

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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Fibre-Optic Cable - Where are We Heading?

Christian Von Der Ropp at a press conference about the SAEx cable, on St Helena in 2017.



St Helena Once Again Important for Shipping



Kingshurst Skittles Presentation

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New Feature From Next Week -
'Mike's Diary'-

All the News from the Week in One Place

Cable named after world famous librated African to be landed in St Helena next to world famous liberated African burial grounds

Executive Council gave final approval this week to the plans for landing the Equiano Cable at Rupert's Beach and then on to the wharf area. Concern was raised by the St Helena National Trust in respect of the desalination chimney which is now structurally weak and could be further endangered by movement of heavy traffic. Possible disturbance of historic liberated African sites was also raised and possible harm to some endemic fauna which is hosted by samphire. The desalination chimney is considered to be a major concern and will require careful management during the laying of ducting and inspection chambers together with the construction of the landing station building. The developer will be required to undertake a condition survey of the chimney and "consideration should also be given to the repair and maintenance of the building structure". With regard to endemic fauna, the "applicant can be advised to keep a watching brief on any ecological disturbance." No issues were identified in connection with liberated African burial sites however, once again, "the applicant has also been advised on the need for archaeological watching brief in respect of this development, although much of this area is already disturbed."

The report by the Chief Planning Officer states, "The application is part of a larger project for the development of fibre optic cables that will initially be landing on Saint Helena early in 2020. The fibre optic cable will be rested on the seabed to the point of the shoreline and then via ducting and through the sea wall to a manhole chamber on the landside of the sea-wall. There will be number of duct channels constructed within the development application area to lay the fibre optic cables to the Landing Station building that will be located to the south of the service road, which runs almost parallel to the sea wall, and to the east of the main access road into Rupert's Wharf. There will be a need to build number of ducts in the area to provide other services into the building." It is men-



tioned that most of the construction work will be on ground which has already been disturbed.

Who was Equiano

Google's proposed Equiano cable is named after Olaudah Equiano. Born in 1745 in what is now south eastern Nigeria. Equiano and his sister were captured when he was 11 years old and sold to slave traders.

In his autobiography Equiano describes his life as a slave in the service of a British Naval Officer and his years on slave ships as well as man o' war. He was an astute businessman and after purchasing his freedom in 1766 (for £5,400 at today's values) he travelled and continued to trade in fruit and glassware until settling in London in the 1780's. He assisted in the resettlement of Africans in Sierra Leone, married an English woman and was a leading figure in the anti-slavery movement. Olaudah Equiano's autobiography is entitled *The Interesting Narrative*, published in 1789 became a best seller available in several countries. Today Equiano's autobiography is published by Penguin Classics.

St Helena Once Again Important for Shipping

Eye witnesses reported a large tanker arriving off the coast of Jamestown yesterday afternoon.

It was reported that the 'Ridgebury Progress' registered in the Marshall Islands is experiencing major engine problems. A private aircraft is expected to deliver parts and two engineers to St Helena yesterday and another engineer is due to arrive on tomorrow's flight to board the vessel.

It was said that no crew members from the ship will be allowed ashore whilst it is in our waters. 'Ridgebury Progress' is a crude oil tanker built in 2000 by Samsung Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries in South Korea.

Its gross tonnage is 160, 216 tons and its home port is Douglas in the Isle of Man. The vessel is sailing from Freeport in the Bahamas to Singapore where it is scheduled to arrive on 28th February.



Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE COVID19 (CORONA VIRUS)

I have been following closely the outbreak of the Corona Virus now named covid19 since shortly after Christmas and every day I hope for some good news only to see another increase in deaths and those infected. In January 615 were reported as being infected, today it stands at 59864 with 24 countries outside of China affected by this deadly virus.

I fear for this island if such an outbreak would occur but it seems that our Government is not sharing this fear. The lack of information available on this island has forced me to write to the media and ask of our Government the following

- Why has there been just 1 press release pertaining to this disease. I see no posters in public areas on how we can stop the spread of Covid19. No travel advisories going out to passengers who might be going to the infected countries.

- How can the risk to the island be considered low when we have an ageing population, many with underlying illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes and other chronic diseases. The Virus caught by these people although not limited to, could lead to fatalities.

- Are we being complacent because there are no reported cases in Africa. That would be our biggest mistake as the African continent battles daily with other communicable diseases. Their health systems are weak and fragile, which beg me to ask how early would they detect Covid 19?

- Why is there no ban on travellers coming from China? Australia has extended their ban until the 22 February and their health systems are way more improved than what we have. Are we too scared to make such a statement?

- How close are we to getting the Covid19 test kits on island? We have

influenza kits which would only rule out other flu viruses.

- What is the purpose of the health questionnaire if they are not assessed prior to passengers getting off the flight?. My friend came back on Tuesday and advised that she took hers to the Health Officer in the Arrivals Hall at the Airport.

- What is our plan for cruise ships - the 1st one arrives at the end of next month. We would require effective screening for both passengers and crew before allowing anyone ashore.

If our Government is busy in the background working on processes and procedures to safeguard the people of this island then it is our right to know what these are. There is no need to protect us from the truths of this Global Health Emergency it is OUT THERE . **It didn't help China and it won't help us to withhold important information**

We had some chance with the ship, we have lost this with the planes and with 2 flights per week - A super spreader can

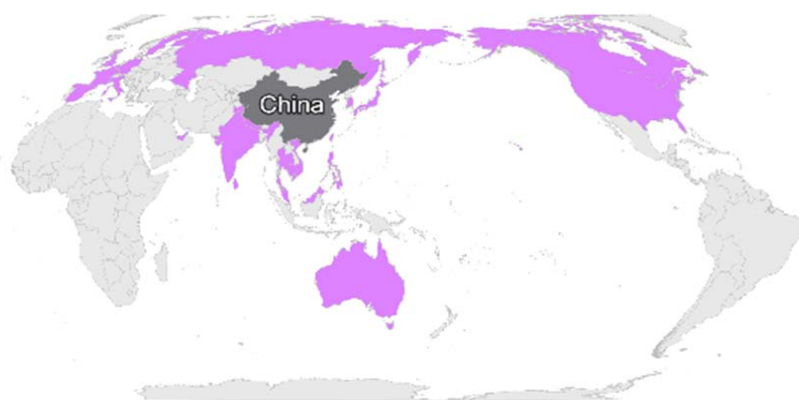
be here and gone within 4 days leaving us to deal with a crisis.

We need to make a start in educating and raising awareness amongst our people. Get the messages out to our schools, crèche and general public areas. These messages are all readily available and provided by WHO on the internet and all you need to do is print them.

Finally I share the below information on the number of countries affected outside of China, St Helena does not appear on this list and we want to keep it that way but in order to achieve this we need our Government to take a strong lead (specifically Health) in taking the necessary measures in protecting our borders. Ensure the implementation of effective screening so that we the people can put our trust and take comfort in knowing that they are working in the best interest of this island and that finances and bureaucracy will not be the deciding factors in the future of our health.

Yours sincerely,
Anon

Cases of coronavirus outside China



Japan*	203	Vietnam	16	Canada	7	Cambodia	1
Singapore	50	Australia	15	India	3	Finland	1
Thailand	33	US	14	Philippines	3	Nepal	1
South Korea	28	France	11	Italy	3	Sri Lanka	1
Taiwan	18	UK	9	Russia	2	Sweden	1
Malaysia	18	UAE	8	Spain	2	Belgium	1
Germany	16						

*figure includes 174 cases on board a cruise ship off the Japanese coast

Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Updated 13 Feb **BBC**

Note:

I agree with the sentiments of the author of this letter. Only one press release has been issued regarding the 'Corona Virus' and its threats. Furthermore, it was issued by SHG last week to be used in the 'editor's' discretion' without payment. St Helena Independent decided to publish it as it was in the public interest to do so but SHG was obviously not bothered if it was published or not.

St Helena Independent



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Editorial

It's happened again! The UK ministers and secretaries of state have been made to play another game of musical chairs by the prime minister. One result of this is yet another political head at DFID. The last Secretary of State for International Development kept the seat warm for 7 months. The one before that was in the job for just 2 months. The new Secretary of State for International Development is Ann-Marie Trevelyan. Heard of her? No, nor have I. Before moving to DFID she spent just under two months as the Minister of State for the Armed Forces and before that she held a junior post at the MOD for five months.

For the six Secretaries of State for International Development listed who have come and gone the average length of time in office is 16 months. Governor Rushbrook has a preference for senior government officers to be employed on short to medium term contracts but he thinks in terms of three years – not three months. These days, Secretaries of State at DFID can only be a little more than figureheads. I'm sure Professor Sarkin would say that in these circumstances it is the senior government officers who rule the roost.

One or two readers may remember I have complained bitterly on more than one occasion about emails that bounce backwards and forwards between me and the address I have sent it to for up to EIGHTEEN times. This perverse ping-pong game only happens when I send an email with an attachment of a few megabytes but less than ten because the official line is that the system cannot cope with ten or more. My experience is the system cannot cope with four megabyte attachments but that's not the point.

I have been told by a reliable source (people doing my job keep collecting this type of source) that if I want to avoid this perverse game of ping-pong in future all I need to do is use a gmail account. Maybe you knew that but I didn't. It seems because of the way it's done on gmail the ping-pong game

The roll call of the comings and goings at DFID looks like this.

Name	From	To	For how long
Anne-Marie Trevelyan	February 2020	?	?months
Alok Sharma	July 2019	February 2020	7 months
Rory Stewart	May 2019	July 2019	2 months
Penny Mordaunt	November 2017	May 2019	19 months
Priti Patel	July 2016	November 2017	17 months
Justine Greening	September 2012	July 2016	37 months
Andrew Mitchell	May 2010	September 2012	17 months

with the megabytes cannot happen. As it happens I do have a gmail account, it's just I'm not in the habit of using it.

Well, the time has come. Change habits to suit changing circumstances.

**Enjoy your weekend
Vince**

INDY PICTURE QUIZ.....Series 1 Blast From The Past

Picture 16...



**NAME THE RADIO OPERATOR.....HE USED HAM RADIO
CALL SIGN ZD7SD IN THE 70'S.....**

Tune in to the next Shine Show with Sharon Wade to find out how to answer. There will be a prize for the first person with the correct answer. *(Entries are only valid by submitting to the Shine Show)*

ANSWER TO PICTURE 15....

Amanda Cranfield (Winner: Pamela Moyce, HTH)

Fast Forward St Helena to the Digital Era

It's been talked about for a long time and this week it happened. The St Helena Government advertised for expressions of interest from international communications providers to deliver internal and external communication services to St Helena. The new service provision will be expected to extend and develop St Helena's telecommunications capability for island residents and businesses on the delivery of the subsea Equiano Cable. Sure's existing licence expires on 31st December 2022. The new regime will take over the following day. It is possible the Equiano Cable will be landed at Rupert's Bay towards the end of 2021; if not it will be during the first months of 2022 if Google's Equiano project keeps to schedule. The plan will be for ground stations built in St Helena to link the data from communication satellites to the Trans-South Atlantic Equiano Cable and onward to the world-wide digital information network. The cable connection is funded by the European Union and the company or companies operating the ground stations will be a source of revenue to the St Helena Government.



Also this week Christian von der Ropp gave a podcast interview to Johnny Clingham for Johnny's *St Helena Podcast* website - <http://www.thesthelenapodcast.com/> - which features a wide range of topical St Helena issues. Christian, who has been championing the cause for better and cheaper internet access for St Helena for the past 8 years, has more than 20 years experience at the forefront of global communications technology and is a fervent believer that using 21st Century communications effectively offers a direct benefit to people of developing countries and is one of the more important prerequisites for establishing a solid foundation upon which economic development can thrive.

Christian's interview included descriptions of what needs to change if St Helena is to move from slow, expensive and sometimes unreliable satellite only communication to the forefront of 21st century digital communication development. He reminded listeners to the podcast that the Equiano Cable will provide many hundred times more capacity than St Helena could ever use and there is plenty of spare capacity to sell to ground station operators to use for global communication links. He pointed out there is a severe shortage of ground stations at present and St Helena is ideally placed to fill the South Atlantic void where satellite data cannot at the moment be beamed to earth and linked via subsea cable networks to information hungry humans. St Helena is also ideal because there is a low risk from two of the main dangers of cable damage; dragged anchors and seismic activity. The

deep waters almost immediately off the coast and the very low number of shipping movements means anchor damage can confidently be expected to be extremely rare. Recorded volcanic activity on the seabed around St Helena lists just a handful of seismic events and where known, the magnitude of the earthquakes were low.

Turning to what the Equiano Cable can offer residents of St Helena, von der Ropp pointed out there should be a transformation in the way telecommunication businesses operate when St Helena homes are connected to the rest of the world via the Equiano Cable. Data transmission speeds will mean emails with big megabyte attachments will be on the screen almost instantly; no more waiting several minutes for the data to grind its way through the presented outdated telecom infrastructure. Exactly how fast the new data transmission speed actually is will depend on the extent the service provider who wins the new licence due to start on 1st January 2023 is prepared to invest in an upgraded on-island data transmission network. The cost of investment upgrades will affect the tariffs charged for internet and email usage but it is expected the tariffs will be much cheaper than now. Christian von der Ropp states it is possible to shake off the shackles of the monopolistic situation we now endure. It is possible for small independent telecom companies with just a few hundred customers to be commercially viable in the 21st century digital era. He gave Montserrat and the Cook islands as examples and village telecoms companies in Africa. The competition generated by having more than one telecom company doing business in St Helena will mean new, more flexible, more efficient and more customer friendly business models will need to be used by telecom companies operating in St Helena. The gold, silver and bronze packages with the punitive charges for excess usage can be and should be a thing of the past. Unlimited access and usage should become normal at an affordable price.



