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SENTINEL

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Never Say Never



"Acting Responsibly with Public Finances"





SHG propose increase to income tax threshold to £7,150, though Councillors pushed for "a minimum of £7,500" and were not made aware of the final decision

Executive Council approve prohibition on imports from South Africa due to outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

Right, comment time. We have Ministers and Councillor's at heads over the proposed increase to the income tax threshold; we have Hugh James and SHG in a legal dispute over the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance; all while Donald Trump plays war in the Middle East like a child playing video games. It's enough to make your head spin – so I'd rather not get into it.

Let's look at more positive things. Gavin George, what a guy! Chasing his dreams at 70 and showing the world what he's made of. Arguably the standout performer for the Rest of the World team at the recent IMC Over 70's World Cup in New Zealand. Incredible stuff Gavin, you have done yourself, your family and all of St Helena proud. Check out Luke's article this week to read more about Gavin's performances at the tournament.

Right, as I am writing this, Angus McPherson from South Africa has just passed Thompson's Bay heading towards Egg Island as he becomes the first man to attempt to swim the full circumference of St Helena Island – that is at the age of 60-plus. How incredible is that? No doubt by the time this is read, Angus will hopefully have successfully completed the swim. Shoutout to Open Water Africa's Howard James who has put in all of the work to make these events possible and to ensure the swims are safe and certified. Also, big ups to the teams of the Enchanted Isle and Seahawk Odyssey, can't ask for much better than these guys to keep you safe in the water.

So, there you go, two men in their senior years, chasing their dreams, proving that age is just a number and that hard work trumps all. In a world of darkness, always embrace the light! Stay positive people, even if the world tries its best to push you another way, your outlook is your outlook, own it!

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ST HELENA NEWS

Don't take Sand ~~to~~ from the Beach

SHG warn of potential prosecution following reports of illegal sand removal from Sandy Bay Beach



Sand has reportedly been stolen from Sandy Bay Beach

Liam Yon, SAMS

SHG have informed of reports being received regarding the illegal removal of sand from Sandy Bay Beach, which they say could be considered "a serious offence" with persons facing prosecution if found guilty.

In terms of the recent reports, they detail how "some of this sand has been dumped and abandoned on the roadside between the beach and the Sandy Bay Baptist Chapel, creating a serious hazard for drivers."

They add that "abandoned sand on the road puts motorists at risk" while it also impacts wildlife, noting how it is currently "nesting season for turtles" and that "removing sand destroys their nesting grounds and makes it harder for them to breed successfully." SHG also describes Sandy Bay Beach as "a public space for everyone to enjoy" adding that "taking sand ruins the beach for the rest of the community."

SHG also made clear the seriousness of these actions as they explained the law associated with removing sand from Island beaches. "Removing sand can be considered "unauthorised development" under the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance (2013)," they warned. "This is a serious offense that can lead to fines, imprisonment, or both."

SHG concluded by "kindly" asking the public "to leave the sand on the beach where it belongs, for the protection of our wildlife and the safety of our drivers."

"Acting Responsibly with Public Finances"

SHG propose increase to income tax threshold from £7,000 to £7,150 to "protect people from inflation," though Island Councillors say they "expressed clear support for increasing the personal allowance to a minimum of £7,500" and were not made aware of the final decision, which was "taken solely by Ministers" as they hold Public Meetings tonight



Councillor Julie Thomas



Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks

Liam Yon, SAMS

The next sitting of Formal Legislative Council is scheduled to take place next week, on Thursday, 19 March, and one of the Bills to be discussed and voted on relates to a proposed amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance 2012, to make provision for changes to the personal tax free allowance, after Ministers agreed upon a £150 increase to the income tax threshold from the current £7,000 to £7,150.

"As a Government, we are acutely aware of the pressures many households are facing from the rising cost of living," commented Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks. "Where we can provide support, we will do so, but we must also balance this with our responsibility to maintain a sustainable budget and avoid placing financial burdens on future years."

As such, the Chief Minister revealed that, "for the first time in 12 years, this Government is proposing an increase to the personal tax-free allowance, which has remained at £7,000 since it was introduced."

A long overdue rise to the tax threshold on St Helena will no doubt be welcomed by the community, however criticism has been drawn to the size of the increase, at £150, with many of the opinion that it is too small and will not make a noticeable difference to cost of living issues on St Helena, particularly for lower income households.

The Chief Minister did acknowledge that the increase is small, however explained the rationale behind the decision and said it shows intent on the wider aims of the Government.

"While the increase is modest, it signals the direction we intend to take over the term of this Government," she explained. "The proposed adjustment reflects an inflationary increase of just over 2%. This is about protecting people from inflation rather than handing out a short-term "perk". Inflation in the last quarter of 2025 was around 2.2%."

She adds that "without adjusting the allowance, its real value gradually erodes," because of inflation, "meaning people effectively pay more tax simply because everyday prices have risen."

To put this into figures, currently a person earning the median annual wage on St Helena of £10,490 (latest statistical estimate) would pay £907.40 in taxes over the year, or around £75.62 per month. If the proposed increase is approved, persons earning the same amount would be subject to paying £868.40 in taxes for the year, or around £72.37 per month – representing a saving of £39 for the year, or around £3.25 each month.

While the Chief Minister admits that "this change is not as much as some people had hoped for," she adds that this Government were "determined to find a way to begin making improvements" at the start of their term, while also "acting responsibly with public finances" to ensure a more balanced approach is taken.

"Our approach is to move away from the pattern of leaving thresholds unchanged for many years and then making sudden large increases," she detailed further. "Instead, we want to move toward smaller, regular adjustments that protect people's living standards and keep key financial support in line with rising costs over time. In short, this change helps maintain the real value of the tax-free allowance year by year."

The Chief Minister described the proposed £150 increase to the income tax threshold as "only the first step," as she revealed the exploration of "a range of measures that can help give support

to those most affected by rising costs of living," stating that this includes the annual review of the minimum wage, "as well as looking closely at utilities and other essential costs."

Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks said that the Government "recognise the challenges people are facing" and "remain committed to making steady, responsible changes that support our community while protecting the long-term stability of St Helena's public finances."

Following the Chief Minister's statement however, Island Councillors have spoken out against the decision, which they say was "taken solely by Ministers" as they themselves had agreed on a larger increase during wider Council consultation and had only learnt of the reduced rate of increase last Thursday when the Bill for an Ordinance was published online.

"As your seven District Representatives and Councillors, we are issuing this collective statement to provide essential clarity regarding the Bill published yesterday, which proposes an amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance 2012," they said in a 'collective statement' issued on Friday. "The published Bill includes a provision to increase the personal tax allowance from £7,000 to £7,150. We believe it is vital for you, the public, to understand the process that led to this figure."

Councillors then detail how meetings were held with the wider Council on 7 January and 10 February, "to discuss various Tax Options," adding that, on completion of these sessions, "the majority of Councillors expressed clear support for increasing the personal allowance to a minimum of £7,500," in order to "better support" the community.

According to Councillors, "the decision to instead set the allowance at £7,150 - an inflationary increase - was taken solely by Ministers during the Executive Council meeting held on 24 February" and the wider Council was not informed of this decision.

"Following our initial support for the £7,500 threshold, no further feedback was provided to us by the Ministerial Team to explain why the majority view was not adopted," they bemoaned. "Like you, we only became aware of the final decision when the Bill was made public."

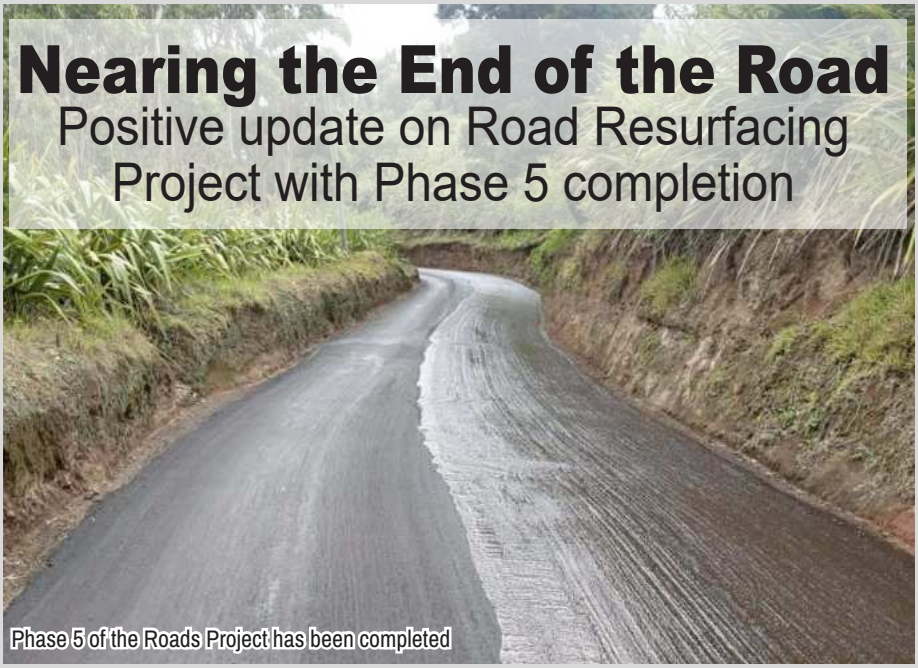
Having made their stance clear, Councillors are now encouraging constituents to engage with them to share any thoughts, concerns and opinions on the Bill and the proposed increase prior to the Formal Meeting of Legislative Council on 19 March. This, they say, will allow them to take these matters forward and ensure the views of the public "are heard at the highest level" as is their role as district representatives.

As such, Councillors have organised two public meetings to be held this evening, 12 March, starting 7.30pm at both the Half Tree Hollow and Harford Community Centre's respectively. They are encouraging as many residents as possible to attend either of these meetings, with three of the Councillors making themselves available at each location.

With all of this in the public domain, this proposed increase by Ministers, followed swiftly by the statement from Councillors, means this topic should make for an interesting debate and discussion when this Bill for an Ordinance is presented at LegCo next week.

Nearing the End of the Road

Positive update on Road Resurfacing Project with Phase 5 completion



Phase 5 of the Roads Project has been completed

Liam Yon, SAMS

On Friday of last week, SHG's Roads Section said they were pleased to advise the public that slurry works on Phase 5 of the Road Resurfacing Project (Longwood Gate to Hutt's Gate) had been successfully completed, with no further road closures planned for this section.

