



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

AFTERNOON SESSION: 12.02 p.m. – 12.29 p.m.

Gibraltar, Wednesday, 23rd September 2026

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The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 12.02 p.m.

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

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

PRAYER

Madam Speaker

Order of the Day

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5

Acting Clerk: Meeting of Parliament, Wednesday 23rd September 2026.

Order of Proceedings: (i) Oath of Allegiance. (ii) Confirmation of minutes - the Minutes of the Twentieth Meeting of the Fifteenth Parliament which was held on the 18th, 25th, 26th of June 2026, and 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 16th and 17th of July 2026.

10

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

Madam Speaker signed the Minutes.

15

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

PAPERS TO BE LAID

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Madam Speaker, what a pleasure to return from the summer to see Mr. Balban in that Chair. He is of the 'you will never walk alone' ilk like me.

20

Madam Speaker, I have the honour to lay on the Table, 1. Pursuant to section 12 of the Public Finance (Borrowing Powers) Act, the Note Purchase Agreement for £500 million (five hundred million pounds sterling) sterling between long term institutional private placement investors (Pension Insurance Corporation, Nuveen, AVIVA, PGIM and Manulife) and His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, as borrower dated 23rd July 2026.

25 Also, the Broadcasting Act 2012, the Report and Financial Statements of an Independent Auditor on the Accounts of Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation for the financial period ended March 2025, and the Gibraltar Police Authority Annual Policing Plan 2026 – 2027.

Madam Speaker: Ordered to lie.

30

Questions for Oral Answer

JUSTICE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

[Q280/2026](#)

[Non-Gibraltarian registered vehicles –
Fined for traffic offences in the past 12 months](#)

35 **Acting Clerk:** (vii) Reports of Committees; (viii) Answers to Oral Questions.
Questions to the Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.
Question 280/2026, the Hon. J Ladislaus.

40 **Hon. J Ladislaus:** How many non-Gibraltarian registered vehicles were fined for traffic offences in the past 12 months and how many of those fines have been paid in their entirety?

Acting Clerk: Answer, the Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.

45 **Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham KC):** Madam Speaker, in the past 12 months a total of 939 foreign registered vehicles were issued with Fixed Penalty Notices for traffic offences. The breakdown is as follows: 3 paid in full, 621 paid with the applicable discount, 58 cancelled and 257 remained live in the system. In cases where an individual does not pay the Fixed Penalty Notice, historically outstanding amounts have not been recovered as the authorities do not have access to the Spanish European vehicle databases, but the Hon. Minister for Transport is pursuing this.

50 **Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the answer, but could we have a little bit more information about how it is being pursued and what is envisaged for the future?

55 **Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J Cortes):** Yes, Madam Speaker, if I may. We are in discussions with the Royal Gibraltar Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions and we will shortly be able to give details on how we propose to proceed. At this moment in time the discussions are a little bit sensitive, although I would be happy to share the information behind the Speaker's Chair because it is a little premature to give all the details here openly.

60 **Madam Speaker:** Next question.

[Q281/2026](#)
[Gibtelecom –](#)
[Standing orders changed](#)

65 **Acting Clerk:** Question 281, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. K Azopardi): Is Government aware that Gibtelecom standing orders have been changed from the 28th of the month to the 21st of the month and has it discussed that with the company?

Acting Clerk: Answer, the Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.

75 **Hon. N Feetham:** Madam Speaker, the Government is advised that effective from the 1st June 2026, Gibtelecom aligned its direct debit collection date with a payment due date as stated on the customer's invoice, the 21st of each month. The decision to change the direct debit date was operational and taken by the management team solely and without reference to the Board of Gibtelecom or indeed His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar.