The Equiano route from Portugal to South Africa, also showing a second possible route

Taking the monopoly versus competition scenario further, Christian said it was vitally important the monopoly situation became a thing of the past when the new communication providers' licence comes into being on 1st January 2023. Introducing competition into St Helena's telecom services is seen as the best way to achieve the most from what the 21st century digital era can offer.

St Helena's Digital Era Regulatory Authority needs to be 21st century

Regulation of safety in aviation is nothing if not mind-bogglingly technical. Setting effective standards and enforcing them requires the experience and knowledge of people who have spent their lives in aviation, amassing the knowledge and skills required. The regulatory authorities in every country employ a range of people, each one of them able to master specific skills.

The St Helena airport is regulated by Air Safety Support International (ASSI). This regulatory authority describes itself as; - "Air Safety Support International (ASSI) is a not-for-profit, wholly-owned, subsidiary company of the UK Civil Aviation Authority, established under Directions from the United Kingdom's Department for Transport. The company's primary objective is to help provide a more cohesive system of civil aviation safety regulation in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

ASSI is responsible for supporting the Overseas Territories' existing authorities in the safety regulation of all aspects of civil aviation, including the licensing of personnel and the certification of aircraft, airlines, airports and air traffic control. In Territories where the civil aviation regulator does not have the resources to undertake the task themselves, then ASSI can be designated by the Governor to perform the civil aviation regulatory tasks on behalf of the Governor."

The need for an effective, all encompassing authority to ensure safety standards in aviation are maintained is obvious and vital. The ever more complex and equally technical telecom industry requires people with a similar standard of expertise and experience; this is absolutely imperative if St Helena as a country and all its people are to gain the most from what can be described as the revolutionary transformation from the telecoms we now have to the fibre-optic cable connection, ground stations, almost unlimited internet capacity and unbelievable data transmission speed which will soon be within our grasp. The opportunities all of this offers are of major proportions and must be maximised. The massive transition and the technical advancement are not just entirely new it is constantly developing further. Some of the opportunities open to St Helena are yet to be discovered. Regulation of telecoms in the 21st century digital era cannot be left to chance.

The St Helena Government has recruited a Telecommunications Policy Advisor. Policy is defined as "a set of ideas or plans that is used as a basis for making decisions". In terms of establishing a Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, recruiting a policy advisor is not even a starting point. Setting out ideas and plans is a world away from the detailed and precise universe of effective regulation in a highly technical industry. The depth and denseness of the technicality is overpowering to all but those whose lives have been immersed in it.

The idea that the ever expanding and increasingly complex telecoms industry in the British Overseas Territories should have a version of sorts similar to ASSI in the aviation industry has been proposed to the UK Government but no visible ac-

tion from them has yet been perceived. It has also been suggested, in view of the inaction from the UK, that the St Helena Government should work with some or all of the other British Overseas Territories to create a fit for purpose regulatory authority for the telecoms industry. Such a move would spread the costs and make the requirement for a competent and effective regulatory authority a viable proposition as the costs would be shared among several funding territories. Regulating the telecoms industry requires at the very minimum a small team of people, each member of the team an experienced specialist in a particular aspect of the multifaceted business.

Christian von der Ropp spoke about the importance of effective regulation in the telecoms industry during his interview with Johnny Clingham on *St Helena Podcast*. He pointed out that bad regulation can be a barrier to international investment. As an example he mentioned a breach of international standards set by ICANN, a globally recognised organisation focussed on ensuring the global internet can function properly.



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

The breach of international standards occurred in the Falklands. It involved Sure who did not having the required number of back-up data routings required in case there is a system failure. The inadequate back-up led to a 4 hour outage which also affected St Helena. The breach of standards could have led to penalties imposed by ICANN which would have been damaging to Sure's Falkland business. The telecoms regulator for the Falklands only intervened after strong public criticism.

Even in developed countries telecoms regulatory authorities, or individual within them, can make a mess of things because they do not know or have overlooked some aspect of the technical detail. After the Johnny Clingham podcast was broadcast on Saint FM, Christian von der Ropp cited an instance to the *Independent* where, in Germany a lack of technical and commercial understanding by the regulator opened the way for a large German internet service provider to charge Netflix a very high price before interconnecting the Netflix networks. As a result Netflix subscribers in Germany could not access the paid-for streaming services for weeks and von der Ropp fears that similar issues could be repeated in St Helena where the monopolist could discriminate against certain Internet content providers by undersizing its physical interconnections at the cable's termini. "How would SHG be able to inspect the physical interconnections of the monopolist in a data centre

St Helena's Digital Era Regulatory Authority needs to be 21st century

in Portugal or South Africa? How would SHG check on what load level those operate and how complex routers are configured?" he asks.




Back in the Falklands von der Ropp states inadequate regulation resulted in interference in the TV signal from Sure's 4G network because the regulator allocated a frequency to Sure which caused the interference. No action was taken by the Falklands regulator to rectify the error. A further aggravation was that an ordinance had to be drafted to amend existing legislation because the local TV company had no legal means to mitigate the situation. It did not end there. The ordinance exposed further lack of competence in the legal and technical areas which in the case of St Helena would discourage ground station operators who have expressed an interest. Citing a further example, Christian von der Ropp points to the Falkland Island Government admitting in a review that the Telecommunications Appeals Panel (TAP) is not fit for purpose.

The more cost effective solution which replaced the Telecommunications Appeals Panel was, "Appeals against decisions


of the Communications Regulator will instead be made to the Magistrate's Court." Magistrates are, of course, well known for their intimate knowledge of every aspect of modern telecommunications. Von der Ropp is very keen that St Helena should avoid similar pitfalls. He issued a statement to the *Independent* which is published below; -



"The Falklands provide a warning example of how despite the existence of a more sophisticated regulatory framework [than St Helena has] enforcement of the same remains challenging. Despite the Falklands' adopted a new Communications Ordinance in 2017 introducing a Telecommunications Appeals Panel (TAP) such has proven to be inefficient and in September 2019 the transfer of its responsibilities to the courts has been proposed: "A review of appeal arrangements in the Communications Ordinance 2017 has been conducted and has concluded that the TAP, as legislated for in Part 14, is not fit for purpose. This is due to the cost of implementation, the difficulty in finding and appointing truly independent experts in communications, and the disproportionate amount of resources, both financial and time, which would be required for FIG to establish such a system. Setting up the TAP is costly, and based on current information, the number of cases a year will be small (potentially single digits at most). Accordingly, a more cost effective solution is needed that still brings the benefits of an independent appeals mechanism to licensees and consumers."

It has to be feared that for the same reasons (cost of implementation, difficulty in finding and appointing truly independent experts in communications, and the disproportionate amount of resources required) St Helena might struggle to create an efficient and effective regulatory body overseeing the telecoms market."



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Christian VON DER ROPP

Christian von der Ropp has vast experience in many aspects of digital communications

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

I would like through your pages to express my feelings of utter disgust with the shabby performance of ExCo when interviewed on Saint FM on Thursday's February 2020.

FISHERIES CORPORATION CLOSURE

ExCo were out of their depth. It was easy to detect that their understanding of the industry was basic and their knowledge lacking, as when questioned they appeared unsure of what was being asked. Some of the questions were evaded, which definitely portrayed that though quick to make the decision to close St Helena Fisheries Corporation, they were not as quick to put a plan in place that would enable fishermen to continue to make a living in the interim period.

I am sure readers will agree that it is a huge ask to expect fishermen to catch fish, operate the processing facility and sell fish. What time would these individuals finish their day's work? To propose such a plan confirms that those people who have worked for Government for their entire life, are so out of touch of the realism of working within the private sector.

What was promised to be a smooth transition after the closure of the Corporation on 31 January has turned into total chaos. I raise the question, why? I along with many, believe it is because ExCo, the very same people who agreed to close Fisheries thought they knew it all. They did not do their homework. They did not see the need to reach out to those operating within the industry nor did they reach out to their own Health Directorate and as a result, they have caused mayhem. Talk about "One piece at a time". Cllrs. Green and Henry both confirmed that they made

the policy decision but that the plan did not fall into place; I wonder why? Have you questioned this? After all if ExCo are the decision makers, one would have thought that they would have been communicating with their administration to guarantee that the plan being put in place was strong. Accountability! Accountability!

Cllr Derek Thomas said someone commended ExCo for going on radio as it created the opportunity for them to let the people know what's going on. Did you really accomplish this, or did you cause more confusion and irritation? Sorry ExCo, but I would recommend that before you go on radio, it would do you a world of good to make certain you know your topic's, as in this case you appeared not to. Cllr. Lawson Henry - let me jog your memory. You relinquished your position as Chair of the SHFC Board in June 2018 along with your Exco colleague Cllr. Derek Thomas in 2017. Having sat on the Board for a considerable amount of time, one would have thought that you both would become somewhat knowledgeable of how the Corporation operated and would be in a position to give explanations as to why the place required the level of subsidy that was put into it year after year. I would also have thought you would be well placed to also give details for what purposes as you would both have been responsible for requesting the increased subsidy levels from SHG. So, Cllr. Thomas, when you point fingers at SHFC and SHCFA even though you claimed not to participate in

the blame culture, I plead with you to remember that you sat around the table with your colleague Cllr. Lawson Henry where you both had every opportunity to make a significant contribution to get the Corporation out of the rut they had fallen into. You were not able to do so, therefore I find it completely unfair that you are now dishing out blame to those who picked up from where you left off.

MANTIS HOTEL

Cllr Lawson Henry said the hotel will eventually break even, although he

was clever enough not to mention when, but believed this possible as there is new management in place, which is showing improvement. What are you suggesting of the old management and are you aware that under new management, employees are leaving in a flurry. Cllr. Henry if the projected tourist numbers do not increase, I predict things will not change. Be careful, you might be standing on shaky ground, as this entity has cost and from what I am told continues to cost more than Fisheries Corporation. You have your eye on the ball for Mantis but where were your eyes for Fisheries? I sincerely hope that the exit plan ties in with the recent operational review, as making decisions without being given all the necessary information could lead to more catastrophe and the exit plan will not be worth the paper it is written on.

BERTRANDS COTTAGE

Yes Cllr Henry, we have a restored historical building, restored to its glory as you put it, but unless you have a buyer or an interested person to operate it, it will be added to SHG's white elephant list. This is unfortunately the price that SHG will continue to pay whilst it stubbornly competes with the private sector. I urge SHG to please share with the community of this island, how much money was poured into this entity? You can't be quick to share information on one state owned entity to sell your story, but keep the rest of them dirty little secrets.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that I found the conduct of our' ExCo members during the interview last week - embarrassing. They are the leaders of our island and they were ill-equipped for questioning, which left me wondering - how are they representing St Helena when they travel abroad and when speaking to DFID and FCO.

Disappointed AMP

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

May I through your media say a little word of "Thanks" to all family and friends on the Island who made my most recent visit memorable and enjoyable. It was a pleasure to see so many faces both old and new alike. Some of whom I have not seen in a very, very long time. You all made the holiday period special and your hospitality over Lunch, and Dinner were especially delightful. You know whom you all are! There are just too many to mention. But a very BIG Thank you from the bottom of my heart to you all.

St. Helena has so many charming and humble people. No matter where you go and whom you meet up there's always the same friendly, kind and charming personalities. There were so many of you whom I never got to see properly. Or just a fleeting glimpse and "Hello". I will be back I promise and will make it my priority then. A special Hello to Sylvia Buckley (New Ground) Joyce Henry (Alarm Forest area) and Felicity Thomas (St Marks Villa) A BIG Thank you to Julian and Anya and the Young family at the Briars. Those memorable Boat trips and experiences on the high swell has left a lasting impression until the next visit. It truly was amazing and I'm glad I got to take the chance of going around the Island with you all.

There's still room for improvements along the way around the Island. The current water crisis is ongoing. This has been and always will be the same. I feel more storage Tanks could be in place to collect the over flow from going to waste when it does rain. The whole weather pattern around the world is changing and the seasons mixed up. I saw a few large green JoJo tanks about the Island from South Africa. Can they not import some more of these on a larger scale for water storage?? By drilling down and making bore holes to extract water, I wonder how much damage is being caused to the natural springs?? It is not possible to expect Tourists to come and visit the Island when there is no water. People

going on holidays expect to take showers, use toilets and wash their clothes. They most certainly don't want to be told to go sparingly as there is no water. Especially when you're surrounded by the vast South Atlantic. Desalination plant could possibly work during the extra dry and drought conditions. But this comes with costs and very expensive fees to operate. (I knew this is probably a lot more now than ever. It was expensive they said way back in the early 80's)

The Roads are noticeably rough and in some cases quite hazardous. I was appalled to see how bad the road is driving through from Levelwood to Sandy Bay area. The over grown shrubbery has the left road narrow and almost scary for anything to pass you by. Some road users drive way too fast with full beam headlights at night in your eyes. A little road courtesy goes along way! There are no motorways on St Helena to drive at such speed and I am quite sure the state of the roads does not do justice to your vehicles.

Whilst on the subject of Roads. I was told by several people that there are a certain number of younger people who claim social benefits. (It's none of my business and I have nothing against money being spent correctly. But! They are not employed or in any full time work) What exactly is all this about? Stop!!! They should not be given this money freely without any intentions to work. Unless of course they are incapacitated and disabled in some way or another. It beggars belief that they cannot find work to do when such roads could be cleared back and repaired or maintained as necessary. Why does the Government allow this sort of carry on??

Since my last visit some 4 & 1/2 years ago I see that the number plates on vehicles now read over the number 5000. That is an increase of a Thousand vehicles in those 4 years plus. There is no where to park properly in Jamestown. Its hideously congested! Parking at sea-front can cause a bit of a headache when there is a heavy swell and stones thrown up onto the wharf area from the sea. The Parking on Main Street is for a period of two hours I was told. Yet in some instances they told me some workers often park in this area all day? I think a much needed multi storey car park should be constructed. Possibly at the Quarry area near the General Hospital???