"Final finishing works will continue along the sides of the road over the coming days," they informed. "Motorists are kindly asked to drive with caution, as road workers may still be operating in this area throughout this weekend and into next week."

With that said, the Roads Section advised that "the main slurry team has now moved to the final phase of the project, covering the stretch between Briar's Junction and Button-up Corner."

Preparation works were ongoing at the time with a view to slurry operations commencing during this week. As such, the weekday road closure between 9am and 3pm on this section of road will remain in place until late March as works take place.

According to the Roads Section, "initial works will take place between the top of the concrete section of Side Path Road and Briars Junction, carried out in half-widths, with traffic directed as required." As always, appropriate signage will be in place.

As they near the end of this crucial project, the Roads Section continues to express gratitude to the public for their patience and cooperation as these essential works progress.



Prepatory works for the final section of road has begun

"We want to act quickly and fairly"

SHG to support businesses affected by Airport Closure as they launch Business Support Scheme



The tranquil Harkate Guest House at Gordons Post

Liam Yon, SAMS

On Monday, St Helena Government (SHG) announced the launch of a Business Support Scheme to provide financial relief to tourism-sector businesses directly affected by the temporary closure of St Helena Airport in February.

During the Major Incident which was declared on Friday, 6 February, four scheduled commercial flights had to be cancelled before the Airport could be recertified at Category 6 by Air Safety Support International.

As recognised by SHG, "the interruption had an immediate and significant impact on the tourism sector, particularly for businesses reliant on visitor arrivals," and they have therefore launched a Business Support Scheme to address this.

SHG revealed how "the scheme is open to businesses that are incorporated or normally domiciled in St Helena," and includes Destination Management Companies, Travel Agents, Tour Operators and Tourist Accommodation Providers, excluding food and beverage.

"To qualify, businesses must be able to demonstrate that a confirmed booking or contract was directly affected by the airport closure, and that this resulted in a loss of guaranteed profit," they further explained. "Supporting evidence will be required as part of the application."

In terms of the support available, the Executive Council have approved two support options to assist affected businesses whose application to the scheme is accepted; one being an interest-free loan and the other being an SHG Booking and Prepayment Scheme for 2026–2028 Services.

According to Government, the Interest-Free Loan "will be most suited to businesses who have experienced significant cash flow issues because of the airport closure but can reclaim the losses from suppliers or through insurance." They add that this "will need to be repaid within 24 months."

For the other option, SHG "will provide assistance by booking and prepaying for services that match the loss incurred due to the airport closure." This, they say, "is most suited to accommodation providers and tourism service operators" before giving the following example; "if an accommodation provider is determined to have lost 10 nights stay, then SHG will book and pre-pay for 10 nights' accommodation. SHG portfolios will utilise these bookings within a 24-month period for familiarisation, media, academic, or other approved trips."

SHG feel that these two schemes "provide businesses with both immediate relief and confidence going forward." They confirmed that businesses are able to apply for one or both types of support.

"This scheme demonstrates SHG's commitment to supporting our private sector through extraordinary circumstances," commented Minister for Economic Development, Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, Karl Thrower. "We recognise the very real impact this disruption has had on businesses and the livelihoods that depend on them, and we want to act quickly and fairly."

For those wishing to apply, application forms are available on request from Head of Trade and Investment, Michael Ormrod, with completed forms and supporting documents needing to be submitted to the SHG Trade and Investment Team by Thursday, 9 April.

SHG are urging those who may be eligible to "get in touch as soon as possible."



The popular Charabanc tour by Corkers Tourist Services

"Helping to Protect Our Island"

Executive Council approve prohibition on imports from South Africa due to outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in SA, as local businesses respond



Until further notice, no meat products can be imported from South Africa, presenting a challenge for local importers and food vendors

Liam Yon, SAMS

At its last meeting on 6 March, the Executive Council approved a prohibition on the importation of live animals and their germplasm, as well as meat and dairy products from cloven-hoofed animals originating from South Africa, with effect from 7 March. This is due to the current outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South Africa.

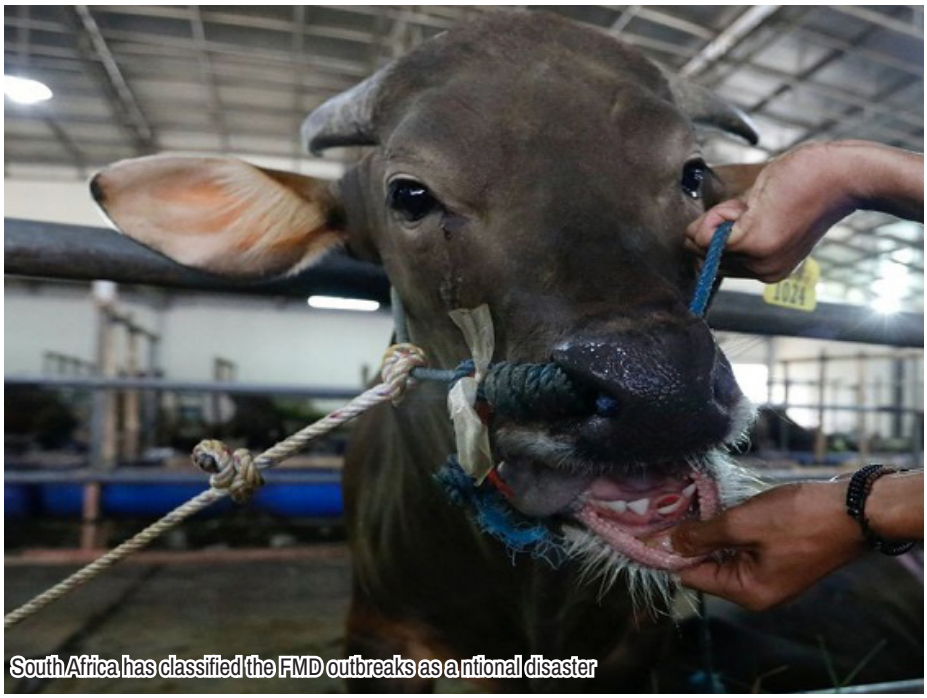
"Since early 2026, South Africa has been experiencing an escalation of FMD outbreaks with cases now experienced across all nine provinces," said St Helena Government when giving background on South Africa's FMD outbreak. "Urgent steps are being taken by the South African Government to curb the outbreak through mass vaccination, implementing a livestock identification, traceability system, managing movement controls alongside expanding diagnostic capability and awareness campaigns."

The FMD outbreaks in South Africa have become so severe, that on 13 February, authorities in South Africa classified it as a national disaster under the Disaster Management Act 2002.

According to SHG, "FMD is a highly contagious, acute viral disease of cloven hooved animals (including pigs, cattle, sheep and goats)." While the disease carries a low animal death rate, the economic impact on the productivity of recovered animals, especially cattle, is severe, which is why "the disease is treated so seriously."

It was also informed that, while it is possible for people to catch the disease, this is a rare occurrence. In these cases, humans can carry the virus for two to three days, though, according to SHG, it is usually "mild" with its severity depending on the strain.

With South Africa having classified the outbreak as a national disaster, SHG, through the St Helena



South Africa has classified the FMD outbreaks as a ntional disaster

Resilience Forum, have held discussions on the impact to St Helena and measures that can be put in place to protect the Island's livestock from the viral disease.

"The Forum has discussed a veterinary risk assessment by the Senior Veterinary Officer for the island in light of this situation in South Africa and have supported preliminary proposals to protect St Helena, which are aligned with applying the precautionary principle to reduce the risk of the disease reaching St Helena," they said. "Relying on South Africa's measures will not minimise the risk to the island's livestock and St Helena needs to implement its own measures to prevent the introduction of the virus into the island."

As such, Executive Council recently approved a prohibition on imports from South Africa as a precautionary measure to prevent FMD from reaching St Helena.

This prohibition applies only to products originating from, produced in, or repackaged in South Africa, and includes, until further notice, imports by sea arrivals after this current voyage of the MV Karoline, and imports by air arrivals after 10 March.

The prohibition is in place for all live imports and germplasm of cloven-hoofed animals, all fresh meat (including chilled and frozen) produced from cloven hoofed animals, all meat products produced from cloven hoofed animals that have not been treated to a minimum temperature of 80°C throughout the meat, and all dairy products that have not been processed using an ultra-high temperature (UHT) treatment at not less than 135°C.

The ban does not include tinned meats which are normally treated and sterilised, and similarly, does not include UHT (boxed) milk.

Alongside the prohibition on imports, SHG will also implement biosecurity measures as an additional precaution.

"In addition to the prohibition on imports, additional biosecurity measures will be put in place pre-border for passengers travelling to the island and at our seaport and the airport to reduce the risk to St Helena," they explained. "At the airport, measures will be implemented to reduce the risk from small meat and dairy product imports as well as passengers' clothing and footwear that might be contaminated from visits to locations with animals through farm or safari excursions. This will include examination and cleaning of used clothing and footwear as may be necessary."

SHG went on to admit that, at this time, "it is not known how long this ban and implementation of additional biosecurity measures will continue," however, they add that "the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio will monitor the situation and make further announcements as changing news becomes available."

They say they recognise that this import ban and additional biosecurity measures "will result in some inconvenience to importers and the general public," and therefore thanked the community "for their cooperation in helping to protect our island."

As SHG suggests, this import ban will have an obvious negative impact on local merchants and food vendors, with Gregory Cairns-Wicks from the Queen Mary Stores describing it as "very bad news" for St Helena.

"It's very bad news for us and the Island as a whole," he commented. "Some banned goods can be ordered in from the UK at a workable price (burgers, sausages, pork ribs, bacon etc.), however some higher value goods (beef steaks, pork chops, lamb chops etc.) will be very expensive if sourced from UK – maybe double the price it sells for from RSA."

This means that, while there may be other options to source popular meat products from outside of South Africa, this will likely come at a significant cost to merchants, and therefore result in higher prices to customers.

Similarly, the Mule Yard Snack Bar will also face difficulties due to the import ban. "This would affect the business immensely, because we import most of our meats from South Africa," revealed Marilyn Pidgely.

With that said, both local business owners were understanding of the need for the import ban in order to protect St Helena's livestock.

