



**RECORD OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**HELD IN STANLEY  
ON 26 MARCH 2015**

**RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
HELD IN STANLEY ON THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015**

Speaker of the House  
(Mr Keith Biles JP)

**MEMBERS** (Ex-Officio)

The Honourable Acting Chief Executive & Financial Secretary  
(Mrs Nicola Granger)

Elected

The Honourable Janet (Jan) Lynda Cheek  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Roger Anthony Edwards  
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Ian Hansen  
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Michael James Poole  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Phyllis (Phyl) Mary Rendell MBE  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Gavin Phillip Short  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

**APOLOGIES OVERSEAS**

The Honourable Chief Executive  
(Mr Keith Padgett)

**PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

The Attorney General  
(Peter Judge MBE)

Commander British Forces, South Atlantic Islands.  
(Air Commodore Russell La Forte CBE)

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY:** Cherie Clifford

**PRAYERS:** Reverend Canon David Roper.

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**The Record of the meeting of Legislative Assembly  
held on Thursday 26 March 2015**

**Prayers**

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, I bid you good morning, and my usual reminder please about mobile phones to be turned off.

**Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

The confirmation of the Record of Legislative Assembly held on 26 February 2015.

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, I have in front of me a record of that last meeting, is it your wish that I sign this as a true record.

Aye

**Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Papers laid on the table by the Acting Chief Executive.

Copies of Subsidiary Legislation published in the Falkland Islands Gazette since the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly and Laid on the Table pursuant to section 35(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance 1977.

- 41 Ross Road Jubilee Villas Designation Order 2015
- Children (Safeguarding Children Board) Regulations 2015

Falkland Islands Government Financial Statements and Audit Reports Laid on the Table in accordance with the provisions of Section 57 of the Finance and Audit Ordinance for the year end 30 June 2014 which includes:

- Annual Governance Statement
- Falkland Islands Government Currency Fund
- Insurance Fund
- Pensions(Old Scheme) Fund
- Capital Equalisation Fund

**Acting Chief Executive**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hereby lay the aforementioned papers on the table.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Questions for oral response.

Question Number 4 of 2015 by the Honourable Gavin Short.

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, could the Honourable Ian Hansen please inform the House of the following.

Taken from the date of the last ever wages agreement between the Falkland Islands General Employees Union and the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) covering the hourly paid employees, what was:

- a) The rate then for an 18 year old labourer at the time of the last agreement.
- b) What would that rate be today with compound inflation only added onto the (then) hourly rate.
- c) What the rate would be today if compound inflation and all actual wage increases was added to it.
- d) How would this rate, if in existence today, measure up against the minimum wage.

### **The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I thank the Honourable Gavin Short for his questions and I would also like to thank the Human Resources Department, Policy Department and the Treasury for putting together a reply. Unfortunately it is quite a complex issue so it took them some time.

From the files available, the last recorded wages agreement between Government and the General Employees Union appears to be 1 July 1996 and was valid for a period of 6 months. From this agreement an 18 year old labourer would be paid an hourly rate of £3.87.

The current Falkland Islands Government pay scale does not remunerate based on the age of the employee. A labourer today would typically be employed in a grade I position with an annual salary commencing at £12,713 and rising to a scale maximum of £15,580. This would convert to an hourly rate of between £6.52 and £7.99.

Annual inflation applied to the 1996 figure based on the Falkland Islands retail price index would result in a minimum hourly rate of £6.82 in 2014 and there is the below table of the RPI index data (at December each year) which illustrates the hypothetical position of salary rises to match this figure. In practice, it is highly unlikely that an employee would remain on the minimum of the pay scale for 18 years.

YEAR	hourly rate	RPI index (December)	% RPI inflation	increase £	new rate after inflation increase
1996	£3.87	837.20			
1997	£3.87	841.86	0.56%	0.022	£3.89
1998	£3.89	871.51	3.52%	0.137	£4.03
1999	£4.03	916.95	5.21%	0.210	£4.24
2000	£4.24	950.22	3.63%	0.154	£4.39
2001	£4.39	952.80	0.27%	0.012	£4.40
2002	£4.40	954.14	0.14%	0.006	£4.41
2003	£4.41	974.06	2.09%	0.092	£4.50
2004	£4.50	1028.77	5.62%	0.253	£4.76
2005	£4.76	1073.43	4.34%	0.206	£4.96
2006	£4.96	1106.16	3.05%	0.151	£5.11
2007	£5.11	1148.95	3.87%	0.198	£5.31
2008	£5.31	1254.98	9.23%	0.490	£5.80
2009	£5.80	1215.31	-3.16%	-0.183	£5.62
2010	£5.62	1284.16	5.67%	0.318	£5.94
2011	£5.94	1391.26	8.34%	0.495	£6.43
2012	£6.43	1447.70	4.06%	0.261	£6.69
2013	£6.69	1456.80	0.63%	0.042	£6.73
2014	£6.73	1475.85	1.31%	0.088	£6.82

As for question C, unfortunately it's not possible to provide an answer to that question. The detailed rationale for each of the annual pay rises from 1996 is not readily available. However, pay awards are typically a combination of inflation, market conditions and affordability. Adding inflation to these figures would be double counting in many of the years and would present a false comparison.

The minimum wage in the Falkland Islands is currently £5.05

I hope that answers the Honourable Member's query.

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for his reply and also the departments that helped him formulate it. The reason I asked this question of course, was because the 18 year old labourers wage back in those days was actually the base on which everything, at least on the hourly paid was set, you went above that if you were tradesman, below if you were apprentices and it would almost I would say nowadays would fit in to what we know as probably the living wage, and it's very interesting that in fact it's very, very, close to that living wage.

I am though surprised that the details on wage increases cannot be given because they have to be known, I suspect I may be able to ferret those out by different sources, but I would like to thank him for his reply.

## **Mr Speaker**

Does any other Member wish to raise any supplementary questions on that?

No.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Question Number 5 of 2015 by the Honourable Jan Cheek.

## **The Honourable Jan Cheek**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, could the Honourable Michael Poole please explain how the existing Retail Price Index is structured and calculated, and when it was last reviewed.

## **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank my Honourable colleague for her question. I believe this question has arisen as there has been some public discussion around the Retail Price Index over recent weeks, and we thought it would be useful for this to be discussed publicly.

I am grateful to the Policy Unit for providing me with the information contained within this answer and also to the Honourable Financial Secretary for some promotion work she has done recently on FITV on this very subject.

In Stanley the Retail Price Index (RPI) is based on a basket of goods that is meant to represent the consumption patterns of goods and services of the Stanley population.

The index measures the cost of the basket relative to a base year. The basket itself needs to be updated regularly since people's consumption patterns obviously change over time.

The RPI currently in use (since 2012), is based on a household consumption survey carried out by Synergy in 2012.

The study monitored a set of sample households for a period of time recording which goods and services they consumed and by how much. Based on this, a new RPI basket was proposed that would be representative of the consumption patterns of the entire population. The basket consists of almost two hundred classes of items such as rice, cheese, trainers, electricity, taxi fares, etc. Each class has specific products in terms of brand, package size, and so on attached to them. The price of these is then recorded quarterly using a variety of sources such as West Store, Chandlery, Kelper Stores etc.

Each of the goods and services have been given a weighting based on how much people spent on them in the survey that was done in 2012. The RPI is the weighted sum of the prices of all goods and services in the basket expressed as an index.

Quarterly collection of price data and compilation of the RPI has been subcontracted to Synergy and is thus not carried out within FIG at all.

The actual brands and package sizes of the goods in the basket may be changed between quarters due to their availability but the structure of the basket itself does not change.

Since the structure of the basket does not change but households' consumption patterns do, it is reasonable to assume that the more time passes since the household consumption survey the less representative of household consumption the basket becomes. Thus a new basket needs to be reformed at regular intervals. Prior to 2012 the previous basket was from 1997, so quite a lengthy gap. There is not a set definition of how regularly we will review this but I think every five to ten years would appear to be reasonable.

Another aspect that defines the accuracy of RPI is the sample size for the goods and services. In Stanley, due to the size of the market, it is difficult to get several quotes for the same good or service. In many cases there is only one provider. Thus it is possible that price changes by a single supplier can have a relatively big impact on RPI. Seasonality and availability of goods can also affect it, for example the price of potatoes has sometimes been the main cause of RPI changes.

Interestingly, and as people may have seen in the recently published State of the Economy Report, RPI here seems to correlate with international oil prices. There are two reasons for this. First, due to direct impact since the basket contains kerosene and diesel which together accounted for almost 9% of the basket. Second, there is an indirect impact. Since most goods are imported to the Islands, their prices depend on transport costs which again depend on international oil prices. Since oil prices have dropped by roughly half since mid-2014 this is expected to show in price levels over time as well. This has been the case at least in Europe where inflation in the EU dropped to negative in December 2014 and in the UK to 0.5 % and I think some people will have noticed recent announcements which some to 0% for the first time on record in the UK, I think.

