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SHG Try Second Attempt to Dodge the Process for Clinical Negligence Claims

Last Thursday SHG rushed changes through Legislative Council to the Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance. The following day SHG sent a letter to all claimants which said, in plain English, here is an offer to settle your clinical negligence claim, take it or leave it. If you take it, we do not want to hear from you again. If you don't accept it, we'll see you in court if you continue with your claim. Make up your mind quickly.

Before the Legislative Council meeting the Supreme Court Judge held one of the regular Case Management Meetings with the opposing parties. SHG informed the meeting they intend to make changes to the legislation. The changes meant all the legal objections made by the St Helena Equalities and Human Rights Commission and Hugh James Solicitors had been accepted and conceded by SHG. This also meant there was, and is, no need to have the Judicial Review.

Issuing a hundred or so letters to claimants the day after Legislative Council indicates that work on what is incomprehensibly called Part 36 procedure had been planned well in advance of the Legislative Council on 7th May. Throughout all that time, up to the present day and probably forever, SHG have not made one announcement explaining their intentions or actions. It is very rare that they do, unless they are claiming something to be a 'success'.

The SHG letter to claimants is totally devoid of explanation. There is also no justification given for the offer they make for settlement. No explanation of the calculation used to arrive at the amount of money they offer for settlement. No justification for the amount offered through assessment by an independent expert. The letter has a high-handed tone suggesting a grudging acceptance SHG had got themselves into a corner and righteous indignation that they were not allowed to get away with it.

Hugh James is issuing a letter, advising all their clients to seek their professional advice before considering acceptance of the SHG offer. Once the SHG offer is accepted, there is no going back.

How far SHG are from reality about themselves is truly breathtaking. The regular updates on the hantavirus outbreak often include "The public are reminded to use official SHG channels for the most accurate information." Extend that claim to the SHG ignominious retreat on the Civils Litigation Cost Ordinance. Let's have some official SHG accurate public information on that. It is assumed SHG announcements are put together by some kind of committee who check every word, seemingly in a paranoid way. Somewhere within the Castle walls there must be a panjandrum or two who have the final say on what is published.

Hugh James Letter to Their Clients

Good Afternoon

You may well have received a letter directly from Andrew Duncan, Attorney General of St Helena, on behalf of the St Helena Government ("SHG"), containing an offer to settle your claim. You have received this letter because we have succeeded in proving the costs ordinance was unlawful. A huge amount of work, time and expense by your whole legal team brought about this victory. No one has ever overturned an SHG Ordinance before.

It is professionally wrong for SHG to write to you directly, when they know we are instructed by you to act on your behalf. They have also bypassed the solicitors they instructed to deal with these cases, Weightmans. This would not be tolerated in Great Britain. We want to assure you that we are going to continue to protect your best interests.

SHG Try Second Attempt to Dodge the Process for Clinical Negligence Claims

WE HAVE NOT NEGOTIATED THESE SETTLEMENT OFFERS ON YOUR BEHALF.

Therefore, this offer does not represent our advice on what your case is worth.

We are concerned that settlement offers have now been made before any proper investigation and valuation of claims has taken place.

In many cases, SHG have not even disclosed copies of your medical records to us.

In particular, these offers appear to have been made without independent medical evidence regarding the nature and extent of injuries, and without proper assessment of matters such as: **future medical treatment and surgery; travel and accommodation costs associated with treatment; past and future loss of earnings; care and assistance needs; and the wider long-term impact upon affected individuals and their families.**

IF YOU ACCEPT AN OFFER, THAT ACCEPTANCE WILL BE FINAL AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEEK ANY FURTHER DAMAGES.

If these offers have been made in good faith, then SHG should be prepared to make interim payments whilst the proper value of your claim is established.

If you have received correspondence or an offer from SHG, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can advise you on the implications of the offer and the appropriate next steps to protect your position.

With best wishes as always

Yours sincerely

Ruth Powell - Partner and Head of Clinical Negligence, Hugh James

The SHG Letter Sent Direct to Hugh James' Clients

This letter ignored the usual professional protocols. Hugh James was not consulted or even informed by SHG that they planned to issue this letter. Once more, the panjandrum won the day. SHG did what they please, when they please. Instead of working within established principles regarding the legal representative and client relationship. It has been said the SHG action is considered unethical.

8 May 2026

Dear

WITHOUT PREJUDICE SAVE AS TO COSTS
RE: PART 36 OFFER TO SETTLE WITH RESPECT TO YOUR MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIM
AGAINST THE SAINT HELENA GOVERNMENT

We refer to your medical negligence claim (your claim) against our client the St Helena Government outlined in your Letter of Notification. The Attorney General's Chambers represents SHG in this matter, kindly note our interest.

We are writing to you to make you a Part 36 Defendant's offer under the Civil Procedure Rules (the CPR) in relation to your claim. This Part 36 offer, if accepted by you, would be a full and final settlement of the whole of your claim against SHG.

This offer is made pursuant to Part 36 of the Civil Procedure Rules and is intended to be a defendant's Part 36 offer.

We are authorised to make the following offer to settle under Part 36 (Offer)

Our client is willing to pay you within fourteen (14) days of your acceptance of this offer the sum

SHG Try Second Attempt to Dodge the Process for Clinical Negligence Claims

of xxxxxxxxxxxxxx including interest in full and final settlement of all claims in relation to any or all medical negligence by or attributable to SHG which for the avoidance of doubt also includes any future pecuniary loss suffered by you.

By making this offer our client does not accept any liability for the medical negligence that you claim. Rather, our client is mindful that under the CPR litigants are expected to resolve their disputes whenever possible.

In order to accept this offer you must advise us in writing of your agreement to this offer within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this letter.

If you do not accept this Offer and fail to do better than this Offer at trial, our client intends to rely on CPR 36.17. In other words, our client will be seeking an order that you pay our client its costs from the date when the relevant period expires and the interest on those costs. The relevant period is 21 days from the date of this letter.

If you consider this offer to be in any way defective or non-compliant with Part 36, please let us know by return.

Andrew Duncan - Attorney General

Pathfinder Paras Drop in on Tristan

Pathfinder paratroopers, an elite platoon of the 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team parachuted onto Tristan on 9th May. 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team is deployed anywhere in the world to carry out missions, from non-combatant evacuation operations to war fighting. They are permanently at a high state of readiness and based in Colchester, Essex.

The Tristan mission was a bit different for the Pathfinder platoon and a first for Tristan. Eight military personnel jumped from the plane and landed on the golf course and 3.3 tonnes of medical supplies and equipment, dropped in three batches, landed safely on the Patches. Administrator, Philip Kendall reported that it is the first time a plane has flown low over Tristan to drop urgent supplies. The plane was an Airbus A400M, big enough and loud enough for all to see – and not miss the occasion. It was also the first time the UK military has deployed medical personnel to provide humanitarian support via a parachute jump.

Philip Kendall said, “The supplies and medics which this airdrop brought will give much needed support to our hard working medical team at Camogli Hospital. A truly remarkable feat of logistics, thanks to the UKHSA, FCDO, MoD and UK Government Ministers”.

The MV Hondius called at Tristan 13th – 15th April. The report of the visit described Tristanians giving their usual welcome and hospitality to visitors. Two members of the ship’s crew and a passenger visited a school to give a presentation to the children. When the hantavirus was identified, it did not look good.