80 **Hon. Dr K Azopardi:** So, and I thank the Minister for confirming the information that we had, and of course it may be the Board's decision for commercial reasons, I am sure. The management, sorry, the management. The reason for the question is that I was approached by a number of pensioners who of course are receiving their income later and they were a bit concerned that they were, you know, having to pay the standing orders for Gibtelecom now in advance of the receipts of their income. So, will the Minister perhaps raise that with the management to see if the decision can be reconsidered?

Hon. N Feetham: Yes, Madam Speaker, we have raised this issue with management and indeed as directors of the company we intend to table an item at the next Board meeting specifically in relation to this.

Hon. Dr K Azopardi: With a view to addressing it so that it is altered and put to a different date, can I perhaps ask the Minister to elaborate a bit more?

95 **Hon. N Feetham:** Let me go into perhaps a little bit more background in relation to this. We have raised this with management. The point that was made by management when we raised this as a potential issue for those customers who may have financial hardship is that they have not identified an entire cohort of customers which might necessarily all have the same financial hardship. I have some statistics here, Madam Speaker, which I will perhaps share with the Leader of the Opposition so that we put this into perspective as provided to us by the management of Gibtelecom.

100 Since the change, Gibtelecom has received 51 complaints. So, from circa 12,000 direct debit customers, 51 complained, which according to management is 0.4% of the entire customer base: 14 complaints were about affordability, 13 about two direct debit collections within a single salary period, 20 about the messaging of the change, and 4 unclassified. The point that we have made very emphatically in conversation, but as I said, this needs to be formalised through a formal board meeting, is that to the extent that there are customers that are suffering financial hardship, that that ought to be taken into account, and therefore the recommendation certainly of Ministers who are non-executive directors on the Board is that that should be addressed by management favourably in favour of those customers.

Madam Speaker: Next question.

HOUSING AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

Q282/2026
Bishop Canilla House –
Roofing been fixed

115 **Acting Clerk:** Questions to the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University.
Question 282, the Hon. D J Bossino.

Hon. D J Bossino: Has the roofing at Bishop Canilla House been fixed?

120 **Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University.

Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University (Hon. P A Orfila): Madam Speaker, the materials for the replacement of the roof are due to arrive in the next two weeks and replacement will follow soon shortly after that.

125 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Is the Hon. Minister for Housing able to be a bit more precise as to whether she has any information as to when she thinks it is going to be fixed? I think this was as a result of severe weather during the very severe weather that we experienced during the winter months last year. I simply want to press her slightly further as to whether she has any indication that she
130 can provide across the floor of the House. She may not be able to.

Hon. P A Orfila: Madam Speaker, I said two weeks; in two weeks' time the materials will be here. The damage caused to the roof was worse than previously anticipated and it will require further changes to the structure, which is why it has taken a bit longer. But in two weeks' time it
135 should start.

Hon. D J Bossino: I am very grateful, Madam Speaker. Is the hon. Minister able to provide an indication as to when the materials were in fact ordered?

140 **Hon. P A Orfila:** Madam Speaker, no, I was not asked for that question and I therefore have not got the answer.

Hon. D J Bossino: Is the hon. Member able to give an indication as to what the costs of these works are likely to be? She talks about something which is more severe than was originally
145 expected. She talks about structural damage which was occasioned. Does she have an idea of costs?

Hon. P A Orfila: Madam Speaker, I will ask the hon. Gentleman to please forward that question in the next session of Parliament. Thank you.
150

Madam Speaker: Next question.

Q283/2026
Streamline the housing waiting lists –
Recommended by the Public Service Ombudsman

155 **Acting Clerk:** Question 283, the Hon. D J Bossino.

Hon. D J Bossino: Does the Government have plans to streamline the housing waiting lists as recommended by the Public Service Ombudsman in her Annual Report for 2025 and if so, how?

Acting Clerk: Answer, the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University.

Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University (Hon. P A Orfila): Madam Speaker, the Government has accepted in principle the recommendation made by the Public Services Ombudsman in her 2025 annual report concerning the streamlining of the housing waiting lists. I should however make clear that acceptance in principle does not mean that the recommendation has already been fully implemented. The Government has already taken steps to improve the housing allocation system including the introduction of the 2026 Housing Allocation Scheme Rules and the recasting of the allocation criteria. The Government's objective is to ensure that the system is transparent, efficient and fair while retaining the necessary flexibility for the Housing Allocation Committee to consider individual cases, particularly those involving medical or social circumstances on their particular merits and with appropriate professional advice. The Government will continue to review the operation of the waiting lists and the allow process and it will consider and implement further changes where appropriate and consistent with the Housing Act and the allocation scheme.

Hon. D J Bossino: Is the hon. Minister. Let me just start by welcoming, in her initial part of the reply, the fact that she is in agreement with the principle of what the Ombudsman said in her report. The Ombudsman referred to issues of fairness and transparency and stated that it is currently, in terms of how the list currently operates, impossible and I am quoting from her report, to decipher under the current system. She then goes on to say, in respect of her recommendation for the streamlining of the lists, that it is in the interest of administrative justice that lists be streamlined. So, I am glad, and I do welcome, as I said before, the Minister's acceptance of the principle of that. Can I press her further and simply ask her when she thinks that she will be in a position to produce the streamlined lists?

Hon. P A Orfila: Madam Speaker, I have said that although we agree in principle, we will not be streamlining the lists right now. Although we are in principle agreeing with the Ombudsman concerning the streamlining of the housing waiting list, I should however make clear that acceptance in principle does not mean that the recommendation has already been fully implemented. It needs to be looked at, and we are looking at this. I cannot give you a time frame right now.

Madam Speaker: Next question.

Q284/2026

**Eligibility criteria for qualification under the current housing waiting –
Plans to issue written policies**

Acting Clerk: Question 284, the Hon. D J Bossino.

Hon. D J Bossino: Does the Government have plans to issue written policies on the eligibility criteria for qualification under the current housing waiting list classification system as recommended by the Public Service Ombudsman in her Annual Report for 2025?

Acting Clerk: Answer, the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University.

Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University (Hon. P A Orfila): Madam Speaker, the position remains as the answer given in February 2026, with the Chief Minister and myself answering in the supplementary questions then.

210 **Hon. D J Bossino:** The hon. Member is able to rely on that answer as is, but can I ask her to repeat what it is that they have actually responded to by way of supplementary answers or supplementary questions? Because I simply do not recall. It was not in the Order Paper, it seems. It was a question that was posed by way of supplementary to a question which would have been on the Order Paper. Is she able to assist? If not, then we can leave the matter there.

215 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, never let it be said that I am not one for the Government assisting in so far as we can. But my concern arises that the hon. Gentleman is now asking the Government across the floor of the House at question time to provide him with something which is public. Therefore, I am a little reticent that we should do that. I know that he is very IT savvy and will be able to quickly look this up on the online systems for Hansard that we introduced. So, I think for that reason we would both be offending the rules of the House if we went down that road.

225 **Madam Speaker:** Next question.

[Q285&286/2026](#)
[Reduction of 109 applicants on the 1RKB housing pre-list –](#)
[Reasons why](#)

230 **Acting Clerk:** Question 285, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Dr K Azopardi: What was the reason that there was a reduction of 109 applicants on the 1RKB housing pre-list from 31 January 2026 to 28 February 2026?

235 **Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University.

Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University (Hon. P A Orfila): Madam Speaker, I will answer this question together with Question 286.

240 **Acting Clerk:** Question 286, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Dr K Azopardi: What was the reason that there was a reduction of 226 applicants on the 1RKB housing list from 31 January 2026 to 28 February 2026?

245 **Acting Clerk:** Answer, the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Gibraltar University.

