

## Joint Ministerial Council 2013 - Progress on Implementation of Agreed Actions

**Completed By:** St Helena

**Date:** October 2014

### Economic Diversification

	Commitment	Progress
1	Promote globally the investment and trade opportunities in the Territories, including through cooperation between Territory investment agencies, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) teams and UK Embassies, High Commissions and other Posts.	<p><i>Enterprise St Helena (ESH) continues to actively promote investment opportunities in St Helena, both at a local and international level.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the island has recently been successful in attracting further investment from existing UK and Namibia based investors, no new investors of a significant value have been secured to date.</i></p> <p><i>ESH recently (Aug 2014) launched a new Tourism &amp; Hospitality (Accommodation, Food &amp; Beverage) upgrade support scheme, which targets local businesses in the run up to the airport opening. This is already starting to generate increased levels of interest at a local level.</i></p>
2	Inform UK companies of investment opportunities in the Territories and encouraging them to explore the opportunities.	<p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>ESH is currently in the process of refreshing its website. The organisation regularly engages with UK companies who express an interest in exploring opportunities on the island. The next UK promotional event envisaged will be the Business event to coincide with JMC 2014.</i></p>
3	Promote Territory exports and service industries, including in emerging markets and in countries where the Territories are not currently recognized.	<p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p>
4	Explore further opportunities to boost inter-Territory trade and	<i>ESH recently registered with the Institute of Economic Development as a</i>

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	investment and the sharing of best practice.	<i>corporate member and is pursuing Accreditation with this body to boost ESH's public standing with the international trade community.</i>
5	Publish Territory investment policies setting out clearly the offer to inward investors.	<i>The Investment Policy for St Helena was updated in 2011 as a part of Memorandum of Understanding Condition 4 relating to the Airport. This is available from the SHG <a href="http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/investment_policy_2306111.pdf">http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/investment_policy_2306111.pdf</a></i>
6	Commission independent advice on enhancing competitiveness, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability	<i>ESH continues to develop both internal and external capabilities in line with sector needs, drawing on professional support where necessary, such as a qualified Chartered Accountant providing Business Advisory support to up-skill both the Business Development Team and also local Business Service providers. Independent advice is similarly sought on a sector by sector basis, where specific identified needs arise, for example the recent review of the St Helena Fisheries Corporation, Branding and Visitor Demand surveys, and Hotel Designs.</i>
7	Promote entrepreneurship and the development of small businesses, including through the Caribbean regional EU-funded Small and Medium-sized Enterprises project.	<i>ESH has a range of activities within their project programme that are specifically targeted towards promoting entrepreneurship and the development of small businesses.</i>

### Employment and Education

	Commitment	Progress
8	Share good practice on workforce planning, skills training and addressing the specific needs of young people, older people and the disabled.	<i>As a result of this buoyant market, unemployment has been virtually zero over the last 12 months and firms across the private sector actively compete for skilled employees, with private sector incomes increasing by 20% in 2012/13. Wages in the public sector have been relatively subdued, increasing by 2.5% in 2012/13, but a further 3% pay award was made in April 2014.</i>

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		<p><i>The introduction of an apprenticeship scheme has significantly increased the number of people who are now in jobs with training. 100% of 16-18 year olds are in either education training or employment. In addition, rising examination results (49% A-C GCSE) will help equip young citizens to play leading roles in the island's future management and administration.</i></p> <p><i>A Construction Training Project is now in the process of being implemented by Enterprise St Helena in partnership with the Education and Employment Directorate.</i></p> <p><i>The recently adopted SHG Workforce Plan is in the process of being implemented across all Directorates. The objectives of the plan are to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i) Build SHG capacity to work effectively</i></li> <li><i>ii) Improve the skills and qualifications of public servants</i></li> <li><i>iii) Improve productivity</i></li> <li><i>iv) Support the alignment of SHG's structure with the agreed functions of Government and the policy framework.</i></li> </ul>
9	Develop efficient and professional public employment services.	<p><i>The provision of public employment services on St Helena is currently under review .</i></p>
10	Develop immigration policies that take into account the interests of local people and businesses, and minimise risks for the UK.	<p><i>St. Helena has continued to progress its Immigration reform agenda with a stated aim to develop a 'simple, transparent and development friendly' immigration system while ensuring local people and businesses' interests are taken into account.</i></p> <p><i>Since the JMC in 2013, immigration legislation was enacted (in April 2014) to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Increase the Immigration Control Board's powers to revoke permissions to work where holders are not adhering to the conditions of their permit.</i></li> <li><i>• Improve Immigration Officer powers to enforce removal of those whose presence is considered to be not conducive to the public good</i></li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reduce Governor in Council discretion in St Helenian (belonger) status cases where applicants do not meet the requirements.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Work is currently underway to improve IT at the border and introduce electronic checks of passports and introduce the ability to open biometric e-passports to further improve assurance at border controls.</i></p> <p><i>Risk to the UK continues to be reduced through the presence of a Home Office seconded officer who is expected to remain in post until July 2016 with further funding in place for one more year if required. Furthermore, all Immigration Officers have attended UK training at a variety of sites across London between November 2013 and May 2014 spending time working alongside UK Immigration Officers at border controls. These visits have improved officers' skills and abilities in detecting those who would seek to abuse immigration controls both in their home territory and the UK.</i></p>
11	Explore further how the people of the Territories can access vocational training in all parts of the UK and in other Territories;	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>A small number of citizens are currently studying in the UK for a range of higher qualifications including vocational qualifications in Environmental management and motor vehicle technology. These placements are funded by government and agencies in St Helena via a Scholarships committee. All funded placements are matched to the changing economic needs that air access will bring.</i></p>

