



PRESS RELEASE

Report on Executive Council 12th and 25th August 2026

Email Resolution 12th August 2026 by MLAs Clifton, Roberts and Ford:

Updated Census Order 2026

Executive Council approved a revised Statistics (Census) Order 2026 to include additional questions for vaping, internet service provision, and electric vehicles; and to fix October as the month for the 2026 Census.

A meeting of Executive Council was held on 12th August 2026. MLAs Clifton, Roberts and Ford were in attendance. Unless otherwise stated, decisions were unanimous. Executive Council considered the following papers:

Stanley Growers – Subvention Request – Closed paper

Executive Council approved the provision of a subvention to Stanley Growers Limited to assist in providing working capital for the business. The subvention will be funded from existing budgets.

Modular Housing Development Dispensation – Closed paper

Following an Executive Council decision in May to progress an accelerated modular housing solution at Murray Heights, this paper sought approval to enter into contract with two modular housing suppliers.

Executive Council approved the recommendations and authorised officer to finalise contract details.

A meeting of Executive Council was held on 25th August 2026. MLAs Clifton, Roberts and Ford were in attendance. Unless otherwise stated, decisions were unanimous. Executive Council considered the following papers:

Interim Illex Allocation and Licensing Policy

MLA Roberts elected not to be present whilst this item was discussed due to possible perceived interests. MLA Spink took her place.

The Illex fishery is one of the Falkland Islands' most significant fisheries and an important source of revenue to FIG.

Since 2021, a series of policy and process changes have been introduced to improve sustainability, economic performance, vessel safety, and crew welfare. These changes have included application scoring criteria, vessel safety and welfare requirements, and the introduction of 'letters of comfort' providing multi-year preferential access to qualifying vessels in conjunction with local companies.

The current policy framework expired at the end of the 2026 fishing season. While Executive Council agreed in principle in 2019 to move towards a rights-based management system for the Illex fishery, significant policy, legislative and governance work remains before such a system can be implemented.

It is therefore not considered feasible to introduce a robust long-term access regime before 2030, creating the need for an interim licensing policy for the period 2027-2029.

This paper presented options, including amendments made following consultation with industry.

Considering the work, progress, and challenges faced over recent years, the paper presented the following objectives to inform decision-making over an interim licence allocation policy for the period 2027-2029:

- a) Establish a clear and predictable licence allocation policy and process, in accordance with the current statutory regime, that offers maximum possible certainty for the FIG, local fishing companies, and foreign vessel owners throughout the period in which long-term access arrangements for the Illex fishery are being developed.
- b) Enable the systematic collection of data, evidence, and information necessary to inform the design of the long-term access framework and the future management objectives for the Illex fishery.
- c) Enable local companies to further develop, test, and demonstrate their operational roles, business arrangements, and levels of effective control and active involvement to support the design and implementation of a future ITQ system.
- d) Seek to preserve the improvements in vessel safety and crew welfare standards achieved in recent years, and continue, where feasible, to incentivise or require further enhancements in line with FIG policy priorities and international best practice.
- e) Recognise the investments, commitments, and resource allocations made by local companies and vessel owner/operators in anticipation of any potential future ITQ system.
- f) Ensure that licence allocation decisions made during the 2027 to 2029 period do not pre-determine, constrain, or create precedents for the structure, allocation method, or distribution of rights under any future long-term access arrangements, thereby maintaining full flexibility for FIG to design an optimal future policy framework.

Following consideration of the options presented and the industry feedback, Executive Council:

- (a) Agreed that it is important to ensure vessel numbers can be varied for reasons related to economic sustainability and conservation purposes.
- (b) Agreed that it is important to ensure local ownership of companies operating in a key fishery.
- (c) Approved the interim Illex licence allocation policy.
- (d) Directed the Director of Natural Resources to develop a project plan that sets out the approach and intended timetable for further development of proposals for a long-term ITQ system for Illex, including key milestones, processes and dependencies.

The interim Illex licence allocation policy includes the following key sections:

- A maximum of 107 vessels will be licensed each year to fish in the fishery for the 2027, 2028 and 2029 seasons. This number reflects and is essentially consistent with the total number of valid letters of comfort issued by FIG for the preceding three fishing seasons, in 2024, 2025 and 2026. FIG will continue to adopt a precautionary approach to the fishery, and it may therefore reduce the number of licences if it considers that is necessary or appropriate in the light of evidence regarding economic sustainability or stock conservation.
- For each of the three fishing seasons covered by this Interim Policy, FIG intends to allocate licences exclusively to the seven local companies listed. These companies have an established track record of participation in the fishery. Licence allocations will be made in proportion to each company's share of the valid Letters of Comfort held during the 2024-2026 period.
- Where the total number of licences available differs from 107, the number allocated to each company will be adjusted proportionately in accordance with the percentage shares set out in the policy.
- The number of licences and their allocation among these companies will apply only to the 3-year period covered by the interim policy. Nothing in this document, and nothing concerning the interim policy generally, should be understood as constituting or implying any commitment by FIG going forward. FIG makes no commitment concerning the number of licences that will be issued after the 3-year period covered by the interim policy, whether licences will be allocated to the same seven local companies, nor whether the number of licences allocated to them will be maintained.
- The policy also covers vessel licensing and substitution, transferring allocation entitlement, and additional information requested of local companies to inform longer-term policy development.

