



**RECORD OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

HELD AT COURT & ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

27 JULY 2017

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HELD AT ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
THURSDAY 27 JULY 2017**

Speaker of the House
(Mr Keith Biles JP)

MEMBERS (Ex-Officio)

The Acting Chief Executive
(Mr Stephen Luxton)

The Honourable Financial Secretary
(Mr James Wilson)

Elected

The Honourable Janet (Jan) Lynda Cheek
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Roger Anthony Edwards
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Michael James Poole
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Phyllis (Phyl) Mary Rendell MBE
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Gavin Phillip Short
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Ian Hansen
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND

The Acting Attorney General
(Rosalind Cheek)

The Chief of Staff
(James Frampton MBE MA RAF)

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY: Claudette Prior MBE

PRAYERS: Reverend Kathy Biles

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Prayers

Clerk of the Assembly

The Oath of Allegiance Stephen Charles Luxton, the Acting Chief Executive.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I bid you all good morning and my usual reminder please, that mobile phones should be at least turned to silent if not turned off.

Clerk of the Assembly

Confirmation of the Record of Legislative Assembly held on the 29th June 2017.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I have before me a record of that last meeting of the Legislative Assembly. Is it your wish that I sign this as a true record?

Honourable Members

Yes

Clerk of the Assembly

Papers to be laid on the table by the Acting Chief Executive, in accordance with section 82 of the Constitution:

The report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of accounts:

- Falklands Conservation Accounts year end 30th June 2016,
- Falkland Islands Development Corporation Accounts year end 30th June 2016,
- Falkland Islands Meat Company accounts year end 30th June 2016,
- Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust report and financial statements year end 30th June 2016,
- Stanley Services Directors report and financial statements year end 30th June 2016,
- Falkland Islands Government financial information:
 - Pension Scheme Old Fund year end June 2016,
 - Capital Equalisation Fund year end June 2016,
 - Currency Fund year end June 2016,
 - Insurance Fund year end June 2016,
 - FIG financial statements year end June 2016, and
 - FIG annual Government statement.

In accordance with Section 82 of the Constitution:

The reports of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of internal audit reports of:

- Treasury social payments,
- Fixed assets,
- PWD payroll review and
- Health and Social Services payroll review,

And in accordance with Section 5 of the Law Revision Paving Ordinance 2015, the sixth report to the Legislative Assembly from the Statute Law Commissioner.

The Acting Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I hear by lay the aforementioned reports on the table.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, under Standing Order Section 41/3 I move that report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of Accounts and reports as outlined by the Clerk be noted. I have nothing further to add apart from I shall be asking a question for oral answer concerning the insurance fund.

Mr Speaker

And a seconder please? The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby to second.

Honourable Members, the Motion is that the Public Accounts Committee reports in respect of accounts and reports as listed by the Clerk be noted. Is there any objection to that Motion?

No objection, those reports are noted.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

The Revised Laws Paving Ordinance requires the Statute Law Commissioner to lay before the Assembly regular reports about progress in complying with the duties imposed on the Commissioner by Section 4 of the Ordinance.

Previous reports were laid before the Assembly on the 24th March, the 28th July, the 27th October and 15th December 2016, and 30th March 2017.

The current report concludes by saying every effort has been made to meet requirements of the Revised Laws Paving Ordinance 2015. The Statute Law Database will be delivered on the 31st July 2017, a relatively short time behind the original schedule for publication, and that was the 31st of March 2017, with the project backstop date of the 1st June 2017. On publication, the Statute Law Database will meet the requirements of the Ordinance to consist of an authoritative statement of the Laws of the Falkland Islands which is as accessible to all residents of the Falkland Islands as is reasonably practicable. This has been achieved within budget. The Revised Laws Paving Ordinance 2015 will be repealed on the commencement of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017 on the 31st July. This should therefore be the last report of its type.

Plans are in place to ensure the regular and effective updates of the Statute Law Database to ensure that its value is maintained consistently into the future. Resources for this purpose have been approved by the Assembly. The Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017 obliges the Statute Law Commissioner to report regularly to the Assembly in relation to the

development of the United Kingdom Laws adopted by it. The Assembly can expect its first report from the Statute Law Commissioner in October 2017.

In completing this report the Statute Law Commissioner would like to publically recognise, with thanks, the help and support of all those who have contributed to the Revised Laws Project, but in particular the lay and expert members of the Law Revision and Expert Advisory Committee who have kindly given their time freely. These are Stella Middleton, Pam Staley and Tamara Goriely.

Finally, the Assembly is urged to agree the continuation of the Statute Law Database is critical to ensure in the effective and ongoing accessibility of the Laws of the Falkland Islands for its citizens. The Statute Law Database, therefore has a key role in underpinning the rule of Law in the Falkland Islands now and into the future, and should be consistently resourced and supported accordingly.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

I assume the Motion is therefore that we note that report? And to second, the Honourable Mike Summers.

Honourable Members, the Motion before the House is that the Report of the Statute Law Commissioner is noted. Is there any objection in passing that Motion?

There is no Objection, that Motion is passed and the report is noted.

Clerk of the Assembly

Questions for Oral Answer, Question number 14 of 2017 by the Honourable Ian Hansen.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Following on from the Papers laid on the Table referring to the Public Accounts Committee Report on the Falkland Islands Government Insurance Fund year end June 2016, please could the Honourable Roger Edwards confirm that FIG is content that sufficient funds exist in the insurance fund for all areas of risk, including the current port facility?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for his question.

The Insurance Fund was established, as provided for by Section II (1) (a) of the Finance and Audit Ordinance 1988, by the Public Funds Ordinance 1990 which appropriated £5 million pounds from the Consolidated Fund. The provisions of the Finance Ordinance 2010 (No 3 of 2010) provided for the Insurance Fund upper limit to be £25 million pounds, or a greater sum

notified by the Financial Secretary in the Gazette. The upper limit was increased to £30 million pounds effective from 1st July 2013.

FIG has an insurance policy that provides insurance cover in respect of material damage to the Community School and Hospital above an excess of £5 million pounds per site.

There are also reserves from the Consolidated Fund of £176 million at 31st March 2017 that could – as a last resort – be used to repair and replace damaged infrastructure that might not be funded by the Insurance Fund or the external insurance policy.

It would be difficult to predict the likelihood of a risk occurring and the precise impact of any loss or damage. However, prudent financial management by FIG helps ensure that sufficient capital is available to make repairs for uninsured risks, should such an event occur.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for his reply.

Mr Speaker

Is there any supplementary questions or comments upon that answer?

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 15 of 2017 by the Honourable Roger Edwards.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

In light of the very high cost of machinery and equipment used by contractors undertaking road works on behalf of Falkland Islands Government, could the Honourable Gavin Short please indicate if any consideration has been given to extending the usual three year contract to five years?

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I thank the Honourable Member for his question, and I am indebted to my friends at Public Works Department for the following answer. We continue to monitor and review contracts and contract durations. PWD has recently taken the positive step to increase Camp road related contracts from one year to three years. There are also different circumstances depending on the type of contract and work involved. There are a number of contracts including refuse collection, cleaning, and landscaping all of which are funded from the operational budget. We believe that a three year contract provides a sufficient commitment to contractors while still enabling flexibility within the capital programme, if required.

We have consulted third parties such as FIDC, and they have confirmed that a three year contract should be sufficient to secure any loans required for the purchase of equipment.

There are two examples within the last two years that have successfully received funding based on securing of a three year contract.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Gavin Short for his answer.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, are there any comments or supplementary questions upon that answer?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 16 of 2017 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

In view of the recent severe damage to the roof of a hangar at Stanley Airport, can the Honourable Mike Summers tell this House if a review as to the suitability of this type of roof for the new leisure facility is being undertaken? If this type of roof is being considered as a possible option, can he tell this House what guarantee the manufacturers offer for such a roof?

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

The original proposal for the new sports facility on the rugby pitch was indeed based on a Rubb-type building, and the experiences that we have had at the Airport building now has brought us to review that. I have the following information from the Acting Chief Executive in respect of the building at the Airport: discussion continues between FIG officials and Premier Oil about the future of the Bristow helicopter hangar at Stanley Airport. One of the intended outcomes of these discussions is to determine whether there is a mechanism to allow FIG to retain and utilise the building for the intended trial of a sports facility. This includes assessment of the likely service life of the building following repair. To date, FIG's understanding is that the manufacturer of the hangar is offering a like-for-like replacement for the hangar roof, but the replacement is likely to only carry a twelve month guarantee and would not include installation costs, nor the remedy of other damage to the facility, such as water damage to electrical equipment. Repair of the hangar for FIG's intended use would therefore be likely to represent a significant cost to the Government for a facility which appears to have an uncertain service life given recent events.

Subsequent to the writing of that response by the Acting Chief Executive there have been further discussions and, informally at the moment, Government has reached a conclusion that it would be unwise for the Government to invest in that building at Stanley Airport.

In respect of the proposed project on the rugby pitch for a new sports facility, I have met with the Director of Public Works and I have discussed with him a number of options around the type of building and indeed we did exactly that during the proposal of the project in the first place. We have in all likelihood concluded that a Rubb-type building will not be suitable to put in an exposed location like the rugby pitch, and we have begun to look at the procurement options for a different type of building. There is no reason to suppose that within the budget that is available for this project that a different type of building can be put in place which is tried and tested in the Falklands circumstances and is robust.

For the information of Members of the Assembly and members of the public, the project for the new sports facilities on the rugby pitch will be progressing quite rapidly. As I say, I have met with the Director of Public Works and we have begun to talk about the Project Board and the project delivery mechanism for that project. He has started to work on some of the procurement options, including the type of building that we might use, and I have undertaken to write to the Chief Executive to confirm the Project Board and the ongoing project management arrangements.

Thank you.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey

I would just like to thank the Honourable Michael Summers for his answer.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, are there any supplementary questions or comments upon that answer?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Just a quick follow up and I realise it's still early days in terms of this project for the new sports facility, but is there a target completion date in mind that we are working towards?