There's a huge space that could be used and constructed for such. And perhaps some type of Park and Ride scheme implemented where shuttle Buses could ferry people and their shopping etc to and from the main town areas where possible. It would ease on the congestion and parking thus making life a bit more bearable for the Residents living in Jamestown.

The Play Ground area in Jamestown seems to be very much dilapidated and rather sad looking. Its broken down fences and piles of leaves and debris from the Evergreen Trees look very untidy. I can only visualise so much potential there in my mind. The Toilets could be maintained by a full time Janitor with a small fee for usage. This would make sure that they are not mis-used or vandalised and could be locked after hours during the night. Maybe a small Coffee shop with seating and Parasols would entice shoppers to use this area and rest or have their lunches under the tress??? The whole area would look charming if it was carefully landscaped with large planter pots of flowers and shrubs. There's endless possibilities and at the end of the day I'm sure it all comes down to money and costs?!!!

Such is to be said for High Knoll Fort. This too could do with some TLC. The crumbled and fallen wall is still down after all these years. The Lighting that was installed is no longer in use. I was told that Mr Fowler is no longer on the Island to operate/turn them on. I'm quite sure there are other qualified Electricians who could do this and know how to? It seems like this was a waste of some £40,000.00 of funds. Bad management and a waste of money by Government?! It could have been used to rebuild the wall perhaps and leave the lights out altogether. Hmmm! It's been a black out there as far as I can remember apart the area used by the Geodetics.

Now that the UK have made a break from Europe as far as Brexit goes. All fundings should be utilised and spent wisely. I doubt there will be a lot more freebies handed out. The fuel tanks in Rupert's Valley is another story.

I hope that one does not see this as negative remarks and comments by myself. But should be treated as con-

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Your Opinion Counts

structive criticism where as improvements can be made to overcome such hurdles. There are numerous things that visitors who go to the Island see and those living there do not. The costs are certainly on the rise on St Helena and it is the less fortunate who suffer the consequences of bad management.

Until we meet again I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2020

Sincerely yours

Arnold Beard

Dear Editor

Flying into St Helena is an exhilarating experience. Arriving on St Helena is not a memorable one.

As the Island emerges from the deep blue, the excitement makes you giddy. It looks so small. Before you can settle you're gliding past the Barn. Huge and intimidating, the Island introduces itself with spectacular drama. The land seems to drop away as the cliffs get closer. It is a bewitching illusion. Framed by the plane window, the Island stretches out before you as you touch down. An exhilarating experience.

From here onwards taxing to the terminal and leaving the plane is efficient. Joy sweeps over you as you walk the runway to the terminal, you are finally on the Island. Customs is smooth. Anything is professional. It is like arriving at any other airport in the world. Here lies the reason for this open letter. Arriving on St Helena is not a memorable one. Having travelled for days and spent thousands, arriving at St Helena Airport should have been a memory to cherish. Instead it left an underwhelming feeling, just a bit cold. Please do not misunderstand or mistake me, it is a very professional and efficient service, comparable to anywhere else in the world. But this is St Helena. It is special and unique. Unlike anywhere else. It should be more. It should be unique, it should be charming, it should introduce the Island, it should fill you with happy memories

when you reminisce about it years later.

Now, not being one to just pass comment and leave it at that. Here are some thoughts about how arriving on St Helena could be more memorable.

Make it more charming by playing the old "My St Helena Island" song upon landing. I always found this tradition to be a bit naff when it was played on the RMS St Helena (quick aside - this isn't some nostalgic longing to go back to the 'good ole days' of the RMS, I believe in the Airport and what it means, but if there is something to be learned about what worked on the RMS, it shouldn't be ignored because it was then and this is now) However, naff I personally found the song, I grew to love it because it had charm. It made arriving at the Island memorable. To hear "My St Helena Island" meant you were home. You had arrived at St Helena. Why not play it when the plane is taxing. Admittedly, I don't know if there is some flight rule preventing this, but why not. It would create a special moment for tourists and returning Saints alike. Imagine the joy on a plane singing "My St Helena Island" as it taxis to the terminal. What a unique and charming way that would be to arrive. It would be a story people would tell for years.

Another idea to make the arrival more memorable, would be to show off the Island as you step into the terminal. St Helena is an island of contrasting unspoiled beauty, so overwhelm and tease me with it as I step inside. Why not have floor to ceiling images of the Peaks, Jamestown, High Knoll and so on. They could even be painted for a more personal touch. Maybe even some of the larger endemics in pots could be arranged around the space if possible. There were pictures displayed when we arrived, but they were framed and small within the larger space. You have to wait to clear customs anyway, make it a visual feast showing off the best of the Island. Showing the things you are about to experience. It would add colour and interest to an already efficient service. For a final idea, influenced by the traditional Hawaiian Lei greeting. Give every arriving visitor a Coconut Finger or another traditional Saint treat. We don't have a greeting like the Hawaiian's, but we do love to feed you. Especially when you are returning home. Visitors to the Island love Saint food as well. A welcoming tradition could be created. As the number of visitors are known beforehand,

the amounts needed can be managed. What a delight it would be that once you clear customs a treat awaits you. It would be a memorable arrival.

I feel I should reiterate that arriving on St Helena is a very professional and efficient experience. This is an open letter with the ambition of wanting it to be more. For it to be a truly memorable experience. Special and unique to St Helena. I believe that the ideas outlined are not the only ideas, but they could be workable ideas that wouldn't be a huge task to implement. Providing whatever international airport rules allow, and if they don't perhaps they could bend a little. Any trip to St Helena is special, but arriving on St Helena should have been more memorable than it was. It left a feeling of something missing, not quite right. Not quite a St Helenian welcome. You can only make a first impression once, and this is a missed opportunity to create a truly unique St Helenian welcome. Please Airlink and St Helena Airport do consider the thoughts of this letter not as a complaint on your excellent service. But as a plea to look at the arrival on St Helena, and how it could be made more charming, more visually interesting, and more delightful. How arriving on St Helena could be made more memorable.

Robin - saintcooks.com

P.S. These thoughts came from our trip back to the island last year, flying into St Helena for the first time. And came back to us while we were making our recent video about Flying to St Helena. If interested that video is now available on The Saint Cooks Facebook page and Youtube channels to watch how exhilarating flying into St Helena is.

Dear Editor

I want to tell you and the *Sentinel* papers that you'll be doing a really great job keeping people informed about what all is going on. Keep up the good work. Five years now since I gave up on the Falklands to come home and be with my boys. I work two jobs to try to make ends meet. I live with a lot of stress even though I am a very calm and kind man. I have health problems because of the stress. Now Mike let me tell you why. I work hard. I grew up with my grandparents and they teach me to work for what you want. I can steal and

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tell lies to make money but that aint the way to go. I not looking for anyone to give me anything. I want to be a man standing in my own two feet. Every month I pay my bills and they never stop. My boys know we have to live simple but I reaching a point where I can't take it nomore. I know nough people out there feeling the same way. I so fed up, prices going up, who the hell put the water up now? I get paid peanuts for what I do, dats why I wont sign my name cause I will lose my job. I don't owe nobody no big money cause my boys know I can't afford to; Mike I live with stress every day. I can't take a holiday or go down Mantis and the boys get clothes from the neighbours.

Thank Gawd I not got no women cause I would never be able to pay those stupid prices what people want for the Valentine's dinner. You'll know what saints going through right now. That must be for the rich hey and the rest of us can sit home with one old conga bone, oh I forgot the poor Fishermen also can't take their Valentine out this year.

Can somebody please stock up on the stuff us Saints want to buy in the shops. What the Saints love is sold within days and all that other junk sitting on the shelves going stale, us don't want that. Buy more of what the people want. Common sense .

Will some of the shopkeeper stop asking me my private business. I am your customer not your friend. Every time I walk into some of the shops you want to know my business. This is to some of the privately owned small shops. Be professional. I not fool by the way you ask. I see you is just nosey. You don't care bout me. Owners speak to your workers.

People keep sayin that St Helena never use to be this way. When people go wake up. St Helena been like this since the donkey took his last breath. You'll talk bout childhood like you'll was in Disneyland, but your momma never tell you'll how she and you daddy struggle because that is not things you tell children. So most likely you think the pot was sweet but you poor daddy was struggling

ever since. Come on admit it now, most of you'll out there never had no rich upbringing. Pennies had to be rub. I grow up with my grandparents and I left home 20 years ago and they was still struggling then. So stop telling lies. Those people coming to us for holiday, you'll got good jobs overseas and you'll only make us feel bad because we got live here. After you holiday darling you go back to your big basket of fruit and vegetables and well paid jobs. Why the people keep blaming the Councillors for everything. Don't put all the eggs in their basket see luvie, cause we vote them there. Now if we know that something not working what us keep keep putting them back there for. Who is the fool now. Look out come election time those same people who think they understand what going on will vote those same people back into power. Aint it time for change. Saints wont stand together cause some out there look only to themselves and someone is scratching their back so they not go rock the boat. Well done to the Saints who work hard and got far in life by being honest. So let's see now when the next election come round what us go do. We need people who will fight. I know the Saints are tired, nobody seems to be listening. Is it because they know that us is all mouth and no action, so they let us shout knowing us going nowhere with it. Why us keep letting them get away with it. I wonder if my boss will take off my salary if I go vote. Come on us need new blood, people who know what it is to struggle every day. Some of you;11 out there think you'll not got the brains for it but you'll got common sense go for it. Can't read so I can't run for council. And all those out there who telling us to be positive - everybody know me for being Jolly Jack but when you go to bed tonight think of me cause I just had my water and electricity bill come and the money I make don't cover all my living costs. I is positive. I positive that SHG is lying to us. I positive that some Saints cheat their way to a better life. I positive that if no help comes this island will be run by overseas people with the Saints living in poorness. You tell me I not helping the Tourist part of the island, but we need to take care of our people. Who you'll trying to impress. Stop pretending to the tourist that us is all friendly

here, cause us aint. Some out there is mean, rude, they don't greet you but they got that smile ready for the tourist though. They write horrible things on the

internet bout you. Stop being so bloody false. Most St Helenians don't even trust one another. Thank Gawd for the friendly few and few they are. Now I know there is kind people on St Helena. You'll do what you'll can. Some churches do good work and Nicky Judas well done with the food parcels. When you go do that again. People is in need and many people here step forward last year and gave from their hearts and purses. The problem though is that sometimes people is greedy. They pretend to struggle and they always want. I is see how you'll is get on and the rest of us is push aside. What about doing one food bank often for those struggling? Councillors you'll can redeem you'liseives by starting this. If you'll think that people don't go to bed crying every night then this letter is telling you so. Look out Public Health you'll be sending people on the plane this now with high stress. Did you know the health problems stress can cause.

Some of our poor Saints want to work but can't find a job they can cope with. You'll look at them and say they is lazy but you;11 don't know what going in their lives. Where the jobs for the young people. They all don't want to get social benefits. Some want to work. Poor people thought that Cann France was go solve their problems. and to that bunch of Saints who sit and judge everyone. We can do without you'll. Pity you lips don't stretch that far to stand up and fight for the people. You'll don't take time to get to know people but you seem to know all the dirt on them. Why you'll so worried over who with who. That aint you business. Clean you own backyard. You run with a story with no thought of what it will do to people, even if it aint true. Shape up! Disgusting way to live. Be kind people are suffering. People work on our nerves but don't condemn them to hell and none of us in the sight of Gawd is better. Look at the man in the mirror every day. Please, please can somebody come and help us on this island. i crying now. is there a woman or man out there brave enough to take the job and take us forward. Come and find out what going on. We can't take this nomore. And to the kind SHG worker who type this letter up for me I appreciate it. Not all of you'll wear the same coat. They help me with the big words in this letter.

Thank you Mike very much for entertaining me.

Mr Motor Mouth, Crash and Burn

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St Helena
Government

VACANCY SENIOR PAYROLL EXECUTIVE

Looking for a new challenge? Corporate Finance has an opportunity for you!

Corporate Finance is seeking to recruit a highly-motivated person to join their team as Senior Payroll Executive in their Payroll function.

The post holder will be responsible to the Business Support Manager, for the day to day management of the Central Payroll function and processing of all SHG payrolls.

Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of Finance and Accountancy. The starting salary for the post will be £8,613 per annum, and will be reviewed on the achievement of competencies in line with the Finance and Accountancy Cadre.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Miss Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



St Helena
Government

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

TOBACCO CONTROL LEGISLATION

Date	Time	District/Venue
Monday 17 February 2020	19:00hrs	Jamestown <u>Venue: Jamestown Community Centre</u>
Tuesday 18 February 2020	19:00hrs	Half Tree Hollow <u>Venue: HTH Community Centre</u>
Wednesday 19 February 2020	19:00hrs	St Pauls <u>Venue: Kingshurst Community Centre</u>
Thursday 20 February 2020	19:00hrs	Blue Hill <u>Venue: Blue Hill Community Centre</u>
Monday 24 February 2020	19:00hrs	Sandy Bay <u>Venue: Sandy Bay Community Centre</u>
Tuesday 25 February 2020	19:00hrs	Levelwood <u>Venue: Levelwood Community Centre</u>
Wednesday 26 February 2020	19:00hrs	Longwood <u>Venue: Longwood Community Centre</u>

We wish our mother and grandmother

Marjorie Peters

a very **Happy 97th Birthday**. We are thanking God for the years He has given you.

Thank you for the inspiration you are to all of us. We hope you will have an awesome birthday.

We love and miss you every day, Guy, Doreen and family, Derek, Marsha and Derek Jr.

SAINTS MEMBERS' CLUB, GEORGETOWN, ASCENSION ISLAND, ASCN 1ZZ SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

Email: manager.smc@atlantis.co.ac

Tel: +(247) 66344



Saints Members' Club Ascension Island has a vacancy for a full-time Club Attendant.

