



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

**HELD AT THE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, STANLEY**

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025

**RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HELD AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, STANLEY
THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025**

Speaker of the House
(Mr Keith Biles OBE JP)

MEMBERS (Ex-Officio)

The Acting Chief Executive
(Dr Andrea Clausen)

The Honourable Financial Secretary
(Mr Pat Clunie)

Elected

The Honourable Teslyn Siobhan Barkman
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Peter Julian Basil Biggs
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable John Birmingham
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Jack Ford
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Lucila Leona Vidal Roberts (Leona Roberts)
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

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

The Honourable Roger Kenneth Spink
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND

The Attorney General
(Mr Simon Young)

Commander British Forces, South Atlantic Islands
(Brigadier Daniel Duff)

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY: Mrs Claire Law

PRAYERS: Revd Hayley Argles-Grant

APOLOGIES

The Honourable Chief Executive
(Mr Andy Keeling)

The Honourable Mark John Pollard
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

Clerk Of The Assembly
(Mrs Cherie Clifford)

CONTENTS

Prayers	6
Statement by The Speaker: In memory of the late Ian Hansen	6
Confirmation of the Records of Legislative Assembly 30 January 2025	6
Papers to be Laid on the Table by the Acting Chief Executive	6
Motions	
Motion No 02 of 2025 by the Honourable Roger Spink	8
Report to The Legislative Assembly from the Statute Law Commissioner Application of United Kingdom Laws (Reporting period: 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025) submitted under section 25 of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017	
Motion No 03 of 2025 by the Honourable Financial Secretary	11
That it is resolved by this Legislative Assembly, under section 3 of the Loans Ordinance 1979:	
(a) to authorise the Financial Secretary to raise the following loans:	
(i) a series of loans totalling one hundred and fifty million pounds, for a period of up to 25 years, in accordance with proposals approved by Executive Council at their meetings of 26 November 2024 and 6 February 2025; and	
(ii) a “Lombard” type loan facility, enabling the borrowing of up to forty million pounds for an unlimited period, in accordance with proposals approved by Executive Council at their meeting of 26 November 2024;	
(b) that the purposes for which the moneys borrowed may be applied are any capital expenditure approved by Executive Council under the Falkland Islands Government’s capital programme.	
(a)	
Portfolio Reports	
The Honourable John Birmingham	14
The Honourable Roger Spink	21
Motion for Adjournment	
Motion to remove the wording <i>Sine Die</i> from the Motion for Adjournment	25

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman	27
The Honourable Roger Spink	28
The Honourable Gavin Short	28
The Honourable Peter Biggs	29
The Honourable John Birmingham	29
The Honourable Jack Ford	30
The Honourable Leona Roberts	31

Record of the Meeting of the Legislative Assembly
Thursday 27 February 2025

Prayers

Mr Speaker

Would you please remain standing as a mark of respect and in memory of our erstwhile colleague, the late Ian Hansen.

Ian was, for many years, an elected Member of this House representing the Camp constituency. He had first hand experience of the trials and tribulations, as well as the joys, of living and working in Camp, and served his constituents there, as well as the community at large, with care and dedication.

He will be remembered fondly, and may he now rest in peace.

A silence was observed

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you a good morning and welcome to this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. My usual reminder please, that all electronic equipment and phones to be turned to silent.

Mr Speaker

Members, Ladies Gentlemen, thank you. Please be seated, and I welcome you to this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. My usual reminder please to ensure that all electronic equipment and mobile phones are turned to silent or turned off.

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Confirmation of the Record of Legislative Assembly 30 January 2025.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I have before me a record of the last meeting of this Assembly. Is it your wish that I signed this as a true record? Aye. Thank you.

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Papers to be 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.

- Falkland Islands Government Financial Statements year ended 30 June 2024
- Pensions (Old Scheme) Fund year ended 30 June 2024

- Insurance Fund year ended 30 June 2024
- Capital Equalisation Fund 30 June 2024
- Currency Fund 30 June 2024
- Retirement Pensions Equalisation Fund 2024
- Currency (Commemorative Coins) Regulations 2025

The Acting Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I hereby lay the aforementioned papers on the Table.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, under Standing Order Section 41 (3) I move that the

- Falkland Islands Government Financial Statements year ended 30 June 2024
- Pensions (Old Scheme) Fund year ended 30 June 2024
- Insurance Fund year ended 30 June 2024
- Capital Equalisation Fund 30 June 2024
- Currency Fund 30 June 2024
- Retirement Pensions Equalisation Fund 2024
- Currency (Commemorative Coins) Regulations 2025

be noted. By way of explanation, the accounts are self-explanatory, and all contain an unqualified audit report.

On the Currency (Commemorative Coins) Regulations, Section 6(5)(a) of the Currency Ordinance 1987 gives the Commissioners of Currency the right to arrange for the minting of coins of such denominations, weight, form and design and made of such metal or metals as are prescribed by regulations.

These regulations prescribe the details for coins as set out in the Schedule. Regulation 4 provides for the deemed denomination of Crown and Sovereign coins and their value as legal tender which is necessary as there is no face value given for the coins.

Mr Speaker

Could I have a seconder please?

The Honourable Jack Ford

Mr Speaker I second the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, the Motion is that the Falkland Islands Government Financial Statements year 30 June 2024 as listed earlier, and the Currency (Commemorative Coins) Regulations 2025 are noted. Does any Honourable Member wish to speak to the Motion?

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker, a quick question for my Honourable Colleague, could he talk through please the process for the approval of the commemorative coins? This is a matter that we've discussed in another forum, and I've raised my concerns there. I do not love the designs, and I think that perhaps there is room for adjusting the approvals process to ensure that we have designs that that we can be proud of. I think, while this is a relatively trivial matter in the grand scheme of things, our coins are part of how we project into the world, and it's our reputation, I would like them to be something that we can be proud of. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, I'd like to thank my Honourable Colleague for her question. The coins are a matter for the Currency Commissioners, although in discussion with officers, we are looking at putting future coin issues through a body such as the Stamp Advisory Committee, etc, but we're waiting for officers to come back to us with that procedure and process.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Leona Roberts, are you content?

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am content.

Mr Speaker

Thank you.

Honourable Members, the Motion is that the Falkland Islands Government Financial Statements year 30 June 2024 as listed, and the Currency (Commemorative Coins) Regulations 2025 are noted. Is there any objection to passing this Motion? There is no objection. The Financial Statements and Currency (Commemorative Coins) Regulations 2025 are noted.

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Motions

Motion Number 02 of 2025 by the Honourable Roger Spink

Report to The Legislative Assembly from the Statute Law Commissioner Application of United Kingdom Laws (Reporting period: 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025) submitted under section 25 of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, under the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017, the Statute Law Commissioner is required to report regularly to the Assembly on new laws made in the United Kingdom.

