



ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ORDER PAPER

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

**Thursday 7 May 2026 at 10am
in the Council Chamber**

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

SP 18/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)

St Helena Government – A Bill for an Ordinance – Civil Litigation (Costs) (Amendment) Bill 2026

SP 19/2026 (*Hon Derek Thomas*)

St Helena Public Accounts Committee – Report to Legislative Council on the Formal Session of the Public Accounts Committee held on 2 March 2026

SP 20/2026 (*Hon Dr Corinda Essex*)

St Helena Public Accounts Committee – Audit St Helena – Strategy and Delivery Plan, April 2026 - March 2029

SP 21/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)

St Helena Government – Currency Fund Annual Financial Statements 2024/25

- SP 22/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Audit St Helena Management Letter to St Helena Currency Commissioners – Currency Fund Financial Statements 2024/25
- SP 23/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Financial Statements 2024/2025
- SP 24/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
St Helena Government – Audit St Helena Management Letter to Legislative Council – Financial Statements 2024/2025
- SP 25/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
Special Warrant No. 1 of 2025/26
- SP 26/2026 (*Hon Chief Minister*)
Withdrawal Warrant No. 1 of 2025/26

5. Questions

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister provide this House with an update regarding progress in relation to finalising a draft recurrent budget for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29; indicating whether the reintroduction of child allowances and increase of the minimum wage are still being pursued and what next steps are envisaged?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House what is the latest situation regarding the independent enquiry relating to the investigation on the closure of the airport?

3. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills and Employment:

Can the Honourable Minister for Education, Skills and Employment provide this House with a comprehensive update on the timeline for all schools on St Helena to achieve full Accredited Member status with the Council of British International Schools (COBIS)?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House whether a specific budget will be allocated for the 2026/27 financial year to fund the recruitment enhancements recently announced - specifically relocation and rental contributions - and if the Chief Minister

could also provide a timeline for when the detailed plan for expanded diaspora advertising will be published?

5. The Hon Denis Leo 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 & Planning tell this House, under what existing laws or ordinances is the review of the fishing sector being conducted?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Council if, in order to help reduce increases in cost of living during the war in the Middle East, her government will give consideration to freezing the import duty charged by the St Helena Government on fuel, both petrol and diesel?

7. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Can the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care inform this House what works has been carried out thus far, to ensure people are supported by having access to affordable essential healthcare services, aligned with effective prevention interventions, especially where possible with locally delivered solutions?

8. 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 why the permitted lifting tonnage for 20-foot containers has been reduced from the standard international maximum of 33 tons to 28 tons, and what action St Helena Government intends to take to mitigate the resulting negative impacts on importers?

9. The Hon Derek Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills and Employment:

Will the Honourable Minister for Education, Skills and Employment give an update to this House, as to when the casual work scheme will be implemented?

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

Given the government's commitment to the 'Draft St Helena Vision and Strategy 2026–2029' which seeks to rebuild trust and keep communities informed, will the Honourable Chief Minister outline the formal Communication Strategy intended to ensure that non-ministerial Members, the local public, and the St Helenian diaspora overseas are proactively updated on the progress of cross-government policy priorities, specifically,

what new digital or traditional platforms will be utilised to move beyond 'top lines' to provide comprehensive insight into future plans and current challenges?

11. The Hon Julie 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 provide this Council with an update on the progress made toward the target of delivering at least 80% of St Helena's energy from renewable sources by the financial year 2027/28, and specifically confirm if the Government remains on schedule to meet this deadline?

12. The Hon Denis Leo to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills and Employment:

Can the Honourable Minister for Education, Skills and Employment tell this House whether the St Helena Secondary School has a formal process for identifying students who achieve high academic performance and if so, is this information systematically shared with the Head of Public Service and Human Resources, as part of a structured programme to support and develop these students as potential future leaders for St Helena?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Council how many people who are currently paying tax on the PAYE scheme, will benefit from the proposed increase in minimum wage?

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister inform this House that with the rising cost in island expenditure for providing essential services to our people, what are the intentions of St Helena Government to meet such rising costs?

15. 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 why the draft management plans for St Helena's National Conservation Areas that were nearing completion a year ago have not been finalised, and when it is anticipated that these will be in place?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this House the outcome of the survey relating to the Public Transport System and what will be the next steps?

17. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Can the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care provide this House with a detailed breakdown of the planned capital investments for health and social care facilities over the next six months, advising what upgrades are scheduled for Community Clinics and the General Hospital?

