



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

**HELD AT THE COURT AND ASSEMBLY
CHAMBERS
STANLEY**

27 SEPTEMBER 2018

**RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HELD AT THE COURT & ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS, STANLEY.
THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Speaker of the House
(Mr Keith Biles JP)

MEMBERS (Ex-Officio)

The Honourable Chief Executive
(Mr Barry Rowland)

The Honourable Financial Secretary
(Mr James Wilson)

Elected

The Honourable Teslyn Siobhan Barkman
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

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

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

The Honourable Ian Hansen
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Roger Kenneth Spink
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Lucila Leona Vidal Roberts (Leona Roberts)
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Honourable Stacy John Bragger
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Mark John Pollard
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND

The Attorney General
(Mr Simon Young)

Commander British Forces, South Atlantic Islands
(Brigadier Barry Bennet CBE)

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY: Cherie Clifford

PRAYERS: Reverend Kathy Biles.

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**Record of the Meeting of the Legislative Assembly
Thursday 27 September 2018**

Prayers

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I bid you good morning and my usual reminder about electronic equipment to be turned to silent, please.

Clerk of the Assembly

Confirmation of the Record of the Legislative Assembly held on 30th August 2018.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I have before me a record of the recording of our last Assembly. For those of you who have read it you will realise that there are some gaps which were caused by the technical problems that we had last time. However, the important parts of the record, which is the decisions that you made, are recorded and recorded fully.

Is it your wish that I sign this copy now as a record, in so far as it can be, of that last meeting?

Members of Legislative Assembly

It is.

Clerk of the Assembly

Papers to be Laid on the Table by the Honourable Chief Executive.

Copies of subsidiary legislation published in the Falkland Islands Gazette since the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly and Laid on the Table pursuant to section 35(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance 1977.

- Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) General Regulations 1996 (Correction) Order 2018
- Fishery Products (Designations) (Amendment) Order 2018

In accordance with Section 80(2) of the Constitution the record of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of internal audit reports:

Internal Audits:

- Customs & Immigration
- Education Payroll Review
- Follow Up Report: Mineral Resources
- Follow Up Report: Fire & Rescue Service
- Follow Up Report: Medical Treatment Overseas
- Follow Up Report: Budget Monitoring (2nd Follow Up)

- Follow Up Report: FIG Mortgages
- Cash & Bank
- Follow Up Report: Treasury Social Payments
- Follow Up Report: Fishing Licence Income
- Follow Up Report: PWD Payroll Review
- Fishing License Conditions
- Emergency Services Payroll Review
- Biosecurity
- Morrisons (Falklands) Limited Partnership Accuracy of Payments
- Follow Up Report: Falkland Islands Community School
- Legislative Assembly Response to PAC/17/6/7 – Falkland Islands Community School
- Follow Up Report: Falkland Islands Government Office

In accordance with Section 80 of the Constitution the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of accounts:

- Falklands Islands Museum & National Trust Accounts: Year End 30th June 2017
- Falklands Landholdings Corporation Accounts: Year End 30th June 2017
- Falkland Islands Meat Company Limited Accounts: Year End 30th June 2017
- Falklands Conservation Accounts: Year End 30th June 2017

The Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker,

I hereby lay the aforementioned papers on the table.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker,

Under Standing Order section 41(3) I move that the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) General Regulations 1996 (Correction) Order 2018 be noted.

This Order corrects a typographical error in the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) General Regulations 1996.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Can we have a seconder please? The Honourable Roger Edwards to second, thank you.

Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion? No.

Honourable Members, the Motion is that the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) General Regulations 1996 (Correction) Order 2018 is noted.

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

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Mr Speaker,

Under Standing Order section 41(3) I move that the Fishery Products (Designations) (Amendment) Order 2018 be noted.

This Order designates a new fishing vessel under the Fishery Products (Designations) Order 2014. The vessel is 'Argos Cies'.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Can I have a seconder for that Motion?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, I second that Motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, the Honourable Ian Hansen to second.

Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion? No.

Honourable Members, the Motion is that the Fishery Products (Designations) (Amendment) Order 2018 is noted.

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

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

Under Standing Order section 41(3) I move that the Public Accounts Committee reports as listed by the Clerk be noted.

I think it is worth commenting on these reports, Mr Speaker. The Clerk has already read them and at the Public Accounts Committee meeting held on the 20th July this year the Chief Internal Auditor reviewed the listed internal audits and the Committee was content that the listed audits were satisfactory. Indeed, some audit outcomes were rated as fully implemented and this is very pleasing.

Additionally, we are waiting some follow up audit reports on the Fishing Licences Conditions, Emergency Services Payroll Review, Biosecurity, MFL Partnership Accuracy of Payments and follow up reports from FICS.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, can I have a seconder to that Motion please? The Honourable Ian Hansen to second.

Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion? No.

The Motion before the House is that the Public Accounts Committee reports as listed by the Clerk be noted.

Any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that Motion is carried.

Clerk of the Assembly

Questions for oral response: question number 22 of 2018 by the Honourable Leona Roberts.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Would the Honourable Barry Elsby please inform the House what, if any, steps are being taken to provide single person or low-cost units in future housing developments?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I would like to thank the Honourable Leona Roberts for her question. Within every development FIG tries to provide a range of accommodation options. With the last phase of Sapper Hill we provided an additional eight single person one-bed units. There are a further four planned for the housing development due to start shortly within phase 5 on Sapper Hill.

There are also plans to demolish the currently vacant Moody Street flat and replace it with four modern flats. With these additions, FIG will have fifty four single accommodation units which is approximately 7% of our total stock.

As of yesterday evening, the FIG housing list contains fifteen applicants requesting one bedroom accommodation.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

I thank the Honourable Barry Elsby for that answer. That is very reassuring and good to know that steps are being made in this direction.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Would the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby agree that this highlights the need for us to complete the Housing Needs Analysis that we have asked for, for quite some time?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

I think all Members share my Honourable friend's concern. The Housing Needs Analysis was a priority of this Government when we came to power, and it is surprising that we haven't yet received that document. I think that document is a very wide document, we talk about many

aspects of housing - not just houses we have built, but a whole range of how people access them, how people can get mortgages when they are perhaps struggling at the moment – but also what the needs of the housing will be as we hope the economy and our population will grow. I hope the Chief Executive and the Policy Unit will make their best efforts to produce that document as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to raise a supplementary question or comment? No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 23 of 2018 by the Honourable Leona Roberts.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Would the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby please advise what practical guidance is available to individuals buying building plots from FIG?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I would like to again thank my Honourable colleague for her question – it's good to be in her sights I think!

She will know that we operate a policy; FIG operates a policy, of offering subsidised building plots to first time buyers. People can ask for their names to be placed on that list and, when they do, they are told about the process and provided with written information and guidance.

People will be aware that plots on the latest phase of Sapper Hill have just been released. Ten plots are reserved for the first ten people on that first time buyers list, and the remaining plots are put out to a tender process. The tender documents include a description of the process involved and also a draft building licence. Once plots are allocated, the successful applicants receive a letter describing the next steps and the costs involved; not just of the plot, but of the legal costs as well. The Legal Department are always keen to help each applicant understand the process, but they may also wish to seek their own legal advice.

The Planning Department has produced a design guidance booklet which is also given to those planning to build. The department is keen to meet with those planning to build their own house and to discuss things such as where on the plot the house should be positioned and answer any questions concerning the planning application process. The Planning Officer who recently left the Islands had hoped to run some 'drop-in' sessions for those people looking to build on the new phase 5 plots as they were released, but because she departed this did not happen in the end.

Mr Speaker, I think the bottom line here is that Government officers are keen to help those planning to build, and whilst booklets and information are indeed given out, building a house is a big financial commitment, and I would encourage people to pop in and discuss any concerns they have with the Planning, and indeed the Legal, departments.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

I would thank my Honourable friend for that answer that is also very reassuring. I think anyone who has been through the process of building a house knows how stressful it is and how exciting it is, and in that excitement and stress it can be very easy to find yourself caught out with unexpected costs and permits that perhaps you had somehow overlooked and should be applying for. So I am really glad to hear that the advice is available in written form, but also that people buying a house, a plot for the first time or not, can pop in and seek advice. I think that is really good.

I would also just highlight something that has been a wee bit of concern to me for a while, and that is that people on the Sapper Hill developments in particular are aware of the biodisk system that is in place there and the limitations, if you like, of that system. They are aware that not all cleaning products are suitable for use with that biodisk system. I know that this is information that PWD has given out previously and will continue to build upon, but again I think that sometimes in the excitement of actually building your first home you can overlook little practical aspects like this.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to raise a supplementary question or a comment? No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question number 24 of 2018 by the Honourable Teslyn Barkman.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Thank you Mr Speaker.