This report covers the period 1 December 2024 to 30 January 2025, and is the first report made this year.

Submission of regular reports enables the Assembly to:

- consider all UK laws made in the period;
- understand which apply to the Falkland Islands; and
- make decisions about the adoption of UK laws.

The report covers **3 Acts** and approximately **230 statutory instruments**.

1. UK laws directly applied to FI

ACTS: No Acts or secondary instruments of direct application have been made during the reporting period.

2. Falkland Islands adoption of UK law

ACTS: No Acts have been made in the reporting period which apply automatically under the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017.

SECONDARY INSTRUMENTS: Three secondary instruments have been made in the reporting period which are automatically adopted under the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance (sections 23 and 24).

The first instrument makes minor technical amendments to weights and measures regulations in connection with Brexit. The amendments will have no practical implications for the Falkland Islands, but should continue to apply for simplicity, consistency and continuity in the application of UK laws.

The second instrument updates Family Procedure Rules which have been adopted in connection with practice and procedure in Falkland Islands courts. The Rules are adopted without modifications, meaning that the Courts must determine to what extent particular rules are relevant in the Falkland Islands.

Finally, amendment is made to regulations in connection with merchant shipping and the prevention of oil pollution. The amendment concerns an update to Annex 1 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 (MARPOL).

Annex 1 of MARPOL was extended to the Falkland Islands in 1995 and is given effect in the Falkland Islands by the adoption of the relevant UK regulations.

The amendment relating to Annex 1 prohibits the use of heavy fuel oil by ships operating in Arctic waters.

The amendment should continue to be adopted in the Falkland Islands to give effect to its international obligations under MARPOL, although the changes are unlikely to have any practical implications for Falkland Islands ships.

OTHER UK LAWS:

Finally, the Statute Law Commissioner has reviewed all other UK laws made during the reporting period, to consider whether to recommend to the Assembly that any of them should be adopted. No recommendations are made for adoption.

Thank you

The Attorney General

Mr Speaker I second the motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any Honourable Member wish to speak to that Motion? No. The Motion before the House is that the report to The Legislative Assembly from the Statute Law Commissioner on the Application of United Kingdom Laws (Reporting period: 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025) submitted to the House under section 25 of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017. Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that Motion is carried.

It is resolved by the Legislative Assembly that:

(a) the report dated 17 February 2025 made by the Statute Law Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly under section 25(5) of the Law Revision and Publication Ordinance 2017 is noted;

(b) the recommendations of the report are approved; and

(c) accordingly, no changes should be made in connection with any of the UK laws reported on.

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Motion No 03 of 2025 by the Honourable Financial Secretary

That it is resolved by this Legislative Assembly, under section 3 of the Loans Ordinance 1979:

- (c) to authorise the Financial Secretary to raise the following loans:
 - (j) a series of loans totalling one hundred and fifty million pounds, for a period of up to 25 years, in accordance with proposals approved by Executive Council at their meetings of 26 November 2024 and 6 February 2025; and
 - (iii) a “Lombard” type loan facility, enabling the borrowing of up to forty million pounds for an unlimited period, in accordance with proposals approved by Executive Council at their meeting of 26 November 2024;
- (d) that the purposes for which the moneys borrowed may be applied are any capital expenditure approved by Executive Council under the Falkland Islands Government’s capital programme.

The Honourable Financial Secretary

In November 2024 and earlier this month, proposals that the Falkland Islands Government enter into a number of loans were approved by Executive Council for the following purposes:

Firstly, to deliver the port project and other critical capital investments without adversely impacting on the Falkland Island Government reserves policy or putting other funds (such as the pension funds) at risk for this purpose.

It is proposed that the Falkland Islands Government obtains external financing of one hundred and fifty million pounds for this purpose.

Secondly, it is proposed that the Falkland Islands Government obtains a revolving credit facility of up to forty million pounds backed by our unrestricted investment funds to meet short term variability in expected significant capital payments.

This is required because of the significant seasonality in Falkland Islands Government revenues and reduces the risk of having to withdraw funds from the Government’s investment portfolio when the timing of significant capital payments differs from when those payments were planned (which would potentially crystallise investment losses).

The Finance and Audit Ordinance 1988 requires the prior approval of the Secretary of State of any borrowing by the Falkland Islands Government. This approval has been obtained in relation to the proposed loans.

The Loans Ordinance 1979 provides for the Financial Secretary to raise loans of sums authorised by resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

The Ordinance provides that any moneys borrowed under it must be applied for the purposes specified in the authorising resolution.

It also requires funds to be set aside each year in a “sinking” fund; for the purpose of repaying a relevant loan.

Following detailed work to secure the most appropriate loans in accordance with Executive Council approval, arrangements have now been made to put the loans and facilities in place with both expected to be in effect by the end of March 2025.

Authorisation for the Financial Secretary to take out the loans is now sought from the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the Loans Ordinance.

The Honourable Roger Spink

I second the Motion.

The Attorney General

Mr Speaker. Sorry, just as a point of explanation, it appears the reference in the resolution to the date of the Executive Council meeting is, in fact incorrect. It was, in fact on the 7th February 2025 rather than the 6th February 2025 I wonder if members would be agreeable to amend the resolution accordingly.

Mr Speaker

Yes, we will make that amendment. Okay, Honourable Members, you've heard that rather lengthy motion, and indeed the amendment to it. Anyone wish to speak?

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Attorney General for his very sharp eye.

The acceptance of these loans marks a new era and changing landscape of our country, and hopefully, quite literally, as this will enable the funding of our capital program, and it requires these facilities to progress. We need a port solution to replace FIPASS, we need a Power Station replacement. And the Falklands economy has grown in the decades, but still has limited predictability. We are export based and adjust to the fluctuations of markets and seasonality in a more exposed way because of that. Electricity is obviously essential, but the modernization of the technology and the expansion of the service will allow our country to grow. Ensuring these essential projects can go ahead will also bring opportunity to ensure our export based economy can store, birth, bunker, unload and load

cargo, transit passengers and tranship into the future. In short, they will stabilize, bring return and growth opportunities which are not yet quantified on the balance sheet. Ensuring that the funding of these projects is well managed is also as important as ensuring they're well-funded. But I support the motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak to that Motion?

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I'll keep this very, very brief my Honourable colleague Teslyn Barkman, I think, summed it up very, very nicely in this. This is something that we haven't galloped into without many hours of angst. And, going through everything with a fine tooth comb. It's not the first time we've actually been in a loan situation, but it's the first time in many, many years, and it's not something you take lightly. Can I just ask the Honourable Financial Secretary for a point of clarification, just for an old fuddy duddy like me, the Lombard loan, is that kind of like an overdraft to you and me? Thank you.

