accordingly. All this has to be managed by the Gambling Commissioner and his staff in collaboration with the industry and its advisors, under legislation and a wider regulatory framework that has proved to be remarkably flexible and robust, but is now stretched to a point where modernisation, already recommended in the original report, is long overdue.

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In economic terms, the gambling sector provides a significant element of our GDP and despite the documented headwinds, the sector has remained resilient in terms of employee numbers, an increasing number of B2C and B2B licences, licence fees and gambling duty. There have been pressures on CIT yield as operators are compelled to move in the direction of jurisdictional diversification and there has been pressure on the point of supply model. The recently announced UK gambling tax changes have brought further pressure to bear on the sector.

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The current licensing and regulatory regime for gambling activities enacted in the Gambling Act 2005, combined with Government policies, has successfully achieved Gibraltar's macroeconomic objectives, sustainable, growing and reputably conducted economic activity and Gibraltar's regulatory objectives, the protection of Gibraltar's reputation and the protection of consumer interests, in respect of online gambling activities. The industry and its regulation in Gibraltar have achieved internationally recognised success. We want that to continue in an ever-changing environment.

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Now is the time for an enhanced and more flexible regulatory regime that has at its base a clear set of regulatory objectives. These are the preservation of confidence in gambling markets, the promotion of gambling that is fair, responsible and safe for consumers, preventing gambling being a source of crime, being associated with crime or being used to support or proliferate financial crime, the promotion and protection of the public interest of Gibraltar, including but not limited to its reputation and macroeconomic interests.

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680 The Bill has the following key features. It provides interpretation of key industry and product
definitions. It defines the role, responsibilities and powers of the Gambling Commissioner, his staff
and the Minister acting as licensing authority. It defines the scope of regulated and exempt
685 gambling activities, bringing into scope a wider cohort of B2B supply chain, including marketing
services, about which I will say something further. It sets out the provisions and conditions for
licensing and licensing types and the need for substantive presence amongst a wider set of
threshold conditions. It provides for a framework for the regulation of key individuals and
postholders. It codifies the regime for the control of regulated entities and individuals and
reporting and approval requirements. It provides for information and evidence gathering powers.
690 It provides for a greater range of enforcement and sanctioning powers, with this being balanced
by the establishment of a Gambling Appeals Tribunal. It sets out a clear administrative framework
for the supervision of the industry but provides the flexibility for the Minister to meet new
regulatory challenges through regulation, for example, to bring a new type of gambling offering
within scope, and for the Gambling Commission, after consultation, to issue relevant codes of
practice, for example, a social responsibility code.

695 An amendment to the Bill in respect of the power to impose gambling duties has been drafted
in order to remediate an inadvertent omission in the Bill. This degree of regulatory flexibility in
excluding or bringing into scope the increasing number of gambling derivative models ensures
regulation does not drive away inward investment, whilst at the same time being able to deal with
a rising consumer protection. This was the reason for one of the amendments to the Bill, at
700 Committee Stage, which takes free prize draws, for example, houses or cars, outside the scope of
gambling, a position which is consistent with UK law. This allows prize draw companies to consider
Gibraltar as a jurisdiction for inward investment.

Nevertheless, the ability remains to build different models into scope where this is deemed
necessary. To be clear, the powers granted to the Gambling Commissioner as sectoral supervisor
705 for anti-money laundering and terrorist financing remains unchanged by the Bill, as these powers
are derived from the proceeds of crime and are dealt with under that regime. One of the practical
weaknesses of the current Act is that it only allows for the nuclear option of licence suspension or
revocation for breaches, whereas the new Bill sets out a range of proportionate sanctions and
allows the Gambling Commissioner to deploy a more structured and statutory approach to
710 regulatory investigations and enquiries.

However, the new Act will not change the business-supportive culture of Gibraltar. If you are
prepared to be a good corporate citizen, paying your taxes, protecting consumers and guarding
against the facilitation of financial crime, then there is a welcome for you in our jurisdiction. We
are open for business and will continue to be innovative.

715 I am also able to inform the House that the Bill has gone through an extensive formal and
informal consultation process with key stakeholders. The Bill very much follows the drafting and
structural style of our Financial Services and Fair-Trading Act, which will hopefully align the
regulatory approach of our key supervisory agencies. There is collective industry support for the
implementation of the new Gambling Act, and the Gambling Commissioner will be structured and
720 supportive of the industry in how the underlying regulatory framework will be introduced during
the transition period.

In this respect, I am very grateful to the Gibraltar Betting and Gaming Association and the GBGA
Secretary General, Nicholas Macias, for their constructive engagement and support throughout.
In conclusion, this Bill provides a flexible framework for the regulation of gambling in Gibraltar. Its
725 enabling powers allow for future proofing as the space of technological and innovation change
quickens.