"I can appreciate the reasoning behind the ban, which is ultimately to protect the people of St Helena," commented Marilyn.

"Clearly we have no option but to ban the goods from RSA," said Greg in agreement with the decision made by Executive Council. "If the virus ever got here it could wipe out the pigs, goats, cattle and sheep on the Island and it would be very hard to restock them from scratch even if there was the money to do it (which there isn't). It's also worth asking the question, who would bother spending money to reintroduce live animals knowing another outbreak could occur again later on?"

For now, Greg, along with other importers, can only hope the ban does not last for too long. "Let's hope RSA can get on top of the problem soon, they are mass vaccinating animals to drive out the infections – maybe one day we will be able to order from RSA again when the risk is manageable," he said in hope.

One thing both Greg and the Mule Yard Snack Bar agreed on is that there will now be much more demand for local meat products while the import ban is in place.

"Local meat production should be increased to ensure food security," Greg commented.

"Let's hope the Island can also meet the demand locally by offering meat products," agreed Marilyn.



The import ban and biosecurity measures have peen put in place to protect the livestock on St Helena from FMD

"The Most Important Court Case for St Helena"

Hugh James Solicitors slam SHG's Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance, and the manner of its approval, as they prepare for "essential Judicial Review case"


Jennifer Dickinson


Marc Willems, KC


Ruth Powell

Liam Yon, SAMS

Hugh James Solicitors is a UK-based law firm that is looking to provide an independent legal service for St Helena Island, primarily through representing over 140 clients from St Helena in high-profile clinical negligence claims related to past medical professionals who have practiced on the island, in particular, Dr Sergio Villitoro-Bran, former Orthopaedic Surgeon who was found guilty by the courts for carrying out unnecessary operations without proper consent, as well as former Chief Medical Officer, Dr Carlos Soto.

Representatives of Hugh James, particularly Ruth Powell who lead's their clinical negligence department, have made numerous visits to the Island over the past years to meet with clients one-on-one as well as to give updates via Town Hall Meetings in the Museum.

Recently, Ruth, along with Hugh James' full legal team, visited St Helena with a clear focus on the impending Judicial Review against SHG's Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance which was approved by the last Legislative Council at a Formal Meeting in June 2025, just prior to their dissolution.

Later, in October 2025, news broke that the St Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) had launched what they described as "landmark judicial review proceedings in the St Helena Supreme Court" against the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance, 2025, which they said has "implemented sweeping changes to the ability for litigants to recover their legal costs in litigation on the Island," something they asserted, "strikes at the very core of access to justice."

Hugh James Solicitors have now made their feelings clear on the recently enacted ordinance, agreeing with the stance of the EHRC. "In July 2025, SHG's unconstitutional Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance was railroaded into law, behind closed doors, and without ANY public consultation, totally contradicting SHG's own Public Consultation Policy," they said.

Questioning why this was done by SHG, and approved by the former Legislative Council, Hugh James say that their legal team's Judicial Review will allow them to ask the court to rule on "vitally important questions for all Saints" including, in their own words; "Why did SHG railroad the new legal costs law in? Why did SHG do it so urgently and quickly? Why did SHG do it so secretively, and without any public consultation whatsoever, or right to reply? Why does the new law financially benefit SHG to the extreme detriment of every current and future Saint? and Who within SHG is responsible for these detrimental actions against Saints, and what do they have to say?"

To explain more about the Judicial Review, described by Hugh James as "the most important court case for St Helena" they held a Town Hall Meeting at the Museum of St Helena. Here, Ruth Powell, along with Kings Counsel, Marc Willems, and Counsel, Jennifer Dickinson, spoke about their "essential Judicial Review case" and why "the outrageous actions of SHG will directly and adversely affect every Saint now and for the future if SHG are not stopped."

The Sentinel did reach out to SHG for a statement, but similarly to our enquiries in October 2025, they were unable to comment due to the matter being subject to an impending review. We were however encouraged to listen back to the Legislative Council proceedings back in June 2025 when the Bill was approved *(see article on page 9)*.

Purpose of the Bill is to ensure Lawyers "are not profiting unreasonably"

Attorney General explains "the whole purpose" of the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance during Formal Legislative Council Meeting in June 2025, during which the Bill was approved unanimously by the Council prior to dissolution



Andrew Dawson was the Interim Acting Attorney General for St Helena during the Formal LegCo Metting in June

Liam Yon, SAMS

With SHG unable to comment on the legal action being taken against their Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance, 2025, by way of an impending Judicial Review in the St Helena Supreme Court, the best source of information that can be used to explain the purpose and approval of the ordinance by the Government was the discussion held at the committee stage when the Bill for an Ordinance was presented at a Formal Meeting of Legislative Council in June 2025 by the then Chief Minister, Julie Thomas.

It was at this time when the interim Acting Attorney General on St Helena, Andrew Dawson, explained that the purpose of the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance was simply to give powers to the court to ensure that lawyers, like Hugh James Solicitors, who represent claimants, "do not profit unreasonably" from these compensation claims.

"This Bill, in its broad principles, is seeking to establish a regime whereby the courts may establish costs control," he explained to the House. "The arrangements that we have here are a very light version compared to those which, for example, prevail in the courts in England. One of the greatest criticisms of lawyers in litigation is the inability to bring certainty for costs. It's because of that, that for a good 20 years or so, there has been full cost management powers vested in the courts to ensure that there is equality of arms."

"More particularly, that litigation is pursued in a cost-effective and proportionate way, and that people do not simply rack up costs in the expectation that the other side will pay just because they perhaps have won," he continued. "So the whole purpose of this Bill is to ensure that the courts have the necessary powers, to have the necessary discipline on lawyers to make sure they are not profiting unreasonably. It's perfectly appropriate for lawyers to make a profit, but it mustn't be excessive."

Both Councillor Robert Midwinter and the then Minister Mark Brooks rose in support of the Bill, with Brooks stating that his support is simply because the Bill "seeks to clarify court costs without jeopardising any awarded compensation to claimants." Councillor Dr Corinda Essex also said she supported the principles of the Bill.

Councillor Andrew Turner also rose, however this was to recuse himself from the discussions due to factors that he said made it "impossible" for him "to be objective" to the provisions of the Bill.

Following the Council being dissolved into a Committee, the Bill and its clauses were discussed at length, assisted by Senior Crown Counsel, Sarah McIlroy. In the end, the Bill was approved with no amendments by unanimous decision and was recommended to the Governor for enactment.

On 1 July 2025, the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance, 2025, came into effect. It is available to view via https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/documents/20250703_Civil-Litigation-Costs-Ordinance_CONSOLIDATED.pdf.



The Bill was aproved without ammendments by the last Legislative Council prior to dissolution

ST HELENA NEWS

"Unlocking Opportunities Together for a Prosperous Commonwealth"

Commonwealth Day 2026 recognised on St Helena with reception, Flag Raising Ceremony and school assemblies



School assemblies are a key feature on Commonwealth Day in countries around the globe

Liam Yon, SAMS

Commonwealth Day is an annual occurrence on the second Monday of March, when Commonwealth countries across the globe hold events to celebrate the modern Commonwealth of Nations. This year, Commonwealth Day fell on Monday, 9 March, and, as such, was recognised on St Helena with a reception held in Anne's Place as well as the traditional Flag Raising Ceremony in the Castle Gardens.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 2026 is "Unlocking Opportunities Together for a Prosperous Commonwealth" and at 9.30am on Monday, the St Helena reception was opened by Councillor Ronald Coleman, organiser of this year's event, before a welcome speech by Maureen Thompson, Speaker of the St Helena Legislative Council, as well as President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - St Helena Branch.

Following this, His Excellency Governor, Nigel Phillips CBE, read out the Commonwealth Day message from His Majesty King Charles III, Head of the Commonwealth.

Chief Minister, Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks MBE, then took to the stand to undertake the reading of the Commonwealth Day message from the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shirley Botchwey, before the Commonwealth Affirmation was read by student, Lilli Adams, as Vice Chair of the St Helena Youth Parliament – to which guests responded to the affirmation.

The attendees the proceeded to the Castle Gardens to raise the Commonwealth Flag, which was done by Madam Speaker. This is a tradition that has been around since 1976, however in 2014 the "Fly a Flag for the Com-



The Commonwealth Flag was raised in the Catle Gardens



HE Governor Phillips reading HM The King's Commonwealth Message

monwealth" initiative was launched as a major international event, where simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies are held at 10am local time across hundreds of locations in the UK and worldwide.

Guests then returned to Anne's Place where a number of guest speakers addressed the audience, including Head of Tourism, Jonathan Passaportis, Youth Entrepreneurs, Louis Youde and Colby Thomas, as well as Chair of the St Helena Youth Parliament, Zac Bargo.

Closing Remarks were then given by Councillor Ronald Coleman, before guests were invited to stay for refreshments to continue the celebrations of Commonwealth Day 2026.

In addition to this ceremony, Elected Members also visited all three Island schools, participating in assemblies and delivering His Majesty King Charles III's Commonwealth Day Message. This is tradition and one of the main purposes of the day in Commonwealth countries around the world, with the aim being to remind young people that they are a hugely important part of a wider global community and to reinforce the values of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Alongside events on St Helena, the Island was also represented at the Commonwealth Day Ceremony in the United Kingdom where Councillor Dennis Leo attended alongside Madam Deputy Speaker, Connie Johnson, and Assistant Clerk of Council, Marita Bagley. Joining them were also two representatives from the Ascension Island Council; Councillors Michael Ellick and Ethan Bally.

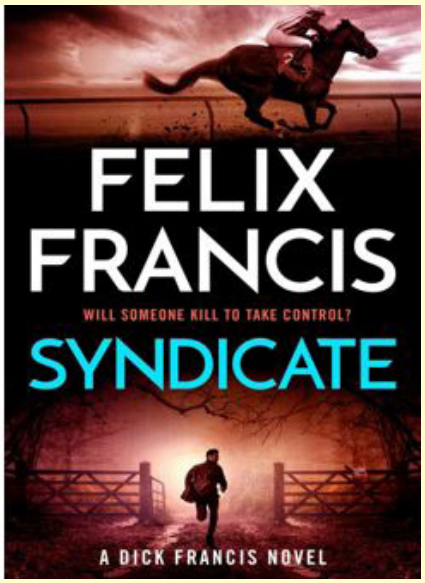
As such, the two sister islands were proudly represented at the official Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration in London's Westminster Abbey.