The successful applicant must be a trustworthy, dedicated, hardworking and polite individual and at times work outside of normal working hours. The club is an independent organisation that provides bar, catering and special function services to its members and other residents on the island.

Main duties involved are Bar tendering, Kitchen assistance, Cleaning and any other duties as required by the manager.

The post will be offered on either a single or household status in the first instance. After successfully completing a six-month probationary period, the post could potentially become accompanied.

The contract is offered for a period of two years renewable with the following benefits package.

- 40 hour working week (Any hours worked outside of normal working hours will be paid as overtime)
- Rent free accommodation (including electricity and water allowances)
- Food Allowance
- Medical and primary dental care
- One return passage to your country of residence during the contract period
- Gratuity payable on completion of two years
- 30 days annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays) each year

This appointment will be subject to:

- Medical Clearance
- Employment References
- Basic Criminal Records Check

Salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

A job description can be provided on enquiry and any further information can be obtained from the Saints Club Manager – Mrs Samantha Arms-Lawrence on email address: manager.smc@atlantis.co.ac or telephone number +247 66344.

Interested persons should submit their application along with your CV and vetting certificate to Mrs Kayla Fowler – Saints Members' Club Chairman on email address – chairman.smc@atlantis.co.ac

Closing date for applications for this post is Friday 28th February 2020.



**St Helena
Government**

VACANCY BUSINESS SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

Corporate Finance has an exciting opportunity for a Business Support Executive to join their team.

The post holder will be responsible to the Business Support Manager and will provide administrative and accountancy support to the Business Support Unit, through achieving efficiency of operations, delivering a customer focused service and supporting Corporate Finance in meeting its statutory responsibilities.

Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of Finance and Accountancy. The starting salary for the post will be £6,722 per annum, and will be reviewed on the achievement of competencies in line with the Finance and Accountancy Cadre.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Miss Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
has a vacancy for an

Internal Audit Assistant

Within the Internal Audit Department

Job Purpose

To assist with making independent and objective recommendations that add value and improve the Company's Operations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have knowledge of computerised accounting/audit record keeping systems
- Have the ability to gather, analyse and evaluate facts and prepare and present concise oral and written reports
 - Ideally have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths, English & Accounting
- Desirably have at least 2 years of financial experience, through accounting/auditing
 - Be willing to work towards an Internal Audit Certification

Salary will start at **£8,322.24** per annum, (£693.57 per month)

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Priscilla Joshua, Internal Auditor on telephone number: 22076 or via email address: internalauditor@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via e-mail address: hadmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, **By 17 February 2020**



MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (MSME) BUSINESS GRANTS

Technical and Legal Assistance	Development Projects	Product and Service Enhancement	Hire for Reward and Vehicles/Trailers <i>(as per policy)</i>	Skills Development
New businesses and youth entrepreneurship scheme.	New businesses and youth entrepreneurship scheme.	Existing businesses only.	New and existing businesses.	All Sectors.
75% to a Max of £2,500	75% to a Max of £5,000	50% to a Max of £10,000	25% to a Max of £5,000	75% to a Max of £7,500

Youth Loan from 16 to 26 yrs	£2,000 1% Interest
Youth Extension Loan up to 30 yrs	£3,000 3% Interest

These grants are subject to eligibility criteria. Policy, terms and conditions apply.

For further information contact a member of the Business Development Team on tel: 22920, or email: delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh & mandy.obey@esh.co.sh



Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: info@esh.co.sh
Visit us online : www.investinsthelena.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com

VACANCY- PROCUREMENT OFFICER, PHARMACY SECTION

The Pharmacy Section of the Health Directorate is looking to recruit a highly motivated candidate to effectively and efficiently lead on all of the Health Directorate's procurement requirements in accordance with the St Helena Government's Procurement Regulations.

He/she will be responsible for assisting the relevant Senior Managers with the procurement, ordering, which has to be placed in the budget limit agreed beforehand. receiving and reconciling of stock as appropriate. This includes reporting any discrepancies between the stock received and the invoice to the relevant senior manager.

The duties of the post includes:

1. providing forecasts for the healthcare directorate's procurement needs in consultation with Senior Managers in order to prevent overstocking and running out-of-stock (OOS);
2. consulting with the relevant Senior Manager, producing the relevant procurement documentation, providing advice on the timescale and processes to enable the procurement of medications, medical devices and equipment and, ensuring that the Directorate adheres to Procurement Regulations and any other relevant regulations;
3. ensuring records on all procurement are kept up to date and easily accessible electronically to include regular reports to the Senior Medical Team as and when required through/by conducting monthly stock take and reconciliation of stock;
4. issuing purchase orders to replenish goods and tracks delivery and to maintain a register of suppliers for future references;
5. overseeing storage of products in accordance with the local legislation and to ensure First Expiry, First Out (FEFO) is applied in order to minimise any stock losses due to expiry by providing regular reports to improve losses from expired products;
6. through benchmarking and marketing testing, ensure best value and efficiencies are achieved by the directorate when procuring goods and services and, to obtain feedback from section heads on the quality of goods and services purchased.

Essential qualifications for this post are:

- .GCSE qualification or equivalent in Maths and English; at grade C or above;
- .Excellent written and good verbal communication skills to communicate at all levels Intermediate analysis of information or basic statistical analysis; Good IT skills in Access Dimensions and all Microsoft applications;
- . A valid drivers licence

The successful candidate should have at least two years' relevant experience in procurement and/or stock management.

Salary for the post is at Grade C commencing at £8,613 per annum.

Interested persons requiring further details regarding this post can contact Mr Vlad Cucuiu, Pharmacist on telephone no 22500 or email vlad-dorin-cucuiu@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms and a job profile, which are available from the Health Directorate should be completed and submitted through Directors where applicable to Mrs Brenda Thomas, Human Resources Officer, Health Directorate or email brenda.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Monday, 17 February 2020.

All appointees are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

VACANCY INCLUSION MANAGER

Everyone has a right to an education including children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The Education and Employment Directorate's vision is to provide inclusive schools which offers excellent support for the wellbeing of their students.

The role of the **Inclusion Manager** suits an individual with a strong presence and a desire to support students to reach their full potential. This rewarding and challenging role gives you the opportunity to promote, direct and oversee high standards of teaching and learning, pupil achievement and progression through effective inclusion for pupils with special educational needs.

The **Inclusion Manager** will provide strategic direction and help set the vision and ethos for all aspects of school life relating to children with SEND. You will play a major role in contributing to the raising of standards for all children with SEND ensuring inclusive practice and equality of opportunity for all.

Responsible to the Director of Education and Employment, the key tasks of the role include:

- To develop and lead on the implementation of policies and strategies within the Education and Employment Directorate in regard to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Inclusion and Safeguarding
- Lead and manage the Inclusion Service focusing on improving outcomes for children and young people
- Support head teachers in ensuring that schools effectively implement policies and procedures for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Inclusion and Safeguarding in line with Directorate guidelines
- Represent the Directorate in working with agencies such as schools, early years settings, voluntary organisations, other directorates and other external organisations in order to support and promote inclusion
- Provide strategic leadership to improve outcomes for all children with SEND and to meet targets relating to narrowing the gaps in achievement

Applicants must be in possession of

- A degree in relevant subject area e.g. Education, Psychology, Special Needs
- Local or UK Qualified Teacher Status
- At least 3 years recent experience of working in a teaching profession.

The ideal candidate must be innovative and creative in responding quickly to changing and varied needs of children and of the Education system, the ability to generate novel solutions to often complex problems that arise and ability to apply objective judgement. To note is that all shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake an online psychometric test.

Salary for the post is at Grade E, £14,138 per annum.

The Education & Employment Directorate is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to uphold these principles. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

For further details about the post or to arrange an informal chat, interested persons can contact Mrs Wendy Benjamin, Director of Education and Employment on telephone number 22607 or e-mail wendy.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh A copy of the job profile can also be obtain from the Education and Employment Directorate or Corporate Human Resources.

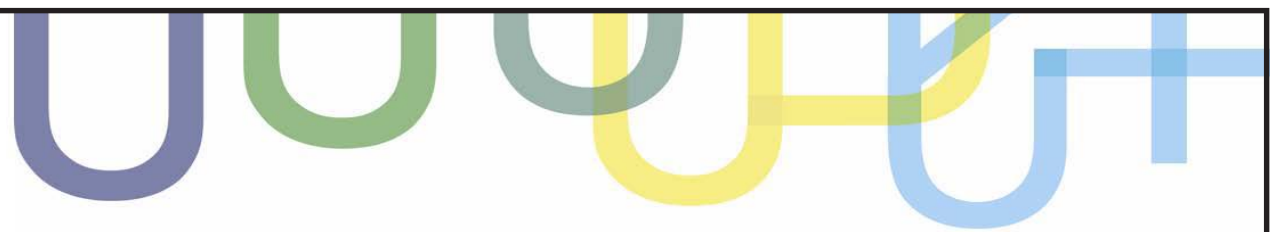
Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Clare O'Dean, Senior Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail clare.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

PROPOSED ELECTRICITY AND WATER TARIFFS COMMENCING 1ST APRIL 2020

Connect Saint Helena is proposing revised tariffs commencing 1st April 2020. Whilst there has been good progress in reducing operating costs we still require a sizeable subsidy from SHG to remain solvent putting pressure on Connect to increase charges to the consumer. We are proposing to keep electricity tariffs at their current level and to focus increase on water and sewage charges. The combined effect for most people will be less than inflationary increase on their Connect bill. A high user tariff is proposed for units in excess of 25; this is to discourage excessive usage and is set 5 units above average domestic consumption. The Minimum Income Standard will be adjusted to take into account this increase and qualifying agricultural customers will receive payments directly from Saint Helena Government to offset this increase. Water charges have not increased since July 2018 & electricity charges have remained static for the last 4 years with the last increase in April 2016.

	CURRENT TARIFF	PROPOSED TARIFF	Increase
ELECTRICITY TARIFF CHARGES			
<u>Usage Charges</u>			
Domestic Band 1 (first 1,000units)	£0.30	£0.30	Nil
Domestic Band 2 (units over 1,000)	£0.46	£0.46	Nil
Commercial and 3 Phase	£0.46	£0.46	Nil
WATER TARIFF CHARGES			
<u>Quarterly Standing Charges</u>			
Domestic	£10.33	£11.36	£1.03
Commercial	£31.00	£33.10	£3.10
Agricultural	£10.33	£11.36	£1.03
<u>Domestic Use</u>			
Treated Water first 15 cubic metres	£1.39	£1.53	£0.14
Treated Water 16 – 24 cubic metres	£1.84	£2.02	£0.18
Treated Water over 25 cubic meters	£1.84	£3.97	£2.13
Untreated	£0.92	£1.01	£0.09
<u>Other Use</u>			
Commercial	£3.61	£3.97	£0.36
Agricultural treated	£1.84	£2.02	£0.18
Agricultural untreated	£0.92	£1.01	£0.09
DRAINAGE TARIFF CHARGES			
Domestic Standing	£18.00	£19.80	£1.80
Commercial Standing	£28.42	£31.26	£2.84



CURRENT TARIFF	PROPOSED TARIFF	Increase
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ELECTRICITY OTHER CHARGES

Disconnection	£40.56	£42.18	£1.62
Reconnection	£40.56	£42.18	£1.62

WATER OTHER CHARGES

Connection	£35.15	£36.56	£1.41
Disconnection	£35.15	£36.56	£1.41
Reconnection	£35.15	£36.56	£1.41

DRAINAGE OTHER CHARGES

Empty private septic tank (domestic)	£71.38	£78.52	£7.14
Empty private septic tank (commercial)	£114.65	£126.12	£11.47
Unblock private sewer line (domestic)	£71.38	£78.52	£7.14
Unblock private sewer line (commercial)	£114.65	£126.12	£11.47
Connection	£35.15	£38.67	£3.52
Disconnection	£35.15	£38.67	£3.52

Anyone wanting to understand more how the tariff changes will affect them are welcome to call Connect on 22255 or email enquiries@connect.co.sh

Any comments you might have regarding the proposed tariffs can be forwarded to:

The Utilities Regulatory Authority, The Castle, Jamestown marked for the attention of Yvonne Williams or by email to: yvonne.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh

All comments must be received by 12:00 noon on Thursday 20th February 2020.



St Helena
Government

Expression of Interest

The Saint Helena Government are seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake construction of Government Landlord Houses at the Bottom Woods CDA.

The works will include construction of flats and houses from 2 to 5 bedroom homes with the opportunity to tender for single or multiple constructions.

For further information, please contact the Mr Christopher Peters on telephone 22270 or email christopher.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh.

The closing date by which Expressions of Interest are to be submitted is 12noon on Monday, 24th February 2020 and should be addressed to Miss Tiffany Lawrence (Procurement Officer), at Essex House, Jamestown.



Orders for Seed Potatoes

Thorpes are taking orders for 25kg bags to arrive V26 (ETA: 11/03/2020)
Contact Melanie Williams in Thorpe's Wholesale store on 22393 or wholesale@thorpes.sh

Variety:	Valor	Up To Date
Tubers per Bag:	TBC	400
Generation:	4/5	3
Price:	£34.00	£34.00
Notes:	Good Blight & Drought resistance	Susceptible to Early and Late Blight



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SAINT HELENA LTD

TIP OF THE WEEK

Rather than wasting water by continuously running the tap, hold a minimum amount of water in a separate basin for multiple rinsing after washing up until it's necessary to change the water.