As part of the referendum on constituency next year, a programme of work will be scheduled to demonstrate the risks and benefits associated. Can the Attorney General please reassure this House that the scope of work will include consultation on what questions have caused the referendum and respond with public information on all the ways these questions can be answered?

I ask to reassure listeners that when risks and benefits are presented by FIG on a single constituency it is done wholly impartially and doesn't present a single constituency as the only answer to some of the issues people may have.

The Attorney General

Thank you Mr Speaker.

I thank the Honourable Teslyn Barkman for the question. As highlighted by the question, a commitment has been given to holding a referendum on whether to move from two constituencies – Stanley and Camp – to a single constituency for the whole of the Falkland Islands.

The referendum will be asking a simple question to which the answer will effectively either be 'yes' or 'no'. Clearly, however, the reasons why some members of the public have expressed concern to Honourable Members with the current electoral arrangements will not be addressed by simply a change in the constituency make up.

I agree with the Honourable Member that it is important to understand public concerns so that we can make an informed decision about whether further changes are necessary. I think the UK is finding out that sometimes the answer to a simple referendum question can end up posing many more complex questions than was perhaps anticipated!

As the Honourable Member indicated, part of the work in the run up to the referendum will involve officers publishing further information about what the referendum would change and what it would not. I think it is important to note that officers will not be seeking to guide anyone's choice, we will simply be publishing factual information about what the changes will mean. It will be for others to seek to persuade voters as to which choice they should make.

Members have also committed in the Islands Plan to two actions which I think are also relevant to the question. Firstly, a commitment to update the Electoral Ordinance to ensure voting processes and procedures are modern and appropriate to the Falkland Islands. Secondly, a commitment to review our Constitution to ensure that it's fit for purpose. I think either of these matters could draw out or clarify other possible areas for change.

At a recent meeting of the Assembly, Members also indicated a wish to explore the possibility of lowering the voting age to sixteen years. Again, I think that is a matter worthy of public debate.

So I should hope between now and the referendum in November 2019 the public will have ample opportunity to give Members their views directly, or through either one or both, of the other reviews that I have mentioned, as well as through hopefully lively public debate about the constituency referendum itself.

I suppose Honourable Members that's a long winded way of answering the question, 'yes' would perhaps have been shorter!

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

I would like to thank the Attorney General for his very comprehensive and light-hearted answer to that question as I think it is a very important one. The decision was made to provide the referendum and it's a very important decision, not one that can be taken lightly. My concern is, as shared with many of the population, is that we simply haven't done the work and we haven't prepared to do particular aspects of the work and I think every time we look at it something new pops up.

I accept we have the opportunity to undertake this work over the next year, and I personally will be advocating for laying every option on the table, as the Attorney General has alluded to, whether it be a change in the voting system that supports a different election process to address a particular problem. There are other options out there and we should not be presenting only one option as a solution as I think that would be misleading the population.

We should give every person a chance to make an informed decision on what structure democracy best suits them. Particularly we are addressing the Camp constituency which is a minority in relation to the Stanley constituency, and I don't want to be a Government that's pushing its own agenda on to people, or one that's just tick the boxes to what some people are asking for without properly addressing the problems. We don't want to get stuck into a cycle of referendums every few years because we haven't taken the time to look at particular issues that are bringing us back to this point. I think that really unpicking the best ways to satisfy those questions, we'll truly be able to support the best governance of these Islands.

If our community can see its wrong then I think many others in the country can see it's wrong to only present one option as a solution. I don't want to put our Government in that risk either. I think if you feel like you don't see your MLAs enough, let's amend the responsibilities of MLAs. Let's look at the options for changing the voting structure if it's more choice in an election period that you are after. I have heard a lot of people say 'don't worry we will safeguard if it's one constituency, but we'll keep it the same as it is now' - but do you really want stagnation? There is the risk then that you are back where you started, where you have got a stagnation that you can't drive forward because there is no proper representation. I don't want to sound like I am supporting one side or the other; I very purely just want to see enough information out there so there is an unbiased and completely open referendum, debate and vote.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak or raise a supplementary question?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

This is just a point of clarification please from the Attorney General if I may. It's probably a little premature to ask this question now, but I was asked it the other day, and I didn't have the answer.

I think I am correct in saying, Attorney General, that a referendum isn't binding, but of course one would hope that any Government would be guided by the referendum. I was just wondering is there an option, when organising a referendum, to safeguard against a very low turnout? I am thinking along the lines of if only 10% of the electorate turned out a referendum could be decided or something could be guided by perhaps only 6% of the entire electorate?

The Attorney General

I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for the question. I think there is two issues there; in terms of whether the referendum result is binding then, no, it would not absolutely be binding because the change would still require an ordinance to be passed by this Assembly, it's just simply the case that the Assembly could not pass such an ordinance without that having been approved by a referendum, but the Assembly could decide not to proceed with the change.

Otherwise, in terms of turnout, no, it is generally the case that elections are based on the results of those who turnout to vote and there isn't a minimum turnout specified in any of the arrangements in the Falkland Islands.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I thank the Attorney General for that reply, thank you.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

I am sorry Mr Speaker I am going to labour the point, but this is part of the risk of having called a referendum without doing the proper due diligence, is that you could be asking 'well there could be a 10% turnout'. That's just evidence that we haven't gone to the people and asked if they really wanted this as a referendum. I am a little bit concerned, again, that we have somehow rushed into a referendum without looking at those first options that should have been the first step. It's unfortunate that with hindsight we can say we should have done that work before to see, whether it be the voting system, whether it be the MLAs role and responsibilities that needed amending, whether it should be 6-2 or stay at 5-3, or should we find a different way to structure MLAs. For some reason we have skipped straight to something without doing the due diligence and, although we can't change the referendum and I wouldn't want to because it has been passed by this Assembly, I do think it's important that we remind people that there could be a different way to approach this in future.

The Attorney General

Mr Speaker,

If I could just add one point just following up what the Honourable Teslyn Barkman just said, that the referendum will require an ordinance to be passed by this Assembly to set up the arrangements for the referendum to prescribe the question etcetera so there is time for the Assembly, if it becomes very apparent to Honourable Members that either the question that has originally been suggested is not the question that needs to be asked, or that there is no need to hold a referendum, then that is still a matter of your choice. You would be able to deal with that at the time you were looking at that legislation.

Mr Speaker

Any other Member wish to raise a question?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I was going to raise exactly the same point that the Attorney General just raised, that the ordinance has to go through this House before we can actually impose or set up the actual referendum. I can't see how the Honourable Teslyn can say that it's rushed into, it was announced some sixteen months prior and we still have some fourteen months to run before the referendum goes forward. If we can't inform the population in sixteen months about what's going on, what the issues are, and get them properly briefed, then I really don't know what we are doing.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

I am aware that we are now drifting into a debate which may or may not be the right thing to do, that's your choice.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

I will keep my comments brief and really to echo what other Members have said. I think we aren't rushing into anything; there is plenty of time here to discuss this. I would just like to point out that we have some history of running a well-run referendum when we held the 2012 referendum on our future political state, and I think the way we phrase questions, the way we inform the public and the way we hold the vote, we have been shown to be able to do that to international standards. I would like to reassure people that there will be no intention of trying, in anyway, to short circuit the process.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman referred to other things such as lowering the voting age or change the numbers of Camp Members. I think Members are clear that if we go ahead with this vote on a single constituency it will be on the basis of that will be the sole question on the ballot paper. It isn't the intention of this House, as far as I understand and, of course, we still have to pass that legislation, but it is to keep it very clear, very simple, so that people understand the vote will be on a single constituency, nothing else.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

I apologise for turning this into a debate, but it is quite a lively and topical one. Part of the reason I brought forward to this House is that we, as an Assembly, have had some lively discussion, but we don't want to get hung up on semantics. We are where we are, we're having a referendum and as Barry has indicated it will be about a specific issue, and I'm not questioning that. I am just pointing out that as we lead up into that referendum we should be making people aware that there are different options that they could have been asking us, and that they can continue to ask us whatever the result of that referendum could be.