St Helena and Ascension were both represented at the Commonwealth Day Ceremony in London

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



Syndicate by Felix Francis

Chester Newton is a successful racehorse syndicate organiser and his company, Victrix Racing, is having its best year yet. When his prized horse, Potassium, wins the world-famous Epsom Derby, Chester is set to become the next big thing in British horse racing. But one phone call changes everything.

Someone hiding behind a voice scrambler and an untraceable phone is demanding he fixes a race - and they're willing to go after Chester's family if he fails to comply.

Chester's business is the only thing in his life that isn't falling apart. With his marriage on the rocks and his children growing increasingly distant, he is not willing to let someone destroy the success he's spent his life building.

Then his daughter is kidnapped and, very suddenly, it's not just his livelihood that's on the line. Now Chester must discover just how far he will go to protect his family.

Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

The Island Pulse

Addressing St Helena's Challenges and Opportunities



Westminster Seminar St Helena Delegates

— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

Each week on The Island Pulse, broadcast on SAMS Radio 1, elected representatives come together to discuss key issues affecting the people of Saint Helena. The programme provides a platform for transparency, community engagement, and constructive dialogue on the policies and decisions shaping the island's future.

For listeners who may miss the original broadcast, The Island Pulse is repeated on Thursdays at 7:30pm and again on Sundays at approximately 5:00pm, giving the community further opportunities to stay informed and engaged.

In the most recent episode, Councillors examined several important topics - from the island's ageing population and youth migration to economic pressures and infrastructure improvements. The discussion also included insights from the Roads Section on ongoing improvements to the island's road network.

Representation Beyond the Island

The programme began with a brief update noting that Councillor Dennis Leo was attending the **Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments** in **London**, accompanied by Deputy Speaker Connie Johnson and Clerk of Council Marita Bagley.

The seminar provides an opportunity for parliamentary representatives from across the Commonwealth and Overseas Territories to strengthen governance and parliamentary practice. Councillors expressed hope that the delegation will return with valuable insight to support the continued development of democratic processes on St Helena.

Ministerial Question Time: Scrutiny in Action

A major portion of the programme focused on reflections from the latest Ministerial Question Time (MQT) session. This forum allows elected members to question the Ministerial Team on policy decisions and public concerns.

An unexpected development saw Councillor Derek Thomas step in to chair the session after the Speaker was unable to attend due to illness. While this ensured the meeting proceeded smoothly, parliamentary rules meant Councillor Thomas could not present his own question. Colleagues stepped in to ensure all questions were still raised, demonstrating a collaborative approach to representation.

Councillors noted that while the session was productive, there is growing concern about the length of ministerial responses. Long answers often limit the opportunity for supplementary questions - an important tool used by Councillors to clarify issues and ensure the public receives clear information.

Planning for an Ageing Population

One of the most pressing issues discussed was the island's ageing demographic.

Councillor Ronald Coleman raised concerns about long-term planning for residential care facilities. Current capacity at the Community Care Complex stands at around 40-45 beds. However, projections suggest that demand could reach approximately **90 beds by 2036**, reflecting the island's rapidly ageing population.

Councillors emphasised that planning for elderly care must extend beyond residential facilities. Increasing support for **domiciliary care** - allowing older residents to remain in their homes longer - was highlighted as both a compassionate and practical approach.

However, concerns were also raised about the financial realities faced by carers. Some carers currently receive around **£80 per week**, which Councillors believe does not adequately reflect the demands of providing round-the-clock care. Improving support for carers could help strengthen home-based care solutions while easing pressure on residential facilities.

Education, Youth Retention and Employment Pathways

Another key discussion centred on the future of education and the growing challenge of youth migration.

Councillor Julie Thomas asked the Ministerial Team to outline plans for implementing recommendations from the recent education reviews, particularly those related to Post-16 education and employment pathways.

The central concern is ensuring young people see a future on St Helena. Without clear employment opportunities and pathways into meaningful careers, many young people may feel compelled to leave the island.

Councillors emphasised that education policy must be closely aligned with the island's labour market needs. Initiatives such as scholarship trusts, training programmes, and incentives for further study could help retain young talent and build the island's workforce for the future.

Immigration and Population Sustainability

Population decline is another major challenge facing St Helena.

Councillor Robert Midwinter highlighted the importance of developing clear targets within the island's immigration and recruitment strategies. Current projections suggest that **at least 40 additional working-age residents per year** may be required simply to stabilise the workforce.

Without targeted strategies to attract returning Saints or skilled workers from overseas, the shrinking work-

force could place increasing pressure on public services and economic development.

Councillors agreed that reversing outward migration must remain a priority if the island is to sustain its economy and community life.

Curriculum Choices and Student Opportunities

Education policy was also examined through questions raised by Dr. Corinda Essex regarding the subjects offered at St Helena Secondary School.

With student numbers projected to decline in the coming decade, difficult decisions may arise about which subjects can realistically be delivered. However, Councillors stressed that curriculum choices must strike a balance between financial realities and student aspirations.

Providing meaningful subject options remains essential to ensuring students can pursue their strengths and interests while preparing for future careers.

The discussion also highlighted opportunities presented by the island's subsea internet cable, which could expand access to distance learning and specialist courses in the future.

Cost of Living and Economic Pressures

Economic challenges formed another major theme of the programme.

Councillors expressed concern about rising living costs and the widening gap between households on higher incomes and those struggling to make ends meet. Many residents, particularly those on fixed or low incomes, face growing pressures from rising utility costs, freight charges, and general inflation.

Global factors - including ongoing geopolitical tensions - could further impact the island through rising oil prices, which in turn affect shipping costs and utility prices.

Councillors stressed the importance of exploring policy options that could put more disposable income into people's pockets. These could include targeted subsidies, pension increases, or adjustments to tariffs for vulnerable households.

However, they also acknowledged the island's financial constraints and dependence on external funding, which limits how quickly reforms can be implemented.

Roads Infrastructure: A Positive Development

In the second half of the programme, Roads Manager Deon Robbertse joined the discussion to provide an update on the island's road network.

St Helena currently maintains **over 115 kilometres of adopted roads**, categorised into primary, secondary, and tertiary routes. Regular inspections rate road conditions on a scale from one (good) to five (poor), helping prioritise maintenance work.

However, funding remains a major limitation. With an annual materials budget of roughly £62,000, the Roads Section can typically resurface only a small fraction of the total network.

A Boost from Development Funding

This year, however, the Roads Section received a major boost through development funding.

A project worth £823,309 enabled the resurfacing of approximately **nine kilometres of road** - work that would normally take several years under the regular budget.

The project has already resurfaced major routes including Ladder Hill Road, Half Tree Hollow Road, Tomb Road and sections of Longwood Road. By early March, the project was **over 90 percent complete.**

For the Roads team, the initiative has been both a practical and morale boost, demonstrating what can be achieved when resources match the scale of the challenge.

Importantly, the resurfaced roads are expected to last seven to ten years, reducing maintenance demands and freeing up resources for other areas of the network.

Community Engagement Remains Key

Throughout the programme, Councillors repeatedly emphasised the importance of public engagement.

Questions raised by residents often form the basis of issues brought to Ministerial Question Time, demonstrating how community feedback directly influences parliamentary scrutiny.

Listeners were encouraged to continue sharing their views through district meetings, social media discussions, and direct communication with their representatives.

Looking Ahead

The latest episode of *The Island Pulse* highlighted both the challenges and opportunities facing St Helena. From demographic shifts and economic pressures to education reform and infrastructure development, the issues discussed reflect the complexity of governing a small island community in an uncertain global environment.

Yet the programme also demonstrated the value of open dialogue, scrutiny, and collaboration between Councillors and the public.

As Councillor Julie Thomas concluded during the broadcast, progress depends not only on government action but also on an engaged community working together toward **"a better and brighter St Helena."**

The Island Pulse airs weekly on SAMS Radio 1 and features discussions with Councillors, public officials, and community representatives on issues affecting the island.





The Roads Team minus Bobby Leo and Darren Thomas
SHG Roads Manager, Deon Robbertse (right)

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

102.7 (Jamestown) • 90.5 (High Knoll) • 105.1 (Sunberry) • 105.3 (Blue Hill)

Streaming live via www.sams.sh/radio.html

FRI. Mar 13

- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am American Connections (Repeat)
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Mar 14

- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue
- 12noon-1pm: 80's hour
- 1pm-3pm: Northward Sounds (Repeat)
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Anita (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Mar 15

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Deon, Anita & Annika
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Seventh Day Adventist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Mar 16

- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 1pm-3pm: Indie Waves with Sue
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm: In the Know with Ministers

TUE. Mar 17

- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Anita
- 11am: Vibes with Annika
- 2pm: The Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Mar 18

- 7am-8:30am : Midweek morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 1-3pm 1548 show with Cyril Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett

THU. Mar 19

- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 1pm: In the Know (repeat)
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Annika (repeat)
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Anita
- 7:30pm: The Island Pulse

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





March is a month of celebrations in the Robbertse household, with anniversaries and birthdays. This Sunday is also Mothering Sunday. During our Sunday show, Deon, Anita and Annika will be bringing you music to celbrate mothers and various other special occasions. So tune in from 7am to 12pm to enjoy our selction of celebratory music on SAMS Radio 1!

Local news and notices:
7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Master'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

9	8	2	3	7	4	5	6	1
7	3	6	1	8	5	4	2	9
4	5	1	9	6	2	3	7	8
5	9	4	8	2	7	6	1	3
6	2	7	5	3	1	9	8	4
8	1	3	6	4	9	2	5	7
1	7	5	4	9	6	8	3	2
3	6	9	2	1	8	7	4	5
2	4	8	7	5	3	1	9	6

	7				2			8
		5			4	9	7	
			9					6
							8	
		6		2				
	2		1			7	4	
3					5			
	6		4			1	2	
								9

Throwback Thursday



1912 13th March

Girl Scouts begin in the US as the Girl Guides, formed by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah

Mmmmm, nice bitta curry! Nadiya Hussain has a delicious curry recipe to share this week.

