



**St Helena
Government**

GOVERNMENT OF ST HELENA

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL –
TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2020 – FIRST SITTING OF THE
THIRTEENTH MEETING**

ST. HELENA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THE PRESIDENT

The Honourable John Gilbert Cranfield

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Honourable Chief Secretary	-	Mrs Susan O'Bey
The Honourable Financial Secretary	-	Mr Dax Richards
The Honourable Acting Attorney General	-	Mr Allen Cansick

ELECTED MEMBERS

The Honourable Clint Richard Beard
The Honourable Cruyff Gerard Buckley
The Honourable Gavin George Ellick
The Honourable Jeffrey Robert Ellick
The Honourable Corinda Sebastiana Stuart Essex
The Honourable Anthony Arthur Green
The Honourable Lawson Arthur Henry
The Honourable Cyril Kenneth Leo
The Honourable Derek Franklin Thomas
The Honourable Russell Keith Yon

The Honourable Brian William Isaac	On medical leave
The Honourable Christine Lilian Scipio	Excused

CLERK OF COUNCILS

Mrs Connie Johnson

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 21st January, 2020

The Council met at 10.00 am
in the Council Chamber, Jamestown

(The Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. FORMAL ENTRY OF THE PRESIDENT

2. PRAYERS
(The Right Reverend Bishop Dale Bowers)

3. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

Good morning, Honourable Members, welcome to this morning's Special Meeting. I don't want to harp around this morning, because this is a special meeting to discuss a very important topic and that is the European Union Withdrawal Agreement, so without further ado, I will ask the Clerk of Councils to announce the next item of business, please.

4. PAPERS

SP 1/2020 – The Honourable Attorney General

The Hon. Allen Cansick –
Honourable Speaker, I beg to present Sessional Paper 1/2020 entitled a Bill for an Ordinance – European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020. I also present a Certificate of Urgency signed by the Governor.

Ordered to lie on the table.

SP 2/2020 – The Honourable Anthony Green

The Hon. Anthony Green –
Mr Speaker, I beg to present Sessional Paper 2/2020 – Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Mr Speaker, I also have a Certificate of Urgency signed by the Governor.

Ordered to lie on the table.

5.

MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 – The Honourable Attorney General

THE EUROPEAN UNION WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT (LIMITED APPLICATION) BILL, 2020

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

The Speaker –

Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Dax Richards –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. The Mover may now speak to the Motion.

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Mr Speaker, I speak to the Motion for the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020, which has a long title, A Bill for an Ordinance only to the extent applicable to give effect to the Agreement which ensures that all of the withdrawal of the European Union, the United Kingdom from the European Union and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Mr Speaker, in 1971 by Treaty the UK joined the European Economic Community, a predecessor of the EU. International Treaties are not binding in the UK until they are incorporated into domestic law, so in 1972, the UK Parliament, passed the European Communities Act, known as the ECA. The Act gave effect under domestic law to what was then called community law. In 1992, the European Union was formed and the EEC by then called the European Community was incorporated into it. What was previously called community law became known as EU law. ECA to the extent that it was applicable or suitable to local circumstances is adopted English law that forms part of the laws of St Helena by virtue of the English Law (Application) Ordinance. St Helena, however, is not a member of state of the EU and the EU law that applies to the UK does not apply directly to St Helena. However, St Helena and the other UK Overseas Territories, except Gibraltar and sovereign based parts of Cyprus, are classed by the EU as overseas countries and territories. As an OCT, St Helena does have some EU law extended to it under the special arrangements for OCTs under the Treaty of the European Union. To the extent that EU law applies to St Helena, the version of the ECA as applied through the lens of the English Law (Application) Ordinance, gives effect to any applicable law in St Helena.