ST HELENA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

St Helena Government (SHG) is seeking Expressions of Interest from International Communications Providers who are capable of providing the following communication services internally and externally to St Helena from 1 January 2023:

1. Residential/Voice & Data Services
2. Local Business Voice & Data Services
3. Government Voice & Data Services
4. Teleport & Data Centre on-Island and International Connectivity
5. Mobile Services
6. Television Service
7. Internet Service, to include: DNS Hosting Services, Managed Firewall Services, Managed Mail Filtering, Domain Hosting Services, Web Hosting, Internet Access and Internet Transit.

Expressions of Interest should be registered on the St Helena Government e-procurement system 'in-tend' which can be accessed via: <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/sainthelena> following registration on the system.

User guides are available via the 'Supplier Information' tab to assist prospective suppliers registering on the e-Procurement system.

Any assistance required in registering should be addressed to the SHG Procurement Office for the attention of Nicola Young via email: nicola.young@sainthelena.gov.sh or on telephone number (00 290) 22470.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 12:00 GMT on Friday, 3 April 2020.

SHG

11 February 2020



REMOTE BANKING FEBRUARY 2020

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise the public that Remote Banking for February will take place as follows:

Location	Date	Time
Scotland	Friday, 21 February	09:30—13:00
HTH Supermarket	Monday, 24 February	09:30—13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Friday, 28 February	09:30 - 14:00

Save yourself the trip into Jamestown, visit your nearest Remote Banking Location. For your convenience you can also use your 'Local Debit Car' at all our Remote Banking Locations

Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STHL 122

T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. info@sainthelenabank.com · web www.sainthelenabank.com

Established and regulated under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017 and the Company Ordinance, 2004



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Crop Watch Trial Special

Key Findings:

1. It is possible to grow profitable, good quality, high yielding crop of potatoes in a drought in the summer
2. Planting poor quality seed is a wasted effort
3. Drip irrigation, Fertiliser, water and controlling pests and disease increase yield and profitability

Background

One job of Farmer Support Agronomy is to try new out new things so that farmers don't have to take the risk. We can use the results from the trials to recommend a new technique or product, or to advise farmers *not* to do something. Trials can also be used to demonstrate and train farmers.

The Trial

In October 2019 ANRD planted a small plot of Potatoes at Ex ADA near the nursery. The land had not been cropped for many years. It last had sheep and goats grazed in it 4 years ago.

The plot was mostly kikuyu and lantana. It was sprayed and ploughed in August.

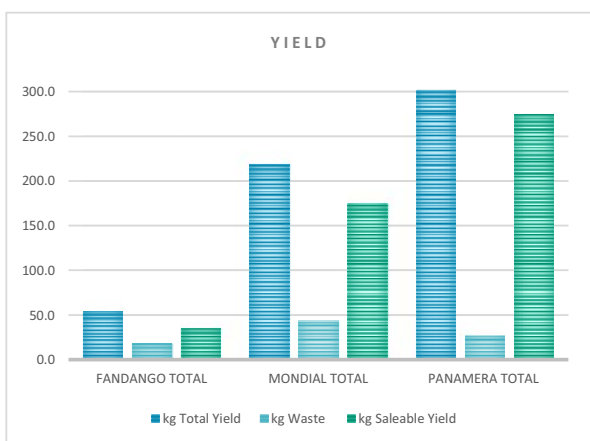
Summary of results

Plot Size

The plot was 200m²: 6 x 38m rows 80cm apart and two 8m rows 80cm apart. 2 rows of each variety and two short mixed rows

29kg of seed was planted.

Yield



- The total yield was 630kg (198.7gallons)
- The Saleable yield was 533.1kg (168.2 Gallons)
- The waste was 96.9kg (30.5 Gallons)

This means for every kilo of seed planted 13.7kg was harvested. This includes two rows of old Fandango planted to see the effect of planting poor seed. It was very poor yielding

Varieties

Variety	Yield	Yield kg	Losses %
Panamera	23 to 1	275kg/86.7Gal	10%
Mondial	15 to 1	175kg/55Gal	25%
Fandango old seed	2.7 to 1	35.1kg/11Gal	52%



Fandango



Mondial



Panamera

Fandango and Mondial set tubers closer to the surface and so suffered greater losses from pheasants and tuber worm than Panamera.

Pre-Planting herbicide

Part of the plot was applied with Glyphosate (Roundup) before ploughing, and part with no herbicide applied.



- Result: 7 months later you can still see the difference; there are far fewer weeds in the sprayed area

Planting Method

The potatoes were planted using a tractor and island-built planter. The planting placed the seed in ridges so didn't leave the seed exposed to potato tuber moth. It took just 30 minutes to ridge, fertilise, plant and cover one bag of seed.

- Result: It needed 3 people; one to drive the tractor and two feeding seed into the machine. No further moling was done through the entire life of the crop

This service is available to farmers. Please contact Ted Whitton if you are interested.

Herbicides

Different herbicides were applied to areas of the plot to test their effectiveness. The differences are clear to see. Where no herbicide was used there is more weeds than potatoes.

- Result: We can recommend farmers to use herbicides to cut down on weeding. No weeding was done through the life of the crop. Potatoes in the un-sprayed area were smothered out and yields were lower. Harvest was more difficult due to weeds.
- **Harvest** was good at controlling nut-sedge but knocked the crop back
- **Linuron** and **Metribuzin** showed no difference in this trial

Drip Irrigation & Fertigation



The potatoes are being irrigated with drip hose. Some farmers already use this, but it is seen as impractical for potatoes. The trial demonstrates that it works well. One huge advantage in dry conditions is getting 20% more water efficiency. Also weeds do not grow between the rows that would be using Overhead irrigation water.

- Result: drip worked well but needs more refining. Potatoes at end of the line received more water and fertiliser

Fertiliser was applied with the water. By doing this we can apply fertiliser to the crop when it is needed (when it's growing, not when it is planted) with water to help the roots absorb the fertiliser. Direct to the rows so less is being used by weeds. We can put the fertiliser into the irrigation water, so we don't need to walk through the crop to spread the fertiliser, saving time and effort.

- Applying the correct fertiliser at the correct time probably made the biggest effect on yield.

Fungicide and Insecticide Programme

The plot has been sprayed with newly available pesticides, with an area left unsprayed for comparison. Pest control has been good so far.

- Result: Tuber worm was still a problem, maybe less than with no spray. Will continue to test other insecticides for PTM control.
- Result: crop was kept disease free throughout from the fungicide spray
- Result: Rust mite not a problem in the crop

Problems

A great thing about trials in the field is they are like real life. So just like farmers we have had problems.

1. Drought has meant lots of irrigation. There has been issues with water pressure for the drip that means the crop has not always had the right amount of irrigation
2. Pheasants. Just like everyone else, pheasants and rabbits are bothering the crop.
3. Availability of fertiliser. Nitrogen fertiliser was applied later than planned as the popularity of Urea meant it sold out quicker than expected.

Where did the Potatoes Go?

As many as possible were donated to the hospital, CCC and Prison. We did not want to supply too many:

1. So they don't go soft before they can be used
2. So ANRD doesn't compete with the merchants and farmers when other supplies are available

Contact

All the techniques and products used here are available to all. If you'd like to know more then please contact ANRD:

For all enquiries please contact ANRD at Scotland on 24724 or email Ted Whitton

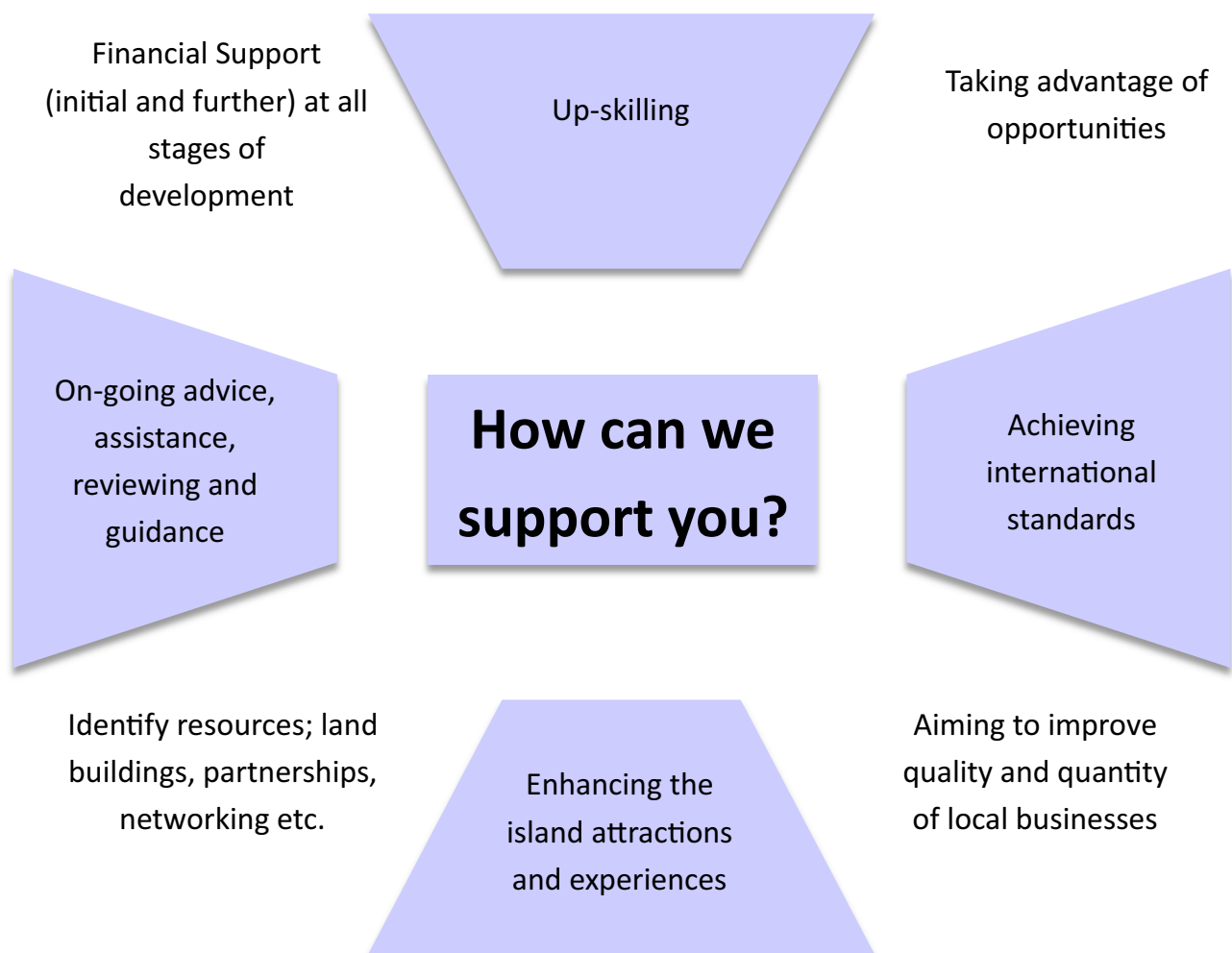
edward.whitton@sainthelena.gov.sh

BUSINESS SUPPORT



It is widely recognised that entrepreneurs wishing to carry out an approved business development project or activity often need financial and professional assistance not only in their early stages but during the development of the project.

Enterprise St Helena supports the development of potential new business start-ups and existing businesses that target key sectors as defined within the Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP).



If you are considering yourself as a new entrepreneur and would like to venture into the business world, or you are an existing business within a key sector, then please contact the Business Development Team on telephone number 22920 for further information or email delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh & mandy.obey@esh.co.sh



Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: info@esh.co.sh
Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelena.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com

Be a Champion for Equality and Diversity

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the statutory body on St Helena that is responsible for enforcing the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals set out in Part 1 of the Constitution of St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Treaties as extended to St Helena.

Opportunities exists for a Chairperson and Commissioners to join the EHRC.

Commissioners work to influence law and policy makers, organisations, groups and individuals to protect and promote human rights in St Helena, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

The functions of the Commission include:

- investigating complaints of human rights infringements, conducting inquiries and investigations
- researching of laws, keeping up with human rights news, trends and thinking to keep St Helena on par with the UK and current best practice
- raising awareness throughout the community about human rights, providing information to help people understand and assert their rights
- and, help monitor the operation of the Constitution and Human Rights Instruments, and help produce reports for the UK and United Nations

Interested persons should possess: excellent communication skills and the ability to be able to communicate at all levels; have empathy and patience; be approachable and a good listener; have a flexible approach to the demands of the role, and operate in the strictest confidence.

Those interested in the Chairperson's role should have experience in chairing meetings.

Join us and you will be part of a Team that not only champions human rights and strives to eliminate discrimination, but which also celebrates the fact that we are all equally different.

For further info and full terms of reference, contact Catherine Turner, CEO, EHRC, The PWD Yard, Jamestown. Tel 22133, or email catherine@humanrightssthelena.org.





St Helena
Government



- Multi-agency training in the area of exploitation to be delivered on St Helena

- Training will focus on signs and symptoms of exploitation

- The aim is to help improve awareness and keep our children safe

EXPLOITATION TRAINING TO BE DELIVERED ON ST HELENA

Two consultants from the UK will arrive on-Island this weekend, Saturday 8 February 2020, to work with the Children & Adults Social Care Directorate in delivering multi-agency training in the area of exploitation. The consultants have led exploitation teams in the UK and have delivered training and intervention with children and young people who have been the victims of exploitation in the North West of England.

Director of Children & Adults Social Care, Tracy Poole-Nandy, explains:

"The exploitation training has been commissioned to raise awareness across the Island of the indicators and impact of exploitation. This training will enable all partner agencies to work together to ensure that this area of risk, which was previously highlighted by the Wass Inquiry, is fully understood as a means of prevention and response from a multi-agency perspective."

"Exploitation is a worldwide issue and we need to ensure that we have the appropriate knowledge and skills on St Helena to recognise and respond to this risk, especially as we increase our connectivity with the landing of the cable by 2022. The training will address online safety and grooming of children and vulnerable adults in preparation for increased connectivity which will inevitably increase the risks in this area. The team will also deliver assembly work agreed by Education to support our children to understand healthy and unhealthy relationships, online safety and risks of grooming and exploitation."

