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Three Year Budget for St Helena



FCDO confirms multi-year Financial Aid Settlement for St Helena, including 4.8% increase for this year and 2% increases for the next two years, alongside an additional £40m for EDIP projects, as Chief Minister lauds the "certainty" this will bring Government in terms of effective planning, smart investments and project focus



Here's Johnny – *"Alive and Well"*

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Hope everyone had a good Easter, it was a shame that the wind picked up when everyone was out there camping but hey it is what it is, I guess. I'm sure everyone had a good camp anyway. I always enjoy camping since I was a kid going with the church lads brigade, living by fire and candle light that's my gear, getting up early to collect wood doing what you got to do, and then just getting lost in the surroundings, I still find it relaxing, however camping has upgraded since then. Tents looking like houses, some even have electricity but that's ok, it's always nice to be comfortable if you like that sort of thing. Its always nice to get away from it all, leave the phone behind along with stress.

What I did find a little strange was there weren't many people down at the seaside; it was significantly less people than last year. I can't seem to get why that could be? Was it because we had more campers this year? Or the fact that there wasn't a bar down at the seaside? (I know how people like a good Maundy Thursday session) Maybe a lot of people decided to go Rupert's instead? Or is it because we're slowly losing tradition here on St Helena? I hope not.

With all the technology we're exposed to and the political debates that's been living rent free in people's heads, the island is changing rapidly - some may say for the good, others may disagree. I believe that it's very important to have our traditions, that's what make us who we are, I feel that as we are exposed to more, it can be very easy just to Netflix and chill.

Nice to see a few people doing some water sports as well, I can remember that was a big thing here so big up to the people who's getting that going again. Also saw some youngsters doing some spear fishing, and going to the spots we went to when we were kids, that's awesome. So maybe as some traditions fade, others are coming back.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As someone born and raised on St Helena, my heart has always remained deeply rooted in our island. While I am currently living and practicing in the UK, my thoughts are often with the pet owners back home especially those who are doing their best to care for their animals during these difficult times.

Because I know how much our pets mean to us, I have decided to set up a personal fund to offer a little extra support where it's needed most. Rather than waiting for a formal organisation to be built, I want to step in personally and help out in a quiet, direct way.

I will be sponsoring a limited number of essential veterinary procedures such as neutering or urgent care fees for fellow Saints who are currently facing financial hardship.

This isn't about anything formal, it's just me wanting to help. I've set aside a personal monthly budget for this, and I will pay the veterinary clinic directly from my local account to keep things as simple and easy as possible for you. This will be available on a first-come, first-served basis each month.

For those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, I grew up on St Helena before moving to the UK to learn everything I could about animal care. My daily work at Paws & Purrs Portland is my passion, and I've spent the last few years studying hard to make sure I can be of the best service to the animals I look after. I've been fortunate enough to complete training in:

- Dog Grooming and Behaviour
- Dog training (Distinction)
- Pet Nutrition and Wellness
- Emergency First Aid and CPR
- Advanced Pet Care (currently completing my Level 3 Microchipping)

The community here in Portland has been so kind to me, and it feels only right to share some of that kindness with the island that first taught me how to love and respect animals. My only goal is to help our island pets live healthy, happy lives alongside the families who love them.

If you are a pet owner on St Helena and could use a little help with vet fees, please just send me a message directly.

With love and best health to you and your pets,
Shirl Osborne-Simpson
Paws & Purrs



YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

This is part 2 of a 3-part series, giving a personal (not professional) view on the human rights claims and underlying personal injury claims.

From the narrow, legal perspective, what will happen, if the Costs Ordinance is struck down

Left to their own devices: (a) claimants' litigation lawyers litigate, seeking a big one-off award against the defendant, or an agreed, usually one-off settlement; (b) defendants' litigation lawyers attempt to delay the case, to wear down the claimants into accepting less; (c) cases and negotiations are adversarial and can last for years; (d) the legal costs are massive; and (e) someone pays: an insurer, the defendant, or the defendant's taxpayers and users of services. (Note that I understand that the UK Government has refused to increase grant aid to cover the claims; the buck stops with St Helenians.)

So (to avoid bankruptcy), the Legislature may have again to pass some legislation to reduce the immediate impact of the claims, this time by modifying the substantive right to compensation for professional negligence (which is not a human right) but leaving in place the right of access to independent courts (which is a human right, but not a right to compensation for accidents).

The least-attackable method would be an Order in Council of the Privy Council; which (being an exercise of the King's Royal Prerogative, expressly preserved in the Constitution Order) the courts are much less likely to review than an Ordinance or modifying order. (The Chagossians lost for that reason in the UK.)

Next, we widen our perspective from the narrow, legal one to the wider, societal one

In theory, what choices shape a society's compensation system(s)? (1) For what injuries ought society to provide compensation? (2) What form should compensation take - one-off or recurring? (3) How to assess it? (4) Who should pay? (5) How to administer? (6) How to reduce (costly) accidents? (7) Would the system be the most sensible allocation of the total budget for accidents? (8) How much total budget can society afford? Real life, though, begins where we are (not where we wish to be) and does not always proceed along the pure lines of theoretical logic from here to there, so:-

Which compensation systems exist in practice?

Personal accident insurance: the insurances which a traveller arranges for their own protection, for example: limited risks, fixed maximum amounts of cover. The insured pays a premium, the insurer provides the benefits and recovers the payout from other premiums. Long claims experience, predictable accident rates, stable business.

Law of negligence and liability insurance: the law of negligence was firmly established in a 1932 case (The Snail in the Bottle Case) and has been extended throughout the common-law world since then. Insurers developed insurance for that new risk; they now handle the defence of claims, and recover their payouts through the premiums they charge. Rising medical knowledge, rising expectations, rising detection of bad doctors, rising claims, rising premiums...

The social security system: society, too, contributes, through the social security system; some accidents qualify for benefits, but not all. Even the New Zealand Accident Compensation Scheme, often held up as a model for the reform of the law, is limited (see below).

And how have those systems changed over time?

The UK: workmen's compensation was the prevalent accident compensation system until WW2: a form of taxpayer-funded insurance providing wage replacement and limited medical benefits to employees injured in the course of employment (see generally: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workers%27_compensation). Health cover, beyond accidents, was funded by the patient, often at point of sale, so many could not afford it.

After WW2, a Labour government elected by a huge majority on a manifesto of social reform, increased the social security system and introduced the National Health Service, based on 1930s research which suggested that illness could largely be eliminated within 10 years.

Despite losing over time its power to exploit an empire (and other setbacks, e.g., Korean War, Suez crisis), the UK economy recovered, benefiting from the cheap oil prices which buoyed up many economies until an oil crisis in 1973 quadrupled the price.

Negligence claims began to rise as the courts extended the principle, but (1) they were adversarial and costly to operate; and (2) the welfare state was expanding, so the social security system seemed likely to replace personal injury law over time, until the rise of Thatcherism favoured self-reliance (and low taxes) over the welfare state (and high taxes); the UK retained personal injury law, permitted the use of conditional fee agreements, ruled that the success fee and after-the-event insurance premium were recoverable as compensation and withdraw legal aid for most types of personal injury claims.