In 2016, the UK voted in a referendum to leave the EU. Since then, the UK Government has been in the process of negotiating its withdrawal from the EU. Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union provides that when a member state of the EU wishes to withdraw, the EU

must negotiate an agreement with the member state setting out the arrangements for it to withdraw. In accordance with that provision, the EU and the UK have negotiated a withdrawal agreement. The UK intends that the withdrawal agreement will be agreed before the end of January 2020. On exit day, which is currently 31st January 2020, the UK will formally leave the EU. Subject to the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU Treaties will cease to apply at 11 pm on Exit Day and the ECA will be repealed in UK law. The Withdrawal Agreement provides for an implementation or a transition period to begin upon the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The implementation period will end on 31st December 2020, although it may be extended for a further period of one or two years. During this period, Part IV of the Withdrawal Agreement provides that EU law will continue to apply to the UK, including the OCTs. However, the provision of the Withdrawal Agreement only applies to St Helena when the provision relates to the special arrangements for the association of the Overseas Territories with the EU. The reference to special arrangements, is a reference to Part IV of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union. These special arrangements make provisions amongst other things for the non-discriminatory treatment of goods imported from the EU. The continued effect of the EU Law on St Helena is therefore very limited. The purpose of this Bill is in order to give effect to the Withdrawal Agreement. It will be necessary for domestic legislation to preserve or save any provisions of EU law that may apply to St Helena and to ensure that any rights afforded by such provisions are capable of being enforced if necessary, for the duration of the implementation period. The Bill provides for a mechanism that will achieve this effect once triggered by an Order of the Governor, i.e. on exit day, be that 31st January 2020 or otherwise. The effect will then last until the Governor makes a further Order, i.e. at the end of the implementation period. It should be noted it does not create any new obligations on St Helena, but instead it extends those already in existence for the transitional period.

Urgency for the Bill. Before the UK ratifies the Withdrawal Agreement, intended for 31st January 2020, it needs to inform the EU that all requirements for ratification have been met. This includes the Withdrawal Agreement as far as applicable being applied to all OCTs. In order for this to be done by the UK in time, the Minister for the Department for Exiting the European Union has asked all OTs to give assurances by 21st January, today, that the Withdrawal Agreement has been implemented and that no further legislation is needed. It has been pointed out that without such assurance, the UK may not be able to inform the EU in time that all requirements for ratifications have been met. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Attorney General. I put the question that the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020, be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council. The question is now open for debate. Any Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise in support of this Motion and I would just ask, as I asked previously in the Executive Council, if the Attorney General when he's summing up, three points and those three points are, first of all, that during the transitional period whether exports to the UK will still, will not be affected,previously pledged that funding from the UK to the Overseas Territories would continue; and, the third and final one, is whether British citizens living in the Overseas Territories will continue to have freedom of movement, so I support this Motion. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Derek Thomas?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I, likewise, rise in support of this Bill. It is a tidying up exercise and I think it is only in the best interests of St Helena as an Overseas Territory to show willingness and support. I also raised concerns about the exports, it's been a subject for discussion at many of the Joint Ministerial Conferences and we've always been given assurance that the Overseas Territories are part of the British family, so whatever arrangements are made in the UK will be extended to the Overseas Territories. We benefit a lot from the European funding, that will cease, but we've been given assurance that a similar type of funding will be put in place for the benefit of the Overseas Territories and that is crucial to the future development of St Helena, so I will ask that those points, in supporting this Bill, that those points be reinforced; exports, funding and movements for those citizens living in the Overseas Territories. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Tony Green?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the Bill. In brief, it provides the necessary safeguards for us during the transitional period which I welcome. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much. The Honourable Gavin Ellick?

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. One question I'd like to ask. When it comes to our Fisheries, I mean, our Fisheries, we go by the laws of the European Union over our fish, how does that affect us and how will it affect the Fishermen?

The Speaker –

We're just talking to the withdrawal agreement at the moment, not Question Time.

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

So I had to ask that whenever the chance come up there....., so.....?....

The Speaker –

Any other Member wishes to speak to the Bill? The Honourable Cyril Leo?

The Hon. Cyril Leo –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am one of those who preferred if we didn't have to conduct this exercise, because I would have liked to see the UK remain part of the European Union, but we need to now follow the journey of the mother country, but I do support the Bill.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much. The Honourable Russell Yon?