The supplies were primarily destined for one probable case of hantavirus in an islander who had travelled on the MV Hondius. He reported symptoms compatible with hantavirus on April 28 and is stable and in isolation.



A Guided Tour of the South Atlantic Islands With Hantavirus

Welcome Aboard

Andes hantavirus is one of a growing number of infectious diseases that are naturally transmitted from animals to humans, including those from wildlife, livestock, or pets. These bacteria, viruses, or parasites – collectively called pathogens - represent over 60% of known human diseases and 75% of new ones, often spreading via direct contact or environmental contamination.

Andes hantavirus can cause a severe and often fatal lung disease called hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. It's transmitted from specific species of rodent. The World Health Organisation (WHO) leads the international coordination for the outbreak on the MV Hondius. Probably with a rolling team working 24/7. All countries affected or with nationals onboard the Hondius contribute.

In the UK, on behalf of St Helena and the other South Atlantic islands, The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) liaise with WHO and lead with planning and the rollout of equipment and medicines, working with each island health authority.

The outbreak of hantavirus onboard the Hondius affected a limited number of people on one deck. All passengers were isolated when hantavirus was identified as the cause, but most of the ship's passengers remained free of infection. The Andes strain of the virus is described as rare but not uncommon. Endemic to Argentina and Chile, Argentina has between 50 to 100 cases a year, Chile between 30 and 70.

St Helena

The flight on Saturday 9th May had five passengers on board who travelled to St Helena to assist with precautionary measures aimed at keeping the island virus free. A control specialist and two laboratory scientists stepped off the plane together with two MOD personnel to assist with logistics and planning. The Governor's update mentioned 14 boxes of medical kit and supplies arriving in the same plane. "This enhances the island's already strong local capability and ensures preparedness should the situation change", the governor said. More medical consumables were expected when the Airlink flight returned from Ascension on Sunday.

Over the course of this week the situation remained the same from day to day. There remained "zero confirmed or suspected cases" of hantavirus and infection risk level remained low. Contact tracing continued with most of the contacts identified classified as having a low risk of infection. Daily contact was made by health officials with people assessed to have a higher risk and were in self-isolation as a precaution. Virus symptoms can take up to 45 days to show, sometimes the symptoms don't show. An SHG update told us a supply of thermometers had been received and were being distributed to those in self-isolation so they can have daily DIY temperature checks.

On Wednesday the daily SHG Update said a small number of individuals who travelled on the vessel have been assessed as "higher risk." Though they are currently displaying no symptoms, they are being relocated to the UK to complete their isolation. Included in the group were medical personnel from Ascension. As a precaution, these higher risk individuals would be with NHS in England which is "well equipped to respond if they become unwell". A replacement medical team arrived on Ascension over the weekend to maintain healthcare services. Repeatedly, SHG told us to use SHG information platforms for the most accurate information.

A Guided Tour of the South Atlantic Islands With Hantavirus

Questions Not Yet Answered

Over the years a useful information network is built up by anyone who works on a newspaper. Hantavirus is not something regular contacts are familiar with but a new group of contacts soon showed up. Laboratory technicians and researchers from a variety of countries who have specialised in hantavirus soon started contacting the Independent, asking about the situation here.

One such person informed us a mobile rapid support laboratory had been deployed to St Helena. Laboratory equipment would have to be mobile to get from the UK to St Helena but this bit of information suggests equipment has been sent here to help diagnose Andes hantavirus if required. One SHG announcement mentioned 14 boxes of 'medical kit' arriving off a plane. There was specific mention of thermometers and 'medical consumables' but nothing else. Medical consumables probably include masks and other personal protective equipment but there has been no mention of mobile laboratory equipment to help accurately identify whether a patient has hantavirus.

Another hantavirus specialist suggested people at possible risk of infection would readily identify themselves because it is a "scary disease". Very true, but while fatalities can occur, the body's immune system can often win when symptoms such as fever appear. There is no medicinal cure or vaccine for Andes hantavirus but medicines do exist which make life more comfortable for patients with symptoms. Where these medicines supplied in the 14 boxes?

Questions have been emailed to SHG, requesting further information. At the time of writing – early yesterday morning – no response has yet been received. Repeatedly we are told to rely only on SHG for accurate information, but full information would go a long way to help reassure people whose natural reaction is to expect the worst possible outcome. Laboratory technicians contacting the Independent have commented the particular circumstances of this hantavirus outbreak – low infection rate, contained within a ship, low numbers of people at risk who are relatively easy to trace – means it should not be difficult for health authorities to contain the spread of the disease. The low risk message is regularly repeated, but the reasons why, are not. Emphasising the reasons why would help. More information means less exaggerated gossip.

Returning to the laboratory technician and the 'mobile rapid support lab', included in the description was 'with hanta PCR capacity'. PCR machines are very powerful, described more than once as the gold standard because a PCR machine makes it possible to study small amounts of genetic material that would otherwise be impossible to detect. These machines have an impressive range of uses, including detecting HIV, COVID-19, HPV, tuberculosis and hantavirus. Is it true this small but impressive machine is now in St Helena? SHG please tell. A technician working in Chile asked whether St Helena has ELISA, (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) a common medical laboratory test used to detect and measure antibodies, antigens, proteins, or hormones in bodily fluids. And do we have RT-PCR (a PCR machine with a handy add-on) or 'only rapid tests? Accurate information on this can only come from SHG. Will it?

Tristan da Cunha

Tristan has one person who is an island resident who is thought to have the Andes hantavirus but it is not confirmed. If infected, the contagion would have been while travelling to Tristan on the Hondius. The patient was on the same deck as the infected ship's passengers and remains in a stable condition. See page 4 for more.

A Guided Tour of the South Atlantic Islands

With Hantavirus

Ascension

Earlier this week a virtual town hall meeting was organised where representatives from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Georgetown Hospital and the Ministry of Defence provided an update on the situation on Ascension Island and responded to questions and concerns raised by the community.

The resident medical personnel, who had close contact with a confirmed case brought to Ascension, have been assessed as higher risk. They have been relocated as a precautionary measure. Some were among those flown to the UK, others returned to their country of residence in southern Africa. A new medical team has been flown in to replace them. Regular medical services have resumed at Georgetown hospital.

On Wednesday a high-risk contact had developed symptoms consistent with hantavirus whose temperature lowered overnight. AIG found it necessary to advise people that based on UKHSA advice, isolation measures wider than those in use are neither necessary nor supported by evidence.

Falklands

The Falkland is around 435 miles from Ushuaia, the most southerly Argentine port where the MV Hondius started the section of the Atlantic Odyssey cruise that called at St Helena. It seems the Falklands wanted to have hantavirus diagnostic kits for reasons not immediately apparent. The kits were supplied by Argentina, but for reasons best known to themselves, they would not supply direct to the Falklands.

This caused a problem which had people in different parts of the globe running around a bit. The UKHSA were responsible for the supply. They eventually found a supplier in Chile to arrange delivery. If it was me, I would put the kit on a plane at Brize Norton which is heading that way, but what do I know?

The supplier in Chile had it all set up but the Falklands seems to have pulled out at the last minute without explanation. Maybe they finally realised the distance between Ushuaia and Stanley?


