



ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ORDER PAPER

**First Sitting
of the
Fifth Meeting
of Legislative Council**

**Thursday 19 March 2026 at 10am
in the Council Chamber**

- 1. Formal Entry of the Speaker**
- 2. Prayers**
- 3. Address by the Speaker**
- 4. Papers**

- SP 7/2026 *(Hon Chief Minister)*
St Helena Government – A Bill for an Ordinance – Supplementary
Appropriation (2025/26) Bill, 2026
- SP 8/2026 *(Hon Chief Minister)*
St Helena Government – St Helena Government – Third
Supplementary Estimates 2025/26
- SP 9/2026 *(Hon Chief Minister)*
St Helena Government – A Bill for an Ordinance – Income Tax
(Amendment) Bill 2026
- SP 10/2026 *(Hon Chief Minister)*
St Helena Government – A Bill for an Ordinance – Financial Services
(Amendment) Ordinance 2026

- SP 11/2026 (*Hon Dr Corinda Essex*)
St Helena Legislative Council – Select Committee 2 – 6 month progress report on recommendations – Safety, Security and Home Affairs, Roads, January 2026
- SP 12/2026 (*Hon Dr Corinda Essex*)
St Helena Legislative Council – Select Committee 2 – 6 month progress report on recommendations – Economic Development, Social Housing, December 2025
- SP 13/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Audit St Helena – Performance Audit Report, Implementation of St Helena's Energy Strategy, March 2026
- SP 14/2026 (*Hon Dr Corinda Essex*)
St Helena Public Accounts Committee – Report to Legislative Council on the Formal Session of the Public Accounts Committee held on 12 June 2025
- SP 15/2026 (*Hon Derek Thomas*)
St Helena Legislative Council – Legislative Council Response to Remuneration Review Report
- SP 16/2026 (*Hon Clint Beard*)
St Helena Legislative Council – Panel of Investigators 2026
- SP 17/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Proceedings of Legislative Council – Wednesday, 18th June, 2025 – First Sitting of the Twenty Second Meeting

5. Questions

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House if she intends to request Executive Council to authorise an independent commission of enquiry (as per Commission of Enquiry Ordinance, 1926) on the closing of St Helena Airport due to non-operational readiness of fire tenders, as mentioned in a press release on 6th February 2026, headed 'St Helena Resilience Forum Declares National Major Incident'; the investigation being based on the cause of non-compliance for Category 6 and also social, financial and reputational implications?

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

Will the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs set out what maritime qualifications, certificates of competency and safety training are currently required for fishermen operating domestic vessels of different sizes within St Helena's 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, including this working within 12 nautical miles, around 70 miles and at approximately 180 miles?

3. 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 update this House and the people of St Helena, on progress with island's communications and indicate when island-wide access to mobile phone, television and internet services, via the cable is expected to be achieved?

4. The Hon Julie Thomas to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Further to my written question last month regarding the BIOT Agreement Funding, will the Honourable Chief Minister provide a definitive timeline for the formal approval of the SHG Digital Transformation Strategy, a breakdown of how much of the £1.5 million ICT allocation is specifically ring-fenced for its implementation versus maintenance, and a detailed list of the specific cyber-security investments made to protect SHG's sensitive operating environment?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House what measures are in place to protect those persons who are medically certified as unfit to work and are only in receipt of Income Related Benefits from becoming unable to afford the cost of essential utilities?

6. The Hon Derek Thomas 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 give an undertaking to consider the erection of a water tank, in a suitable location in Longwood, large enough to meet the needs of farmers?

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the £2.5 million allocated for allowances within the 2025/26 Budgets within each Directorate and any other work performed by ad hoc staffing or consultants within SHG?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House how the Government is addressing the challenge of retaining local staff ('Saints') to build long term institutional capacity, when overseas employment offers significantly higher pay?

9. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Can the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs inform this House and the people of St Helena why the new prison is being built approximately 15m below ground level and how much are these excavation works likely to cost and in addition is there sufficient funding to complete the prison?