The Hon. Russell Yon –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise in support of the Bill; I see this as a tidying up exercise and it will continue to support St Helena as it goes forward in the mother land's decision to withdraw from the European Union. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. The Honourable Cruyff Buckley?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

I also too rise in support of this Bill, Mr Speaker. I think we've come to the point now where we have to respect the strategic decision of the mother country by acknowledging our partnership values, the fact that they perhaps want to have more autonomy when it comes to controlling their financial destiny. We hope that links with the establishment of the Commonwealth in terms of trade, St Helena also should be looking to trade with other member states of the Commonwealth, I think no doubt this move will shape the future of St Helena also as we announce the St Helenians living in the UK and I hope that Ministers will place more focus on the Overseas Territories when it comes to the pristine marine and terrestrial environmental wealth we have to offer and other international reconciliation for past historical events and we do hope that we can then be supported in terms of resources to maintain what we have going forward. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Mover wishes to reply to the debate?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Yes, thank you Honourable Speaker, I thank the Honourable Members for their comments and questions. In regard to Councillor Henry's first question with regard to exports to the UK, the withdrawal agreement will take into effect Part IV of the Treaty in association with the overseas countries and territories in the same way that it places an obligation on St Helena to continue to treat EU Member States the same as it treats the UK, it also places an obligation on EU Member States or the EU as a whole I should say, to continue to treat St Helena as the UK in exporting goods to the EU members. In regard to the second question, funding into the UK Territories is a matter more for the administration. In regard to Councillor Henry's third question, free movement, obviously the UK, as far as British citizens are concerned they can still enter the EU and move about there freely. Since St Helena will remain in the category of British citizen there is nothing to suggest that would change and as long as the UK continued to enter the EU freely so can residents of St Helena by virtue of their British citizenship I see nothing to suggest that would change at this point in time. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Honourable Members, I put the question that the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020, be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

Question put and agreed to.

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Council do resolve itself into a Committee to consider the detailed provisions of the Bill.

The Speaker –

Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Dax Richards –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question that Council resolves into Committee, put and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

The Chairman –

Okay, Honourable Members, we are in Committee stage now.

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Mr Speaker, in regard to the Short Title and Commencement, there are some provisions there which allow the Governor by order to state the date when this will have effect. The reason for that is that the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified yet so although unlikely there could be changes. Secondly, the exit date although planned for 30 January could change. For those reasons (inaudible) transition provisions in the UK.

The Chairman –

Thank you for that information, Attorney General. I put the question that the Title, Enacting Clause and Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill. Any Member wishes to speak, please?

Title, Enacting Clause and Clause 1.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman –

Let's take Clause 2, I put the question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill.

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Clause 2 is in regard to interpretation of certain terms that are used in the text of the Ordinance. The interpretation of the EU, retrospective provision, withdrawal agreement is self-explanatory. In regard to exit day, that is something for the Governor to decide.

The Chairman –

Any Member wishes to speak to Clause 2?

Clause 2.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman –

I put the question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill. Attorney General?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Yes, Mr Speaker, Clause 3 is the real body of this Ordinance and has the same effect for the purpose of the withdrawal agreement reserves rights and provision in the existing legislation for exit day.

The Chairman –

Thank you. Any Member wishes to speak to Clause 3?

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

.....part I asked about the Fisheries.....?.....(*inaudible*).....

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

As far as this particular Ordinance is concerned it preserves the right to Part IV of the association as though it is part of the European Treaty, the only thing I can see having an effect on the Fisheries there, if we were exporting to the UK, if we were exporting to the EU we would have to be treated the same as if we were exporting to the UK, that's the only benefit I see on this in this particular piece of legislation.

The Hon. Dax Richards –

So then it would be as it is currently?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

As it currently is, yes.

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

Thank you.

The Chairman –

Any other Member wishes to speak to Clause 3?

Clause 3.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman –

I put the question that Clause 4 do stand part of the Bill. Attorney General?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Yes, Mr Speaker. Clause 4 is in regard to subsidiary legislation which gives power to the Governor in Council to make such subsidiary legislation.

The Chairman –

Thank you. Any Member wishes to speak to Clause 4?

Clause 4.

Question put and agreed to.

Council Resumed.

The Speaker –
Honourable Mover?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –
Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020, passed the Committee with no amendments and to move that this Council approves the said Bill and recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted.

The Speaker –
Thank you. Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Dax Richards –
Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –
Thank you. The Mover may speak to the Motion.

The Hon. Allen Cansick –
Mr Speaker, I have nothing to add to this motion except to thank Members for their support.