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TIP OF THE WEEK



When replacing your appliances, look for low energy models.

During the life of the appliance, the savings in electricity could be more than the total cost of the appliance.

No Immediate Risk to Availability of Food, Fuel or Access to St Helena

SHG Announcement:-

Global developments, including ongoing tensions between the United States and Iran in the Middle East, continue to evolve. As with previous international events such as COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine, these circumstances can contribute to availability and rising costs of food, fuel and other commodities worldwide.



At present, assessments of the situation on the island do not indicate any immediate risk to the availability of food, fuel, or access to St Helena. Supplies are continuing as planned, and there are no concerns about shortages at this time. However, it is likely that cost pressures will continue, reflecting wider global inflation.

As an isolated island community, our resilience is strengthened when we all take practical steps to use resources thoughtfully and responsibly. Simple actions can help reduce pressure and support long-term sustainability, including:

- Being mindful of energy use, such as switching off lights and appliances when not in use;
- Reducing reliance on imported meats, fruit and vegetables where possible, for example through buying more local produce and growing small amounts of produce at home;
 - Using fuel efficiently by car sharing and avoiding unnecessary journeys;
 - Supporting local producers and businesses by buying local where possible

These are voluntary measures that many people already follow, and together they can make a positive difference.

St Helena Legislative Council

MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME Tuesday 19 May 2026

The seventh meeting of Ministers Question Time will take place on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 10am in the Council Chamber. This meeting is open to the public and will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1

The topic for this meeting is: **Impact of Global Conflict and International Economic Instability on St Helena's Essential Services, Supply Chains, Cost of Living and National Resilience**



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 18 MAY 2026

The Second Formal Session for 2026 of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place on Monday, 18 May at 9.30am in the Council Chamber.

The main programme of business will focus on the St Helena Government Financial Statements and Audit Management Letters for the Financial Years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and the meeting will be streamed and broadcast live on SAMS Radio 1.

ST HELENA PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
11 May 2026

St Helena's Day - A Brief History

Contributed by Aubrey George

Once again, our Island's Day of Discovery was on 21 May 1502, five hundred and twenty-four years to our present day (2026), and as efforts are under-way by many, planning ahead on this our Culture Month to celebrate our unique and diverse society, that is embracing these modern times and it's many challengers.

The birth of our community and our National Day as British began on 5 May 1659, with the English East India Company's Captain John Dutton's arrival on these 'pristine' shores with the first settlers, with their hope and intent to begin and transform the island into a working settlement. But previously to the English arrival, temporary settlements may have been undertaken by earlier occupiers, being the Portuguese and the Dutch. This 'tranquil' island and it's gradual development was in its infancy when just thirteen years later, their hope and desire to progress forward was un-expectantly "shattered and overwhelmed" by a large Dutch invasion force that arrive here on 29th December 1672 from their nearby colony at the Cape of Good Hope, and not from Europe as such. The Dutch had taken the Island from the English on 31st December 1672. Island Governor Anthony Beale and his contingent of "loyal and unshakeable" defenders and many others had fought courageously against the attacking Dutch force, before they escape from the enemy in the ship – Humphrey and Elizabeth commanded by Captain Metford and had sailed to Iseyle in Brazil.

Unlike invasions and conflicts of today's modern era in warfare and technology that are witness by everyone in comfort of their homes, the Dutch occupation was a invasion no less taken by force. Likewise, unlike communication of today as the "internet and hand held Iphones" to the outside world, communication then was only by so called 'Packet Ships', or one-mask sailing ships delivering mail, dispatches, parcels, etcetera, that could endure three to four months to deliver, but at the time of the invasion there were no such ships at the island to inform the higher authorities in England.

As our day of discovery draws nearer in celebrating our British identity as 'Saint Helenians', all should "Pause and Reflect" to remember a small English fleet of Men-of-War ships under Captain Richard Munden who was escorting the next India fleet outbound, and was to convoy home-ward bound India ships, fortunately came upon Governor Beale's small one-mask 'sloop' that had been lying in-wait off the island, to inform any English ships bound for St. Helena of the Dutch occupation. Thereafter, Captain Munden made a plan with the other ships in his fleet to retake the island by force, which was successfully accomplished on 15 May 1673, five months later after the Dutch occupation.

As there is no 'physical or visible' dedicated memorial plaque or monument to re-mind us of this historic event of three hundred fifty three years ago, except that of recorded records, and as events and celebrations are anticipated this St. Helena Day 2026, all should "recall and reflect" on the heroic acts of courage and bravery demonstrated by a "small band of men" namely Governor Anthony Beale and his defenders in his one mask 'sloop', and that of Captain Richard Munden's fleet and his men, who without orders from the higher 'echelons' of authority, rose to the task of re-claiming St. Helena as a British territory that continues to our present day. Captain Richard Munden is reputed to have entered into his ships log – quote " his crews have nothing better to do".

A extended summarized article of the Dutch Occupation and the English Recapture was published in the local newspapers during August and September 2025.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE

ISLAND ATTRACTIONS

So throughout the month of May, we will bring you a college each week showcasing St Helena's culture.

Today lets share with you some of the top attractions that visitors enjoy about our island.

Jacob's Ladder is a Grade I listed staircase leading from Jamestown, Saint Helena, up the side of Ladder Hill to Ladder Hill Fort.

The name is a reference to the biblical Jacob's Ladder, a ladder extending to heaven. The ladder is all that remains of a cable railway that was built there in the early 1800s



Longwood House is a mansion on the British overseas territory island of St. Helena.

It was the final residence of Napoleon Bonaparte, the former Emperor of the French, during his exile on the island of Saint Helena, from 10 December 1815 until his death on 5 May 1821.

Originally an East India Company farm, it was later acquired by the Government of France and now operates as a museum.

The Valley of the Tomb is the site of Napoleon's tomb, where he was buried following his death in exile on 5 May 1821.

The valley had been called the Sane Valley, but Napoleon had taken walks there and referred to it as the Valley of the Geraniums



Plantation House is the official residence of the governor of Saint Helena. It is located 3.6 km (2.2 mi) to the south of the capital, Jamestown, on the island of Saint Helena.



The Museum of Saint Helena is a museum on the island of Saint Helena, a British Overseas Territory in the south Atlantic Ocean.

It has an extensive collection covering the maritime, military and social history of the island over two floors.

It also has a small gift and book shop and an adjoining gallery for temporary exhibits



Heart Shaped Waterfall is considered one of St Helena's 7 wonders (voted by the public) and forms part of the Post Box walks series on the island.

The waterfall can be accessed via a track called Barnes Road, with 1km path to waterfall crossing the stream twice, passing through briar along the valley until you reach a natural amphitheatre at the base of the falls.



Diana's Peak is the highest point, at 818 metres (2,684 ft), on the island of Saint Helena, a British overseas territory in the South Atlantic Ocean.[1] It is of volcanic origin.

The mountain and its surroundings with a total area of 81 ha were proclaimed a national park in March 1996, the first on the island and It is a preserve of several endangered endemic species, including tree fern, he cabbage and black cabbage trees, and whitewood.