Nadiya's Lamb Bhuna



Ingredients

- 100ml olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 5 garlic cloves, peeled
- 25g fresh root ginger, sliced
- 2 small onions, roughly chopped
- 1 large green pepper, seeds removed, roughly chopped
- 2 large red chillies, roughly chopped
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- 2 tsp curry powder
- 800g boneless diced lamb leg
- 15g fresh coriander, chopped

For the naan

- 200g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- 2 tbsp garlic granules
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 25g unsalted butter, softened, cut into cubes, plus extra for melting

Method

1. To make the curry paste, put the oil, salt, garlic cloves, ginger, onions, pepper, chillies, cinnamon, turmeric, curry powder and 50ml water in a food processor. Blend to a smooth paste and set aside.
2. To make the naan, put the flour, garlic granules, sugar, salt and softened butter in a bowl and mix together. Rub in the butter.
3. Make a well in the centre and add 100ml water. Mix with a palette knife, then bring the dough together using your hands. Knead the dough on a lightly floured surface for 3–4 minutes. Wrap in cling film and leave to rest at room temperature for 20 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, to make the curry, add the curry paste to a large saucepan over a medium heat and cook for 10 minutes. Add the lamb and cook for another 10 minutes. Add 200ml water and simmer gently for 30 minutes with the lid on.
5. Meanwhile, divide the dough into four equal pieces and roll each one out to the thickness of a pound coin.
6. Put a griddle pan on a high heat and cook the breads one at a time for 3 minutes on each side. Cover with foil and keep warm while you griddle the rest.
7. When the bhuna is cooked, remove from the heat and add the coriander. Melt some butter and brush the naans with it on both sides. Serve with the bhuna.

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EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PRESENTS

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL WOMEN

In celebration of International Women's Day 2026

Marcella Mittens: A young St Helenian women giving back through leadership, service and vision

On an island where community is part of everyday life, Marcella Mittens has built her path through service, resilience, and a deep commitment to giving back. Her journey from Girl Guiding to academic excellence, international representation to assisting to help shape policy, reflects the true spirit of "Give to Gain." Every step she has taken has been shaped by the support she received, and every achievement she now pours back into St Helena's future.

A Childhood Shaped by Guiding and Community

Marcella's story begins in the heart of St Helena's Guiding movement. From Rainbows to Brownies, Guides to Rangers, Girl Guiding became the foundation of who she is today. It taught her responsibility, teamwork, independence, and problem solving, skills that later helped her live confidently and independently.

But Guiding gave her more than skills. It gave her belonging, purpose, and a belief in service. Those early years planted the seeds of leadership that continue to grow today.

Her passion for public service began in secondary school, when the Senior and Chief Economist delivered a presentation that opened her eyes to how policy shapes the island's future. That moment sparked a desire to contribute to St Helena's development. The senior economist, Amanda Curry-Brown later offered her work experience, and eventually a full-time role, where she learned the power of data, analytics, and evidence-based policy. It was a perfect example of "Give to Gain": a mentor gave her an opportunity, and she gained a career path.

Achievements That Reflect Hard Work and Heart

In 2020, Marcella stepped far outside her comfort zone by competing in the Miss St Helena Pageant - a lifelong dream. Though she finished as First Runner Up, the experience taught her that courage is not measured by the outcome, but by the willingness to show up despite fear.

In 2022, she represented St Helena at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Trinidad and Tobago, an experience that broadened her understanding of global issues and deepened her pride in her island home.

Among her proudest accomplishments is earning a First Class BSc in Business Management and Tourism, along with the award for Highest Overall Mark in Business Management. "It represented years of hard work, discipline, and sacrifice," she says. Making the most of her government scholarship made the achievement even more meaningful.

After returning home from university, her Guiding journey came full circle. She completed her Leadership Qualification and became the Leader of St Paul's Rainbows - the youngest Girl guiding leader on the island. "When I hear one of the girls call my name, Miss Lavender, I'm reminded that leadership is about being present and making a difference in small, meaningful ways."

Challenges That Strengthen Her Resolve

Self-doubt has been one of Marcella's biggest challenges. "It's something I still navigate today," she admits. But learning to trust her abilities, and recognising how far she has come, has been a powerful part of her growth.

Moving to the UK was another defining chapter. Leaving a small, close-knit island for a new country was overwhelming, but it taught her independence and resilience.



Working at the Canterbury Cathedral Visitor Centre, travelling, and trying new hobbies like horse riding broadened her worldview and strengthened her confidence.

Behind her strength stands a woman she deeply admires: her mother, Rosemary Mittens, a dedicated nurse and midwife who has served families across St Helena for decades. Her mother's compassion and commitment to community shaped Marcella's values and inspired her own desire to serve.

Giving Back Through Leadership and Policy

Marcella's contributions to St Helena extend beyond Guiding. During her first year on the Graduate Scheme, she supported work on identifying the island's "basket of goods" to calculate the Minimum Income Standard (MIS). This research directly informs minimum wage decisions and impacts the wellbeing of working families.

"Contributing to policy that has tangible social impact reinforced my passion for economic development," she says. It was a moment where her skills translated into real change, a clear example of how giving helps the island gain stronger, evidence-based policy.



EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PRESENTS

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL WOMEN

In celebration of International Women's Day 2026



Women's Rights, Equality and the Future of St Helena

For Marcella, International Women's Day is a celebration of progress and a reminder of the work still ahead. "It represents opportunity," she says, the opportunity for women to pursue education, leadership, and careers those previous generations may not have had access to.

She believes St Helena has strong female representation in leadership and professional roles, but there is still room to challenge traditional expectations and ensure equal opportunities in senior decision-making spaces.

Marcella has not faced overt gender discrimination and feels supported by many capable women colleagues. At times, she has felt the pressure to prove herself as a young professional, but she navigates this by preparing thoroughly and reminding herself that her perspective is valuable.

Pride in Culture, Community and Island Identity

What Marcella loves most about St Helena is its friendliness. "Saints genuinely look out for one another," she says. Whether greeting strangers in Jamestown or supporting neighbours, kindness is part of the island's identity.

She sees young women contributing to the island's development in powerful ways, pursuing higher education, returning with new skills, launching businesses, entering public service, and leading community initiatives. Their innovation and ambition, she believes, are essential to St Helena's future.

Dreams for the Future

Professionally, Marcella hopes to continue developing her expertise in economic development and tourism. As she completes her two-year graduate scheme, she aims to identify the right Master's degree to support both her career and the island's needs.

Personally, she dreams of travelling again, especially to the eastern African islands she has long wanted to explore.

In five to ten years, Marcella hopes to be in a senior role in Economic Development influencing strategic policy, mentoring young girls, and possibly taking on wider responsibilities within Guiding, perhaps even becoming Division Commissioner. She also hopes to continue her father's beekeeping business, offering tours and contributing to the agriculture sector.

A Vision for a Fairer, More Inclusive St Helena

If Marcella could lead one initiative, it would focus on youth skills development and career pathways. She wants young people to clearly see opportunities on the island and feel motivated to contribute to its future.

She believes generosity, collaboration, and justice are essential to St Helena's progress. "I am here today because people believed in me and supported my growth," she says. Collaboration across sectors and generations, she believes, leads to better outcomes for everyone. And justice means ensuring opportunities are fair and decisions are evidence-based.

"Women of St Helena," she says, "can help shape a more inclusive future by leading with integrity, uplifting others, and ensuring that ambition is never limited by background, gender, or circumstance."

A Message to Young Girls

Marcella's message to the next generation is simple but powerful: "Do not let fear or self-doubt limit you. Your background does not define your ceiling. Work hard, stay curious, and take opportunities, even when they scare you. You are capable of more than you think."

A Legacy of Giving

When asked how she hopes to be remembered, Marcella's answer reflects the heart of International Women's Day 2026:

She hopes to be remembered as someone who gave back, someone who invested in young people and helped build a future where young women feel confident pursuing their ambitions.

Her journey is a reminder that when we give; our time, our courage, our compassion, we all gain. And through young women like Marcella, St Helena's future shines brighter.

For more information contact EHRC on +290 22133 or email info@humanrightssthelena.org

Never Say Never

Gavin George makes St Helena proud in IMC Over 70's World Cup



Luke Bennett, SAMS

Gavin George, a former St Helena International Cricketer, has been competing in the International Masters Cricket Over 70's World Cup down in New Zealand, where he proudly represented the Rest of the World team.

Gavin had been geared up to depart the Island to head to the tournament, when the sudden closure of the Airport threatened to deny him the opportunity and kill his dream of playing in a World Cup. However, with a never say die attitude, following the reopening of the Airport, Gavin managed to quickly make arrangements to travel to Christchurch, New Zealand, to join up with team, having missed just the first two matches.

Once there, Gavin slid straight into the starting eleven as a batsman, but didn't get off to the best of starts when the Rest of the World loss to the USA, with Gavin making just a single run.

Gavin, who has been playing cricket from a very young age, is renowned as one of St Helena's greatest ever cricketers; a dangerous bowler and a prolific batsman and, at one point, a serial winner. This legacy was cemented in his second match when the veteran produced a solid 40 runs with the bat against Sri Lanka, helping his team chase a total of 188 to take the win.

With Gavin having announced himself impressively on the big stage, he was promoted to opening batsmen against Australia where he would make a score of 21 to help his team to a total of 103 runs. Although they gave Australia a good game, Australia reached the total to take the win. Disappointingly however, after taking a spectacular catch in field during the match, it was reported that Gavin had cracked a rib and he therefore missed the game against New Zealand.

Ever the warrior and not wanting to miss out any more of the action, Gavin, with a cracked rib, returned to the starting line up to face India. With India posting a total of 138, the Rest of the World team went on to win by 50 runs on the Duckworth Lewis System due to rain stopping play. Gavin impressed yet again, posting the second highest score for his team with 32 runs.

In the final match, the Rest of the World fell victim to a formidable side from England who took the win by 168 runs. Gavin however was the standout performer for the losing side, top scoring with 15 runs; the only batsmen to reach double figures from the Rest of the World squad in the match.

Overall, this was an incredible performance from St Helena's own, Gavin George, who, despite having the odds stacked against him, showed his experience, resilience and pure talent, on the international stage; something for everyone to be proud of.

The Sentinel will follow up on the tournament with Gavin once he returns. Shout out to Nick Stevens who provided coverage of Gavin's performance in the tournament via his Facebook page.



