



ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ORDER PAPER

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

**Friday 11th March 2022 at 10am
in the St Helena Community College**

1. Formal Entry of the President

2. Prayers

3. Address by the President

4. Papers

SP 1/2022 *(Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development)*
Government of St Helena – A Bill for an Ordinance, Supplementary
Appropriation (2021/22) Bill, 2022

SP 2/2022 *(Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development)*
Audit St Helena – Performance Audit: Benchmarking Health, October
2021

SP 3/2022 *(Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development)*
Government of St Helena – Supplementary Appropriation 2021/22
Estimates

5. Questions

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister explain why it was decided that Executive Council meetings should be held in closed session with no agenda items being made known to the public in advance?

2. The Hon Rosemary Bargo to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Will the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care say what plans are in place for the immediate recruitment of Doctors and Nurses, and what plans are there for the retention and succession of such mission critical staff?

3. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this Council, what are the plans for Jamestown Wharf and what is planned in the interim for making this area and its buildings safe for both the workforce and the public to enjoy?

4. The Hon Karl Thrower to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development :

Will the Honourable Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this Council what is being done to address the island's problem of a lack of affordable housing, including but not limited to: easy to purchase affordable land; affordable finance and realistic construction costs?

5. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Environment Natural Resources & Planning:

Will the Hon Minister for Environment Natural Resources & Planning tell this Council, in order to protect the environment, what is being done to reduce or completely ban the use of plastics, foil packaging and polystyrene packaging?

6. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this House why the refurbishment of the fish processing facility at Rupert's Valley was not completed on time and what are the implications of the delay?

7. The Hon Rosemary Bargo to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this House, are there any plans for SHG to have 'ready for sale plots' outside of those contained within Comprehensive Development Areas, and if so, when will such plots of land be made available to the public?

8. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this Council, because of the continuing high rise in cost of shipping goods to St Helena and delays experienced via South Africa in containers, will the St Helena Government say what alternatives are SHG looking at?

9. The Hon Karl Thrower to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Council what steps are being looked at on Island to mitigate against any potential negative effects the current crisis in the Ukraine will have on the Island?

10. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Will the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care tell this Council whether further booster vaccinations will be made available to the public, noting that the effectiveness of these reduces over time, and what progress has been made towards securing Covid antiviral medication for the Island?

11. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Will the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care tell this Council what action the Health Portfolio has taken in response to the multiple complaints submitted regarding the performance of MSO and, in particular, the payment of subsistence to patients and carers?

12. The Hon Rosemary Bargo to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Honourable Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development provide this House with an update on the winding-up of the St Helena Fisheries Corporation?

13. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this Council what progress has been made with the new Bulk Fuel Installation at Rupert's, the cost to date and when is it likely to be commissioned for use?

14. The Hon Karl Thrower to ask the Hon Chief Minister:

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Council 'who is', 'when is', 'what is' St Helena Government?

15. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Honourable Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this Council, what is the total cost of the oxygen plant at Bradley's and when will this finally be commissioned?

6. Motions

1. The Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development:

That the Supplementary Appropriation (2021/22) Bill, 2022, be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

2. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex:

That the St Helena Government expedites preparation of a project proposal to rectify the inadequacies of the current irrigation system at the ex-ADA fields, in order to enable increased agricultural production.

7. Adjournment Debate

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

1. The Hon Gillian Brooks to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development:

Will the Honourable Minister for Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development tell this Council what are the medium to long term plans for the Duke of Edinburgh Playground?

Response

The entire area of the Duke of Edinburgh Playground is no longer a dedicated playground by law, but was re designated under the Public Recreation Grounds Ordinance, 1938, as a playground for the upper half only, i.e. the section nearest the London Gift Shop, in 2016.

Plans were previously submitted on behalf of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee to the Land Development Control Authority in 2016, for the creation of a carpark by turning the lower part of the area in to a car park. However, planning permission was refused on the grounds that:

- (i) the change of use of land involves a loss of space that has been used and could continue to be used for public creation or amenity and
- (ii) Implementation of the proposed operations and the change in use of the land proposed is determined likely to adversely affect an historic asset in the form of buried archaeology.

It was agreed that the future use of this area would be considered as part of the development of a Heritage Conservation Plan for Jamestown. This Plan is still to be developed by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) or a Heritage Planner, if this post is approved. However the CPO can only start on a development plan for Jamestown, once other pressing work streams such as the Rupert's Development Plan and the review of the Land Development Control Plan (LDCP) have been completed.