Therefore, it is expected that also in the Falkland Islands overall prices dropped in the last quarter of 2014. Thus, there seems to be no evidence of RPI being manipulated. It seems to be following trends in the global economy.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **The Honourable Jan Cheek**

I would like to thank the Honourable Member for his reply, and note the relatively heavy weighting of fuel in that basket and we hope as we see world prices starting to seep, sorry not quite a pun, but seep through to us we will see more drops, but of course as it pointed out in the recently published State of the Economy, we are in a cleft stick about oil prices, we would like them to rise for the sake of our industry and for the sake of our citizen.

Thank you.

### **Mr Speaker**

Are there any supplementary questions?

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Michael Poole for his comprehensive reply, RPI is something I have been interested in for quite a long time. I don't think he can probably answer this on the floor, but I would be grateful if he could come back to me on it. I presume rents are included in that basket somewhere, I think they are if memory serves me, but it's been a long time since I looked at it. I just wonder, given what seems to be quite ridiculously high level of rents in the private sector, whether the weighting on that probably needs to be re-examined, so maybe it is time for us to do another check of peoples' spending patterns.

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Colleague for his question. Yes, rent is included, the exact weighting given to it I don't know off the top of my head, I can find out more details on that and come back to my Honourable Colleague.

### **The Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, could the Honourable Michael Poole confirm that all the raw data from the RPI is available for public inspection if anybody would wish to see it, and would he also like to comment on the interaction between inflation and consumption patterns, because it seems to me that if you change the basket of goods too often you're reflecting changes in consumption patterns, and you are disguising or potentially disguising inflation, so would he like to suggest that we reflect on the methodology for how often the basket is changed.

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker and I thank the Honourable Mike Summers for his follow up, in terms of his first question as to underlying data and whether it's available for public inspection, it is available, it's not currently on the website, but it could be put on there or made available to those that are interested in seeing it. I know I was certainly sent the underlying data in a spreadsheet when I had requested information for this initial answer.

And in terms of how regularly you review consumption patterns, I think he makes a very good point that RPI is there to measure inflation and not change in consumption over a set period so, whilst we don't have a policy in terms of how regularly we review and update the RPI, I think it's something that's worthy of discussion, and as I had indicated earlier on, I think every five to ten years feels reasonable, but I think it requires further discussion with those that understand this issue better than I do.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **Mr Speaker**

Are there any other supplementary questions?

No.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Question Number 6 of 2015 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby.

### **The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during preparations for this year's budget, initial work using census and financial data seems to suggest a significant gender imbalance in salaries of up to 27% in favour of men.

This may well be just a statistical quirk, but does seem to match recent figures released in the UK. Can the Honourable Michael Poole give an assurance that this will be examined in greater depth over the coming months and that a report will be brought to the House?

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, again I would like to thank my Honourable Colleague for his question and offer my thanks to Jamie, Ville and Vicki in the Policy Unit for their input to my response.

My Honourable Colleague correctly states that in a recently published report by the Policy Unit looking at the state of the Islands economy, there is a section which contains some analysis of pay differentials between men and women. This paper was produced to assist MLAs in the ongoing budget discussions and also as an information tool for the rest of the population too.

As part of this work, some analysis was done on participation in the workforce based on gender. It also looked at pay differentials on average as well.

I should note up front that this analysis was based solely on the 2012 census data. The census data was not collected for these particular purposes and is really quite basic, so any analysis needs to be viewed in that context, I think. As we know, any statistics in the Islands should also be viewed with some caution due to relatively small sample and population sizes.

However, as my Honourable Colleague notes in his question, an average pay differential between men and women of 21% on average is seen. This compares to an average pay differential of 16% in the European Union. The gender pay gap does vary slightly depending on your immigration status, and the 27% figure my colleague quotes in his question is a differential seen between male and female work permit holders, but as I say, the average across the entire economy is 21% from the figures we have from the census data.

The underlying reason for these pay differentials is difficult to identify and no work has currently been done on that. The report lists a few examples that could be applicable, such as direct pay discrimination, differing education levels or differences in the gender split in particular industries.

I discussed this briefly with the Honourable Chief Executive and colleagues, and they rightly note that we must look deeper at the base data that this statistic comes from to understand what is behind it. It may solely relate to the types of work that the respective sexes are

employed in. If that is the case, then I think there is more work we could do to investigate the contributing factors to that as well.

Whether this is a genuine issue of discrimination is very difficult to say at this point. Intuitively it feels like it probably isn't, but we really can't be certain of that. Therefore, I am happy to ask the Policy Unit to add this to their task list. Due to upcoming staff changes in the team itself, I would propose that we receive a report back on this issue during the budget discussions next year, with a further formal update in this House no later than May 2016.

In the meantime I would encourage the community to talk to us about this issue and give us their views and experiences. I would be interested in hearing not only about pay issues, but also about their employment experiences generally, as we do have plans to review the employment legislation over the coming year too.

Sadly discrimination is something which can occur in many forms and can quite often be quite subtle, so there is certainly no room for complacency as my Honourable Colleague indicates in his question.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Honourable Michael Poole for his very full response.

I think it's interesting to hear that in Europe you were talking about a 15% pay differential between men and women, recently reports in the UK from the National Statistics Office, an independent organisation, places the differential at about 10% in favour of men and when you move onto zero hours contracts its anything up to 20% differential. It would be great if we were absolutely sure there is no difference here between men and women doing the same job, but the fact that there is in Europe and that there is in the United Kingdom I think we need to be very careful, and I think we need to very much do the research you have been talking about.

I wonder if I can ask the Attorney General what legislation there is in the Falkland Islands to prevent discrimination on the grounds of gender in the workplace, apart from the obvious one about a constitutional provision.

### **The Attorney General**

Mr Speaker, if I may I will start with the obvious one. Section 16 of the Constitution does indeed prevent any law from being discriminatory on those grounds or indeed under sub section 2 the acts of the Government being discriminatory which would include acts in relation to employment.

In addition to that this House has previously passed legislation under previous Governments in 1998 in relation to Equal Employment Rights Ordinance, Sex Discrimination and Race Discrimination Ordinances so we have a full set, both in relation to the Government's actions and actions of those in the community.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbey**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Attorney General for that so it mirrors in many ways the United Kingdom and in Europe where there are clear laws to prevent discrimination on the basis of gender in the work place, and yet they maintain this pay differential. My Honourable Colleague, the Honourable Michael Poole, suggests we wait for another year before we get a full report, it's a long time, I appreciate what's going on in the Policy Unit at the moment, would it be possible to bring to this House an interim report in say six months' time to see how things are progressing, so that we have that data as much as possible before we start the budget round because if, if this is found to be true, that there is truly a difference in pay for the same job between men and women it will need quite significant works to try to address that.

**The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in terms of the question about bringing an interim report back within six months, I can certainly have that conversation, the Honourable Jan Cheek and I are due to meet with departing Head of Policy shortly to talk about his hand over and his eventual replacement, so I think we can see where we can put that in the work priority list and try and get some information back.

I think from what's been said here he is entirely right that FIG couldn't have reasonably published this document and not of had a conversation about it and done a bit of further work because at face value it's quite a concerning or potentially concerning issue, so it's certainly correct we do need to do something over the coming months and I will come back to my Honourable Colleague with some exact time lines.

**The Honourable Jan Cheek**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, first a couple of observations and then I have got a question for the Honourable Michael Poole.

As a woman living in a community where women are not only a valued, valuable but essential part of the workforce, my experience has been that, in general, women compete on a level playing field. However, there are other elements that haven't been mentioned for example the fact that women when they are bringing up younger children, sometimes as a matter of choice choose to work part time, and I think we need to ask the right questions in any future work. "Are you working part time by choice?" would be an obvious one, and I am sure there are many others that people can think of.

The other question I would like to ask and I know the answer, but I would just like the Honourable Michael Poole to confirm it for the benefit of the public, I believe Government would never discriminate in terms of gender on payment for work, is that the case?

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, my Honourable Colleague is entirely correct that the grading system within Government and the Management Code would never allow that to occur, and I think we are pretty confident that isn't an issue within FIG.

In terms of how we structure the further work and the points made around asking the right questions, that is entirely right that we need to try and understand the underlying reasons for this which could be perfectly reasonable, and we need to make sure that we get that information, and I think as has been suggested that's probably going to need to be done via surveys. I think there is a bit more work we can do on the census data, we can probably get some more information from tax data which the Policy Unit are allowed to access with the coverage of the Statistics Ordinance, but I think in the end, we need to make sure we talk to people about this and get direct feedback so that would necessarily take some time, but I am sure we can add this to the workload.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **The Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, could the Honourable Michael Poole indicate whether there is any evidence at all in either the public or the private sector that men and women are being paid different wages for doing exactly the same work and the same rate of experience and capability, or whether there's any evidence at all that women, and this perhaps more of an important question, whether there is any evidence at all that women have been denied access to particular types of work that may be higher paid, and that's the kind of indirect discrimination perhaps that occurs elsewhere. I'm not aware of it here, but I wondered if any evidence had been produced.