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE

Mr Speaker,

As soon as we have a Project Board in place, which will need to be approved by the Chief Executive and possibly by Executive Council, I am not sure about that, we will start working on exactly those sorts of things. I would have expected that the project could be completed within 18 months to two years. There is an urgent need, and I was just checking up with the Leisure Centre Manager about occupancy at the Leisure Centre at the moment, and I will just give you this information because it will be of interest to the members of the public:

The sports hall is not available at the moment for all sorts of activities that are in demand in the community, and these are people who are not already engaged in sport and activity, but who are looking for other ways to involve themselves in the sort of healthy activity that could and should be taking place in the Leisure Centre. We are using the squash court now for

timetabling various activities, including; weight management courses on a Monday, already 18 people signed up on a 10 week course for that; boxercise is also on a Monday; high low aerobics on a Tuesday; weight classes on a Thursdays and circuits on Fridays. These are all in the squash courts which means that those people wishing to play squash it is not available to. In the pool we have aqua-aerobics on a Wednesday and in conjunction with the Sports Development Co-ordinator employed by FIOGA we are looking to launch Zumba classes shortly. A notice on Facebook reached 15 hundred people, with 59 likes and 28 comments of expressions of interest in such activity and this gives an indication of the appetite for new activities. In addition to this we are looking into add some additional children's activities not currently catered for, including gymnastics and trampolining. The list of activities that we could run at the Leisure Centre if we had the space is frankly endless and this points up the importance of the project on the rugby pitch. We believe that we have only so far scratched the surface from the adult health and fitness perspective, hence why we are considering options to convert the loft into a dance studio.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Michael Poole are you content? Are there any other comments or supplementary questions?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 17 of 2017 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Can the Honourable Ian Hansen please tell this House why, when there is clear evidence of childhood obesity in the Islands, there are vending machines in the Leisure Centre selling a range of unhealthy snacks and drinks?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I am grateful to the Director of Public Works and the Leisure Centre Manager for the response I have here. I would first like to mention that the statement of clear evidence is not something I quite agree with, but maybe that is just my opinion and I may touch upon that later.

The vending machine that is in the Leisure Centre has been there for several years and apparently it was specifically asked for by the Falkland Islands Government at the time to be installed. The Leisure Centre Manager believes it is definitely an issue with access to school children. When he was in the United Kingdom he didn't allow school children to access the machines in the UK in his Leisure Centres, but there you were able to lock off the areas

which we can't actually do here. He says that during lesson change overs and at breaks and at lunchtime the vending machines are quite a magnet. However, he does go on to state that he has had a number of discussions since his arrival with the owners of the machines regarding the items on sale within them, and they have been including some healthier options as well as generic confectionary.

Both the Leisure Centre and the school are keen to have the vending machines turned off during the school day, and this has been passed to the owners to carry out this work on a time lock basis. However we are waiting for them to action this.

There is however an argument for high energy products to be available to replenish users after vigorous exercise, but the Leisure Centre Manager reinforces his view there should be a range of options. We do have to, in the interest of balance, bear in mind the types of products that are available for purchase in the islands.

Childhood obesity is a complex issue and it's not going to be solved by removal of the vending machines. High energy products can have a place as quick replenishment to the vast majority of people who use them, as users involved in a very high energy sport, and therefore less likely to suffer. It is, I guess, a contradiction to have these temptation products on sale in a leisure facility, but this contradiction exists in every leisure facility in the world.

The Leisure Centre Manager concludes by saying that it is a perfectly acceptable way forward for the Government if they wish to make a stand to remove the vending machines, but he also went on to say it would be interesting to see how much busier places like Southern Imports would become if the venders were switched off during the school day.

I hope that helps the Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I would like to thank my colleague for a full and detailed answer. I think the important point he mentioned was that the Leisure Centre Manager in the UK perhaps wouldn't allow such machines on the premises. Obesity is a key problem, and yes, I could understand some people taking exercise and believing: "well, I need some extra energy so I will eat some more chocolate bars", but those machines, as he said, are also accessible to the students from the Community School. I think as a Government we have a duty to act in the best interests of our children, and I think that beholds us to tell the owner that he has to provide only sensible non-chocolate, non-high calorie drinks within machines, and if he doesn't wish to do that and put healthier options in there and ban the unhealthy ones then I think we should remove those machines from the Centre. I don't see any logical reason for continuing it.

I was chatting to someone the other day and they said 'oh well they will tell you it's all down to choice, people can make their choices to what they are going to take out of the machines unhealthy or not', so one wonders whether the Leisure Centre will soon be putting in cigarettes so that the over 18's can exercise their choice to take a cigarette or two after they have done some exercise. I think the removal of the machines I think is paramount and I think having seen some video on Facebook recently, I think one of the students has taken that into his own hands, and tried to stop the machines working. I think that we do have a duty to take

them out and I hope you will review this and I hope you will remove the unhealthy foods and drinks.

Mr Speaker

Any other supplementary questions or comments on the answer?

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Just a question I'm not really too sure who to direct it at. It was said there is clear evidence, do we have figures going back over the years to prove that there is an increase, and where can I access those figures please?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

My colleagues will be aware that a month ago in this House we debated the proposals to try to address the obesity problems in the islands. I obtained some figures from the medical department and we haven't got as many figures as we should have and the recorded perhaps difficult problems with recording them on the EMIS computer system and recalling them. We do have a set of figures that were taken last year by the school nurse within FICS and within the Junior School. Evidence in the Junior School is matching the UK, in that 20% of our children in that one year group have a problem with weight - that's overweight or obesity. That rises steadily throughout the year group in FICS such that year 11 last year, 47% of the children in last year's year 11 were overweight or obese. I think we do have figures that show that we are no better or in fact maybe worse than similar children in the UK and other countries.

The Honourable Gavin Short

So, in fact, what we have is a snap shot, and not something over the years that allows us to inform ourselves whether or not it is increasing? At the risk of perhaps social media saying that I am living back in the dark ages, we had no vending machines in our school, we just had Madge Biggs' - you could nip across there. But, I put it to you as I did it at the debate, even in those days we had overweight children, we had skinny children and everything in between.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey, do you wish to come back on that?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey

I'm not sure there was a question there?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I just had a comment, while I was away I had cause to actually go into a Leisure Centre, fitness centre, not for my own personal good I might add, but I happened to be in there, and I must say there was a vast array of vending machines there, from everything you could possibly wish for from feminine products, through shampoos, skin products and so on after you have exercised and washed and so on, right through to chocolate bars, fizzy drinks you name it, they had it there. I don't think I saw cigarettes, but everything else was there outside and I think they make quite a lot of their profits from it looking at the prices.

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I was disappointed that the Motion which largely surrounded public health was conducted in my absence last month, since everybody knew I was going to be absent last month it was long planned. Therefore I did not have the opportunity to make a contribution to it. This is a broad subject that we have discussed previously in the House on a number of occasions, and I think we are all agreed that there are many elements that must be brought together to put in place a proper public health strategy. We have been slow, as a Government, to get action on this, not because we haven't pushed and tried from a legislative perspective to get the action and information we require, but because the route that we chose to take, which was to engage with Public Health England, has not produced the report that we were anticipating. Nevertheless there are still things that we can do and some of them were suggested by some Members in the discussion last month.

Having read the transcript of the discussion last month, I have seen a number of statements in there that I certainly would not have agreed with; a number of assertions that I certainly would have not agreed with, and I have addressed some of the issues earlier about sport and vigorous activity. Coming to the particular issue of whether or not it's right for the Government to be didactic in terms of telling people what to do and what not to do, during the course of being away at the Island Games in Sweden, I went in to a number of leisure facilities and, like the Honourable Roger Edwards, I witnessed a wide range of products on sale. Now Sweden is one of the most controlling countries in the world in terms of what people are allowed to do and not allowed to do, and they sold chocolate in the swimming pool, they sold chocolate in the athletics stadium and all sorts of other fizzy drinks and products in between. I think the point of my intervention really is to say that this is a very broad subject and it requires a broad approach. Just picking at one or two individual bits of it I don't think is the way to go forward, I do not think that just banning a vending machine or particular types of products in vending machines in the Leisure Centre will make any more of a contribution to the issue, than will giving away free bananas.

Thank you.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker,

I don't wish to extend this too much longer, but just to pick up on something that the Honourable Gavin Short said about a snap shot of the issue we seem to be facing. I believe that Body Mass Index is the primary way of measuring obesity here in the Falklands, and I

did actually have a quick look on the internet about Body Mass Index, and I did struggle very much to actually find anything very positive about it, to be honest. I think one of the main things that came out of it says that it does not differentiate between muscle mass and fat mass, and there was a statement where it said that BMI is generally regarded as a satisfactory tool for measuring whether individuals are underweight, overweight or obese, but with exceptions such as athletes, the elderly, the infirm and children, so I think the Honourable Gavin Short's point about we don't have a proper gauge of this issue is very valid.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Any other Member wish to comment or raise question? The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey. Please can you - it should be either a supplementary question rather than a long statement please.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey

Mr Speaker,

I wish to reply to comments made by my colleague Ian Hansen. He is quite correct, BMI's aren't ideal, and I am sure you look at the rugby team in any international competition and I am sure their BMI is high, but it is 99% sheer muscle, and yes, there are exceptions. The BMI isn't ideal factor of measurement for children, but the figures that we obtain via the school nurse are using an approved NHS variant of that, thought best to be applied to children so we are using not a BMI as such, but a variant of that. I don't think we can close our eyes to the fact that there is a problem here with obesity, and we will be doing our children a great disservice if we try to ignore it.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 18 of 2017 by the Honourable Michael Poole.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Can the Honourable Roger Edwards please describe to the House the existing capability of Stanley Airport to accept International Flights; and can he also comment on whether there is any intention to potentially expand this capability in the future?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I thank the Honourable Michael Poole for this very important question.

Stanley Airport was our only international airport; it is still an international airport, and of course we can develop it into an even better international airport. I would like to thank the Director of Civil Aviation for his response.