18. The Hon Julie 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 & Planning provide an update to this Council on the status of telecommunications negotiations, specifically considering the Executive Council's decision on 14 October 2025 to extend the license notice period to 12 months?

19. The Hon Denis Leo to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills and Employment:

Can the Honourable Minister for Education, Skills and Employment tell this House what measurable targets have been set for the labour market stabilisation between 2026 – 2029?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister explain to this Council exactly who benefits and in what ways from the 2-year extension to the Customs Duty (Diesel Fuel) Exemption Order 2025 recently granted by Executive Council, and detail how this is managed to ensure it is not abused by beneficiaries?

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister inform this House if Government is considering any subsidies or other measures to assist the people of the island manage the cost of living, including steps to improve disposable income, especially for families, in order to support socially acceptable standards of living and helping to stimulate the economy?

6. Motions

1. The Hon Chief Minister:

That the Civil Litigation (Costs) (Amendment) Bill 2026 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

2. The Hon Derek Thomas:

That this House resolves, in accordance with section 69(9) of the Constitution of St Helena, that Sessional Paper No 19 namely the Public Accounts Committee Report to Legislative Council on the Formal Session held on 2 March 2026, is adopted by this Council and requests the responsible member of Executive Council, not later than the first sitting day following the expiration of six weeks after 7 May 2026, to advise the Legislative Council of the action proposed to be taken by the Government of St Helena in respect of this report.

7. Adjournment Debate

Written Questions

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister provide this Council with the following information regarding the Public Service:

1. How many locally engaged staff fall within the 26% tax bracket?
2. How many locally engaged staff fall within the 31% tax bracket?
3. How many internationally recruited staff fall within the 26% tax bracket?
4. How many internationally recruited staff fall within the 31% tax bracket?
5. How many locally engaged staff fall below the proposed minimum wage of £4.85 per hour?

Response:

The question asks for data relating to the earnings of Public Service employees categorised within the income tax brackets. This is not a straightforward exercise as it assumes that employees only receive one income and that they have worked for a full year. This is not the case, as Public Service employees can and often do have more than one source of income which could put them into the higher tax bracket. Further, depending on their start date, an employee may have only worked part year for the Public Service, and this will affect what tax bracket they fall within by the end of that tax year.

A number of assumptions have therefore been made in developing the responses below. They are as follows:

1. Internationally recruited staff refers to employees who were recruited from overseas where there was deliberate advertisement overseas. This includes hybrid role, agency workers and technical cooperation posts.
2. Locally engaged staff refers to all other staff not referred to as internationally recruited staff in (1) above.
3. Earnings include all allowances payable to employees not just basic salary.
4. Ignores all other income that an employee may have from other sources.
5. Whether an employee falls within the 26% tax bracket or the 31% tax bracket is dependent on their Effective Rate of Tax (ERT) at March 2026, such that those with an ERT of 18.72% or less are categorised as within the 26% tax bracket and those above 18.72% are categorised as within the 31% tax bracket.

How many locally engaged staff fall within the 26% tax bracket? 728

How many locally engaged staff fall within the 31% tax bracket? 63

How many internationally recruited staff fall within the 26% tax bracket? 19

How many internationally recruited staff fall within the 31% tax bracket? 109

How many locally engaged staff fall below the proposed minimum wage of £4.85 per hour? None

2. 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 and Planning provide a statement on the total annual revenue generated from the rental of government-owned commercial and residential properties for the 2025/26 financial year and additionally, could the Minister clarify what rents are paid at:

- Ruperts Cargo Facility
- Ruperts Fish Facility
- Coffee Shop
- Market units overall cost
- Barn View?

Response:

For the 2025/26 financial year, total income from the lease of Crown land and buildings was projected at £484,349.57. This figure is based on invoices raised by the Property Service in accordance with the terms of individual lease agreements and doesn't necessarily reflect the final income received.

Permitted Use	No. of leases	Type	(£)
Residential	125	Bare land for the construction of a single, owner occupied dwelling	29,173.44
Residential	177	Social housing	197,516.28
Residential	14	Commercial homes	90,000
Commercial	104	Bare land and Crown commercial property	167,659.85
Total	420		484,349.57

The combined rent for the units at the Market for 2025/26 was £12,944.98, and work to finalise the consolidator space at the Liberation Building in Ruperts is ongoing and led by the Safety Security and Home Affairs Portfolio. A review of the rent for the fish processing facility in Ruperts has commenced as required by the lease agreement.

In relation to reporting on rents for the individual properties outlined in the question, an understanding of the commercial context and the purpose for which each

agreement was reached is necessary. In SHG's commercial leases, agreed terms reflect broader commercial, economic, or social objectives in addition to rental income, to ensure that disposals achieve best value.

