

Hon Cyril K. Gunnell

Speaker of the House of Legislative Council, St Helena Island

Cyril Gunnell was elected Speaker of the Legislative Council in October 2021. This followed the historic move from a committee system of government in 2021 to the current ministerial system.

He was first elected to Legislative Council in 1991 when there was provision for government personnel to also represent the Island as councillors. He served on various Council committees until 2013. On the Executive Council he chaired the Health & Social Welfare Committee, and also the Employment & Social Security Committee, each for four years. Other council committees he served included Agriculture & Natural Resources and Education.

Cyril represented Council at various conferences overseas including Overseas Territories Consultative Council, British Islands and Mediterranean Region, EU Overseas Countries and Territories Forum and Millennium Development Goals. And also the first Commons and Overseas Territories face to face Speakers Conference in Westminster.

Previously he was employed as a Fire Inspector and Medical Assistant on Ascension Island, Flight Operations Clerk and Progress Control Manager at Kidlington Airport in Oxford, Income Tax Clerk, Social Worker and Investigations Officer for St Helena Government, and in the private sector as Radio Producer/News Editor and Freelance Journalist.

Cyril chaired the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for five years and represented the PAC overseas in Miami and UK. He also chaired the Prison Visiting Committee for six years. Currently he is a Member of the Chamber of Commerce. His local education finished at the Island's Secondary Selective School, after which he enrolled in International Correspondence Schools examinations.