The Civil Aviation Department issued Stanley Airport with a certificate under the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirements (OTARs) in February 2015. The certificate allows the airport to handle international flights as well as other types of commercial operations such as the recent hydrocarbons-related helicopter activity. The airport is equipped and staffed with rescue and firefighting capabilities, equivalent to Category 3 according to the international standards. Therefore the airport cannot allow aircraft larger than rescue and firefighting Category 3. The other factor that affects the aircraft that the airport can accept is the amount of runway required.

The majority of small aircraft that visit the islands on a regular basis, for example air ambulance flights, are of a size acceptable for the airport's firefighting capabilities, but require more physical runway than the airport can offer. There is not a set rule for this according to the size of the runway; within reason it is up to the aircraft operator to determine if they can effectively use a runway of any given dimensions. The air ambulance operators that regularly service the Islands have recently indicated that they generally don't operate aircraft that could utilise Stanley Airport. As a separate piece of work, I looked at the number of air ambulances into the Islands and the runway length required, and we average just over two a month - about 24/26 per year - and they require between 12 and 1600 metres of runway to operate. I might say as the runway's get longer they have to get wider. Our current runway is Code 1 and is only 800 metres long; it's a fraction shy of 800 metres long, but only 18 metres wide. If we went up to 12 hundred metres it would have to grow to 23 metres wide, 1800 metres, 30 metres wide. The actual underlying runway that was put in there by Johnson Construction for the operation of the Argentine aircraft prior to '82 is actually 45 metres wide, so we could actually go to the full width runway, the sub structure is there, but what state it's in, I have no idea, but I would rather you didn't quote me on those figures as I may be wrong.

Regarding the future, there is an Executive Council paper being prepared at this very moment which relates to the determination of costs of returning the runway to its pre-82 dimensions, and exploring costs related to extending the runway even further. In other words, we are looking at what it is now, how much it would cost to go to 1200 metres, 1800 metres, 2500 metres or what have you, and obviously it's not only runway length and width, but also the facilities that you provide. If I was an aircraft operator coming to the Falkland Islands, do I land on a very narrow short strip at Stanley airport or do I go to MPA where they have full air traffic control facilities, instrument landing systems and everything else that you could wish for. I personally would opt, especially on a dark and stormy night, MPA - but it is possible.

Thank you.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker and I thank my Honourable Colleague for his full and very well researched answer there.

Just a quick statement and then a brief follow-up question; clearly the issue of use at Stanley Airport is far from a new one and has been discussed over a number of years, but has

understandably received a bit more focus over recent months with the apparent kind of growth in weather issues effecting MPA. I'm very pleased to hear that Executive Council will be seeing a paper on this subject shortly. I didn't ask this question to go and advocate for any particular outcome, clearly I just wanted full and proper advice going to Executive Council so that we can look at this objectively and in the round you know there are questions of localisation at MPA, there is a lot of work going on there, so do you really want to be investing in two different areas, but that's a conversation Executive Council needs to have with that information in front of them, so I look forward to that. My follow up question is really can we ensure that that Executive Council paper also looks at the full business case, so looks at the economic and practical benefits of greater use of Stanley Airfield as well, so it is a full picture when Executive Council consider it?

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker,

I can certainly feed that back to the General Manager of the Aviation Services who is producing that ExCo paper and make sure that that is the case. Any consideration will, of course, be a political one, and it will also not only be based on a business case, but perhaps also on a medical and safety case. If we can't get Aero-medivac flights in as and when needed then it does put people's lives at risk and so that too should be looked at, but I will feed that message back that it is as full as possible for the ExCo paper.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

Are there any other comments?

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

I thank you Mr Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Roger Edwards for the answer to the question. I think it is a very useful subject to air because in the last month or so the general public, and particularly during Farmers Week, there was a lot of discussion about "why in heavens name are you talking about building a new air terminal at MPA when we can hardly get the flights in on time, and why aren't you reviewing and looking at Stanley Airport?" I think it is important for the public to understand the facts and I do, as the Honourable Michael Poole has said, look forward to the Executive Council paper being public so people can see the facts. It's not as easy as switching effort into Stanley Airport, and it will inevitably cost hundreds, or millions possibly, to make it into a second airport, and is that what we really want anyway. I think it is very useful to hear how it could be utilised for medical flights; I think that is really critical that we don't have a problem of getting medical flights into the Falkland Islands when we do have a second airport which is internationally rated, even only at Cat 3. I think the whole discussion is good for the public to hear, and to understand that there are massive implications to looking at long-term development of Stanley Airport, but at least through the Executive Council process we will get the facts.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I must admit I first have to start off by thanking my Honourable Colleague for one of the most interesting replies I have heard for quite a while. I think it is all fair to say that this question probably has been driven quite a bit by, as my Honourable Colleague to my left said, the rotor wind problems up at MPA. However, I am presuming we don't suffer from rotor winds at Stanley Airport which is a question I hope will be examined in the report going to ExCo and, of course, the other thing I guess will be taken into account in any report will be the sidewinds that these aircraft can operate in. Our strip is roughly east to west I guess, so if we are getting a *hooly* from the north it may exceed the side winds that the aircraft can safely operate in. I guess that will also be examined and put in any report that eventually goes to ExCo.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

We are getting quite technical, but demonstrated crosswinds limits are laid down for each and every aircraft, but the operator may operate outside those limits or reduce the limits, not operate outside them, but reduce those limits depending on the width of the runway that he's heading for. As I say, Stanley Airport at the moment is only 18 metres wide which is pretty narrow, so you wouldn't want very much crosswind limit on some of these little slick aircraft that come in. If you had a great big wide 45 metre runway then you could possibly allow the full demonstrated crosswind limit on the aircraft, but all these things need to be looked at and taken into account. I would suggest also, that any future building at Stanley Airport, consideration is given to a future possibility of the expansion of Stanley Airport and therefore any future building or anything else that goes on at Stanley Airport is built outside of the areas that would affect future extensions or operations of the runway and surrounding areas.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I think the Honourable Gavin Short raised a very pertinent question there and I think when the paper is presented to ExCo, we need to think about the Met. data. We didn't think we had a problem with rotor winds up at MPA until relatively recently. Within that paper does the Honourable Member think we have sufficient Met. data at Stanley airfield to make some assessment of meteorological problems that may interfere with the viability of an extension or a widening of the strip?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I am sorry, I cannot answer that question. We probably have Met. data – Met. data alone is not sufficient to predict rotor winds or turbulence or anything else. That is a separate set of information that will no doubt have to be collected and so on, so I cannot answer that question.

Mr Speaker

Any other questions or comments?

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 19 of 2017 by the Honourable Gavin Short

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Could the Honourable Phyl Rendell please inform this House as to the policies for employing contract and seasonal labour on Falkland Landholdings farms, and whether there is any differentiation between rates of pay for local and contracted staff?

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Gavin Short for his question, and am grateful to FLH for the information they have supplied.

FLH farms have for the last few years been working on upgrading the infrastructure on those farms, and this work has been including fencing, maintenance and repairs to farm buildings and is not expected to continue indefinitely. This work is also available to FLH employees in the first instance, and if they wish to work overtime it is their choice, and can do this additional work. Then vacancies are advertised if there is no interest within the farms. If no applications locally are received then the work is undertaken by casual workers from overseas and the immigration procedures are carried out. To date, workers have been coming from Chile to do this work.

The work usually takes place between October to April to maximise on hours of sun, daylight and weather conditions.

Seasonal workers are paid at a rate of £7.50 an hour and they work very long hours, out of their choice; they are here to make as much money as they can, and they work six days a week at least. They are provided with free accommodation, meat and fuel, which is capped to a certain limit I am told.

In previous years seasonal workers have paid their flights from Chile, but at the last board meeting we discussed the whole issue of recruitment and retention as it is an issue for FLH, and it certainly is for most employers these days, and we will be changing our policy and we will be looking to pay the flights for workers coming to FLH - not only seasonal workers, but contract workers because of the downgrading of the Pound against the Peso it's becoming

more difficult to recruit, even from Chile. We are looking at, in the longer term, to see if we can recruit longer term contractors from other parts of the world, and most probably the United Kingdom. FLH also pays for insurance cover for seasonal workers, as required by the immigration regulations, and this amounts to around £350 per worker.

Full time employees on FLH farms receive their base salary, and this starts at the very bottom of the scale, just a little over £12,000. They also have free housing, and they receive holiday and sick pay. They benefit from OAP contributions and they can also opt into the Falkland Islands Pension Scheme, if they wish, where FLH will pay on their behalf that contribution. They also receive a year-end bonus when applicable.

To sum up, the FLH Board has discussed the issue of recruitment and retention, in fact, in the very last board meeting and the minutes are publicly available. As I have said earlier in this answer, FLH is undergoing the same issues as many other employers, including the Falkland Islands Government, and we do have a problem with retaining staff. FLH management will be looking at ways to fill permanent posts on contract terms, and the General Manager is currently in the United Kingdom and looking at how we might do that with the help of possibly FIGO as a place for interviews, and we will work with that that. Meanwhile, whilst we have additional work to get on top of, we expect to continue to employ seasonal workers.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Lady for her very full and informative reply.

Perhaps if I could just expand in the way of the statement to explain why I asked this question? It basically stemmed from Farmers Week when a statement was made at a meeting that went along the lines of: “if there was a worker from outside the Falklands on an FLH farm with two children at Stanley House for a whole year it ate up two months’ wages”, which was why I became somewhat alarmed, and asked the question to ascertain whether perhaps we were paying for workers from outside at a much lower rate than ours. As a Government, of course, we just cannot be party to something that could almost be seen to be against people we fetch in, so I thank the Honourable Lady for her reply.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

I will just reply to that Mr Speaker,

I think no seasonal workers that we have employed between the months of October and April have been accompanied – so any families living on FLH farms would be here for longer than six months. I don’t believe that any are here as short as a year, but I did hear that comment made by members during Farmers Week, and I do understand, too, that there had been some issues with billing from the Education Department for Stanley House as sometimes two bills come at once, so I think that is going to be addressed by the Education Department.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Is there any other comment or supplementary question?