Doctors had always been independent contractors (not employees of the health service), so the health service was not vicariously liable for their negligence, but (alarmed by their rising liability insurance premiums) they forced the government to accept such responsibility, making society their insurer of last resort, in a sense.

(Next week - experience elsewhere - and what St Helena should do)

Regards until next week,
Lucky Thomson

Das Some Money You

SHG announce increase in fees for British Passports



Liam Yon, SAMS

SHG have informed that, following notification from the Home Office in the UK, British passport fees have increased with effect from Sunday, 6 April.

These increases will see an Adult 34-page Standard Passport increase from £120.50 to £130.00, and a Child 34-page Standard Passport increase from £82.50 to £89.00. This represents an increase of £9.50 and £6.50 respectively.

Those applying for a British Passport from St Helena should note these increases in fees when making their applications.

Here's Johnny – "Alive and Well"

Jonathan the Tortoise confirmed as "alive and well" after fake news of his death goes viral after online crypto scam last week



Jonathan was photographed 'alive and well' on Thursday morning following the spread of fake news

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena's most famous resident, 193-year-old Jonathan the Tortoise, is "alive and well" at his residence in Plantation as confirmed by St Helena Government last Thursday.

This follows fake news that Jonathan had passed which circulated on the Wednesday evening prior, originating from an online scammer and reaching major news outlets, including the BBC.

This misinformation started when a profile impersonating St Helena's former Senior Veterinarian, Joe Hollins – who is well-known as being close to Jonathan after caring for him for many years on the Island – took to X, formerly Twitter, where they broke the fake news that Jonathan had, in their words, "died peacefully on St Helena" on 1 April. As it turns out, this wasn't even a bad April Fools joke, but simply a crypto currency scam.

However, with Jonathan being the oldest known living land animal on earth, and the holder of two Guinness World Records, the misinformation on his alleged passing quickly went viral after having been picked up by a large number of minor and major news outlets across the globe.

Quickly a number of highly-followed Facebook pages shared the news that Jonathan had passed, while popular news outlets released online articles. This includes 'USA Today' and the 'BBC' who ran an article titled 'World's oldest known tortoise, Jonathan, dies aged 193'. In fact, the BBC's article quickly became its most popular read on their website at the time, adding to the spread of misinformation.

With the situation developing quickly, many local residents took to Social Media to dispute the claims and confirm that Jonathan was, in fact, still alive. This includes Joe Hollins himself, who posted to his real Social Media profiles that the news was fake and originated from an online scammer. Other posts confirming the news as fake was put out by Mrs Emma Phillips, wife of St Helena's Governor, as well as the Island's Chief Secretary, Ian Todd. All encouraged people to share the correct information around as widely as possible to debunk the misinformation being circulated.

Thankfully, the correct information spread just as quickly, with many of the news outlets who had reported on the fake news ultimately withdrawing their articles and releasing updated pieces confirming the news as fake; assuring their readers that Jonathan is, in fact, alive and well at Plantation. This includes the BBC who removed their original article which they had written based on the incorrect information provided in the scam posted to X.

It was only 'The Guardian' who did their due diligence, and reported outright that the news was fake, with their online article even featuring a photo of Jonathan on Thursday morning supplied by Governor Phillips, showing Jonathan alive and clearly oblivious to the chaos caused by false information on the Wednesday evening before.

Additionally, St Helena Tourism, as well as globally popular verified Facebook pages, including the Guinness World Records, have all posted photos and videos of Jonathan, confirming that the living legend is doing just fine on his Island home.

Jonathan turns 194 this year and it is hoped he has many more years left in him, living a peaceful life as St Helena's most adored national treasure!

The saga started when a fake profile impersonating Joe Hollins posted the false news on X



Three Year Budget for St Helena

FCDO confirms multi-year Financial Aid Settlement for St Helena, including 4.8% increase for this year and 2% increases for the next two years, alongside an additional £40m for EDIP projects, as Chief Minister lauds the "certainty" this will bring Government in terms of effective planning and investments



Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks, HE Governor Phillips and Nicholas Wareham from the FCDO during the Financial Aid Mission in January

Liam Yon, SAMS

In what will be welcome news to St Helena's Ministerial Team, and the Island as a whole, on Wednesday, St Helena Government announced the confirmation of a three-year financial aid settlement from the UK Government, securing critical funding for the Island until March 2029.

This is something that Ministers have pushed for since the start of the Ministerial System on St Helena back in 2021, with yearly budgets seen as not ideal in relation to planning and investment. Additionally, with one-year budgets, SHG often find themselves operating on a rollover budget while they await the confirmation of the settlement from the UK at the start of each Financial Year, which is, again, less than ideal.

This is all set to change with the confirmation of a three-year settlement from the UK this time around. As detailed by SHG, the settlement delivers a 4.8% increase in core financial aid for 2026/27, followed by 2% annual increases in 2027/28 and 2028/29, representing an additional £1.72 million for this financial year - bringing St Helena's core aid to £37.51 million, up from £35.79 million. SHG also hint that "there may also be the opportunity to unlock additional funding, subject to performance."

Government commented on this positive outcome. "For many years, SHG has had to plan budgets on an annual basis, often starting the new financial year with a temporary roll over budget while waiting for final confirmation on the settlement from the UK," they said. "This limited long term planning delayed investment decisions and made financial management and project delivery much more challenging. A multi-year settlement will allow SHG to plan services and programmes with greater confidence; manage projects more efficiently and prioritise investments with the greatest social and economic impact."

In further positive news, it was also confirmed that "an additional £40 million over the next three years will be made available through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) to support essential capital investment including the Bulk Fuel Infrastructure." This news will also have been received well by SHG who have utilised capital funding through EDIP for a number of major and micro projects on the Island over the past few years, which has had an evident impact on the Island's overall development across various sectors.

Having received the confirmation of this funding and a three-year financial aid settlement, SHG say they are now "finalising the 2026/27 budget and reviewing the EDIP project pipeline to ensure that projects already underway, and those offering the greatest community benefit, are prioritised."

Chief Minister, Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, who confirmed during the Financial Aid Mission (FAM) visit in January that her Ministerial Team had made clear to the FCDO their preference for a multi-year budget, commented that the confirmation of a three-year settlement for St Helena gives the Government more "certainty" when planning ahead.

"In a very difficult financial climate, this settlement, spanning three years, gives St Helena what we have not had for several years, certainty," she commented. "It gives us the opportunity to plan more effectively, invest smarter and focus on the projects that will make the biggest difference to our community."

Detailing what the Chief Minister described as a "difficult financial climate," SHG then recognized that "the confirmation of this settlement comes at a time when the UK faces significant fiscal pressures and increasing global instability" where they add that the UKG had recently reduced its overall aid budget to 0.3% of Gross National Income, down from 0.5%, "as it redirects resources towards defence and security commitments in an increasingly contested international environment."

Looking ahead, SHG noted how "this year's negotiations also reflect a broader shift in the UK's approach to development funding, with a stronger emphasis on investment" adding that "this was evident during discussions with the FAM team in January and will continue during work to finalise a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering the period to March 2029."

They state clearly that "the MoU will ensure that St Helena's priorities are clearly understood and embedded within the funding framework."

While SHG will be pleased with the outcome of this financial mission and the increased settlement from the UK, spanning multiple years, Ministers will now need to ensure that funds are used wisely in order to drive the Island in a positive direction both in the immediate and long-term.

