



ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ORDER PAPER

First Sitting of the Fourth Meeting of Legislative Council

**Thursday 5 February 2026 at 10am
in the Council Chamber**

1. Formal Entry of the Speaker

2. Prayers

3. Address by the Speaker

4. Papers

SP 1/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)

St Helena Government – Statement of Expenditure in Excess (Amended), Financial Year 2024/25

SP 2/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)

St Helena Government – Equality & Human Rights Commission – Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

SP 3/2026 (*Hon Dr Corinda Essex*)

St Helena Public Accounts Committee – Report to Legislative Council on the Formal Session of the Public Accounts Committee held on 9 and 12 December 2024 and 23 January 2025

SP 4/2026 (*Hon Robert Midwinter*)

St Helena Legislative Council – Select Committee 1 – Recommendations Tracker – Health and Social Care, Provision of

SP 5/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Audit St Helena – Performance Audit:
Recommendations Follow-up, January 2026

SP 6/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Proceedings of Legislative Council – Monday,
29 September 2025 – First Sitting of the Second Meeting

5. Questions

1. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Will the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning outline the steps that he took before announcing publicly on 26 November 2025, that a wide-ranging review of the fishing sector has been initiated and what this review would encompass?

2. The Hon Denis Leo to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Can the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs provide an update on the progress of the review of the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2025, following the Press Release “*St Helena Government Revokes Immigration Ordinance Commencement Date*” dated 24 September 2025, explain why the completion timeline has moved from December 2025 to January 2026 and now to April 2026, and advise when Members and the public can expect to see the draft revised Bill?

3. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House whether St Helena Government’s International Recruitment Strategy is now finalised and, if so, what aspects of its provisions apply to St Helenians with homes overseas who wish to return to work on St Helena?

4. The Hon Julie Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Can the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning outline the current processes and procedures in place for air freight imports and exports on St Helena Island, including any challenges or bottlenecks, and what plans are being considered to improve efficiency and reliability of the air freight services to and from the island?

5. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Can the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House if a formal retention audit has been conducted or will be considered, to evaluate why employees leave and the effectiveness of our retention strategies?

6. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Can the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning tell this Council who will be accommodated in the ex-Longwood First School, which is now being renovated and how much is this work costing?

7. The Hon Derek Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Will the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs tell this Council, whether she will commence the necessary legislative procedures to reduce the age to seventeen years, at which persons can drive motorcycles up to 125cc?

8. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Noting that the BIOT Agreement will soon be coming to an end, will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House, what progress she has made towards ensuring that the UK Government upholds its commitment to unfreeze eligible pensions paid in St Helena?

9. The Hon Denis Leo to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Will the Honourable Chief Minister inform this House when the Public Transport System Review is due to be completed and what outcomes is it expected to deliver?

10. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Will the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning tell this House what action is being taken in relation to the Fisheries Review that St Helena Government has committed to undertaking, and by what date it is anticipated that the Review will be concluded?

11. The Hon Julie Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills & Employment:

Will the Honourable Minister for Education, Skills & Employment confirm whether the reorganisation of primary education into dedicated KS1 and KS2 schools is now fully operational and safe for pupils, given that the new arrangements came into effect when students returned last month, and outline what assurances can be provided to pupils,

parents and the wider public that all essential arrangements – particularly transport, staffing, and resources – are fully in place?

12. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Can the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources & Planning tell this House, with reference to the SHG Press Statement dated 05 December 2025, entitled “*SHG Statement on St Albatros Operations*”, on what legal, regulatory, and evidential basis SHG has determined that the matter concerning the vessel *St Albatros* is now considered closed, and how the Minister is satisfied that all compliance, governance, and reputational risks associated with the vessel’s operations have been fully addressed, given that external regulatory confirmation has not yet been received?

13. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Can the Honourable Chief Minister inform this House whether, since the introduction of the Consumer Protection (Control of Sales During Limited Supply) Ordinance 2020, it is the intention that this Ordinance be extended to cover all goods and services delivered to consumers, ensuring they meet basic and reasonable standards?

14. The Hon Derek Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Will the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs tell this Council, if she will pursue the development of driving licenses in an improved format that will be recognised internationally?

15. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Will the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning tell this Council what action he will be taking to reduce carbon emissions over the next four years?

16. The Hon Denis Leo to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Can the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning confirm when the Agriculture Policy will be published and explain what the immediate priorities will be following its release, particularly in relation to how it will address data collection, transparency, and value for money in agricultural support schemes?

17. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House what action has been taken, or will be taken, in response to the Motion standing in my name which was carried in October 2025 pertaining to a comprehensive review, of Customs tariffs?

18. The Hon Julie Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Can the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning confirm whether the decision to offload passenger baggage from the aircraft on 3 January 2026, has resulted in any direct or indirect costs to SHG, if so, can it be confirmed which budget line or cost centre have these costs been, or will be, met from?

19. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills & Employment:

Can the Honourable Minister for Education Skills and Employment tell this House how his Portfolio is supporting those progressing on post 16 studies in both Academic and Vocational courses in this coming financial year?

20. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Can the Honourable Chief Minister inform this House, what have been the benefits of having the Public Solicitors Office set up in St Helena?

21. The Hon Derek Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Will the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs give an undertaking that she will expedite Regulations being brought into force to remove the requirements for drivers over 70 years, to pass an annual medical test?