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am personally not aware of any evidence of either direct or indirect discrimination, but to be fair, I haven't looked for it, and this piece of work the Policy unit has done in the State of the Economy Report was, as I've said, very high level purely based on census data. I can't say categorically that it doesn't exist, because we haven't done that work yet. Thank you Mr Speaker.

### **Mr Speaker**

Any other supplementary questions?

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Thank you Mr Speaker. The Honourable Michael Poole, of course, mentioned employment legislation in his reply, this is indeed a subject that is long overdue. Does he have a timeline for when this may kick off, and when we hope to have it brought to this House? It is my wish, my fervent wish that it comes to this House in finished form before the life of this Assembly expires.

## **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and thanks to my Honourable Colleague for his question. The intention, certainly we have an Islands Plan commitment to have reviewed the Employment Protection Ordinance during the term of this Government and I would hope and expect that we will live up to that. The acting Head of Policy when Jamie Fotheringham leaves will seize this as a priority piece of work and the intention is to try bringing some of that policy work forward this calendar year. How long the legislative process would then take is up for discussion and I guess would be dependent on what priority MLAs' collectively give this issue, but to answer his direct question, this year he will see the initial work and I would hope that we will see it go through the legislative process before the end of our term as well. Thank you Mr Speaker.

## **Mr Speaker**

Are there any supplementary questions?

No.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Portfolio Reports: The Honourable Roger Edwards

## **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues. Mr Speaker, it is my opportunity to provide an update on the work of the Law and Regulatory Directorate. Honourable Members, the public listening will be aware that the Registry is currently conducting the annual canvas for the electoral roll. The purpose of this exercise is to maintain an accurate register of those eligible to vote. Any person of 18 years or over, who is a British citizen and has Falkland Islands status is eligible. To go on the roll, the person should also meet the qualifying period which is being resident in the Falkland Islands for the 12 months prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all electors that the canvas form must, and I repeat must, be returned by the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in order for your name to remain on the register. If any member of the public has any queries contact the Registration Officer at the Registry who will be more than willing to assist them.

Mr Speaker, since my last update, the Government Legal Service continues its excellent work. The team welcomed the arrival of Crown Council Nick Arculus in late January. Another excellent addition to the team, Nick working with Roxanne and Ulia, has made a great start of clearing a backlog of land work arising through previous staff shortages. We hope that the public will start seeing the difference. The team are also very grateful for the support of the PWD Design Office for their support in getting plans finalised.

The legislative drafting team work load remains constant, with some real advances with major pieces of work including maritime, environmental planning, livestock and meat products in connection with export from the abattoir, camp airstrips and Stanley Common which are all well progressed. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members can expect papers and draft

legislations coming forward to EXCO in all these areas in the coming weeks and months. The next wave of work is also well planned and will follow close behind.

The prosecution team continues to maintain a very positive working relationship with the Royal Falkland Islands Police to bring cases before the Courts promptly. The team has dealt with approximately 30 case files since last quarterly report and has secured some very significant convictions.

The Attorney General continues to take a robust prosecution position in relation to any child sex offences and offences relating to the abuse of positions of public trust, in particular. The child protection team continues to support Social Work Department to take forward improvements in child protection, reference the Lucy Faithful Foundation review, and to advise on the day to day work load, bringing care proceedings through the Courts on the rare occasions necessary. Children Safeguarding Board Regulations were made this quarter, to detail the functions of the Board, which is now on a statutory footing. The Board is meeting regularly.

In relation to more general legal advice, there are a number of significant cases and transactions being handled by the team who remain as busy as ever. There have been a number of areas of specialist advice this quarter, and significantly, they have worked closely with the Minerals Department and others to ensure permissions put in place were robust to allow commencement of the current drilling round.

I'm also pleased to report the successful completion of a legal secretarial qualification by Imogen Didlick, a valued member of the Directorate's administrative support team.

Mr Speaker, the remaining area of this Directorate is Regulatory Services. I'm grateful for all the preparations and hard work from Stanley Airport, the Airport Fire and Rescue Service and the Civil Aviation Department which has lead to Stanley Airport being issued its new aerodrome certificate. This certificate confirms that the Airport meets the relevant safety standards, and enables it to access the Bristow helicopter operations in support of oil exploration, and also allows it, once again, to receive international flights, the first of which arrived on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Civil Aviation Department has also just expanded its role in the past month to include authority to issue seasonal foreign operator permits to visiting commercial aircraft such as LAN and Highfly which operates the oil charter flights. Previously, seasonal permits were issued by the UK Department of Transport and this demonstrates another area where the Falkland Islands have been given more control over its aviation activities.

Mr Speaker, there has been a new starter in the department welcoming Gemma Curd who replaced Andrew Gaudy. I am sure that Members will wish to be associated with my congratulations to Andrew and Kate on their safe arrival of their daughter Ede. Andrew's sterling work included the development of the Department's quality management system which has helped moved the Department forward.

Regulatory services were audited by Falkland Islands Government Internal Audit Department in late 2014, and by Air Safety Support International in early 2015. Both audits were very useful in suggesting the department has moved forward considerably and highlighting areas for further work. The Regulatory team also contributes to other regulatory acts and activities

such as current review of telecommunications. That concludes the quarter report for the Law and Regulation Directorate.

I now continue with the Treasury portfolio update. I will start with a brief update on the pension contribution consultation mentioned in my December update. The results from this consultation and recommendations were submitted to EXCO earlier this month. The results indicated that the general consensus was that a salary based scheme should not be progressed with 70% of respondents favouring the current model. The paper therefore proposed a number of different measures that could be introduced to protect sectors of the community, whilst maintaining the proportional link between contributions and final pension, and these measures will be ratified with the 2015/16 budget.

Following a tender exercise, consultants have been reappointed to undertake the biennial review of Falkland Islands Government investment strategy and comment on the performance of our investment managers. This review is anticipated to be completed in the next couple of weeks to provide Budget Select Committee with input into next year's budget deliberations.

The primary focus within the Treasury section this quarter has been on supporting directorates with preparing their budget for the 2015/16 financial year, collating budget submissions from departments and preparing reports for this year's budget cycle. So far, Budget Select Committee have met three times and have received presentations from subvention bodies and all Directors with their proposals for the next financial year. The external auditors are currently here for their interim visit to audit the Retirement Pension and South Georgia accounts, and last year's financial statements have now been signed, and as we heard earlier, laid before the Assembly today.

Before I finish I would like to end on some good news, Donna Henry who has been training as part of a succession plan within the Treasury since 2004 has been appointed as Financial Accountant Designate, with the view to moving into this role permanently once she completes her professional exams.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, you will also be aware that I sit on the Telecoms Working Group, and as Members were aware, we have been considering for some time a long term provision of telecommunications services to the Islands. In addition to work conducted within Falkland Islands Government, we commissioned a review from the independent consultancy firm, Cartesian, which reported recently. In addition, we obtained the views of consumers more broadly through surveys of residential and business customers. After consideration of options available to Falkland Islands Government, EXCO has decided the first step is to commence negotiations with Sure to explore the feasibility of a new licence for future telecoms provision with the existing provider. Falkland Islands Government officers will shortly be commencing this process with support from the Telecoms Working Group and overall direction from EXCO. Mr Speaker, I conclude my portfolio updates.

**Mr Speaker**

Any comments or questions from the Honourable Members?

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. Just one comment and a question if you don't mind. In terms of Retirement Pensions Contributions consultation, as the Honourable Member has said, we have had some very clear feedback in terms of peoples' preference for not moving to a salary based scheme. I have to say personally I was quite surprised by that feedback, though it was an overwhelming majority, and Members have quite rightly agreed that shouldn't be implemented. Personally, I thought maybe there was some compromised position we would help look at lower earners a bit more, but I think that's unlikely to happen, sadly, but it was just a note I was genuinely surprised by that. My Honourable Colleague mentions the investment review that's going on at the moment. Some time ago I'd raised a suggestion of looking and including a morality clause in the guidance for our Investment Managers such as you are not investing in certain industries that we collectively as an Assembly see as not really being keeping with our own personal morals and goals. I wonder if my Honourable colleague can tell me that is being considered at this stage?

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, a very short answer, and yes, it is being considered.

### **Mr Speaker**

Are there any other comments or questions?

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, I'd like to thank my Honourable Colleague for his reports from his Departments. Just one question please, I think this has been asked before, but I will continue to bleat about it. It concerns the electoral roll. He's quite correct, I did receive my letter from that department inviting me to let them know I was still alive and still a voter. Unlike last time I filled it in Post Office and took it straight around, but sometimes, as did happen to me once, I took it home, put it in a safe place, forgot about it and it was only when I started getting letters threatening to ex-communicate me or worse that I leaped into action. Do you think we could actually have an opt-in system? A voluntary system where this thing could be done paperless. So other words where they can just ping you an email and I ping it back to them letting them know I am still alive and kicking.

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I am sure that that is a possibility from the Registry and I can pass that back to the Registrar to consider. However, there is nothing like receiving a proper letter and receiving a proper letter back. You know my views of e-mails and the like, and I have already been previously told off by the Speaker for expressing my views on e-mails, so I would support strongly the continuation of a proper letter and proper response.