The Honourable Financial Secretary

Yes, it is similar to that, it's for short term financing requirements, basically to smooth our cash flow. It's a loan that backed against our unrestricted reserves to have enough funds, but essentially, it is to cover where we have a requirement for a large capital outlay that sort of misaligns with when we get our revenue peak, it allows us to bridge that gap. It's not intended to be used for any greater length than 12 months, and more than likely, it will be just sort of very short term, three to six months at max, just so we can bridge those gaps between when payments are due for the capital payments and when we get our revenue in.

The Honourable Gavin Short

I'd just like to thank the Honourable Financial Secretary for that clarification, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any Honourable Member wish to speak? Is there any objection to passing this motion? There is no objection.

It is resolved by the Legislative Assembly, under section 3 of the Loans Ordinance 1979:

(a) to authorise the Financial Secretary to raise the following loans:

- (i) a series of loans totalling one hundred and fifty million pounds, for a period of up to 25 years, in accordance with proposals approved by Executive Council at their meetings of 26 November 2024 and 7 February 2025; and

- (ii) a “Lombard” type loan facility, enabling the borrowing of up to forty million pounds for an unlimited period, in accordance with proposals approved by Executive Council at their meeting of 26 November 2024;

(b) that the purposes for which the moneys borrowed may be applied are any capital expenditure approved by Executive Council under the Falkland Islands Government’s capital programme.

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Reports - Portfolio Reports

The Honourable John Birmingham

The Honourable John Birmingham

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members.

Mr Speaker, since my last update in September of last year there have been a number of notable successes in the Health and Social Services Directorate, some of which represent the fulfilment of long-standing and difficult to achieve goals and commitments. I am therefore pleased to update the House as follows;

Tussac House

I will start off with the highest profile project, which I know the community have been following with great interest, and that is Tussac House. When I last spoke, the finalisation of construction and handover was facing some delays, but as I am sure that everyone is now well aware, these have been overcome and the service has now successfully commenced. Practical completion of the project was on 3rd January 2025, and since they were able to take occupancy of the building a few days later the Health and Social Services Team having been working hard to open the service in a phased approach.

The Day Centre, previously located at 8 Thatcher Drive, was the first function to move in, and this commenced on 13th January, this was then followed by the CST office which had been based at Lookout Industrial Estate moving in on 22nd January. First residents moved in on the 28th January, and the community assisted bathing scheme moved across from the KEMH to Tussac House on 5th February. An Open Day was held on the 17th January, which was well attended by over 250 members of the public. This was a great opportunity for members of the public to view this fantastic amenity which will be a major improvement to social care in the islands.

At the time of writing there are now 17 residents living in Tussac House, and the only service remaining to move in is the kitchen facility, which is anticipated to relocate from the KEMH to Tussac House at or around the time I deliver this report.

Now that the building is fully commissioned and all services have been moved in, all that remains is to arrange an official opening of the service. This is being planned for the 11th March from 11am and all are warmly welcome to attend.

At the risk of repeating much of what I may say at the opening event, I would like to extend my thanks to all those involved in the successful conception and delivery of this project, which has spanned several Assemblies. The scale of this project has meant that at times there have indeed been difficulties, but these have however been overcome and we can now all see the result of everyone's endeavours. In particular, I would like to thank the staff at Public Works, Health and Social Services staff, and the contractors and sub-contractors whose finish is absolutely excellent. Thank-you for working together to fulfil one of the major commitments of the Islands' Plan.

Laboratory UKAS accreditation

Whilst some may think that the opening of Tussac House represents the fulfilment of a long-standing commitment, the stars aligned in January to allow the completion of an even longer-standing commitment, that of the Food and Water Laboratory to obtain UKAS certification (That is United Kingdom Accreditation Service). In order to obtain this prestigious award, the sustained level of effort and attention to detail required has meant that there have been several setbacks to best laid plans over the years. I would like to join in and in particular recognise the efforts of Chester Crowie, Lab Manager, Patricia Marinic, Quality Manager, Thomas Harper, Food and Water Scientist, and the previous Lab Manager, Kim Finlayson who have all been instrumental in bringing this result to fruition. But what does it mean to the Islands? This accreditation demonstrates that the food and water laboratory operates in accordance with internationally set standard and therefore that the results produced may be considered of equivalent to any other international laboratory accredited to this standard. The Agriculture Department's European auditors identified this need for the accreditation, and in achieving it this fulfils a recommendation that will support the international export of meat and fish products from the Islands, underpinning a key economic sector.

Hospital Inspection

We recently had a hospital inspection, this was a commitment made by the Directorate to have an external inspection to ensure that it is subject to an appropriate level of external scrutiny. This allows for the notable strengths of the service to be identified and preserved and for achievable action plans to be developed to make improvements in any identified areas of weakness. As this was a first inspection, the approach taken was to focus on those services which have the highest inherent risk; namely ambulance and A&E, ward including ITU, theatre and Medical Treatment Overseas (particularly medevac). The inspectors visited the islands in November, and their report was received in January. The report is publicly available and may be accessed at www.falklands.gov.fk/health/downloads I would encourage anyone who has an interest to have a look. There will also be a copy in the Public Library.

There are many positive aspects to the report, with various commendations of the service being made, which includes recognising the accessibility, range, integration and quality of clinical care provided. The report notes no serious safety concerns in areas inspected, and assesses that the services reviewed were either of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ quality, which are the top two ratings used by the English health and social care regulator, the CQC. In relation to medical equipment maintenance and the laboratory the inspectors were impressed by areas of ‘best practice’, which they suggested could be adopted by other Overseas Territories. The respectful and strong collegial culture amongst hospital staff was also remarked on.

The purpose of an inspection however, is also to identify areas for improvement. On this the Inspectors have made 14 main overarching recommendations that range from reviewing the approach to quality oversight and governance to commissioning future inspections. The KEMH has studied these recommendations and had started to develop an action plan around these 14 recommendations as well as other suggestions that it has picked up on from the report. This action plan has been approved at the Health and Medical Services Committee, and its ongoing reporting and monitoring will occur in the open section.

As should be expected, the Inspectors were also requested to make an assessment of confidentiality and data handling processes. The report remarks that “*Significant improvements were made to internal processes and procedures around accessing patient data following the recent data breaches*”. Although it did also note a concern around noise transfer through one particular area where there are consultations. In this regard, I am pleased to report that an improvement had already been planned, irrespective of the inspection, and by the time the report was received the issue had already been rectified. Regrettably the report did also comment on a ‘*notable level of anxiety among staff who felt they may get in trouble for legitimately accessing patient records*’. The KEMH remain absolutely committed to embedding improvements in relation to data handling and will co-operate openly and fully with any future planned legal processes, this is noting that there is an application to the Supreme Court on this matter. This brings me to my next project update.