The park contains walking paths connecting the peaks - Mt. Actaeon (814m), Diana's Peak and Cuckold's Point (815m). The two shorter peaks are topped by large Norfolk pines. On the northern slopes there is a nursery for endemic species.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE

ISLAND ATTRACTIONS

St. James' Church is situated in Jamestown and is the oldest Anglican Church in the southern hemisphere. St James Church was founded in 1674 (a new building was constructed in 1774, to which the church is often dated) after the East India Company began sending Church of England chaplains to the island. The church once possessed a spire, dating from 1843, but this became unsafe and was taken down in 1980.



The current fort was built by the Royal Engineers in 1874, but this structure incorporated an earlier fort on the site built in around 1790.

High Knoll Fort stands 584 metres (1,916 ft) above sea level and is the largest, most prominent and most complete of the forts and military installations on the island.

As a Grade I Listed building and is one of the 7 Wonders of St. Helena it offers stunning views across St Helena.



The capital of St Helena, Jamestown is where ships and yachts land when visiting. Where most of the islands shopping is done, and where most people work.

There are some excellent examples of British Georgian-era colonial architecture, having been largely un-modernised, and has been proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A pleasure stroll through Jamestown is a must.



The Millennium Forest is a project in the North-Eastern corner of St. Helena to recreate the Great Wood that existed before colonisation.

Virtually every resident paid for a tree and many of them planted their trees themselves during the first phase of the project – about 3,000 trees. By 2012, about 35 hectares have been planted with 10,000 trees.

The total land area designated for reforestation has been extended in the course of the last thirteen years and is now 250 hectares .



Estimated to be between 170 and 200 years old, Jonathan is St Helena's oldest Saint, and the oldest living land creature in the world! A national treasure Jonathan is one of several giant tortoises that live in the grounds of Plantation House.



Thought to have arrived on the Island in 1882, he lives with David and Emma (who arrived in 1969), and Myrtle and Fredrika, (arriving in 1972).

St Helena offers the chance to see dolphins in the wild and should not be missed. Watch them cavort and dance as nature intended!



Whale sharks and whales are common around St. Helena, and can often be seen from the island. If you are lucky you may be able to get close to one. There are many operators who offer dolphin and whale watching tours.



Castle Gardens is, oddly, situated just outside The Castle buildings in Jamestown, It is filled with lawns, flower beds and aged trees, some of which have been reportedly growing since before Napoleon's day, all well maintained.

Saint Helena Airport is an international airport on Saint Helena, a remote island in the south Atlantic Ocean, in the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha.



Is the Falklands Another Greenland for Trump



Take Falklands Threats Seriously Warns Co-Author of the UK Defence Review

May 7, 2026

A co-author of last year's defence review has warned that US comments about the Falkland Islands should be taken seriously and engaged with directly, describing Trump's stance as a combination of genuine belief and political posturing rooted in his alliance with Argentina's President Milei.

Dr Fiona Hill, who served on the review alongside Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, told the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy last week that the Falklands comments were "a bit of both" when asked whether they represented substance or posturing.

"It is classic Trump. Greenland was obviously a major shock to the system, and he meant every bit of that," she said, adding that Trump still wanted to see Greenland as part of the United States but was pivoting toward Argentina because of his close political alliance with President Milei.

"He is basically saying that, as far as he is concerned, the whole set of geopolitical arrangements is up for grabs," she told MPs.

Hill was clear the UK should not let the comments pass without response. "One should engage directly on this. Certainly, behind closed doors would be better initially, but we should certainly take that seriously and do not let it just pass by," she said.

Bumpy The Baby Hippo Loves to Cuddle Up



A baby hippo found with its dead mother in a lake in Kenya was rescued earlier this month and is now hand-reared by keepers at a wildlife sanctuary. Only days old when the mother died, the baby hippo was found nudging its mother in an attempt to 'awaken' her. The mother had been dead for more than a day or longer, based on the level of decomposition.

The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, who are now nursing the orphaned hippo, have named it Bumpy. They say Bumpy is clearly in great need of comfort,

connection and reassurance. "He is a very snuggly creature and is happiest when nestled on or against someone," said a Sheldrick spokesman.

In the wild, a hippo calf nurses for up to a year or more but remains closely attached to its mother for several years until around sexual maturity, according to wildlife experts. The Kenya Wildlife Service said hand-rearing a hippo was possible when undertaken by experienced wildlife professionals, with



rehabilitation programmes "designed to preserve their instinctive behaviours and natural affinity to water". Bumpy spends a lot of the day submerged - but never alone. A rather waterlogged keeper is by his side throughout the day, in the water or on the ground." With its conservation partners, Sheldrick has previously rehabilitated and reintegrated other orphaned hippos successfully into the wild.

On the Governor's Office Facebook page



From One Old Timer to Another

Dear David Attenborough,
Congratulations on reaching your 100th lap
around the sun, young man!

From one old-timer to another, I must say, you're
just getting started.

Thank you for sharing the wonders of our world
with such care and curiosity.

Here's to many more years of adventure, slow
and steady wins the race!

With admiration,
Jonathan the Tortoise

His Majesty The King's Message for Ascension Day 2026

In celebration of Ascension Day, the National Day of Ascension, His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Nigel Phillips CBE, and his wife Emma, extend their warmest wishes to everyone on Ascension Island celebrating Ascension Day, including those celebrating at the Ascension Day Fair on Saturday.

The Governor is also honoured to share the following message with the Ascension Island community from His Majesty The King.

"Dear Governor,

As the people of Ascension Island mark the occasion of Ascension Day, my wife and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations to the Ascension Island Council, and to all those who call Ascension their home.

I have long held a special affection for the Overseas Territories, and I greatly value the unique character, traditions and contributions of each Territory within our wider British family. Ascension's strength of community, pride in heritage and commitment to progress are qualities that I deeply admire. I have been delighted to hear of the successful transition this year to Ascension Island Mobile with the support of Omnitouch, and the ongoing response to the Hantavirus major incident is a testament to Ascension Island's admirable resilience.

Amid today's environmental challenges, Ascension's commitment to safeguarding its natural heritage is a powerful reminder of the importance of sustainability and collective action in support of conservation. This is reflected most clearly in Ascension's vital contribution to the recovery of green turtles, now reclassified from Endangered to Least Concern, and the establishment of the red-footed booby colony on mainland Ascension, whose first chick fledged in January. My wife and I trust that the coming year will bring continued progress and wellbeing to the community of Ascension Island.

Open Letter to the Chief Planning Officer – Patricia Coyle



Dear Patricia

I have commented to you in the past on your excessive demands for planning applications to be submitted, when common sense and an ounce of reasonable professional judgement make them unnecessary. With the current total of 25 individual applications for post boxes, this has reached new depths of absurdity and I have received a chorus of complaint.

You might argue that it is none of my business but, as the main author of the whole Planning system, I resent the transparent misuse of the system and £££ cost to St Helena of fatuous bureaucracy. Each application, with its form filling, drawing up of plans, site notices, consultations, reports and decision processes must have a true cost to the island of hundreds of pounds.

“Development” has a defined meaning in the Ordinance. By no stretch of the imagination can the siting of post boxes fall within that definition and therefore Planning has no role in the process. Even if it did, common sense would say that the only body with relevant expertise on the subject is the Tourism department; and they are the applicants.

There are no policies in the Land Development Control Plan against which to judge the applications, so no basis for decisions by you, by the LDCA or the Governor in Council. I suggest that you immediately rescind your instruction that these applications be submitted, delete them and place an advertisement to that effect in the newspapers together with an apology to everyone.

