

Constituency Meeting Harford Community Centre

Thursday 12 February 2026 at 7:30 pm



Chair: Hon. Denis Leo
Present: Secretary: Carol Henry, Head of Admin Support Service, CSS
19 Constituents

1. Welcome

Hon D Leo welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Feedback from Constituency Meeting held on 27 October 2025

Hon Denis Leo provided feedback on actions from the last meeting:

2.1 With regard to the action relating to the Immigration Bill, Hon Leo informed the meeting this was now scheduled for presentation to formal LegCo in April 2026; it was currently being 'stress-tested' on the recommendation of the Attorney General.

A constituent asked whether the revised Bill was going to be issued for public consultation before being presented to formal LegCo, as he was of the opinion it was important for the public to be able to review and comment on it. Hon Leo agreed with this point of view and undertook to push his colleagues to ensure that was done.

2.2 The issue of a lady's passport being sent to Tristan da Cunha instead of St Helena had been followed up and Hon Leo had been informed that all passports are sent to St Helena through DHL. In response to a question, it was confirmed all diplomatic mail is sent via DHL.

2.3 The question of timelines for income tax refunds had been asked and the response was that there was no statutory time frame in which to process income tax refunds; he also explained the guidelines that were given by email on how the process is done.

2.4 With regard to availability and allocation of Government Landlord Housing (GLH), Hon Leo reported that the former Longwood First School was being converted for housing, for any immigrants that might arrive to the island, as part of the BIOT agreement; a 19-bed dormitory style facility was being developed. Hon Leo had been advised that maintenance of GLH would take 30 years at a cost of £15m to achieve. The Property Division try to complete general maintenance/repairs within 28 days.

2.5 Hon Leo had been informed that the cataract removal equipment was enroute to the island, following the last meeting but had no further update. Hon Leo would follow up with Minister for Health on his return to the island.

2.6 No funding was available for installation of a handrail and hand wash facilities at the Dungeon cemetery at this time.

3. Concerns from meeting attendees

- Lack of funding for installation of grab rails in showers, for safety of the elderly still living at home – did SHG have its funding priorities, right? Constituents asked if this could be challenged by Hon Leo at the budget session?

- Boundary erosion and temporary rail near Longwood Gate – Hon Leo was asked to find out if the responsibility is that of the landowner or SHG, to ‘make good’ the boundary.
- Is it worthwhile having one wind turbine operational due to maintenance costs?
- The recent URA report on Connect Saint Helena lacked substance; Connect should be held accountable for infrastructure improvements as well as water loss on the systems.
- An incident at the hospital with the toilet cubicle in the men’s ward being too small – risk of someone getting stuck in there especially if no staff available to assist – another toilet should be installed in the large adjoining bathroom.
- The need for risk registers in portfolios such as Health and Airport. Risk registers should be in place across SHG.
- Lease holders are not looking after pasture lands adequately – Hon Leo was of the view that policies are too stringent thus lack flexibility.
- Poor Internet service despite undersea cable having capacity for improved upload and download times.
- What will be the cost of compensation due to the recent airport closure?
- Is funding available for bowsering water in the event of a drought this year?
- Constituents agreed Longwood district needs to be tidied up, including lots of old vehicles rotting by the roadside.
- Hon Leo agreed to check if grass will be planted on pastures that are full of creeper.
- What is the plan for eradication of Army Worms?
- Lights required for pavements in Longwood Avenue and reflectors near speed bumps in Jamestown. Manhole covers by Barracks Square was an issue as well.
- Concern about the number of police resignations.
- Longwood Pack House – constituents asked who may use it.
- Lack of fresh fish sales in Longwood via supplier Saint Tuna Corporation – Hon Leo advised that Ms Ann Muir, as part of a review of Fisheries, is meeting all stakeholders to determine the best way forward.
- Concern about lack of farming being carried out on the island.
- ENRP Farmers’ support team does not do enough – how much does this section cost?
- Prisoner’s compensation and medical claims – what is the status? On advice from the Attorney Generals Chambers, no information could be provided as there are ongoing cases.

4. Options for Increasing Minimum Wage

Hon Leo circulated information regarding options for increasing the Minimum Wage in 2026 and asked attendees for their views.

Mixed views were expressed as it was acknowledged that business owners may have a different view from employees (who would want to see the highest hourly rate possible being paid). There was also the question of whether those under the age of 17 should have to pay income tax and whether the income tax threshold would be increasing. A gradual increase to benefit employees and allow time for business owners to take account of increases was considered the optimum way forward, noting that some businesses pay over the minimum wage level in any event to retain employees.

5. Action Points for Hon Leo

- To consult with colleagues about public consultation on the amended Immigration legislation

- To follow up on the cataract removal equipment with the Minister for Health
- To follow up on the installation of a handrail and a standpipe to enable the public to wash their hands at the Dungeon cemetery
- To find out how much it costs to operate the lighting at High Knoll Fort
- To find out from the Roads Manager how far up the work priority list is the installation of a traffic mirror at Hutts Gate, which had been requested three years ago
- To look into the issue of the toilet cubicle at the hospital Men's Ward, being a safety issue, as it is very small and if a patient were to be in there alone and collapse, the patient would not be able to be accessed – constituent suggested having a cubicle in the adjoining bathroom which seems spacious enough
- To check if staff shortages is identified and listed on the Hospital Risk register
- To check if fire engines and other critical airport assets are listed on the risk register for the Airport and does SHG have sight of the Airport Risk Register
- What was the £380k budget for farming spent on last year
- To find out what progress has been made with Sure in terms of improved Internet access speeds for the public
- To try and find out likely costs of compensation payments, as a result of the airport closure
- To find out whether any funds are available for bowsering water in the event of a drought this year
- To find out what happened to the strimmer that could be used for Longwood Green
- To mention the problem with army worms and current method of eradication of invasive weeds, when attending Agricultural Policy Group meetings
- To check if grass can be planted on pastures filled with creeper and whether this is part of the Darwin Project
- To follow up on the installation of lighting for the pavements in Longwood Avenue
- To check whether Ministers can investigate the wearing of body cams by Police and whether they will face disciplinary action, if not worn
- To find out who is permitted to use the Pack House at Longwood
- To investigate any profiteering by merchants, in view of the exorbitant price of fresh fruit and the fact that it attracts zero customs duty
- Speed bumps in Jamestown need lighting (reflectors) nearby, so they can be seen at night; also, the manhole cover near Barracks Square entrance needs attention
- To find out the cost of operating the Farmers' Support section in ENRP

6. Closing Remarks

Hon Leo thanked everyone for their contributions, and there being no further business closed the meeting at 9:40 pm.