### **The Honourable Phyl Rendell**

Mr Speaker, I'd like to thank the Honourable Gavin Short for bringing up this particular matter. I have raised it in Executive Council some time ago, but I do think the years seem to

get shorter and we get these forms so regularly, and we do have to complete them and get signatures witnessed and return them to the Registry. I just would like to ask if we could review the Ordinance and perhaps remove this onerous task on all of us and it could perhaps only be required in the year of an election, because I really do think that it is quite a cumbersome approach, and it's a huge amount of work for the Registry, and I'd like the Honourable Gentlemen responsible for that area to perhaps look into why we could not possibly have a change to the Ordinance and have this only occur once every 4 years or so. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Phyl Rendell for her comments, and I would be delighted to take that back to the Registry.

**The Honourable Mike Summers**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Honourable Roger Edwards for his report, and in particular the report on the work of the Law and Regulation Department in respect of legislation. In October of last year, we had a huge session of the Legislative Assembly that dealt with the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Bill, the Crimes Bill, a Tourism Bill, the Immigration Bill, and I believe one other. Since that date we've dealt with only one piece of legislation in this House of any substance, and that was an amendment Bill to the Pensions Ordinance. He mentions a number of items of legislation that are currently being worked on and I wonder whether he can give us any further advice on the sort of speed with which these are likely to come forward, and whether they will come in huge lumps or whether they can be spread in successive Assemblies as time goes by.

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my update, they would be coming forward to this House within the coming weeks and months. Although we're up to strength from a lawyer and officer point of view, they do lack office support, and so much of the work done in the Chambers is not actually fulfilling the role that they are there to do. They're doing other office type work, so that slows down the overall production of this legislative drafting, but I can assure the Honourable Member, Mike Summers, that we will try and bring these papers to the House in a orderly manner. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Speaker**

Any other comments, questions?

**Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

The Honourable Ian Hansen

## **The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, my quarterly portfolio update I will begin with a few points from Central Services, and just run through briefly some things that may be of interest to people.

On Aviation, I guess residents of Stanley will have noticed the increase in helicopter activity from Stanley Airport in recent weeks. This is in support of the current oil campaign and this followed a successful re-certification of the airport by the independent safety advisors and, of course, while this is happening it has a positive impact on Falkland Islands Government revenue.

On Radio, the FM repeater which is installed at Port Howard is working well. There has been an acceptance test done on it by an individual and a Falkland Islands Government employee. This was done last week so that's been signed off. Further infill repeaters will be installed at Fox Bay, Mount Kent and North Arm in the near future hopefully, not necessarily in that order, that is to improve reception in these areas and after that there will be smaller repeaters put at locations that need them. The Mount William mast maintenance work and repairs for the medium wave transmitter have been completed by a team of riggers, and that transmitter is back on air. Though I do believe that on the far West in some place it's not as strong as it has been in the past, so that may need some adjusting.

Concerning the Leisure Centre, I'd just like to mention the very successful Gala that was held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, which I think involved around about 35 young swimmers, ranging from children who are just beginning to get their confidence in the pool, to those who are competing in the Islands Games in Jersey later this year.

Moving onto Fox Bay Village, Falkland Islands Government officers are working with Stanley Services to finalise plans to upgrade the fuel depot at Fox Bay. This will modernise the infrastructure and improve the environmental safeguarding, and from the consumers perspective, a fuel system will be installed to allow customers to purchase fuel on a self-serve basis, that will be diesel, petrol and kerosene I believe, which will be a significant benefit not only to Fox Bay residents, but also to the surrounding communities and to visitors. I believe that the new tank is arriving in May, so hopefully shortly after that work should commence.

On the Court service side of things, there have been delegates from UK and Ascension, they were here on 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March for a Coroners' conference, and this was a multi-agency training event, Police, Hospital, Courts covering all the work of all the agencies involved in the Coronial process, and I believe this also included sessions with the FCO and Ministry of Defence. This, of course, allowed training for local practitioners, Fire Department, Media etc. whose work will all touch upon that area.

There is an on-going recruitment of new Justices of the Peace for the Summary Court, and this is in conjunction with His Excellency the Governor. Interviews are to take place in April and I believe there is a large pool of candidates, and this is probably down to the success of the open evening that was held just before Christmas. I think this is an opportune time to thank Mrs Judy Summers, who is stepping down from Justice of Peace service at the end of May. This is after 25 years of being a JP, and I would like to thank her for her input over all

those years. That concludes the brief update on Central Services. I will now move on to Human Resources, which I have a few points to mention.

The most significant issue within Human Resources at this time is imminent change of staffing. Graeme Jackson, the director of HR, will be departing to take on a new appointment with the Cayman Islands Government. I guess the lure of a larger portfolio and warmer weather have clearly been factors in his decision making. But I would like to thank Graham for the work he has done in his time here, and I wish him and his family well for the future. Personal circumstances are largely responsible for other changes in HR, and I would also like to add my thanks and appreciation to the whole of the team, which has actually resulted in HR delivering some real improvements over the last year. There is still much to do, but a good level of response to the adverts are out there. If we get a good level of response, I am confident that the improvement engendered will continue.

There is an area of potential concern I would like to highlight, as I believe it will require consideration in the coming months, and that is our occupational health provision, I believe it is fairly fragile and the temporary arrangements (that were put in place about 18 months ago) are unlikely to be sustainable for much longer. The services currently rely on the goodwill of a small number of people, and of course, for which we are extremely grateful. But occupational health is an essential component of good employment practice and we need to ensure that the service provision is effective. I believe that the Director of Health and the Director of HR are looking at putting something together, and I look forward to seeing those recommendations in the near future.

And finally, the ongoing discussion, which is pretty much island wide, are about the turnover of contract officers and it is clear to everyone that there is an issue there. Over the last four years, 74 people completed their full contract turn; however 27 did not, serving an average of nine months before leaving. I am aware that from research conducted by the HR Department last year, that there were varied reasons for contract officers to leave early. However the main reasons were related to the contract or job, and not being as expected or finding the job was having a negative impact on their careers. Significantly, because of the lack of access to continuous professional development, and I believe (well it's my opinion) that these are both areas that need investment, as otherwise there is significant cost in extra recruitment, but more importantly disruption to the delivery of essential services because of gap and a lack of continuity. I know that the Director of HR did prepare a report with recommendations, sometime last year, but I was very remiss and forgot to ask him where that report is, but I shall be seeking an update and finding out when that report will be coming to the Assembly.

Mr Speaker, that concludes my report.

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for that update on his portfolio. He mentioned the Stanley Services move to upgrading the fuel supply at Fox Bay, which I welcome. But he didn't mention gas, and I wondered if he just left that off his list of diesel petrol and kerosene, and perhaps for those listening, perhaps he can give an indication as to when we are likely to see this fuel facility in full operation.

### **The Honourable Ian Hansen**

I thank the Honourable Roger Edwards for that question, and I apologise for missing out mentioning gas. That will be available as well, of course. It won't be a self-service issue; somebody will have to be there to deliver that or to give it to the people who wish to collect it. An exact timeline for when this will be up and running I don't know as I said the tank will be arriving in May, they will have to be put in and I guess bunding will have to be completed. I will make enquiries as to, if there is a distinct timeline for when this will happen or timescale, but I would imagine that it will be a few months after the work is started, but I couldn't guarantee that.

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I thank you for his answer.

### **The Honourable Jan Cheek**

Just very briefly I might be able to throw a little more light on that. I have actually seen a picture of the tank sitting in the factory; as long as it gets on the ship as planned it will be here on time. However there has been some detailed survey work done on the diesel tanks, which will involve some consultation with Government for work to be done.

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

My Honourable Colleague, of course, has a department that actually has cross-over into other departments, and I have a series of questions. I will start with two that might perhaps be able to be answered by colleagues round the table better than yourself and I am casting no aspersions upon your ability to answer my questions, but they are more detailed.

I was just thinking, you mentioned the re-certification of Stanley airport. I seem to remember some time ago that we had aircraft coming into the Falklands that had to go to MPA first, because we didn't have the necessary certification. Is that what you are referring to and can aircraft now come direct to Stanley rather than going to MPA first? That was one.

The self-service centre at Fox Bay, more power to your elbow, long overdue (and I think this is going to be a welcome addition), but for your average tourist, like myself, if I go to the West, would I be able to buy some sort of pre-charged card here in Stanley? I was just wondering if the mechanism has been thought of, and how it would work.

### **The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I thank the Honourable Gavin Short for his couple of questions there and I answer the second one first. I saw the Honourable Jan Cheek was nodding vigorously about your query about the cards, and I guess that's a yes.

The re-certification of the airport, I would have to make enquiries to be absolutely sure what I was talking about there. I am assuming it is to have the correct fire appliance down there for helicopters and other aircraft that may well come in, but perhaps the Honourable Roger

Edwards may know more about that than I do, but I am afraid I can't answer that in any great detail. I am sorry.