Electronic Patient Record Replacement

Unfortunately progress with this project is currently much less satisfactorily progressed. In order to be able to implement a new system the KEMH requires enhanced internet connectivity. The KEMH is working with the IT Department on this matter, and it is hoped that this improvement will be realised shortly. In the meantime, so as not to delay matters, the KEMH remains in conversation with its incumbent supplier about the possibility of upgrading to a newer version of the software which will require to enhance the internet connectivity currently available. This project is perhaps the highest priority action for the KEMH, and every effort will be made to advance progress during 2025.

KEMH Redevelopment

After a long hiatus, I am pleased to advise that building works at the KEMH have recommenced. Contractors are currently working on phase 1 of the laboratory redevelopment, which will critically deliver a new laboratory sterilisation facility, a function which is currently greatly constrained. Although previous concerns that this would prevent UKAS accreditation were not realised, the inspectors will be visiting shortly and it will have to be finished, completed and up and running.

In addition, new laboratory bench space and staff accommodation will be provided. These works are on target to enable a visit by Getinge (manufactures of the sterilisers) on 31st March 2025 to install and commission the sterilisers. The ED Flow upgrade for the Theatre (that is another steriliser) cannot currently be proceeded with, until the laboratory are able to move back out of their temporary decant space.

An update regards the other three approved workstreams are currently as follows;

- **Stores:** This is ongoing
- **Roof:** The roof survey has been completed, and works are hoped to be progressed in the near future.
- **Masterplan:** Ramboll has completed the Application to Release (ATR) funds exercise to scope out the works and provide a cost estimate. This has been approved in principle, and PWD will issue a Task Order to enable Ramboll to commence work. A site visit is planned from March 2nd to 7th, during which Ramboll's healthcare team will conduct stakeholder discussions. The Masterplan is expected to be completed by mid-June.

In terms of general day-to-day activity at the KEMH we are currently in the midst of the 'busy season' in which there is a notable spike in activity associated with visiting specialists, tourism and fishing vessel visits. I would like to thank staff for their additional efforts during this busy time of year, and also recognise the important contribution that the visiting specialist programme makes to enhancing the quality of care here in the Islands.

Recruitment

Whilst there remain some notable difficulties in some areas of the service, I am pleased to report a positive development in terms of our advertising reach, in that the first vacancies from the KEMH have now been advertised on the NHS Jobs website. This has taken a combination of individuals to push forward from personnel within the Falklands Islands Government and personnel within the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office and people within the National Health Service. It is hoped this new opportunity, which has been a long-term ambition of the KEMH will help improve overseas recruitment success and contribute to reducing our vacancy rates and agency backlift.

Social Services

Probation

In my last update I reported that the Probation Officer, Nikki Robinson has been awarded The Sir Graham Smith Research Award by the Probation Institute to carry out research to find out why people chose to engage with the Probation Service on a voluntary basis. It is hoped that this research will give greater insight into why people chose to engage with probation support when this is not mandatory, and this will help to improve the Probation Service as a whole. This research has now been completed and a summary of the findings will be presented to the next meetings of the Safeguarding Boards.

In addition, the Probation Officer will be representing the Falkland Islands at the inaugural Probation Conference for Overseas Territories in March, hosted by the Ministry of Justice in London. It is hoped that this will be an opportunity to share the impressive advances that have been made in the Probation Service within the Islands, whilst also learning from best practice in other Overseas Territories. If I may just add, sometimes these services are below the public gaze and their success very often isn't recognised. This is one of a few services along those lines.

Adults at risk

The draft Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Policy was approved by ExCo in December to advance to public consultation.

The public consultation on this important piece of legislation is open until 10th March (I have here a guide to the Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance information for individuals and families), this is quite important for the future.

The public consultation on this important legislation is open until 10 March and the details can be found on the Social Services section of the FIG website, or by calling Social Services on 27296.

After the consultation is completed, an amended Policy will be submitted to Executive Council for final approving, allowing legislative drafting to commence.

This draft Policy will form the basis for developing a Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance for the Falkland Islands, which will introduce new legal mechanisms and safeguards to support people who lack the mental capacity to make decisions.

This project and eventual legislation aim to promote and protect the decision-making rights of those who may temporarily or permanently lack mental capacity.

The proposed legislation will apply to everyone involved in the care, treatment, and support of people aged 18 or over living in the Falkland Islands who are unable to make all or some decisions for themselves.

It is proposed that the Ordinance will be based on the UK Mental Capacity Act, 2005, but adapted to the unique health and social care context of the Falkland Islands. The report

outlines the various interventions that are being proposed (and this is quite important for the future):

- Clarifying in law who is regarded as lacking mental capacity,
- Indicating that decisions must be made in the best interests of the person who lacks mental capacity
- Re-establishing the Court of Protection to enable it to carry out different functions to protect people who lack mental capacity
- Introducing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Providing for the need to develop Codes of Practice
- Introducing the granting of Lasting Power of Attorney
- Introducing the ability to appoint a Deputy in defined circumstances
- Establishing the Office of the Public Guardian, which will have various responsibilities connected to the administration of the Ordinance.
- Introducing Advanced Decisions to Refuse Treatment.
- Excluding certain decisions from being made on behalf of a patient who lacks mental capacity.
- Appointing Independent Mental Capacity Advocates
- Specifying the legal parameters when conducting research on persons who lack mental capacity.
- Outlining offences and penalties in circumstances in which people given powers under the proposed Ordinance are found to have mistreated and/ or neglected a person who lacks capacity.
- Clarifying the circumstances in which the Falklands Islands laws will apply and when the Falkland Islands will have jurisdiction over an adult who lacks mental capacity.
- Introducing the power to make rules and regulations that are necessary for the implementation of the Ordinance.

I would also like to thank also those who have been involved in the commencement of the Domestic Abuse (Civil and Family Proceedings) Ordinance which came into effect on 3rd February. This landmark legislation aims to enhance the safety and well-being of individuals facing domestic abuse. It will ensure that in addition to the criminal protections, the civil and family legal system adequately protects victims and discourages abusive behaviours in our community. More information on this important piece of legislation was recently put out in a press release.

Mr Speaker, I do. I half apologize for reading out that last section, but I think it's really important for the future of the islands. Mr Speaker, there ends my portfolio report.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any Honourable Member wish to raise a question or comment on that report?

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague for his report. I was very pleased to see the inspection of the hospital just over a year ago. I think I raised a question in the Assembly. We had a long discussion, and I'd like to congratulate him, and also the Director of Health for moving that so quickly forwards. I think it provides assurances to the general public about the standard of treatment there. It shows that we are independently looking at the services provided, we're addressing issues there, and there's an action plan that has come out of that inspection. And I think it's a healthy situation whereby we're going to have further inspections in the future and to improve the standards there, but also provide assurances to the many patients that go through KEMH. Thank you very much indeed.