Fishing (Illex) Licence and Transshipment fees 2027

MLA Roberts elected not to be present whilst this item was discussed due to possible perceived interests. MLA Spink took her place.

The Illex fishery is one of the Falklands most significant fisheries and an important source of revenue to FIG. However, the fishery operates in an environment of uncertainty regarding future catches, market prices, fleet profitability and participation.

The current fee structure incorporates loyalty discounts that were introduced under previous licence allocation arrangements. Under the new interim allocation policy for 2027-2029, Falkland Islands companies will receive greater comfort for the period 2027-2029, greater flexibility in selecting vessels, and be able to transfer allocations. In this context, this paper considered that removing loyalty discounts is a rational policy step and supports the transition toward a future rights-based management system.

Since 2021, a series of policy and process changes have been introduced to improve sustainability, economic performance, vessel safety and crew welfare. These changes included the introduction of 'letters of comfort' providing multi-year preferential access to qualifying vessels jointly with local companies.

Various licence fee discounts (relating to early payment and loyalty) have also been provided to help incentivise ongoing participation in the fishery, with these discounts gradually removed over time.

While Executive Council agreed in principle in 2019 to move towards a rights-based management system for the Illex fishery, significant policy, legislative and governance work remains before such a system can be implemented. Therefore, an interim licensing policy for the period 2027–2029 has been agreed.

Under the interim licence allocation policy, a maximum of 107 Illex licences will be available annually during 2027-2029. These licences will be allocated among the seven established Falkland Islands companies. Companies will have flexibility to select vessels annually, substitute vessels where required, and transfer unused allocation entitlements between companies, subject to specified limits and regulatory oversight.

The paper presented various options, including options which incorporated industry feedback.

Taking into account the approval of the interim Illex licence allocation policy for 2027-2029, which provides greater comfort and stability to the seven established Falkland Islands companies, Executive Council approved no change to the gross vessel fee from 2026, and the removal of the loyalty discount. This will increase revenue to FIG by an estimated £1.63 million, equivalent to an estimated change in average net vessel fee of £15,207.

Executive Council also approved no change in the transshipment/export licence fees, and authorised the making of the Fishing Transshipment and Export (Licence Fees etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 according to these decisions.

Policy for Introducing Pilotage Regulations under Section 52 of the Harbours and Ports Ordinance 2017 and Proposing Other Minor Amendments to this Ordinance

MLA Clifton declared an interest in this matter and was not present whilst this item was discussed. MLA Spink took his place.

This paper sought approval of the draft policy, which will provide the basis for drafting and introducing the Pilotage Regulations, thus completing the framework required to support FIMA and the pilotage provider in formalising an effective and efficient pilotage scheme.

This paper follows decisions made in 2024 and 2025 to approve the draft amendment bill to the Ordinance which sought to introduce new provisions to support the delivery of the pilotage service, and on the signing of a letter of agreement with the current pilotage service provider on the continuation of the current arrangements.

Executive Council approved the Policy, approved that drafting instructions will be prepared and thereafter the proposed amendment Bill and pilotage regulations will be drafted alongside work to finalise the Stanley Harbour Compulsory Pilotage Direction.

As the draft Bill and regulations are developed, consultation with the Falkland Islands maritime sector will be conducted via the Maritime Committee. Consultation results will be included in a further Executive Council paper requesting approval of the final drafts of both the Stanley Harbour Pilotage Regulations and the Stanley Harbour Compulsory Pilotage Direction.

Loan Application MLM 508-509 – Closed paper

Executive Council ratified a business loan application following its recent approval by the FIDC Board.

Post Office Contract – Closed paper

The Chief Executive elected not to be present whilst this item was discussed due to possible perceived interests.

This paper sought approval for dispensation to enter into a new contract, subject to successful negotiations, for the provision of postal services. Due to ongoing commercial negotiations, no further detail can be provided at this time.

Sovereign Wealth Fund – Broad Objectives and Governance Structure

Following a Legislative Assembly motion in January 2026 to establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund, this paper proposed the broad policy objectives that will underpin how the fund is managed. It also sets out the overarching legal and governance structures required to ensure the Sovereign Wealth Fund operates at arm's length from FIG. To ensure international credibility and transparency, the proposals in this paper seek to align the Sovereign Wealth Fund with the Santiago Principles, officially known as the Generally Accepted Principles and Practices (GAPP) published by the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds.

This paper presented work on the initial stages of the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund. Further papers will be presented to approve the legislation and refine the details of how the fund will operate.

