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Three Options on the Table





SHG outline next steps for Primary School Reorganisation, announcing three options identified to continue the building element of the project, with public consultation set to finalise options for EDIP Steering Committee



"A positive step toward our long-term energy goals"

Strong market response boosts plans for Rifle Range Solar Farm expansion



Fresh EDIP funding secured for major new phase of Island road resurfacing

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

With the festive season looming, it is always difficult to get excited when your family is far away and you know that you won't be able to spend this special time with them. I am, however, grateful for what I like to think of as my "chosen family"—friends who are as close as relatives and who fill the empty spaces at the table.

In our household, this time of year is known as the "silly season." This is when everyone tries to cram as much as possible into their schedules. It is as if the fast-approaching end of the year triggers a primal response to finish off projects we have been putting off since January, or to finally invite over people we have been meaning to get together with forever! To Deon's great chagrin, I am just as guilty of this craziness as the next person.

On St Helena, this time of year brings a period of cleaning house and getting everything in order—just perfect ahead of the Christmas celebrations. The island feels permeated by a sense of purpose and a general air of excitement, with the sunny, warmer weather definitely contributing to the prevailing positivity.

I think this is one of the reasons (apart from escaping the miserable weather in the Northern Hemisphere) that Saints living abroad love to visit the island at this time of year. As the island fills up with visiting family, friends, and tourists, we are all getting ready for the exciting events and activities coming up in December.

My advice is to try not to get too caught up in the hustle and bustle of the coming weeks. Spend some quality time with loved ones, get outside, and bask in the lovely weather. Before we blink, 2027 will be upon us!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ST HELENA GOVERNMENT

Actions Speak Louder Than Words – Giving Qualified Saints a Fair Opportunity

The St Helena Government (SHG) frequently speaks about its commitment to encouraging Saints living overseas to return home and contribute to the future of our island. However, I question how genuine this commitment is when the actions of government departments appear to contradict these promises.

A recent recruitment exercise for a Biomedical Scientist within the Health and Social Care Portfolio raises some serious concerns.

A St Helenian applicant, who is fully qualified, meets the requirements of the advertised position and has, in fact, been performing the role for the past two years, was not even afforded an interview.

Why? Is being a Saint somehow a disadvantage when applying for a professional position within our own island's public service?

Unfortunately, this is not the first time such a situation has occurred.

During my time as Laboratory Manager, I recognised the importance of succession planning and took steps to ensure that qualified local staff would be given the opportunity to progress into positions currently occupied by expatriate contract officers.

When I retired, I had a succession plan in place which would have allowed our local workforce to develop, progress and take on greater responsibilities within the Pathology Department.

There were three qualified Saints working in the department who possess the necessary skills and experience. Yet one individual encountered a similar situation and has since left the department, and is now employed by an off-shore employer who values their skills and experience.

This is extremely disappointing, particularly when we continually hear about the need to encourage Saints overseas to return home and the importance of developing local skills and expertise.

How can SHG expect Saints living overseas to have confidence in returning home when qualified Saints already working here appear to be overlooked for opportunities?

This is not simply about one individual or one recruitment exercise. It is about fairness, equality of opportunity, recognising local talent and demonstrating that our people are valued.

If St Helena is serious about reducing its reliance on expatriate contract officers, then surely the logical starting point is to invest in, develop and promote qualified local people.

I would therefore ask SHG to consider the following:

- Are qualified Saints being given genuine and equal opportunities during recruitment?
- Is succession planning being taken seriously across government departments?
- Why are experienced local employees not being encouraged to progress into positions for which they are qualified?
- What confidence can Saints overseas have in returning home if those already here are not being given opportunities?

Saints should not feel disadvantaged when applying for positions on their own island. They deserve to be recognised, respected and given a fair opportunity based on their qualifications, experience and abilities.

I hope SHG will reflect seriously on these concerns and examine whether its recruitment practices genuinely support its stated commitment to developing local talent.

We cannot continue to talk about encouraging Saints home while failing to demonstrate that commitment through our actions.

If we genuinely want Saints to return home and contribute to St Helena's future, then we must first show that they are valued.