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Gavin Short for his question, which refers to my portfolio, and perhaps I didn't notice, but perhaps he was nodding off during my presentation, because I did say that it does now have new aerodrome certificate, which allows it to operate the helicopters etc. from it and also to receive international flights direct into Stanley airport and not having to go first to MPA, the first flight arrived on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, which was callsign LVWJE with a Uruguayan pilot bringing in six passengers to take part in the marathon, unfortunately the marathon runner had been injured, so although they came in he didn't actually take part in the marathon and they left on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, so yes we are receiving international flights in and out of Stanley airport. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank my Honourable Colleagues for their replies to my questions, and I am actually glad I did miss the bit about re-certification there, or I would not have learned about the aircraft that came in with those passengers. My last question though is more serious, basically I have heard and you have alluded to it in your report, that we are having some interesting times with recruitment. Now there was a report, I know prepared, some time ago that you refer to; I would like to know where it is and why we haven't seen it. It has been sitting around, I think, for ages and has been sitting somewhere, something is holding it up and I believe as an Assembly we have a right to see that report, now if there is some internal feuding, (if I can call it that within Government) that's stopping it coming to us. May I ask that we get that report in its raw form; I think we do have a right to see what is going on.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

I thank the Honourable Member for his comments and as I said, I was very remiss in forgetting to ask the Director of Human Resources yesterday, when I spoke to him, about the report and it was only this morning that I realised that I hadn't done that, but I shall be doing that and finding out where it is, because I believe it was sometime around October/November last year, I think that report was completed, but I may be wrong about that. But I will certainly make enquiries.

**The Honourable Gavin Short**

I thank him for that and I do look forward to seeing it, if possible, within the calendar month.

**The Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member introduced a very interesting statistic in terms of number of contract officers not completing their term. I wonder if he has any further information to hand or whether he can provide any, perhaps through the means of this report or otherwise, about whether the 25% or so people who are not completing their contract are

associated with any particular directorate or any particular part of the government or whether it is across the board.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

I thank the Honourable Mike Summers for that question and I don't have that information in front of me at the moment, but it certainly will be, it is certainly there in the research, and I can inquire about and will do.

**The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE**

Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for his report. I would like to go back to FM Radio; I think he was hoping he escaped any questions on the subject. Just really I would like to ask you a question, and perhaps you may not have the answer, but you could provide it, particularly for the listeners (if they can hear us). You mentioned there would be transmitters going into Fox Bay, Mt Kent and North Arm. I think we all very much welcome that to strengthen the service, but we didn't have a timescale for that, I wondered if the equipment is currently here and if you could provide a timescale please.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

I thank the Honourable Phyl Rendell for that question. The exact time scale, I cannot answer, because some of it will be weather related and some of it will be waiting for some equipment to arrive. There is one more repeater, similar to the one at Port Howard that is ready to be installed at, I'm not sure if it is Mount Kent or Fox Bay, to be honest. But there is one here and the others will be on order, now that the Port Howard one has been signed off others have been ordered because we know they work. There is one smaller repeater here which I believe is being installed on Bleaker Island shortly, and once that has been proved to work other small ones will be ordered as well to infill the places that have been earmarked. So we are probably looking at, again it is a finger in the air, but I would say probably 3-6 months before everybody is up and running, I may be wrong about that as well.

**The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE**

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for that reply, but perhaps if we could get a timeline so people do know when it might happen in their area.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Yes, Mr Speaker, I can supply that and get that put out.

**The Honourable Jan Cheek**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. I am a self-confessed radio addict. I cannot operate in any domestic or other duty unless I have my radio with instant news to hand. I am very pleased that the medium wave transmitter is back on, because even in my house, in Stanley, with a variety of radios from the cheapest to the flashiest Sony, I do have difficulty in some parts of the house getting FM at times, whereas I can always get medium wave in any part of the house, out in the Camp or in my vehicle. Can we have an assurance that the medium wave

transmitter isn't going to be allowed to finally die as was originally suggested, when the proposal for better FM came in.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Jan Cheek for that query. As far as I am aware there is absolutely no intentions to let that transmitter die. It is part of the contract that exists with FM, but I am more than happy to get that confirmed.

**The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my Honourable colleague will be pleased to know that I am not going to talk about the FM radio or any other related matters. But I think it is just to echo the comments he made, I think many members agree with since the appointment of Graeme Jackson as the director of HR we have seen a significant improvement in the efficiency of that department and I wish him well in his new post and I hope there is no significant delay in recruiting someone to replace him, bearing in mind the other changes in staff that are going on in that department.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

I thank the Honourable Dr Elsby for that comment, and recruitment is under way as we speak, and of course we hope that it won't be delayed in any other way.

**The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for his update, and I apologise this is a burden in having such a wide range in portfolio. He made a very interesting point about occupational health service and this potentially being an issue over the coming months, and from my understanding, I think there has been a conversation going on within FIG about the role and the value of occupation health service for a number of years now, and also questions of what should be done publicly and what should be done privately. I have to say before I worked in the hospital for a short amount of time I had no understanding of what an occupational health service did, but having worked there for a couple of years I got understand it a bit and in my mind, it is absolutely essential that we have proper occupational health provision in the Islands, and absolutely there is a debate to be had about what is provided within government, and what's done in the private sector. Would my Honourable Colleague agree with me that this is an issue that MLAs should be discussing as a matter of urgency and giving a clear steer to the Civil Service and saying we genuinely believe there should be an occupational health service and we need to make sure it is properly staffed and funded. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Honourable Michael Poole for that comment and question. Of course, I am purely looking at this from a HR perspective of how, if occupational health provision isn't in place then it delays the time people are getting into post, that is where I am coming from on the concern part, but I do agree with you that it is

important, but it is quite possible maybe the Honourable Mike Summers who holds the hospital portfolio may wish to comment from that side.

**The Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

Mr Speaker, I am happy to hear from the Honourable Ian Hansen that the Directors of Human Resources and Health Services are discussing the issue and I have absolute confidence that if there are any issues of policy that Members need to discuss then the Director of Health Services and the Director of Human Resources will bring them to us.

**The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members; if I can put my doctor's hat on at the moment, first declaring an interest because my wife runs a private occupation health service. I would just like to pick up on what my Honourable Colleague Michael Poole said. I think it is important, occupational health I think is vital to any industry be it private or public and it's a misperception of what occupational health is there for. It is not to sign people off, it is to work with the employer to try and get that worker back into work as quickly as possible with whatever modifications are needed, so I welcome the fact that Government is looking at recognising the importance of that and trying to make it of an important part of our service.

**Mr Speaker**

Are there any other comments or questions? No.

**Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

The Motion for Adjournment

**The Acting Chief Executive**

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

**The Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, I have a couple of issues to raise today. To note that the representatives of the Lucy Faithful Foundation who prepared the original report into child safeguarding in the Falklands and who provided the blueprint for much of the work that has been carrying on in recent weeks, are back here again, both Mr Mike Sheath (who was here before), and a police advisor. I would just like to urge all members of the community, who have the opportunity to engage with them to do so, because their review will be crucial to us in understanding the progress that we have made (we think we've made a lot), but it will be important that they either validate that or point out any remaining deficiencies. So any: organisation, any group, any person and any individual who has the opportunity to engage with them please do.

Now I would just like to say a quick word here about a paper that was put to the Executive Council yesterday, about elderly care services because I know many members of the community are keen on the progress that is being made in terms of providing additional

facilities in elderly care. Initial discussions that took place on this subject at the back end of last year, were originally designed to talk about what sort of facility we were going to build to replace the west end of the hospital where the people are inappropriately housed, but it very rapidly developed into a broader discussion about care for the elderly generally and care for those in vulnerable positions, and so the Executive Council paper that was approved yesterday about developing older people's services sets out a methodology for us to look at what we are doing in terms of care for the elderly more generally so we start with care in the home, which is a very important aspect of the service we provide, and it's provided by a number of people within the Government: the district nurses, the social services, obviously the hospital itself, some important volunteer organisations and individual volunteers who visit old people, and the role of the family attendance allowance is crucial in being able to keep older people in their homes. We do probably need to be more broad minded about developing a system of modifications to people's houses if required to give them longer at home, which most people would want to have, that's sort of the first part of the building block.

The second part is, of course, sheltered accommodation and we already have 26 units and they are all full but there isn't a strong waiting list, so that is probably okay for the moment. There we rely on the warden, the social services and district nursing staff, as well as "meals on wheels" for regular visits to sheltered accommodation, and indeed to other people in their homes, so that there is constant contact with people to see if they have other needs. So that is the second part of the building block.

The third that we currently have, which is regarded as unacceptable, is the accommodation in the west end of the hospital, and a key element of this whole project will be to discuss what we are going to have to replace that. The Director has already done some interesting and useful work on what he calls advanced care services, this is the concept of having a call facility and perhaps accommodation units around it so that people can either rent or buy for the remainder of their lives. It is a very well established system in Australasia and I know I have visited a couple of those. So to advise the public really that these discussions are kicking off in earnest, and there will be an extensive public discussion on how the care for the elderly system is going to be designed and going to work. The next public meeting in early April is designed to be a health services meeting so I will be inviting the Director and his staff to make some presentations on this project as well as other elements to the health service at that public meeting.

