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CONSTITUTION OF ST HELENA, ASCENSION AND TRISTAN DA CUNHA

SPECIAL WARRANT

Pursuant to section 171(1) of the Constitution of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha:

HAVING CONSIDERED the application shown overleaf dated: **14 July 2022**

BEING SATISFIED that there is an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, namely:

Costs incurred for the impending COVID 19 Exit Strategy;

I HEREBY AUTHORISE the Director of Financial Services to make payments to meet that expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund up to the amount of:

£90,000 (Ninety thousand pounds);

And accordingly I issue this Special Warrant.

Gregory Gibson
Governor of Ascension

14 July 2022

Once issued, the Director of Financial Services is required to inform the Island Council of this Special Warrant within ten days.

**Application for Special Warrant
pursuant to section 171 of the Constitution**

1. This is a request for the approval of a Special Warrant in the sum of:

£90,000 (ninety thousand pounds).

2. There is an urgent and unforeseen need for this expenditure as follows:

Additional funding required for the Covid-19 exit strategy, as Ascension Island prepares for the transition away from the current strict entry quarantine and testing protocol.

3. Section 171(1) of the Constitution provides that:

The Governor, if satisfied that there is an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, may issue a Special Warrant authorising the Director of Financial Services to make payments to meet that expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund, up to the amount specified in the warrant; and such warrant shall constitute an appropriation of that amount.

4. **There is an urgent and unforeseen need to incur expenditure in order to respond to the Covid 19 exit strategy.**

5. Ascension Island residents are now fully vaccinated and having managed the Covid 19 virus over the past two years, now seem the appropriate time to withdraw the strict entry quarantine and testing protocols. The SMO has closely monitored the situation and planning provision of other similar overseas territories. As such, the additional staffing and lateral flow test kits will be essential to manage the appearance and spread of Covid 19 on Ascension for the immediate period after July 2022.

6. Further to the medical provision requirements, other cost areas for the AIG are forecast to come under increased pressure. These include the need for additional consumable items for working in public spaces, keeping offices and work areas clear of the virus as much as possible and the general health and safety provision for employees.

Head of Expenditure	Senior Medical Officer	
Team	Hospital	£81,350
Head of Expenditure	Deputy Director of Resources	
Team	Stores & Accommodation	£8,650
	TOTAL	£90,000

7. **No other provision exists to cover this expenditure.**
8. The Operational and Capital expenditure budgets for the 2022/23 financial year for the AIG were agreed during the formal Island Council Meeting on 10 March 2022, and subsequently legislated for in the form of the Appropriation Ordinance. The AIG budget submission contained very little flexibility in terms of expenditure contingency, and this is reflected in the amounts appropriated in the Appropriation Ordinance.
9. Accordingly, the additional costs of this increase in spending will undoubtedly exceed the agreed budgets set out in the Appropriation Ordinance.
10. **Adequate measures will be put in place to account for the expenditure of the amount appropriated under this Warrant.**
11. Accounting arrangements has already been put in place to ensure that expenditure related to Covid 19 and can be tracked and reported on. These accounting arrangements will continue. Funds will only be withdrawn from reserves to cover actual additional costs incurred.
12. **If this Special Warrant is issued then I will ensure that the Island Council is informed of it within ten days, as required by section 171(2) of the Constitution.**

Shendi Keshet
Director of Financial Services
14 July 2022