The final rent agreed is also influenced by a range of factors, including market conditions, the approach to rent (e.g. market, cost based, stepped) as provided for by the Property Disposal and Purchase Policy 2024, Property Rents Fees and Charges Policy 2025 or policies that applied at the time of the lease, as well as the location, proposed use, and condition of the property.

The lease agreements which set out the rent and full commercial terms are publicly available from the Land Registry at Essex House on payment of the prescribed fee.

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister provide a formal statement outlining the government's current policy regarding the advertisement of all public service vacancies, including both local and Technical Cooperation (TC) positions; and furthermore clarify:

- 1 The specific criteria used to determine when a post is advertised locally, internationally, or both?
- 2 The justification for any instances where positions have been filled via direct appointment or 'headhunting' without a public advertisement in the last 12 months?
- 3 How the government ensures that the Saint Helenian public and diaspora are given fair visibility of all TC roles to encourage local succession planning?

Response:

All employment vacancies within the Public Service are advertised locally and are available to internal or external applications; exceptions being where there is a designate candidate in post, or when there are suitable internal applicants ready for promotion in which case it would be advertised internally in the first instance.

Advertising is through the local press and media and on the SHG website. In addition, TC roles are advertised through the Public Service Jobs website and in addition often using specialist/technical media according to the role, or generalised media e.g. The Guardian.

If there are no suitable local applicants, the role will be advertised in line with our International Recruitment Strategy as TC, hybrid or both. There may be occasions when the international adverts are placed simultaneously to the local advert. This is

where it is anticipated that there are unlikely to be any / many local applicants and / or where time is of the essence.

There have been two senior roles in the past 12 months where an external recruitment agency was appointed to carry out a broad search on our behalf. This enabled us to secure a wide field of applicants both already known to the agency or through their own targeted research. In senior and / or specialist roles this is an effective way of opening us up as an employer for the role in hand and additionally puts SHG Public Service on the map for other future roles / candidates.

As covered in past responses to similar questions, all roles are advertised online and locally. This gives the diaspora the ability to view the posts on the Public Service Jobs website, and through local media if they are still connected directly with the island. The opportunity to apply is open to all others living overseas. As also previously reported, we are working on a plan to use more social media avenues (e.g. extending Facebook and LinkedIn) for our roles to be seen, particularly through Facebook pages which we know have good follower numbers.

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

Can the Honourable Chief Minister provide a detailed statement regarding the standard contractual obligations and financial penalties applied to Technical Cooperation (TC) officers who elect to terminate their employment prior to the agreed end-of-contract date, and specifically clarify:

1. Under what circumstances are TC officers required to repay relocation expenses, recruitment fees, or mid-contract leave passages?
2. How much has been recovered by the St Helena Government from TC officers who departed early during the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years?
3. What measures are in place to ensure that the taxpayer is not left to bear the cost of 'churn' in high-level positions?

Response:

1. The TC terms and conditions of employment set out the following provisions:

Termination of Agreement by Employer

The Employer may terminate this agreement at any time but unless the Employee is dismissed on disciplinary grounds, and providing the Employee has served continuously for one month or more, the Employer will provide a minimum period of notice of three months or at the discretion of the Employer, pay in lieu of notice, for three months or up to the end of the contract period, whichever is the lesser sum.

Subject to the above if for any reason, other than disciplinary dismissal, the minimum period of notice cannot be given by the Employer, the Employee will receive pay in lieu of the unexpired period of notice.

Termination of Agreement by Employee

The Employee may terminate this agreement by giving three months' notice in writing. No penalties will be applied (with the exception of the end of contract relocation allowance) if this period of notice is provided and the Employee has already served a minimum of nine months prior to giving notice.

If the Employee does not give three months' notice in writing and serve the minimum period, s/he will be liable to:

- i) repay immediately to the Employer the cost of all travel provided under the terms of this agreement; and
- ii) pay the cost of all homeward travel, transportation of household and personal effects.
- iii) repay all other benefits and allowances either paid or advanced under the terms of this agreement. This includes an advance of salary but excludes actual salary.

2. Recovered costs 24/25 – 25/26

Total £18,164.88 recovered plus c £3k for one officer who was required to pay their own return flights.

3. The employment contract and Terms and Conditions of Employment document are the legal tools to which we hold all TC officers to account if/when issues arise in respect of departing sooner than end of contract.