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### Links with the Wider World

	Commitment	Progress
12	Strengthen Territory engagement with international partners with support from the UK's network of diplomatic posts.	<i>Would like to explore what options are available/relevant to St Helena. Advice in this area would be welcome.</i>
13	Make full and effective use of new trade opportunities with the EU and increased EU funding streams including the European Development Fund and its regional programmes	<p><i>St Helena is exploring the possibility of accessing the horizon 2020 programme; however because of resource constraints we are looking to engage with other countries and territories on mutual beneficial proposals.</i></p> <p><i>St Helena, Ascension and Tristan also benefit from an increase in funding allocation from the European Development Fund for the period 2014-2020. St Helena is already actively engaged in the preparation of relevant documentation and has submitted first draft of the summary document to secure the release of the territorial allocation</i></p> <p><i>St Helena will continue to explore other options for programme funding, subject to eligibility to bid.</i></p>
14	Encourage the Commonwealth Secretariat and the chairs of Commonwealth fora to invite the Territories directly to participate in relevant meetings and programmes, particularly the Commonwealth small states meetings.	<b>Action principally for UKG</b>

### Green Energy and Environment

	Commitment	Progress
15	Increase the use of renewable energy sources, including enabling production and removing barriers to use.	<i>St Helena Government and Connect Saint Helena (utility company) are working closely to significantly increase renewable energy supplies with</i>

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		<p><i>an operational target of 50% by 2017. Wind power currently meets the island's entire energy demand at times of high production and low consumption and the focus is now on increased solar generation. In July 2014, DFID approved an additional £1m for investing in renewable energy – this will be used for solar panels, estimated to provide 9-10% of the Island's current needs. SHG is interested in engaging with other OTs to investigate EU and other finance to speed up progress.</i></p>
16	<p>Establishing workshops in order to assist Territory Governments in capacity-building, technical assistance and renewable energy financing</p>	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p>
17	<p>Promote the development of, and investment in, sustainable fishing industries, particularly in Territories where potential resources are underutilised or illegally exploited.</p>	<p><i>St Helena's fisheries are in the early stages of development and SHG is still working to identify finances to ensure that the economic development objectives can be achieved based on a sound scientific footing. There is a strong process around this and SHG expects progress to be made in the coming year.</i></p> <p><i>St Helena had representatives in attendance at the Regional Fisheries Workshop on Ascension Island, organised by the JNCC.</i></p> <p><i>SHG are currently reviewing policies relating to access and licencing, both in respect of commercial and tourism related fishing activities. No further international fishing licences will be entertained until this work is completed.</i></p> <p><i>Offshore fishing vessel initiative undertaken by the St Helena Fisheries Corporation with support from ESH will be utilised to provide a multi role function, to include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Upskilling / Training</i></li> <li>• <i>Stock Assessment / Exploratory Fishing</i></li> <li>• <i>Fisheries Protection</i></li> </ul>

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		<p><i>This fishing vessel has been formally registered with ICCAT, in accordance with requirements, and SHG are in the process of implementing an exploratory pole and line fishing plan.</i></p>
18	<p>Publish road maps by end of May 2014 setting out plans to implement our environmental commitments and demonstrate our contribution to the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p><i>St Helena Government's Environmental Management Division have continued to implement the National Environment Management Plan (NEMP) <a href="http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/draft_national_environmental_management_plan_for_public_consultation.pdf">http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/draft_national_environmental_management_plan_for_public_consultation.pdf</a> which was published in September 2012 and is effectively a 10 year roadmap for environmental management on the island.</i></p> <p><i>The NEMP informs funding applications, the workload of the Environmental Management Division and identification of priority areas. The environment is central to the economic development of the island and is the third pillar of the island's Sustainable Development Plan "Effective Management of the Environment".</i></p>
19	<p>Ensure the continuation of relevant funding programmes for Overseas Territories environment, conservation, biodiversity and climate-related projects.</p>	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>St Helena Government's Environment Management Division Marine Conservation team attended the JNCC workshop on Marine Protected Areas. The team presented the draft Saint Helena Marine Protection Area report and benefitted from a peer review session. The draft report will now be updated to reflect the advice given at the workshop. The team also gave four other presentations on Saint Helena's marine conservation work.</i></p> <p><i>St Helena Government's Environmental Management Division were unable to attend the CITES and LIFE Plus workshops in the UK, but contributed via other media outlets. The workshops have greatly benefitted the drafting of the Environmental Protection Ordinance and evaluation of funding opportunities in the EU.</i></p>