"Our focus now is to ensure that the resources made available are used wisely, supporting essential public services, investing in economic development, and continuing to build a more sustainable and resilient future for St Helena," SHG concluded.

‘Our Island, Our Space, Our Responsibility’

SHG launch ‘Multi-Agency Campaign for a Cleaner St Helena’ as Minister Thrower encourages public participation



Saplings planted at The Dungeon Cemetery

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government (SHG) have announced the launch of a new community campaign, which they say is being “delivered through a cross-portfolio collaboration between Economic Development (ED), Safety, Security and Home Affairs (SSHA) and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning (ENRP)” titled ‘Our Island, Our Space, Our Responsibility’.

In a call for community action, SHG say that “this initiative calls on every resident to take an active role in caring for our island,” with the aim being “to build lasting community pride in our shared spaces” for the betterment of life on St Helena.

“At the core of this initiative is the belief that a beautiful St Helena is a reflection of the pride we take in our community,” they added. “We have seen what is possible through the dedicated efforts of Crown Estates and HM Prison, who have significantly contributed to a brighter, cleaner island through improvement works.”

Examples given included a number of recent improvement works like the current playgrounds project, ongoing maintenance at Blue Hill School and the Ladder Hill Business Park, as well as vegetation and litter clearance in



Essex House before the work by the Crown Estates Development Team



Essex House after the work by the Crown Estates Development Team


The Colonnade at Ladder Hill before works


The Colonnade at Ladder Hill after completion of works

various public areas, among many other examples. These improvement works cover everything from landscape and grounds maintenance to facility upgrades and repairs as well as logistics and support.

"These improvements help restore and maintain spaces that are important to the community," said SHG. "The campaign invites all of us to act as guardians of these restored spaces by helping keep these areas clean and cared for."

Minister for Economic Development and ENRP, Karl Thrower, also had praise for the new campaign. "By bringing together the Economic Development, SSHA, and ENRP Portfolios, we are demonstrating that we are one team with one goal: a cleaner, prouder St Helena," he said. "The sheer variety of work achieved, from the vital grounds' maintenance at our community centres and historic sites to the essential infrastructure improvements at the Horse Point Landfill Site, is a testament to what we can accomplish when we break down silos and pull in the same direction."

The Minister then stated, however, that "the Government can only do so much on its own" before encouraging participation from the public. "We have worked hard to restore these spaces to their rightful standard, but their longevity depends on all of us. I urge the public to join us in this partnership," he stated. "By participating in the new domestic recycling pilot, you aren't just managing waste; you are helping us secure a more sustainable future for the generations to come."

The Domestic Recycling Pilot that the Minister refers to is a new initiative by Waste Management Services (WMS) that aims to support the campaign while reducing pressure on the Horse Point Landfill Site. The idea is that WMS are inviting households to register for a new domestic recycling service. SHG explained how this new service would work.

"Participants will be supplied with a 120L green wheelie bin specifically for clean plastics, cardboard, paper, and cans, with this collection service expected to commence in April or May 2026," they inform. "Whilst glass is not included in this doorstep collection during the pilot phase, WMS will keep the option under review and encourages residents to continue depositing clean glass at existing island-wide recycling hubs. For households currently using communal skips, WMS is reviewing the installation of communal recycling hubs alongside existing skips to ensure everyone can participate in this recycling effort."

Those wanting to participate are being encouraged to contact the WMS team. SHG add that the WMS will keep this new service under constant review, using participant feedback to make necessary adjustments.


The field at SHAPE, Sandy Bay, before completion of works


The field at SHAPE, Sandy Bay, after the completion of works

"A Major Investment in Building Local Maritime Capability"

New UK-funded Maritime Training Centre opened by SHG during UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency visit



The St Helena Maritime and UK MCA Teams at the opening ceremony

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena recently welcomed a delegation from the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to further reinforce the island's "ongoing commitment to strengthening maritime safety, governance and capability," with SHG detailing how "the visit formed part of continued collaboration between St Helena and the MCA, supporting the island's development as a compliant and responsible maritime administration aligned with international standards and Red Ensign Group expectations."

During the week, amidst a number of important engagements by the visiting delegation, a new UK-funded Maritime Training Centre was officially opened, described by SHG as the "highlight of the week." The official opening of the St Helena Maritime Training Centre took place in front of invited guests including His Excellency Governor Phillips, alongside representatives from the MCA, government officials and key stakeholders.

SHG described this as "a significant milestone in the island's maritime journey" before commenting on the new Maritime Training Centre and its importance. "The new training centre, funded by the UK Government, represents a major investment in building local maritime capability," they said. "It will support the development of seafarers, improve safety standards and provide a sustainable platform for maritime training on island."

According to SHG, "the initiative aligns with St Helena's long-term vision to enhance resilience, strengthen compliance with international conventions, and create opportunities within the maritime sector."

Outside of the opening of the Maritime Training Centre, the MCA delegation were reportedly able to engage with a number of local teams, while they also reviewed SHG's operational arrangements and provided technical support to further strengthen the partnership between St Helena and the UK in maritime matters.

"This visit represents another important step forward in St Helena's maritime development, demonstrating a clear commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration and the highest standards of safety and professionalism," concluded SHG.



Wendy Benjamin with Elise Carlo and Alison Leighton of the UK MCA



Capacity Building Support, Wendy Benjamin, delivers a presentation to stakeholders

"Strengthening On-Island Resilience"

St Helena Resilience Forum discuss essential supplies for the Island amid conflict in the Middle East as SHG say "the public can also play a positive role"



The MV Karoline brings in the large majority of St Helena's essential supplies during monthly voyages to the Island

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Resilience Forum (SHRF) held a meeting on Monday, 30 March, "to assess the potential impacts of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on the island," as detailed in a Press Release by St Helena Government.

"Stakeholders gathered to evaluate risks to the local supply of essential commodities and services, including fuel, food, medicines and building materials," they said.

Last week, the MT Taliska arrived to Rupert's to replenish the Island's fuel stocks. Following this delivery of fuel, the SHRF were reassured that St Helena has sufficient fuel supplies to last until at least August 2026 based on current usage.

While this is positive, SHG inform that the SHRF "continues to monitor global events and developments closely and stands ready to implement any measures necessary to maintain steady supply chains and safeguard the island's resilience."

SHG went on to note that "while the SHRF is actively managing risks, the public can also play a positive role." They say this can be done "by making sensible efficiencies where possible, such as reducing unnecessary fuel usage, minimising waste and supporting local products and services" adding that "everyone can contribute to strengthening on-island resilience."

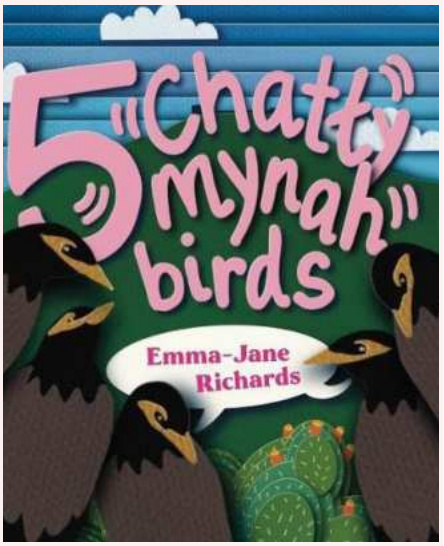
SHG then spoke to travellers about the risks to travel having come about from the ongoing conflict. "Travellers undertaking holidays abroad, work trips or other journeys are advised that delays, cancellations and wider travel disruption may occur," they warn. "Those transiting through the Middle East should check with their travel providers for the latest information and ensure they have appropriate travel insurance in place."