It has been suggested to me by more than one person that your demand for unnecessary applications reflects the fact that you have not enough to do. With the current lack of ‘real’ applications, 7 in January, 6 in February, 8 in March, 7 in April, that may well be the case: as an Area Planning Officer in Britain years ago I personally dealt with an average of 33 applications per month. When I was Head of Planning here I dealt with more applications per month than you are handling and at the same time wrote the revised Land Development Control Plan plus all the subsidiary policies and worked continuously with the Attorney General to produce the Planning Regulations and Ordinance.

By contrast, you seem to be making very slow progress in revising the LDGP and none whatever in revising Regulations designed for an island with DfID’s predicted Tourist influx of 30,000 visitors per year.

Meanwhile the work of Tourism in trying to encourage growth is frustrated and delayed by you and their budget wasted on planning fees. Also, individuals are deterred from seeking informal advice in the knowledge that you will invariably demand formal applications. I know, because they tell me so.

There needs to be a complete re-set in the priorities and procedures of you and your Department.

Yours sincerely

David Taylor (MRTPI – retired).

Response

Dear David,
Thank you for your email. I note your concerns.

As previously offered, I am willing to meet with you to discuss professional planning matters and again offer for you to meet with me.

Please do let me know when you would be free to come into Essex House.

In the meantime, your email will be taken as your personal comments on the applications as indicated.

Kind regards
Patricia Coyle MRTPI

Outcome

A meeting is being arranged



Leading or misleading article

My wife and I have visited St Helena on several occasions over the last twenty years and rely on the Independent to keep us up to date with local gossip. I have to admit to feeling very disappointed to read Jim George's latest rant castigating the SHG over their handling of the hantavirus issue.

As with many journalists, Mr George appears to have a degree in hindsight and probably a crystal ball as well. Sadly, according to a ship's captain friend of mine, the death of a passenger on a cruise ship is not uncommon. My friend confirmed that Mr George is correct in saying that the SHG would have been informed of the death and permission would have been sought to repatriate the body as soon as possible, via St Helena's direct airlink to South Africa. I would be astounded if anyone, particularly the Governor, would have been aware of the circumstances surrounding the death of the passenger. I also cannot imagine any circumstances in which the wife of the deceased would not have wanted to 'accompany' her husband's body back to The Netherlands.

My vague understanding of the governorship of the South Atlantic islands is that the Governor of St Helena is also the head of the administration on Ascension Island. Most of the world first became aware of the nature of the medical issues on the cruise ship MV Hondius after further passengers were airlifted to Johannesburg from Ascension. Is it not unreasonable to assume that the Governor, once he had been informed by qualified medical people of the nature of the circumstances surrounding the illness of passengers on the cruise ship, would release a statement to all territories under his jurisdiction at the same time.

Mr George does himself no credit by quoting articles from the New York Times, it adds nothing to the piece and only confirms his desire to sensationalise an issue when responsible people appear to have handled a difficult situation with sensitivity and calmness.

Kind Regards
Robert James
Durham, UK

Births (Apr '26)

Kairo Ryan Samuel - 25/04/2026

Deaths (Apr '26)

Barbara Diane Plato (Female, 79) - 08/04/2026
 Vernon James Phillips (Male, 82) - 09/04/2026
 Leonardus Jacob Schilperoord (Male, 69) - 11/04/2026
 Glen James O'Dean (Male, 66) - 14/04/2026
 Sylvia Dawn Yon (Female, 65) - 24/04/2026
 Leslie Charles George (Male, 97) - 29/04/2026
 Keith George Williams (Male, 77) - 30/04/2026

Marriages (Apr '26)

Duncan Job Brown & Magdalena Dorota Myslakowska - 11/04/2026
 Wranghams, Sandy Bay. Island of St Helena

Gareth Neil Benjamin & Christabel Carissa Beard - 25/04/2026
 Richards' Travel Lodge, St Pauls. Island of St Helena

Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 17th May 2026 – 6th Sunday after Easter

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade/Junior Church	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter

The Parish of St James

Sunday 17th May 2026 – 6th Sunday after Easter

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
7.00 p.m.	Tuesday 19th May Mission Worship and Praise	Sandy Bay Community Centre
11.00 a.m.	Thursday 21st May St Helena Day Service	Grand Parade

Sunday 17th May 2026 – 6th Sunday after Easter

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
7.00 p.m.	Tuesday 19th May Bible School on Wheels	St Mark



SENSATIONAL SUNDIAL

Jamestown

Rose & Crown
 Thorpes Grocery
 The Standard Bar
 The Mantis Hotel
 Chad's Shop
 Anne's Place
 Yacht Club
 Blue Lantern
 The Mule Yard
 The Star

Ladder Hill

The Crown Supermarket
 Longwood
 Rose & Crown Hardware
 Rose & Crown Supermarket
 St Helena Golf Club

New Ground

McDaniels

Half Tree Hollow

Joshies
 A&D Mini Market
 HTH Supermarket
 SydneyRays

St Pauls

Philip John

Levelwood

Silver Hill Shop

We are grateful for the support of our retailers and look forward to our customers enjoying our beer.



JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

BENEFITS

- **Leave** – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- **Pension** – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- **Training and Development**
- **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Prison Officer (£11,604 per annum)

Working in a prison isn't for everyone, but, if you're one of the few with the right blend of qualities, it's a secure and very rewarding career. HM Prison Service serves the public by keeping in custody those committed by the courts. The role of a Prison Officer is to look after them with humanity and help them lead law abiding and useful lives in custody and after release. Day-to-day, you'll supervise prisoners and help to create a safe, secure environment where rehabilitation is supported and encouraged. You will take direction from Senior Prison Officers and assist the Superintendent of Prisons to run a safe and secure prison. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Applicants must be at least 18 years or over

Enquiries: Paul Duncan on Tel No. 25995 or Email: paul.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 June 2026
Interview date: 16 June 2026

Handyman-Driver (Local interest only) (£9,573 per annum)

The handyman driver is dedicated to enhancing the lives of everyone in our community and fostering the island's prosperity by assisting with the daily operations of the Central Support Service across various service areas. This includes performing minor maintenance tasks and taking on driving responsibilities as needed. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No.22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 June 2026
Interview date: 16 June 2026

1:1 Teaching Assistant (SHSS) (£10,966 per annum)

Do you have a passion for education? We are looking to recruit a dedicated Teaching Assistant to support the class teacher in delivering high-quality teaching and learning within the classroom environment. The successful candidate will be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Strong communication skills are essential, as the role involves working closely with students, parents, and colleagues. If you would like more information or an informal discussion about the role, please contact us.

Enquiries: Phil Toal on Tel No. 24290 or Email: phil.toal@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 June 2026
Interview date: 16 June 2026

The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh to discuss how we can support you.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.



JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

BENEFITS

- **Leave** – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- **Pension** – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- **Training and Development**
- **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies. Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Budget Officer (£13,569 per annum)

Are you experienced in accounting or budgeting? If so, SHG is seeking a Budget Officer to join our Treasury team. In this role, you will provide expert guidance and support to budget holders in preparing, monitoring, and managing their budgets. You will review and analyse budget documentation, scrutinise departmental Budget Execution Reports, and advise Budget Holders and Senior Management on strategies to address variances, providing clear evidence to support your recommendations. If this opportunity excites you, we'd love to hear from you!