However, the passing of this Bill is only the first stage. Whilst the new framework is now
broadly understood by the industry and its advisors, the main nature of enquiries are now centred
on transition and implementation. Work has already gone into thinking about the new regime,
730 and a digitalisation project has commenced which is intended to improve the effectiveness of the
interface with the industry. For example, allowing in time for licensees to apply online. The

Gambling Commissioner and his staff now have a lot of heavy lifting to do to enable the transition process.

735 What will not change is Gibraltar's support for an important sector of the economy and a pragmatic approach to regulation. There is very much a focus on sustainability and controlled growth of the industry in Gibraltar against a challenging and ever-changing landscape. Madam Speaker, I have only addressed this House on the recent changes to UK gaming and betting duty, and I do not intend to restate those matters today. However, I do wish to update the House on the work that has been undertaken since those changes were announced before Christmas as part of our wider diversification drive.

740 In this respect, we have accelerated the work that was already well underway to attract new business to Gibraltar. In January this year, I attended the ICE Conference in Barcelona, the largest gaming conference in the world, where I met with potential investors. I am pleased to report that I expect a licence application will shortly be submitted to the Gambling Commissioner.

745 Separately, I recently attended Consensus in Hong Kong, the leading digital asset conference in Asia, where we were again approached on behalf of potential investors interested in the sector. We are now working closely with those parties with a view to licensing in Gibraltar shortly. Madam Speaker, we are working intensely and at pace to bridge, as far as possible, the gap created by the recent UK tax decision.

750 Whilst the corporate tax revenues because of the UK tax changes cannot be fully restored by the end of this year, through new entrants alone, the ongoing growth of the sector will create important future revenue streams. Finally, Madam Speaker, I wish to place on record my gratitude to the Gambling Commissioner and his staff, to the staff at my Ministry, particularly as I have extended the ambit of the Gibraltar Finance Centre, now run exclusively by Civil Servants, to include gambling alongside financial services, thereby providing them with valuable professional exposure and experience in this important area of our economy. To my constituency staff, who ensure that I have been supported even during the difficult period leading up to the UK budget changes, and to the public servant colleagues across the Ministry who have joined me regularly at important and at times difficult meetings over many months, including engagements with UK Treasury. I have sought to promote inclusivity and invested much ministerial time to ensure the development of skills and experience across all levels of the Ministry within the civil service complement, whether in relation to MONEYVAL matters, taxation, gambling, financial services or advancing AI initiatives, we have focused on nurturing and developing a strong pool of talent through a multidisciplinary approach. This is separate and in addition to the work we have done through the Ministry to support and build up resources and, where necessary, expertise within the Tax Office. I commend this Bill to the House.

770 **Madam Speaker:** Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mr Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for having reached out to the Opposition and allowed us to contribute our tuppence worth to the process of arriving at a refined Bill that ticked all the boxes. This Bill has been a long time in the coming, Madam Speaker, and I guess great things take time. The first consultation paper, I believe, went out in 2022 and in respect of, I actually asked question, written question 775 141 of 2025, there were 11 formal written responses to the 22 consultation questions. Extensive consultation has taken place throughout the drafting process, including industry stakeholders, advisers and legal representatives. The final legislation reflects not only developments informed by the written 22 consultation responses, but the broader, ongoing and detailed consultative process that has underpinned the development of this Bill. Of course, Madam Speaker the old Bill is now well over 20 years old, and it is welcomed that we seek to modernise it.

780 As I have said publicly, when it comes to financial services or gaming, there really is no political divide to be found in this House. It is something I think both sides recognise as being important to

785 our economy and important to the public finances of Gibraltar. Anything that this House can do that modernises legislation in respect of this particular sector, which, as the Minister said, is a very important sector to Gibraltar, has to be welcomed.

790 As the world seems to be changing faster and faster, year by year, and we may find ourselves being told that the legislation we are passing today is already looking redundant tomorrow, we obviously have to be alive to the regulatory changes that may be necessary. The industry has the ear of the Minister, and if there are any tweaks or amendments that are needed to this legislation, I am sure these will be taken on board and taken into account. If necessary, I am sure he will come to the House with any necessary amendments.

795 I also want to record my thanks to the Gibraltar Betting and Gaming Association, particularly Nicholas Macias and his predecessor, who very kindly briefed the Opposition. And also, in fact, one of the Four P's, Peter Montegriffo, kindly gave me a briefing as well as to the developments of the famous Four P's paper and its thinking. I think, Madam Speaker, I can say that this sort of legislation is something that will be welcomed by the industry, subject to tweaks of course, and I have no hesitation from this House to offer the Minister our full support.