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- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
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- Ideally 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

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Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **19 March 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
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Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week

St Helena Island iRecord

Date: Saturday, 14 March 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain, Longwood
Google Map Location: -15.94344, -5.68789
Duration: approx 3 hours

FLAGSTAFF

Walk grade: Fairly Easy | 2 - 3

Starting at Deadwood Plain, home to the endemic wirebird, this walk will take you through pastureland and the site formerly occupied by the Boer Prisoners in the early 1900's. Continue along the uphill slope to the summit of Flagstaff offering stunning coastal views.

On the return downhill, the terrain has uneven surface underfoot. Ensure that sensible footwear is worn. Bring lots of drinking water and wear sun protection.

The walk will be led by the St Helena National Trust who will talk about the wirebirds and the January wirebird census.

Date	Upcoming Walks
22 March 2026	Casons to Rosemary Plain (family walk)

Receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or the Tourist Office T: 22158

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

PRESS RELEASE

Draft St Helena Vision and Strategy 2026 - 2029

A Stronger, Fairer Future for St Helena: Government Sets Out its Vision

St Helena has come a long way in recent years with the successful delivery of some key projects and policies, including the delivery of a new port in Ruperts, improved road infrastructure, the recovery of tourism through the Tourism Recovery Strategy, internationally recognised marine and terrestrial conservation initiatives, and the commencement of primary re-organisation.

Despite these wins, St Helena still faces a complex set of interlinked social, economic, and environmental challenges that threaten the island's long-term sustainability and the well-being of our community. Rising costs of living, an aging and declining population, labour shortages, fragile national infrastructure, and declining trust in institutions have eroded public confidence and reinforced a cycle of uncertainty and outward migration. These dynamics reinforce one another. Population decline reduces the labour force and tax base; weak systems undermine confidence; environmental degradation threatens water, food and health; and uncertainty drives outward migration.

The Government is developing its new Vision and Strategy setting out a clear path to first stabilise and start to reverse these trends and build a fairer, more resilient, and forward-looking St Helena. We believe in a community where every person is valued, has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life, and where families, businesses, and the environment can thrive together.

Our vision is for a fair, inclusive, more resilient and forward-looking St Helena, confident in its future, responsible in its stewardship and united in purpose to become a sustainable thriving community with people at its heart.

We recognise that rebuilding confidence will require phased reform, and a clear focus on what is affordable and what can be delivered sustainably within our financial and institutional capacity. We also recognise the increasing costs of service delivery, as a result of our aging population and shrinking worforce as well as the impact of increasing international costs, for example supply of pharmaceuticals. This means we need to look carefully at the sustainability of our current range of service delivery.

The strategy will be built around three themes that have been shaped by the voices and experiences of St Helenians across the island:

1. **Stabilising the Population and Labour Market:** Creating conditions for people to stay, return, and contribute through fulfilling careers, skills development, and fair access to services.
2. **Protecting Living Standards and Core Services:** Ensuring immediate support for those under pressure, while reforming health, social care, education, and infrastructure for long-term sustainability.
3. **Enabling Sustainable, Locally Driven Growth:** Diversifying the economy, investing in digital and physical infrastructure, and developing productive economic sectors whichsafeguard the environment as a strategic asset, creating an enabling environment to accelerate opportunities for growth.

Key actions include aligning education and workforce planning with current and future needs, commitment to partnership with the community in preventative healthcare, affordable utilities, and public service modernisation. The strategy also recognises the need for incremental tax and revenue reform and disciplined public financial

management. The strategy will support initiatives already in train, such as the continued implementation of the Tourism Development Programme, Company Registry and Financial Services Development Programme, and completion of the long overdue immigration reforms. It also seeks to explore new areas of goverment intervention, with fresh thinking already commenced with the fishery, in high value agriculture, wharf redevelopment, and on expanding the St Helena Research Institute.

Implementation will be phased, with clear milestones and measurable outcomes, which will be shared pending the outcome of budget discussions with the UK Government. Government will communicate openly about progress and constraints, adapt as needed based on evidence and lived experience, and work in partnership across portfolios, communities, business, and civil society.

Government is clear that St Helena cannot only tax its way out of structural challenges by increasing the burden on wages in a shrinking population. Long-term sustainability requires a broader and fairer revenue base, improved compliance, and growth-linked revenues, alongside disciplined public financial management.

By focusing first on stabilising people's lives and rebuilding trust, while strengthening the foundations of our economy, services, and environment, we will restore confidence and set St Helena on a more secure and hopeful path, step by step, and together.

Policy Priorities 2026–2029

Following on from the above, the Government will focus on nine cross government policy priorities:

1. Stabilise the population and labour market
2. Protect health and social care and improve prevention outcomes
3. Reform education and build the future workforce
4. Reduce the cost of living through investment in utilities and infrastructure
5. Enable sustainable, locally driven economic growth
6. Grow revenues fairly
7. Reform and strengthen the public service
8. Safeguard the environment as a strategic asset
9. Protect living standards during transition

These priorities are aligned with a set of Strategic Outcomes, that reflect the importance of cross portfolio partnerships, the reality of resource limitations, and the interconnections and interdependencies inherent in bringing about changes.

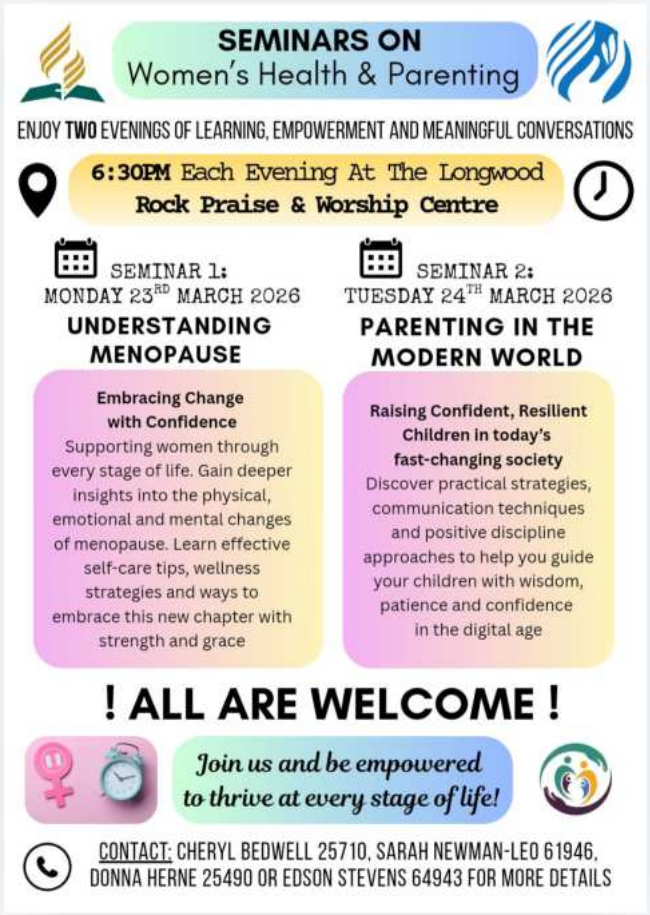
Each outcome guides the various work streams and activities across the different sectors, for example:

- Health: stabilising hospital flow, reducing overseas referrals, expanding residential care, developing sustainable financing models.
- Education: COBIS accreditation, primary school reorganisation, Additional Educational Needs reform, post-16 vocational pathways, a more inclusive educational system and establishing a Higher Educational Provision on St Helena.
- Utilities: renewable energy transition, telecoms regulation, water security.
- Growth: tourism development, Impact Company Registry, financial services reform, agriculture and fisheries revival.
- Public Service: digital transformation, workforce planning, performance management.

Over the coming weeks, the Government will discuss the draft strategy more widely with focused stakeholder groups and invite discussion to help identify any remaining gaps, including issues relevant to groups we have not yet reached. Our aim is to finalise and publish the strategy once we have confirmation of our budgetary aid settlement, expected in April 2026 and at this time clear milestone and timelines will be confirmed. We will review the strategy annually to ensure it remains responsive to the island's changing needs.

NOTICE BOARD

The St Helena Football Association will be holding an AGM meeting on Monday 30th March at 7pm. Calling on all captains and players to attend at New Horizons.



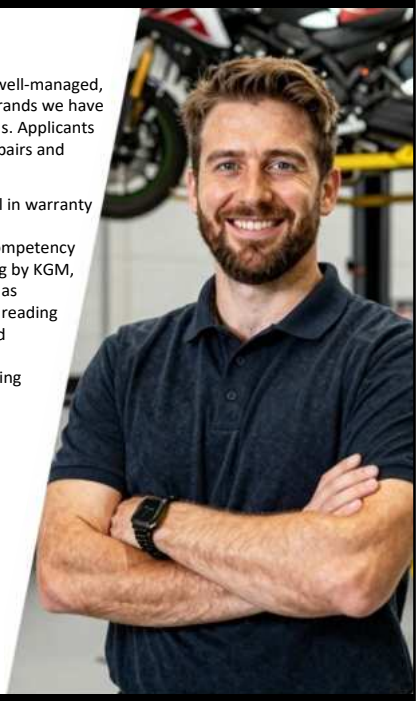
The Showroom

is a new business that will open at Ladder Hill in October 2026, bringing main dealer Franchise's to the public with full manufacturer warranties from Kawasaki & Vmoto Motorcycle's and KGM SUV's and Pickups.

Senior Mechanic and EV Technician, starting August 2026

You will play a critical role in ensuring that our customers receive the best possible service, and that our workshops are efficient, well-managed, and always up to standards. You will be responsible for diagnosing and repairing in warranty and out of warranty repairs on the brands we have sold, recommending and selling appropriate parts and accessories, and maintaining accurate records of all repairs and transactions. Applicants will have the ability to work within given timescales and be able to tackle all aspects of vehicle in warranty and out of warranty repairs and servicing. Main duties and responsibilities include:

- Performing all work assigned in a timely and economical manner and to Company and Manufacturer standards
- Safe removal and refitting of HV batteries from electric and hybrid vehicles prior to sale or repair
- Supporting vehicle preparation, including pre and post sale checks, following strict safety and quality procedures.
- Adhering to all high-voltage safety protocols, isolation procedures, and risk assessments
- Using appropriate lifting, diagnostic, and mechanical equipment safely and accurately
- Maintaining accurate records of all work performed, including inspection checklists and process forms and claim backs online.
- Participating in ongoing technical and HV safety training provided by the company or our brands.
- Mentoring other technicians
- Advising customers if additional work is required on a vehicle and seek manufacturer assistance and authority in all in warranty repairs.
- Maintaining a high level of competency by undergoing on-site training by KGM, Kawasaki and Vmoto, as well as attending online courses and reading technical bulletins as required
- Assisting customers with any questions or concerns regarding their vehicle



Hours of work are Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, and one-in-four Saturdays 8.30am to 12.30pm.