6. Motions

1. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex:

That this House requests that construction of additional social housing units is commenced as a matter of urgency.

7. Adjournment Debate

Written Questions

1. The Hon Robert Midwinter

Will the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning tell this Council, if he can provide details of how many seats were sold on Airlink flights during the recent Black Friday promotional offer, how this compared to ticket sales during the same period last financial year and whether this promotional event constituted a financial gain or loss to the St Helena Government?

Response:

Airlink offered a Black Friday promotion which gave 50% reductions on the base fare (excluding taxes) for tickets sold via the airline's website on Friday the 28th of November. Skybucks – the Airlink frequent flyer programme – members were also offered these promotional fares on Thursday the 27th of November. The promotion applied to all Airlink flights, including those to and from St Helena. The reduced fares were not available via agents - including Solomons - only when booked directly on the website.

Analysis provided by Airlink indicated that 408 tickets were sold on Black Friday for flights to the island. These were spread over the 12-month booking period from the date of the promotion, with the majority being single digit weekly increases other than for two flights inbound and three outbound, where bookings were for over 10 tickets. These numbers of bookings are materially higher than would normally be sold on a normal day.

In the same week in November 2024, when the black Friday deal was also offered, 126 tickets were sold.

Assessing the financial impact to SHG would require detail on whether the tickets sold were incremental – revenue enhancing – or represented opportunistic purchases of tickets that would have been bought at normal prices – revenue reducing - which is not available without finding the names of the individuals who booked and asking them whether they would have otherwise booked had the deal not been implemented. This is not feasible.

We do however recognise the economic impact of having additional visitors to the island and regularly encourage Airlink to promote good-value deals that encourage people to fly to St Helena.

2. The Hon Julie Thomas

£6.65 million BIOT Agreement funding

- 1) Can the Honourable Chief Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the £6.65 million BIOT Agreement funding, including both actual expenditure to date and any projected future spend?

Response:

The following table sets out the spend to date on each of the four areas for which additional funding was provided under the BIOT MOU signed in 2024, the committed spend and uncommitted funds held.

How the uncommitted funds will be utilised, will be determined as the planned projects progress. For example, the development of SHG's Digital Transformation Strategy and Implementation Plan will determine how the remaining £279k will be utilised.

Support for implementation of Strategic Priorities	£ '000 Total Funds Received	£ '000 Total Spend to Date	£ '000 Planned Future Spending	£ '000 Uncommitted Funds
Improvements in preventative health services	1,500	270	1,230	0
Improvements in education	2,000	675	1,200	125
Internal IT infrastructure improvement	1,500	821	400	279
Clearing the overseas medical referral waiting list	1,650	1,315	335	0
Total Allocation	6,650	3,081	3,165	404

2) Additionally, can the Honourable Chief Minister clearly indicate how this funding was attributed across Health & Social Care, Education, Skills & Employment, and IT and specify the key programmes or initiatives that have been supported or will be supported within each area?

Response:

- The £2.0M allocation to Education supports the Education Reform Programme which includes, the recruitment of teaching and learning posts to support both primary and secondary; primary advisory roles; the implementation of COBIS standards; and reviewing and progressing inclusion ensuring a needs lead model and succession planning.
- The £1.5M for ICT has so far been used to fund the development of SHG's Digital Transformation Strategy and Implementation Plan. Funds were also used for key components of the operating environment to improvement cyber security.

- The £1.65M has been used to clear the overseas medical referral waiting list and has funded the procurement of essential audiology, urology and ophthalmic equipment that will help reduce future overseas medical referrals, improve outcomes, and build a sustainable, self-sufficient service without the need for referral due to lack of infrastructure, in the future.
- Finally, in terms of the £1.5M for improvements in preventative health services, the funds have been used for the development of the St Helena Health Improvement Strategy which is an evidence-led programme to tackle non-communicable diseases and mental health. This includes the establishment of a health information hub, strengthening community monitoring, launching youth and lifestyle initiatives, and preparing diabetes prevention and remission pilots backed by UKHSA and academic partners. The Strategy's aim is to use robust local data to identify what works, invest early in prevention and better management, and then scale up only those interventions that demonstrably improve health while reducing long-term costs in a small, ageing population.

3) Can the Honourable Chief Minister confirm whether any of the above investments are expected to result in ongoing or recurrent costs, and if so, whether there will be a requirement for uplifts to the baseline budgets of the respective portfolios in future financial years?

Response:

Yes. It is expected that some of the interventions made through the BIOT MOU funding will result in ongoing costs to maintain the benefits derived through the initial investment.

The implementation of the Education Reform Programme and particularly COBIS standards will have ongoing costs. These have been incorporated into draft budgets for the next planning period.

SHG's Digital Transformation Strategy and Implementation Plan is expected to have future costs but at this stage these are unknown until the Strategy and Implementation Plan has been drafted and agreed. Funds that were used for improving cyber security will also have ongoing costs which are incorporated into the draft budgets for the next planning period.

The funding for the development of the St Helena Health Improvement Strategy and its implementation is planned over the next 5-year period, thereafter it is envisaged that there will be budget implications. Additionally, there is an ongoing need for overseas medical referrals where diagnosis or treatment cannot be delivered on island. The purchase of equipment will have an ongoing financial cost for the portfolio, and this will be built into future year budgets, but it will also reduce, potentially, the number of patients on the overseas referral waiting list if diagnosis and treatment can now be done on island.