800 Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Is there another hon. Member who wishes to speak? No? In that case, I call upon the mover to reply.

805 **Hon. N Feetham:** I am grateful to the hon. Member for the Opposition's support.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and to make new provision for the licensing, regulation and supervision of gambling, and for connected purposes be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

810 **Clerk:** The Gambling Act 2025.

Hon. N Feetham: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

815 **Madam Speaker:** Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today? (**Members:** Aye.)

820 **The Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2026 –
First Reading Approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to make provision about the types of things that are not prevented from being objects of personal property rights.

825 The Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.

Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham): I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to make provision about the types of things that are not prevented from being objects of personal property rights be read a first time.

830 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to make provision about the types of things that are not prevented from being objects of personal property rights be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2026.

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**The Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2026 –
Second Reading Approved**

Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham): Madam Speaker, I have the honour
840 to move that the Bill for an Act to make provision about the types of things that are not prevented
from being objects of personal property rights be read a second time.

The Bill is based on the United Kingdom's Bill of the same name, and its purpose is to clarify
that certain digital assets, such as crypto-tokens, can be recognised as property even though they
do not fit into the two traditional categories of personal property recognised by the law – things
845 in possession and things in action. Digital assets are increasingly important to society and the
economy and are used in growing volumes and for an expanding variety of purposes, including as
valuable things in themselves, as a means of payment, or to represent or be linked to other things
or rights.

The term digital assets is very broad and captures a wide range of things, including digital files,
850 digital records, domain names, crypto-currency and non-fungible tokens. The technology used to
create or manifest those digital assets is not the same, nor are the characteristics or features of
those digital assets. In response to the uncertainty caused by the difficulty of fitting digital assets
into either category of personal property, and indeed whether or not it could be classified as
personal property, the UK Ministry of Justice asked the Law Commission in 2020 to consider this
855 issue.

The Law Commission reviewed the current law and concluded that certain types of digital
assets are things to which property rights relate. The Law Commission undertook extensive
consultation and determined that crypto-tokens and potentially other types of digital assets had
the characteristics of property and recommended legislation to confirm that such assets would
860 attract property rights, despite not falling within the traditionally recognised categories of
personal property. Following the consultation, the Law Commission published a draft Bill which
later became an Act in the UK on 2 December 2025.

The Bill deliberately does not state what digital assets fall within any further category of
personal property or how the law would treat them. Instead, the intention is for these details to
865 be developed by the courts, which in this case is preferable to having full rules in place which
would be less able to respond flexibly to new circumstances and technological developments.
Personal property law has always been developed by the courts through our common law rather
than legislation.

Some of the advantages of the Bill include ensuring that certain digital assets can be properly
870 recognised by the law as personal property. This helps with certainty and protection for people
and businesses who own and transact with such assets. It removes the need to decide whether
something can be property even if it does not fall into the traditional categories of personal
property.

It also ensures that Gibraltar continues to be an attractive place to deal with digital assets. I
875 have consulted with the judiciary as well as the FSC and the industry on this Bill. Madam Speaker,
this will not be the last Bill we hope to bring to this House to support the digital asset sector.

I would like to acknowledge the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who last year raised a question
in this House about legislation of this nature. At the meeting, I assured Members that we were
considering this. In tandem with this Bill, we have been progressing other legislation to ensure
880 Gibraltar remains at the forefront of innovation in this sector.

Recently, I attended the Consensus Conference in Hong Kong, the leading global gathering for
the digital asset industry, where it was clear that jurisdictions that succeed are those with forward-
looking legislation combined with a regulatory approach that actively supervises and supports

885 market participants. By staying at the cutting edge of legal frameworks and a responsive regulatory approach, Gibraltar can continue to evolve with the needs of this fast-moving sector. If we fail to do so, we risk falling behind and missing the opportunity to secure our position as a market leader in digital assets.

890 Madam Speaker, we have been clear about the need to broaden our economic base and reducing our dependency on the UK market. Over 18 months, we have engaged with industry stakeholders and regulators underpinning the Government's policy that we should pursue opportunities with renewed pace and clarity of purpose, a strategy we set out from the start, one that positions Gibraltar to demonstrate agility, competitiveness and confidence in our future. Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.

895 **Madam Speaker:** Does any hon. Member wish to speak on the merits and principles of the Bill?
The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Dr K Azopardi: Madam Speaker we welcome this Bill. This is a case of statutes playing catch-up with the common law. There was, between the setting up of a Law Commission in England and its recommendations, and the publication of the legislation that was then considered by the UK Parliament and was only passed in December last year, there have been a series of cases in the English courts that I have recognised now.