Enquiries: Mercy Chiseya on Tel No. 22470 or Email: mercy.chiseya@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 June 2026
Interview date: 16 June 2026

Preventative Health Evaluation & Impact Manager (£19,814 per annum) (Fixed term 2 years)

The Preventative Health Evaluation & Impact Manager will contribute to enhancing the well-being of everyone in our community and support the island's prosperity by supporting efforts to strengthen the community prevention and management of chronic diseases. This role aims to enhance the processes and capabilities of the preventative health team. Key responsibilities will include designing, implementing, and assessing health improvement initiatives, along with creating impact case studies. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Selvi Jeyaseelan on Tel No.22470 or Email: selvi.jeyaseelan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 25 May 2026
Interview date: 04 June 2026

Assistant PAYE Officer (£10,088 per annum)

Are you interested in being a part of a small dynamic team? If so, Treasury has an opportunity to join their Income Tax team. In this important role, the Assistant PAYE Officer will be providing day to day management of the PAYE system, auditing the Tax data for individual employee taxpayers and dealing with tax queries, ensuring all PAYE taxes are collected in line with the Income Tax Ordinance. The post holder will also be responsible for the storage and updating of all PAYE tax information (both physically and electronically) on a regular basis, for easy retrieval and to satisfy statutory obligations. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Connie Stevens on Tel No. 22825 or Email: connie.stevens@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 June 2026
Interview date: 11 June 2026

The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh to discuss how we can support you.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

AGM

ST HELENA NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP

The St Helena Nature Conservation Group is pleased to announce an AGM as part of its formal re-establishment. After a five-year hiatus, we are inviting all previous members and any individuals interested to join us.

Meeting Hall, St Helena
Community College, Jamestown
Wednesday, 27th May 2026
17:30



ST HELENA AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT GROUP

Thank You!

The Saint Helena Autism Awareness and Support Group would like to thank everyone who took part in *Autism Awareness Month* in April.

Whether you:

- ♥ Made cakes for one of the bake sales;
- ♥ Bought cakes and autism merchandise from the Canister on the 19th of March;
- ♥ Read the posters about the sensory needs of autistic children on Saint Helena;
- ♥ Looked up at High Knoll in the evenings and saw it lit up in blue;
- ♥ Bought cakes from the Inclusion Champions bake sale at Saint Helena Secondary School on the 16 of April;
- ♥ Attended the discussion panel at the Mantis on the 16th of April;
- ♥ Wore blue on the 16th or 17th of April;
- ♥ Attended the Music Bingo at Jamestown Community Centre on the 18th of April (dressed as a Gangster Granny or not!);
- ♥ Joined one of the sensory walks on the 26th of April and enjoyed tea, cake, and hot food at Kingshurst Community Centre;
- ♥ Or listened to Island Pulse on the 28th of April, which featured a segment on Autism Awareness Month;

Different not less 

The Saint Helena Autism Awareness and Support Group appreciates your participation, care, and contributions to increasing awareness of autism. It was a very special month that showed how we can come together as a community to value uniqueness and support one another.

 In total, **£3480.76** was raised.

The charity is meeting soon to continue its development and consider the best ways to use these funds to support autistic children, adults, and families on Saint Helena. We look forward to sharing our progress with you in the future.

House for Sale

Three Gables, West Lodge, Blue Hill



**Overlooking Barren Ground, High Hill & the Sea.
Land 0.3 acre. Access shared track.
House has attached garage with mechanics pit.**

Ground floor:

Large open plan living room, dining room with laminated flooring.
Bathroom : suite with separate shower, fully tiled.
Bedroom 1: fitted wardrobe, laminated floor.
Bedroom 2: fitted carpet.

Kitchen: fitted units with solid wood doors, fully tiled.
Long hallway with real wood parquet flooring, wooden stairs with banister & rail.

First floor:

Potential for self contained attic flat. Open plan centre with one dormer, & two gables, new wood/t&g floor, stage one electrics, new fuse box. Access for plumbing. Also suitable for an office, storage, extra bedrooms, etc.

Outside:

Streme v solar panel & tank. Concrete drive with gates, concrete paths, two concrete plinths for water tanks, three concrete outbuildings, food garden, fruit trees, flower beds, septic tank system. Services -mains, electricity, water, landline telephone.

House has had extensive upgrade, painted & decorated inside & outside. Some furniture, fittings white goods, rugs, curtains are also included.

Photographs to view:

Visit St Helena Bring & Buy, www.propertyfinder.sh or listings@propertyfinder.sh

Reduced to £120.000

Open to Offers

Phone Anne Roberts on 23352 - View by Appointment
or Diane Roberts on 23416 EVES

Vacancy

Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper



Salary for the post will commence at £11,100 per annum (£213 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Bulk Fuel Installation for a Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper.

As the Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper, you will be responsible for the loading and delivery of fuels to clients and accountable for completion of documents. Provide support to the Watchkeepers as and when required, assist with general maintenance duties, fuel transfers between storage tanks and also assist with Ship-to-Shore Tanker operations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally be familiar with the safe loading, transportation and dispensing of fuels in bulk via Road Tanker
- Be in possession of a clean & valid drivers' licence in class J4
- Have basic competency in Maths & English
- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
- Be customer focused and able to deliver excellent level of customer service
- Honest, accountable and proactive
- Be safety conscious and have Health & Safety awareness in a fuels environment
- Able to work effectively in a team environment
- Able to work to a high degree of accuracy in a within a highly structured framework and comply with established procedures
- Ideally have experience or be knowledgeable of the safe handling of fuels
- Be comfortable to work in a hazardous environment and deal with hazardous substances
- Ideally have the ability to perform general maintenance duties
- Ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Mr Rico Yon, BFI Manager via  22332  bfi@helanta.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **22 May 2026**.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Safety & Compliance Officer



Salary for the post will range between £18,513.00 - £20,000.00 per annum;
depending on qualifications and experience

Job Outline:

Responsible for planning, implementing and overseeing safety all elements of safety and compliance, through BOU Managers, in accordance with laws, regulations, standards and ethical practices as applicable to the Company in respect of environmental management and workplace health and safety, as applicable to all aspects of the Company's diverse portfolio of business interests.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have IOSH or similar Health & Safety Certification
- Have 3 – 5 years' experience in a Health & Safety / Compliance role
- Have 3 years' experience in a supervisory or management role
- Have grade C or above in English and Maths or equivalent
- Be computer literate in the use of Microsoft Applications
- Have the ability to multi-task, organise workload and meet tight deadlines
- Have excellent organisation, interpersonal & communication skills
- Be analytical and have a high degree of accuracy with attention to detail
- Be able to maintain total confidentiality within the Company
- Be experienced in data collation, analysis and able to create reports
- Ideally be knowledgeable of Food Safety practises.

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Paul Gasteen, Chief Operating Officer via  22380  paul.gasteen@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **22 May 2026**.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT VACANCY NOTICE

Finance Assistant

Total package value up to £26,427.00

(comprising salary of £15,137.00 per annum plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

We're looking for a Finance Assistant to support the Finance Team in delivering a high-quality income tax and customs function. This is a varied and rewarding role that supports both the public and internal Government teams, with responsibilities spanning tax administration, customer service, customs operations, and general finance support.