It wasn't that long ago that we did have a referendum on a single constituency and the terms around that referendum were very different because we didn't have full time MLAs. Part of what we have seen that's changed as a benefit of having full time MLAs, I mean we have got a much more open demographic and have attracted a lot of new candidates in the election period and I think that is a fantastic change, but we are still at the very start of trying to burgeon our democracy into something that is 'fit for all' and that includes the Camp population as well. I think I would just like to take this opportunity to echo what I know a lot of people in the community are feeling as well, which is that actually you could be taking something away from the children in Camp at the moment. They have the option to become career politicians, they don't have to grow up and work in a particular sector and work part-time as a politician. They could train to represent their constituency and I think we are all in a little bit of danger of being a bit short-sighted about this, but we will save this for the debate when we are on the campaign trail I'm sure, but I would just like to reiterate it is the people's choice, but I want it to be a well-informed one.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Very briefly to say I'm not going to start setting out my point one way or another here today, I think we have an awful lot of debate to come in the future and I really do very much look forward to it. I commend and understand the Honourable Teslyn Barkman's desire to see this process done properly and I think that we can all commit to supporting that and to wanting to get it right. We have a considerable amount of time to come ahead of the referendum itself, and I hope that by the time we have reached that point she will be reassured that we have worked through the process properly.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Just to say thank you to the Honourable Leona Roberts and I hope the public will be reassured and not just myself.

Clerk of the Assembly

Motions.

Motion number 28 of 2018 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby.

That this House notes the comments and recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of Internal Audit Follow Up Report 1/18 Stanley Leisure Centre and Internal Audit Follow Up Report 3/18 Power and Electrical and in accordance to the Public Accounts Ordinance 2009 clause 14(1), a written response is required to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly by the Governor within six months.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I am sure this won't generate into a debate as the last item did, but nevertheless, Mr Speaker, at the Public Accounts Committee meeting held on the 20th July of this year the Internal Auditor presented progress reports and follow-up reports on Stanley Leisure Centre and the Power and Electrical Department.

In relation to the Stanley Leisure Centre it showed that progress had been made against the original audit recommendations of November 2016, however the Committee noted that audit recommendations with regard to contracts with the provision of vending machines, cleaning and ground maintenance had not been actioned. The Public Accounts Committee recommends that contracts should be in place for these services, and any other outsourced service providing maintenance to the Leisure Centre, to ensure that FIG is not open to financial risks.

I think it is my understanding that since this meeting contracts for the vending machines have been put in place, I hope I am right in saying that, but with my other hat on as a public health lead I find it incredible that a Government could allow the sale of unhealthy foods to people using the Leisure Centre and accessible to Falkland Island children at a time when we are looking at fighting obesity, but that's another matter that I have knocked my head against a brick wall for many years over.

Regarding the Power and Electrical Department review, the Public Accounts Committee noted that the audit showed substantial implementations of their recommendations with some of those recommendations being fully completed and remaining actions being progressed. However, one matter that was still outstanding and that expressed concern within the Committee is the delay in meter reading and recommended that the meter reading should be attended to promptly.

Mr Speaker, I propose the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Can I have a seconder please?

The Honourable Leona Robert

Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Leona Roberts to second thank you. Does any Member wish to speak to that 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 the Internal Audit Follow Up Report on Stanley Leisure Centre and the Internal Audit Follow Up Report on the Power and Electrical section and in accordance with the Public Accounts Ordinance 2009 clause 14(1), a written response is required to be submitted to this Legislative Assembly by the Governor within six months.

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

Clerk of the Assembly

Motion Number 29 of 2018 by the Honourable Roger Spink.

This House approves the recommendations of the Report of the Statute Law Commissioner on Application of United Kingdom Laws for the month of August 2018 submitted under section 25 of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

This report provides information on the United Kingdom Laws which have been made between 1st and 31st August 2018, and it makes recommendations about the application of the United Kingdom Laws to the Falkland Islands.

The recommendations are for no change; none of the statutory instruments made in the reporting period are suitable for immediate application to the Falkland Islands. Where the relevant instrument highlighted the potential gap in Falkland Islands Law which requires policy consideration, the matter has been drawn to the attention of the relevant director.

Mr Speaker

To be seconded by the Attorney General?

The Attorney General

I second the Motion, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbay

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Really a point of clarification, I think we all want the laws of the Falkland Islands to be kept up to date and I think that is a vitally important thing, but I am somewhat puzzled as to why a list of statutory instruments is provided here, none of which apply to the Falklands. I am sure many people listening to this debate today will be pleased to hear that ‘The River Lugg Internal Drainage Board Order 2018’ does not apply to the Falkland Islands, nor does the ‘A5 Trunk Road (Rhydlanfair Crossroads to the Junction of the B4407 at Hendre Isaf, Conwy Borough Council) apply to these Islands!

Is it necessary Attorney General to present all these Statutory Instruments that don’t apply, as interesting as they may be?

The Attorney General

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would have to say at the moment yes, under the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017 there is a requirement on the Statute Law Commissioner to conduct a review of all the

laws made in the United Kingdom and report, ordinarily, monthly to the Assembly. I think this is a point that we have discussed and I think it is a matter that could be reviewed. Certainly if you take the example of the report this month where no recommendations are being made, I think it might well be appropriate not necessarily to bring a report, but I think that does require a review of the legislation. I think that is something that we ought to do.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak? No.

The Motion is that this House approves the recommendation of the Report of the Statute Law Commissioner on the Application of the United Kingdom Laws for the month of August 2018.

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

It is resolved by the Legislative Assembly on this 27th day of September 2018 that the recommendations of the Statute Law Commissioner submitted to the Legislative Assembly under section 25 of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017 are approved, and that no change should be made to the Law of the Falkland Islands as a result of that Statute Law Commissioner's Report.

Clerk of the Assembly

Motion number 30 of 2018 by the Honourable Leona Roberts.

This House supports the Wise Waste group in its ambitions to encourage responsible consumer behaviour, with particular focus on reducing single-use plastics and improving management of waste in the Falkland Islands and acknowledging its wish to apply for the International Plastic Free Communities Award.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I am pleased to bring this Motion to the House today. I sincerely hope that Honourable Members will be prepared to support this very worthwhile community-led initiative which aims to encourage responsible and more environmentally friendly consumer practices.

I would like to begin by telling you a little bit more about the Falkland Islands 'Wise Waste' group. It is a somewhat rare and lovely example of something positive coming out of Facebook. This began after some heated online discussions on that social media platform about waste management, and led a group of like-minded individuals to set up a Facebook group which they named the 'Falkland Islands Wise Waste Tips'.

This aimed to encourage the sharing of ideas and promoting reduction of everyday waste. To quote the group, their aims were '*rethinking how we deal with waste in a place where recycling options are slim. Reusing what we have, refusing what we don't need, repairing*

what we can and generally using a bit of creativity and going the extra mile for a greener alternative’.

Ideas and support flooded in and so earlier this year the newly-dubbed ‘Wise Waste’ group held a community workshop where they introduced the International Plastic Free Community Model and it was unanimously agreed at that workshop that there should be a goal in Stanley and a commitment was made to achieve a plastic-free status by 2019. Since then, efforts to reduce single-use plastic at an individual level and among local businesses and organisations have been ongoing. The Wise Waste group’s efforts and ambitions have received international coverage in the ‘Surfers Against Sewage Pipeline’ magazine and their Facebook page continues to provide useful platforms.

Mr Speaker, I know there are some of us who have struggled a little with the ‘plastic-free’ tag. It can feel a little naïve at best and, at worst, disingenuous, but I would like to point out that this is not some unfeasible concept of living entirely without plastic which, I think we can all acknowledge, would be pretty difficult in this day and age. The plastic-free model is more about a broad commitment to reducing waste and, most significantly, reducing the amount of single-use plastics that we unthinkingly plough our way through every single day.

So, this model is really about making small but significant changes and encouraging the behaviour that we want to see in the community. It’s been widely supported by the community and the group has provided me with some examples of where local businesses have already stepped up. For example, the Waterfront Hotel and Kitchen Café have scrapped plastic cups and plastic straws and takeaway plastic packets, the Malvina House Hotel has replaced plastic straws with paper straws, Stanley Services and the FIC are selling reusable coffee cups and offering discounts when they are used for coffee takeaways, the Seafish Chandlery has started replacing polystyrene trays with compostable pulp trays, both the Chandlery and Stanley Growers are now providing paper bag options for fruit and vegetables and provide a collection point for reusable items such as plastic tubs and egg boxes - I have at this stage been asked please to stress that these items are returned cleaned which can ensure they are used again. Shorty’s Diner have swapped single-use smoothie plastic cups for reusable cups, and I am sure that is not an exhaustive list but I would like to acknowledge and thank those businesses for their contribution and look forward to seeing others join in with this movement.

Members of the public have also reported to the Wise Waste group that they have changed their personal habits in a number of ways, and again some of these examples are being provided with consciously choosing plastic-free alternative products such as loose fruit and veg, soap and shampoo bars, or pasta sold in cardboard boxes rather than plastic packaging. Reusing whatever possible, ice-cream tubs for food storage and you get the bonus of using the ice-cream tub first as well! Buying products in bulk, stocking up on plastic-free alternatives whilst on holiday so bamboo toothbrushes, deodorant bars, reusable nappies, moon cups, compostable sponges and so on. Refusing straws and plastic bags, and we have seen a lot of activity with people conducting beach cleans during their evening strolls or dog walks, or impromptu street cleans on the way home from work and, I understand on some occasions, from the pub which is quite lovely!