Hon. P A Orfila: Madam Speaker, 109 applicants have entered the pertinent choice affordable on the normal waiting list after the maturity of their application. From January to February, we decided to divide the applications into those wanting affordable housing and those wanting Government housing. This now gives a true figure of the waiting lists. Letters were sent to all those on the waiting lists to amend their choices. Letters were sent in September 2025, and the waiting lists were separated by February 2026 hence the decrease of 226 applicants. 226 opted for the affordable housing.

255 **Hon. Dr K Azopardi:** So, if I understand correctly, there has been a division now into people who wanted to be on the list simply for affordable housing but not an allocation of a Government flat and there is now a list for affordable housing. Is that correct, as I understand the Minister? And the Minister is nodding, so let me just get to the question. That being so, will the Government agree to publish the statistical list on the affordable housing list also on the Government website together with its housing list and its pre-list so that we can see the numbers of the people on the affordable list?

Hon. P A Orfila: Madam Speaker, we will try and work on this to provide that.

265 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Would you like to ask a question?

Hon. P A Orfila: When he asks a question, we shall provide.

270 **Hon Chief Minister:** We are happy to, we are happy to. Sorry, sorry. Madam Speaker, we will assist the House, the Government has no problem in the usual way that we publish answers to questions when hon. Members ask, to provide the information both in relation to those who may now be on the waiting list for rental housing and those who are on the lists for affordable housing, which is also, as far as I understand it, broken down in compositions, although hon. Members will know from their time in Government and more generally that the composition is different when you are looking at a number in respect of affordable housing and rental. So, in other words, a 3RKB for rental includes the sitting room as a bedroom, which is the way it has been done since the Housing Act was first created in the 1950s. A 3RKB allocation for affordable housing is analogous to a 4RKB for rental because the 3RKB for affordable housing is actually three bedrooms with the additional living room/sitting room provision. So, if hon. Members want to ask, with that in mind, that when they get the list they should not be looking at the 3RKB and the 3RKB on affordable: 280 they should be looking at the 3RKB for rental and the 4RKB for affordable to look at what the total numbers are. We are very happy to provide it.

285 **Hon. Dr K Azopardi:** Yes, I was actually going a bit further. Rather than just wait until I ask questions, really what I was saying is the Government already puts on its website the housing lists, so we do not have to ask questions. There is like a tracker, like a monthly tracker. The reason for my question was that I could not explain, having looked at the housing list, the disparity of numbers because suddenly it went down by 300. So, what I am asking the Government really is, will it agree to put the affordable list that it has now got also on the same basis on the Government website? And we understand, given the explanation of the Chief Minister, when we look at it, that 290 we are not comparing like for like, given the explanation, but that it should be there, so we do not need to ask questions from time to time in this House.

295 **Hon. Chief Minister:** I understand from the Minister that we think it is online already. It may just be somewhere else. If it is online, we will send him the link. If it is not online, we will send him the link privately. I do not think it needs to be in the Hansard. If it is not, we will make sure that it is.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

300 **Hon. Dr K Azopardi:** I am grateful that the Minister should send me the link for it if I have not seen it. But is it also a simple list for affordable housing or is it also broken down by composition, having regard to the explanation the Chief Minister has given?

Hon. P A Orfila: At present, we have it broken down by composition. But one must remember that not everybody who is on the 3RKB Government list may want to keep a 3RKB Government.

305 They may want a 2RKB because they cannot afford a 3RKB. When you buy a house, nobody tells you how many rooms you need for how many children or family you have. So that may vary.

Hon. Chief Minister: If I can, just again by way of assistance, hon. Members should also remember that in the eligibility criteria for the purchase of affordable housing, one is permitted to do something that one is not permitted to do in respect of rental housing, which is to buy up to one more bedroom than you would be entitled to, which is not the case in relation to the rental where you are stuck with your entitlement. You are not even allowed to go for less because that can sometimes cause issues, unless there is a social services report confirming that it is permissible. They need to keep in mind the different way the figures work and the different type of entitlement. So, if you are seeing somebody for a 3RKB affordable, it does not mean that the family is the parents and two children. It may be just the parents and one child, and the entitlement to buy one more bedroom than the family composition presently would entitle you to in rental. I hope that is helpful.