Finally from me, just to say thank you very much indeed to Russ La Forte and Gillian for their time here in the Falklands. Russ, of course, has been Commander British Forces for the best part of two years and has made some great progress in the work that the Forces have done here during that time. Gillian, of course, has worked in the hospital for most of the time she has been here and provided very valuable service to us all and we are very grateful for that, we wish you both good luck and good fortune in your future, I support the motion.

### **The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE**

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would first like to comment on FIMCO and the abattoir as we are currently half way through the export season, and talking to the General Manager he tells me that the processing is going well this year, we have learnt a great deal about condition scoring, we had a chap come out from the United Kingdom to give us instructions on how to put our hands on our animals and see what fat score they have and to measure that, and that

was really useful (that was in late January), and we are now having really encouraging results coming through the abattoir, which results in better sales income for farmers. Livestock I have been told is overall quite similar to livestock in other good grass growing years, so that is encouraging, but farmers of course need to be planning for the years when we don't have such good grass growth, and they will need to look at food supplementation over winter and spring to maintain the standards we are currently enjoying.

On the sale side, the General Manager tells me that mutton sale prices are as good as last year, and if not perhaps a little bit better, but there is still a struggle with lamb prices as we sell into the European Union.

I would just like to thank all of those that were involved with the Malo Bridge repair. As we know the Honourable Gavin Short announced that it is open again and that is very welcomed by farmers in that area, not only to bring stock into the abattoir, but through the winter months a lot of beef comes from that part of the North Camp, so we are really pleased to have that bridge up and running so promptly, I think it goes to show what can be done with air freight and shipping these days and how promptly we have been able to get large pieces of equipment into the Falklands, so thank you to everybody involved with that.

Secondly I would like to comment on camp sports, mini sports here in Stanley and the agricultural show that is going to take place at Goose Green on Saturday. I think camp sports is an old tradition and on both East and West Falkland and in Stanley, and many people are involved in organising these events so people like myself can go out and enjoy them, particularly at Goose Green. I think we will have to look to see how old those camp events are, we know have had the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stanley Sports Association, I would like to think perhaps that Darwin Harbour Sports Association might even be older, I am sure someone will get in touch with me and tell me. I think, the West Falkland one has been held for over 100 years. We also need to give credit to the people who participate in these events and for my part particularly, those with horses who enable us to watch horse racing, rear and train the horses for the racetrack in Stanley and out in Camp, and those who encourage young people to ride, and I think at Goose Green we witnessed a great number of young people, whose friends and parents have encouraged to work with horses and to ride. I am actually quite optimistic about the future of racing in the Falkland Islands having seen all those young people, and I hope they will be encouraged to participate as they get older and keep the traditions going. I think we should all be supporting those activities wherever we possibly can. I also would like to commend people to go to the agricultural show at Goose Green on Saturday, this is a great opportunity for people that are not close to our farming community, that perhaps live in Stanley, to go out and just see what it's all about, so I hope people go and have a good day out and learn about farming in the Falkland Islands.

Lastly I'd just like to say some words to Russ to thank him for all his work in the community and supporting our activities over the last two years. I've enjoyed working with him over the last 15 months on Executive Council as an MLA. I would also like to comment that I think the statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday by the Minister about the commitment of the United Kingdom to our defence here in the Falkland Islands to allow us to live in peace and develop our economy was most welcome, and I'm quite sure that Russ and his team played quite a key part in steering the outcome of that review and pointed what was required at Mount Pleasant, not only in the equipment required to retain our level of defence, but also in guiding HMG on the development and improvement of the facilities at Mount Pleasant,

which I'm sure be very welcome. I'd just like to say we really are pleased to see the Chinook helicopters will be returning to the Falkland Islands, they went for a very good reason in 2006 and we very much welcome seeing them return. I wish you and Gillian all the best wherever you are in the future. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **The Honourable Jan Cheek**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. Firstly I'd like to say I welcome the report by the Honourable Mike Summers of the work that's been done on care for older people although I hope I won't need it for many, many, many more years to come, but I think that point about supporting people in their own homes, if that is their wish, is the most important. It can be just a few simple things like ramps, handrails, a walk-in shower that can transform lives and make them able to cope among their old familiar things and to hang on to the methods they have of getting through their daily life. If you uproot them, put them somewhere strange, sometimes people's ability to cope deteriorates very, very quickly.

I'd also like to join the Honourable Phyl Rendell in welcoming the recently announced long term commitment to the defence of our country. I'm guessing that the limited life of some of the infrastructure was based on the premise that Argentina would one day mature as a democracy and accept reality. The nigh on hysterical reported response from them to a bit of refurbishment and updating actually proves the need for the defence capability. The clue is in the word defence. Defence is only required because of their claim, but it's great if some useful training can also be undertaken while that defence is here. Unfortunately, it looks as though the infrastructure will be needed for many more years until Argentina can accept that the only relationship available to them with us is that is that of good neighbour. We've held out that hand for a long time and we patiently wait for them do likewise.

Of course, we are saying goodbye shortly to yet another Commander British Forces, I haven't counted how many I've known, and thank you Russ, we've had an excellent working relationship with you. You've kept us very well briefed throughout your time. So to you and Gillian, go with my very good wishes for everything you do in the future.

Someone else leaving us soon is the Head of Policy Jamie Fotheringham, who with his team has done an enormous amount of good work for us. Not only that, but its been produced in a very concise, clearly written format that even those of us who aren't economists, who don't pretend to understand some of the concepts, can understand and work with and so our decision making is better informed. I'm very sorry to see him go, he'll be hard to replace and I wish him every good fortune for the future. I support the Motion.

### **The Honourable Ian Hansen**

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I shall be very brief as I've seem to have done a lot more talking today than I normally do, so I think I've covered most of the things I would be addressing in my speech for adjournment.

I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the Honourable Phyl Rendell about the RBA Agriculture show that's happening this weekend. I was going to give that a plug, but she's done a very good job of that and I agree entirely that as many people who can get out there the better, I intend to go I'm sure it will be an excellent day out.

In the next couple of weeks we will also be holding our annual public meetings in Camp that we do. We will be going to Goose Green, Port Howard and Fox Bay. I think all available MLAs who are in the Islands will be attending along with the Director of Central Services who of course has a big role to play in that area. I think the General Manager of FIMCO and hopefully a work experience student who will be with us at the time. I actually expect to have a very good few days, I think they will be well attended and I'm quite sure a wide variety of topics will be discussed and we certainly won't get off lightly with anything, but we never do in Camp.

Lastly, of course, I too would like to add my thanks to Russ and Gill for their time here. You've certainly been a very popular couple, well respected certainly in the Islands, perhaps you not so much across the water, but certainly here and I wish you well for the future. Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in rising to support the Motion for Adjournment, I've got a bit of a mixed bag. If I could perhaps just start off with something that is a hangover from the last sitting of the House, when I asked my Colleague the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby about whether history was being taught in the schools here in the Falklands, and to what level. He has actually provided me with a formal answer which I believe will form part of the Record of this House, but I thought it would be nice just to pop it out on the air, so people know.

The reply I got was basically saying that the Infant and Junior School and Camp Education pupils explore local history every academic year. Teachers have produced resource packs for the local history projects. Infant and Junior School have the added advantage of having Cindy May as a member of staff, as she has a special interest in local history and was the curator at the Museum for some time during a career break. The material for teaching in the Community School is less well developed, but is something the Head is working on. The new History teacher, recently recruited in the UK, has a special interest in the Falkland Islands history and will be working on this as soon as he arrives, so I do welcome his reply. I thank him very much for it, and I'd just like reiterate that I see the teaching of Falklands history especially entwined with social history here in the Falklands, as being extremely important as we try to further our identity as Falkland Islanders. Only really knowing where you came from and how you got to be where you are can you really understand who you are as a people.

To touch on some PWD type matters, the asphaltting season continues apace, and whilst I would like to apologise to the motoring fraternity of the Falklands for what seems like a never ending series of road closure notices, we are attacking as much of the road system of Stanley that we can, and if all goes well, we will be eyeballing Brandon Road soon and that, of course, is going to cause a bit of a snarl up, but these works do have to be done. I've said in the past that our infrastructure is crumbling, and it is good to see that this season we are doing what we can to get a few bits back into a shiny happy state. I would like to say thank you to all my PWD staff, each and every one of you, you take a pride in what you do for our country and without you I think most of our infrastructure would creek to a halt. We can have some of the best legal departments in the world just to name one, but of course, without the

water, the sewerage, the light, Lord knows what else, everything, it would come to a halt pretty quickly.

It might be cheating, but I do think that the statement recently issued by PWD regarding the Malo Bridge repair and its return to service is worth reading out in this House so that forms part of the record. We actually issued the statement on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

“The Public Works Department is pleased to announce the reopening of the Marlow Bridge to its full capacity of 38 tonnes after repair work was completed Saturday afternoon March 21<sup>st</sup>. The method of the repair work replaced the damaged components in situ following temporary props being put in and put in place which is believed to be a world first. The approach avoided the need to buy additional components and de-launch and re-launch the bridge which would have increased the cost and time of repair. It gave an earlier completion date and avoided the additional expense of constructing a temporary crossing.