10. The Hon Julie Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Will the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care advise this House what specific criteria or evidence-based models is his Portfolio currently using to determine and maintain safe staff levels that meet the needs of our aging population, noting that the Draft Situational Analysis: Aging Demographic report states that the commissioned work for a 'Core Offer for Healthcare' has not been delivered as planned?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House what progress has been made in response to the Motion standing in my name which was carried in December 2024 pertaining to comprehensive review of the social benefits system, and what further action is anticipated?

12. 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 consider an amendment to the Road Traffic Ordinance, by way of Regulations, to exempt all new vehicles, increasing from one year to three years, which is the case in the UK, to encourage more new type and efficient vehicles on the island?

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House what is the process when a TC role comes to an end in a specific role and what policy is followed when filling that same post?

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

Will the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs explain the process for release of fresh fruit from the MV Karoline and confirm whether the Government can implement prioritised or weekend customs services for perishable goods in order to reduce food spoilage and associated costs for consumers?

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister inform this House and the people of St Helena, what economic benefits the island is expected to gain, in the current economic climate, from granting an additional insurance licence to a Caribbean company, operating through the Bank of St Helena, which is 100% owned by SHG, given that there is already an insurance provider operated by Solomon & Company (SH) Plc, in which SHG has a 62% shareholding?

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister please provide an update on the £13.5 million capital expenditure allocated for the current financial year – specifically, confirm the specific projects accommodated under this funding, and whether they are all expected to be completed by year-end?

17. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Will the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs tell this House what progress has been made regarding the development of Regulations to accompany the Harbours Ordinance, and when it is anticipated that these will be ready to be brought before Executive Council?

18. The Hon Derek Thomas to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House, what progress has been made in response to the Motion standing in my name, which was carried in October 2025, requesting for a review to be carried out on Connect Saint Helena Ltd, to establish whether we are receiving value for money?

6. Motions

1. The Hon Chief Minister:

That the Supplementary Appropriation (2025/26) Bill, 2026 be approved in principle and referred to a committee of the whole Council.

2. The Hon Chief Minister:

In accordance with and subject to Section 102 of the Constitution, this House empowers the Financial Secretary to authorise the withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Fund in order to meet expenditure necessary to carry on the services or projects of the Government in the financial year commencing on the 1st April 2026, until the occurrence of either of the following, whichever is the earliest:

- a) The expiry of four months from the commencement of the 2026/2027 financial year: or
- b) The enactment of the Appropriation Ordinance for the financial year 2026/2027.

3. Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

That the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill 2026 be approved in principle and referred to a committee of the whole Council.

4. The Hon Chief Minister:

That the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026 be approved in principle and referred to a committee of the whole Council.

7. Adjournment Debate

Written Questions

1. The Hon Ronald Coleman

Can the Honourable Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs inform this House and the people of Half Tree Hollow and Jamestown of the real progress on the solution to the drainage systems in Half Tree Hollow and Jamestown and if the projects promised are still on course for completion and handover in 2027?

2. The Hon Julie Thomas

- I. Noting the information provided at a previous sitting regarding the £50,000 allocated for legal advice within the fishing industry, and in the interest of ensuring transparency and consistency across all major government initiatives, will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House what is the total expenditure to date on external and internal legal advice for the following national projects, which have been in development for several years:
 - **Telecommunications** (including licensing and spectrum regulations);
 - **Bunkers Hill** (specifically the Comprehensive Development Area (CDA));
 - **Renewable Energy** initiatives; and
 - **Immigration** policy and ordinance reviews?
- II. Can the Honourable Chief Minister provide a breakdown of these costs, where possible, based on total legal hours or specific consultancy fees associated with each project?

3. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex

Will the Honourable Chief Minister provide this House with an update regarding implementation of the project relating to the new Bulk Fuel installation; including total expenditure required; a breakdown of spend already incurred, and anticipated dates for conclusion of works and commissioning?

4. The Hon Clint Beard

Will the Honourable Chief Minister inform this Council of the successful tenderer, the total award cost and any further associated expenditure (be it maintenance, licensing, hosting or upgrades) for the new St Helena Government website?

5. The Hon Clint Beard

Can the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources & Planning please explain to this Council why there were two flights, namely 17th and 24th February, which would have been Tuesday flights; when did this change in the schedule occur, who authorised these extra flights, what cost did this incur and has it been profitable or not?