The Speaker –
Thank you. Honourable Members, I put the question that this Council approves the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020, and recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted. Any Member wishes to speak? Mover, you have nothing to add?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –
I have nothing to add. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –
Thank you. Then I put the question that this Council approves the European Union Withdrawal Agreement (Limited Application) Bill, 2020, and recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –
We move on to the next item of business, please.

Motion No. 2 – The Honourable Anthony Green

**COMMISSION FOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

The Speaker –
The Honourable Anthony Green?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020, be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

The Speaker –

Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Cyril Leo –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much. You may speak to the Motion, Honourable Mover?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Mr Speaker, this is a very short Bill and its purpose is to further regulate the appointment of members of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. The Commission for Equality and Human Rights Ordinance 2015 will be amended to require that when the Governor appoints the Commissioners, the Chair, the Deputy Chair, these appointments must be made following the recommendation of the Judicial Services Commission. Further provision is made in this Bill and includes to provide that on the recommendation of the Judicial Services Commission is also required before the Governor may dismiss a Commissioner. The Governor is also, however, not obliged to make such appointments or dismiss a member following the recommendation of the Judicial Services Commission. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Honourable Members, I put the question that the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020, be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council. The question is now open for debate. Any Honourable Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Derek Thomas?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise in support of this Bill, I see this amendment as being a really worthwhile amendment. Human Rights is obviously, should be seen as being independent, totally independent and impartial by the Judicial Services Commission making such recommendations concerning appointments of Commissioners to the Governor can only show a more higher level of impartiality and independence to this process, so it is a really worthwhile and a sensible amendment, so I give my support to it. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. The Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise in support of this Motion and support this amendment. In going forward, I think this is another drive towards much more openness and transparency in how Government do its work on St Helena and, of course, as my Honourable Friend say, much more independence to a body like the Equality and Human Rights Commission, so I give it my full support.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. The Honourable Cruyff Buckley?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Mr Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this Bill and just to acknowledge the good work that's been done by the Human Rights Commission. A very important judgement was just passed, or released today, rather, by the Privy Council, one, I might take the opportunity later on in the Adjournment Debate to speak more about that. Mr Speaker, thank you.

The Speaker –

Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Mover wishes to reply to the debate?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the three Honourable Members who rose to speak to support this Bill and I look forward to the support of the other Members today. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Honourable Members, I put the question that the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020, be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

Honourable Mover?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Council do resolve itself into a Committee to consider the detailed provisions of the Bill.

The Speaker –

Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Cyril Leo –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you.

Question that Council resolves into a Committee, put and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

The Chairman –

I put the question that the Title, Enacting Clause and Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill. The Honourable Mover?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Yes, Mr Speaker, nothing to add in regard to the short title.

Title, Enacting Clause and Clause 1.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman –

I put the question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill. Attorney General?

The Hon. Allen Cansick –

Yes, Mr Speaker. This is the part of the (inaudible). Currently Schedule I of the Ordinance gives unfettered power to the Governor as to the appointment of Commissioners, the Chair, the Deputy Chair and the dismissal of Commissioners. The amendment here puts into effect that the Governor may only take those actions following a recommendations from the JSC. It also makes clear that the Governor does not have to accept the recommendations (inaudible).

The Speaker –

Thank you. Honourable Members wishes to speak?

Clause 2.

Question put and agreed to.

Council Resumed.

The Speaker –

Honourable Mover?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020, passed the Committee with no amendments and to move that this Council approves the said Bill and recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much. Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Cyril Leo –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

The Honourable Mover may speak to the Motion.

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I have nothing further to add. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you. I put the question that this Council approves the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted. Honourable Members are invited to speak. No? Honourable Mover?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I have no further comments. Thank you.

The Speaker –

I put the question that this Council approve the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2020, without amendments, and recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Members. Next item of business, please?

6. **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

The Hon. Susan O’Bey (Chief Secretary) –

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn sine die.

The Speaker –

Do we have a seconder, please?