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### International Financial Services Regulation

	Commitment	Progress
20	Explain the contribution of well-regulated international financial centres to the global economy.	<i>Not relevant to St Helena</i>
21	Promote the application of high regulatory standards to deliver conditions in which legitimate financial services business can flourish.	<i>The financial services sector in St Helena is currently undeveloped nevertheless a Financial Services Ordinance was enacted in 2008 to regulate banking and financial services provided in or from St Helena and to provide for the protection of client money. These provisions include the establishment of a Financial Services Regulatory Authority.</i>
22	Discuss evolving standards in the provision of financial services and actively engaging with international standard setting bodies.	<i>Not relevant to St Helena</i>
23	Challenge other jurisdictions to match our commitments to transparency and tax information exchange.	Action principally for UKG

### Governance

	Commitment	Progress
24	Engage in peer review processes to improve regulation and get rid of red-tape, and further strengthen procurement, public financial management frameworks and codes of conduct and integrity.	<i>St Helena has not participated in peer reviews of this nature.</i>  <i>In terms of public financial management SHG has adopted International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as the financial reporting framework for government. With JMC endorsement this should become the required financial reporting standard across all OTs thereby promoting consistency, comparability and shared learning.</i>
25	Increase secondments between the Territories and the UK where	Action principally for UKG



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	appropriate including through reviewing the effectiveness of the UK Government's Jubilee Programme.	<i>The UK Government's Jubilee Fund has been of great benefit to St Helena, enabling exposure/learning visits to the UK in a number of areas including public relations, immigration, shipping and port management as well as funding the delivery of on island training and support in media, community policing and child safeguarding and, assessment/offending behaviour work for sex offenders.</i>
26	Extend to the Territories international treaties on tackling corruption, bribery and the financing of terrorism and of organised crime (the UN Convention Against Corruption; the OECD Anti Bribery Convention; the UN Convention on Suppression of Financing of Terrorism; and the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime)	<i>St Helena recognises the importance of the need to have these Conventions extended as a result of expanded economic activity that will result from opening of the airport in 2016 and the new AG who has experience in regulatory crime is best placed to take this work stream forward.</i>
27	Fulfill our commitment to extension of the core human rights conventions <sup>1</sup> where these have not been extended already.  Footnote <sup>1</sup> : the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.	<i>SHG is making an assessment of its legislative framework to identify areas that will have to be addressed to enable compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), noting that the target date for compliance is end 2014.</i>  <i>All other listed Human Rights Conventions have been extended to St Helena.</i>
28	Strengthen the work of audit bodies and public accounts committees or their equivalents, with the support of the UK National Audit Office.	<i>SHG recognise the importance of good governance across the public sector in promoting stakeholder confidence and future economic development. There is a priority on building capacity and capability in the statutory audit function and developing parliamentary oversight through the Public Accounts Committee.</i>  <i>St Helena was unable to attend the January 2014 OT conference but the newly appointed Chief Auditor met with FCO and NAO subsequently and</i>

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		<p><i>will drive this initiative forward locally. The proposed OT wide review of audit legislation and access to NAO technical expertise is welcomed. St Helena has submitted the information return for this project to the UK National Audit Office as requested.</i></p> <p><i>Saint Helena Audit Service has adopted International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and with DFID Technical Cooperation has developed an ISA compliant audit manual which could be rolled-out in other OTs.</i></p>
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### Security

	Commitment	Progress
29	Enhance support provided by the UK Association of Chief Police Officers, UK College of Policing and the newly formed National Crime Agency.	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>A relationship has been established between Sussex Police and the St Helena Police Service to assist with specialist advice and resources. This includes access to the High Tec Crime Unit for the gathering of evidence from computers and the donation by Sussex Police of uniform and speed detection equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Officers have also spent short attachments with Sussex Police to enhance their skills and a Sussex Police Inspector spent time on St Helena leading the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing.</i></p>
30	Enhance support for judicial and prosecution services, building upon the relationships already established with the Ministry of Justice and UK Crown Prosecution Service.	<p><i>Clarity is needed as to whether the territories can access this support direct from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and UK Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The Attorney General's Chambers is not aware of any existing arrangements with the MoJ or the CPS in the UK and would appreciate further information as to what services are available.</i></p>
31	Implement disaster risk reduction initiatives; robust and effective disaster preparation and response planning, including exercising and	<p><i>The first Major Incident Plan for St Helena is in draft and will be finalised to coincide with the accreditation, opening and operations at the new St</i></p>