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 20 of 2017 by the Honourable Gavin Short

The Honourable Gavin Short

Can the Honourable Ian Hansen please inform the House where we are with the investigation into whether there is a case for a larger crane for the Concordia Bay?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Members will be aware that the capacity of the crane on the Concordia Bay has been the subject of discussion for some time, and the previous proposals to upgrade the vessel was considered but not approved. However, following recent discussions between the Chief Executive and Workboat Services Ltd, Workboat Services Ltd are at present reviewing some options for enhancing the lifting capacity on the vessel. The company will revert to FIG with a range of options for upgrading the capacity, and this information is expected to be available for further discussion by around September of this year. If an option to replace the crane is pursued the typical lead time for ordering a new crane is expected to be around six to eight months, so it is anticipated that any work approved would be scheduled for the winter 2018 dry-docking trip.

In order to deliver this it is likely that it would be necessary to secure approval and funding for this in quarter 4, 2017.

The Honourable Gavin Short

I thank the Honourable Gentleman for his reply.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker,

I would just like to ask a supplementary question because again there was quite a discussion about this on numerous days during Farmers Week. There were some proposals from some people that it's not only about the crane; it's also about the positioning of the containers on the vessel and to do with reach. This is not a topic that I am that familiar with, it's a very technical topic and people that know a lot about cranes got into great details in their discussion. I understand, of course, with the crane, depending on how far you have to reach, it limits the weight you can pick up. If the containers can be moved on the deck of the Concordia Bay to be under the crane you could pick up a greater weight and there was discussion about rails and dollies, if I remember. I wonder if that's also going to be addressed when Workboat Services look at what's required to enable them to lift greater weights, because we need to bottom that out because there may be a need for a combination, and the

footprint of a larger crane might be prohibitive. I hope there will be a full and comprehensive review of all the possibilities before we have to make any decisions about the cost of such an upgrade.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Phyl Rendell for her supplementary question. I don't have that information in front of me at the moment, I would imagine though that I can certainly find out or put it into the mix because it is a very valid point that we need all the detail to make sure that if we are going to be spending any sort of money on improving the capacity, that we get it right. I can ask that question, thank you.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker

Any other supplementary questions or comments?

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 21 of 2017 by the Honourable Gavin Short

The Honourable Gavin Short

Could the Honourable Roger Edwards please explain why the minimum wage increase only comes into effect on the 1st January whilst any Government pay increases take effect on the 1st July, and whether it would be possible to align the timing of any increase to the minimum wage to the 1st July as with the normal wage increase?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Once again I thank the Honourable Gavin Short for his question regarding payment dates for minimum wage, and for the answer I would like to thank the Honourable Financial Secretary.

Section 13 of the Minimum Wage Ordinance 2013 requires a review of the rates at least every twelfth month. Under subsection 4, no order adjusting the rate may take effect until at least three months' after it has been published in the Gazette. This time restriction was brought in to ensure employers are given advance notice.

A review of the minimum wage, along with any resulting recommendations, are timed to be in line with the budget process. Any financial implications can be factored into the FIG budget cycle and notified to the private sector in good time for implementation in the

following January. Previous amendments to the rates have been included in Finance Ordinances published each June.

The tax year is the 1st January to the 31st December, and included in the deductions to be added back to an employee's net wage when calculating if the minimum wage, sorry, if the minimum rate is met are: Payment On Account of Tax, and Retirement Pension Contributions. Any amendments to rates allowances for those deductions normally take effect from the start of the tax year – 1st January – following the budget.

Therefore, 1st January is used for any change to the minimum wage rate as it meets the required notification period for employers and Payment On Account of Tax and Retirement Pension Contribution rates can be taken into account.

FIG financial years commence 1st July, so any salary increments are normally effective from this date.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I thank the Honourable Gentleman for his reply.

I think you mentioned that we have to give three months' notice, so that to me then means we could probably make any increase in September? It does seem slightly unfair to me that the minimum wage is already six months out of whack before it goes up. If we are in a low inflation period, which we are at the moment, it probably doesn't make too much difference, but as the inflation increases - which it surely will - the effect of six months of that inflation on minimum wage before it increases is probably rather detrimental. Could any thought be given to shortening that period? If we have to give three months, then we increase it three months after it has been announced.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Of course, consideration can be given, but currently the main dates of the year are 1st July and 1st January. To introduce yet another one, perhaps the 1st September, may add only confusion to this system. Certainly it can be considered, but I would suspect the dates will remain as are.

The Honourable Gavin Short

I thank the Honourable Gentleman for his reply, can I put it another way – could we give wider consideration to making whatever changes is needed so that the minimum wage could perhaps be increased sooner rather than the person having to wait six months?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, yes we can consider it, thank you.

Mr Speaker

Are there any other comments or supplementary questions?

Clerk of the Assembly

Motions:

Motion number 10 of 2017 by the Honourable Jan Cheek:

That this House accepts a response from the Governor in Executive Council on the report of the Public Accounts Committee following the internal audit reports on Falkland Islands Government Office, Falkland Islands Tourist Board accounts for year ending 30th June 2016.

This is proposed by the Honourable Jan Cheek.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

This Motion is as required by the Public Accounts Ordinance, and these are the formal FIG responses to recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee.

On Falkland Islands Government Office, the letter made the following recommendation: 'We would like MLAs to assure us that in the new contract for booking MOD flights there are clearly stated terms with regard to the receipt of revenue by Falkland Islands Government, and that the relevant clauses will be properly applied.'

The FIG response is: that the contract booking for MOD flights was agreed in 2014 for a period of five years. As part of the contract, the contractor is required to forward payments to Falkland Islands Government Office within one week of receiving the invoice. There have been delays in receiving payments, as highlighted in the audit. FIGO will continue to raise invoices and chase any outstanding debts. However, a revised escalation process has now been implemented which will enable outstanding payments to be escalated within Treasury, and appropriate action taken in accordance with the agreement.

Secondly, on Falkland Islands Tourist Board, the letter made the following recommendation: 'Public Accounts Committee would like assurance from Members of Legislative Assembly by the end of April 2017 that appropriate steps have been taken to ensure the Falkland Islands Government will not be exposed to any kind of legal action by the UK HMRC' - that is, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

The FIG response is: a response has been received from the Falkland Islands Tourist Board. FITB have taken appropriate steps to obtain assurance that relevant taxes have been paid. FITB have calculated the total liability, and in the event that the taxes were not paid these

could be met by FITB funds. FITB have also confirmed that any future UK based employees will be paid a net salary to ensure that this situation doesn't arise again.

We have the letter here for the record, but I won't read all that now.

Mr Speaker

The Motion to be seconded by the Honourable Michael Poole?

The Honourable Michael Poole

I second the Motion, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, does any Member wish to speak to that Motion?

The Motion before the House is that this House accepts the responses from the Governor in Council on the report of the Public Accounts Committee following the internal audit reports on FIGO and the FITB accounts for the year ending 30th June 2016.

Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that Motion is passed.

Clerk of the Assembly

Motion number 11 of 2017 by the Honourable Ian Hansen:

That this House notes the planned programme of work for the Public Accounts Committee for the period July 2017 to June 2018.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

In rising to present this Motion I will just run through briefly the planned programme of work for this period. As usual, there will be auditing of all public accounts. The PAC will consider a report to the Assembly on the accounts of the following statutory bodies: that is the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, Falkland Landholdings Corporation and the Falkland Islands Tourist Board. Also, bodies in receipt of public funds, which are: the Media Trust, the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust, Falklands Conservation, and South American Atlantic Services Ltd; bodies in which the Falkland Islands Government is a shareholder, that's Stanley Services Ltd; bodies in which a statutory body is a shareholder, that is the Falkland Islands Meat Company Ltd; and any matters that are referred to the PAC from His Excellency the Governor or the Executive Council will be considered.

There are also approximately 25 reports from the Chief Internal Auditor, annual reports plus follow-up reports. On occasion, the report may be the basis of a further enquiry by the committee. The committee have begun inviting the Chief Internal Auditor to present his reports in person and respond to any questions that we have when this is appropriate, and this will save some time.

Moving on, also during this period we will be revealing the Leisure Centre investment during 2013/14. This project has been started, but will continue into this financial year. As indeed will the review of Falkland Islands Government Regulations for Medical Practitioners. This was put on hold in the last financial year as it had not been closed, but it will now be revisited in this financial year.

The review of the Falkland Islands Government IT System is underway and again, will continue into the financial year 2017/18, as indeed will the quarry cost of materials.

The cost effectiveness of the fisheries pre and post ITQ has been put on hold, but will be revisited for the financial year of 2017/18. Other projects that may be considered for 2017/18 include the Port William feasibility study, the public jetty, Prison upgrade mark 2, 10 house contract on Sapper Hill and the 20 house contract on Sapper Hill.

Mr Speaker, I would like to present this Motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, and to be seconded by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

I second the Motion

Mr Speaker

Thank you, does any Member wish to speak to the Motion? The Honourable Mike Summers.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I am fully aware that the programme for the Public Accounts Committee is a matter for the Public Accounts Committee and this is presented for information only to Members, but could I ask the Honourable Member if he could give us some idea of the content or concerns of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of Regulations for Medical Practitioners?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Mike Summers for his question. I don't have an absolute answer with great detail for this. This came from a member of the public I believe, and I think I would have to go to the secretary and go through the notes before I can give anything that I could state as absolutely correct in the way this came forward. If the Honourable Member is content, I will revert back to that, and I can give a written answer in this House if needs be.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. The Honourable Mike Summers do you require a formal written answer to that?

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

I would like to have an answer to the question, yes.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

There will definitely be an answer.

Mr Speaker

Any other Member wish to speak to the Motion? The Honourable Michael Poole.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Just one quick question, I note that in the previous year's work programme for the PAC there was inclusion of a review of the use of external consultants by the Falkland Islands Government, to see if we were achieving value for money when we were using consultants in particular areas. Can my Honourable Colleague confirm that that work is now complete and that report has been sent to the Government?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I thank the Honourable Michael Poole for that question because that is something I hadn't picked up that wasn't in here, and I am not aware that anything has been sent to the Government. I shall certainly follow that up because as far as I am aware there hasn't been anything sent to FIG yet, so I will find that out as well. Thank you for the question.