Words are easy. Meaningful action is what matters.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Benjamin
Former Laboratory Manager

"A positive step toward our long-term energy goals"



Strong market response boosts plans for Rifle Range Solar Farm expansion

The Rifle Range Solar Farm in Half Tree Hollow, set for a major expansion following strong market interest in Connect Saint Helena's EOI process

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena's transition toward a greener, more sustainable energy future has taken a significant step forward, with Connect Saint Helena Ltd confirming strong market interest in plans to expand the Rifle Range Solar Farm.

Connect recently announced a positive response to its Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the Renewable Energy Phase 1 expansion project, which officially closed on 23 October. According to utility officials, the level of response received from experienced renewable energy and infrastructure organisations marks an encouraging milestone for the island's energy strategy.

The proposed expansion forms a cornerstone of Connect's wider strategy to increase locally generated renewable energy, reduce the island's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, and enhance long-term energy security for the community.

The existing solar installation at the former Rifle Range site in Half Tree Hollow was first commissioned in April 2015 with an initial capacity of 500 kilowatt-peak (kWp). Under Connect's updated Energy Delivery Plan, Phase 1 represents a major scaling up of operations, targeting 1.9 megawatt-peak (MWp) or more of solar power generation, paired with a substantial 8 megawatt-hour (MWh) battery storage system to stabilise output and manage peak demand.

The momentum behind the solar farm expansion directly dovetails with recent policy milestones at the government level. On 27 October, Executive Council formally approved a revised phased delivery model for St Helena's renewable energy targets. Under the newly backed framework, the island aims to achieve 32% renewable energy generation by 2028/29, scaling up to 63% by 2030/31, and reaching an ambitious 80% renewable generation target by 2032/33.

Speaking on the strong response to the EOI process, Connect's Interim Chief Executive Officer, Phanual Shangwa, emphasised the broader significance of the project for St Helena's economic and environmental landscape.

"We are very encouraged by the level of interest shown in this important project," he said. "The response reflects the opportunities for renewable energy development on St Helena and is a positive step towards achieving our long-term energy goals."

"Expanding renewable energy generation is important for the island's future," he continued. "It will help reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels, strengthen energy security and support a cleaner, more sustainable energy supply for Saint Helena."

With the EOI window now closed, Connect will undertake a detailed technical and financial evaluation of all submissions received in line with established procurement procedures. Organisations that successfully meet the rigorous assessment criteria will be invited to participate in the subsequent stages of the procurement process.

While several procedural phases remain before physical delivery begins, utility leadership notes that the robust market response demonstrates significant confidence in St Helena's renewable sector capability. Connect has confirmed it will continue to provide public updates as the project progresses through the procurement pipeline.

Grilled Over Education



Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, answered questions during Minister's Question Time in the Council Chamber

Minister Turner pressed on COBIS Compliance, Vocational Training, and Staff Wages during November MQT

Liam Yon, SAMS

Members of the Legislative Council assembled in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 3 November, for the thirteenth sitting of Minister's Question Time (MQT). Opening proceedings, the Speaker announced apologies for Minister Karl Thrower, who was off-island representing St Helena at the Green Overseas Conference in Paris and the COP31 climate change meetings in Turkey. The Speaker also addressed an accidental microphone remark from the previous sitting, before setting a firm tone regarding parliamentary procedure; reminding members that Standing Orders prohibit statements or opinions during questioning, and that inquiries must remain concise, direct, and strictly framed to seek information.

With the session dedicated entirely to the portfolio topic of the Education Review Report (March 2025), Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, faced an intense, rigorous gauntlet of seven primary inquiries from non-executive members. Debates spanned vocational training pathways, Council of British International Schools (COBIS) accreditation standards, school site safeguarding, post-compulsory education reviews, teacher qualifications, and wage competitiveness.

Councillor Derek Thomas opened the substantive questioning by asking what action is being taken to ensure the curriculum provides appropriate opportunities for vocational training in both secondary school and post-16 education.

Minister Turner acknowledged that vocational training is "key for the development of the island," noting that while St Helena Secondary School offers core courses like mechanics and carpentry, the curriculum must evolve to align with emerging sectors like renewable energy and digital technologies.