Executive Council approved the following recommendations:

- That it be established in law that all funds from oil production royalties be paid into the Sovereign Wealth Fund.
- That the overarching policy objectives for the Sovereign Wealth Fund are:
 - o Objective 1: To ensure that short-term revenues are invested and managed in a manner that provides long-term, inter-generational value for Falkland Islanders.
 - o Objective 2: To provide fiscal stabilization and insulate the Falkland Islands from economic shocks or unforeseen downturns.
 - o Objective 3: To strengthen the economy of the Falkland Islands.
- That the policy objectives of the Sovereign Wealth Fund be set out in law.
- That the Falkland Islands be established in law as the owner of the Falkland Islands' Sovereign Wealth Fund.
- That the Sovereign Wealth Fund be established by law as a corporation owned by the Falkland Islands Government.

Future of Telecommunications – Closed paper

Executive Council agreed the next stage of planning to secure robust telecommunications provisions for the Falkland Islands. Work will now begin on shaping future market models and opportunities for public engagement will be outlined soon.

Full public communications are being planned to reflect decisions made. Owing to strong commercial sensitivities, no comment can be made until they are published.

Response to the Public Accounts Committee - Review of the Deep Water Port Project (letter dated 17/03/2026)

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) undertook a review of the New Port Facility Project and concluded that the BAM New Port Facility project did not deliver value for money for the Falkland Islands Government and the Falkland Islands taxpayer. The review considered project governance, procurement, risk management, cost escalation, financial oversight and reporting arrangements.

The PAC made a series of recommendations intended to strengthen the governance and delivery of future major capital infrastructure projects. These recommendations focus on project cost transparency, value for money methodologies, financial risk management, independent financial scrutiny, reporting arrangements, project governance, requirements definition and project monitoring.

The Government welcomes the work undertaken by the PAC and recognises the importance of learning lessons from major infrastructure projects. Many of the recommendations align with changes already implemented since the New Port Facility project commenced, while others will help inform future improvements to project delivery and governance.

Executive Council approved the submission of the response to the Legislative Assembly, and that the report be made public after submission to the Legislative Assembly.

Criminal Law - Intimate Image Offending - Approval of Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2026

This paper presented the Crimes (Amendment) Bill which amends the Crimes Ordinance 2014 to create criminal offences relating to intimate image offending. The Bill puts into effect the policy previously approved by Executive Council in June 2026.

Executive Council approved the Bill for publication in the Gazette for the First Reading, and for its presentation to the Legislative Assembly.

Royal Falkland Islands Police Annual Policing Plan 2026

The Police Ordinance 2000 directs the Police Committee to consider policing objectives and how they can be implemented each fiscal year. The committee is asked to consider the written views of the Chief Police Officer.

This Annual Policing Plan 2026 sets out how the Royal Falkland Islands Police will serve the community for the year. These objectives will complement and are in addition to providing the day-to-day policing service and emergency response in keeping the Falkland Islands community safe.

The goal of the Royal Falkland Islands Police is to provide a visible, trusted, and modern policing service that protects people, prevents harm, and responds effectively when crime occurs.

Executive Council approved the Policing Plan, including the following strategic priorities:

- Safeguarding
- Community confidence and engagement
- Crime prevention and visibility
- Road safety

Proposed Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the MOD and FIG concerning the Provision of Search and Rescue – Closed paper

Executive Council approved amendments to the MOU between the MOD and FIG concerning the provision of Search and Rescue regarding charging.

Immigration review matters – Closed papers

Executive Council considered two papers concerning personal immigration matters.

National Nature Reserves Proposal

Executive Council noted the results of the public consultation for designating additional nature reserves, approved the designation of the proposed National Nature Reserves, authorised the development of management agreements with private landowners and development of management plans, and authorised the drafting of the legislation under the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999.

Development of the management plans and agreements will utilise existing resources within the Environment Department. The Proposal has been developed to minimise both direct financial costs and human resource requirements by adopting a proportionate light-touch approach.

The designation of National Nature under the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999 will provide statutory protection for habitats, plants and animals in perpetuity, by prohibiting certain activities within National Nature Reserves that could harm the environment and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The proposal will add 6,245 hectares to the National Nature Reserves network.

The proposed designation will contribute towards the Falkland Islands Government's commitments and international obligations to address biodiversity protection.

Infectious Disease Controls - Review of Notifiable Diseases

A recent emergency planning table-top exercise considered responses to potential infectious disease scenarios. A number of actions were identified arising out of the exercise. This report addresses one of those actions.

The Infectious Diseases Ordinance 2003 makes provision in relation to the reporting, monitoring and other measures in relation to infectious diseases. Section 3 of the Ordinance defines the "notifiable diseases", and section 4 refers to a list of other diseases. The diseases are listed for the purposes of ensuring that they are notified (including to the World Health Organization).

The lists of diseases do not accord with the current notifiable diseases under the WHO International Health Regulations, nor the current list of notifiable diseases applicable in England.

Executive Council:

- Authorised the Director of Health and Social Services to determine what changes should be made to the Infectious Diseases Ordinance 2003, including, at least, to update to the lists of notifiable diseases;

- Added the project to the Legislation Programme; and
- Authorised the Attorney General to draft legislation to give effect to the proposed changes, for subsequent approval by Executive Council.

MLA Jack Ford