The Sentinel recently reported on the rising costs of fuel and food products, particularly in South Africa where St Helena receives most of its imports from, due to the knock-on effects of the war in the Middle East and the issues regarding the Strait of Hormuz.

No doubt, St Helena will feel the pinch of these global concerns at some point, therefore it is welcome news that the SHRF is monitoring the situation closely, according to SHG, who are encouraging the public to stay informed through official updates.

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



5 Chatty Mynah Birds by Emma-Jane Richards

Originally sung as a lullaby for her young daughter, 5 chatty mynah birds, was created by Emma-Jane as a fun and easy way to talk about St Helena Island together. The song creates a connection, and pride to shared heritage, using the imagery of birds, flora and places on St Helena – 5 chatty mynah birds is a lover letter to St Helena Island for kids everywhere.

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

The Wheels on the Bus(es) go round and round

Update on Public Transport provision by SHG, sixteen months in



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

During this week's 'In The Know' programme, where Ministers share information from their various portfolios with listeners of SAMS Radio 1, Chief Minister Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks brought in Carol Henry (Head of Corporate Support) and Nicky George (Senior Transport Manager) to give an update on the Public Transport Service that has been delivered by SHG since December 2024.

Carol started off by recapping the history of public transport on St Helena going back to 2003 when the main aim with this service was to accommodate SHG shift workers. In 2012, this service was considerably expanded and was provided by the private sector, with a contract lasting up to 2024. The main private sector service provider however indicated that they would not be interested in continuing this service and SHG was left to go out to tender to look for any other interested parties to take on the service. With no interest shown, they were left with the option to discontinue the service or provide the service in-house. In August 2024, it was decided that, as an interim solution, "SHG would assume responsibility for the day-to-day operations of public transport," as Carol explained, leading to the purchase of new buses to provide this service offering from December 2024.

Initially, the service routes were based on those that had been in place prior to March 2024 but, since the inception of this service, there have been changes for various reasons. "Along the way there have been changes; some areas have reduced routes and in other areas new routes have been introduced," Nicky elaborated. "It has been a learning curve for us!" Although they have seen a decrease in hop-on-hop-off passengers, there has been a marked increase in monthly ticket holders. They continue to review the offering on a regular basis, adapting and making new proposals with the information and feedback they receive from passengers, drivers and the general public. At the moment they are engaging in a public survey to obtain wider and more views and feedback to further improve and change the service provision within the available resources.

When it was agreed to bring this service into government's remit, it was always envisaged to only last for an interim period of up to five years with the eventual goal to again make this available to the private sector with evidence-based data to support the operation model engaged in over the five year period to show how this offering could be an attractive business proposition. With the survey, they are looking to "go more widely and get more feedback from users and even non-users to find out exactly what is going well and what can be improved, but also why some people choose not to use it," said Carol. She continued by reiterating that they have to make the best of the limited resources at their disposal to provide the most comprehensive service possible whilst also balancing costs

with income. "Whatever it costs to operate the service, we have to balance the books to make sure that the revenue received matches the expenditure that actually goes out to deliver the service," she explained.

At present, there are only three full-time buses available to provide this service for the main routes, meaning that these buses are very busy. Where routes proved to be unprofitable, changes had to be made to reduce costs whilst also trying to accommodate needs of passengers as much as possible. "We have to determine whether a route and the service are viable as we have to balance the books; we have to know the service is going to pay for itself," said Nicky. "It is nice to get people's views as we do need more passengers on seats as this ensures the viability of the service."

At the moment, the buses service three main areas - Levelwood, Longwood and then the Western side of the island, which includes the St Paul's area. Within these areas they try to maximise the numbers of users as much as possible, while also trying to operate efficiently. To achieve this, Nicky explained, "we are actually combining or linking buses at certain positions and locations." It is important to get as much feedback as possible from the public to make informed and viable changes. The budget to run the service is £87,000 and this has to be balanced with ticket sales as well as affordability when considering new routes or changes.

The Public Transport Service survey is available online and within the first week, this platform has already garnered 69 responses. A hard-copy is also available from various shops around the island as well as the Customer Services Centre, Public Library, Tourist Office and on all buses. "The survey is anonymous," reassured Carol, and responses can be dropped into one of the marked boxes available across the island. "We are really encouraging everybody to take part so that we can get a picture of the service, whether you are currently using it, do not use it, or are thinking of using it in the future," encouraged the Chief Minister. The survey closes on 24 April, giving everyone ample time to complete a form as well as perhaps take the time to experience the public transport to provide their views.

Once the survey ends, Carol and her team will analyse all of the returns, capturing the data to collate responses as well as formulate suggestions to the advisory board. Smaller changes could be implemented with immediate effect, with bigger suggested changes having to first gain higher approval. The responses could provide valuable insights to steer the future of the public transport system during the remainder of the five-year interim period, even though the team will continue to monitor and review the service provision throughout.

Nicky ended off by saying that they have even identified seasonal trends like during the festive season and have aimed to "be very flexible" and continue to "make changes to suit the public's needs" as much as possible. "I encourage everybody to please get hold of a copy of the survey and to fill it in. We really do want to hear you views because it will make a significant difference in terms of our considerations and decisions going forward with the transport service that SHG is delivering and what it might look like in the future," concluded the Chief Minister. "We obviously at some point would like to give the option back to the private sector with the necessary data to back up the service model."

Kings Baton Relay 2026 – Community Events & Social Activities

The public is warmly invited to take part in a series of **community and environmental activities** celebrating the St Helena leg of the **King's Baton Relay for the 2026 Commonwealth Games from** 10th – 13th April 2026.

Led by the National Sports Association of St. Helena (**NSASH) –** the programme aims to highlight community spirit, youth engagement, and a shared commitment to reducing plastic pollution across our island and beyond. Below is the schedule of activities:

FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2026

Schools Presentation & Baton Unveiling @ New Horizons Youth Club

A special presentation and witness the official unveiling of the King's Baton for invited guest and New Horizons. This will be followed by team sports for the youth.

SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026

Community Beach Clean-Up Day - Sandy Bay (10:00 – 11:00) & Ruperts Beach (14:00 -15:00)

Please come along and join efforts to remove as much plastic waste from our most popular beaches.

SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026

Coastal Clean-Up & Diver Initiative – Ruperts Bay & James Bay (09:00-12 noon)

Beach clean-ups will take place alongside a **special diver clean-ups**, removing waste from the seabed and helping protect our marine environment.

Community event at the Yacht Club

The community may view the Baton near the Yacht and Dive Clubs from 2–5pm. The Yacht Club bar will be open. NB: drinks served from the bar will not be issued in plastic cups. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own drinking receptacles.

MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026

Schools Baton Tour

The King's Baton will visit schools across the island, giving students the opportunity to see and interact with this important symbol of the Commonwealth Games.