The timeframe for completing the Heritage Conservation Plan for Jamestown will depend largely on the completion of ongoing work streams in the Planning Section, such as the Ruperts Development Plan and the review of the LDCP. The plan for Jamestown would be progressed more quickly if a Heritage Planner post is approved.

Regarding the development of a playground in the upper part of the playground, Creative St Helena applied to convert the upper part of the playground into a playground for younger people. This funding was to be provided by Enterprise St Helena but is no longer available since their closure.

Currently Waste Management Services regularly clean the playground of leaf debris and have carried out other tasks such as the removal and disposal of fencing, other metal work and bulky waste, as well as the removal of bushes that impact on the walkways.

Trees within the Duke of Edinburgh Playground are subject by law to Tree Preservation Orders and planning permission has to be approved for works to be done on the trees. Attempts have been made to seek funding for a short term contract for an arboriculturalist to train staff and interested parties on the management of trees but have not been successful.

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Council how many locally engaged staff with the St Helena Government, have remuneration packages which exceed the national average wage by: a) 2 times; b) 4 times; c) 6 times; d) 8 times; e) 10 times?

Response

A St Helena Public Service Pay Spine runs from Band A (point A1) to Band H (point H11). In addition a Senior Management Pay Spine runs from Tier 1 to Tier 3. Positions within the St Helena Public Service are job evaluated to determine their grade and therefore where they sit on the organisation's pay spine. The pay spines are published on the St Helena Government Website.

The Statistics Office has released new estimates of average incomes from full-time employment for the 2020/21 financial year. This estimated the median annual before-tax wage as £8,800.

On the St Helena pay spine Band C Point 2 is the closest point to this at £8,828 per annum.

Two times £8,800 is £17,600 and on the St Helena pay spine Band E Point 11 is the closest point to this at £17,673; there are 49.3% of staff between Band C Point 2 and Band E Point 11.

Six times £8,800 is £52,800 and on the St Helena pay spine SMG Tier 2a (1:4) is the closest point to this at £51,812; there are 6.2% of staff between Band E Point 11 and SMG Tier 2a (1:4).

Eight times £8,800 is £70,400 and on the St Helena pay spine SMG Tier 3 (1:5.6) is the closest point to this at £72,537; there are 0.2% of staff between SMG Tier 2a (1:4) and SMG Tier 3 (1:5.6).

Ten times £8,800 is £88,000 and the St Helena pay spine ends at £72,537pa.

3. The Hon Gillian Brooks to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Will the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Care tell this Council, what are the plans to address the shortage of accommodation, be it sheltered, residential, respite or rehabilitation to accommodate those persons in our community who, through age-related or medical conditions are no longer able to live safely in their homes?

Response

- The respite facility at Piccolo Hill is now nearing completion, which will enable the much needed respite provision to resume here on island. There are a list of people awaiting respite and the directorate hopes to be able to offer this support to service users and their carers.
- The residential offer and sheltered accommodation remains at capacity as we are aware, however the service continues to manage the demand by means of a

placement panel to prioritise individuals in the community or awaiting discharge from hospital.

- We have developed a domiciliary care offer to enable people to remain at home with support for much longer and this service has grown in line with need. The service currently support 80 people within the community with a variety of needs, which may have historically been a referral to residential care or sheltered accommodation.
- Government landlord properties, which are accessible for people with mobility issues and accessible to support would help to reduce the demand on residential and sheltered services.
- Ministers need to consider the prioritisation of funding in relation to all services, which will ultimately dictate where investment is made and growth occurs.

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

Will the Honourable Chief Minister tell this Council if it is the Government's intention to produce a prioritised Legislative Programme, and if so, when the Backbenchers will have sight of this?

Response

Members will be aware that we have recently published our Vision for St Helena. In a recent press release we set out what the priorities of this government are over the next three years, and we also indicated that a detailed roadmap (the SHG Strategy) setting out priority actions and deliverables, together with performance indicators to monitor implementation is being developed and this will be published once finalised.

As a part of this process, Ministers are working with their Portfolio Directors to determine policy areas and potential Legislation which will need to be developed or reviewed in order to meet these priorities. Once this is completed a draft Policy and Legislative Programme will be developed and shared with all Elected Members. This draft is likely to be available by the end of March.