The Hon. Dax Richards –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you. The Motion is that this House do now adjourn sine die, the Motion is now open for debate. The Honourable Cruyff Buckley?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Thank you, Mr Speaker and, as promised, I will speak a little more on the Human Rights Commission. Just a few points, Mr Speaker, I’m not going to prolong this, I just want to make the public aware that there’s a judgement that’s currently available on the website with regards to a ruling delivered from the Privy Council and it is relevant to St Helena with regard to a medical negligence case. What is particularly interesting, Mr Speaker, is the benchmarks being set, especially with regards to pain and suffering, lost earnings due to in terms of being one third of that of the UK or thereabouts suggested and that was quickly cleared up within the Council and I quote – “Differences in earnings were, in principle, irrelevant to compensation for **psla**, a poor person suffered from personal injuries no less and no more than a rich person”. Other quotes, Mr Speaker, within the case – “Cost of living might be a better benchmark and it appeared to be 25% higher than St Helena than in the UK”. The basic principle which I would like to conclude with, Mr Speaker, well, before I do, in summary the Court of Appeal concluded on the evidence available to them, “that the current disparity in average earnings was, in fact, cancelled out by the higher cost of living in St Helena” and all of this led to, Mr Speaker, a quote which I am so pleased to say – “St Helenians are now British citizens and there can be little doubt that their justifiable expectation is to be treated in the same way as other citizens of England and Wales for whom the guidelines are intended.” Mr Speaker, there’s nothing more that Mr Buckley likes is a bit of justice. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you. The Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I rise in support of this Adjournment Debate. Just one quick matter. I would like to ask the Honourable Mover in her summing up if she would give this House some assurance that urgent action will be taken to install a handrail on the front steps entrance to the Castle here. I have raised this matter before, in fact, I believe I might have raised it last May after the inauguration of the current Governor. Members may be aware that an accident occurred there last Friday where one Member was seriously injured, so it's absolutely critical that this matter be given the most urgent attention because those steps are dangerous. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Clint Beard?

The Hon. Clint Beard –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. 2020 is in full swing and I hope we all will have ...?..... on island and will only achieve positive outcomes for St Helena. I'd also like to thank the community for their concerted efforts in preserving water use on island and we still have to continue to use this sparingly. It seems that everybody is of the opinion that we're in really challenging times, but I do believe that as a community we have to pull together and we need to work together to improve situations. We have to listen to each other and we have to act in the best interests of St Helena Island, its people and for future generations to come. Together we can overcome this and that is a very important fact, only together will we overcome challenges. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Anthony Green?

The Hon. Anthony Green -

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I support the adjournment. I just would like to take the opportunity to remind Members and the public that my Committee, the Social and Community Development Committee, is currently doing public consultation on the Fixed Penalty Notices. While the numbers of attendance have been low, the quality of debate has been high and I would like to ask people to consider attending these public consultations because it is very important and just to remind the public, if I may, that tonight the Committee will be down at Sandy Bay and tomorrow we'll be at Harford, completing the seven session public consultation. You'll also be permitted to submit written submissions to our Secretary Miss Nicole Plato, Thank you Mr Speaker I don't have the details at my fingertips, but if anybody need to get in touch we can always provide that information, we can also provide hard copies of the Bill. They're also on the website. It's important for people to know that this is an enabling piece of legislation to try and introduce a fixed penalty system which will actually support the administration of justice, bringing ourselves up to date and it's a quick and effective way of actually trying to reduce the small offences becoming criminal offences and turning them into civil offences, so I do urge the public to actually engage with us and work on the basis that at the moment that people are content, but we do expect that if there are any questions that they would get in touch. Mr Speaker, I beg to support the adjournment. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you. Any other Member wishes to speak? The Honourable Mover wishes to respond to the debate?

The Hon. Susan O’Bey –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I’d just like to start by thanking Members for their contributions, it’s a very short task for me today and to say that I fully take on-board the point that Councillor Henry made and will ensure that this work is taken forward and I wish our colleagues, who are not here and who are currently ill, a speedy recovery.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed, Honourable Chief Secretary. Honourable Members, thank you very much indeed and this concludes the business for today and I thank you all for approving the very important business matter for today, which was the European Union Withdrawal Bill and I wish all ExCo Members all the best for the remainder of the day in your deliberations in ExCo this afternoon, so Honourable Members, thank you very much indeed and I wish you all a good day.

I put the question, Honourable Members that Council do adjourn sine die.

Question put and agreed to.

Council adjourned sine die.