Join us in celebrating sport, strengthening community spirit, and helping create a cleaner, plastic-free St Helena.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Art & Crafts Centre becomes Living Cultural Hub



— **Giselle Richards,** Contributed —

The St Helena Art & Crafts Centre is entering an exciting new phase — evolving from a traditional retail space into a living cultural asset dedicated to preserving and promoting the island's craft heritage.

At the heart of this transformation is '**Uniquely Saint**' — a brandmark that represents authentic, locally made products rooted in skill and lived experience. From lace-making and seedwork to flaxwork, aloework, woodwork and traditional bottle lanterns, each piece carries the story of St Helena and its people. These are not mass-produced souvenirs, but meaningful items that reflect identity, pride and belonging.

The Centre operates as a social enterprise with a mission: to safeguard traditional skills and ensure they are revived and passed on to future generations. Many of these crafts are at risk of fading, and there is growing demand for more seedwork, lacework, aloe craft, alternative flax products and traditional lanterns.

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, the Centre is now open **at least five days a week**, with a trial of Sunday mornings from 10am.

The Centre also offers i**nteractive workshops and live demonstrations**, giving both residents and visitors the chance to experience Saint craft first-hand. It has also partnered with SHAPE, who use the space on Tuesdays to showcase products and, where possible, offer demonstrations by trainees.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for an immersive cultural experience at the reinstated **Toby's Cottage**, further celebrating St Helena's living heritage. They are exploring further collation ideas with the National trust.

While working in collaboration with St Helena Tourism, the Art & Crafts Centre does not receive financial grants and instead relies on commissions from sales, as well as donations, sponsorship, and community support to continue its work. It is far more than a shop — it is a place where stories are shared, skills are strengthened, and Saint heritage thrives.

The Centre also welcomes anyone interested in offering a workshop or contributing to the revival of traditional crafts. Please get in touch at the Art & Crafts Centre on 22101 or arts.crafts@helanta.co.sh.















Our son is more than his silence

One of the most common questions we face as parents is about our son's silence. People often ask "Oh, he doesn't talk?" or "Why isn't he talking?" "Will he ever talk?". The truth is, he does speak, but only when he feels comfortable and when given the time to respond. Ziggy's voice is soft and low likely because he is still adjusting to his deeper, changing voice.

While there is a communication barrier, this does not mean his voice is unheard. Ziggy uses some Makaton, gestures and writing to communicate. Ziggy may not speak in the traditional way, but that does not diminish the power of his words or his ability to connect with others.

We need people to understand that Ziggy is an intelligent young man. He has an excellent memory, a fair understanding of the world around him, and many practical life skills that will help him thrive as he enters into adulthood. We know that he will continue to need 1:1 support throughout his life, but this kind of support will only help him become more independent, regulate his emotions and enhance his skills.

Unfortunately, the communication barrier often leads people to underestimate Ziggy. They mistake his need for extra processing time as lack of understanding. They misinterpret his anxiety as defiance and they see his silence and assume there is nothing there.

As parents, we see and feel his struggles/challenges. We witness the frustration that arises when routines are disrupted, when people come into his space unexpected, and when he's told he can't do something. Ziggy prefers to be told what he **can do.**

Ziggy copes best when he is supported by an adult who understands his needs, someone who respects his preferences for routines and structure, offering consistency is also key.

There are tough days of course. Some battles are big, some are small, and there are times when we feel overwhelmed and frustrated. But no matter what, we find the strength to keep going. Autism is a part of our lives and a part of who Ziggy is and it should never limit who he can become.

We are so proud of the young man he is becoming and, as parents we will continue to advocate and educate others about Autism.

There is a powerful voice behind the silence - you just have to be willing to hear it differently.

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. Apr 10

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

SAT. Apr 11

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

SUN. Apr 12

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Deon & Anita
- 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. Apr 13

- 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. Apr 14

- 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. Apr 15

- 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. Apr 16

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





Join Sue this week for her 10th show of Indie Waves.

She will explore the fresh, light and feel-good sounds of Indie music.

Come ride the tides through sound, experiencing the magic of music and sound that will stay with you through the day and the week as you ride the wave of life.

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 'EXPERT'

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

Throwback Thursday



9th April 1997: Two members of Executive Council resign in protest over Budget cuts. Cllr. Robertson is selected as one of the replacements but Governor Smallman refuses to appoint him. Cllr. Robertson led the 'Riot' on 19th April 1996. (sainthelenaisland.info)

As parents, we all know the headache – "What do we put in the kids lunch boxes?" Well, why not give this recipe a try?

Rainbow Slice



Ingredients

- 12 Weet-Bix, finely crushed
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder, sifted
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 200g butter, melted
- 1/2 cup desiccated coconut
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 150g tub rainbow choc chips or M&M's Smarties

For the chocolate icing

- 3 cups icing sugar mixture
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder, sifted
- 1/4 cup boiling water

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan. Grease an 18cm x 28cm (base) slice pan. Line base and sides with baking paper, allowing 3cm overhang on all sides.

2. Combine Weet-Bix, cocoa powder, sugar, butter, coconut and egg in a bowl. Press mixture over base of prepared pan. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until firm to touch.

3. Meanwhile, make icing: Combine icing sugar and cocoa powder in a bowl. Add boiling water. Stir to combine. Using a hot knife, spread icing over base. Sprinkle with choc chips, pressing into icing to secure. Set aside for 2 hours or until firm. Cut into squares. Serve.

The Challenge is not to devour them all at once!

The Island Pulse

Scrutiny, Stagnation and the Call for Urgency



Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

Listeners tuning in to this week's edition of The Island Pulse were met with a programme that lived up to its promise - placing progress under the microscope and asking whether St Helena is truly moving forward in its most critical sectors.

Hosted by Cllr. Julie Thomas, the discussion brought together members of both Select Committees, offering a candid and, at times, sobering reflection on the state of development across the island. While there were pockets of progress, the overarching sentiment was unmistakable: frustration is mounting over delays, lack of urgency, and a persistent gap between strategy and delivery.

Scrutiny in Action: Why It Matters

The programme opened with Cllr. Dr Corinda Essex outlining the upcoming Select Committee 2 live hearing, scheduled for mid-April. The focus will be on investment under the Sustainable Development Delivery Plan - part of the broader Strategic Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) that runs through to 2030.

The hearing aims to interrogate whether the island's investment processes are effective, transparent, and ultimately delivering meaningful outcomes. Areas under examination will include the Approved Investor Status (AIS) scheme, safeguards around investment, and whether developments genuinely serve the needs of St Helena and its residents.

Dr Essex emphasised the importance of public engagement in this process, urging residents to listen, attend where possible, and provide feedback.

Scrutiny, she stressed, is not a procedural exercise - it is a cornerstone of accountability.

Agriculture: A Sector in Limbo

Turning to the findings of Select Committee 1's recent live hearing, the conversation quickly shifted to agriculture - one of the island's key strategic sectors.

Here, the tone became notably more critical.

While some incremental progress has been made, such as the expansion of the Animal Husbandry Policy to include more livestock and clearer definitions for farmers, these were overshadowed by systemic delays.

The long-awaited **Agricultural Policy** - described as the foundation for sector-wide reform - is not expected until September 2026.

This delay has effectively placed the sector in a holding pattern.

