



**ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

# **ORDER PAPER**

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

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**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 – Supplementary Estimates 2025/26
- SP 9/2026 *(Hon Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning)*  
St Helena Government – A Bill for an Ordinance – Financial Services (Amendment) Bill 2026
- SP 10/2026 *(Hon Chief Minister)*  
St Helena Government – A Bill for an Ordinance – Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 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, 18 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 6 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 Chief Minister:**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The 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?

**Response:**

The Wastewater project continues to progress. The Wastewater Project is intended to develop and install wastewater/sewerage systems in HTH and Jamestown to replace current systems which are outdated. It is being funded through the Economic Development Investment Programme. (EDIP)

In December 2025, SHG launched the procurement process for the two sewerage treatment plants, one for Half Tree Hollow and the other for Jamestown. However, at the closing date in January 2026, we had not received any tender submissions. We have now reached out to suppliers who expressed interest in the procurement portal to understand the reasons for them not submitting a bid. We have assessed their feedback and now are looking at options on how we can advance the project. Planning applications for the work on both sites have been submitted and are going through the planning process.

We have not been notified what our funding allocation is for the next financial year, and therefore the priorities for EDIP for next year are still to be established based on the budget. Nevertheless, we continue to advance the project on the assumption that we can continue to deliver the project, as we recognise the impact this will have on the Island if we cannot deliver. The project is still expected to be completed and handed over 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?

**Response:**

Madam Speaker I'd like to thank the Honourable Member for her question.

Please see below a breakdown for the requested costs for the key work streams, where possible I have provided a breakdown between estimated internal costs and the costs of external legal support.

**Immigration £57,058**

£56,375 Internal time 205 hours at a nominal £275 per hour

£683.00 spent on External Counsel.

**Telecommunications - £311,906**

£39,875 Internal time - 145 hours at a nominal £275 per hour and

£265,611 on External Solicitors

£6,420.00 on External Counsel

**Renewable energy initiatives – £4,950**

Internal time 18 hours at a nominal £275 per hour

**Bunkers Hill (strictly internal) - £199,925**

Internal time 727 hours at a nominal £275 per hour.

**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?

**Response:**

The Bulk Fuel Installation Project encompasses all the fuel systems which were designed and installed under the Airport Project and includes the ship to shore, Bayside facility, the pipeline, the storage in Upper Valley Rupert's and the Airport Fuel Facility. The termination of the Design Build, Operate and Handback Contract with Basil Read allowed for a pause in the construction works to determine if completing the new fuel infrastructure to the current design is still the best solution for the Island.

A technical Independent review was undertaken in 2019 which recommended changes to the method of fuel delivery and subsequent design changes. A further social,

environmental and economic impact assessment was conducted in 2021. This latest assessment focussed on how the differing methods of fuel delivery could impact the community including the relative cost of fuel. Following an open tender process we appointed an independent Dubai based hydrocarbons specialist Project Management Consultant to assess the BFI in its entirety and to conduct feasibility study on the fuel delivery system to the island. Out of this piece of work it became apparent the safest delivery method is a new fixed pipeline from the end of the quay wall in Ruperts to traverse around the bay and tie into the Bayside facility, this will result in a safer, faster and more environmentally friendly fuel delivery method as the fuel tanker can berth alongside the jetty to offload the fuels without utilizing the floating hoses across the bay. PMO, working in collaboration with FCDO, Procurement and AG Chambers, have just completed recruiting an overseas specialist contractor to complete and commission the BFI and to install the new pipeline.

Expenditure so far on the BFI:

By May 2020 the airport project paid £78m for the construction of the BFI, including £70m to the contractor Basil Read. The maintenance/ project cost from 2022 to date is approx. £2m [2022 – 2025]. The estimated costs for the completion and commissioning of the BFI is approx. £8.5m, this is a re-measurable project and the final estimate will be determined by the first phase of the project which is a full health and functionality check on the entire system, this will determine the level of work required to complete and commission the facility. This phase is expected to take the first 2 months of activity with the duration of the entire project up to 20 – 24 months, this may be further redefined following the first phase.

#### **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?

***Response:***

The contract for the development of the new St Helena Government website was awarded to Gemstone IT Services Ltd.

The contract was awarded for £29,800.

Further associated expenditure is as follows:

- £3,120 for hosting, support & monitoring during the first year which will end on 09 December 2026.

Thereafter an annual fee of £3,120 for hosting, support & monitoring will be applied if using the existing service provider. *(NB the existing supplier would reserve the right to increase this fee in future years).*

## 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?

**Response:**

Flights schedules are published approximately twelve months in advance. This is common for most airline reservation systems and permits passengers and tour operators adequate time to make bookings. The schedule for St Helena is discussed on a regular basis in the Air Services Strategy Group (ASSG), before being agreed with Airlink. In April 2025, there was support from ASSG for two additional mid-week flights in February 2026 that had not already been scheduled, based on the anticipated benefits of allowing more tourists to visit the island in the peak season. This request was communicated by e-mail to Airlink and confirmed at the ASSG meeting in June 2025 with the flights being made available for sale as from the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2025.

The costs for these two flights were as per the Air Services Agreement, a Fixed Cost per Flight (each way) plus fuel costs. The pricing structure for tickets is such that there is a requirement for approximately 85 passengers on each flight, in both directions, to cover the costs. While we still await February invoicing from Airlink, travelled data shows that on 17 February 54 passengers travelled inbound and 63 outbound, and on 24 February 39 passengers travelled inbound and 38 outbound.