Thanks are offered to all those who were involved especially the onsite team which was Nunca Summers, Robbie Maddox, Geoff Greenough, Alex Igao and Andrew Alazia for the hard work and to safely and quickly complete the repair. Thanks are also extended to SAAS for facilitating the transfer and shipment of components at the earliest possible date and also to road users for their forbearance while the bridge was closed.”

That statement though, doesn't tell the entire story nor hint at the extreme pressure that the department was put under to have a knee jerk reaction and to either try do a local fix and let traffic through, which could well have led to the structure being further damaged and closed for a considerably longer space of time, or put in a culvert crossing, which by the way would still be under construction as I speak. Yes, we were lucky and the rains held off, it could have been a different story, but I still think the decision to go the way we did was the correct one. We should be really proud of what our crew achieved right through from the DPW, he had the faith in his staff both on the ground and in the Design Office etc. to accept their recommendations through of course to the Design Office staff, Rural Road Engineers and the lads themselves as this is, as far as the bridge manufacturers are concerned, a world first. That is a real feather in everyone's cap and the bridge manufacturers themselves have asked for an engineering report so they can see how we did it, and add it to their technical papers on what to do if your bridge is torpedoed.

I would also like to say a huge thanks to everyone at SAAS, and especially Jill Ford who had to put up with both myself, and I suspect about half of PWD, besieging her with jittery e-mails wondering where the parts were, whether they make the boat etc. If I could have, I certainly would have done a jig of happiness when I received her e-mail saying that the bits were on the boat and heading towards us. It was still a nervy day or three whilst we waited for the vessel to arrive and the parts to be released and examined to see that everything had made it through.

I am going to miss DPW Manfred Keenleyside when he hangs his boots up as he has been around the block enough times to know when to tell you everything, and when not to. In this case he omitted to say that what we were about to undertake had never been done before and save my nervous system from going into complete meltdown. As it was, I believe the bridge did spread a little when we got stuck into it, but with a little local ingenuity we got it back into shape again with a few chain winches and it allowed us to put the pins in and hold it in place.

The one real outstanding piece of work on the rural roads is Wall Stream and the capping of the road to Shallow Harbour where we have struggled to find a contractor to do the work. I believe that a bid has been made and a contract is either in the throes of being signed or already may have been so. If there are no contractual issues works will begin next season. The capping works will form a proposal that is being brought to the Transport Advisory Committee as part of the normal detailed expenditure plans for their approval and onward transmission to Executive Council. I can only apologise to the people affected by those parts of the road system. I am not happy that you will have to put up with the danger at Wall Stream and the appalling road surface to Shallow Harbour for one more winter. We tried all we could to get a contractor but such are the amounts of work required here in the Falklands at the moment that it has taken until now to get someone who has the capacity to take on the work.

I am fully aware that parts of the MPA road is down to bedrock in places, but please I would ask people to have some patience. We are down to two grader crews and they are busting a gut trying to get the grading done, but they can't be everywhere. We will be undertaking capping work on the MPA road fairly shortly. I believe this could go on through the winter months unless the weather gets too rough. It isn't going to be pretty, but I would ask people to bear with us, we are doing what we can with the crew that we have.

As I have said, we have a brilliant crew within the PWD and we should be looking after those that we have left, and to this end I would ask my colleagues to look favourably on giving a meaningful wage increase to the people who have stuck with us. I know we have some pretty extreme budgetary pressures, but a failure to reward the people that we do have left could actually prove a lot more expensive in the long run.

Now, as they say, to something completely different. I don't think any Falkland Islanders will need reminding that we are approaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, and for many of us that is when the time loop tape in our heads will start playing again, and for 74 days we will be reminded of the happenings of that time, or haunted by recollections and feelings and even remembered smells that we would rather not have.

However, arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April this year will be two altogether more welcome visitors and they are Dr Tony Pollard, who is Director at the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow, who will be accompanying a British veteran from 1982, Kevin Harris. Tony was down here a couple of years ago now. He actually caused quite a stir as I remember as he made contact with us and said he wanted to come down and take a look at our battlefields and do a scoping report. You may think that there was nothing really to get excited about in that respect, but Tony, of course, is an archaeologist and I well remember we got a bit excited thinking that he was wanting to rock up and start digging things up.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. He arrived and explained that what he wanted to do was to look at the sites, take photos and measurements and roughly catalogue what was there with a view to coming back one day to do a proper study/survey very much with a mind of preserving what was there, because he could see that it would slowly disappear either through the passage of time and oxidation or people removing items from the sites.

Whilst we may or may not like the fact, these battlefield sites such as Goose Green/Darwin, Tumbledown and also sites where an aircraft either crashed or was destroyed on the ground is part of our history and something that I have come to realise must somehow be protected to the best of our abilities, especially now as there are some visitors who have made no secret of the fact that it is their intention to strip the sites clean and take everything they can back to their country.

It is not just visitors from a country close to us who are at this, as it was brought to my attention recently that the site out at Mount Kent, where the remains of the helicopters are, has been picked almost bare and even to the extent that one regular road user watched as the turbos or engines from a helicopter migrated slowly towards the road. The person never actually spotted anyone on site doing this. I'm told that the PWD road gang returned this item back to where they thought it had originated but apparently it has started migrating once again towards the road. Now this is either a re-run of how stone runs formed or there has to be human intervention. I don't think this is a case of some visitor wanting to try and get something past the security at MPA and onto Lan Chile, and thence to its country of origin, but it rather makes me suspect that whoever is after this will probably want to ship it North.

To this end I would like to take this opportunity to ask Commander British Forces if he would be kind enough to make enquiries as to who checks Northbound containers/trucks/personal effects etc. at Mare Harbour, and ask that they are made aware that this may well be a route out of the Falklands for what is really part of our history.

Getting back though to Dr Tony Pollard, I have been in communication with him and he will be re-visiting some of the sites as well as taking a look at others, and it will be really interesting to hear from him just how changed he finds the sites that he has previously visited. I know that this is not my portfolio and I don't want to go tramping on any of my Honourable friends tootsies, and I fully accept that they will put proposals and ideas through the appropriate channels, but on this item they will have me wandering around in the background keeping an eye on things and probably getting under their feet a bit as Falklands history and in particular the seeming stripping of our artefacts from a period in the history of the Falklands that was pivotal, interests me very much.

And now from the sublime almost to the ridiculous, at least the first part is not ridiculous. I really would like to express my thanks to the British Government for their statement in the House of Commons regarding the defence of the Falkland Islands. It has been well received here in the Falklands. Going by the somewhat lurid headlines that awaited me as I switched on the radio in the morning before the statement was actually made in the House; I did wonder whether I should dig out my Second World War tin helmet and don it before heading out for my early morning bit of baccy.

As often happens with these things, the statement whilst being robust, was pretty mundane stuff. No extra troops, no intercontinental ballistic missiles being stationed here in the Falklands, but rather the return of our two Chinook helicopters, the replacement of the dear old Rapier short range anti-aircraft missiles, and the announcement of a huge investment of money in such provocative and threatening projects such as a new power station and school.

This has not stopped the Argentine press and government going into complete meltdown and the screeches or perhaps that's tweets of CFK could be clearly heard across the 300 miles of water that separates us even if you were hard of hearing.

We do though have friends in Argentina, people who believe we have the right to self-determination. They are a very small percentage, but I was talking to one yesterday who was telling me what was being heard on radio and TV and they said that what was being said in Argentina, you would honestly think the UK was about to invade. Stories about thousands of troops being sent to the Falklands, two warships being diverted from the Gulf down here to the Islands and it would seem like the old expression of never let the truth get in the way of a good story has certainly come into play in Argentina.

I see now that dear old Hector Timmerman is off to protest at the United Nations. For me, this is the icing on the cake as his earlier performance is a comedy classic with him showing pictures of secret military sites which we here in the Falklands immediately recognised as being parts of our rural telephone networks and the BAS array at Goose Green which probably would only be a danger to you if it fell on your head or you flew into the thing. Why do I get the feeling that his performance at the United Nations this time may even surpass his earlier gig.

I would finally like to join of my colleagues in my thanks to the outgoing Commander British Forces. You have served both your troops and the Falklands well, and I wish you and your wife obviously every success for the future, you are both really are going to be missed. I'm sorry that you aren't getting thousands more troops, ICBMs, twenty more Typhoon aircraft plus the Queen Elizabeth and the carrier escort group etc. as a farewell gift, but more power to your elbow and to all those who deter any naughtiness by the neighbours and defend our country.

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, like my colleagues Ian Hansen I've already said enough today so I will be very brief. I too welcome the defence statement a couple of days ago, our right to self-determination has been supported by consecutive British Governments and I think it was our own referendum here in the islands that made them realise that we're here and we require defence for the long haul. I know in the two years that Russell La Forte has been here it has been in the forefront of his mind because every high ranking officer and visitor we've ever had he has badgered them for the return of the Chinooks and pointing out the upgrades that are needed in the Islands. So we thank you Russ because I'm sure much of that statement was down to your very hard work here on the ground, so thank you very much. We must also thank Russell for bringing his wife along who's done sterling work in the hospital, and even a daughter who we've had working within the legal department. So thank you very much everything you've done, and we will be sorry to see you go.