900 They have been applied here in Gibraltar. I have had occasion in my professional practice to rely on English authority that recognises that digital assets are property. This is a case of statute playing that catch-up with the evolving common law in this area, but a very welcome catch-up.

905 We support the Bill for that reason. As the hon. Minister has acknowledged, I raised in this House a question last February 2025 when the legislation had been published in Bill form and was being considered by the House of Commons as to whether the Government were disposed to look at it, and the Minister confirmed that he was considering it together with the assistance of a committee.

910 This legislation is in the exact same form as the English legislation. It is very succinct, but it does confirm what English common law cases have already recognised and so have Gibraltar common law cases recognised that digital assets are indeed property. We share on this side of the House the expression and aspiration of the Hon. Minister that we need to be at the cutting edge in Gibraltar in this particular area, not dissimilar to the developments that my hon. Friend Mr. Clinton has already said in relation to financial services and gaming. In respect of this evolving industry, and evolving because it is fast-moving, we also need to be at the cutting edge.

915 We share the view that Gibraltar has always been able to secure a niche where it has been mobile and adaptable in terms of legislation that has been innovative and provided regulation, but also a framework for the development of a competitive industry. We do so by being agile, and we do so by introducing measures like this, and we certainly welcome the Minister's statement that other legislation is being considered. We would be happy to be consulted privately on such legislation because, as I say, I think we have a common view that it is important for us to secure as much business for Gibraltar as possible, and that we do so in this particular area, working together with the industry, and ensuring that we are able to garner that industry opportunities for Gibraltar. So, we welcome the Bill, and we will support it.

920 **Madam Speaker:** Any other hon. Member wish to speak? In that case, I call upon the mover to reply.

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Hon. N Feetham: Madam Speaker, we are grateful for the support of the hon. Members opposite. We have no difficulty in engaging with Members opposite in terms of future Bills which are being drafted.

935 They are at a very advanced stage, but we have not yet gone to external consultation. So, certainly, I will be reaching out to the hon. Members in due course.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to make provision about the types of things that are not prevented from being objects of personal property rights be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

940 **Clerk:** The Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2026.

Hon. N Feetham: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

945 **Madam Speaker:** Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today? (**Members:** Aye.)

**The Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Act 2025–
First Reading Approved**

950 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2010.
The Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.

955 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Madam Speaker, if I may, a Point of Order. Do you have confirmation that the Chief Minister has given his permission for the Bill, being seen as the Finance Minister, and it is a finance Bill?

960 **Madam Speaker:** I would have to check, because I get letters and I do not have it before me right now, so I am not going to say yes or no.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Madam Speaker, I believe I have, but if the hon. Gentleman would take it from me that if I have not, I will do so in writing, but I am doing so now, because I have certainly given the Minister the consent to do that.

965 **Madam Speaker:** Yes, thank you.

Hon. N Feetham: Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2010 be read a first time.

970 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2010 be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Act 2025.

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**The Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Act 2025–
Second Reading Approved**

980 **Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time. Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present to this House the Income Tax (Amendment No. 2) Act 2025.

Madam Speaker, this Bill amends paragraph 14 of Chapter 4 to Schedule 7 to the Income Tax Act, 2010, to reflect the announcement made in the 2024 Budget relating to the tax exemption

985 on the provision of accommodation to specific employees. These amendments have been
introduced in direct response to representations from industry stakeholders who highlighted that
the existing framework had become outdated and no longer reflected the realities of a modern
employment landscape. Updating and modernising the framework is essential to ensure it
remains practical.

990 The revised measures are designed to strengthen Gibraltar's position as a competitive
jurisdiction, equipping local employers with an effective tool to attract and retain highly skilled
professionals. By aligning the framework with contemporary business needs, it will enhance
Gibraltar's ability to compete globally for talent, ultimately supporting economic growth and long-
term prosperity.

995 Madam Speaker, the amendments to clauses 1 to 3 are based on the existing provisions and
are intended to enhance clarity and provide greater certainty in respect to the treatment of living
accommodation benefits. Specifically, they establish more precise parameters to determine which
forms of accommodation benefits fall outside the scope of the charge to taxation. The policy
imperative underpinning these amendments is that the availability of such benefits is directly
linked to the purpose of relocating to and residing in Gibraltar, namely the performance of
1000 employment duties within Gibraltar. It is important to emphasise, however, that this benefit is
strictly limited to accommodation located within Gibraltar itself and does not extend to residences
situated in Spain.