What you'll do

As Finance Assistant, you'll focus on administering income tax processes, including issuing forms, collecting PAYE contributions, maintaining registers, and responding to queries. You'll ensure the timely collection and reconciliation of taxes from employers, small businesses, contractors, and visitors. You'll also support customs operations by assisting with baggage checks and arrivals at sea and air ports. Additionally, you'll provide flexible support across the Finance Office and may assist in areas such as the Post Office, Travel Office, or Stores during busy periods or staff absence.

What you'll bring

You'll have good IT skills, especially in Microsoft Excel, Outlook, and Word, and ideally some knowledge of accounting software such as Sage. You're a confident communicator who can interact politely and professionally with the public, suppliers, and colleagues across Government. You'll be someone who works well both independently and as part of a team, with a methodical approach to handling sensitive information, cash, and data. Experience in income tax or customs duties would be a distinct advantage, but full training will be provided to the right candidate.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of £15,137 per annum (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a single status contract and these benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth up to £2,400 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance of £3,900 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £3,140 per year
- A single status water allowance worth £1,850 pa
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- 30 days annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free annual travel insurance

This appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory Employment References.
- Basic Criminal Records Check.
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance.

Closing date: **03 June 2026**
Interviews: **week commencing 08 June 2026**
Start date: **as soon as possible**

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/>

If you have any queries about the role, please email recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

*** Internal applications from AIG employees currently on accompanied status contracts will be considered***



CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS TO SERVE ON THE ST HELENA HOTEL DEVELOPMENT LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS CHAIRPERSON

St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. is seeking Expressions of Interests from suitably qualified persons interested in serving as the Chairperson of the Board.

The Chairperson & the Board of Directors have a collective responsibility for the strategic direction of the business and for monitoring the performance of the Hotel, in line with the Hotel Management Agreement in place with the Operator, Mantis.

A copy of the terms of reference for the Board, and a form to register an interest may be requested from the Company Secretary, Miss Nicole Plato via email nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh or collected from the Castle, Jamestown.

Expressions of Interest should be made using the form and should be submitted, along with a current Curriculum Vitae to the Company Secretary, Miss Nicole Plato via email, or in hardcopy addressed to the Secretary at the Castle, by **Friday, 22 May 2026**.

Please note that registering an interest does not guarantee an appointment to the board as this is subject to applicant's having the required knowledge, skills and experience. This position attracts a monthly fee.

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations

Date	Time	Location
Week 1	First doses	
Monday 18 May	10am - 2pm	HTH (CCC)
Tuesday 19 May	10am - 2pm	Longwood (Harford CC)
Wednesday 20 May	10am - 2pm	JTCC

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the session most convenient to them. Vaccination remains an important step in protecting yourself and the wider community from MMR.

For individuals who are housebound and unable to attend any of the above sessions, arrangements can be made for a home visit by a nurse. Please contact the **Health Promotion team** on 25949 to register your request.

SHG - 08 May 2026

Editorial Note:

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known to humans, with a contagion rate of roughly 90% among unvaccinated individuals exposed to the virus. One infected person can infect 12 to 18 others, spreading through the air or on surfaces where the virus can live for up to two hours

Mumps is highly contagious and spreads easily from person to person through respiratory droplets (coughing, sneezing, talking) and direct contact with saliva (kissing, sharing drinks/utensils). It is contagious for about 2 days before saliva gland swelling begins and up to 5 days after swelling starts.

Rubella virus is highly contagious and spreads easily from person to person through coughing, sneezing, or close contact. It is transmitted via airborne respiratory droplets, and it can also spread by touching contaminated surfaces. Rubella (German measles) symptoms appear 2–3 weeks after exposure, characterised by a fine, pink/red rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards. Key symptoms include fever, swollen lymph nodes behind the ears/neck, sore throat, and joint pain.



St Helena's Day Celebrations 2026

Thursday 21st May

The Seafront, Nr Thompson's Crane

PROGRAMME

"St Helenian Food"

A Fusion of Continents - A taste of home!

11:00am - Marching Parade, followed by Opening Ceremony

11:30am - Opening of Stalls

1:00pm - Food Competition

- Bingo on Donny's Deck

2:00pm - Secondary School Performance

3:00pm - Float Parade starting at Maldivia Road

4:30pm - Judging of the Floats

5:00pm - Tug of War

- Local Music Entertainment

6:00pm - Local Band Entertainment

8:00pm - Fireworks Display

8:30pm - Local Band Entertainment





St Helena's Day Celebrations 2026

Thursday 21st May

FLOAT COMPETITION PRIZES

Theme: *"St Helenian Food"*

A Fusion of Continents - A taste of home!

1st Prize - £300.00

2nd Prize - £200.00

3rd Prize - £100.00

Participation Prize - £40.00

Contacts:

James Cairns-Wicks E: James06031997@gmail.com / Shelley Magellan-Wade Shelley.magellan-wade@trust.org.sh



FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Saturday 9th	Liverpool	1	1	Chelsea
Saturday 9th	Brighton	3	0	Wolves
Saturday 9th	Fulham	0	1	Bournemouth
Saturday 9th	Sunderland	0	0	Man United
Saturday 9th	Man City	3	0	Brentford
Sunday 10th	Burnley	2	2	Aston Villa
Sunday 10th	Crystal Palace	2	2	Everton
Sunday 10th	Nott'm Forest	1	1	Newcastle
Sunday 10th	West Ham	0	1	Arsenal
Monday 11th	Tottenham	1	1	Leeds
Wednesday 13th	Man City			Crystal Palace



Match Report

Chelsea halted their six-game losing run in the Premier League by battling to a 1-1 draw with Liverpool at Anfield.

Arne Slot's team, who would have all but secured UEFA Champions League football with a win, were without Mohamed Salah, Florian Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike but still took the lead through Ryan Gravenberch's sixth-minute stunner.



Man of the Match

That goal left Chelsea facing a seventh straight league defeat, which would have equalled the worst streak in their history, but Calum McFarlane's team levelled in the 35th minute as Enzo Fernandez's deep free-kick flew all the way in.

Cole Palmer and Curtis Jones had goals disallowed for offside at either end in the second half, while Liverpool also hit the woodwork twice.

Antonin Kinsky was Tottenham Hotspur's late hero as he produced a vital save to help his side to a 1-1 draw against Leeds United.

Mathys Tel went from hero to zero for Spurs, opening the scoring with a curling effort in the 50th minute to put Roberto De Zerbi's inside in front, but then being involved in conceding Leeds' equaliser at the other end soon after.



Man of the Match

A high ball dropped inside the box and Tel's attempted acrobatic clearance caught Ethan Ampadu with a high foot, with a penalty awarded following a VAR review.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin stepped up to ruthlessly dispatch the resulting spot-kick, and despite Spurs' best efforts, it was Leeds who came closest to snatching all three points as Kinsky produced a stunning save on to the crossbar to deny Sean Longstaff in stoppage time.

The result moves Spurs two points clear of West Ham United in 18th with two games of their season remaining, while Leeds jump up to 14th.