Meanwhile the Wise Waste team has been liaising with FIG on reducing single-use plastics and have also facilitated community events such as the Whalebone Cove beach clean, they have celebrated World Oceans Day, partnering with other local organisations to organise an

evening of ocean related plastic presentations, and they are involved in the upcoming 'Clean Up Stanley' day on 27th October.

They tell me their next steps are to continue to encourage and support individuals, businesses and organisations in aiming to reduce their use of single-use plastics, and will be setting up a committee to help monitor their progress towards a more sustainable Stanley.

Happily, it's not just this group Mr Speaker, FIG is also committed in working towards making significant change in a number of areas and I am pleased to be able to report on some of these efforts already being undertaken. The Wise Waste Management Strategy was approved earlier this year. This is progressing and will be delivered in a phased approach with the Public Works Department and Policy and Economic Development Unit leading. The first phase and the target of the strategy was to produce a campaign to encourage waste reduction and this will soon be launched, so we will see material out and about.

We have clean, safe and very tasty water here in the Falklands and in an effort to reduce the amount of bottled water used, the PWD will soon begin installing mains-fed water coolers. Forty units have been purchased and initially these will be installed in Government buildings, in the schools and at the Jetty Visitor Centre. The possibility of installing these coolers on other public sites will be explored at a later stage and, to further encourage this practice, reusable bottles have been placed on order and will be given to our school students. I think this is a wonderful initiative and really look forward to seeing it progress. The campaign will be starting in the next few weeks and has been a significant commitment by FIG, costing I understand approximately £40,000 across the board so I think it is a terrific step.

How we reuse glass is also going to be improved in November, Mr Speaker, with an improved glass-crushing process beginning at the quarry. PWD's old glass imploder was a manual operation and so I understand was quite slow and cumbersome. The new mechanical process will be much more effective and get through a lot more bottles. It is intended by early next year that small bottle banks will be established in our supermarket car parks and collection points at other convenient sites around the town. I am told that it is estimated at the moment that less than 10% of the community's glass waste is collected and crushed. PWD's target for the future is 90% - an ambitious and incredibly impressive aspiration. This crushed glass will be then reused as trench-fill, so not only producing cheaper material and reducing the amount of this material that needs to be produced at the quarry, but also significantly reducing landfill so it's a triple win I think Mr Speaker, well a quadruple win if you take into account that allows me to enjoy a bottle of wine with even less guilt!

My weekend habits excluded, I don't know how many glass bottles we as a community must get through, but I imagine it's a few, and how fantastic will it be to know that these bottles are actually going to be serving a purpose rather than just ending up in landfill.

Eliza Cove rubbish dump is always going to be a bit of bone of contention I think, but work is progressing on options for a new managed disposal to deal with the bulk of our waste and it's hoped that these proposals will be brought forward to the budget process at the end of this year. Finding the right solution needs a great deal of work and so inevitably takes time, so we will see how that comes along.

In the meantime, PWD now has a full time member of staff committed to Eliza Cove and this will enable them to better manage the facility during the day. I would here make very brief

mention of Mr James Lang who has done a great deal of work in his lunch hours bull-dozing and burying rubbish at Eliza Cove, and while it's inevitable of course with our winds that there will be some escapees, it will certainly have been reduced by his efforts, so thank you for that.

I know we all look forward to the day when Eliza Cove tip is retired and we have a modern solution to handling our waste but, until then, I think we can do more to reduce just how much goes in there. I understand that progress with the recycling facility at Mount Pleasant is also going well and that there may well be opportunities there in the future for the civilian community, but this again is a work in progress. So, lots to look forward to, I think, in the future.

Mr Speaker, you may have noticed the PWD staff doing some excellent work over recent weeks collecting rubbish from beaches and sites from around the town. During the winter, when resources allow, Highways help to remove scrap and large items of rubbish from private properties and though they do point out that this is actually the responsibility of the property owner and not them they are very happy to help whenever possible, so that's worth bearing in mind if you have something rusting away in your back yard.

The Prison Service has also contributed in this respect with prisoners collecting more than twelve tonnes of rubbish from around the Canache and surrounding areas over the winter.

Another significant piece of work undertaken recently was the initial clean-up of the Camber area. Byron's team removed timber, metal work and portacabin debris and cleared waste metal from the shore. A number of items were identified as having historic interest and have been put aside for the museum, so that's an extra bonus, I guess. The next phase of work will be looking at the timber deck to the harbour area and the existing fuel tanks and buildings to the west.

Mr Speaker, here in the Falklands we like to think of our environment as pristine and we are indeed fortunate that our countryside and our beaches are not plagued by the mind-blowingly vast quantities of plastic rubbish and pollution which overwhelm many areas of the world and which we have seen increasingly on our screens. However, a short walk along any of our coasts will show that while our Islands may be unspoiled, they are not untouched. The good thing is that we can actually make a difference as individuals in this respect, as well as businesses and as a Government and so I am pleased to see and to be able to report on some of the progress on this. We can take personal responsibility for reducing waste and working towards better habits and I hope that Honourable Members will show their support for these initiatives by backing this Motion today.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Wise Waste group, the Public Works Department and the Policy Unit and all officers involved for their information today and for their ongoing efforts to bring about these positive changes for our Islands and our future.

Thank you for your time Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

To be seconded by the Honourable Teslyn Barkman, do you wish to speak now?

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Yes, thank you Mr Speaker,

Just to say I fully support the Honourable Leona Roberts in this endeavour. I think it's a very important one to try and reduce our single-use plastics and in reference with keeping it rather succinct, let's just do that.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Whilst I support the Motion, I do feel that we have been slow in our delivery of some of these issues, and I think we really need to be a Government not of Motions but of delivery of a lot of these things, and I think we have got to concentrate much harder on delivery rather than just passing Motions.

I support the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Just very briefly Mr Speaker, I think we all would support the aims of this society and how could you not. You have to and I think we are surrounded by countries, Chile who is taking the lead in South America in trying to reduce plastic waste and certainly, as an Island that relies on tourism and the impression of an untouched environment, we have to attack this and I think we do.

I just wonder in the Motion, and I wonder if my Honourable colleague can elaborate, it says 'improving the management of waste in the Falkland Islands and acknowledge its wish to apply for the International Plastic Free Communities award.' We talked about what plastic free is; now a society I can't imagine can ever be totally plastic free. If they are aiming for that award, what does that actually mean, if you were to look around the Falkland Islands after they have that award, what would you see different?

The Honourable Leona Roberts

I thank my Honourable friend for that.

Yes, as I understand it this award requires any community-led group to achieve three, I think, principles. One is to gain the support of Government which is the purpose in bringing this Motion today, is to signal that support. Another was to change the habits of, I believe, three local companies, and for the life of me the third has just slipped completely out of my head. I

think the Honourable Teslyn Barkman remembers it and is scribbling furiously; to remove the use of single-use plastics from various businesses, she might be able to elaborate on her notes there!

I think Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that really what this is about is giving this group the support to continue pressing Government, lobbying Government and businesses and the community to change its mind. It will also bring about some positive PR outside of the Islands to indicate that we are actually committed to these efforts.

I think the fortunate thing in all of this is that they are pushing against an open door to a degree. I absolutely echo what the Honourable Roger Spink said, that we must show action, I believe we are, but this gives this group a little bit of extra strength in its elbow to push us and keep our noses to the ground.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

In rising to support this Motion which one must when you only have to look on the television screen to see what effect the plastic waste is having in the oceans around the world. It is absolutely abhorrent, but you know it's a fact of life; that is where we have got to. I don't believe we will ever get to a plastic-free world now. Sadly, we have gone down that road and to see it come to an end will probably never happen.

I think in the past, I don't think we are recognising the efforts Government have put in to better getting rid of our waste. We had a two year study into waste; what we produce in the Falklands, what waste is produced at MPA, what type of waste it is, can it be recycled, can it not be recycled, can it be burned and got rid of, or does it just have to be buried. I think the Falkland Islands Government has done an awful lot of work already. That's not to say we shouldn't do more, but I think we should recognise that the Falkland Islands Government has always done an awful lot of work in waste disposal and although I support this Motion, I do think we should also recognise what the Falkland Islands Government has done and is planning to do in the near future.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I too obviously support this Motion; I think it is absolutely right and proper that our Government should support this Waste group. As other of my colleagues have alluded to, the only thing that made me slightly twitchy was the words 'plastic free', but I think we have covered that and I do hope that the Honourable Leona Roberts' explanation of how we work with our plastic-free issue is the correct one, I am sure it is.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Just to clarify for my terrible handwriting, the third ambition is to remove three single-use plastics from the waste stream of the community. So, this is where the 'plastic free' element

comes in; you are lobbying the Government to get plastics removed and businesses as well. Through removing three single plastics, whether it be plastic straws, plastic non-biodegradable cling film, and then you are also educating the population to make those choices and put that pressure on the industry which I think we are doing quite well as a population and as a Government.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Leona Roberts it's your option to sum up if there is no other comment, so yes, please do.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I think everyone is done.