Skills & Experience required:

- Applicants **must** be a qualified Vehicle Technician with a formal qualification in Automotive City & Guilds/NVQ Level
- 3 Light Vehicle Maintenance (or equivalent), IMI Level 2 or 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Maintenance (or equivalent HV safety qualification), refrigerant handling qualification together with a commitment to achieve KGM Gold Level Certification within 12 months if not already held
- Exceptional communication skills with an aptitude for multi-tasking
- Strong teamwork skills with an eye for detail
- Ability to work under pressure with quality awareness
- Full UK driving licence

Extremely competitive salary (£18,000 to £25,000) plus bonus structure, 20 days holiday (plus bank holidays) raising to 25 after 5 completed years of service; plus a days holiday on your birthday, Company Pension Scheme and Death in Service Policy

If you can demonstrate the required skills and enthusiasm for customer service, and share my passion for our brands, please contact me today to discuss this opportunity, call +290 53222. To apply, send a copy of your CV and a covering letter to derek@dps.co.sh

Property For Sale



4 Bedroom Home Alarm Forest £185,000

- ▶Modern finished and well presented 4 Bedroom House
- ▶Internal area 110m2
- ▶Great location with large parking area and facilities which benefits with ocean views
- ▶Property would make a fantastic family home or AirBnB or long-term rental
- ▶An investment property which will provide good Return on Investment

Building Plot Near the Rock Club £17,500

Potential for a modern 2 or 3 bedroom family home
Minimal excavation as the land is flat
Offers great location and easy building opportunity



Further details available at DPS, The Market, Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ or email derek@dps.co.sh or Telephone 00 290 53222/25836

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

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.

Legislative Council Office Assistant (£11,604 per annum)

The Legislative Council Office is seeking to recruit a motivated individual with proven effective administrative skills to provide the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of the Legislative Council with secretarial, research and administrative support. If you are interested in this opportunity, then we would be keen to hear from you. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anita Legg on Tel No. 22470 or Email: anita.legg@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 11 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 16 March 2026
Interview date: 25 March 2026

Harbour Master & Port Manager (£19,814 per annum)

The Harbour Master and Port Manager role is focused on enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our community and fostering the prosperity of the island by overseeing the management of St Helena's Port in compliance with the Ports Ordinance 2016, ensuring safety and efficiency. The Harbour Master and Port Manager serve as the authoritative figure for coordinating the daily operations, management, and development of the port of Jamestown, along with any other designated harbours and landing sites, and will undertake any additional responsibilities necessary for the effective management of the position. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Alex Mitham on Tel No. 25870 or Email: Alex-richard.mitham@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 11 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 16 March 2026
Interview date: 25 March 2026

Emergency Medical Technician (2-year fixed term) (£16,248 per annum)

As an EMT, you'll respond to emergencies, deliver clinical care across community and hospital settings, and take responsibility for the Emergency Department in the absence of a senior clinician. You'll provide care in line with JRCALC and UK Resuscitation Council guidelines, ensuring safe, high-quality, and compassionate care for every patient. The role includes on-call duties, unsocial hours, and opportunities to support service development and training. This is an opportunity to use your skills in a challenging but rewarding environment where teamwork, adaptability, and professionalism are key. You will be part of a service that plays an essential role in supporting the island's health and wellbeing. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Michael Gaga-Hale on Tel No. 25870 or Email: michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 20 March 2026
Interview date: 30 March 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.

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

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**

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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.

Data Management Officer (1-year fixed term) (£25,000 per annum)

The Data Management Officer will support the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer and the broader Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section team in the management, storage, and analysis of critical data necessary for the effective oversight of St Helena's Category 6 Marine Protected Area. The individual in this position will be instrumental in enhancing data systems, facilitating staff development, and ensuring data integrity throughout the section. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Adam Riggs on Tel No. 25966 or Email: adam.riggs@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 March 2026
Interview date: 03 April 2026

Senior Marketing Manager (£24,503 per annum)

The Senior Marketing Manager will help to improve the lives of all within our community by raising awareness of St Helena as a place to live, learn, work, visit and invest and help the island thrive by leading and coordinating all St Helena Government (SHG) marketing activities. A key focus of the role will be on improving visitor numbers and expenditure by delivering destination marketing initiatives that develop the island's tourism sector. The Senior Marketing Manager will report to the Head of Communications and will be part of the Communications Hub, overseeing the marketing function. The role will serve as a firm link strengthening working relationships, systems and structures between St Helena and external stakeholders, and will support a wide range of PR, product/service development, marketing issues and initiatives, and provide strategic marketing leadership for projects and partnerships. Interested? Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anne Dillon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: anne.dillon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 25 March 2026
Interview date: 02 April 2026

Casual workers (Tourist Office) (Rate of pay - £8.60 per hour)

Are you a highly motivated and reliable individual looking to grow your global skills in a customer facing role? The Tourist Office is looking to recruit a pool of casual workers to join the team when required, over weekends at the airport and office, during cruise ship visits and at various events.
As a Tourism Officer (Casual), your primarily role would be customer facing, providing information about St Helena and liaising with service providers to give visitors a positive visitor experience. Role may include assisting at special events, raising awareness about St Helena and promoting the various tourism activities the island provides. Applicants must be able to work at weekends and flexible hours.

Enquiries: Dianne Venning on 22158 or Email: dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 March 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.

NOTICE BOARD

CUSTOMER NOTICE:
Lending Appointments



Bank of St Helena Ltd wishes to advise that due to the relocation of the Customer Services Terminal, customers who have pre-arranged meetings with the Lending Team may enter the Main Branch and proceed upstairs and check in with the Bank's Receptionist.

To ensure availability, an appointment is essential for all Lending matters.

The Bank cannot guarantee that walk in customers will be seen without a scheduled appointment.

Thank you for your cooperation and the Bank looks forward to your continued custom.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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

info@sainthelenabank.com
www.sainthelenabank.com
@sainthelenabank
+290 22390
Market Street, Jamestown
Bank of St Helena Ltd

Vacancy

Internal Auditor

Since 1790

Salary for the post will range between £18,000.00 - £20,386.00 per annum; depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Internal Audit Department for an Internal Auditor.

As Internal Auditor you will review organisational controls and add value through the systematic, disciplined approach to evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance, and conduct independent appraisal projects in relation to the effectiveness of policies, processes and standards of financial, physical and information asset management.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have a minimum of 3-years financial experience, through accounting / auditing and ideally possess an ACCA or similar qualification
- Have experience in a Management role, with strong leadership skills, with the ability to lead and develop a team
- Possess Grades C or above in GCSE Maths and English or equivalent with proficiency in ICT
- Have knowledge of computerised accounting / audit record keeping systems
- Have knowledge of audit procedures including planning, techniques, test and sampling methods involved in conducting audits
- Have knowledge of risk management & compliance
- The ability to gather, analyse and evaluate facts and prepare and present concise oral and written reports
- Have excellent communication, problem solving and analytical skills with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Be in possession of a clean and valid driver's licence in class A

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

Mr Neil Wilshere, Chief Executive Officer via 22380 neil.wilshere@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **26 March 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Gospel Outreach Services – Sunday, 15th March
Kingshurst Community Centre 3.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 17th March: Baptist School Hall, 7.00 pm
Wednesday, 18th March: Blue Hill Community, 7.00 pm
Thursday, 19th March: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 4–11yrs old
Saturday, 14th March: Baptist School Hall, 10-11.30 am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 18th March: Baptist School Hall, 10.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/ Church Parade Mothering Sunday	Cathedral
	Wednesday 18th March 2026	
6.30 p.m.	**Growing the Church Youth & Young Adult Ministry**	**St Andrew**
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**Cathedral**
	Thursday 19th March 2026	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Praise & Worship/Lent Course**	**Blue Hill Community Centre**

The Parish of St James		
Sunday 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday		
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade Mothering Sunday	St James
	Monday 16th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Growing the Church**	St James
	Thursday 19th March	
7.00 p.m.	Mass with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday		
11.15 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade Mothering Sunday	St Mark
	Tuesday 17th March 2026	
7.00 p.m.	**Growing the Church**	**St Mark**



Venues for Growing the Church Mission		
Monday 16th March 2026		
19.00 – 20:30pm	Releasing God's Abundant Blessings	St James
Tuesday 17th March 2026		
18:30– 20:30pm	BSOW3 – Breakthru to the Next Level	St Mark's Hall
Wednesday 18th March 2026		
18:30 – 20:30pm	Lent Course – Langham "Becoming Like Jesus"	Cathedral
18:00 – 19:00pm	**BSOW Youth & Young Adults Material**	**St Andrew**
Thurs 19th March 2026		
19:00 - 20:30pm	**Mission & Worship**	Blue Hill Community Centre
Fri 20th March 2026		
18:30 – 20:30pm	BSOW3 – Anyone Can Teach so Students Excel	Cathedral

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

PRESS RELEASE

Proposed Income Tax Allowance

For the first time in **14 years**, the Government is proposing an increase to the Personal Tax-Free Allowance (PTFA). Since its introduction in 2012, the allowance has remained frozen at **£7,000**, even as the cost of living has steadily risen year on year. When tax allowances stay frozen while prices increase, your spending power is eroded.

Our policy intention is to limit the impact of cost-of-living increases. We know this change is not as much as many people had hoped for.

How We Got to £7,150

Inflation in the **last quarter of 2025 was 2.2%**. To prevent further erosion of living standards, the Government has proposed raising the PTFA from **£7,000 to £7,150**; a modest but meaningful increase aligned with inflation. This uplift is not a short-term "perk"; it is a **correction** to ensure the real value of the tax allowance is maintained. It also signals a significant shift in approach: instead of allowing thresholds to stagnate for a decade.

Why Not £7,500 or £10,000?

Government explored more than **20 models**, including increases to £7,500 and £10,000. But choices must be affordable.