The Honourable John Birmingham

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. I thank the Honourable Roger Spink for that. The inspection was actually well received within the KEMH. KEMH is run by professionals from the very top to the very bottom, and I look forward to more ongoing inspections in the future.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

First like to also agree with my colleague and extend my congratulations to the lab in KEMH on their recent accreditation. I'd also like to support that the data upgrade in the record system in KEMH is a capital priority, and I think everyone in this House would agree that ensuring that medical records are retained, and medical confidentiality is kept to the highest level, is always in the priority of this government's mind from now on, following the data breaches,

The Honourable John Birmingham

Honourable Members, and I can assure all Honourable Members that that is in the back of everybody's mind, in in the health service, strangely enough, so many things now, the progress is slower than we would like, because of one actual thing and that that is connectivity. But we know that we're on a road towards improving that.

Mr Speaker

Any other Honourable Member to raise a question or comment? No

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Portfolio Reports – The Honourable Roger Spink

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Law and Regulation Directorate, I will commence with.

The Civil Aviation Department continue with their regulatory role to assure safe and secure civilian flights in and around the Falkland Islands. The team recently published the first National Aviation Safety Plan. This is in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation' Global Aviation Safety Plan and is part of the overall UK plan covering the UK, Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. It describes a review of the existing system of safety oversight and sets out the direction of the Department's regulatory activities, setting objectives for the next three years. The plan recognises the role that all parts of the aviation industry have in ensuring safety.

The Regulator has, since she took up post, spent time getting to know the circumstances of the Falkland Islands and all aspects of communications regulation here. As might be expected, she has spent considerable time focusing on the arrangements around the exclusive licence held by Sure, as well as considerable time considering the issues which are thrown up by the recommendations endorsed by this House, following the petition and Select Committee process on the issue of Starlink and VSAT licensing.

The Government Legal and Legislative teams continue to support other teams across government, as well as supporting a range of key corporate projects, including key projects on communications, which could have a transformative impact on the Falkland Islands. Members of the team are also working in support of the Sea Lion project and wider "oil readiness" projects, including preparing new legislation. The equalities project continues, with the results of the community survey to be published shortly, and several focus groups have been held to discuss issues, with a view to informing policy development. Drivers in particular will probably simultaneously welcome and not welcome the introduction of a new fixed penalty regime, allowing more minor driving offences to be dealt with by payment of a penalty, rather than having to appear before the Courts, but they do still have the option of appearing before the Courts, if they so wish.

Finally, the Registrar General continues to deliver the full range of registry functions, including not least the annual canvass of electors. I would remind everyone that it is an election year, and all eligible persons should ensure that they complete the annual canvass form, so that they are included in the register of electors. The canvass forms should be received by 17 March 2025, and need to be returned no later than Tuesday 15 April 2025.

Treasury

In addition to the regular support to Directorates and delivery of core Exchequer services the Treasury function have focussed their efforts on:

- Obtaining debt finance to the value of £150 million through a series of private placement loan notes over varying tenors ranging from 15 years to 25 years. The

finance raised will be used to assist in the funding of the large capital infrastructure projects being undertaken by FIG over the coming years. In addition, a Lombard Loan provided by our Investment Fund Managers, HSBC, for up to £40 million to cover any short-term cash flow requirement associated with the capital programme is being agreed.

- The completion and audit of the Annual Financial Statements and special funds for FIG for the year ended 30th June 2024 was completed in January. The auditors have signed off the financial statements with no qualifications in their audit opinion.
- The 2025/26 budget cycle has begun. A public meeting to set the backdrop to this year's budget was held on February 10th and the first two Budget Select Meetings have been held which included open public sections. A further four Budget Select Meetings will be held culminating with the budget being presented to Legislative Assembly on June 4th.
- Ongoing work is being undertaken to improve the FIG risk management framework which is a key element of the Annual Report and Opinion prepared by the Internal Audit team.
- The strong relationship with the UK Government Internal Audit Agency continues which, through their direct support, has enabled suitable internal audit work to be delivered. As part of the Internal Audit programme, work will be undertaken on testing Financial Controls within Treasury. An additional Internal Auditor has been recruited who will hopefully be joining the team during Q2 and will help deliver the Internal Audit and risk management programmes.
- A revised tax review paper was submitted to ExCo in February and propose a focussed review on specific areas of tax and legislation. If this paper is passed an Invitation to Tender will be sent to interested parties to quote for doing the review.
- Improvements to the Tax Office systems have assisted with speeding up the processing of employer annual returns in preparation for the issuing the personal tax returns. The Tax Office thanks all those who have submitted their returns in the correct format and in time with the deadlines set out by the Tax Office. For those who have not submitted on time reminders have been issued.
- Personal tax returns will be issued on March 3rd with a deadline to complete returns by July 31st. Please be reminded to complete returns by the deadline otherwise a late filing penalty of £100 will be incurred. If they remain unfiled after three months a further penalty of £200 will be incurred.
- Work continues on amending the Retirement Pensions Ordinance 1997 to allow for Married Couples Supplement to be paid to the retiring person regardless of sex. Draft legislation has been completed and this is now under review by the Pensions Office.

- Actuarial reviews for both pension schemes are currently being undertaken with draft reports to be provided to the Pension Office in the near future.
- The Pensions Office will shortly be completing an awareness campaign for FIPS concentrating on those whose personal details are out of date. It is expected that there are people worldwide who are no longer aware they hold a fund with the Falkland Islands Pension Scheme.
- Work continues within the corporation tax team to review and analyse information to determine the reasons for the fall in tax revenue seen this financial year. This work will help determine if there are any factors that will impact on tax receipts over the coming years that need to be built into FIGs budgeting and financial planning.
- The Corporation tax team continue to be heavily focussed on oil readiness work to ensure that a robust regime will be in place to protect the interests of the Falklands from a taxation perspective. This is alongside other high priority work which include ITQ and the Tax Review Project.
- A new Senior Accountant is expected to join the Treasury team during Q2. This recruit along with the internal auditor will bring the Treasury team to full staff.
- The withdrawal of 1p and 2p coins from circulation and ceasing to be legal tender occurred on January 1st. The new Falkland Island £5, £10 and £20 notes have been officially signed off and will now be placed in the De La Rue printing programme. The new notes will be launched on Falkland Island Day, August 14th this year.