I would thank the Honourable Teslyn Barkman for that clarification from my blank spot moment perhaps caused by those bottles of wine over the past years, but not to worry! I absolutely acknowledge what the Honourable Roger Edwards said about FIG's previous work in this, and not forgetting, of course, the last Assembly which we tease about sometimes, but actually they did take a fantastic stand in introducing the efforts to cut down single-use plastic bags.

So, I would thank Honourable Members' for their support in this. It is an important initiative and I think we all have a lot we can do to make things better, not all of us have great habits and I include myself in that absolutely. I am sure that the Wise Waste group will be very pleased to hear of the support in this House, so thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members,

The Motion before the House is that this House supports the Wise Waste group in its ambitions to encourage responsible consumer behaviour, with particular focus on reducing single-use plastics and improving management of waste in the Falkland Islands and acknowledge its wish to apply for the International Plastic Free Communities award.

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

Clerk of the Assembly

Portfolio report; the Honourable Roger Edwards.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Before I get into the body of my portfolio report, as I have been gathering information together for this report it became very clear that folk within Government and within the

private sector we are incredibly short of manpower. If we are to achieve our huge and ambitious work programme that is the first problem that must be solved, and indeed if I start off with the Plant and Vehicle department within PWD the very first line states 'staffing is still an ongoing issue with local recruitment and mechanics a problem'. Also, roles like tyre fitter are being hard to fill. This is a concern due to the ambitious capital programme for the summer season.

Probably more important things going on at the Plant and Vehicle section at this time of year is the ordering of replacement plant to enable PWD and its partners to achieve its targets. Items recently arrived are two new insulated tippers for asphalt work, and another two tippers are on order – one for rock and another one for asphalt. This will not increase the HGV fleet but by retiring older machines it should make it more efficient.

We have also ordered a new loading shovel and that should match the new asphalt plant, and are about to order an extra fifty tonne excavator, again to match the new crusher train in order to make the Materials section that much more efficient.

Other items on order are a grader to replace a twenty three year old machine and a truck that will better able to handle emptying an increasing number of septic tanks. My colleague the Honourable Leona Roberts mentioned septic tanks and bio disks she mentioned earlier on and while I am on that subject, Government is just about to send out a new glossy brochure on what you can put in to sewage systems at the end of which are septic tanks and bio disks. There is quite a lot of things that kill off the active bacteria in those tanks that make them work.

As well as plant there is a number of vehicles again this year, they purchased three new Ford Rangers and three Mitsubishi Outlanders and a new Police Shogun is here and is currently being kitted out and you should see it on the roads of Stanley within the next few days.

In Property and Municipal they are in the midst of processing the contracts and tender forms for Moody Street, Jeremy Moore Avenue, Capricorn Road flats renovation which includes roofing, windows, doors, boiler replacements, all the materials have been ordered but, as I say, it is a problem getting contractors and finding enough people to do the work. Small work contracts have been processed for the erection of forty seven garden sheds. We have received all of the Jersey and Callaghan Road windows and so the start of this refurbishment will begin shortly.

We are in the process of advertising fifty properties for their five-yearly electrical installation test.

The more I go through this list the more you will realise there is an awful lot of work out there that needs doing and we have to find the manpower to do it.

Turnaround time for contract pool housing continues to meet targets, with 100% of houses ready for handover on time. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to take properties off-line for renovation due to demand for re-letting. Refurbishment is done where it is critical, but in some cases it has to be deferred.

They have started work on the PWD offices – those are the offices between the Post Office and Penguin News – to establish the structural integrity of the building, and as soon as that has been done, material will be ordered for their completion.

Water fountain installation, again that was mentioned earlier; contract documents have been drafted and are awaiting approval, and it is hoped to start the installation of these things in October. We are working with the Design Office regarding the Pumping Station upgrades; this is the sewage pumping station. Once it has been established we will proceed with the works including the roadway access.

In addition to the above projects we have been asked to facilitate a number of projects at Government House premises and these are ongoing and will be ongoing. We are mindful, although we have a budget to carry out the above projects, we are still struggling to find local contractors to commit to. Again, a problem with manpower.

In the quarry, the first quarter of the financial year was busy for the Materials section. It has encompassed many different aspects from the new groundworks for the asphalt plant, to increased aggregate sales. The construction of the groundworks on the new asphalt plant is well underway with much progress being made. Concrete bases are being set and works are continuing. The crushing plant and wash plant have undergone routine maintenance, along with some major repairs. Despite this, the quarry has still managed to produce 19,000 tonnes of aggregate and sand, year to date, and sales have been healthy particularly for this time of year and the current sales are 24,000 tonnes year to date. We continue to wash sand and crush aggregate in preparation for the new season.

Looking forward, we hope to have the asphalt groundworks completed by early October to allow the installation and commissioning works to begin. This is a delay on the original programme, and therefore plans are underway to make use of the old asphalt plant for the first three months of production, in other words the whole thing was delayed by about three months.

In the Water section the first three months of this financial year has been interesting for the Filtration Plant, with three extensive leaks that required water supply to be cut off or reduced four times. The system itself is showing signs of age, with two of the issues being due to failed connections or valves. One of the leaks took nearly three weeks to locate, with an average loss of water being forty tonnes per day.

It is exciting to see that a trainer will be coming to the Islands in October to carry out training and assessment of staff and management who will attain a Level 3 Diploma in Water Engineering. The proposal and discussion for the improvements to the Moody Brook supply line is nearing conclusion, with a contract award being imminent.

Upgrades to the Filtration Plant itself are due to take place in early 2019. This will replace items that are either beyond economical repair and improve on efficiency in the Plant.

It should also be mentioned that Tony Anderson officially retired after a long career at the Plant, but it is hoped that we can retain his knowledge and services as and when we possibly require them.

Water, like power, is an essential. It is often forgotten unless it does not run out of the tap when you turn it on. Staff, like Tony, start early and end their day late to ensure we can have the bath or shower that we need. A simple glass of water is a luxury to some people in the world and you would be surprised how quickly you miss it when it's not there.

In the Design section the first quarter has mainly been dominated by the ongoing new asphalt plant groundworks contract. Additionally, earthworks, excavation, rerouting of power cable, additional drainage all required additional design input.

Camp jetties and ramp site inspections have been ongoing since mid-August and are expected to be completed by the 10th October, and that does form part of the major part of the presentation this afternoon at the Transport Advisory Committee. Of the fifteen jetties and ramps on the list earmarked for inspection, eleven have been completed with the remainder to take place at the earliest opportunity. Once all inspections have been completed the focus will return to the proposed solutions and the final report.

Ross Road rehabilitation is currently ongoing, with the stretch between PWD main office and Thatcher Drive currently under construction. The footpath from the Public Jetty to SAMS is currently under construction.

Sapper Hill Phase Five housing, road and services construction has been completed. Groundworks for the ten contractor houses are also complete.

Following our recommendations for repair and refurbishment of the Cape Pembroke lighthouse, only one bid has been submitted to carry out the works. We are currently looking at a more detailed aspect of our proposal to identify areas where savings could be made, and for the interest of the public who are listening, the bids came in incredibly in excess of £1/2 million, but then what price do we put on our history, and particularly this iconic building?

The construction of the new shed for the standby generator for the Police Station is complete. We are also currently designing the storm water disposal for phases 1-4 to prevent flooding of properties at the bottom of the hill. The design for the new water main from Beaver Hangar to Moody Brook has been completed, to be followed by issuing of tender documents for the actual construction.

Concerns have been raised on the continued deterioration of the Eliza Cove tip. We are currently reviewing possible options to strengthen the existing structures. I must say, although they do have problems there, if you are like me and are a regular dump visitor it's a darn sight better now than it has been for many a long year – but we still have a huge amount of plastic blowing out of the tip and being held against the wire mesh fence that surrounds the tip.

Training Centre construction appears to be not far off, with a Letter of Intent having been issued this week. Design works are also progressing on the next phase of houses and housing infrastructure, as well as a detailed design of the Diamond Jubilee Road extension.

PWD Design section currently has a school leaver, Jordan Francis, who will be with them for the next twelve months before he goes off to college next year. He will be learning drafting, computer-aided design, basic and simple design of structural elements, surveying and site inspections.