When Cllr Thomas pressed whether trade-specific training for plumbers, electricians, and masons involved direct private sector engagement, Minister Turner admitted that vocational learning cannot rely solely on textbooks and that the portfolio wants to reach out to industry experts. Asked when formal outreach would occur, the Minister quipped, "I suppose if I was being facetious, I could say I just did," before pointing to the Chamber of Commerce as a key partner for developing robust apprenticeship placements.

The exchange turned pointed when Cllr Thomas questioned whether financial provision is made to compensate private businesses for the time, tools, and equipment expended on training apprentices. Minister Turner responded that businesses do not receive direct payments for taking apprentices, but benefit from labour support while training the island's future workforce. "Education is not just provided by one department, it is something provided by the community, the business community, the local community as a whole," he asserted, adding that systemic funding structures are being evaluated under the wider post-16 review.

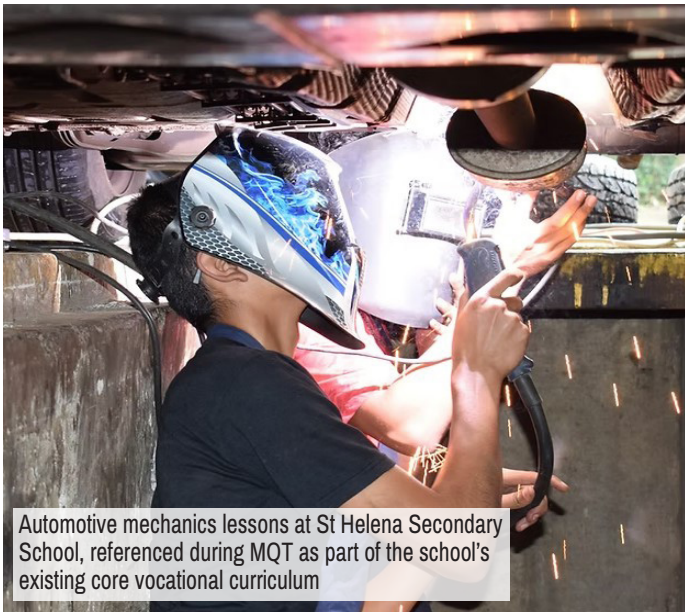
Councillor Robert Midwinter then asked what progress has been achieved toward COBIS Standard 10, covering extracurricular enrichment, engagement, and accessibility.

Minister Turner expressed a sense of déjà vu, noting that COBIS framework implementation follows a strict hierarchy. "COBIS focus on standards one to five first... because those standards are the compliance standards. They relate to the key safety and governance requirements," the Minister explained. He revealed that a COBIS delegation had just completed an on-island assessment of St Helena Secondary School the previous Saturday, and that the portfolio was awaiting their formal report.

When Cllr Midwinter asked how the government will ensure extracurricular activities remain accessible to children from lower-income families, Minister Turner agreed with the principle, noting that school instruments and resources are already provided to reduce financial burdens. Pressing further on financial planning, Cllr Midwinter asked how



Practical carpentry lessons at St Helena Secondary School; discussions during MQT highlighted the need for core vocational offerings to evolve alongside emerging industry needs



Automotive mechanics lessons at St Helena Secondary School, referenced during MQT as part of the school's existing core vocational curriculum

the portfolio budgets for standards beyond the immediate horizon without knowing the exact timeline. The Minister clarified that COBIS development is backed by external buy-out funding rather than the recurrent budget, with detailed business cases to follow once official audit reports are received.

Next up, Cllr Julie Thomas turned attention to school site security, asking how the September 2026 infrastructure pause and building delays affect immediate safeguarding obligations and the timeline for full COBIS compliance by 2030/31, given the review's mandate to secure boundaries to international standards.

Minister Turner outlined that investigatory work has already yielded visible results at St Helena Secondary School, including upgraded external fencing and a controllable reception area to minimize risks from unauthorised visitors. Regarding primary schools, the Minister noted they operate under different physical layouts with existing perimeter fencing, though upgraded locks and gate equipment are being sourced for Key Stage 2 sites.