The Corporate Records and Archives

Since the last report in October 2024, the Corporate Records and National Archives department have continued to work on routine tasks and have been the following highlights to report on:

For record management, this includes:

- conducting an internal survey of the FIG intranet with FIG staff to identify how to further improve and develop the information on this platform,
- continuing with FIG staff training program for the 24/25 year

For the Jane Cameron National Archives. This has been for Quarter 2 of this Financial Year, from 1st October to 31st December 2024, the team have responded to:

- 69 research queries since early January 2025
- the archives have received an additional 33 research queries
- since October 2024 there have been six new sessions to the archives. One of these has been for the archives, Reading room library,

- the approval of four policies for the archive service, including their collections, development, acquisitions policy. All of these policies will go live on the JCNA website soon.

The National Archives is also pleased to have participated in the following activities:

- the FICS careers day,
- Exploring Archives week 21-30 November 2024
- Year 10 work experience week 25-29 November 2024, in November 2024 the service offered and hosted two placements for the FICS year 10 work experience, week.

Other activities, the team has also hosted group visits in January 2025 from the Museum's "Pastfinders" group, who were conducting individual student research project on Shackleton. Journalists funded by the public diplomacy program and Will Bateman, FIGO's Communication Officer.

The service launched a new social media account on Blue Sky. In the first month, it has received over 600 followers, which includes accounts of other archival institutions across the UK. The JCNA are in the final stages of preparing their latest newsletter, which will be published by the end of the month. It is set to be a bumper edition and includes a contribution from one of the year 10 work experience students. Copies of the newsletter will be placed around town, but if you'd like to receive either an electronic or hard copy, then please contact the Archives.

Volunteer Placement.

Bettina Alberti, one of the previous Regional student competition winners returned to the Islands at the end of January for a two week volunteer placement at the Jane Cameron National Archives. Bettina has recently completed her studies and qualified as an archivist in Uruguay. Bettina's archival knowledge and skills set was a useful addition to the team. Over the two weeks, her activities focused on three distinct areas that allowed her to contribute to the following:

- Firstly, digitizing a series of FIC passenger lists of vessels going between the Falkland Islands and Montevideo. These records will be uploaded to the JCNA website shortly.
- Secondly, working with staff to reformat and update the Archives catalog to reflect the ISADG standard for archival description. The intention is that a public version of the catalog will be added to the Archives website so that researchers can search and see what records the archives hold in their collections.
- And finally, assisting with routine tasks, supporting archive staff, responding to research requests and undertaking box listing exercise of uncatalogued material.

Department contact information. If anyone wishes to contact the archives or physically visit and undertake research in the archives, please email national.archives@sec.gov.fk or for phone, 27249, to book an appointment. The JNCA is open to researchers, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am to 4pm and on request on Saturdays, from 1-4pm.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker

Does any Honourable Member wish to raise a question or a comment on that portfolio report? I thank both the Honourable Members for their portfolio reports.

Deputy Clerk of the Assembly

Motion for Adjournment

The Acting Chief Executive, Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House stands adjourned *Sine Die*.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Honourable Members. Over to you.

The Attorney General

Mr Speaker, may I ask for permission to speak? I wouldn't normally ask for permission to speak, particularly on the Motion for Adjournment. And perhaps this, this is a trivial matter, but I do think it is a one that is worth discussing. So that would give a little history and background. Back in 1362 the pleadings in English Act for the first time allowed people to speak in English in Courts, and they then had to wait another 368 years before the proceedings were actually recorded in English. Prior to that, the recordings were all in Latin, and then a mere 268 years later, the Access to Justice Reforms in the late 1990s led to the removal of most of the sort of Latin and law French terms from the from the rules of procedure, and part of the rationale for that was to improve access to justice and make things more understandable for all members of the public, I suspect there probably aren't many of us in here, if indeed any, who are particularly familiar with Latin and low French. And I think also, in his essay in 1946 George Orwell, talking about the misuse and use of language, set out a number of rules which he felt clear writing should follow. And one of one of his rules, Rule five was never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word or jargon, if you can think of an everyday English equivalent. And I wonder, Mr Speaker, bearing in mind that Standing Order 12 provides that the proceedings of the Assembly should be in English. And bear in mind, as I say, most of us probably don't have a deep and intimate knowledge of Latin, whether it might be time in 2025 to consider adjourning the Assembly without a day being appointed, or to a date to be fixed, or even to follow the practice of the House of Commons and simply move that the House be adjourned And consign the phrase "*sine die*" to the scrap heap.

Mr Speaker

Does any Honourable Member wish to comment?

The Honourable John Birmingham

I'm rising to make a couple of comments with your permission Mr Speaker, it's interesting that you met the Attorney General, and I thank him for his intervention that the Attorney General mentions the 13th century. I believe that the Peasants Revolt was around about that time, and it just shows that if it took 300 years for anything to come into effect, that things were written in English, it just shows the speed at which the Law moves, I suppose, but we look forward to a little bit more speed in the future. I fully support the change that the Attorney General has placed on the Table. Sometimes you do have to move ahead. And yes, so I support that.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker and rising to speak to the intervention by the Attorney General, I presume, sits outside the Motion for Adjournment. I would certainly welcome getting rid of *sine die*. I really would, but I'd be careful how we how far we went with the description, because there are foreign language which sits within the Falkland Islands language, for example, "passe libre", who I'm not changing for anyone or anything, but I'm sure we can do this. But I very much welcome the ending of that terrible phrase.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker as one of the Members of this House, he probably was forced to learn Latin when I was a lot younger, I would be very happy to see it removed.

The Honourable Peter Biggs

Mr Speaker, I'm happy to support the Attorney General's suggestion.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the Attorney General for that interesting new history lesson. I too fully support this tradition is important, absolutely, of course it is, but so is accessibility. And I've heard, particularly from many young people about sometimes how the language in the House can be somewhat off putting and I think this, this perhaps is a good opportunity to park this one tradition with thanks for over the years, I know in in all my time of listening to the Assembly, I've heard it pronounced many, many different ways, and I'm still not sure which is right. So let's move on. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I do like to align with those views. And while I endeavor to use English, I think some of that inaccessibility that my Honourable Colleague Leona Roberts

was speaking to is sometimes also that we use a bit of bad English sometimes and maybe a bit too much jargon. But I would certainly, I'd certainly support that, assuming that would be a change in Standing Orders and fairly a simple matter, maybe too unimportant, I guess, if that's a procedure that we all agree with or will that have to come back as a motion, I'm not sure.

Mr Speaker

I think we can adopt and make the necessary changes.