Financial impacts in 2026/27:

- **£7,000 → £7,150: £90,000**
- **£7,000 → £7,500: £290,000**
- **£7,000 → £10,000: £1,530,000**

Increasing to £7,500 immediately would require cutting essential services like public transport or abandoning new initiatives like the planned **child benefit scheme**.

Increasing to £10,000 would be unaffordable without significant reductions to frontline services, something this Government refuses to do.

Why £7,150 is the Responsible Choice?

The proposed increase:

- **protects households against inflation**
- is **affordable without cuts to health, education or social support**
- sets the foundation for **annual adjustments**, not once-a-decade jumps
- allows Government to proceed with wider reforms supporting working families

This is part of a **balanced cost-of-living package**, not a one-off measure.

How the Personal Allowance Fits with Other Measures

Government is developing multiple measures designed to support those most affected by rising costs of which the tax-free allowance increase is a small part.

1. Personal Tax-Free Allowance Increase

Keeps more income in the pockets of working people, particularly those on low or middle wages.

2. Proposed Minimum Wage Increase

Minimum wage has been reviewed for 2026. The Employment Rights Committee recommendation is a rise of **35p per hour**, bringing the minimum wage to **£4.85**. This delivers immediate, direct benefits as listed in the table below:

Scenario	Benefit
Adult on minimum wage (40 hrs/week)	**£577.72**
2 adults on minimum wage	**£1,155.44**
Part-time worker (20 hrs/week)	**£364**

These increases alone will meaningfully improve disposable income for the lowest-paid.

3. Child Benefit Scheme

Government is working on the introduction of a **Child Credit / Child Benefit Scheme** during the next financial year. While figures cannot yet be published, the intention is to provide **substantial, recurring support for young families**.

This is key to Government's wider demographic strategy: **Supporting young families today strengthens St Helena's future tomorrow.**

4. Will the workload to do this cost more than the increase?

No. The proposed uplift is a **simple numerical change**, not a restructure of the tax system. It is intentionally modest to avoid additional administrative complexity or staffing demands within both the public and private sector.

5. Why This Matters for St Helena's Future?

This is about more than tax thresholds. It is about:

- making sure work pays
- giving families breathing room
- keeping young people on island
- addressing St Helena's ageing demographic
- strengthening the workforce of the future

By protecting income, supporting families and ensuring stable public finances, Government is building a fairer and more sustainable St Helena.

6. Encouraging Public Engagement

Councillors are hosting public meetings on Thursday. Government encourages the public to attend and **make your voices heard**.

This package is designed for:

- working people
- young families
- low-income earners
- those struggling with rising prices

If the community wants continued, sustainable support measures, we encourage them to attend the meeting and voice their support for these proposals.

NOTICE BOARD



Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT OUR WATER FUTURE

Connect Saint Helena Ltd – Water Conservation Update

Climate change is impacting rainfall patterns, groundwater levels, and seasonal water availability on St. Helena. While we are working to ensure a reliable and safe water supply for our community, it is crucial that conservation remains a shared priority now and every day.

How You Can Continue to Help



Fixing leaks promptly



Water gardens early morning/evening



Run full loads only



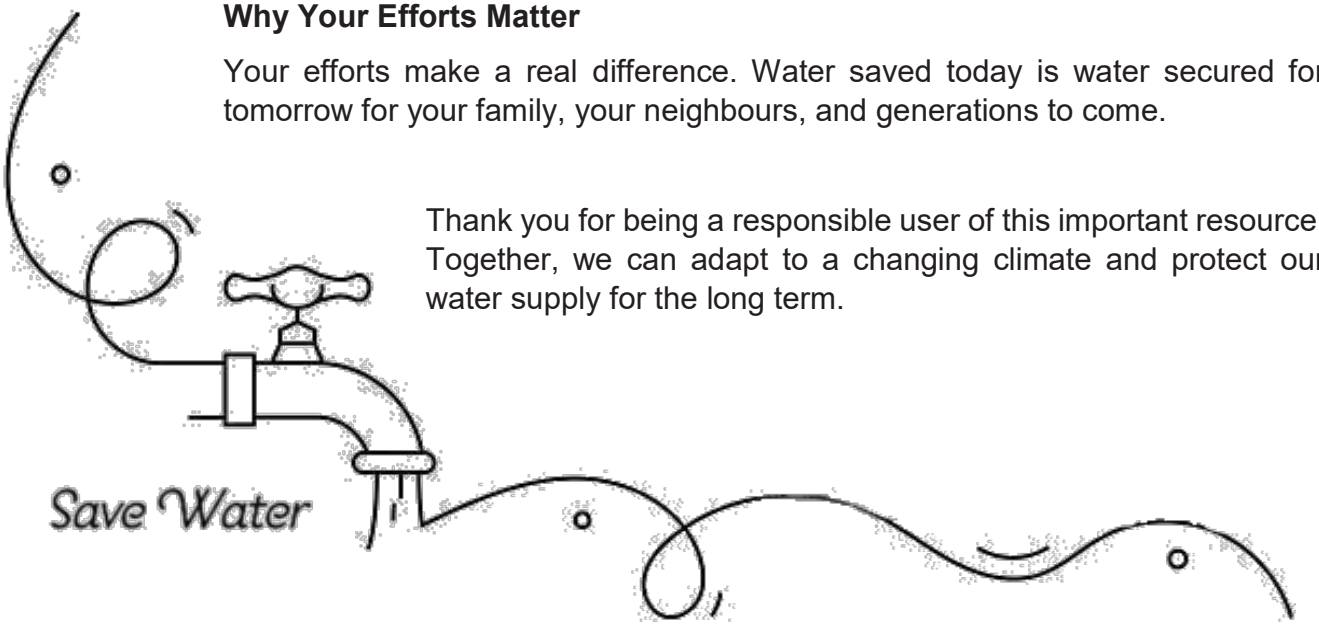
Choose water-efficient appliances



Collect rainwater for gardens

Why Your Efforts Matter

Your efforts make a real difference. Water saved today is water secured for tomorrow for your family, your neighbours, and generations to come.



Thank you for being a responsible user of this important resource. Together, we can adapt to a changing climate and protect our water supply for the long term.

11 March 2026

Golf Report

Par 3 Stroke Play Competition


Par 3 Winner 070326


Par 3 Prize Winners 070326


Par 3 Runner up 070326

SHGC, Contributed

Dry and warm conditions greeted golfers at the St Helena Golf Club on Sunday for the Par 3 Stroke Play competition, with a field of 17 players taking to the course for an enjoyable afternoon of golf.

Emerging as the overall winner was Larry Legg, who produced an excellent round to finish with a net 57 (63-6), securing first place with a strong performance across the short-format course.

In second place was Martin Joshua, returning a net 58 (62-4). In addition to finishing runner-up, Joshua also recorded the lowest gross score of the day, highlighting the quality of his round.

Third place went to Gerald George on net 63 (71-8), edging out Jeffrey Stevens, who also finished on net 63 (69-6) but placed fourth on countback.

The Two-Ball Pool was won by Martin Buckley, adding an extra highlight to the day's competition.

A total of 17 scorecards were processed, reflecting a good turnout for the club's regular Sunday competition.

The next event on the club calendar will be the annual Arnold Flagg Memorial Challenge, scheduled for Sunday, 15 March. This will be an 18-hole stroke play competition. The competition is kindly sponsored by the Flagg family in memory of **Arnold Flagg**. Tee-off is at 12noon and registration will close on Saturday, 14 March, at 3pm.

Members are encouraged to register early and support this special memorial event. For details on our events check us out on Facebook and on www.sthelenagolf.com.



SPORTS ARENA

District Title Stays Put

Half Tree Hollow go unbeaten to become district champions and retain title



Luke Bennett, SAMS

Half tree Hollow have regained the District T20 Title for 2026 when they defeated Longwood on Sunday afternoon. Half Tree Hollow batted first with Player of the Match, Captain Andrew Yon, getting off to a good start, racking up a half century. However, HTH couldn't find a stable partnership, with Longwood's bowling proving to be difficult to face, led by Ashton Benjamin, who grabbed three wickets, helping his team to restrict Half Tree Hollow's flow. Blaze Baldwin made a late fight back with 26 to help Half Tree Hollow to a total of 150.

A brave fielding performance from Longwood would see them enter their batting innings with intent, getting off to a steady start with their opening partnership getting to 51 before the first dismissal. Young Zach Francis (20) and Damian Burns (20) would steer Longwood's innings to their favour. However, some brilliant captaincy from Andrew Yon would see the partnership broken and allowed HTH to drag themselves back into the game. Four wickets from the Captain turned the game on its head, dismissing Longwood for 133 and bringing the title back to Half tree Hollow.

In the first match of the weekend, Sandy Bay and Levelwood battled in the postponed fixture. Sandy Bay batted first and was restricted to a total of 120 thanks to an all-round bowling performance from Levelwood. Player of the Match, Delroy Leo, would strike a 63 to help his team reach the total in 15 overs, giving Levelwood the win.

The following game saw Longwood defeat St Pauls in the final postponed match. Longwood batted first and got off to a flyer with Player of the Match, Sean-Lee Thomas, smashing 117 of 62 balls to help his team to a total of 197. St Pauls did not shy away and thanks to Jordi Henry with 89 the game went to the final over. However, some outstanding bowling from Longwood's David Young would see St Pauls fall two short of the target, giving Longwood the win.

The first match on Sunday saw Levelwood defeat St Pauls. St Pauls elected to bat first in rainy conditions and fell victim to some outstanding bowing from Levelwood, with Brendan Leo and Dave Francis both walking away with three wickets each, restricting St Pauls to just 78. Player of the Match, Clayton Leo, would produce 28 to help Levelwood reach the total in 12 overs. This result would place Levelwood as runners-up in this year's competition.

The final match saw the battle of the bottom when Jamestown faced up against Sandy Bay. Sandy Bay batted first and got off to a slow start, with Jamestown bowling well. Sandy Bay were 91 after 15 overs with Ronan Legg on 67, however an explosive innings in the last five overs from Brooklyn Fowler saw them to a total of 165. Jamestown took to the bat and, although Sandy Bay took wickets, it was Player of the Match, Scott Crowie, with a half century, who would guide Jamestown to victory, completing the run chase in 19 overs to take the win.

So, after these matches, Levelwood would finish as runners up as Longwood placed third. A dominant display from Half Tree Hollow to go through the season unbeaten will see them once again crowned District champions. Congratulations to Half Tree Hollow!