The line of questioning sparked procedural friction. When Cllr Thomas asked for assurances that the infrastructure halt would not dilute broader safeguarding obligations under COBIS Standards 1 through 3, Minister Turner maintained that the building pause does not represent a watering down of standards. "We have to meet those standards 1 through 5. They are a matter of compliance, they are not a matter of almost there or that'll do," he stated.



Security fencing installed at St Helena Secondary School as part of infrastructure enhancements aimed at meeting COBIS compliance standards

When Cllr Thomas urged the Minister to approach the steering committee to reallocate pause funds toward immediate high-risk primary site safeguarding, Minister Turner playfully countered, "If I was feeling cheeky I could possibly remind the Member that the topic is the Education Review Report not wider safeguarding," though he confirmed the steering committee was meeting that Friday to review primary refit votes. This prompted Cllr Thomas to rise on a point of information, defending her line of inquiry. "I just want to make it very clear I'm not straying away from the question," she fired back. "All of my questions have been around safeguarding [under COBIS]."

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex then requested an update on the review of post-compulsory education and planned next steps.

Minister Turner reported that terms of reference have been agreed and the portfolio is actively seeking a suitable external organisation to conduct the review. In the interim, stakeholder engagement with parents, learners, and employers is commencing.

Prompted by Cllr Essex to outline the review's scope, the Minister detailed that the wide-ranging framework covers the sixth form, the graduate scheme, St Helena Community College, the research institute, careers advice, inclusion and additional educational needs (AEN), labour market alignment, and strategies to address outward migration.

Cllr Ronald Coleman was next up, where he questioned whether refurbishing Harford and St Paul's Primary Schools—proposed as the most affordable option under the 2024 reorganisation—represented good value for children's education, and asked what went wrong so soon after project commencement.

Minister Turner challenged the premise, pointing out that the March 2025 Education Review Report did not evaluate building refits directly, but rather addressed the pedagogical challenges of small, vertical mixed-age classes. The Minister argued that the consolidation into Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 models has already begun realising educational advantages through resource sharing and teaching consistency, despite logistical transport hurdles.

When Cllr Coleman asked about activities displaced from the Community College during interim arrangements, the Minister reiterated that the review document focused on educational standards rather than specific building methodologies.

Councillor Denis Leo then highlighted findings that 50% of primary and 62% of secondary teachers were qualified below Level 4, requesting an update on initial teacher training pathways and specific measures taken since the July 2026 budget to improve local wages and stem shortages.

Minister Turner offered an encouraging breakdown of professional development gains, revealing that a strong majority of teaching staff now hold formal qualifications: 69% are at Level 4 or higher (44% at Level 4, 13% at Level 5, 10% with PGCE/iPGCE, and 2% with Bachelor of Education degrees), while 10% hold historic QTS and another 10% are actively studying. Only 11% currently hold no accredited teaching certificate.

Despite professional growth, Minister Turner candidly confronted the island's wage crisis. "A recent round of statistics published by the Statistics Department showed education is the second lowest paid profession on the island, which is something I think we all need to seriously take a look at ourselves for," he said.

The Minister warned that, as St Helena trains local educators to COBIS standards, those internationally recognised qualifications could make them vulnerable to recruitment by better-funded overseas COBIS schools if local salaries remain uncompetitive. Addressing central human resource



St Helena Secondary School teaching staff; figures presented during MQT show 69% of local educators now hold qualifications at Level 4 or higher

structures, Minister Turner noted a disconnect between generic corporate HR salary assessments and the specialised demands of the education sector.

In supplementary exchanges with Cllr Essex and Cllr Julie Thomas, Minister Turner confirmed that professional development includes UK exposure visits and mentoring by former executive headteacher, Helen Connor, while plans for a comprehensive teacher apprenticeship program are underway.

Finally, Councillor Clint Beard concluded the session by asking for an update on facilities upgrades and costs allocated for COBIS Standard 3 across the next three financial years.

Minister Turner summarised that £3.5 million has been allocated under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) for school facilities, highlighted by external fencing and reception security enhancements at St Helena Secondary School.