5. The Hon Julie 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 provide this House with a detailed roadmap for the completion of the National Agricultural Policy by the publicly announced deadline of September 2026, specifically outlining:

- The key milestones and work yet to be completed, including the specific intervals at which progress will be measured;
- The roles and personnel responsible for delivering the remaining elements of the review; and
- The composition and representation of the various groups, boards, and stakeholder bodies involved, to demonstrate that this review remains the comprehensive and inclusive process originally intended for the public's benefit?

Response:

This topic is of interest to the public as SHG has committed to the delivery of a new

policy initiative for the agriculture sector. The key intended benefits of this policy initiative is to provide direction and objectives for the agriculture sector to work towards to sustain and increase local food production levels where possible, whilst working within a framework of sustainable use and effective stewardship of the Island's agricultural resources.

The key milestones yet to be completed are as follows:

- Proposals agreed by Working Group for the key elements of the draft Policy and Policy drafted – June 2026
- Consultation exercise for the Draft Policy – June/July 2026
- Action Plan drafted – July 2026
- ENRP Advisory Board approval for the Policy and Action Plan – August 2026
- ExCo approval for the Policy and Action Plan – September 2026
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An Agricultural Policy Working Group is responsible for development of policy options and proposals to deliver a draft Agriculture Policy and Action Plan. The Group has the following membership:

- Portfolio Director - Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP) as Chair of the Group
- Agricultural Development Officer - ENRP
- Farmer Support Officer - ENRP
- Head of Trade and investment – Economic Development Portfolio
- 2 agricultural members of the Chamber of Commerce (chosen by the Chamber - 1 arable producer and 1 livestock producer)

Agriculture sector stakeholders involved in consultations thus far include both commercial and small-holder producers across the sector, including those who are Chamber of Commerce members, and this will continue for the remaining work.

6. The Hon Julie 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 & Planning provide to this House a comprehensive update on the ongoing Fisheries Review, which is scheduled for completion by the public deadline of December 2026, and in doing so, will he state:

- (a) The specific milestones and strategic timelines established to ensure the review is completed on schedule;
- (b) The high-level objectives of this review and how they align with the Island's broader economic development and environmental goals;
- (c) The composition of the personnel, roles, and boards involved in this process, detailing the representation from the fishing sector and other key

stakeholder groups to ensure the review remains inclusive and transparent; and

(d) The scheduled intervals at which the public and this House can expect progress reports on these milestones between now and December 2026?

Response:

This topic is of interest to the public as SHG has committed to the delivery of a fisheries sector review. The key objective of the review is to improve strategic management for the fisheries sector through increased clarity on the broader strategic direction for the sector and the clear links to our national economic, environmental and social outcomes. Policy deliverables resulting from the review are intended to improve prospects for the sector and increase the sector's contribution to local food supply and exports, whilst working within a framework of sustainable use and effective stewardship of the Island's fisheries resources.

Scheduled milestones and strategic timelines are still to be established once the conclusions and recommendations are finalised from the background Fisheries Sector Situational Report that is close to completion.

A Fisheries Review Steering Group under the leadership of a Chair is responsible for overseeing the key responsibilities of performance and delivery of the fisheries review and policy development process; managing risks for the review and policy development and completion; and ensuring that recommendations from the review and policy development transitions to implementation once approved by the Minister for Economic Development (ED) and Environment and Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP) and/or Executive Council.

Membership of the Steering Group are as follows:

- ED and ENRP Portfolio Minister (Chair).
- Portfolio Director for Economic Development.
- Portfolio Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning.

A Fisheries Working Group under the leadership of a Working Group Co-ordinator is responsible for undertaking the key elements of the review. The Working Group will be responsible for all fieldwork, analysis, interviews, and written outputs.

Membership of the Fisheries Working Group are as follows:

- SHG Head of Strategic Policy (Chief Coordinator).
- SHG Head of Nature Conservation.
- SHG Head of Maritime.
- SHG Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer.
- SHG Marine Enforcement Officer.
- SHG Senior Environmental Health Officer.
- SHG Head of Trade and Investment.
- An Elected Member.

Representation from the fisheries sector is being secured through one to one or small group sessions with the Working Group Coordinator thus far for development of the Fisheries Sector Situational Report and this is expected to continue throughout the process of the review.

Once the review milestones are agreed by the Steering and Working Groups, I will advise Elected Members of the scheduled intervals at which the public and Elected Members can expect progress reports as the review progresses and is completed.

