



ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ORDER PAPER

First Sitting of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of Legislative Council

Friday 16th July 2021 at 10am
in the Council Chamber

1. Formal Entry of the President

2. Prayers

3. Address by the President

4. Papers

SP 31/2021 (*Hon Financial Secretary*)
Appropriation Bill 2021

SP 32/2021 (*Hon Chief Secretary*)
National Honours and Awards Bill, 2021

SP 33/2021 (*Hon Financial Secretary*)
Estimates of Recurrent and Capital Expenditure and Revenue
2021/2022- 2023/2024

SP 34/2021 (*Hon Financial Secretary*)
St Helena Government Audited Financial Statements 2019/20

SP 35/2021 (*Hon Financial Secretary*)
Audit St Helena Management Letter on the St Helena Government
Financial Statements 2019/20

5. Questions

1. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee tell this Council what percentage of buildings in government ownership is disabled friendly?

2. The Hon Gavin Ellick to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this House, how much has all the divested Cleaning Contracts saved SHG?

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

Will the Honourable Chief Secretary tell this Council what levels of insurance is available to those employed by SHG?

4. The Hon Christine Scipio to ask the Hon Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee provide this house with an update on the divestment of Jacob's Ladder?

5. The Hon Jeffrey Ellick to ask the Hon Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Public Health Committee, tell this Council what plans does the Incident Executive Group have for vaccinating the Youth of St Helena (Children from between the ages of 12 – 18 years) from Covid 19?

6. The Hon Clint Beard to ask the Hon Chief Secretary:

Will the Honourable Chief Secretary tell this House in respect of the Fit for the Future transformation programme, what process is being followed to establish best outcomes for the organisation?

7. The Hon Gavin Ellick to ask the Hon Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Public Health Committee, tell this Council has the HACCP plan been submitted to the Health Protection Board in relation to the temporary license issued to the fish processing factory at Rupert's?

8. The Hon Cyril Leo to ask the Hon Chief Secretary:

Will the Honourable Chief Secretary provide this Council with a detailed update on the work carried out by Howard University on the 325 bone samples that was removed from the African Remains stored in the Pipe Store and taken to the United States of America?

6. Motions

1. The Hon Financial Secretary:

That the Appropriation Bill, 2021 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the Whole Council.

2. The Hon Chief Secretary:

That the National Honours and Awards Bill, 2021 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the Whole Council.

3. The Hon Clint Beard:

That the Legislative Council resolves that the relevant Council Committee consider establishing a policy to inform the essential legislative amendment to require the publication of the names of persons who are granted St Helena status and that all names be published since the last published names in 2019.

4. The Hon Cyril Leo:

That the Legislative Council resolves that the St Helena Government consider prioritising the following according to the recommendation of the 2020 Audit St Helena Report - Performance Audit: Benchmarking Primary and Secondary Education:

to carry out research to confirm the potential benefits and costs of consolidating primary education provision at a single site; research to include identifying options for the most suitable locations to accommodate such a centralised Primary School complex and thereby help establish the estimated costs

5. The Hon Jeffrey Ellick:

That the Legislative Council resolves that the St Helena Government through the establishment of the appropriate policy considers consulting with the Public of St Helena on lifting Covid restrictions, the trigger points for lifting and implementation of restrictions.

6. The Hon Cruyff Buckley:

That the Legislative Council resolves that the St Helena Government consider prioritising the following according to the recommendations of the Liberated Africans Advisory Committee: Secure and provide sufficient funding to enable the reburial of the African Remains and related Interpretation and Memorial objectives and that consideration be given to securing funding from sources including the FCDO and the Consolidated Fund.

7. Adjournment Debate

Questions for Written Responses

1. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this Council what action has been taken to complete disposal of the items recovered from the ex-RMS St Helena prior to her sale?

Response:

As a way of background, when the RMS St Helena was sold, it did so on the basis of a working ship, therefore all furniture and equipment were sold with the vessel. There was an amount of inventory from the shop and some memorabilia that was brought back to St Helena. A working group was established led by an elected member to examine how best to distribute the remaining stocks and items amongst the community. A significant amount of the stocks were divided up amongst the schools and NGO's with the most treasured artefacts such as the ship's bell now on display in the Museum.

There remains an amount of material stored in a container on the wharf which includes the ship's Crest, The Museum have agreed to take custody of the remaining items. It is envisaged that the working group will be reinstated to agree the final distribution of the remaining items.

2. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chairman of the Economic Development Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman, Economic Development Committee, tell this House what is being done to continue raising international awareness of St Helena by means of virtual 'arm chair' tourism and other promotional activities?