Furthermore, the amendments emphasise that access to these exemptions will be conditional
upon adherence to a new prescribed application process, one which standardises the approach
1005 and reinforces both transparency and accountability in applications. Clause 4 introduces an
important element of flexibility by permitting the continuation of the benefit even where an
employee changes their place of residence or employment after having relocated to Gibraltar.
Under the previous framework, such changes resulted in automatic loss of the exemption,
creating unnecessary rigidity and, in practice, discouraging mobility within the local labour market.

1010 The revised provision seeks to address these practical challenges by recognising that
employees who relocate to Gibraltar may need to change accommodation or employers in the
ordinary course of their professional or personal lives. By allowing the benefit to endure in these
circumstances, the amendments are designed to provide greater certainty and stability for
employees who have committed to living and working in Gibraltar. There will be a grandfathering
1015 process whereby employees who relocated to Gibraltar prior to the introduction of these changes
will remain under the old rules, provided the previous requirements continue to be met.

However, if they subsequently change their address or employer, their benefit will be limited
in line with the new rules. This grandfathering process will be detailed in guidance notes to be
issued by the Commissioner of Income Tax.

1020 Madam Speaker, Clause 5 establishes clear parameters for determining those employees
within the scope of Chapter 4 in relation to living accommodation benefits. In particular, the
provision ensures that eligibility is restricted to individuals whose skills are either not readily
available within Gibraltar's existing labour market or whose expertise is considered vital to the
economic development and growth of Gibraltar. The intention here is to ensure that this
1025 framework is not applied indiscriminately but rather in a targeted manner that directly supports
Gibraltar's strategic and economic needs. The assessment of whether an employee meets these
criteria will rest with the Commissioner, thereby introducing an element of oversight and ensuring
that the application of these benefits remain both proportionate and aligned with HM
Government of Gibraltar's long-term economic objectives.

1030 Madam Speaker, Clause 6 addresses the important issue of the duration of the exemption. As
I have highlighted in my Budget Address of 2024, a reassessment of the existing framework
revealed that the period originally allowed was disproportionately long in the context of
relocation incentives. Forming detailed consultation and engagement with industry stakeholders,
we collectively landed on a four-year period.

1035 Accordingly, the exemption will now apply for a maximum of four years, commencing from the
date on which the employee begins their employment in Gibraltar. The amendments reflect a
considered and evidence-based approach. The four-year time frame strikes the right balance and
is consistent with the average duration of stay for employees in sectors most affected, sectors in
1040 which assignments and placements typically do not extend beyond three to four years from the
date of arrival.

It therefore provides sufficient time to achieve the policy objectives of supporting relocation
while avoiding any perception of over-generosity. Finally, Clause 6 makes clear that the exemption
may only be claimed once by any individual employee. This clarification is intended to prevent
repeated or cyclical use of the measure and ensures that its application remains focused and
1045 proportionate and fair.

Clause 7 imposes a specific obligation on all employers to ensure that payroll reporting
requirements are fully complied with in relation to living accommodation benefits. Employers will
be required to include the relevant information within their annual return of benefits. This
amendment is intended to remove any ambiguity and to reinforce the principle that accurate and
1050 transparent reporting is a fundamental responsibility of all employers. By establishing this
requirement, the provisions aim to strengthen oversight, improve compliance and provide the
Commissioner with a clearer and more consistent wider picture of the application of these
benefits across industry sectors.

Finally, most importantly, Clause 8 stipulates that a failure to comply with the reporting
1055 obligations laid out in Clause 7 will attract a penalty, thereby ensuring that employers take their
obligations seriously and that there are tangible consequences where proper reporting is not
observed. I commend this Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the
1060 general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mr Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am grateful to the Minister in his explanation
of this amendment to the Income Tax Act. I will start by wrapping the Minister's knuckles a bit.
We have been very convivial this morning, but I have to point out to him that this was a measure
1065 he announced in his maiden Budget speech in 2024. The Bill was published on 19 June 2025 and
yet we are debating it today, on 18 March 2026.

This does nothing for legal certainty. As I have said before on numerous occasions, I am not
going to labour it, when a Minister stands up and makes some kind of pronouncement in a Budget
speech it really has to be followed up with legislation as soon as possible. I do not think this is
1070 really as soon as possible and, as I have said before, this could all be avoided if we had a Finance
Bill at the time of the Budget, but as I said I am not going to go into that all over again. Having
heard what the Minister has said about what he intended to do in this Bill and having re-read his
Budget speech from July 2024, there are a couple of things that come to mind and I would like the
Minister to provide some clarification because from this side of the House we are minded to
1075 support this, but we would like some clarification on certain areas.