Already my colleague Jan Cheek mentioned Jamie Fotheringham who is going. I have been away with Jamie several times to international fora with him, to the EU, to the JMC, to Overseas Countries and Territories Associations, and I can assure everyone listening that the EU have seriously recognised the very high quality of Jamie's work. If there's ever a report or a statement needed to be made at one of those meetings it always seems to fall on Jamie to actually get everyone's, the clarity of vision, the thoughts organised of whole meeting, and

Jamie can seem to gather all that together and put it down on a piece of paper in a sensible way. So, I personally, will be very sad to see him go, but thank him for all the superb work that he has done here and internationally.

Finally, I'd like to remind people that tomorrow evening we'll be seeing the Island Parish being showed on our television screens. Back last December I was fortunate enough to go to a preview of the Island Parish in the SoHo Hotel in London, and while I was there I was absolutely staggered when one of the invited guests said to me 'why does the vicar have such a starring role' and all I could think of well surely the clue in the title but hey, I hope you enjoy Island Parish tomorrow. Thank you Mr Speaker.

### **The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I too will be brief. I think the last time most of us were in this Chamber was when we were witnessing the debate by the Youth Parliament just a few weeks ago. I think that was a very, very good event, certainly it generated more interest. There were more people viewing the debate than are here today, so I think we need to learn something from that. But I think it was very successful and I hope it will continue and Mr Speaker as you know yourself, the Honourable Michael Poole and myself met with those students and their teachers a few days ago in the school to debrief I suppose, how did they feel it went and what would we do better next time and so we hope to have the next debate sometime in June. We would encourage any students or any young people that wished to be involved to make contact with myself or the Honourable Michael Poole or Mr Speaker or indeed if they're in a school indeed with their teachers there, because we don't want to restrict it to those 8 pupils, we want to extend it out and I think it will extend out as people begin to realise just how good a forum it is.

The other thing I want to touch on briefly is the presence of the Lucy Faithful team here, and I want to echo the comments by my Honourable Colleague Mike Summers who said it's good to have them back here again. It's been a difficult time this community getting to grips with what went on, but I think we have made huge strides in that, and I think we should be proud of that. We should be very pleased that our social services department is completely different now. A very much a better place. It's very much on top of things, and I think that this report we will get from the Lucy Faithful team this time will recognised those improvements, those significant improvements we've made, and of course, that report will be published. The one thing regarding children that still concerns me in some way, is the access to the free internet service at night time, and whilst we all welcome that for various reasons, it never the less carries risks for children when they are not being supervised. I was struck a few days ago when I was meeting a group of students, probably 14-15 year olds, and we were chatting about various things, and then we got talking about their holiday they had and their comments, half of the group said during half terms and things like that I change my sleeping patterns so I stay awake until 3-4 in the morning using the internet and then I go to bed then, and get up late in the morning or early in the afternoon, and that shocked me because as a parent, if that was my child doing that, I'd be very concerned what they're accessing. So it's a difficult problem to deal with, I'm not suggesting we ban that free service at night, far from it. But I think we need to give very careful consideration as to how we can help parents avoid their children accessing information and pornography and things like that which we would never wish them to see, and it's a very difficult thing to do, but I hope that the Lucy Faithful group that's here might have some suggestions on that because it's not unique to the Falkland

Islands when young people have access to the internet, be it free or otherwise, they will access sites that we perhaps as parents would not wish them to see.

The only other thing I wish to touch on is the fact, I think as my Honourable colleague Gavin Short mentioned, that during this budget process already we've started talking about the minimum wage and we hope that minimum wage will increase, remembering that minimum wage at the moment is barely over £5 an hour which is very low indeed and I think that needs to increase, but more importantly is the recognition of the concept of the living wage and the work that's been done by the Policy Unit and others to recognise that really to live reasonably the basic minimum wage to live in the Islands is approaching £7.50 an hour, and I do hope FIG as a large employer in the Islands will start to work towards the recognition that that level is the minimum wage that we should be targeting and, as I think has been said before, there are not many people working for Government who aren't already paid that minimum wage, but we need to look carefully at that.

Finally, I too would like to extend my best wishes to Russ when he leaves and to his wife and family. I've had the pleasure of working with Russ on Executive Council and as an MLA, but I've also had the pleasure of working with your wife on the ward when I was a doctor and she was a nurse there, so I wish you both well for the future. Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the benefit of speaking last is obviously I can just echo the fine words have gone before me, and I begin by echoing those that have been said to Commander British Forces. Thanks very much for your advice and support, and I think you leave a real legacy in terms of the long term perspective that was reiterated in the House earlier this week, and that's very positive and I'm sure you're very proud of it, and also we as a House look forward to welcoming your replacement, Commodore Bone, in due course.

Just a couple of other quick points, Mr Speaker. I was away for most of the month of February on holiday in the UK and since returning I have to say it's been a really quite exciting time. It's been a lot big pieces of work starting to come fruition, there is a long way to go with most of these projects, but we've seen a number of papers to Executive Council in recent weeks on some really quite hefty issues such as your Telecom provision, as has been mentioned, enhanced provision for elderly care, work on strengthening our maritime regime that we discussed just yesterday, and also work at looking at streamlining the maritime customs clearance procedures as well which is great to see, and that's in addition to your really big piece of work on the Retirement Pension Scheme, and we also have half a day booked in next week to think about how we kick off a discussion around Immigration Strategy in the Islands. It's really good to see all of that moving and thanks to the entire Civil Service for their hard work on those issues.

That leads me nicely onto FIG Head of Policy. As I say, we've already offered our thanks to him as a House, but I don't think it's an exaggeration to say a lot of the process for public consultation and kind of the evidence base decision making that's currently in place within FIG has come from him and his team's hard work, and again similar to CBF in terms of his legacy of a long term view, I think Jamie leaves a legacy of really high quality decision making processes so our sincere thanks to him for that. Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

## **Commander British Forces**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members will probably have noted to some relief I've not made a habit of speaking to the House, certainly at any length over the last two years, but I'd firstly like to respond to the very kind words expressed by all Members today towards Gillian and I and indeed we are very grateful for that. As it's already been alluded to, on Tuesday this week the Secretary State for Defence addressed Parliament announcing the outcome of a review into the defensive posture in the Falkland Islands. The statement is available to the members of the public on the website, I would commend that statement not just to this House, but of course to all listeners today. In fact, I'm personally delighted by the Secretary of State's statement and the outcome the review to which he refers. I particular welcome the long term investment in infrastructure here as well, of course, to the return of military support helicopters. The review reaffirms the UK's absolutely steadfast commitment to safeguarding the right to self-determination of the Falkland Islands and the security of your beautiful islands whatever the threat may arise, and this is a task to which it is our privilege to serve here in the South Atlantic. In the statement of Secretary of State also stated my quote "safeguarding our citizens and their way of life remains the most important responsibilities of Her Majesty's Government and the Ministry of Defence". I agree whole heartily with that statement, indeed this was the principal reason I joined the Royal Air Force some 37 years ago, and since then I've served in operations all over the world and I can think of no better conclusion to my career than to have the honour of doing my bit to safeguard the way of life of my fellow citizens in the South Atlantic.

And so Gillian and I approach the end of our two year tour in the Falkland Islands, and what will we miss the most? Well, ladies and gentlemen, that is very simple. We will miss you, the Falkland Islanders, we will miss your warmth, your hospitality, your friendship and your support and your community spirit. I would join Members in encouraging everyone to visit the Goose Green Agricultural show this Saturday. I indeed will be there during the day and during the evening. I understand there maybe a band performing in the community hall, watch this space.

In conclusion, Gillian joins me in thanking you for your friendship and support and we wish you the Falkland Islanders every continued success in determining your future, and it is for you alone to determine your future into future years as you continue to desire the right.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

## **Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, may I too add my good wishes to Commander British Forces and to Gillian for your future.

The House stand adjourned accordingly.

**Responses to Supplementary Questions asked at the Legislative Assembly Meeting held on the 26 February 2015**

**Question number 1 by the Honourable Gavin Short**

Is the Falkland Islands History formally taught in schools and if it is, is there a formal written syllabus that any teacher could utilise?

**Response**

Infant Junior School and Camp Education pupils explore local history every academic year. Teachers have produced resource packs for local history projects. The Infant Junior School have the added advantage of having Cyndi May as a member of staff as she has a special interest in local history and was curator at the museum for some time during a career break.

The material for teaching in the Community School is less well developed, but is something the Head is working on. The new history teacher recently recruited in the UK has a special interest in Falkland Island history and will be working on this as soon as he arrives.

**Question number 2 by the Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

How many apprenticeships are being funded privately and separately by the private sector?

**Response**

There are currently nine people employed on the apprenticeship programme, six apprentices are gaining their experience through various Government departments and three work through private sector companies.