Mr Speaker

Any other Member wish to speak to the Motion?

Honourable Members, the Motion before the House is that this House notes the planned programme of work for the Public Accounts Committee for the period July 2017 to July 2018. Are there any objections to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that Motion is carried.

Clerk of the Assembly

Motion number 12 of 2017 by the Honourable Ian Hansen:

That this House notes the comments and recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of the internal audit on the Falkland Islands Community School, the internal audit in respect of Health and Safety, the internal audit and the follow-up report on PWD Tenders and Contracts.

In accordance with the Public Accounts Ordinance 2009 Clause 14 (1) that a written response will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly by the Governor in Executive Council within six months of this date.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I have no comment to make on this Motion apart from the fact that I would propose it.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, and to be seconded by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

I second the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you very much, does anyone Member wish to speak to this Motion? No.

The Motion before the House then is that this House notes the comments and recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of internal audits for Falkland Islands Community School, Health and Safety and the follow-up report to PWD Tenders and Contracts. In accordance with the Public Accounts Ordinance 2009 a written response is to be submitted to this Assembly by the Governor in Council within six months.

Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that Motion is carried.

Clerk of the Assembly

Portfolio Report: The Honourable Ian Hansen.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I have a fairly brief portfolio report today. I would like to thank the Acting Chief Executive, the General Manager of FIGAS and the Director of Human Resources for supplying me with a few details.

I will begin with a brief mention of the Camp radio. Following results of the Camp radio survey, and the instruction from ExCo; a programme of work is currently underway to add some infill FM transmitters to improve coverage in several individual settlements. These will be installed by the contractor over the next few weeks and months, and it is hoped that this work will address some of the immediate issues in some of these locations. We strongly encourage Camp listeners to continue to report any identified outages on the system and giving details such as the transmitter or frequency affected and the date and time. Hopefully, this will help to resolve the problems more quickly.

I think to simplify reporting, Central Services are currently looking at a central point of contact for fault reporting so that everybody who is involved in the system - whether it's

FIRS, whether it's the contractor, or FIG – will get all the information at one time and it won't have to be disseminated further. These details will be publicised in the near future.

Moving on to FIGAS, there is just a very brief report on the aircraft availability. We have a backlog of heavy maintenance which we just don't actually have the manpower to process efficiently at the moment. Recruitment of licensed staff remains extremely problematic and we have been searching the worldwide market for the last eight months, but without luck. This isn't just a problem the Falkland Islands are having; all other Islander operators worldwide are having similar problems.

Unfortunately, due to the prevailing lack of engineering manpower and other unforeseen problems, FIGAS are at the moment in a position that requires active management of passenger traffic to conserve flying hours. We have supplemented our engineering team with short-term contractors, and we do remain positive that we will have an aircraft available to continue operations before the current aircraft runs out of flying hours. Therefore there is no need for alarm at this point, and the FIGAS engineering team are working extremely hard to ensure that service continuity is maintained. Additionally, it is anticipated that three aircraft will be available for passenger movement at the beginning of the tourist season, with the fourth aircraft joining in a month or so.

To move on briefly to Human Resources, just a bit on the casework. HR work on recruitment has called for much of the available resources over the past reporting quarter, with a significant demand due to senior posts and overseas recruitment. The implementation of a recommendation from the audit of payroll has delivered high levels of assurance and the HR team have a clear direction of travel to deliver additional efficiencies in how the payroll is administered.

There has been progress on the re-writing of the Management Code. The Management Code Chapter 3 Health and Safety, Chapter 4 Conduct, Capability and Discipline are being rewritten and the draft performance management framework has been developed. Consultation has commenced and will end on the 1st September this year. Following the consultation and the introduction of any amendments, the revised documents will be submitted for formal approval in September. The implementation and revised arrangement will be supported by a range of managers and staff briefings and training sessions, branded as the 'Manager and Employee Essentials Workshop'.

As the revised documents are presented in what is considered to be a more user-friendly format, the development of other parts of the Management Code will follow the same stylistic format. A series of management essential workshops have been delivered over recent months and all programmes were well attended. The new Management Code policies and procedure will provide the foundation on which the wider training programmes are developed.

Recruitment has commenced to fill the new post of Senior HR Advisor. That has been approved as a two year fixed-term contract and the emphasis of this role will be to aid the wider organisational development and training aspects of the Falkland Islands Government.

Finally, four potential providers of a Candidate Management System have been identified and all have submitted proposals. It is anticipated that a system can be procured and become operational by the end of November 2017, helping contribute to a saving against the current

cost of recruitment and improving FIG's on-line presence as an employer in the recruitment market.

Mr Speaker that ends my report.

Mr Speaker

Does any Honourable Member wish to raise a question or comment? The Honourable Jan Cheek.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

May I ask the Honourable Ian Hansen whether, looking ahead once there is full FM coverage for radio, has any more consideration been given to switching one of the transmitters as a dedicated BBC World Service relay which many listeners across the Falklands enjoy? While FIRS obviously has its place in local information and entertainment, people also like to get that broader world view. Thank you.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I thank the Honourable Jan Cheek for her question. As yet, that hasn't been considered, but I see absolutely no reason why the subject cannot be approached and considered in the future.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Thank you Mr Speaker,

In respect of engineers for FIGAS, FIGAS has had a programme over many years of training pilots. Does FIGAS have a similar programme for training of engineers and how many engineers do we currently have on training?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I thank the Honourable Mike Summers for his question, and perhaps I should have mentioned that in my portfolio report. We do currently have two trainee engineers overseas, I believe in Cheltenham I think, I might be correct in saying. They will be back within a year or so, I think, I believe I am correct in saying; it may be a little longer than that. We do have a programme, or FIGAS does have a programme, that supports ongoing training for engineers similar to ongoing training for young pilots.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Can I just ask are they then licensed engineers?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I think I am correct in saying that they will be, they will have to work under certain amount of supervision for a certain amount of time, but I can check up on that for the exact timescale.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for his report and again I want to focus on FIGAS, understandably, I think. I am glad he raised it, and I am glad he told us what the situation is, and I am also very pleased to hear that, hopefully, things will be in a steady situation by October when we have the start of the busy tourist season. The tourist industry is under a lot of pressure to expand and do more. We had a very busy summer last year and we hope will have an equally busy summer and grow the revenue to the Islands from tourism. FIGAS is an absolute integral part of that, everybody wants to get out and see the Islands, so I thank him for that reassurance, and am glad we have explained the situation today. I am hopeful, too, that he can maintain a watching brief on that situation because there will be many people out there that will be very keen to know that FIGAS will have those three planes, with a fourth for the summer season.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and the Honourable Phyl Rendell for her comments. Yes, I am more than happy to keep everybody up to date on a regular basis on where we are with the aircraft.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker,

Again, in relation to FIGAS, the budget cycle before last we had allocated a not-insubstantial amount of money for upgrades to the current fleet, including repainting and interior works just to make sure the aircraft are useful in the future. I note there are issues in terms of ongoing maintenance, but does my Honourable Colleague have any knowledge of the plans and time frames around that upgrade work, and whether that will be commissioned externally?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I thank the Honourable Michael Poole for that question and no, I can't actually answer that at the moment. I know that there is a programme in place, and whether some of that is actually being done at the same time as maintenance is being done I am not entirely sure. Again, I can ask the question and get back to you on that one.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to comment or raise a question on that report? No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Portfolio Report: The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

We will start with Health and Social Care. As this is the first month of the reporting year there are no reports yet on performance against budget, but there is a new budget monitoring process in place in the department to try to improve financial governance, with departments having greater awareness of their specific budgets and their responsibilities to work within them.

The biggest pressure is on high cost medications, and Honourable Members will be aware that there was a paper at the Standing Finance Committee last month I think, asking for medications for a specific patient. At the present time, we have just under 20 patients with specific high cost medicine requirements, and the budget at the moment is £325,000 per annum. This is in addition to the normal pharmacy budget so we can see that this is an issue that is difficult to manage and, of course, very personal to individual members of the public, and sometimes quite emotive. We might need to think about whether we can provide other support to the Health and Medical Services in decision making in this area, but I think that is something for the next Government to consider.

In terms of the Vulnerable People Extra Care project, the architect for that has been chosen and the detailed design work is now in place. They spent a week in Stanley meeting with key people regarding the design and some of the detail surrounding the design. The meetings were positive and plans are moving forward.

In terms of other development of KEMH facilities - these are the removal of the engineers to a different place, the construction of a new theatre block and the installation of CAT scanning facilities - membership of the planning group for the KEMH Development Project has been identified and the first meeting of the group is scheduled for the 9th August, so that is beginning to move forward.

In terms of visiting specialists, the list is in place and is being published on a regular basis. The visit by the Gastroenterologist had to be cancelled due to equipment issues, and an engineer from the UK is now on-site addressing the problem. The plan is to rebook the cancelled appointments for September.

In terms of staffing, we're not in too bad a position. We have another 1.33 - don't ask me about the '.33' - but 1.33 doctor vacancies will be filled on a full-time basis quite soon, leaving two vacancies which will continue to be filled by the high quality locum rotation that we have in place. We have two new starters in Nursing, leaving four vacancies with recruitment ongoing. The Pharmacy is now fully staffed; the Radiography department will be fully staffed in September. We do have an issue in Probation - the Probation Officer works for the Social Services department. We do not have a Probation Officer at the moment, this does have some implications for offender management in the prison, but we are working hard to try and fill that post.

In terms of Social Work, we currently have one social worker vacancy which is being covered by a locum.

The Occupational Therapist who was appointed under the auspices of the Vulnerable People's project is now in post and settling in and doing some very good work.

The additional engineer post that we agreed at the budget session is now in a stage of job description being developed in preparation for advertising the role.