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	engagement with regional and international disaster response agencies.	<i>Helena Airport. This is an island plan but will link with the airport plans as an overarching response to major incidents and emergencies. Exercises to test the plan and as part of the airport accreditation are planned for December 2014 and during 2015.</i>
32	Take advantage of the expertise of the UK Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Service and HM Prison Service to progress alternatives to custody, prison reform, restorative justice and protection of vulnerable witnesses.	<i>On St Helena, offender management is developing with the appointment of a Probation Manager specialising in the treatment of sex offenders and the ongoing recruitment of public protection officers to manage sex offenders within the community. A senior detective has been recruited to lead investigations and safeguarding Community sentences are available with offenders carrying out community based projects. The 29th July 2014 saw the opening of the new Victim Suite on St Helena. With excellent facilities to support witnesses, including medical room, state of the art video and audio recording and areas for families, this facility has enhanced the safeguarding procedures on St Helena. Plans are developed for the move from the current prison with poor facilities to a new prison. This will provide more appropriate facilities and a greater capacity.</i>
33	Put in place robust and reliable extradition arrangements, including through extension of the 2003 Extradition Act;	<i>St Helena is liaising with the FCO on this matter and has provided the information requested.</i>

### Health [carried over from 2012 Communiqué]

	Commitment	Progress
34	<p>Improve treatment and care for people suffering from chronic non-communicable diseases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve the sharing of information on UK health strategies and practices to the Territories;</li> <li>• share expertise on the audit and review of healthcare standards;</li> </ul>	<p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>The healthcare management of chronic non-communicable disease remains a significant challenge for St Helena, especially in relationship to obesity, diabetes and related cardiac conditions. SHG Health Directorate provides informational support to Ascension, Tristen da Cunha and ships doctors as</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve treatment of the mentally ill, building on work carried out by the Royal College of Psychiatry.</li> </ul>	<p><i>and when requested. Healthcare strategies need to be contextualised to the unique environment of St Helena however, clinical audits, based on the Care Quality Commission template, have been usefully carried out and are framed around similar processes in the Falkland Islands. As yet the tools and methods are not widely shared. The challenge of caring for the Mentally Ill relates to recruitment difficulties however, there is good support from a clinical psychologist as well as a consultant psychiatrist.</i></p>
35	Use telemedicine and other distance support arrangements where this can improve healthcare in the Territories	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>Some digitised clinical decision-making support and telephonic consultation with specialists also occurs as a matter of routine where appropriate. Further developments are required, especially in relation to exploring the potential for blended e-learning opportunities and this work strand is currently being explored.</i></p>
36	Address gaps identified by situation analysis of International Health Regulation compliance	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>St Helena does not have the resources to take forward the key International Health Regulation gaps and will need external support to facilitate such closure. St Helena would welcome further UK Government support in this area.</i></p>
37	Improve representation of the Territories and linkages with the work of global and regional health bodies	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p>
38	Review health care support for the people of the Territories including the NHS quota arrangement, assistance for the cost-effective procurement of medicines and professional training.	<p><b>Action principally for UKG</b></p> <p><i>SHG Health Directorate has requested an increase in the NHS quota arrangement, which if supported would have a significant positive impact. Air access will facilitate such processes and, as British subjects, we would welcome further support in this area. The last couple of years have seen a</i></p>

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		<p><i>steady increase in overseas medical referrals for which diagnosis and treatment is not available on island.</i></p> <p><i>Department of Health (DoH) has agreed a pilot with St Helena for supply of childhood vaccinations. St Helena will be the first OT to be involved in this process.</i></p> <p><i>After some 2.5 years, the NHS Supply Chain advised on 16 September 2014 that it is possible to establish an account for St Helena for procurement of consumables. This could have procurement benefits for all sections of the Health Service. This is being followed up by SHG Health Directorate.</i></p> <p><i>Pharmaceuticals: possible tie-in with NHS Trust for pharmaceuticals could be explored. SHG Health Directorate has requested DoH to supply a list of NHS Trusts in London and Essex area with MHRA export licences and has asked for the issues which this will raise, to be explored. Currently awaiting feedback from DoH. This is however a lower priority item as current pharmaceutical procurement arrangements (excepting vaccines) are adequate.</i></p>
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