The first point I would like to make to the Minister is that I believe he used the word we will be
amending paragraph 13, whereas if you read the Bill, it actually substitutes in its entirety
paragraph 13. That has one effect, and I would be grateful if the Minister could provide some
clarity to the House on this. Under the old paragraph 13(3) of the Income Tax Act 2010, there was
1080 a section that read, but if the accommodation is provided by a company and the employee, E in
inverted commas, is a director of the company or an associate of the company, the exception in
paragraph 1 or 2 only applies if, in the case of each company for which E is a director, A, he has no
material interest in the company, then B, is in full-time employment or the company is a non-
profit making. That seems to have disappeared from the proposed amendment to the Income Tax
1085 Act.

As I say, the amendment proposed is not an amendment to paragraph 13 but a substitution of the entire paragraph and I would be grateful for the Minister's comments as to whether that is an intended effect, i.e. to remove the avoidance provision in respect of directors who own a company who might employ themselves and wish to take the benefit of this kind of provision. The fact that
1090 there was a clause 13(3) there as it stands today, there must have been a concern by the Commissioner of Income Tax at the time as to whether this might be abused by owner-directors of companies.

And the second point I wanted to ask the Minister about is about the grandfathering. He mentioned that the grandfathering will be there under the old rules. Indeed, in his budget address
1095 he did say that, and I quote:

as with any regime change we must endeavour to avoid inadvertent consequences. For this reason, transitional rules will need to be introduced to ensure fair treatment for those individuals who are currently enjoying the benefit.

I mentioned grandfathering but I do not see anything in this Bill that specifically provides a grandfathering clause and I would be grateful if the Minister could indicate how he intends legislation to operate in the absence of a grandfathering clause or is this something that will be at the discretion of the Commissioner of Income Tax and if so I would be grateful under what power
1100 he would exercise that discretion.

But other than that, the Bill is quite a simple Bill. It relates to benefits in kind application in terms of residential property for employees moving to Gibraltar and I welcome what the Minister has said in terms of providing flexibility where employees may change employer or may change accommodation and to retain some flexibility for those employees and I think that probably is a
1105 common sense move and obviously it is driven by industry request. As I say, Madam Speaker, we are minded to support it but I would be grateful for some clarification from the Minister. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any other hon. Member wish to speak? In that case I call upon the mover to
1115 reply.

Hon. N Feetham: I am grateful to the hon. Member. We have brought the Bill at the first available opportunity. We have tried our best to do so. We know that the Parliamentary timetable, Madam Speaker, did not make it possible for us to bring the Bill before today. That is in relation
1120 to the hon. Member's first comment.

In relation to the hon. Member's second comment around there being an existing anti-avoidance provision in the existing legislation and why there is not a specific anti-avoidance provision in the amended legislation, the reason for that I believe, Madam Speaker, is that we brought a very comprehensive anti-avoidance Bill, hon. Members may recall, that we brought a
1125 very comprehensive anti-avoidance Bill, anti-avoidance legislation that would have picked up any concerns broadly and generally as to the applicability of any tax provisions and I think those provisions deal robustly with any attempted anti-avoidance in relation to this Bill or anything else that amends the existing income tax legislation. In terms of the hon. Member's third comment on the grandfathering, when I have discussed this with the Commissioner of Income Tax, he assures
1130 me that the applicable legislation allows him to preserve whatever tax benefits have been accrued in terms of existing approval. That is the response that I have.

I do not have any other immediate response, but I am very happy to go back to the Commissioner of Income Tax and ensure that this specific question is addressed and I will reach out to the hon. Member and confirm it to him.
1135

Madam Speaker: All right, before we proceed, thanks to our very efficient back-office staff, I have confirmation that the Public Finance Minister's consent was received in writing in Parliament

1140 in relation to this Bill on the 18th of December 2024. I now put the question which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax 2010 be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Act 2025.

1145 **Hon. N Feetham:** Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today? (**Members:** Aye.)

1150

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

Clerk: Committee Stage and third reading, the Hon. Chief Minister.

1155 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the House should resolve itself into Committee to consider the following Bills clause by clause. The Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Bill 2025. The Gambling Bill 2025. The Property (Digital Assets etc) Bill 2026. The Medical and Health (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Animals (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Food Delivery Service Bill 2025 and the Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026.

1160 Is that one done? Yes.

In Committee of the whole House

The Medical and Health (Amendment) Act 2025 - Clauses considered and approved

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Medical and Health Act 1997. Clauses 1 to 3.

1165 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Long Title.

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

1170

The Animals (Amendment) Act 2025 – Clauses considered and approved

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Animals Act. Clauses 1 to 3.