Two other issues just to note; the Op. Cinnamon project is progressing. This is obviously a cross-over project between Health and Social Services and the Police. The social workers who we had here to supplement that programme have completed their work and have now gone back to the UK, so that part of the project has been dealt with. We are now just into the police work and will update Members perhaps in private in due course on that when there is further development.

Finally breast screening, despite a delayed start 283 women received breast screening recently; 272 were called through the screening programme and 5 were symptomatic presentations. Following screening, 10 people have required further investigation. That programme will obviously continue in future years.

That concludes my report for Health and Social Services.

I will move on to Emergency Services, and I will deal with Customs and Immigration first. If I could first read a couple of bits to you from quite a lengthy report from the Emergency Services Directorate, which I will put on the table at Gilbert House afterwards so you can read in substantial detail. So "from the 17,136 passengers who arrived by air during the financial year 16/17, Customs and Immigration officers seized or retained for further examination: 80 units of dutiable goods, that's alcohol and tobacco, 62 consignments of food stuffs and 15 soiled items of biosecurity risk concern, plus 6 personal consignments of medical drugs and medications. 490 packages arriving in the mail and by DHL were also physically examined".

One other set of statistics which might be of interest. During the financial year 16/17: the Immigration section of the service processed some 1,755 permit applications – of which 5 were refused; two persons were also deported during the period; 35 Permanent Resident Permits were considered, which runs from September to August which is just 4 less than the previous year. The number of Falkland Islands status applications approved during the last calendar year were 17 and 6 have been approved this year to date, so just a couple of bits of statistical stuff from Customs and Immigration.

Other issues in terms of Customs and Immigration, as Members know, and the public will be aware, the new Immigration policy passed through Select Committee last week and will be coming to the House at its next sitting I hope, so the new permitting system will be in place.

Electronic clearance of fishing vessels is working well, it needs a little bit of updating and those fishing companies who are not currently in the system will be strongly encouraged to join the system which seems to be to everybody's benefit.

The revenue for the Customs and Immigration department last year was less than had been predicted and that was largely because reefers were not coming in to Berkeley Sound. There seems to be more activity of squid jiggers transshipping to reefer vessels outside of Falklands territorial waters than there had been before. That is perhaps largely to do with there being low activity and therefore squeezed costs for operators.

The electronic scanning of passports project is almost in place. I know that the department has been working together with people from CBFSAI to get that done. Some cabling work and equipment had to be put in place, but when I had my last portfolio meeting, which was a couple of weeks ago, I was told that it should be in place within a month, so a couple of weeks, hopefully. This will also help with the production of export data and other statistics, so that is all good.

Falkland Islands Defence Force, not a great deal to report. There is one very happy piece of news to report and that is that the co-operation between the FIDF and CBFSAI seems to be on a much better and stronger footing than it has been for some time. They are working together on joint exercises and joint working and that seems to be improving substantially, so I would like to thank everybody involved in putting that into a better place. Otherwise, the necessary training continues to enable FIDF to carry out all their functions.

The review of the Defence Force has not gone well, I don't think, it has kind of stuttered along. This does cause a degree of discontent, well it's probably not discontent, but perhaps concern amongst members of the FIDF about what the outcome of it all might be. I think we would like to assure members of the Defence Force, and potential members of the Defence Force, that the role that it currently fulfils is unlikely to change. The big issue is getting the legislation to support that properly formulated and in place. I will push for the review to continue and to be completed.

In terms of Fire and Rescue, they have delivered over 200 hours of various types of training including four new recruits over the last four and a half months. The department has also been delivering fire warden and fire extinguisher training and working with the KEMH on fire safety related issues. The department has also just formally introduced home visits with continuing visits to the schools, nurseries and youth groups. These home visits are for the elderly and people who may not have suitable fire precautions in place, who perhaps need some advice and assistance. During the summer months, as we know, the new Fire Behaviour Units were brought into service which has been a positive and welcome facility. The units will be moved from their current location to Megabid as soon as the new asphalt plant is moved and is up and running.

On the negative side in Fire and Rescue, the premises continue to provide significant difficulty for proper working in the Fire and Rescue Service, and I would like to encourage Public Works and all future Members of the Assembly to review, again, the facilities that are available to Fire and Rescue and see whether we can't provide them with something better to carry out what is an important function.

Next is the prison, the prison is doing well. There has been a notable increase in prisoners committed for violent offending, that obviously has effect on the people who run the prison and the way they are able to run the prison. The lack of Probation Office doesn't help, but the officers are doing an excellent job. The agreement by Members at the budget session to recruit another prison officer is very welcome indeed. Depending on what happens in the next

several months with Op. Cinnamon and other issues, there may be a need for further staffing, but that can only be seen at the time.

New prison legislation became law in April 2017 as we know, and they are now working to that. Amending behaviour work commenced in June, delivered by the prison staff which is a significant step in prison reform for the Falkland Islands. There are UK accredited programmes achieved by joint funding with the Foreign Office in this area, and we'll continue to work on that.

Statistics are always fascinating aren't they? There is a well-known comment about lies and damn lies and statistics or something, but here is a few for you. Significant indicators for Her Majesty's Prison performance are: an average 258% increase in purposeful activities for prisoners, a 600% increase in offending behaviour programme portfolio, an 800% increase in security performance, 80% increase in occupancy capacity, 650% increase in structured risk assessment and sentence management and 415% increase in staff training and development. They are pretty extraordinary figures; I think they just represent the changes that have been made to the way the prison is being run and the new programmes that are being introduced to make sure that we run a proper and sensible prison.

Finally the Police, the Police have been through a difficult period as we know with the suspension of the Chief Police Officer and the pressure that puts on other members of the Police, coinciding with Operation Cinnamon bringing other pressures with it. It has been a difficult time, and I would like to thank Chief Inspector Dave Street for his positive approach to trying to manage the Police and keep us on an even keel over the last few months. It hasn't been easy, and he has done a good job. You will have seen there was an announcement relatively recently that we have been able to appoint some senior level assistance for him so, hopefully, that will get easier and the management of the Police Service, and importantly the protection of the public, can be maintained.

In April the much anticipated new radio system went live and is now in use and is also, or it has now, been rolled out across the other services within the directorate, so now all the Emergency Services directorate can talk to each other which is an extraordinary thing.

There is a negative on the Police side, and that is a recurring theme that we are aware of. The Police Ordinance 2000 continues to show it is antiquated and out of step with modern policing methods in dealing with both internal and external complaints. I know this is on the list of things to be dealt with in due course; it does hamper the Police in doing their work and I would urge the next Government to make it a priority to make sure that the Police Ordinance is updated.

Once again the working arrangements between the Royal Falkland Islands Police and the JSPSU at Mount Pleasant has substantially improved and am grateful to the Command structure for that and for making sure that our services are working together. The joint MOU on policing is moving forward well, I am told.

Two other brief areas to cover on housing; the housing position in the Falklands, or in Stanley at least, at the moment is not too bad. We are under a degree of pressure in the Government contractors' side of things. We have just about enough houses for all the new appointments that have been, or are being, made but we are pretty squeezed there. In the local pool we are just about approaching equilibrium at last after a long, long period of being short

of housing. We are able to meet most of the requirements for people on the list for local housing.

The issue of housing debt remains a concern to the Housing Committee, and I have raised the issue again with the Financial Secretary in Executive Council yesterday to make sure there is a proper mechanism in place for the Public Works, the Treasury and the Attorney General's Chambers to collect rent from those people who are wilfully not paying it. Clearly, there are people who are unable to pay rent and there are schemes and arrangements in place for them to make sure that they are not unduly inconvenienced, but for people who just choose not to pay their rent it's not good enough, and the Government must act to fix that.

Finally on sport, I will speak a little bit about this in the Motion for the Adjournment because we have an announcement about the Queen's Baton, but the Island Games that have just taken place have been a huge success. I was delighted to be able to be there with our team and work with them to achieve the results that they did and, as I have already mentioned earlier during this session, work is now proceeding on producing the new facilities on the rugby pitch to substantially improve the amenity value and the community value of sport.

That concludes my report.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, does any Member wish to comment? The Honourable Michael Poole.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Really just one question in relation to housing. Firstly it is very positive that the housing numbers are about aligning with demand now, that is great. It has taken a number of years to get to that point, and obviously we need to make sure we maintain that to make sure we don't fall behind again. With that having been achieved is it now a good time for the Housing Committee, in conjunction with the Public Works Department, to look at the issue of backlog maintenance? I know we haven't spent our maintenance budget for a number of years - I think the census figures were quite encouraging in terms of the quality of housing, people were saying generally they were quite content, but there are still issues there, and I think that Government has an obligation to make sure the housing we provide to people meets a certain minimum standard. I wonder if the Housing Committee could pick up that issue and look at agreeing a set standard if it doesn't already exist, it may do, and look at your timeframe around making sure that every Government house meets that minimum standard.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, thank you for that.

There are set standards for housing, I am not sure in what form they exist, but I have been told by the Director of Public Works that there is a set standard for what they do. Every house, or pretty well every house, is refurbished in one way or another between tenants and

there is an ongoing programme of replacements of kitchens and the like where necessary, obviously carpets get worn out.

We did have a discussion at the Housing Committee last week about maintenance. There is a bit of a backlog in the local housing pool and the Director of Public Works is considering putting some of that out for contract because his staff are unlikely to be able to deal with all of it, so the matter is certainly in the Director's conscience and, to a certain extent, in hand.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

Just to pick up on the Vulnerable Person's facility, as the Honourable Mike Summer said we had a recent visit from the architect and had a number of meetings and they were very, very useful meetings. I think that the facility that is going to come out of this process is something that the Islands will be proud of and I think that's extremely good. The one thing I think perhaps I picked up was that there was slight uncertainty with the architect at the beginning as to the age range of people in the facility. I think he has gone away very clear now that although the majority of people in there might be of an older age, it nevertheless remains a facility that is available for young people who have disabilities or who are vulnerable in other ways.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker,

Thank you for that, it is an important issue and one we have discussed at some length during the genesis of this project. The instruction that the architect and designer has taken in going away is that this facility will be available to people from the age of 16 and upwards. The view has been taken by the professionals involved in the project that to try to put children under the age of 16 into it will create many, many more problems and difficulties than we are currently in a position to deal with, but certainly people between the ages of 16 and 18 who might still be classified as children and younger adults, or adults with difficulties, will certainly be catered for.