Power and Electrical; the Power and Electrical section continue to work hard to ensure the smooth running of the Power Station and the Wind Farm. We continue to see good levels of input from the Wind Farm – works continue on the maintenance of the grid. A shipping solution has been agreed for the delivery of the interim power units from Chile. They should arrive in the Islands in early October. The groundworks are also underway and it is hoped that commissioning will be completed before the end of the summer, some three months' later than my previous briefing indicated.

From Highways, work has progressed steadily through the winter period. The team have graded the MPA road when possible and it maintains the annual salt patrol. On this I must say comments on the state of the MPA road have been very positive – well done to all those crews involved.

We have completed ditching works at FIGAS, capping works to the Cape Pembroke road and clear up works in Stanley. The surface water drain has been installed behind the Brandon Road properties and the unsurfaced road will be completed as soon as possible to improve access to the rear of the properties, and also improve access to the Scout Hut.

Planning for the upcoming season is well underway, with materials ordered and contracts issued. Works are planned for the Airport Road, MPA Road, North Camp track, North Arm road, Fox Bay/Port Howard road, and West Lagoons and Philomel new roads.

Capital; two project managers, Cecil Alexander and Simon Griffiths, have joined the PWD. Cecil is concentrating on the interim Power Station and Power Station, whilst Simon is working on the Vulnerable Peoples Unit and the KEMH refurbishment. Works have continued on Ross Road and the current section is due to be completed before the forthcoming tourist season.

Footpath works are also in progress on the front road and along the coastal path adjacent to FIPASS. While I mention that coastal path, some members of the public did ask why they are building such a strong and robust path just when it's a footpath. Well it isn't only a footpath, it is access to the future build of the VPU – the fire engines and so on will need to get to the other side of the building so it has to be built to a higher standard than a normal footpath.

Sapper Hill Phase 5 is nearing completion as is the works to the industrial estate at Kiel Canal. The next phase of housing and construction is due to be awarded shortly and eighteen properties to be delivered. The contract has now been placed for the Training Centre with attached library, and work will start on the site in the next few months.

Mr Speaker, that completes my report on the Public Works portfolio.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, does any Member wish to raise a question?

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

My Honourable friend Roger Edwards mentioned several times during his report the labour issues, and I wondered if he could outline to us the steps - because this was predicted when we set the budgets - I wondered if he could outline to us the steps that he has taken to address those labour issues within this department?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker,

I would be delighted to. As my Honourable colleague Roger Spink will know, we had a briefing from the Director of Public Works only a few days ago and in which he pointed out that one of the problems we have is with accommodation. We know that we will need some thirty additional staff to complete the works that we are going ahead with. Some of the local contractors can provide accommodation for their workforce if they bring in additional workforce, the majority of them cannot. Currently there is a housing shortage as we know within the Falkland Islands Government and so we have been searching for accommodation for these workers. Some months ago you will recall we put out an advert for expressions of interest in accommodation units and it was put out in the Penguin News. Subsequent to that we have seen offers coming in of coastel-type buildings, possibly located in the harbour. We have also had other local contractors coming back and saying that they can put up accommodation of the portacabin type or container type, and also we have had very kind offers from the military for the use of Hillside Camp, or some of Hillside Camp. That is the biggest problem, we have identified the problem and we know we have to get in at some time, or our contractors will have to get in, thirty people and we are hunting at the moment for accommodation in which they can stay, so that's what we are doing.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to raise a question or comment on that report?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

I would like to thank the Honourable Roger Edwards for his usual full and detailed report. He too mentioned water fountains, as did my Honourable friend Leona Roberts. The plans for putting in water fountains at the moment in mainly Government buildings but spreading outwards. I am not exactly sure of the design, but can he reassure me that they will be accessible to small children as well as adults? The ones in the Leisure Centre we have at the moment you have to pick up small children if they want to use the water fountain.

Secondly, can he comment on the access question to what is going to become the new Community Library to ensure that people who have perhaps prams and small children in tow, perhaps drive disabled buggies and also access by cycle for people, because I think if we are going to have a Community Library there as we clearly are, it needs to be fully accessible to the whole of the community.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker,

I am delighted that the Honourable Barry Elsby raised these two things. Firstly, on the water fountains and access by small children, I don't know. I was under the impression that the water fountains we had already in the community centre are accessed because they can lift them up. If they are that desperate I am sure they will, the parents will take with them ready-use china, glass or recyclable mugs with them so that they can take water from the water fountain and give them to the small child. The trouble is if you put the water fountain too low to the ground then all sorts of other things can get in there and contaminate it, so it's much better having it higher up off the ground than perhaps assist the child but, quite frankly, I don't know. I will find out and let you know.

The second thing is access to the library, again this lack of a smooth concrete or asphalt access to the library was raised with the Director of Public Works and costings and design of that is ongoing, but I think when we were briefed on the Training Centre with the library attached we all expressed out dissatisfaction that it was just going to be a gravel access and that was not sufficiently felt so work is ongoing to solve that.

Thank you.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Yes, on the point of the water dispenser, I can give a little bit of clarity here I hope. I haven't seen in person, but I have seen drawings and my understanding is that it is more of a water dispenser than the traditional water fountain you would expect to see in schools and other places in the UK. It appears very much that it will be within the reach of small children and it has been selected because it allows for water bottles that displace the cavity where the water comes out so it will allow for water bottles to go underneath, so I think they should be quite fantastic and very much look forward to seeing them.

While I am on my feet Mr Speaker if I may, I would like to thank the Honourable Roger Edwards for a very interesting report on PWD. They do have a huge amount of work ongoing and I think we all share the work force concerns.

I would very briefly like to add how much I look forward to seeing Ross Road completed; the section up to the Secretariat is a vast improvement. It's a little bit of a pity about the building at the end of it I have to admit, but that approach is lovely now and I particularly like the area between the Public Jetty and the SAMS building which is beginning to give the impression that it would be something of a promenade which is rather lovely and I think is going to be a very nice area at the centre of town there, so I thank them for their good work on that.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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 Roger Spink.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I will begin my portfolio report with the Treasury and Finance.

The budget for 2018/19 was completed and the budget book published in good time. Planning for the 19/20 budget is starting, with a look at ways of modelling future FIG income on a realistic basis, building on the collaborative work with the Head of Tax undertaken with the fishing industry.

The year-end accounts for 30 June 2018 were made available to the external auditors, Mazars, in good time and the feedback from the external auditor presentation to SFC was very positive.

Debtors – the Treasury is working with Government departments on completing the steps necessary to recover overdue debt. Quarterly reporting to SFC on all debt is being undertaken.

Pensions – legislation to increase the retirement age to 65 from 2020 for Retirement Pension Fund, putting into effect an ExCo decision from 2013. A review is being undertaken on persons currently receiving trivial pensions on whether these can be converted to a lump sum payment. An actuarial review of the Pension Old Scheme Fund as at 30th June 2018 is being completed.

Travel Credit Scheme – working on this with legislative drafting colleagues to enable a clear and straight-forward scheme administration by the Treasury, with registration planned to start from 1st December 2018.

Banking – Gibraltar International Bank is offering to assist with business accounts as a platform to enable card payments to work seamlessly and the Treasury has been actively assisting local businesses and some of those arrangements are up and running now. We encourage other businesses who wish to have chip and pin or electronic payment ability to contact the Treasury to get details.

Mortgages – there is a review of the Joint General Mortgage scheme being undertaken with Standard Chartered Bank, and we hope to have something on that by the end of this year.

Tax has moved back to the yellow portakabin and all staff and records are now in one location. There is a substantial piece of work on oil taxation consultation that is now being drafted as legislation and the work on private non-statutory clearances in areas of considerable uncertainty related to oil taxation are well-progressed and to go to Exco in October/November.

Civil penalties regime is endorsed by ExCo and will be prepared as legislation. The draft is complete within the Falkland Islands Government Tax Office.

The peak of 2017 personal tax returns received on or shortly before the deadline of 31 August is being processed at full pace and successful collaboration with local companies has helped ensure accurate budgeting by FIG for corporation tax receipts due on 1st September. £16.2 million was received this year and this is in line with budget assumptions for this financial year, so we are looking to use the same techniques for next year.

There is an opportunity to work more closely with MPA based businesses in relation to Corporation Tax and collaborative working with BFAI Command Secretary to assess 2017 income for designated employees covered by Defence Contractors Exemption.

On Internal Audit, the Internal Audit programme is in progress with a focus on key systems and a deep dive where relevant. We are working with the PAC to ensure that best use is made of audit assurance.

I will now move on to the Human Resources department.

Since my last statement to the Legislative Assembly in April there has been a high level of recruitment activity across all directorates. This activity has covered recruitment to posts that fall vacant in the normal course of the employment cycle and those new posts that were approved by the Legislative Assembly in the 2018/19 budget process. It is our policy to recruit, where possible, locally.