When Cllr Beard pressed for a granular breakdown of costs tied specifically to Standard 3 over the triennium, a brief procedural back-and-forth ensued regarding the scope of the question versus historical budget lines. The Minister maintained that primary school reorganisation and secondary COBIS compliance operate under distinct workstreams, assuring members that facilities priorities will continue to focus heavily on safety, safeguarding, and accessibility for students with additional educational needs (AEN).

Maiden Visit Cut Short

CMO refuses disembarkation for visiting cruise ship following onboard case of Influenza A

Liam Yon, SAMS

The much-anticipated maiden visit of the luxury expedition vessel, Hanseatic Spirit, took an unexpected turn over the weekend, after passengers were refused permission to disembark following a confirmed case of Influenza A onboard.

The vessel, carrying 154 passengers and 167 crew, arrived off St Helena on Saturday morning for what was scheduled to be a landmark overnight stay. However, due to the diagnosis of Influenza A and the associated risk of further asymptomatic cases, St Helena's Chief Medical Officer made the decisive ruling to refuse disembarkation in accordance with local public health legislation.

While the restriction brought obvious disappointment for passengers, as well as local tourism providers and entrepreneurs hoping to welcome visitors to the island, the decision has received an overwhelming wave of support from the community.

Drawing on memories of health scares earlier in the year—such as the MV Hondius hantavirus incident—social media comments reflected widespread agreement among residents, praising the CMO for taking zero chances when it comes to protecting the island's health and vulnerable populations. Many residents noted that while tourism revenue is vital, safeguarding the community against new strains—particularly for the elderly and vulnerable who lack exposure to wider global pathogens—remains the absolute priority.

Although passengers were unable to step ashore, reports indicated that the captain arranged zodiac boats to give guests a closer look at St Helena's coastline. The vessel subsequently continued its onward voyage, which tracking data on Marine Traffic indicated would bypass its initial plan to visit Ascension Island, heading straight for Walvis Bay instead.

It is hoped that the Hanseatic Spirit will be able to return to St Helena in the future, giving passengers and crew a proper opportunity to experience the island fully, rather than from afar.



On The Road Again

Fresh EDIP funding secured for major new phase of Island road resurfacing



Members of the SHG Roads Team, who will be executing the six-phase resurfacing schedule across the island

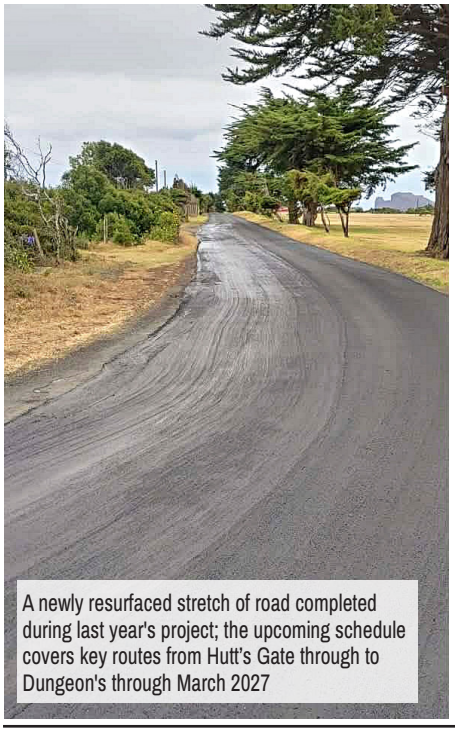


The SHG Roads Section carrying out resurfacing works during last financial year's project; fresh EDIP funding will see a new six-phase resurfacing campaign launch later this month.

Liam Yon, SAMS

Drivers and road users across St Helena can look forward to smoother journeys and improved transport infrastructure soon, with funding officially secured for a major new phase of island-wide road resurfacing.

The St Helena Government's Roads Section has confirmed that financial backing through the UK-funded Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) will enable the team to build directly on the success of last financial year's extensive resurfacing works. Preparatory works are already underway, with the comprehensive project set to roll out across six distinct phases starting later this month.