1175

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Long Title.

1180 **Madam Chair:** The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

**The Food Delivery Service Act 2025 –
Clauses considered and approved**

1185 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to create a framework to establish a licensing authority dedicated to maintaining safety requirements relating to food delivery businesses, including registration of persons engaged in the delivering of food on behalf of a food delivery business, introduction of delivery person permits and company branding on vehicles and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 and 2.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

1190 **Clerk:** Clauses 3 and 4.

Madam Chair: Clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 5 and 6.

1195

Madam Chair: Clauses 5 and 6 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 7 to 9.

Madam Chair: Clauses 7 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

1200

Clerk: The Long Title.

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

**The Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved**

1205 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Traffic Act 2005 and the Transport Act 1998. Clauses 1 and 2.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 3.

Madam Chair: Clause 3 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 4.

1210

Madam Chair: Clause 4 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Long Title.

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

**The Gambling Act 2025 –
Clauses considered and approved**

1215 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and to make new provision for the licensing, regulation and supervision of gambling, and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 and 2.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 3 to 6.

Madam Chair: Clauses 3 to 6 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 7 to 11.

1220 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 7 to 11 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 12.

1225 **Madam Chair:** Clause 12 stands part of the Bill. All right I think we are going to start again because we have missed an amendment on Clause 2 and I want to make sure that we have it all. I will ask you Mr. Clerk could you start again so I think we should read start with Clause 1 and then Clause 2 as amended.

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and to make new provision for the licensing, regulation and supervision of gambling, and for connected purposes. Clause 1.

Madam Chair: Clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 2.

1230 **Madam Chair:** Clause 2 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 3 to 6.

Madam Chair: Clauses 3 to 6 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 7 to 11.

Madam Chair: Clauses 7 to 11 stand part of the Bill.

1235 **Clerk:** Clause 12.

Madam Chair: Clause 12 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 13 to 14.

Madam Chair: Clauses 13 to 14 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 15 to 18.

1240 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 15 to 18 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 19 to 25.

Madam Chair: Clauses 19 to 25 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 26.

Madam Chair: Clause 26, as amended, stands part of the Bill.

1245 **Clerk:** Clauses 27 to 30.

Madam Chair: Clauses 27 to 30 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 31 to 37.

Madam Chair: Clauses 31 to 37 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 38.

1250 **Madam Chair:** Clause 38, as amended, stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 39 to 42.

Madam Chair: Clauses 39 to 42 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 43 to 45.

Madam Chair: Clauses 43 to 45 stand part of the Bill.

1255 **Clerk:** Clauses 46 to 50.

Madam Chair: Clauses 46 to 50 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 51 to 54.

Madam Chair: Clauses 51 to 54 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 55 to 63.

1260 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 55 to 63 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 64 to 69.

Madam Chair: Clauses 64 to 69 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 70 to 73.

Madam Chair: Clauses 70 to 73 stand part of the Bill.

1265 **Clerk:** Clauses 74 to 77.

Madam Chair: Clauses 74 to 77 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 78 to 81.

Madam Chair: Clauses 78 to 81 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 82 to 87.

1270 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 82 to 87 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 88 to 90.

Madam Chair: Clauses 88 to 90 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 91 and 92.

Madam Chair: Clauses 91 and 92 stand part of the Bill.

1275 **Clerk:** Clauses 93 to 95.

Madam Chair: Clauses 93 to 95 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 96 and 97.

Madam Chair: Clauses 96 and 97 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 98 to 102.

1280 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 98 to 102 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 103 and 104.

Madam Chair: Clauses 103 and 104 stand part of the Bill.

1285

Clerk: Clauses 105 to 108.

Madam Chair: Clauses 105 to 108 stand part of the Bill.

1290 **Clerk:** Clauses 109 to 113.

Madam Chair: Clauses 109 to 113 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 114 to 117.

1295

Madam Chair: Clauses 114 to 117 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 118 to 123.

1300 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 118 to 123 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 124 to 126.

1305

Madam Chair: Clauses 124 to 126 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 127 to 130.

Madam Chair: Clauses 127 to 130 stand part of the Bill.

1310 **Clerk:** Clauses 131 to 133.

Madam Chair: Clauses 131 to 133 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 134 to 136.

1315 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 134 to 136 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 137 to 140.

Madam Chair: Clauses 137 to 140 stand part of the Bill.

1320 **Clerk:** Clauses 141 to 144.

Madam Chair: Clauses 141 to 144 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 145 to 147.

Madam Chair: Clauses 145 to 147 stand part of the Bill.

1325

Clerk: Clauses 148 to 153.

Madam Chair: Clauses 148 to 153 stand part of the Bill.