320 **Hon. Dr K Azopardi:** Yes, that is helpful, and indeed it makes sense because family composition changes. If you are going to invest in property, you might as well be able to have that flexibility. What I was going to ask, just for me to understand it, by stripping out and creating this other list, am I right in understanding that people who are on the affordable list are no longer on the ordinary list, or is it possible in certain circumstances and if so, when for people to be on the affordable list but also on the housing list?

Hon. P A Orfila: Presently the people on the affordable waiting list are on the affordable waiting list. However, should circumstances change and they want now to move over to the Government waiting list, it is an easy transition. So, they do not lose their place on the Government waiting list.

Hon. Dr K Azopardi: The Minister says you do not lose your place. Presumably they are not there. This is what I am trying to understand. They are not there, but they can transition back to the ordinary waiting list because circumstances change. But unless circumstances change, they are not there. That is the situation.

Hon. P A Orfila: Madam Speaker, that is correct.

Madam Speaker: All right, anything else? No? All right. I have no more questions before me.

Adjournment

340 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, hon. Members and members of the public, many of whom, as we know, are assiduous followers of Parliament, as should be the case in any healthy democracy, will be aware that we are in the middle of the party conference season in the United Kingdom, also the United Nations period, where I shall visit for the last time as Chief Minister, and also, hon. Members may be aware, there is an amity visit by the Middle Temple in Gibraltar at the moment, which involves many Members of this Parliament in different guises. I know that they are going to be very pleased to hear from you this afternoon, Madam Speaker, as a bencher of the Middle Temple.

350 So, as a result, the timetable is a little fraught, and therefore I will ask that the House should return to continue with questions on Tuesday 29th at 3 p.m. It is then, Madam Speaker, my intention to seek to return on the Friday after that, and thereafter, the week of the 5th, upon our

return from the final party conference, which is the Conservative Party Conference, and from the United Nations.

Then, towards the end of October, I am very conscious that we have the Gibraltar Day events in the United Kingdom in the week that would be Parliamentary Week, and that there are still, of course, ongoing works in this place where the session gets a little in the way of finally finalising the work. So, at the moment, after discussion with the Deputy Chief Minister, it is likely that there will not be a further October session, so we should be doing the questions in that way, and perhaps during the course of October be able to take some of the legislation, and I will indicate to hon. Members what legislation we intend to take, and then to return for a further meeting for questions in November, with the House finally having had all the work done and all of that being finalised so that we can, I see you are crossing your fingers, Madam Speaker so we can finally enjoy the amity of more convivial Members' tea, et cetera.

Hon. D J Bossino: Or the last Chief Ministers Questions.

Hon Chief Minister: I hope never the last Chief Ministers Questions, Madam Speaker; that will continue. But then, yes, at some stage during the course of this year, I am going to give hon. Members opposite the *alegría* of doing my last Chief Ministers Questions, but with the disappointment and I have been right, as the hon. Member knows, for five successive elections, the disappointment that I have no doubt that it will continue to be GSLP Liberal Members who will be answering questions for years to come in this place, once people have to make the assessment of who to choose to take the community forward, whether it is the honourable... given the work that we have done on equalisation of pensions the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and pensioner, or somebody else. For that reason, we will know why I am going to now propose that we should adjourn the House, Madam Speaker, to... did I say the 29th? at 3pm. (interjections)

Madam Speaker: All right. I now propose ... we can have this conversation behind the Speaker's Chair. I now propose the question which is that this House do now adjourn to Tuesday 29th at 3 p.m. I now put the question which is that this House do now adjourn to Tuesday 29th at 3 p.m. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Passed.

This House will now adjourn to Tuesday 29th at 3pm.

The House adjourned at 12.29 p.m.