Without the policy in place:

- Land management reforms remain stalled
- Leasing and licensing improvements are on hold
- Legislative updates cannot progress
- Farmers continue to operate under outdated frameworks

Compounding this is a lack of clear direction. Councillors highlighted uncertainty around budgets, ongoing reviews, and policy timelines, leaving stakeholders without a coherent roadmap.

Concerns were also raised about poultry production, where incubation facilities remain underutilised and challenges around sourcing parent stock persist. Meanwhile, basic operational data - critical for planning and support - remains inconsistently collected.

The absence of structured data, combined with delayed policy implementation, paints a picture of a sector struggling to transition from aspiration to execution.

As one Councillor noted during the discussion, agriculture currently appears "in a state of stagnation," with progress constrained by dependencies that remain unresolved.

Fisheries: "Where Are We Going?"

If agriculture is stalled, the fisheries sector appears, in the words of one Councillor, "***defeated before the session even started***."

Despite being identified as a key economic driver with export potential, the sector continues to grapple with regulatory ambiguity, delayed reforms, and operational constraints that have persisted for years.

A central issue is the ongoing **Fisheries Review**, now positioned as the vehicle through which most reforms will be delivered. However, with the review still in its situational analysis phase and not expected to conclude until the end of 2026, immediate challenges remain unaddressed.

Key concerns raised during the programme included:

- Lack of prioritisation for fisheries legislation
- Absence of a formal action plan under the Fisheries Ordinance
- Delays in implementing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), despite prior approval
- Inconsistent and conflicting data across departments
- Limited enforcement capacity due to staffing constraints

Perhaps most concerning is the disconnect between policy and practice.

Environmental Health records indicate 17 commercial vessels, while Environment, Natural Resources & Planning (ENRP) records suggest over 30 licences - and more than 100 licences issued across categories. This inconsistency undermines effective monitoring and enforcement.

At the same time, industry stakeholders continue to operate under conditions that restrict growth. Export opportunities remain limited, processing capacity is underutilised, and uncertainty around regulations continues to affect confidence.

Councillors expressed particular concern at suggestions that maintaining the ***"status quo" presents no risk***. On the contrary, the consensus was that prolonged inaction is actively harming the industry.

"Across key sectors, we are seeing plans without delivery, reviews without resolution, and strategies without urgency. The status quo is no longer neutral—it is holding St Helena back."

This sentiment, reflective of Select Committee 1's collective view, underscores the urgency felt by those tasked with oversight.

Health and Social Care: Progress Against the Odds

In contrast to the challenges facing agriculture and fisheries, the Health and Social Care portfolio provided a more positive narrative.

Councillors described the session as open, informative, and grounded in practical delivery. Unlike other sectors, this portfolio is operating in real time - delivering services daily while simultaneously adapting and improving.

Notable progress includes:

- Expansion of specialist services, including oncology and diabetes care
- Procurement of essential equipment, including new incubators
- Increased specialist visiting programmes
- Improvements in community care facilities and bed capacity
- Ongoing staff training and local leadership development

However, these achievements are not without constraint. The portfolio continues to face:

- Chronic staff shortages
- Limited physical space
- Financial constraints
- Increasing demand driven by an ageing population

Despite these pressures, the team has demonstrated adaptability - trialling new approaches, collaborating with external partners, and prioritising patient outcomes.

A key takeaway from the session was a shift towards prevention-led healthcare, with a focus on education, early intervention, and addressing non-communicable diseases among younger residents.

As highlighted during the programme: ***"Prevention will always trump any intervention."***

This philosophy reflects a long-term approach to sustainability within the health system - one that seeks to reduce pressure on services while improving overall wellbeing.

A Wider Reflection: Progress vs. Process

Taken as a whole, this week's Island Pulse exposed a broader systemic issue - an imbalance between planning and implementation.

Across multiple sectors, common themes emerged:

- Heavy reliance on reviews and policy development
- Delays in legislative processes
- Resource and capacity constraints
- Lack of clear timelines and accountability
- Fragmented communication and silo working

While strategy and consultation are essential components of governance, the discussion highlighted a growing concern that process is beginning to outweigh progress.

For many listening, the question is no longer whether the right plans exist - but whether they are being executed with the urgency required.

Community Spirit: The Big 4 Walk

Amid the scrutiny and serious discussion, the programme concluded on a more uplifting note with the promotion of the upcoming Big 4 Walk on 19 April.

Organised in support of the Island Minds Foundation, the event aims to raise awareness and funds for mental health support across St Helena and beyond. With participation from Ascension, the Falklands, and the UK, the initiative reflects a shared commitment to addressing mental health challenges and reducing stigma.

Featuring multiple walking routes, family-friendly activities, and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder of the island's enduring strength - its people.

Final Thoughts

This week's *Island Pulse* delivered a clear message: scrutiny is working, but progress must follow.

The discussions were candid, evidence-based, and reflective of genuine concern for the island's future. While some sectors are demonstrating resilience and adaptability, others remain constrained by delay and indecision.

For St Helena to realise its strategic ambitions, the gap between intent and action must narrow - and quickly.

The public, as always, has a critical role to play. Engagement, awareness, and accountability are essential in ensuring that the island's development is not only planned but delivered.

As the next round of hearings approach, one thing is certain: the spotlight on progress is only getting brighter.

HGV PLANT MECHANIC WANTED

PJ'S PLANT HIRE

Join a leading team! We are looking for a skilled **HGV Plant Mechanic** to handle general truck and excavator maintenance and repairs.

The Ideal Candidate:

- Proven experience with HGV and plant machinery.
- Proficiency in welding and electrical systems.
- Ability to use modern diagnostic tools.

What We Offer:

- **Competitive Rates of Pay.**
- **Travel Covered:** Outbound and return flights provided (return flight upon contract completion).
- **Housing:** Accommodation available to rent for the successful applicant.

Apply Today: Contact **Kevin Thomas** via email:
kevinbonzo1958@gmail.com
or Pjmckay60@gmail.com

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- → **Training and Development**
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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.

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

Sea Rescue Crew (Auxiliary)

(£6.38 per hour) 18 years + and must be able to swim and pass a fitness test. The successful applicant will receive a monthly retainer of £70 on completion of basic training.

Are you passionate about protecting lives at sea and helping our island community thrive? The St Helena Sea Rescue Service is seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team. If you have the ability to stay calm under extreme physical and mental pressure, this could be the opportunity for you.

It's a hands-on, immersive day that could be the start of your journey with us. Why not give it a try—you might discover this is the role you've been waiting for.

Ongoing Training

Our crew trains every Wednesday afternoon, giving you the chance to build skills, gain confidence, and become part of a dedicated team committed to saving lives at sea.

We invite you to contact us for more information and to discuss these exciting roles

Enquiries: **Leeroy Caswell or Mark Caswell on Tel no. 25215 or**
Email: **leeroy.caswell@helanta.co.sh**
Email: **mark.caswell@helanta.co.sh**

Closing date: **15 April 2026**
Swim Test: **21 April 2026**
Shortlisting date: **24 April 2026**
Interview date: **01 May 2026**

Maintenance & Supplies Supervisor

(£11,604 per annum)

The Community Care Centre is seeking to appoint a Maintenance & Supplies Supervisor to join its small and dynamic team. The individual will be responsible for supervising Handymen/Drivers, including the daily allocation of work schedules, overseeing cleaning and general maintenance activities, and reporting any vehicle repairs to the Transport Section. The post holder will also be required to carry out maintenance tasks and minor repairs across all Social Care premises, as requested. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: Tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **20 April 2026**
Shortlisting date: **23 April 2026**
Interview date: **Wk. commencing 11 May 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.