7. The Hon Julie Thomas to ask the Hon Minister for Education, Skills and Employment:

Will the Honourable Minister for Education, Skills and Employment provide an update on the progress of the Post-16 Review announced in late 2025 and noting that the initial three-to-four-month timeline has elapsed, could the Minister clearly set out:

- 1 The specific milestones achieved since the release of the March 2025 Education Review Report;
- 2 The full list of stakeholders and external bodies, that have been or will be consulted;
- 3 Whether any dedicated oversight boards have been formed to manage the transition; and
- 4 The revised completion date for the final implementation of post-16 vocational and academic reforms to ensure they align with the new school structure taking into consideration the implementation of the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) standards?

Response:

The Post-16 Review announced in late 2025 remains a key priority for the Education, Skills and Employment portfolio, reflecting the Government's commitment to ensuring that post-16 education, training and employment pathways are better aligned to the Island's long-term strategic needs.

Following the election in late autumn 2025, the portfolio undertook a restructuring of priorities in line with new planning mechanisms. As part of this process, a comprehensive "root and branch" review of post-16 provision was identified as one of six core priorities. This review represents the first wide-ranging examination of post-16 education and employment pathways on St Helena for a considerable period.

Since the publication of the March 2025 Education Review Report, the following milestones have been achieved:

- Agreement in principle to undertake a comprehensive post-16 review covering both academic and vocational pathways.

- Completion of detailed terms of reference for the review, setting out scope, objectives and expected outputs.
- Development of a structured timetable for stakeholder engagement.
- Identification and appointment, subject to due diligence, of external consultants with extensive UK and international post-16 experience to undertake the review on-island.

While the initial aspiration was to undertake the on-island phase during April and May 2026, this timetable was affected by competing operational priorities, including external education partner visits, senior leadership consultancy activity, and ongoing primary school re-organisation work. In addition, the original proposed reviewer became unavailable due to capacity constraints within their employing organisation.

The review will involve engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- Secondary school leadership, staff and students;
- Further education and post-16 training providers;
- Employers across the public, private and third sectors;
- Representatives from private enterprise;
- Relevant Government directorates and officials;
- Elected Members.

This inclusive approach is intended to ensure that post-16 provision is firmly connected to labour market needs and future economic priorities.

At this stage, no standalone oversight board has been established specifically for the transition. The review is being managed through existing portfolio governance arrangements, with findings to be considered as part of wider strategic and priority planning processes. Decisions on future governance or implementation structures will be informed by the recommendations of the review.

The external consultants are now expected to be on-island during June 2026 for a period of approximately two to three weeks. Their report is anticipated in early July 2026 and will directly inform priority planning and activity over the subsequent two years.

Implementation timelines for post-16 vocational and academic reforms, including alignment with the new school structure and consideration of Council of British International Schools standards, will be confirmed following receipt and consideration of the final report. This approach ensures that reforms are evidence-based, achievable, and fully aligned with both educational quality standards and the Island's strategic objectives.

8. 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 list all subsidies currently available to businesses meeting the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy criteria, together with the total value of subsidy incurred for each category in 2024/25?

Response:

Two active policies which take into account the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) objectives currently offer subsidies to businesses via reductions in government charges.

1. The approved investor scheme (AIS)

The approved investor scheme offers eligible businesses reductions in customs duty at the rates outlined in the CUSTOMS AND EXCISE (APPROVED INVESTMENT) REGULATIONS, 2019. The duty reduction is from 20% to either 5% or 0% over a 5-year period. The combined approved incentive through the scheme for these investors in the 24/25 period was approximately £90,000.

For the 2024/25 financial year support were given to six businesses under the Approved Investor Scheme.

2. The Rents, Fees, and Charges Policy

Although outside of the 2024/25 reporting period, additional indirect support has been made available through lease incentives under the SHG Property Rents Fees and Charges Policy 2025. These incentives include rent discounts of up to 30% of the total rent for:

- Start-up businesses (for a period of one year),
- Charitable organisations, and
- Businesses operating in sectors aligned with the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy 2023-33.

For the 2025/26 financial year, three businesses were awarded lease incentives. The figures below reflect the value of support within that financial year only, rather than the full value over the term of the lease:

Business	Category	Incentive (%)	Monthly Discount in rent (£)	Total for FY 2025/26 (£)	Comments
1	Start-up business	10%	13.69	123.21	Based on 7 months of the lease term

2	Start-up business	10%	27.38	246.42	Based on 9 months of the lease term
3	SEDS sector	20%	44.49	399.51	Based on 9 months of the lease term

Total value of lease incentives for FY 2025/26: £769.14

Other than the AIS and the Property Rents Fees and Charges Policy the previous governments overarching policy was that subsidies to individuals or individual businesses would not be available.