Mr Speaker

Any other Member wish to comment or raise a question? No.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Motion for Adjournment

The Acting Chief Executive

Mr Speaker I beg to move that this House stands adjourned *sine die*

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker,

I have only one matter to raise in the Motion for Adjournment, and that is to advise Members and to advise members of the public that the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton will arrive here in the Falklands on Saturday 12th August, so that is only a couple of weeks away.

The Queen's Baton is specifically produced for each Commonwealth Games, the next Commonwealth Games are next year in the Gold Coast in Australia, and the Baton is taken around each and every one of the Commonwealth countries and territories. It will arrive here on the 12th August; a programme has been produced and will be published very shortly for members of the public. There will be all sorts of opportunities for members of the public who would like to engage with the Queen's Baton, to see it, to touch it and, for many people hopefully, to carry it. It will pass through various parts of Stanley, it will arrive at Mount Pleasant and there will be some stuff there first, it will then come to Stanley and all sorts of activities during Sunday. On Monday it is going out to Camp.

I think the people from FIOGA who have been working on a programme for the Queen's Baton relay have done a great job, and I thank them all for that, and I hope that everybody will take the opportunity at some point while it is here to try and see the Queen's Baton and take part in the activities of the relay.

Thank you, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I know we have another appointment at 11am, so I am not going to put us over time today. I would just like to start by welcoming the Acting Chief Executive, Stephen Luxton, to this House. Of course, he is no stranger having spent many years sitting on this side, so it will be interesting to find out after this meeting which he has found more fun.

Briefly on telecoms, I think one of my colleagues is going to mention this, so I won't steal his thunder apart to say that I am becoming increasingly concerned about the way things are going, and I think we are getting to a stage where the public is starting to rapidly lose faith in this Government to be able to deliver anything on telecoms, but I shall leave that to the Member who is going to mention it.

The only real thing I have to mention, and this came pinging through yesterday from up at the Power Station from Glenn Ross which I actually thought was extremely good news, extremely exciting and interesting. He basically says that yesterday, Wednesday morning I think it was, the Wind Farm's achieved some remarkable numbers. The conditions were favourable for some experimentation and they managed to achieve the following: Sand Bay Wind Farm generated 1,886 kilowatts which is a new record output and that equates to 77% wind into diesel penetration. The diesel load on the Power Station on the actual generator that they had running up there was just 563 kilowatts. They're checking their archives to see when they last had a load as low as that on a generator between 9-10 in the morning, Glenn thinks it was probably back around 1981.

At the same time out at MPA we had Marc Finlayson on the dials out there, and their wind farm was producing 941 kilowatts. Across the wind farms, we are producing at that time 2.827 megawatts of power and that is 314 kilowatts per turbine. As Glenn says, and I totally agree with him, it's a marvellous example of an engineering-led project. From their engine haul meter, 77% penetration looks to be about the maximum that they are going to be able to do and Glenn does say it got slightly 'sketchy' as he called it up there, for a while so we were right on the line. They do plan though to catch 2000 kilowatts before the 9th August 2017 which marks the 10th year of wind power in Stanley.

And the fly wheels? They are spinning away nicely and have been since late May. Since they have been up and running they have caught what would have been one power cut, which was on the 26th June, so already we are seeing benefits.

I wish to support the Motion for Adjournment.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I would just like to take this chance to highlight that from Monday 7th until Saturday 12th August we are due to have Minister Hogan from Montserrat visit us. Mr Hogan is the Minister responsible for Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment in Montserrat and he is visiting as part of a Territory to Territory initiative funded and supported by the JNCC in the UK. SAERI are doing much of the legwork for this project locally, and will be his main host for the week, and the Government will obviously take a chance to meet with him as well, and talk about slightly wider issues, particularly Brexit where we have a common interest. So just to let people know that's going on so if you see him around, have a chat to him.

Finally Mr Speaker, I would just like to say that since we last sat we enjoyed Farmers Week earlier in the month, and I would just like to take this chance to publically thank all involved in organising and contributing to that event. It really seems to go from strength to strength each year and was a thoroughly enjoyable week, as it always is.

In relation to my portfolio areas I attended some good discussions about some SAERI-led projects that caused a bit of consternation, hopefully we reassured people in that respect and also some very positive discussions about the development of tourism in Camp as well, so that was helpful. There are often differing views on some of these issues, but the level of engagement is great and I think Farmers' Week provides a really good model for industry generally, in terms of how to engage with the Government right across all elements of it. Thanks again to those involved there.

I would just like to take this chance to say that despite Andrew Newman's dodgy scorekeeping, I would like to put on the record that I did score a goal against Mr Hansen whilst he was in goal in the East versus West match, so I hope you will publically acknowledge that today!

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

In rising to support the Motion for Adjournment, I seem to have spoken a lot today and covered a lot of topics, so I have very little to mention apart from the fact that, just as far as the Public Accounts Committee is concerned, I think we would like to thank our outgoing secretary Louise Taylor very much for all that she has done and we would also like to welcome Ronnie MacLennan-Baird as the new secretary.

I would also like to congratulate, of course, the sports team that attended the Small Island Games and I look forward to chatting to them tonight at the reception and congratulating them again and to hear their achievements.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I totally refute the Honourable Michael Poole's accusation that I conceded a goal when he obviously put it wide.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

The recently published census report which represented a lot of work in the Policy department, in particular by Maeve Daly who produced the excellent report, contains a wealth of interesting information and will be most useful to FIG and future planning, but I think also to the private sector. There must be some value there in terms of population trends and make up and working patterns. People have already highlighted two of the important details; one being an increase in population both in town and Camp, and secondly the rise in both median and average earnings. We still have no need for complacency because there are still people on the minimum wage which will not match the living wage for another year or so, so it is important we, and future Assemblies, keep pressure on that.

While we've said, like many countries, to be an aging population, it is interesting that here we have 2.2 working-age people for every 'dependant' – and I put that in inverted commas - person which is favourable in comparison with the UK, which only has 1.8 for every dependant person. In addition, of course, our situation is different in that many of us have two or three jobs given that there is no unemployment, and many of us, including a few around this table, work beyond what is regarded as normal retirement age. There are supposedly great health benefits to the individual as well as the benefits hopefully that our work achieves.

Another pleasing figure is the number of houses built in recent years, clearly demonstrating not just the houses that Government builds, but the value of those serviced plots which allows the housing pool to increase but without ongoing maintenance problems for Government.

Another of my 'hobby horses' from this is that it shows there is still more than one in ten people without access to the internet. If you are advertising an event or something like that, remember one in ten people will not see it if you do it on Facebook, rather more than one in ten because a lot of us choose not to have anything to do with Facebook.

The next thing I wanted to do was congratulate a couple of Michaels – first our own, the Honourable Michael Poole, on getting the Chevening Scholarship to the LSE. I am sure he is a most worthy candidate for that, and many congratulations to him and to Michael Betts who, I understand, will shortly be replacing James Marsh at the Falkland Islands Government Office. I look forward to working with him at the party conferences in a couple of months' time. Michael is, of course, replacing James Marsh who has worked for many years in that office; I had reason to be grateful for his super-efficiency when he looked after medical patients when I was over there having a smashed elbow put back together. His efficiency and thoughtfulness were outstanding, and he has done a very good job in succeeding years in other roles in the office, and I wish him every success for the future.

I don't want to take any more time, but I just want to note what a pleasure it is to see not one, not two, but three of my ex-pupils round the table; all stars in their own way.

Thank you.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I would like to associate myself with the words of the Honourable Michael Poole regarding Farmers' Week. That's what I was going to speak about, but I won't repeat all of that, and I just thank the RBA for organising a very interesting week. It is difficult year on year to make it different and I think they do that extremely well, and I think we learnt a lot and we were able to give information too, so it was a great week.

There is an important piece of public consultation going on currently to do with the Education Ordinance, and I believe that is being circulated and there is a questionnaire out. I would urge particularly Camp members to try to receive that if they haven't already got a copy, and complete it because there are some questions on it that are specifically focused on the Camp. I have had some Camp residents contact me about that and are a little bit concerned that if the whole of the population answer questions that are specifically related to Camp issues, the results might be a bit skewed. I am sure the Education Department will take that into account, but I do urge Camp members in particular to get hold of a copy of that questionnaire and complete it and take part, whether you are a parent or going to be a future parent or whether you are a grandparent like me, because I certainly will be taking part in the questionnaire.

Moving on to Fisheries, this weekend we see the commencement of the Loligo fishery - the second season. We had a very good first season earlier this year, and I do hope that it's equally as productive, the second season. We were down at SAAS, we had a board meeting at SAAS yesterday and we were advised that SAAS is in a good position for handling the cargo, handling fish, so we do hope that it will be used well. I would just say that in the months of March and April when there was a possibility that FIPASS might have had restricted access, we had quite a record number of transshipments going on in those two months, so we would urge companies to use SAAS and the equipment that is there whenever they can.

I, too, was going to talk about the census, but the Honourable Jan Cheek has done that already so I won't repeat all that she said. I would just say that it is very well worth a read, it takes a bit of digesting, but it is very well worth a read. I am not quite sure what we as an

Assembly do with the census - I have to discuss with Members. I know we only do it once every four years or whether we formally review it and that's something we need to look at, we haven't discussed that. I would thank the Policy Unit for their excellent work, I think it had taken a little time to come out and I think I asked MLA Poole every week 'where is the census report', but I can understand why it took time because it had to be right. I noticed, I think, there was a new question in it about how do you feel health-wise, and I thought it was most encouraging to see that the vast majority of people feel well in our community. I was very interested in the returns on alcohol consumption because I noticed that our generation have not reduced their alcohol consumption, so there you go. It is interesting to note that perhaps we answered it honestly!