A newly resurfaced stretch of road completed during last year's project; the upcoming schedule covers key routes from Hutt's Gate through to Dungeon's through March 2027

The upcoming schedule covers critical stretches of the island's road network, carefully structured to manage traffic flow while works are carried out. The project kicks off later this month with Phase 1, running from Hutt's Gate to Halley's Mount between 17 and 19 November. Operations then move to Phase 2 from 23 November to 15 December, covering the stretch from W-Road to Lemon Tree Gut.

Following the holiday pause, work resumes in the new year with Phase 3 from 6 to 21 January 2027, taking the resurfacing crew from Lemon Tree Gut down to Dungeon's. Phase 4 will target the section from Grapevine Gut to Halley's Mount between 25 January and 19 February 2027. The team will then turn their attention to Levelwood Road for Phase 5 from 22 to 26 February 2027, before concluding the extensive project with Phase 6 from Grapevine Gut to Dungeon's, running from 1 through to 30 March 2027.

To ensure that the resurfacing can be completed safely and efficiently, the Highways Authority has approved a tailored combination of daytime restrictions and continuous closures depending on the specific phase.

For Phases 1, 2, 3, and 5, works will be managed via daytime road closures operating daily from 9am to 3pm—including Saturdays. Meanwhile, Phases 4 and 6 will require continuous 24-hour road closures until each respective section is fully completed.

Roads Manager, Deon Robbertse, expressed his delight at securing the new funding, highlighting how vital external support is for maintaining and upgrading the island's infrastructure. "This continued investment allows us to make substantial and lasting improvements to our primary road network beyond what our standard recurrent budgets can achieve," Deon noted, emphasising the long-term benefits for safety and transport reliability.

Motorists are strongly advised to keep a close eye out for local traffic management notices, follow posted diversion signs, and plan their journeys accordingly during the closure windows. The St Helena Government has extended its thanks to the public in advance for their patience and cooperation as these critical infrastructure improvements get underway.



Roads Manager Deon Robbertse welcomed the new EDIP funding, noting it allows for substantial, lasting upgrades across the primary road network

What Happened in ExCo?



Approval of new Green Energy Targets, Tax Exemptions, and Planning Updates

Executive Council has approved a new phased framework targeting 80% renewable electricity generation by 2032-33

Liam Yon, SAMS

The Executive Council met on Tuesday, 27 October, tackling a comprehensive range of policy updates, tax amendments, land decisions, and planning regulations.

A major focus of the meeting was an amendment to St Helena's Renewable Energy Policy 2023. Ministers Karl Thrower and Martin Henry both declared an interest before ExCo formally approved recommendations to shift the island's electricity generation goal to a phased delivery model. Under the new targets, St Helena aims to achieve 32% renewable energy generation by 2028/29 under Phase 1, scaling up to 63% by 2030/31 for Phase 2, and reaching 80% renewable generation by 2032/33 for Phase 3.

In financial and social policy matters, ExCo considered and approved both the Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2026 and the Social Security (Amendment) Regulations 2026. These regulatory changes directly support the implementation of the new Child Benefit Policy, which took effect on 1 November. By exempting Child Benefit from income tax and excluding it from family income assessments for Income Related Benefits, the policy ensures that eligible families receive the full intended financial value.

Ministers also engaged in a detailed discussion regarding ongoing concerns over retrospective development applications. Talks explored whether stricter consequences should apply where planning permission was bypassed—particularly concerning listed buildings and government property—and noted that retrospective applications submitted to the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA), outside of ExCo, suggest that numbers are higher than currently tracked.

Three key themes emerged from the discussions; creating incentives to encourage upfront compliance, improving public understanding of correct planning procedures, and clarifying the formal powers of the Chief Planning Officer. Minister Thrower undertook to gather data from the Planning Department and review the wider processes, with a formal report due back to Council early next year.

In other administrative decisions, ExCo confirmed an email decision agreeing to an application to vary a National Forest Constitution Order to excise land from the St Helena National Forest Estate, a change that has now been officially Gazetted. Under Any Other Business, Her Excellency the Governor informed members that she would shortly be circulating proposed amendments to the Police Regulations.