Following the development of the new recruitment platform between May and June, the system went live in July, enabling FIG to promote overseas vacancies online at minimal costs to the widest possible audience. The introduction of the new online system and the return of the administration of all recruitment activities to the Human Resources department from 1st July have already proven valuable in enabling the officers to promote our overseas vacancies within a matter of a few hours of authorisation.

The online nature of the recruitment platform means that FIG benefits from the proliferation of advertisements across various other recruitment platforms without additional cost. This enables FIG to reach the widest possible audience, whilst at the same time exercising clearer controls over our recruitment spend. Given the configuration of the new system, the HR department is also able to track the source of applicant interest and therefore ensure we align our future recruitment investment in areas that create the best returns. This will go a significant way to enabling us to reduce our overall expenditure on recruitment activities whilst raising our profile globally.

Although I am pleased to report that a significant number of these posts have been filled or offers of employment have been made, there are a number of posts that remain vacant. I am advised by the Director of HR that the HR team will continue to work with service managers to tackle the challenge of recruiting to 'hard to fill' posts.

In terms of overseas recruitment, as I speak there are nine vacancies that remain live. These are either already scheduled for interview or will close for applications shortly.

Following on the theme of overseas recruitment, where we have made offers of employment and these have been accepted, I can confirm that the HR department will continue to work with the candidates and the relevant service managers to ensure the 'on-boarding' process is completed as soon as reasonably practicable.

One of our major challenges is the recruitment of staff into key worker 'hard to fill' roles, such as nursing.

Securing people in post can sometimes be compromised by events beyond our control. Over the past eighteen months FIG has made offers of employment to a number of candidates who have accepted the role and, after a number of months into the 'on-boarding' process, have withdrawn due to personal or medical reasons. The process of recruiting from overseas does present a unique set of challenges. However, every effort is being made by all those involved in the recruitment process to ensure that we expedite the Immigration and Medical clearance process and ensure that newly-appointed individuals are able to take up post as soon as reasonably practicable.

However, one of the additional challenges the Government faces is housing. Given the availability of housing stock we may have to phase the arrival of newly-appointed overseas staff in the New Year. The Director of Public Works is looking at options at the moment.

By way of example of recruitment activity, a recent recruitment campaign has resulted in offers of employment being made and accepted for the following posts: Health Visitor, School Nurse, Staff Nurse (five posts) and Theatre Practitioner. I have used these posts as an example as some of these roles represent employment areas where FIG has, for some time, relied upon locum workers to ensure services are maintained. Through my discussions with the Director of HR and the relevant directorates, I am confident that positive action is being taken to reach a position where the need for locum workers is reduced to the lowest possible position, and that we only pursue the use of locum workers when it is critical to service delivery and remains the only viable option available. We will be monitoring progress to ensure this continues.

I believe it is important to recognise that over a period of time locum workers have ensured that we have been able to maintain service delivery. However, the Director of HR has made it clear that if we are going to develop our workforce to its full potential we must remove our reliance on locum workers and ensure that we recruit and retain staff to prevent gaps within our establishment. The money saved on locum services can be used to improve our front-line services to patients and I would very much like to see progress on provision of a level of orthodontics in the Islands.

On the wider issue of workforce development, the appraisal of staff is an integral part of the wider management of the Government's performance and key to ensuring we maximise the potential of each employee in order to meet our corporate objectives in an efficient and effective manner. Across Government, Directors and Heads of Services have been asked to ensure that the appraisals of staff are conducted in a reasonable time frame. These will be concluded at a time that best suits the operational needs of the services. An integral part of the appraisal process is the identification of an individual's development needs. Through this process we will be able to develop a comprehensive Corporate Development Plan. This will enable FIG to address the immediate development needs of individuals, and inform our wider workforce planning process to ensure we have the right people in the right place, at the right time, with the necessary skills, knowledge and competencies.

FIGO - I would like to praise the work Sukey Cameron and her team do in representing the Falklands in the UK and other fora. The work being carried out at the Labour party and Conservative party annual conferences by FIGO and our colleagues, the Honourable Mark

Pollard and the Honourable Stacy Bragger, is crucial in retaining the high level of political cross-party support we enjoy within the UK parliament. Sukey also provides vital liaison with other Overseas Territories and the FCO in UK.

Moving on to Legal and Regulatory, a slightly shorter report! We report each month in Legislative Assembly on the Law Commissioner's work and the department continues to support all other directorates with their work.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker

Does any Member wish to raise a question?

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Regarding the merchant banking facilities, Gibraltar and the Gibraltar International Bank has succeeded, it would appear, where others have failed. As we all know, the Gibraltar International Bank came about because a major UK high street bank pulled out of that territory.

I would ask please that the Honourable Roger Spink thank all those in Gibraltar who helped this important service, for all their help in bringing this about.

The Honourable Roger Spink

I would like to thank my Honourable friend, I will pass those on, but we have also issued an invitation to the Chief Minister and to the Chair of the Gibraltar International Bank to visit the Islands in the future.

Thank you.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Roger Spink mentioned in his portfolio update on HR that he would personally like to see more work done on orthodontic care in the Falkland Islands. I was just wondering if there is any further work we can expect on that particular item.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Yes, thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

The Honourable Roger Spink was pointing at me as it is my portfolio, is the Health and Medical. Yes, there is ongoing work with that, I can assure my Honourable colleague that there is ongoing work and there should be a paper to ExCo well, I have said this before, in the next couple of months, but we are waiting for the Senior Dental Officer's appointment for that person's input into such an issue.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

I am very pleased to hear from the Honourable Roger Spink about the work going on in HR and I think that is excellent and I am very pleased to hear that. He touched on the desire to reduce our reliance on locums, and costly reliance; do I understand that if a department wants to use a locum they have to approach HR and justify that need, or can they just go ahead and continue to use locums as they so choose?

The Honourable Roger Spink

It may be a question that I have to ask the Honourable Chief Executive to answer!

The Honourable Chief Executive

Thank you, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this matter.

The arrangements that we have here we leave the discretion ultimately to the director of the service with the advice of the Director of HR. However, on this issue in particular, not really Members scrutinizing this point we are very closely involved with the Director to make sure we have got an effective workforce plan for the whole of Health and Social Care; in fact, as it was alluded to earlier, the workforce plan for the whole of the Government.

Certainly, I am spending a lot of personal time working with individual directors and the Director of HR on their workforce planning, including all of these matters. So routinely, it's the director that should be given the discretion to do this, we have an evolved system that's how it should best operate. However, we are focusing on this issue and we understand the challenges that we face.

Mr Speaker

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

I thank both Honourable Members for their portfolio reports.

Clerk of the Assembly

Order of the Day: Bills

Retirement Pensions (Amendment) Bill 2018. This Bill has been gazetted and will therefore go to the second reading.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker,

This Bill amends the Retirement Pensions Ordinance 1996 so as to increase the age at which a person becomes entitled to a pension from 64 to 65 years. The amendment takes effect on 1st January 2020. The decision to increase the pensionable age is based on an actuarial

valuation of the Pensions Equalisation Fund carried out in December 2016 and ExCo's decisions of 2013 and 2017.

Clause 4 provides for a Schedule in which is listed the sections that are amended and the extent of the amendments.

Clause 5 is a transitional provision to cater for persons who turn 64 years between 1st January 2019 and 31st December 2019. Those people are entitled with effect from 1st January 2020 to claim and to receive their pension despite the amendments made by this Bill to section 4(1) of the Retirement Pensions Ordinance 1996.

I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, and a seconder please? The Honourable Roger Edwards to second.

Does any Honourable Member wish to speak to this Bill?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker,

Just for clarification on clause 5, a couple of members of public have asked me and I think I got it right, when we talk about the transitional provision to cater for people who will turn 64 – that's the old retirement age between the 1st January '19 and the 31st December - those people are entitled to take their pension at any time they wish from the 1st January 2020? So, if in March 2020 they decide they want to retire they can still take their full pension, even though they are over 64, so that transition phase gives them a year's grace. Is that clear?

The Honourable Roger Spink

I think it means, and I stand to be corrected, but I think it means that if they are 64 – so if they are 64 in, say, December - they will be 64 in 2020, but having turned 64 before the end of that year they will still be entitled to their pension during that year. Is that correct?

The Attorney General

Mr Speaker, that is correct, and I think what we want to avoid is a situation where someone becomes eligible to receive their pension and then ceases to be eligible to receive their pension because that clearly would not be an acceptable state of affairs. So, when someone turns 64 in that period they would be able to claim their pension and it wouldn't then cease to be eligible for that, it's just to cater for those arrangements.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

I would like to thank my Honourable colleague for that reassurance because I think there are a number of people who fall into that category.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I have two questions on this and the answers may be elsewhere. This has come about because in the previous Assembly they decided that they would increase the retirement age, or the age in which you draw your retirement pension, one year every ten years, and in the discussions leading up to that and this of course happens in 2020.