This training and child-centred work will focus on the signs and symptoms of exploitation, online grooming, trafficking and harmful relationships. Training will take place across all sectors - Social Care, Education, Health, Police, Housing and Environment & Natural Resources. Sessions will also be open to private and voluntary organisations to ensure that this knowledge is imparted across the Island to help improve awareness and keep our children safe.

Training will be delivered from Friday, 14 February, through to Friday, 21 February 2020, at the St Helena Community College. Dates, times and booking arrangements will be made available from the Children & Adults Social Care Directorate.

Sessions will also take place with the Social & Community Development Committee, Safeguarding Children's Board, SHG Core Leadership Group and at School assemblies.

#StHelena #AltogetherSafer

<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

SHG

6 February 2020

SHG Press Office | 1st Floor, The Castle | Jamestown | Tel: +290 22470

kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh | liam.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh | jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh



Visit us: www.sainthelena.gov.sh





Governor's Office
St Helena, Ascension
and Tristan da Cunha

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CHAIR OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

The position of Chair of the Land Development Control Authority will become available from 10 March 2020.

The Governor's Office invites all persons interested in this position to complete the relevant form for return to Mr Greg Gibson in the Governor's Office by Friday, 21 February 2020.

The duties of the Land Development Control Authority are set out in the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013. In summary, these include the following:

- Determining applications for Development Permission in accordance with the Ordinance relevant Development Plan, policy directions and any policies or guidance
- Reviewing the policies contained in any Development Plan, and making recommendations to the Governor in Council as to possible amendments
- Formulating, publishing, monitoring and reviewing and revising planning policies and planning guidance, to help ensure consistency of practice and transparency of process.

The remuneration for this position is £1,200 per annum, paid quarterly in arrears. In addition, a mileage allowance of 60p per mile will also be paid for attending meetings or carrying out any work on behalf of the Land Development Control Authority. If interested, the relevant form - 'Expression of Interest – Chair Land Development Control Authority' - to register an interest may be obtained from Information & Research Support Officer, Miss Linda Benjamin, at the Castle on tel: 22470, via email: linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh or on the SHG website at: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/public-services/ldca/>.

Shortlisted persons will then be invited to a discussion with the Governor and the successful applicant will be appointed subject to a satisfactory vetting certificate.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
11 February 2020

PROCESS FOR CHAIRS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

To ensure there is an opportunity for those interested on St Helena to play a prominent role as Chair of Boards and Committees, the Governor's Office is changing the appointment process for selecting Chairs to the following Boards and Committees:

- Immigration Control Board
- Financial Services Regulatory Authority
- Enterprise St Helena Board
- Prison Visiting Committee
- Land Development Control Authority
- Charities Commission
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Safeguarding Children's Board
- Eliza Mary Lloyd Trust
- Public Accounts Committee



Governor's Office
St Helena, Ascension
and Tristan da Cunha

When a vacancy or renewal for the position of Chair becomes available, the Governor's Office will invite all persons interested to respond to the Governor's Office to express their interest in the role.

Those interested in a particular role when advertised will be requested to complete and return an Expression of Interest form, with a statement on what they can bring to the role and a description of past roles and interests.

Following a shortlisting process based on the requirements for the role, successful shortlisted candidates will be invited for a discussion with the Governor. Successful candidates may be required to have a vetting certificate.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
10 February 2020



St Helena
Government

VACANCY TEMPORARY COOK-PLANTATION HOUSE

Do you have an active interest in cooking and catering? If so, why not consider joining the small but busy team at Plantation House as Cook.

Corporate Services has an opportunity for a suitably qualified and experienced individual to provide cover for the post of Cook at Plantation House for a fixed-term period of five months.

The successful applicant will be directly responsible to the Plantation House Residence Manager for all matters relating to the supply and preparation of food at Plantation House.

Applicants should ideally possess the following:

. GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);

. NVQ in Hospitality and catering, at Level 2 and experience in Silver Service table setting and wine service

. Food Handling Certificate and Certificate in health and hygiene

However, we will also accept applications from candidates who have a good understanding of food and nutrition and health & safety procedures in the preparation of food and relevant skills and experience in Silver Service table setting and catering. In addition, a valid Driving Licence Class A is required.

Salary for this post is Grade C commencing at £8,613 per annum.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Mrs Deborah Yon, Residence Manager on telephone number 24453 or e-mail: ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Thursday, 27 February 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
has a vacancy for a

Fuel Stations Manager

Within the Agencies Department

As the Fuel Stations Manager you will:

- Be responsible for the Fuel Station's financial performances
- Be responsible for the management of all staff of the Company's Fuel Station
- Compile regular management reports, highlighting key issues as and when required
- Implement, monitor, and review health and safety standards at the Fuel Stations in alignment with the Company's Health & Safety Policy
- Be responsible for ensuring all operational, administration & financial requirements, and records are kept up to date.

Interested Persons Should:

- Proven managerial and technical skills and applicable Health & Safety Knowledge
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, be self-motivated, organised and innovative and able to lead a team
- Be in possession of a valid driver's license

Salary for the post is £14,220 per annum (£1,185.00 per month)

For further information,
including the Company's
attractive benefits package,
please contact
Jason Thomas,
General Manager (Agencies)
on telephone number: 22523
or via email address:
gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be
collected from Solomons Reception
Desk, in the Main Office Building,
Jamestown or alternatively an
electronic copy can be requested
via e-mail address:
hadmin@solomons.co.sh and
should be completed and returned
to Nicola Essex, Human Resources
Manager,
Solomons Office, Jamestown,
By 25 February 2020.

Mantis St Helena

VACANCY

Finance Controller/Accountant

Responsible for the hotels core finance functions, including but not limited to:

- Financial Reporting
- Monthly, quarterly and annual accounts
- Manage all transactions from accounts payable to accounts receivable
- Control accounts
- General operational finance

You will need to be a qualified Accountant, able to work independently, and able to use accounting software Pastel.

Interested persons should send their CV to kyle.jones@mantiscollection.com, drop a hard copy at the hotel, or call **25505** for further details.

A job description is available on request.

All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.

Serena's Gift Shop



Phone : 22792



ST HELENA
2020

£5.50

2020 Calendar's on Sale Now!!

PUBLIC SOLICITORS OFFICE FEES

Following a review of the Public Solicitors Office fees amendments have been made to the rates chargeable. These changes will not affect the majority of clients.

There are two changes:

- . Medical negligence is removed from the types of proceedings where no fee is charged regardless of income
- . A more flexible charging regime for businesses, expatriate workers and those who are off the island is introduced where the fee chargeable has been amended from a fixed rate of £75 per hour to a maximum rate of £150

The reasoning behind the change in medical negligence charges is to bring that in line with most other types of proceedings. For businesses, expatriate workers and those off the island the concern was that some people could not afford the £75 an hour rate, the new regime allows the hourly rate to be reduced. However for others, especially businesses overseas, the hourly rate is too low and represents a subsidy by the Saint Helena tax payer of those who do not contribute to the island's economy.

Prior to amendment of the fees the Executive Council was consulted and the Chief Justice approved the changes

With effect from 1 March 2020, the following fees will apply to legal services provided by the Public Solicitor:

1. No fee shall be charged to any person in any matter for the purposes of a thirty minute first appointment.
2. Fees shall not be charged to any person for police station representation.
3. Fees shall not be charged to St Helena tax payers for:
 - a. Criminal Court representation

b. Public Children Law matters

4. Reasonable disbursement fees shall apply to any matter.

5. Fees for a straightforward will, or amendment to a will, shall be charged at £15 (subject to any dispensation that the Public Solicitor considers reasonable). For more complex wills, fees shall be charged at the below rates (see paragraph 6).

6. Otherwise, fees for Saint Helena tax payers shall be charged at the following hourly rate based on household income but subject to any fixed fee reasonably devised upon this basis and agreed between the Public Solicitor and client.

Household Income:

Below £10,000	No fee
£10,001 - £12,500 pa	£20 per hour
£12,501 - £15,000 pa	£25 per hour
£15,001 - £20,000 pa	£30 per hour
£20,001 - £25,000 pa	£35 per hour
£25,001 - £30,000 pa	£40 per hour
£30,001+	£50 per hour

7. Expatriate workers, businesses and individuals/businesses off the island will be charged up to a maximum of £150 per hour.

'Expatriate worker' is defined as any person (or the partner/dependent over 18 of same) who does not have Saint status, is working in St Helena under a contract of employment, whose habitual residence was overseas prior to taking up employment in St Helena and whose income from employment on St Helena exceeds £43,000

'Saint Helena tax payer' is any person who is not an Expatriate worker

'Saint Helena' includes Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha



commonwealth Digital Economy Forum'20

23 - 27 MARCH 2020, ROSIE'S, LADDER HILL, ST HELENA

Shifting Landscapes & Trends

Key Topics

Broadband Infrastructure
Digital Transformation Framework
Trade & Investment
Local Content & Innovation
Universal Access
Spectrum Management
Internet Governance
Data Protection & Privacy

The CDEF is a globally recognised conference that is taking place on your doorstep. St Helena is on track to becoming globally-connected with digitally driven business, investment and travel opportunities. The CDEF offers presentations and workshops by high calibre local and international speakers. If you work in ICT or are considering a career in this field, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Why attend

- Listen to insights from leaders and innovators
- Gather information about new markets, legislation and policies
- Learn 'best practice' for effective cybersecurity
- Discover new technologies to improve the way you do business
- Gain practical advice from experts in the sector
- Build relationships with clients, partners and suppliers
- Talk to policy makers, officials and experts
- Develop ways to improve your business performance
- Inspire and engage St Helena's digitally focused youth

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Government

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#CTO_ICT

Tickets priced at **£35 per day**, Includes all-day refreshments and buffet lunch.

For more information contact mattjoshua2780@hotmail.co.uk or call ESH on **+290 22920** during office hours.

For information and to view the full programme: www.cto.int/events/upcoming-events/

Golf Report - Sunday 9th February

The final round of the Solomon's sponsored annual golf competition took place on Sunday 9th February 2020. Two players who were unable to turn up for the first round turned up to make up the field of 24 players. The 22 players from round 1 battled for the prizes. The top three on the leaderboard to claim 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively finished as follows;

Player	Nett Score Round 1	Nett Score final round	Final Score
Leeroy Caswell	61	69	130
Phillip Francis	72	62	134
Peter Johnson	65	71	136

The other winners were;

Nearest to pin Ladies	Helena Stevens
Nearest to pin Gents	Leon Crowie
Longest drive Ladies	Anne George
Longest drive Gents	Lawson Henry

Mr. Peter Johnson scored the only two on hole number 7 to claim all the balls in the two-ball pool. The prizes were presented by Solomon's CEO Ms. Mandy Peters. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to our sponsor. In her speech Ms. Mandy indicated their commitment as Solomon's in continuing to support the club. We are grateful and we look forward to this continued collaboration. On Sunday 16th February 2020 the club will host the monthly medal Strokeplay competition. Tee off time is 12:00. Mem-

bers are reminded that the biggest social event on our club's Calendar The Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Friday 21st February at 7:30pm. Remember to sign up at the club house. The AGM will take place on Sunday 23rd February 2020 preceded by a 10:00am tee off Texas scramble competition.

We wish you all a great weekend...

Contributed by SHGC



Kingshurst Skittles League Results - Contributed by Tracey Williams

The Kingshurst Community Centre Association would like to thank all the teams entering the Kingshurst Skittles League and Knockout competition for their participation and support. This year we had seven teams participating in the league and the knockout competitions resulting in a competitive and fun tournament. Teams were The Extractors, Duffs Warriors, Outlaws, Rusty Pistols, Sweet Things, All Sorts & Reunited.

Congratulations to the League champions, the Extractors and Runners up Duffs Warriors.

Highest Gents Score: Dennis Leo - Duffs Warriors 77

Highest Ladies Score: Shirlene Benjamin - Reunited 60

Highest Gents Spare: Luke Johnson & Gary Joshua – Extractors and Jia Peters – Duffs Warriors 18



Highest Ladies Spare: Kimberley – Reunited 17

Highest Team Score Duffs Warriors 563

Congratulations also to the Knock Out Champions Rusty Pistols and the Runners Up Extractors after a very close match.

Duffs Warriors had the highest team score in the Knock out with 553

The Association would also like to extend their thanks to Atlantic Outpost for creating the individual trophies and Good Vibez for providing the musical entertainment.

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Due to the winter break and bad weather only 3 matches took place in the Premier league last weekend.

Everton beat Crystal Palace 3-1 and are now unbeaten in 5 games. Palace on the other hand has not registered a win in 2020.

After a shaky start to the season Everton are now 7th in the table a point ahead of Manchester United.

Crystal Palace is in 14th place on 30 points.



Richarlison, Everton Brazilian striker was man of the match against Crystal Palace

Watford miss the chance to climb out of the relegation zone as they conceded a late own goal to draw 1-1 with fellow strugglers Brighton and Hove Albion.

The 78th-minute own goal came only a minute after Ben Foster had produced a fine save with his legs to deny Aaron Mooy in what had been the first shot on target from either side in the second half.

There appeared to be no danger when Jahanbakhsh played a pass into the penalty area but Mariappa, wrongly thinking there was a player close behind him, panicked and sent his attempted clearance into his own net.

Manchester City cancelled their match against West Ham due to storm Ciara. A number of sporting events across the UK was call off. A Manchester City spokesperson said: "Due to extreme and escalating weather conditions and in the interests of supporter and staff safety, today's match has been postponed. West Ham will run free coach travel for their supporters when the fixture is rescheduled."

Sheffield United's quest for European football rumbles on as they came from behind to beat Bournemouth 2-1 and move up to 5th in the table.