Response:

Since the closure of Enterprise St Helena on the 31 March 2021, SHG's Sustainable Development team have taken over responsibility for tourism and marketing activities, led by the newly created posts of Head of Visitor Information Service (HoVIS) and Marketing Manager, starting work on 17 May and 15 June respectively. The Tourist Office has now reopened to offer visitor information services.

In the short term, from July to December 2021, emphasis will be placed on targeting the Saint diaspora to entice visiting friends and relatives to take advantage of the extended Titan flight schedule and come home; not just for the in-demand festive season, but to try to spread the demand into the shoulder periods to offset the loss of revenue from pure tourist arrivals.

St Helena will continue to be promoted as a COVID-free, green list destination. Proven market segments and source markets will continue to be targeted. Established and diverse selling points, such as 'positive isolation', walks, diving, whalesharks, history and heritage, etc. will continue to be included for maximum appeal and reach. Promotional efforts will also target niche areas, such as yachting, dark skies, the enslaved Africans' legacy and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions), to replace the Napoleonic focus leading up to the Bicentenary.

Through 'armchair tourism' and the utilisation of all available and suitable platforms these efforts could attract some bookings from frequent independent travellers

(FITs), who have shorter lead times than tour operators. But the real intention of armchair tourism is to keep the magic and inspiration alive for when travel to St Helena is more attractive to potential visitors. Platforms utilised will include video, documentaries, travel guides, blogs, music, podcasts, webinars, websites, social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), apps and print media. Work with UK PR agency Finn Partners will continue to the end of the year. Some phased campaigns with tried and tested publications will commence in the next three months, for example, Dive Magazine and RSPB magazine. Initial work to lead the community in creating a new 'Brand St Helena', to inform and drive future marketing efforts, has just been launched.

Despite St Helena being on the UK's green list, international tour operators that previously sold St Helena are not selling any countries with mandatory quarantine. The Visitor Information Service will continue to target those tour operators that have successfully sold St Helena in the past to ensure they are kept informed and, if they have interest from their clients for St Helena, that some level of conversion could be achieved through Titan flight bookings.

The pandemic and its effects on travel to St Helena will be reviewed regularly. Certain triggers, for example South Africa moving to Level 1 or Level 0 and coming off the UK's red list, will prompt changes in promotional strategies initiating medium term actions. Medium term is January to June 2022. Events, such as the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race, planned for January 2022, for example, can only occur with certain positive triggers.

To ensure information to prospective visitors is current, websites and promotional collateral are being updated. Work with the tourism and hospitality sectors on island is ongoing to ensure that when the island starts to open up service providers are informed, willing and enabled to welcome visitors.

3. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Public Health Committee, please explain why residents of St Helena travelling to the United Kingdom are required to have a Covid 19 test prior to departure when the island is Covid-free, and why the cost of the test is so high?

Response:

Persons travelling from St Helena to the United Kingdom are **not** required to have a COVID-19 test prior to departure. Further information in this regard is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england> This sets out that the Falklands, St Helena and Ascension are exempted from the requirement to produce a pre-departure test result.

The Health Directorate does offer pre-departure COVID-19 tests. There are generally two categories of passengers departing on the Titan flight that wish to have these tests.

The first category is those passengers who are merely transiting the United Kingdom and going on to another country. If their ultimate destination is a country that requires a pre-departure test result, the general rule is that the test must be undertaken within 72 hours prior to travel. This might not leave the passenger with sufficient time to undertake the test upon arrival in the United Kingdom. Passengers in this category are therefore likely to request to have their pre-departure COVID-19 test undertaken in St Helena.

The second category are passengers who are travelling on medical referral to the UK. If a passenger has an appointment booked shortly after arrival in the UK, their attending physician might request information on their COVID-19 status. The Health Directorate might therefore suggest that a COVID-19 test is undertaken prior to departure from St Helena so that the medical referral in question arrives in the UK armed with this information. This cost is met under the Medical Referrals policy. Please note that this does not apply to every medical referral, only those who have appointments shortly after arrival in the UK, for example, the following day. The UK's testing requirements (for example, all arrivals must be tested for COVID-19 on Day 2) would address this in all other cases.

Regarding the cost of the pre-departure COVID-19 test, this is currently £75. This is the cost of the PCR test kit. Additional costs, such as staff time to administer the tests, are not factored in. In comparison, in the UK which has far greater economies of scale than St Helena, the cost of a comparable PCR COVID-19 test undertaken at a testing centre could be over £100.