To the Motion for Adjournment

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I'd like to first start with acknowledging the passing of our former colleague. Ian was a colleague who collaborated and wished for the government to work together. He supported new candidates standing in the Camp constituency and opened his home for me to stay in at Hill Cove during my first election. He was keen to encourage and share information from his experience, and while we cannot always all agree all the time, he set aside differences to assist the greater good, and would listen and amend his view when new information was presented. He supported the views of Camp and campaigned for them to be heard, and chaired the Falklands Landholdings Board for a number of years as they moved through significant changes, and in the last Assembly, he chaired that board while I deputised upon it. More than everything, it was clear that the love Ian held for his son, Matthew, Pat, his family and his friends and for this country. And I'd just like to also offer my sincere condolences to everyone who's affected by his passing, and may he rest in peace.

Moving on to other matters, three years ago, we also spoke in this House standing in solidarity with people of Ukraine following the invasion of their country. We continue to stand with the people of Ukraine and with all those around the world fighting for their self determination to be recognized and suffering profoundly for it.

Over the last few weeks, we've been busy with a number of parliamentary guests and special occasions, and I hope certainly our parliamentary guests left with a better informed view of the Falklands and I thank also the MOD for the time they shared in their program with the Armed Forces All Party Parliamentary Group. This is very important, because it helps the UK Parliament to understand how vital the British Forces South Atlantic islands is for our defense and our security and for the growth that has been grasped since 1982 as a result.

I'd also like to acknowledge the investments and achievements that have been made in our fisheries. And I would like to congratulate the owners of the *Hadassah Bay*, *Prion* and *Argos Berbers* as they join the ITQ fisheries fleet. It was also a great pleasure to meet with the visiting Seafast team that supports SAAS, our lifeline.

Another significant step forward over the last few weeks, and I also know was a matter dear to the heart of our former colleague, Ian Hansen, is the launching of the consultation on the land recovery program. I encourage all landowners to participate in the consultation. This is in response to a motion that was brought to this House, and more importantly, informed by the need for government to assist in incentives in the environment and economic diversification in land use in Camp. The Rural Business Association, the RBA, also lobbied on this matter, and I thank them again for that and for the hosting of a recent and informative, successful workshop. Thank you. Mr. Speaker

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, in rising to support this Motion, I'd like to remember our dear colleague, MLA Ian Hansen. He really was a tower of strength for the Islands, he represented the Camp constituency particularly well. When I came on, he was the only Camp councilor that actually lived in Camp and certainly when you went visiting him out at Hill Cove, the many, many years that his family had had lived out at Hill Cove brought home the deep, deep knowledge that he had of Camp life. He will be a great loss to many in the community. I know he was regularly phoned up by many constituents, and I'd like to just wish my deepest condolences to all his friends and family. Thank you.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in rising to speak to the Motion for Adjournment I would like to begin by joining Colleagues in paying my respects to the late Ian Hansen who was a Member of the Assembly for quite a few years.

I have to say that when it came to Camp matters, I often sought Ian's advice and called on his knowledge. Ian was a real Camper and Falkland Islander and the trappings of the political life did not change him, he was the same, down to earth, humble person as he had been before being elected. Ian grew up and started his life when the "good old days" were not so good, and he always strove to try and make things better for his fellow Falkland Islander.

He started work at an age that was somewhat lower than it is today and worked his way through the farm system from the very lower levels of pyramid, through to owning his own piece of land, but he never forgot his roots or where he came from, and used the knowledge that he had gained on his journey through life to good effect within the Assembly.

He was as much at home when yarning to me or when representing the Falklands overseas, putting our case to Ministers etc. whether that was in the Caribbean Islands, or at the United Nations. Through being so genuine, he made friends wherever he went.

He actually cared deeply for the Camp and for the Falklands as a whole, and I shall miss Ian both as a friend and as a Colleague and to his family and his many friends, from the bottom of my heart, I wish to pass on my sincere condolences, and I am saddened that the

Falklands has lost yet another truly genuine person who loved and believed in his country, its traditions and its people.

Moving on, I have to apologize to my colleagues for leaving them somewhat in the lurch when we recently had an influx of MPs both sponsored by the Falkland Islands Government and the Ministry of Defence. I am afraid that I succumbed to the dreaded man-flu at the height of the fun thus leaving them to carry the weight and deliver the Falklands message, my apologies. I would like to say I was very brave during that whole hideous time.

I would now like to trample happily around on the stomping ground for MLA Biggs as I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff of the Power and Electrical Department. When the lights stay on no one gives them a second thought but when the kettle stops boiling or nowt happens when the light switch is operated - then they become front and centre of one's thoughts. Recently the Power Station crew went through a pretty torrid time as someone's God seemed to take a dislike to them and attacked with high winds, sideways rain of biblical proportions and lightning strikes and the team went well above and beyond as they went out to work in some pretty hideous conditions to try and get people back on. We are all quick to moan, but let's take a second to give both the power crew/plumbers etc. a big thumbs up when you see them as they and many more like them are very much the unsung heroes.

We will shortly have cricketers away doing what cricketers do best and indeed love doing, and that is playing the noble game of cricket and I wish them the very best.

Finally, away at the moment, and I hope having a whole bundle of fun, is the Falklands youth football teams, both female and male, who are participating in the Copa de la Amistad in Punta Arenas in Chile. I would like to give a huge shout out to the players themselves and also the parents and helpers who do so much to make these things happen as well as the sponsors Fortuna. Not only will fun be had, skills will be honed and even more importantly, one hopes, new friendships will be made. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Peter Biggs

Mr Speaker, in rising in support of the motion. I would like to mention the late Ian Hansen. I had the pleasure of working with him on this Assembly, and he will be long remembered for his dedicated service to his constituency. I would like to express my condolences to his family and friends.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak to the Motion?

The Honourable John Birmingham

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I'd also like to say a few words about Ian Hansen. Some years ago, I went on when you first become elected, there is something that the House of Commons have, a training scheme lasted 10 days, which I went on. One of the terms that

sticks in my brain was the “art of modern politics” should be to disagree, but in an agreeable way. Doesn't always happen. I'm as guilty as others, but Ian, Ian Hansen, comes to mind when I think of that phrase, I worked with Ian over nearly three Assemblies, and found him to be a decent, honest and committed man who represented both his constituency and the Falklands overseas for many more years than I knew him. All I can say is, rest in peace, Ian.

Telecommunications are currently a very hot topic, have been for some time, and there's no doubt we need, we need a better and more reliable service. Well, we also need to make certain that those who only use basic telecoms, even down to just a landline, are also supported, and I'm confident that all Members are fully aware of that, and I would say to the public who are listening to this, have no fear that's going to be and is taken into account.

The Camp in particular has problems, and those difficulties will be overcome, but please remember it will take some time we have to follow a proper legal pathway. Don't think just because there's little publicity seen that no action is in progress.

And just short mention about Fox Bay East. This is a Falkland Island presence on the West Falklands and is very much a symbol of the “one Falklands” approach taken by previous Assemblies. This Assembly, and I'm confident the future Assemblies will also recognize its importance.