Currently you have to make 2,200 payments to receive your full pension. During the discussions leading up to making your retirement age later, we did agree at the time that we would also increase the number of contributions to be in receipt of the full pension from 2,200 to 2,250 and I wonder if that is included within this or is somewhere else?

The second question I have is, whatever happens in this bill and extending the age of which you get your pension, it does not alter the fact that Government will still continue to make contributions to those over a certain age that are in full time education; Government will still continue to make those contributions.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Financial Secretary

Mr Speaker,

This amendment is purely to do with the increase in age from 64 to 65. The issue of the number of payments and people in full-time training is something that can be considered in the next budget round and perhaps address through the Finance Bill 2019, in a timely basis.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

I thank the Honourable Financial Secretary for his answer.

Mr Speaker

Is there any other questions or comments on this Bill? Is there any objection to dealing with this Bill by the short procedure? There is no objection.

Does any Member wish to propose any amendments to the wording of this Bill? There are no amendments I declare this Bill will be read a third time and do pass.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Retirement Pensions (Amendment) Bill 2018.

The Supplementary Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill 2018. This Bill has not been published and therefore goes to a first reading.

The Honourable Financial Secretary

I beg to move the first reading of the Bill.

Mr Speaker

Thank you very much, and the Honourable Roger Spink to second?

The Honourable Roger Spink

I second the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, the Motion before the House is that the Bill be read a first time. Is there any objection to that Motion? There is no objection; the Bill will be read a first time.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Supplementary Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill 2018.

The Honourable Financial Secretary

Mr Speaker,

This Bill is the first Supplementary Appropriation Bill to be presented for the current financial year.

The purpose of this Bill is to authorise the withdrawal of the additional sum of £2,474,430 from the Consolidated Fund to meet supplementary expenditure approved by the Standing Finance Committee at meetings on 3rd July, 25th July and 29th August 2018.

The supplementary expenditure is approved for the following purposes:

Firstly, £2,005,425 relates to the carry-overs of unspent funds from the 2017/18 financial year. The most significant areas of these are £425,000 worth of accruals; this is where Falkland Islands Government are awaiting invoices and final charges to come through for goods and services received in the previous financial year. Also, there is an ongoing project for commercial pilot training for two pilots over the next two years which will be £207,000. There is £121,000 for the ongoing Nursery Provision and Regulation project, and lastly £139,000 of ongoing legal-related costs. Those items all together are £2,005,425 carried forward from the previous financial year. In addition, there has been some £469,000 of additional budget approvals made for this financial year by the Standing Finance Committee and the vast majority of those costs relate to FIGAS and the importance of ensuring there is an ongoing plane service and these planes are made available.

There is a full breakdown in the ExCo paper 150/18 which went to Executive Council on 26th September and there is a departmental breakdown included in the Schedule of this Bill.

I beg to move the Bill be read a second time.

Mr Speaker

And to second that Motion?

The Honourable Roger Spink

I second the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, the Honourable Roger Spink to second.

The Motion is the Bill be read a second time. Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion? No.

Is there any objection to taking this Bill by the short procedure? There is no objection.

Does any Member wish to propose any amendments to the wording of the Bill? There are no amendments, I declare the Bill will be read a third time and do pass.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Supplementary Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill 2018.

Motion for Adjournment.

The Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I have very little to say in standing to support the Motion for Adjournment. As the Honourable Roger Spink mentioned briefly in his report of course, we have two of our colleagues attending the party conferences in the UK. They are not only just attending the party conferences, but I believe they have quite a busy programme with doing other things while they're over there, like putting the word out about the Falklands and meeting as many people as possible. I am sure they are doing a very good job and they have my sympathies to a certain extent because I have attended five, maybe six, party conferences and I can assure you the day is long. You are standing up from seven in the morning until probably eight or nine at night, at least.

It is very important, of course, to get our case across, not only in the UK, but of course elsewhere in the world and the amount of times we can get out and do that has got to be a good thing. Especially when you consider President Macri's statement to the United Nations when he spoke for about a minute out of ten on the Falklands – it just shows that even though perhaps it is not as vitriolic as the statements were within the Kirchnerite regime, it is still there, the threat of sovereignty is still there very much.

Just briefly on an internal issue, yesterday the General Manager of Falkland Landholdings and I met with the external auditors, and it was very pleasing to hear the extremely positive feedback from them. As Chair of FLH I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the General Manager and his staff for being so robust and putting together a very good preparation for the auditors.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker,

I usually try to use the Motion for Adjournment as an opportunity to highlight something positive or something that has made me particularly happy in the community over the previous month. I know there is an awful lot of good work continuing out there, but I have to admit this month I have struggled a little bit to see it all, so hopefully the daffodils and the sunshine will bring about a bit more good humour next month.

That said, I too have very much enjoyed watching reports of our colleagues who are attending the Labour Party conference this week, and look forward very much to hearing their opinions when they come back.

Beyond that I will just restrict myself today to briefly paying tribute to Mrs Ellen Davis who sadly passed away earlier this month. Our community quite naturally loses good people all the time and sadly we cannot mention them all here in this House, but Ellen, as am sure you know, worked for many of her later years at Liberty Lodge and I know that the energy and the kindness and the warmth and the humour that she directed to the veterans and families who stayed there is worthy of a special mention. ‘Mother’, as she was frequently known, was a great help and comfort during what, for many, was quite a difficult time, and I just take this opportunity to extend my sincere condolences to Ellen’s family and her many friends here in the Islands and overseas.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Those listening will probably know that in addition to our portfolios the Honourable Teslyn Barkman and myself have responsibility for Europe and Brexit, and on that subject we have this week with us in the Falkland Islands Mr Ian Ascough, who is the Deputy Director for Exiting the European Union based in the Overseas Territory Directorate within London. He is down here to speak first-hand with the companies and the industries that will be affected in some way or other by Brexit. Despite us sending all the information, in fact we have been congratulated many times on the amount and the quality of information that we have been sending away to the various departments involved with Brexit, Mr Ascough is right in coming down and speaking first-hand to those industries and finding out first-hand how the Falklands will be affected. It will be affected, or could be affected, in various different ways whether it’s with a deal done, without a deal, or any other options including a possible change of Government in the UK.

On that same subject, vagaries of the Falkland Islands, wind allowing, I will be flying out tomorrow to go to a fisheries expo in Vigo in Spain, where we hope to be meeting up with various European parliamentarians and others of import who can help us or might be able to assist us in our continuing access to quota and tariff-free trade into Europe.

Finally, I too would like to mention President Macri in the United Nations. The protests and the claim may be less noisy, but the message that is coming across is just as strong as ever. They claim our Islands and our people and we must never ever allow that to happen.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion for Adjournment.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Thank you Mr Speaker.

I would like to start with an apology – I am yet to become completely ‘au fait’ with the Standing Rules and Orders, and I should have opened that question up for a debate as you had indicated Mr Speaker. I think what was really great to hear is that work around the impartiality and presenting of the facts is going to be taken onboard and I thank the Attorney General again for his help in making that clear for the public as well.

It’s all about the information and it’s about knowing your options, and you may have heard in previous Assemblies me talking about some rural bill protections or different ways to try and enshrine the Camp community whatever the results of a referendum may be, but it is just about knowing what options you should and could have.

What I found really amazing is that we have been here ten months and I am still very excited to come to work every day – I get to work with very impassioned people, people who know an awful lot more about certain aspects of this community than I do, and I feel like I am learning every day and it still is an absolute joy to come to work and watch the great work being done by MLA’s Bragger and Pollard currently in Liverpool. That work cannot be understated, they have been at the Labour Party conference and raising support for Brexit, which as MLA Roger Edwards has indicated, cannot be understated either. Trying to get our message out is no small feat, but they are doing a marvellous job and we wish them well in Birmingham at the Tory Party conference.

As MLA Roger Edwards has indicated, we do have some rather important visitors at the moment who have taken up quite a lot of this week around the edges of ExCo and Legislative Assembly and Standing Finance and the FC Oil Workshop that is going on as well, so it has been rather busy, but all in all I am very proud to report it has been very productive.

I would just like to take the opportunity to point to the Commander of British Forces to thank him for the excellent hospitality myself and MLA Roberts enjoyed on *HMS Protector* at the hands of the crew. It was brilliant to see the great work they are doing to support science and research in the Antarctic region, even if my stomach couldn’t quite handle it at times!

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak? No.

Honourable Members, that concludes the business of the House for today, the House stands adjourned accordingly.