The victory takes the Blades, who won promotion from the Championship last season and have never played in major European competition, above Tottenham and only two points behind fourth-placed Chelsea in a Champions League spot. Fixtures for this weekend will kick off on Friday evening when Wolves host Leicester City.

On Saturday Southampton will play Burnley 12.30 at St Mary's Stadium. The late match at 5.30pm will see the bottom side Norwich City play league leaders Liverpool.

On Sunday Aston Villa will play Tottenham Hotspur at 2pm and Arsenal will host Newcastle at 4.30pm

The game of the weekend will take place at Stamford Bridge on Monday at 8pm when Chelsea play Manchester United.

The Champions League and Europa league will recommence

next week. Defending Champions Liverpool will travel to Spain to play Atletico Madrid on Tuesday and Spurs host RB Leipzig on Wednesday.



Football matches across the UK was called off and this stand at Wisbech Town FC in Cambridgeshire was badly damaged by storm Ciara.

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What's happening at New Horizons?

Monday 17th February the Athletic/Sports club will recommence at Francis Plain from 3.30pm until 5pm (all ages)

Tuesday 18th 5 aside Football 5pm- 7pm (14+)

Wednesday 19th February 3.30pm- 5.30pm: New Horizons Centre open for indoor activities (ages 10-17) Boot Camp 4.30-530pm (ages 14+)

Thursday 20th February 5 aside football 5pm -7pm (14 yrs+)

Friday 21st New Horizons centre open for activities 5.30pm-8.30pm (ages 10-17)

Saturday 22nd 8am- 9am Boot camp (ages 14=+)

Please note the Centre will be close tonight Friday 14th February.

With the Entry by Number deadline fast approaching we the St Helena Football Association is currently focusing on Fund Raising and preparing for the Island games Football Tournament in Guernsey 3-9th July 2021.

We are having a meeting on Thursday 20th February 5pm at the New Horizons for SHFA Committee members and players who have already sign up for the 2021 tournament. Any players who haven't sign up but wish to be up for selection are asked to attend this meeting as well.

Pre-Season Training starting soon

Gibraltar, Falklands and other overseas territories MUST get own MPs, says campaigner

"The proposals, which are nearly finalised, involve BOT and CD MPs being elected in nine constituencies.

"These will be subject to boundary and size changes, the same as for all UK constituencies.

"As for all UK constituencies, all pay and expenses will be covered by the UK Government, as will the costs of holding the MPs' elections, which will be subject to the same timings as the UK MPs."

Envisaging an ambitious timetable, Mr Webber said: "There is no reason why Elections cannot be held within a year or so to elect MPs to fill their roles up until the next General Election.

"As for the House of Lords, we recommend that there are some immediate appointments, as this part of being part of the UK Parliament can commence without delay."

He added: "We also prefer there to be a new Ministry for BOTs and CDs, very similar to the Ministers responsible for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

"At present there are at least three Ministers responsible for the BOTs/CDs, which is very much a defunct way of dealing with these vital and important territories."

Mr Rosindell, MP for Romford in Essex, told Express.co.uk:

"It is undemocratic that in 2020, the UK has areas which have no say.

"We are not letting them have a voice and in that sense we are still acting like a colonial power."

Mr Rosindell stressed that none of the territories would lose any autonomy as a result of being granted representation at Westminster, but added: "They need their own voice and the only way to do that is to give them elected representatives - the same kind of rules which apply to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

"Brexit is an opportunity to look a lot more outwardly and this is one way in which we can do that."

Speaking last month, Mr Penrose said of the idea: "It creates an opportunity for them to access the UK's internal market, that's potentially, I would hope, useful and valuable in a post-Brexit world, both for the UK, but also for the individual overseas territories. "But also, it means that if they are going to be involved in that way then they may decide they want some democratic representation along with us, and I think that's only fair and right.

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Application has been received in respect of the following proposals:

- 1. Application 2020/15:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Double Storey Store Unit for storing Household Items**, Nr Wireless Station Drive on Parcel 0524 Half Tree Hollow, adjacent to the property of Mr Garry Yon. Applicant: Jonathan Fuller.
- 2. Application 2020/16:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Double Garage and Covered Area**, Upper Cow Path on Parcel 1247 Half Tree Hollow, adjacent to Crown Land. Applicant: Micheal Thomas.
- 3. Application 2020/17:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Minor Tree Maintenance**, the Canister on Parcel 080040 Jamestown and **Minor Tree Maintenance & Surgery Works**, the Duke of Edinburgh Playground on Parcels 080061 and 080062 Jamestown. Applicant: Crown Estates Management.

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Secretary on Telephone 22270 or email Karen.Isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Any person who wishes to make Representations on the above Applications should make them in writing within 14 days to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email karen.isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date:

4pm – 28th February 2020

**Shane Williams
Planning Officer**



The three big wind turbines approved for Deadwood Plain

The three 77 metre high wind turbines which are part of the renewable energy project involving SHG, Connect St Helena and PASH global were given the go-ahead by Executive Council this week. The steel towers stand almost 54 metres high; together with the hub the total height of the stationary part of each windmill is 55 metres. The blades are just under 21 metres long, giving a total eight when a blade is perpendicular of 77 metres. The existing wind turbines are 18 metres long and each blade is 8 metres.

Only two of the three turbines will be erected and used in the first instance. The third wind turbine will be erected when energy demand requires the wind turbine for additional power generation. An energy storage system will also be built just to the west of the Haul Road and about 60 metres north of the last house on Deadwood Road. The energy storage system will be housed in three linked, custom built, air-conditioned metal units similar in appearance to freight containers. Inside each container will be lithium-ion batteries capable of storing up to 3MW of electricity. Power generated by the wind turbines will be fed into the grid system via the batteries. Power not instantly required for the grid will be stored in the batteries and used when required. Battery life is put at 10 years.

To help make the wind turbine towers as unobtrusive as possible the lower half will be painted in green tones and the top half in grey. Despite the plans for additional renewable energy now being in place the signing of contracts between SHG and PASH Global remains outstanding.

Bunkers Hill Development Area given go-ahead

The Bunkers Hill development allows for up to 160 houses, community facilities, amenity space and a shop. The development area is 55 acres but the built development on the site will cover 30 acres. The Land Development Control Plan stipulates a minimum of 15 houses to every 2.5 acres. Full development permission has been given for the access road and

outline permission for the houses, community facilities and the shop.

The development site is just over one mile long and about 275 yards at the widest point. It stretches from the Alarm Forest area to Rupert's Valley. The main access road from the existing island road network to the development site will be about 500 yards long. The development will provide 20 or more social and affordable housing plots and about 130 private housing plots, communal septic tanks, HV power line more than half a mile long and a water line about three-quarters of a mile long.

NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Wednesday, 26th February 2020, at 10 am at the Training Room One, opposite the St Helena Community College, Jamestown.**

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted versions of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page on the SHG Web Site.

Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 22270.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The Airlink Letters

Last Friday we published a story about Airlink taking legal action to reclaim money owed to them by South African Airways (SAA). SAA are in deep financial trouble and are in a position similar to Basil Read last year. Remember the report?

Airlink want the South African High Court to save it from bankruptcy

Airlines in South Africa are well known for suing each other, going bankrupt, or both. South African Airways (SAA), the country's national airline, has gone the same way as Basil Read and is now in the middle of the business rescue proc-

prices. Last year Airlink also took SA Express to court in a dispute over additional air routes handed to SA Express by the SA Government. It seems the winners in the South African aviation industry are the lawyers.

The Airlink Letters

It provoked Airlink's CEO, Rodger Foster to email this letter to the Independent on Monday.



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No. 1 Greenstone Hill Office Park
Emerald Boulevard
Greenstone Hill, Modderfontein, 1609

PO Box 7529
Bonsuuri Park
1622
South Africa

Tel: +27 11 451-7300
Tel: +27 10 580 2170
E-mail: info@flyairlink.com
Website: www.flyairlink.com

Mr Vince Thompson
Editor
The St Helena Independent

10 February 2020

Dear Vince

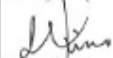
We noted with concern the article headlined "Airlink want the South African High Court to save it from bankruptcy", which appeared in the 7th February 2020 edition of The St Helena Independent. I would like to point out significant errors in it, which require correcting.

1. Contrary to the assertion in your headline and article, Airlink has not applied to the High Court to save it from bankruptcy. Airlink is an independent, privately-owned and financially robust business.
2. There is no such thing as "the South African High Court". Airlink's application has been filed with the Johannesburg High Court.
3. Airlink has applied to the Johannesburg High Court to establish its legal standing as a creditor of South African Airways (SAA). This follows the state-owned airline's failure to hand over revenues belonging to Airlink for tickets booked through SAA's reservations system in terms of our mutual franchise agreement.
4. Although it is far from ideal for our revenues to be withheld by SAA in this way and regardless of the outcome of the High Court application, we have put in place contingencies to ensure all of our services continue operating without disruption.
5. Your article also includes outdated statistics for Airlink. Today we have the largest fleet of commercial jetliners in Southern Africa. Our aircraft operate more than 5 600 flights a month on 55 routes to 39 destinations in nine African countries and to St Helena Island. They do so with a better than 95% on-time performance. Last year Airlink carried almost two million passengers on more than 63,000 flights.

Kindly post an apology and these corrections on your website today and also in the next issue of The St Helena Independent.

Karin Murray is your point of contact for media queries. She can be reached on karinmurray@flyairlink.com or tel: +27 11 451 7335. In the interest of accuracy, please feel free to check information with us instead of relying on second-hand reports.

Kind regards


Rodger Foster
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director

A reply was sent the following day . . .

Vince Thompson
Editor
St Helena Independent

11th February 2020
Email – vanda@helanta.co.sh

Rodger Foster
CEO
Airlink

Dear Rodger,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday referring to the report in last Friday's *St Helena Independent*. Our report made a clear reference to information derived from the *Moneyweb* website; as such the *St Helena Independent* is reporting information already in the public domain. Best practice in this case does of course include contacting SA Airlink for comment however this was not possible on this occasion due to the print deadline time constraint.

It is worth noting several other South African media covered the subject of this report. *Moneyweb* quoted you saying, "Without this cash being paid, Airlink may not be able to continue operations in the very near future". The *News24* report included in a highlighted inset, "AIRLINK, WHICH EMPLOYS 1,739 PEOPLE, COULD BE BROUGHT TO ITS KNEES IF IT DOES NOT GET ITS MONEY BACK, THE AIRLINE'S CEO RODGER FOSTER STATES IN AN AFFIDAVIT BEFORE THE JOHANNESBURG HIGH COURT." The information in this report was from Antoinette Slabbert, who is widely regarded as an experienced and reliable financial journalist. The *ch-aviation* website quoted you saying, "Without this cash being paid, Airlink may not be able to continue operations in the very near future." The same website also used the Airlink routes and destination figures quoted in the *St Helena Independent* report published last Friday. In view of the quotes used in the South African media reports, the *St Helena Independent* offered a fair reflection of the situation.

With regard to your comment about "the South African High Court" this could easily be rectified by either substituting "a" for "the" or adding "in Johannesburg". I think you will agree it is a secondary consideration.

A recent trawl through the South African news websites mentioned above has not revealed any retractions or apologies published subsequent to the reports being published. Similarly a recent visit to flyairlink.com did not reveal any comment from Airlink on the issue of South African Airways's non-payment of fares revenue owed to Airlink nor alleged misreporting in the South African media on the consequences of this non-payment.

As things stand, I am happy to publish your letter to me dated 10th February in this Friday's Independent together with this reply.

Kind regards

Vince Thompson

There was no further correspondence between Airlink and the St Helena Independent on this subject but, Morgan Phaahla, who describes himself as an independent consultant, wrote to the *Moneyweb* website suggesting, among other things, that "The government would be best served by selling off SA Airlink and SA Express to raise cash and enable SAA to pay its debts." Airlink is of course a private company; its owners would be most displeased if the South African government tried to grab it to save SAA. Mr Phaahla's comment did cause Rodger Foster to reach for his pen once more.

On Thursday another letter about Airlink was posted on the *Moneyweb* website; this time from Rodger Foster. It read:- Privately owned Airlink is on a stable flight path

12 FEBRUARY 2020 - 16:30

Morgan Phaahla's letter on SAA ("Public enterprises caught napping", February 12) provides an opportunity for a common misconception to be corrected.

Airlink is not a state-owned or state-managed entity. It is a privately owned, broad-based BEE level-4 business, with strong institutional shareholders — including a prominent community development trust — and a respectable track record of consistent profitability over the past 28 years.

Airlink is a financially robust and reliable airline in which travellers can have complete confidence.

SAA acquired a 2.9% stake in Airlink 20 years ago to underpin the commercial franchise agreement between the two carriers. With this franchise terminating on June 10 2020, Airlink has offered to buy back SAA's shareholding. From June 11 all Airlink flights and tickets will operate under its unique "4Z" code.

Airlink is headquartered in Johannesburg and employs more than 1,700 people throughout Southern Africa. It has the largest fleet of commercial jetliners in Southern Africa, which operate more than 5,600 monthly flights on 55 routes to 39 destinations in nine African countries and St Helena Island. In 2019 Airlink carried almost 2-million passengers on more than 63,000 flights with a 94% on-time performance record (measured by the Airports Company SA).

Airlink will soon be adding more destinations to its network and more frequencies to its schedule. This is partly to fill the gap on certain routes due to be vacated by SAA, such as Entebbe, but some of them, such as Luanda, were already identified as key elements in our growth strategy.