1330 **Clerk:** Clause 154.

Madam Chair: Clause 154 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 155 to 160.

1335

Madam Chair: Clauses 155 to 160 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 161 to 163.

1340 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 161 to 163 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 164 to 168.

Madam Chair: Clauses 164 to 168 stand part of the Bill.

1345

Clerk: Clauses 169 to 172.

Madam Chair: Clauses 169 to 172 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 173.

1350 **Madam Chair:** Clause 173 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 174 to 177.

Madam Chair: Clauses 174 to 177 stand part of the Bill.

1355 **Clerk:** Schedule 1.

Madam Chair: Schedule 1 stands part of the Bill.

1360 **Clerk:** Schedule 2.

Madam Chair: Schedule 2 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 3.

1365 **Madam Chair:** Schedule 3 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 4.

Madam Chair: Schedule 4 stands part of the Bill.

1370 **Clerk:** Schedule 5.

Madam Chair: Schedule 5 stands part of the Bill.

1375 **Clerk:** Schedule 6.

Madam Chair: Schedule 6 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 7.

1380 **Madam Chair:** Schedule 7 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 8.

1385 **Madam Chair:** Schedule 8 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 9.

Madam Chair: Schedule 9 stands part of the Bill.

1390 **Clerk:** The long title.

Madam Chair: The long title stands part of the Bill.

1395

**The Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an act to make provision about the types of things that are not prevented from being objects of personal property rights. Clauses 1 to 3.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

1400 **Clerk:** The long title.

Madam Chair: The long title stands part of the Bill.

**The Income Tax (Amendment No. 2) Act 2024 –
Clauses considered and approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an act to amend the Income Tax Act 2010. Clauses 1 to 3.

1405 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: The long title.

Madam Chair: The long title stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: the Hon. Chief Minister.

1410 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to report that the Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Bill 2025. The Gambling Bill 2025. The Property (Digital Assets etc) Bill 2026. The Medical and Health (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Animals (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Food Delivery Service Bill 2025 and the Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026 have been considered in committee and agreed to some of them with amendments. I now move that they
1415 be read a third time and passed.

Madam Speaker: To query the Property, Digital Assets, etc. Bill, did the Hon. Chief Minister say that was 2025? I have it down as 2026.

1420 **Hon. F R Picardo:** Madam Speaker, I have it down as 2026 and I do not know whether I said 2025 or 2026.

Madam Speaker: I will say 2026. I now put the question which is that the Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Bill 2025. The Gambling Bill 2025. The Property (Digital Assets etc) Bill 2026. The Medical and Health (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Animals (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Food
1425 Delivery Service Bill 2025 and the Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026 have been considered in committee and agreed to some of them with amendments. And I now move that they be read a third time and passed.

Those in favour of the Income Tax (Amendment No.2) Bill 2025. **(Members: Aye.)** Those against. Carried.

1430 Those in favour of the Gambling Bill 2025. **(Members: Aye.)** Those against. Carried.

Those in favour of the Property (Digital Assets etc) Bill 2026. **(Members: Aye.)** Those against. Carried.

Those in favour of the Medical and Health (Amendment) Bill 2025. **(Members: Aye.)** Those against. Carried.

1435 Those in favour of the Animals (Amendment) Bill 2025. **(Members: Aye.)** Those against. Carried.

Those in favour of the Food Delivery Service Bill 2025. **(Members: Aye.)** Those against. Carried.

Madam Speaker Those in favour of the Traffic and Transport (Amendment) Act 2026. (Members: Aye.) Those against. Carried.

1440

Adjournment

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I now move that the House should adjourn to Monday 30th March at 10.30 in the morning. I should just give an indication Madam Speaker that it is the Government's intention to publish the new European Union Relations Bill during the course of the early part of next week.

This is a Bill that has required considerable work and effort on behalf of those drafting. And that I will of course be certifying that Bill as urgent in order that the House should be able to deal with it the week of 30th March, if not on the 30th itself, on the morning of the 31st, but ideally during the course of the 30th. It is my intention to share the Bill with the Leader of the Opposition as soon as I have it, even before publication if possible.

And that the House should be able to deal with all of the issues that the Bill raises during the course of that session on the 30th and or the 31st. I hope that is a useful indication for the House.

Madam Speaker: I now propose the question which is that this House do now adjourn to Monday 30th March at 10.30 a.m. I now put the question which is that this House do now adjourn to Monday 30th March at 10.30 a.m. Those in favour? (Members: Aye.) Those against? Passed.

This House will now adjourn to Monday 30th March at 10.30 a.m.

The House adjourned at 11.53 a.m.