Currently, there's a lot of work being done on equality and inclusivity, I hope, as in request to those who are organizing events, believe it or not, there really are people who don't live their lives online, so please spare a thought for them and think about using traditional telecommunications, such as the radio, or, as my colleague next door, The Honourable Gavin would say, the wireless. And we even have a print media always on the lookout for a tale to tell. It's not all about Mr Whiteheath.

Mr Speaker, two years ago, I put forward a motion to change the rule on the requirement of a Member to be physically in Stanley for work by noon on a Monday. Motion was carried. I brought the change up to perhaps assist more people to seriously consider standing for election. And this is an important year. It's not the whole answer to the problem of numbers standing, but it's a small step. Mr Speaker, I hope to see the change in print soon.

We have a number of people overseas for medical treatment, and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish them all all the very best. Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

The Honourable Jack Ford.

Mr Speaker, I'd like to join my colleagues in offering my condolences to the family and friends of the late Ian Hansen, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Yes, I too would like to begin by extending my condolences to all the family and friends of the late Ian Hansen, in particular to Pat and Matthew. I was fortunate enough to work with the Ian over the course of two Assemblies, and will always remember his kindness to me, particularly when I was first elected and trying to find my way around the processes of the Assembly. He was always very generous with his advice and his support, and it does make me smile to remember some of his stories and anecdotes, whether about his life in Camp or as an MLA.

Ian was very proud, as has been mentioned to to serve the Camp and indeed the broader community, and it was always with a very good natured humility, as has already been noted, he was a very real Falkland Islander. And yes, I think my overwhelming memory of him will be of him talking about how much he loved watching the weather come in over the water out at Hill Cove, and how fond he was of our Islands. And so again, my condolences to all.

As has already been noted, this has been a very busy month for the Falklands with parliamentary visits, and I too, would extend my thanks to the Commander British Forces for ensuring that the Armed Forces Group were able to spend some time with the Assembly. That's very much appreciated, particularly knowing that they had such a hectic schedule for them to find time to discuss with us directly, it's really welcomed.

I would also extend my congratulations to the fishing companies who brought their new vessels into the harbour over the last few weeks and were generous enough to invite us to the receptions, we had a very, very busy week, but it was incredible to see the vessels in person, huge commitments, and would wish them all many years of safe sailing and good fishing, and of course, my congratulations to Beauchene Fishing company on their 21st anniversary, which was another lovely celebration.

On a slightly different tack, I think my Honourable Colleague Gavin Short already mentioned the Falklands youth football teams performing incredibly in Chile, both male and for the first time, a female team doing the Falklands very proud. At the same time, we have year 11 students in London as part of their tourism studies. I'm incredibly envious. I can't imagine what a wonderful experience that must be for young people and tremendously educational. But I would also extend my thanks to all those who have made these trips possible, either through donations of time or money or moral support that we can't overstate the commitment that is required to see these these overseas trips happen, and I'm sure that we're all watching all these adventures online with some delight, at least those of us who are online.

Finally, Mr Speaker, we do have International Women's Day coming up, and I've been delighted to hear a couple of references to. My colleague there, pulling a terrible face, but maybe that was just something else. But to hear references to equality being mentioned in this House and indeed in my Honourable Colleague Roger Spink's portfolio update to changes gender equalizing changes being made in his portfolio, which I'm very grateful for.

But it does seem extraordinary that we are in 2025 and only now starting to address some of these things. So I will briefly get on my soapbox, Mr Speaker, if you forgive me, about International Women's Day, there's been a lot of discussion about it this year, about whether it has value, why it's needed, and of course, the regular refrain of "but what about the men"? So we'll start with that last point, International Women's Day, as I've said before, and I think most women have said before, International Women's Day is not about undermining or devaluing men, not in the slightest. We are two sides of the same coin. And for those who are keen, I would remind and encourage some marking of International Men's Day, which is in November. And in fact, November is men's month. And some of our colleagues might remember that the Honourable Mark Pollard grew a decidedly suspect mustache for Movember, which was which was good, and which was progress, and actually raised and started lots of conversations, as he said at the time, about men's mental health and well being, which is just one facet of of these days. But back to International Women's Day, I think it is really important to recognize how far we've come in terms of equality, opportunity and rights. International Women's Day was introduced around the time of female emancipation, which is only just over 100 years ago, but for centuries, women and girls and others, indeed, I won't go into that here, but have been oppressed, marginalized and undermined, and sometimes that was by accident, but all too often it was by design. I think great progress has been made in recent decades, and there are many women, myself included, who I think had reached a place where we thought battles were won and that we'd reached a point of "steady as she goes", and it will be fine. But that really isn't the case, and it takes no effort at all to see where the rights of women and girls are not only no longer being progressed, but are actively being wound back. And if anyone thinks that we can be complacent, then I would suggest that they put on the international news for one. And we do, unfortunately, seem to live in a world where principles such as equality, fairness and even basic human decency are being treated by some as weakness. This makes me rage, and I will try not to get too angry here, but when I hear talk of this "woke nonsense", and indeed, recently "woke mind virus" seems to be a phrase that's taking up popularity. I find myself very troubled and genuinely really angered. Mr Speaker. I interpret "woke" as being alive to other people's issues, understanding that individuals, regardless of sex, gender, race, color, religion, whatever it may be, may face different challenges to me and mine, and may experience difficulties that I probably don't even think of in my daily life. But just because they don't impact me personally does not mean that I should not care. I have absolutely no time for the "I'm all right, Jack" attitude. I've said that before. That's not going to change. It's at best, complacent. It's purely self serving, and sometimes it's thinly veiled bigotry, and I have little time for it. So for myself, I would rather care, and if that makes me woke, then so be it, Mr Speaker, that's absolutely fine. Exclusion and marginalization have far reaching negative consequences for all, not just for those who are excluded or marginalized. And whether you wish to consider individual well being our society at large, or indeed the economy, there is nothing to be gained from it, apart from for a very small number of individuals. But I think we doing reasonably well in Falklands, and that does give me some hope. Actually, I think our community is is pretty accepting and progressive and thoughtful and caring, and we see that a lot. But we all have a responsibility to ensure that our young people, that the next generations, continue to grow up in a society where regardless of who they are, that they have equal opportunities and that they are all valued, and that artificial, nonsensical and

regressive barriers are not put in their way. So, I will get off my soapbox in just a moment Mr Speaker, thank you for your indulgence and for no one throwing anything at me yet. But can I just say how nice it would be to be able to get on to celebrate the 50% of our society that are our women and girls, and I look forward to a time when we don't have to justify that celebration or ask for continued progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members that concludes the business of the House for today, the House stands adjourned accordingly.