Premier League Fixtures

Friday 15th	19:00	Aston Villa	vs	Liverpool
Sunday 17th	11:30	Man United	vs	Nott'm Forest
Sunday 17th	14:00	Brentford	vs	Crystal Palace
Sunday 17th	14:00	Everton	vs	Sunderland
Sunday 17th	14:00	Leeds	Vs	Brighton
Sunday 17th	14:00	Wolves	vs	Fulham
Sunday 17th	16:30	Newcastle	vs	West Ham
Monday 18th	19:00	Arsenal	vs	Burnley
Tuesday 19th	18:30	Bournemouth	vs	Man City
Tuesday 19th	19:15	Chelsea	vs	Tottenham



CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by Cricheroes in conjunction with St Helena Cricket Association

LEAGUE



Western A Mustangs 148/3 (20 overs)

beat

Jamestown Heat 117/7 (20 overs)

Kyle Bennett - 37* (19)
Barry Stroud - 29 (34)
Jason Thomas - 1/18 (4 overs)
Lebron George - 1/36 (4 overs)

Damian Burns - 35 (29)
Gavin George - 21 (22)
Gareth Johnson - 2/6 (4 overs)
Kyle Bennett - 2/27 (3 overs)

Player of the Match - Kyle Bennett (Western A Mustangs)

LEAGUE



Challengers 119/10 (20 overs)

beat

Levelwood Allstars 107/5 (20 overs)

Jordi Henry - 37 (27)
Andrew Yon - 36 (25)
Aiden Leo - 3/13 (4 overs)
Cormac Crowie - 3/25 (4 overs)

Delroy Leo - 55 (51)
Weston Clingham - 16 (34)
Trystan Thomas - 2/19 (2 overs)
Jordi Henry - 1/10 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - Andrew Yon (Challengers)

LEAGUE



Jamestown Heat 144/5 (20 overs)

beat

Cobras 106/8 (20 overs)

Dax Richards - 54 (45)
Jamie Essex - 31 (19)
Jamie Peters - 2/19 (4 overs)
James Andrews - 3/29 (3 overs)

Dane Wade - 30* (20)
Martin Cranfield - 25 (51)
Jason Thomas - 3/6 (4 overs)
Zach Francis - 2/13 (3 overs)

Player of the Match - Dax Richards (Jamestown Heat)

LEAGUE



Sandy Bay Pirates 153/8 (20 overs)

beat

Western A Mustangs 82/10 (16.5 overs)

Rhys Francis - 55* (31)
David Young - 33 (20)
Kyle Bennett - 4/33 (4 overs)
Kurt Jonas - 2/25 (4 overs)

Kurt Jonas - 29 (26)
Gareth Johnson - 14 (9)
Jerry Thomas - 4/8 (4 overs)
David Young - 3/27 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - David Young (Sandy Bay Pirates)

UPCOMING FIXTURES



Saturday 16th May @ 9:30am Sandy Bay Pirates vs Western A Mustangs

Umpires - Dane Leo & Stefan Leo

Saturday 16th May @ 1:30pm Levelwood Allstars vs Challengers

Umpires - Gareth Johnson & Rhys Francis



Website:

www.sthelenacricknet.org/

Games can also be followed by the Cricheroes app which can be downloaded from Google Play Store.



Facebook

Find us on our facebook page. You can also send us send us a message via facebook.

[@sthelenacricknetassociation](https://www.facebook.com/sthelenacricknetassociation)



Tweet us

During our competitions we tend to tweet updates and information about our games

[@StHelenaCricket](https://twitter.com/StHelenaCricket)



Instagram

The best place to find all the great images of our progress from games to training

[@cricketsthelena](https://www.instagram.com/cricketsthelena)

ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

Buckley Holes the Final Shot as Tombstone Thriller Unfolds

Eighteen keen golfers braved the fairways of St Helena Golf Club on **Sunday 10 May** for an **18 hole Stableford Competition** sponsored by the club. Played under cloudy but mercifully dry skies, the course provided a true test and sparked some tight competition across the field.

Stealing the spotlight was **Nigel Leaver**, who put together a rock solid and consistent round to post an excellent **36 points off a handicap of 19**. His composed performance proved unbeatable on the day, earning him overall victory and **first prize**.

Close on his heels was **Neil Joshua**, who produced another steady display to finish with **34 points off 20**. That effort secured him the overall **runner up** spot and second prize, capping off a fine day's work.

The battle for the remaining places was just as competitive. **Jeffrey Stevens** claimed **third place** with **32 points off 11**, while **Jason Hopkins** grabbed **fourth** spot on **31 points**.

Things were particularly tight in the middle of the leaderboard, with **Ashton Benjamin**, **Laura Buckley** and **Keith Buckley** all locked together on **30 points**. Countback over the closing nine holes was needed to separate the trio, underlining just how closely matched the field was.

One of the highlights of the day came at the **par 3 fifth hole**, where **Bramwell Bushuru** thrilled the field by firing the only **birdie 2** of the competition on that hole. The quality shot earned him the two ball pool prize, scooping all the balls on offer in style.

Congratulations go to all the prize winners for an entertaining and competitive afternoon of golf.



Sunday, 17 May 2026,

Par 3 Strokeplay format, with 3/8 of the combined handicap applied

Tee off: 12:00

Registration closes: Saturday 16th May at 3pm,.

Sunday 24 May 2026

Annual Gwyneth Howell Trophy Challenge an 18 hole Cross Country Strokeplay competition

This flagship event is not to be missed, so register early and come out in numbers to support one of the club's biggest and most valued sponsors.



Happy Swinging
SHGC



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<https://www.facebook.com/shgc.org.sh>



**SAVE THE DATE
IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER WALK OUT
WEST**

The Chapel Warden and Church Group of St Helena & The Cross Church will be organising another moonlight walk on Saturday 30th May 2026 starting at 6.30 pm.

The walk will start from St Helena & The Cross Church to Frenchmen's Gut and back to the Blue Hill Community Centre.

Tea and Refreshments will be provided and bar facilities will also be available. Donations will be greatly appreciated towards St Helena

& The Cross Church funds. If you prefer just a short walk then you can walk from the church down to the Community Centre.

Please note that you will be transported back to your cars from the Community Centre.

So come along and enjoy a relaxing moonlight night out west.

(WEATHER PERMITTING)



St Helena Legislative Council

**MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME
Tuesday 19 May 2026**

The seventh meeting of Ministers Question Time will take place on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 10am in the Council Chamber. This meeting is open to the public and will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1

The topic for this meeting is: **Impact of Global Conflict and International Economic Instability on St Helena's Essential Services, Supply Chains, Cost of Living and National Resilience**

A copy of the Order Paper will be published on the SHG Website on Tuesday morning, and can be accessed via www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/legislative-council/order-papers/.

**Legislative Council
12 May 2026**

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



**WHATEVER
YOU NEED
TO SHIP**

	GREY FOX 261206	BLUE MASTER II 261208	LILAC ROLLER 261210
Immingham	21-Feb	28-May	25-Apr
	KAROLINE 261703	KAROLINE 261704	KAROLINE 261705
Cape Town	03-Apr	06-May	07-Jun
Rupert's Bay	11-Apr	14-May	15-Jun
Ascension Island			
	KAROLINE 261803	KAROLINE 261804	KAROLINE 261805
Cape Town	26-Apr	27-May	28-Jun

*schedule may change without prior notice. For the latest updates, please visit our website.



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