Rodger Foster
Airlink CEO and MD

It was a good week for Rodger Foster and Airlink. The week started with quotes attributed to Mr Foster declaring, "Without this cash being paid, Airlink may not be able to continue operations in the very near future" and so on and so forth, and ending with "Airlink is a financially robust and reliable airline in which travellers can have complete confidence" and several other sun-shiny statements. One has to wonder what will be said in the Johannesburg Court when Airlink attempt to get pound for pound (sorry, Rand for Rand) what is owed to them by SAA instead of waiting for the business rescue practitioner to calculate how many cents can be paid to creditors for each rand owed to them by SAA.

Now with Complimentary WiFi
sponsored by **SURE South Atlantic**



THE INSIDE ST HELENA BUSINESS CONFERENCE
SPONSORED BY THE BANK OF ST HELENA

Wednesday 19 February, 2020

Blue Hill Community Centre, 9am - 3pm

£2 fee on the door, includes lunch & refreshments

Cash Bar available throughout the day

Exclusive event for members of the **Inside St Helena** App
Contact Darrin or Sharon for more: info@insidesthelena.com

**Miss
St Helena
2020**

Saturday
9 May



Calling all young ladies
(16 - 35yrs) interested in
joining the Miss St Helena
2020 event.

The 4-week programme for
2020 is going to be another
AMAZING, not-to-be-missed
experience.
It includes stage walk training,
interview workshops, exposure
business tours, team-building &
confidence-building events
and more.

The brand new round,
'Attention Seeker'
is going to be loved by all.

Enter **NOW** before it's too
late - limited places this year!

To enter, contact Darrin or Sharon Henry, Robin Sim,
Sarah-Jane Sharman or Gemma Lawrence.



Valentines Family Night Out



Saturday 15th February 2020

Sandy Bay Community Centre

Time 8.30pm - 1.30am

Music by - The Joshua 2

Entrance fee - Adults £1.00

Children 5-15 yrs 50p

Bar & refreshments

Dress for the occasion and enter our valentine competition of
Mr & Mrs Valentine / Little Mr & Miss Valentine

Do come along and make it a night to remember, the hall will be decorated for the

n



AVERAGE DAILY CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Despite recent rainfall, there has been no increase in surface flows to the Island's reservoirs which remain dangerously low at around 37%. It would still take at least a few weeks of heavy rainfall for surface flows to increase and stocks to replenish.

Average daily consumption over the past week has risen to above 1,000 cubic metres per day. This level of water consumption cannot continue if we wish to maintain our current water supply.

It is important to ensure everyone is aware of our water shortage. The public is encouraged to spread the word to visitors and ensure they keep water use to essential needs only. Connect Saint Helena (CSH) will continue pumping water to Island reservoirs to ensure stocks do not run dry.

The community is reminded that we are currently under an Island-wide hosepipe ban. If you see anyone using water irresponsibly or notice a burst pipe or leak, then please inform CSH on tel: 22255 immediately.

Every drop counts, every action counts - Everyone must save every drop of water possible



St Helena
Government



Connect
SAINT HELENA LTD

St Helena Resilience Forum
13 February 2020

Falklands fishing vessels briefed on coronavirus measures as new season begins

Fishing vessels are being briefed on their health obligations regarding novel coronavirus, as the new fishing season begins in the Falkland Islands. Border messaging was introduced last week for air and sea visitors to the Falklands, giving advice on what a person should do if they feel unwell during their time here.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Rebecca Edwards, said other existing measures can also help keep the risk low of coronavirus coming to the Falklands.

"It is not unusual for our services during the fishing season, and the cruise ship season, to deal with health issues for crew or passengers, and the coronavirus is no different."

Dr Edwards said operators are being reminded of their requirements around crewmen who are unwell. This extends to crew who might be coming in by air to the Falklands.

"Fisheries and Customs & Immigration have also been working with the captains and crews of fishing vessels as they arrive, to question them specifically about any members of their crew exhibiting any symptoms of coronavirus or any other symptoms of any kind."

"Vessels coming to the Falklands have typically been at sea already for a considerable time, meaning the risk of crew being exposed to coronavirus could be considered to be much lower."

Meanwhile, all cruise ships are required to submit a Maritime Health Declaration on arrival which will detail all ports of call, plus any diseases, infectious illnesses, sickness, or public health risks on-board.

"As part of Customs & Immigration clearance of the vessel on arrival there are procedures that can be implemented and safeguards that can be put in place if required."

Novel coronavirus has been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Dr Edwards said that screening at the airport or for ship visitors is not considered appropriate at this time, and indeed it may not be effective due to the nature of coronavirus.

"We can reassure the public that the Falkland Islands is able to respond should a case of coronavirus be suspected. We continue to track the international situation so that appropriate steps can be taken, and are refining our existing infectious disease plans."

MercoPress



The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Rebecca Edwards, said other existing measures can also help keep the risk low of coronavirus coming to the Falklands.

Monopoly or Modernisation

“Innovative technological solutions to affordability challenges are progressing apace. However, the best technologies in the world can’t drive change if monopolies or regressive policies prevent them from being implemented. Changes to policy can deliver impressive results, fast.”

Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) is an international organisation supported financially and in other ways by governments, big corporations and a range of NGOs. One such financial supporter is DFID. A4AI champions widespread access to the internet, particularly for people who can only take advantage of it if the internet charges are affordable within their limited budgets. A4AI recognise modern and developing digital technology helps to make internet access more affordable and more accessible by more people. They also know monolithic telecom companies which hold a monopoly within their trading area are most likely to be the least adaptive to change and innovation as well as the first to argue that everything should be kept very much like it has always been, despite the widespread and fundamental changes happening all around them.



A4AI – funded by DFID

The dangers arising from the monopolistic grip Sure South Atlantic has on telecoms in St Helena and other South Atlantic islands was a strong theme in Christian von der Ropp’s interview on Johnny Clingham’s *St Helena Podcast* website. Christian made clear at the beginning of the interview he was giving his personal views and not speaking on behalf of the many organisations he represents or has represented in the past. He also made clear it is open to Sure South Atlantic to bid for the communications providers licence due to be awarded on 1st January 2023 but was very definite in his view that the new licence award should not give Sure or any other telecom company a monopoly in St Helena.

When speaking specifically about Sure, Christian stated the opening up of access to the internet and other forms of telecom communication which is possible when the Equiano Cable is connected to the island could not happen under the present regulatory regime and many of the valuable opportunities will be lost if the monopolistic situation is continued with the new licence award.

Von der Ropp said public statements made by Sure indicated they planned to stick with old and outdated business models and this was a “major obstacle” to making modern digital communications accessible to everybody. He also states Sure have made contradictory statements on why St Helena’s internet access is limited, slow and expensive. On the one

hand Sure has blamed lack of competition in the South Atlantic for the high cost of satellite connections and at the same time arguing there is room for only one internet service provider in the small St Helena internet subscriber market. Christian added that Sure was originally opposed to a sub-sea fibre-optic cable connection for St Helena but now it is on its way they show interest in the new development but maintain there should be just one service provider connected to the Equiano Cable and therefore to the vast array of international connections the cable will make available.

As the statement at the head of this article says, “the best technologies in the world can’t drive change if monopolies or regressive policies prevent them from being implemented.” Christian von der Ropp is convinced Sure are concerned primarily with protecting their present monopoly and using the range of opportunities the cable will make available only if it suits old business models and practices Sure choose to keep using. Christian pointed out that in one radio interview he heard, Sure explained how they saw the future. It was stated they intend to keep selling the data restricted packages and charge a higher tariff for usage in excess of the data package bought. Following on from this Christian von der Ropp said this intention to keep the same sales package after the cable is connected indicates Sure do not understand the new economics which will prevail in the new digital era which is coming our way with the cable. The cable, Christian said, will change telecoms economics fundamentally; if the new concepts for selling usage of the cable are not grasped, many of the exciting new opportunities which are aimed at benefiting everyone will be lost.

The monopoly enjoyed by Sure means they can make upgrades to the telecom infrastructure using equipment which has been around for the past 20 years. The monopoly provides no incentive to move much earlier towards the latest developments and pass on the benefits this offers to their customers. Christian also recalled something a Sure representative said in connection with the punitive rates charged when exceeding the megabyte limit on their data packages. Sure think they are not responsible for baby-sitting their customers. This mind-set does not show Sure putting their customer first but rather expecting people who have no choice but to use their service to fit in with arrangements Sure decide to put in place.

In his interview with Johnny Clingham, Christian von der Ropp made clear he earnestly believes the St Helena telecom market should be liberalised with the award of new licences. The regulatory regime should also be designed to encourage ground station operators rather than scare them away. A regulatory regime can be practical and adaptable without losing any of the powers required to maintain best practice and high standards. It was clear from this *St Helena Podcast* that important decisions which affect St Helena for the next few decades need to be made now. Regressive policies mean of course policies which take things backwards not forwards. How many times has it been said the island is going backwards not forwards. Christian van der Ropp is keen to get the message across that good quality decisions to get the island going forward need to be made now.

St Helena Cricket Association



RMS T20 CUP RESULTS

PIRATES 256/1

Brooklyn Fowler 112

Matthew Benjamin 64*

Cruyff Buckley 1/40

MUSTANGS 106

Gavin Ellick 19

Antonio Green 15

David Young 3/9

Austin Fowler 2/15

PERFORMANCE POINTS: Brooklyn Fowler 3, Matthew Benjamin 2, Brett Issac 1

CHALLENGERS 275/4

Sean-Lee Thomas 102*

Andrew Yon 70

Dan Marlow 1/37

Kurt Jonas 1/45

LIONS 122

Martin Cranfield 69

Freddy Crowie 13

Jordan Yon 4/17

Sean-Lee Thomas 2/14

PERFORMANCE POINTS: Sean Lee Thomas 3, Andrew Yon 2, Jordan Yon 1

HEAT 239/1

Scott Crowie 93*

Dax Richards 88*

Ralph Knipe 1/21

WOODPECKERS 134

Ashton Benjamin 36

Gary Benjamin 18

Gavin George 2/27

Damian Burns 2/35

PERFORMANCE POINTS: Scott Crowie 3, Dax Richards 2, Gavin George 1

FIXTURES

Saturday 15 Feb
9.30am
Challengers V Pirates
Umpires: Heat

Saturday 15 Feb
1.30pm
Mustangs V Allstarz
Umpires: Woodpeckers

Sunday 16 Feb
1.30pm
Lions V Woodpeckers
Umpires: Mustangs

Gibraltar, Falklands and other overseas territories MUST get own MPs, says campaigner



PEOPLE living in Britain's 14 overseas territories, from Gibraltar at the tip of Spain, to Bermuda in the Caribbean, to the tiny Pitcairn Islands in the South Pacific, plus the nation's three Crown Dependencies (CDs) - Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man - are entitled to UK Parliamentary representation - and they should get it sooner rather than later, and whether they ask for it or not, campaigners have insisted.

By CIARAN MCGRATH – Express, UK

Anthony Webber, a member of the Friends of the British Overseas Territories (FOTBOT), as well as a former member of the States of Guernsey, the island's Parliament, is working on a set of proposals which would involve the creation of nine Parliamentary constituencies, with Tory MPs Andrew Rosindell and John Penrose already having indicated they are supportive of the broad principle. Meanwhile Mr Webber has accused Parliament of a "dereliction of duty" in failing to address the situation up until now.

Roughly 265,000 people live in the various territories scattered across the globe, which apart from the three mentioned comprise the Falkland Islands, British Antarctic Territory (BAT), British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) in Cyprus, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. A further 160,000 live in the Channel Islands, plus the Isle of Man.

Mr Webber told Express.co.uk: "The UK is the only country in the world which does not provide UK Parliamentary representation for its dependent territories."

In terms of other nations which have dependent territories, the closest analogies were France, Denmark and the Netherlands, Mr Webber said, all of which had incorporated them into the fabric of the nation - in the case of France, for example, all of its inhabited overseas "departments" enjoy representation in the National Assembly and Senate.

Mr Webber added: "All the dependent territories involved have different categories of autonomy in respect of their national Parliaments.

"Some have reasonable sized populations, some have very few or none. "This makes no difference to the right to have representation."

The question of whether such representation should be extended to people living in British Overseas Territories had gone unanswered for decades, stressed Mr Webber.

He said: "More recently the only reason that UK Parliamentary representation has not come about is because the UK Parliament itself has not brought this about.

"The absolute mistake which has been made by the UK Parliament has been to assume that the dependent territories need to ask for such representation.

"It is as crazy as asking the local authorities in Portsmouth, Belfast, Glasgow and Swansea if they want UK national Parliament MPs as well as their local representation.

"In such circumstances it would be entirely possible for one of those cities to say yes, and the others say no. It is clearly a nonsense."

Employing strong language to illustrate his point, he added: "The same with the issue of slavery.

"One reason the abolition took a while to bring about was taking too much notice of the slave owners."

It is the UK Parliament's responsibility, no one else's, to bring this about "This is not something which is supposed to be decided by local areas or dependent territories, it is something decided by the UK national Parliament.

"It is the UK Parliament's responsibility, no one else's, to bring this about.

"Therefore it can be strongly argued that the UK Parliament has had a dereliction of responsibility to provide such representation."

Mr Webber said having discussed the issue with MPs and representatives of all major parties, he felt confident there would be cross-party support for legislation enshrining the voting rights of people living in British Overseas Territories.

He added: "It simply needs the presentation of the Bill to bring this about. It is this Bill which we are "The extension of the franchise is part of the evolution of such over the years, even though it is long overdue for the BOTs/CDs.

"The need for the BOTs and CDs to have constituency MP's in the UK national Parliament has been made further necessary because officially, existing UK MP's are only able to deal with their own constituents, and no one else.

BOT and CD citizens need to have their own constituency MPs in the UK national Parliament to not only look after their own local needs, but to represent their constituents in every respect, the same as other UK MPs do for their constituents. "There are also numerous subject areas, especially Defence and Foreign affairs, which are decided by the UK Parliament. "Indeed the UK Parliament and government is the supreme authority on all matters concerning the BOTs and CDs.