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

Maritime Officer

(£11,554 per annum)

The Maritime Officer is a supporting role to the Maritime Authority.

The Maritime Officer will provide administrative and operational support to the development and remit of the Maritime Authority and assist with the design and implementation of the required systems and processes when needed. This will include providing direct assistance to all relevant SHG Officers involved in achieving, implementing and maintaining maritime compliance as necessary.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mia Henry on Tel No. 25970 or Email: mia.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 15 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 17 April 2026
Interview date: 23 April 2026

Health & Safety Officer

(£13,569 per annum)

The Health & Safety Officer will enhance the well-being of everyone in our community and support the prosperity of the island, collaborating with Emergency Planning, while implementing and ensuring adherence to SHG health and safety (OHS) regulations. The main responsibility will involve providing guidance on strategies to reduce mitigate hazards and uphold a safe and secure working environment throughout SHG, in compliance with legal safety requirements and fostering a culture that prioritizes security and safety. this is a perfect opportunity for someone starting out in their career to build knowledge of SHG and progress into management and leadership positions in the future.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Anel O'Bey on Tel No. 25052 or Email: anel.obey@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 15 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 17 April 2026
Interview date: 23 April 2026

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Claims Officer
(£13,569 per annum)

Do you have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to apply objective judgement? Here is an opportunity for you to join the team at the Claims Office. In this role you will carry out the duties of the Adjudication Officer, as provided for in the Social Security Ordinance, through the interview and assessment of Income Related Benefit and Basic Island Pension applicants. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Gail Beard on Tel No. 22605 or Email: gail.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 17 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 22 April 2026
Interview date: 30 April 2026

Social Care Officer
(£13,569 per annum)

Are you interested in joining a small, dynamic team? If so, Social Care is offering an opportunity to become a Social Care Officer. In this important role, you will work directly with children and families, building meaningful relationships and contributing to the delivery of family and parenting support programmes. You will also support Social Workers with assessments by gathering information, carrying out direct work and delegated tasks, and contributing to observations. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Amy Martin on Tel No. 23312 or Email: amy.martin@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 April 2026
Interview date: 04 May 2026

Cook (Community Care Centre)
(£10,088 per annum)

The Community Care Centre is seeking to recruit a Cook with the ability to prepare high-quality, nutritious, and well-presented meals and baked goods for large numbers of people. The individual will be responsible for providing meals to residents, including hospital patients and other Health & Social Care services. The role requires strict adherence to safe catering practices, alongside maintaining a clean, organised, and hygienic kitchen environment. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: Tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 17 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 22 April 2026
Interview date: Wk. commencing 11 May 2026

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

Care Assistants – Social Care
(£10,213 per annum)

Social Care is seeking to recruit Care Assistants to support the delivery of high standards of care and promote the well-being of clients across Ebony View, the Community Care Centre, and Sheltered Accommodation. In this post, the individuals will be responsible for assisting with all aspects of client care, including personal hygiene, toileting needs, and mobilisation. They will be required to ensure that clients' privacy, dignity, and respect are maintained at all times.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Latoya Thomas on Tel No. 23151 or Email: latoya.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh
Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: **17 April 2026**
Shortlisting date: **22 April 2026**
Interview date: **Wk. commencing 4 May 2026**

Assistant PAYE Officer
(£10,088 per annum)

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Pamela Joshua on Tel No. 25880 or Email: pamela.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **17 April 2026**
Shortlisting date: **22 April 2026**
Interview date: **06 May 2026**

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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.

Senior Care Assistants - Social Care
(£11,935 per annum)

Social Care is seeking to recruit Senior Care Assistants to work across the areas of Ebony View, the Community Care Centre, and Sheltered Accommodation. The successful candidates will be responsible for delivering care and promoting the well-being of service users in accordance with individual Care Plans, as well as established unit procedures and guidelines. Applicants should possess strong interpersonal skills and have experience of working with challenging behaviour within a care setting.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Latoya Thomas on Tel No. 23151 or Email: latoya.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh
Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh
Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 21 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 24 April 2026
Interview date: Wk. commencing 4 May 2026

Senior HR Assistant
(£11,604 per annum)

Here is a great opportunity to start your career in HR! Central Human Resources is seeking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our HR Transactional team. In this post, you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high-quality HR service. Keys areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sharnell Benjamin on Tel No. 22470 or Email: Sharnell.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 22 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 24 April 2026
Interview date: 01 May 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.

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FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

SAFETY SECURITY & HOME AFFAIRS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Ladder Hill Road Closure

The Roads Section will be carrying out work to complete finishing touches on Ladder Hill Road. To do this safely, the road will need to be closed for short periods on Sunday, 12 April 2026.

Ladder Hill Road will be:

- Closed from 06:00 – 08:30
- Open from 08:30 – 09:00
- Closed again from 09:00 to approximately 13:00.

The Roads Section advises those travelling into town to plan their journeys accordingly.

The public are thanked for their patience and understanding.

SHG, 02 April 2026

St Helena Government

PRESS RELEASE

Minimum Wage to Increase from 01 July 2026

Executive Council approved an uplift to the minimum wage at their meeting of 24 March 2026.

This change will take effect from **01 July 2026**, and will raise the minimum wage as follows:

- for persons **aged 18 yrs and over:** from **£4.50** to **£4.85 per hour**
- for persons **aged 16 or 17 yrs**: from £**3.55** to **£3.83 per hour**

The approval of this increase supports the objective of establishing a more ambitious minimum wage which benefits workers while providing adequate time for businesses to plan and adapt.

In determining the increase, consideration was given to current cost of living pressures on both employees and employers. It was noted that a balance must be struck; the Minimum Wage Policy recognises there are limits to what businesses can absorb in a single year, while also acknowledging the need to continue raising minimum income levels on St Helena to help encourage residents to remain in employment on-island.

This year's increase follows consultations with employers, employees, and other relevant stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception in 2013, the minimum wage has risen:

- for persons **aged 18 yrs and over**: from **£2.30** to **£4.85**
- for persons **aged 16 or 17 yrs**: from **£1.45** to **£3.83**

#StHelena #ExCo #MinimumWage *www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/*

SHG, 26 March 2026



How it works.
The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 10th April at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.
Request how many numbers you would like, and a number/s will be allocated to you. DO NOT ask for specific numbers.
If you do not have Facebook then ask a friend or family member to request a number for you.
Lisa Bailey will be taking calls on 25639 from 7pm on Friday 10th if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.
We politely ask not to call before this time.
All numbers must be paid for at the bank - BOSH Account - St Helena Medical Support Fund 02146002
Payments to be made by 28th April Draw will be on the 1st May. Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.



NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 12th April
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 14th April: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 15th April: Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 16th April: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Adventure Kids – Age 4 – 11 yrs old
Saturday, 11th April: Baptist School Hall, 10-11.30am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 15th April: Baptist School Hall, 10.30am

Gospel Outreach Service
Sunday, 19th April: Blue Hill Community Centre, 3pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 12th April 2026 - 1st Sunday after Easter		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
5.00 p.m.	**Choral Evensong with Admission of Church Officers**	**Cathedral**
	Tuesday 14TH April	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**Sandy Bay Community Centre**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 12 April 2026 – 1st Sunday after Easter		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 16th April	
7.00 p.m.	**Eucharist with Admission of Church Officers**	**St John**
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 12th April 2026 – 1st Sunday after Easter		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 14th April	
7.00 p.m.	**Eucharist with Admission of Church Officers**	**St Mark**



ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

Games will be played over a five-week period – each week a different set of numbers will be published

This week the "lilac" bingo sheet will be used

Numbers to be read across, from left to right. Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner.

Claims to be made to Karen Henry
on 23401 by Saturday 11 April at 6 pm.

Prize - £20 per week

49	8	72	81	29	35	16	64	58	79
28	75	13	59	47	68	33	85	40	2
67	84	71	14	66	5	57	27	31	87
19	78	34	63	48	21	77	56	90	51
80	54	41	36	55	86	10	7	24	62
22	60	44	74	52	11	4	37	30	82
32	73	45	20	89	15	88	26	53	65

St Helena Government

PRESS RELEASE

St Helena Resilience Forum Meet to Monitor Essential Supplies

The St Helena Resilience Forum (SHRF) met on Monday, 30 March, to assess the potential impacts of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on the island. Stakeholders gathered to evaluate risks to the local supply of essential commodities and services, including fuel, food, medicines and building materials.

Following the delivery of fuel this week, the SHRF are reassured that St Helena has sufficient fuel supplies to last until at least August 2026 based on current usage.

The SHRF continues to monitor global events and developments closely and stands ready to implement any measures necessary to maintain steady supply chains and safeguard the island's resilience.

While the SHRF is actively managing risks, the public can also play a positive role. By making sensible efficiencies where possible, such as reducing unnecessary fuel usage, minimising waste and supporting local products and services, everyone can contribute to strengthening on-island resilience.

Travellers undertaking holidays abroad, work trips or other journeys are advised that delays, cancellations and wider travel disruption may occur. Those transiting through the Middle East should check with their travel providers for the latest information and ensure they have appropriate travel insurance in place.

St Helena Government thanks the community for its continued cooperation and encourages the public to stay informed through official updates.

#StHelena #ResilienceForum #EssentialSupplies

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt

SHG
01 April 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Rigger

Rate of pay will be £5.50 per hour.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Rigger to join the Company's Stevedore Team.

The successful applicant will be responsible for preparing, identifying and selecting the correct lifting accessories, attaching and detaching lifting equipment to cargo ensuring all loads are secure and balanced for safe lifting and transportation.

This position will primarily be based ship-side.

Working hours will be according to ship and cargo operations, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent communication skills (including signalling and radio communications).
- Have a good level of physical fitness with the ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks.
- Have excellent eye hand coordination and the ability to work at heights.
- Possess an excellent level of vigilance and attention to detail.
- Be able to work effectively in a fast-paced and dynamic team environment while remaining safety-conscious and adhering to Health and Safety and Port compliance at all times.
- Be able to work in varying weather conditions with the flexibility to work outside of normal hours as and when required.
- Be available to undertake the necessary training to develop skills further ensuring competency in the role.

For further information contact:

Mario Coleman, Marine & Cargo Operations Manager via 22030 mario.coleman@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 Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **16 April 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Security Officers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Have the ability to multitask and work with a high degree of accuracy in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- Be committed to continuous learning and development

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@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 Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 16 April 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Skilled Operators

Rate of pay will be £7.02 per hour.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Skilled Operators to join the Company's Stevedore Team.

The successful applicants will be responsible for operating heavy equipment, including facilitation of the loading and offloading of shipping containers and cargo from sea vessels and transporting containers and cargo to specified lay down areas.

The positions will include working within ship side or shore side operations.

Working hours will be according to ship and cargo operations, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers' licence in classes H3, J1, J3 & J4, with a minimum of two years' experience
- Have strong technical skills
- Have excellent hand-eye coordination and the ability to work at heights
- Have the ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions ensuring operations remain safe
- Demonstrate attention to detail with an excellent level of vigilance within the work environment
- Possess strong communication skills
- Have a good level of physical fitness with the ability to undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with a high regard for Health & Safety and Port Compliance
- Be able to work in varying weather conditions

For further information contact:

Mario Coleman, Marine & Cargo Operations Manager via 22030 mario.coleman@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 Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **16 April 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be in possession of a clean & valid Drivers' Licence ideally in class D
- Be committed to delivering an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake repetitive Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment to meet tight deadlines
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment and remain calm in high pressure situations

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@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 Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 16 April 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

SPORTS ARENA

Golf Update

SHCG, Contributed

There was no official golf competition at St Helena Golf Club on Sunday, 5 April, as the Easter celebrations meant we didn't quite have the numbers to tee it up competitively. That said, the course still enjoyed a relaxed Easter atmosphere, with a few social rounds played and plenty of good cheer around the clubhouse.

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for this coming Sunday, 12th April, when the club will host the Annual Captain's Challenge Cup, proudly sponsored by the Club Captain. The event promises a great day of golf, friendly rivalry, and generous rewards.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, along with special competitions for Nearest to the Pin and Longest Drive for ladies and gents, so there will be plenty to play for all round.

Registration is ongoing, and members and visitors are encouraged to sign up early. Registration closes on Saturday, 11 April, at 3pm. The club looks forward to a strong turnout and another memorable Sunday on the fairways. See you on the tee! Happy swinging!



It's time for The Premier League Run In!

These are the moments that define a season. Success or failure is within touching distance. Glory or agony is so close you can taste it. Will Arsenal win the title? Who will qualify in an absorbing race for Europe? Who will avoid relegation? Which players will write their names into history? What happens in the final seven Matchweeks will decide the fate of the 2025/26 Premier League campaign.

West Ham	Fri, 10 Apr 19:00	Arsenal	Sat, 11 Apr 11:30
Wolves		Bournemouth	
Brentford	Sat, 11 Apr 14:00	Burnley	Sat, 11 Apr 14:00
Everton		Brighton	
Liverpool	Sat, 11 Apr 16:30	Crystal Palace	Sun, 12 Apr 13:00
Fulham		Newcastle	
Sunderland	Sun, 12 Apr 13:00	Nottm Forest	Sun, 12 Apr 13:00
Tottenham		Aston Villa	
Chelsea	Sun, 12 Apr 15:30	Man United	Mon, 13 Apr 19:00
Man City		Leeds	

1	Arsenal	31	70	11	Sunderland	31	43
2	Man City	30	61	12	Newcastle	31	42
3	Man Utd	31	55	13	Bournemouth	31	42
4	Aston Villa	31	54	14	Crystal Palace	30	39
5	Liverpool	31	49	15	Leeds	31	33
6	Chelsea	31	48	16	Nott'm Forest	31	32
7	Brentford	31	46	17	Spurs	31	30
8	Everton	31	46	18	West Ham	31	29
9	Fulham	31	44	19	Burnley	31	20
10	Brighton	31	43	20	Wolves	31	17