Thank you Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

In rising to support the Motion for Adjournment, I too would like to say "thank you" to James Marsh, his last day in the office in London was on the 25th July. I had several times went with James, or James went with me, on foreign visits and I must say his input was most worthwhile, and I think he will be missed in the office. So "farewell James, and good luck in Kuala Lumpur", and "hello Michael", I suppose we should say.

I would just like to say that we have forty coins, somewhere around about forty coins, still in Gilbert House that have not been claimed. We would like to conclude the issue of these coins by the end of August, so please, if anyone is listening at all who know there are children who have not yet received their coin, please get in touch. You don't have to specifically come to Gilbert House, just ring up, send a letter, send a note, send your dog, whatever, but please do get in touch so we can distribute the last of these coins and conclude that piece of business.

Members became aware yesterday that the Falkland Islands Government has suffered fraud against it, resulting in a loss of a sum of money. Basically, it is an email scam where someone gets hold of your emails and tells you that their bank address....they get hold of a genuine account and then email you to say that 'sorry our bank account has changed, please can you forward the money into a new account'. We were made aware of this yesterday, but we do know of other cases in the private sector, through Facebook and other means, that this has also happened. They picked it up in the private sector, so please be aware that there is fraud around and it can affect us, even though we are 8,000 miles away from the UK. The fraudsters are damn clever and they can get your money one way or another, so treat everything with a little bit of suspicion.

Finally, Mr Speaker it must be holiday mode; I see the Chief of Staff standing in for CBF, I see Ros standing in for the Attorney General, I welcome Stephen as Acting Chief Executive because the Chief Executive's away, and even we ourselves break up on Friday for a two week recess, so it must be holiday time.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

I think I would just like to start off by again congratulating the Honourable Michael Poole on his scholarship, he is going off to the LSE which has a reputation for radical politics, so I am sure that when he comes back with his Masters he will think about standing again for the House, and I think your politics will hopefully change a bit more left wing..?

The Honourable Michael Poole

I am sure it could be

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

I think it will and I think you will have an enjoyable time, and am sure you will benefit greatly from it.

As the Honourable Gavin Short said, I wanted to touch on Sure and the internet at the moment; I think we are all concerned, as all members of the community are concerned, about the performance of the internet. It is improving, I think people will say it is improving, but it's no way near what it should be.

I became aware a few days ago that there really isn't any ongoing monitoring of the performance of Sure on a day to day basis. People, some people, some of us, some years ago, signed up so that our computers could be used as a monitoring base for the performance of Cable and Wireless that was, I think, called actual experience, and I believe that was still going on, but it wasn't, it was stopped a couple of years ago now. So it appears from brief conversations I have had with the Acting Chief Executive that there does not appear to be any ongoing monitoring. He is at this time going to be discussing it with the Acting Attorney General because the Acting Attorney General is the Regulator in the absence of the full time Regulator, who is due to arrive here in about September. I think to wait until the Regulator arrives and then expect everything to start again we're losing ground. I think that people would expect that we are doing things like monitoring the performance in a very accurate way, so that when the Regulator does arrive we have built up a picture of where we are. Hopefully, it will show that we are improving over the months, but we desperately need that information.

The only other thing I wanted to touch on, Mr Speaker, is in relation to the healthy eating debate we had here in the House last month. Members will remember that part of the wish for a paper to go to ExCo was to look at the way the private sector could be involved in helping with the weight problems and the obesity problems in our young people. I have had numerous meetings with the private sector before our debate last month and those meetings have continued. The last meeting was held yesterday morning, and at that meeting were representatives from the Chandlery, the West Store, Kelper Stores and Southern Imports. They fully understood the problems about obesity in our children, and they realised that they had an important role to play and they were keen to play that role. At the meeting we made some decisions as to how we might go forward, and all of those establishments agreed the following: that sweets and chocolates will be removed from close to the tills to prevent impulse buying; that they will impose a ban on 2 for 1 offers on sweets, chocolates etc; they

will stop advertising these products – sweets and chocolates and the like – in store, in the Penguin News and on Facebook. The only exception will be a simple one time announcement at Christmas time and at Easter time to say the appropriate Easter eggs or whatever have arrived.

All the retail outlets are keen to proceed along a voluntary route, and this is the first step on what they and I hope will be more initiatives, but I think it is a realisation by the private sector that although they are keen to do it they do lack some expertise in that field, and it may well be if we wish to progress things about making the public more aware of what are healthy options within the store then we might need some guidance from someone else to enable that to happen. I think it is important to realise that these steps that the private sector have taken – they have taken in the knowledge that it might have a financial impact on the store, but they nevertheless view their responsibilities so high that they are prepared to take that risk. Some people may have already noticed that in the West Store for instance there aren't any chocolates on the tills anymore, they have gone already. West Store for instance has already introduced the free fruit on Friday for children, and again these are the initiatives that the private sector are taking on board.

The one thing they formally asked me at the meeting yesterday was to express their severe disappointment that Government didn't feel able to engage in this sort of process that they have engaged in, and hope that when we have a new Assembly that they will be more willing to engage and actually try to help the children who have problems with obesity.

Mr Speaker I support the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members that concludes the business for the House today, I wish you all a pleasant break for the next couple of weeks, and the House stands adjourned accordingly.

Confirmed this 31st day of August 2017

Speaker of the House

Appendices

Motion number 10 of 2017 by the Honourable Jan Cheek:

FIGO

The letter made the following recommendation (Appendix A1): *“We would like MLAs to assure us that in the new contract for booking MOD flights there are clearly stated terms with regard to the receipt of revenue by the FIG and that relevant clauses will be properly applied.”*

FIG Response

The contract for booking MOD flights was agreed in 2014 for a period of 5 years. As part of the contract the contractor is required to forward payments to FIGO within 1 week of receiving the invoice. There have been delays in receiving payments as highlighted in the audit. FIGO will continue to raise invoices and chase any outstanding debts. However, a revised escalation process has now been implemented which will enable outstanding payments to be escalated within Treasury and appropriate action taken in accordance with the agreement.

FITB

The letter made the following recommendation:

“PAC would like assurance from MLAs, by the end of April 2017, that appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that the FIG will not be exposed to any kind of legal action by the UK HMRC.”

FIG Response

A response has been received from the FITB. FITB have taken appropriate steps to obtain assurance that the relevant taxes have been paid. FITB have calculated the total liability and in the event that the taxes were not paid these could be met from FITB funds. FITB have also confirmed that any future UK based employees will be paid a net salary to ensure this situation does not arise again.

Andrea Clausen,
Public Accounts Committee
Shackleton House
PO Box 420
Stanley
Falkland Islands
FIQQ 1ZZ

Dear Andrea,

Falkland Islands Tourist Board Accounts year end 30 June 2016

We are writing to assure you that in line with the matter highlighted by Mazars LLP in their Audit completion report and the resulting point in our management letter of representation that we have indeed taken the appropriate steps to gain assurance that the Director of International Communications and Markets has taken the necessary actions to ensure that the appropriate local taxes and NICs have been paid. Evidence to confirm that the appropriate taxes have been paid will be requested in due course from the Director.

Whilst we cannot offer unlimited assurance on any legal action from HMRC the arrangements made to pay the Director of International Communications a gross salary in the UK was made to reduce bureaucracy and have been clearly documented as part of his contract. We are therefore satisfied that the responsibility for ensuring local taxes and NICs has been mutually agreed with the Director in questions as his responsibility and will continue to be the case. Legal advice has not been sought as FITB agree that the Director should have been classified as an employee despite his contract which states otherwise. Evidence that taxes have been paid will be requested from the Director, FITB have calculated the total liability in the event that taxes are not paid and these could be met from FITB funds if necessary.

Any future UK based employees will be paid a net salary to ensure that this situation does not arise again.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Muncaster
Financial Controller, FITB

Motion number 11 of 2017 by the Honourable Ian Hansen:

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**PLANNED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR PERIOD
JULY 2017 TO JUNE 2018**

1. Public Accounts

Consider the arrangements for auditing of the Public Accounts, the priorities of the audit and its effectiveness and report to The Governor and The Legislative Assembly.

Consider and report to the Legislative Assembly on the Public Accounts.

2. Statutory Bodies

Consider and report to the Legislative Assembly on the accounts of the following statutory bodies:

- Falkland Islands Development Corporation
- Falklands Landholdings Corporation
- Falkland Islands Tourist Board

3. Bodies in receipt of public funds

Consider and report to the Legislative Assembly on the accounts of the following bodies which are in receipt of public funds.

- The Media Trust
- The Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust
- Falklands Conservation
- South American Atlantic Services Ltd

4. Bodies in which the Falkland Islands Government is a shareholder

Consider and report to the Legislative Assembly on the accounts of the following bodies:

- Stanley Services Limited

5. Bodies in which a Statutory Body is a shareholder

Consider and report to the Legislative Assembly on the accounts of the following bodies:

- Falkland Islands Meat Company Limited

6. Matters referred by The Governor

Consider any matters that are referred to the PAC from HE the Governor or Executive Council.

7. Reports of the Chief Internal Auditor

Consider and report to Legislative Assembly on all reports of the Chief Internal Auditor.

There are approximately twenty five such reports annually plus follow up reports. On occasion a report may be the basis of a further inquiry by the Committee. The Committee have begun inviting the Chief Internal Auditor to present his reports in person and respond to any questions they have when this is appropriate.

8. Review of Leisure Centre Investment during 2013/14

This project has been started but will continue into the financial year of 2017 – 18.

9. Review of FIG regulations for medical practitioners

This project was put on hold in the last financial year as it had not been closed but will now be re-visited in the financial year of 2017 - 18.

10. Review of FIG IT systems

This project has been started but will continue into the financial year of 2017 – 18.

11. Quarry – cost of materials

This project has been started but will continue into the financial year of 2017 – 18.

12. Cost effectiveness of the Fisheries pre and post ITQ

This project has been put on hold but will be re-visited for the financial year of 2017 – 18.

13. Other projects to be considered for 2017 – 18 include

- Port William feasibility study
- Public Jetty
- Prison upgrade mark 2
- 10 house contract Sapper Hill
- 20 house contract Sapper Hill