Meanwhile, in a separate open session of Executive Council in Planning (ECiP), attended by Chief Planning Officer, Patricia Coyle, members evaluated a development application for the siting of two shipping containers at Horse Point Quarry in Longwood North to be used as an explosives storage magazine.

During the session, the Financial Secretary declared an interest as a close friend of the applicant. Discussions highlighted significant concerns regarding the security and safeguarding of the explosive materials, with Minister Thrower explicitly expressing concern over the lack of a response from the Royal St Helena Police Service on the matter. Consequently, ECiP undertook to identify the most appropriate forum to govern and establish a proper policy framework for safeguarding explosive materials.

The full Top Lines from these ExCo meetings are available to view on the official SHG website.



The Council Chamber at The Castle, where Executive Council met to consider green energy targets, tax exemptions, and planning updates

Three Options on the Table

SHG outline next steps for Primary School Reorganisation, announcing three options identified to continue the building element of the project, with public consultation set to finalise options for EDIP Steering Committee



Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government has officially unveiled three distinct structural options for the future of the island's primary school estate, following last month's decision to pause the building and refurbishment works at Harford and St Paul's – chosen in the original plan as the new permanent Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 buildings respectively.

Appearing on SAMS Radio 1, Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, and Programme Manager, Nichole Spence, provided a comprehensive breakdown of the technical review currently underway.

Reflecting on the core drivers behind the initial pause, Minister Turner explained that mounting financial pressures and shifting timelines made stepping back the only responsible course of action. "We were at that stage where the projected costs were increasing incredibly significantly," he said. "The final refurbishment cost, in a sense, still remains uncertain. And obviously, programme timelines have become longer, alongside transport and other practicalities... it was really the only responsible and logical choice to actually sort of pause, take a step back and make sure we're proceeding in the right way when it came to the buildings element."

Following a rigorous evaluation against strategic fit, affordability, inclusion, and Council of British International Schools (COBIS) standards, the project team has narrowed the way forward to three viable options.

Option one is to continue with the original plan of refurbishing the two separate sites at Harford for Key Stage 1 and St Paul's for Key Stage 2. While foundational groundwork has already progressed at Harford, Nichole noted that operating split sites continues to present notable hurdles. "What we are seeing as well, though, in having our Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 structure since January are, again, the challenges from a transportation standpoint, but also the whole reason with the reorganisation going from three schools to two was to consolidate so that we could share the services and strengthen that quality of education," she explained.

Option two is to create a dedicated central primary campus, combining both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 onto a single site. When discussing locations, Minister Turner noted that "the first instincts you would have when looking at sites to a combined primary school are, can we expand on the current primary sites? So that is obviously something we're considering. But we are also exploring whether there might be some other viable sites around the island."

Highlighting the operational efficiencies, Nichole pointed out that a unified site optimises staff deployment. "We would optimise how well we use our resources... we would just simplify our day-to-day running when it comes to AEN support, supervision for nursery, reception... the spaces, both indoor and outdoor, would be shared, so we would be getting much better value for what we spend and what we build". Nichole also added that a central location significantly eases island-wide transport friction by reducing multiple daily transit stops.

The final option explores placing primary provision near the island's current secondary school at Francis Plain. Minister Turner noted that this concept builds on long-standing discussions regarding a central education campus and does provide solutions to some of the identified challenges. "Bringing primary provision and secondary provision closer together... does sort of aid in the transport issues in particular, because you're only working with one central site," he said. "It could also make sort of more efficient use of some of the more specialist resources and things like the IT suites, the gym facilities and Francis Plain sports field."

Addressing natural parent concerns regarding the integration of younger and older children on a shared campus, Minister Turner and Programme Manager Nichole stressed that rigorous architectural safeguards and transition management will be paramount. Nichole assured that strict physical separation between developmental age groups will be embed-

ded directly into the design phase if this option was chosen. "Safeguarding is key. It is very, very important," she emphasised. "So, when we say campus, we're meaning that, not a building where everybody is there on top of each other, we would have students at different developmental ages and they do need that space to be developed and grow in different ways."

Addressing the core affordability trigger that prompted the pause, Minister Turner admitted that all three options will likely require additional funding beyond original estimates. However, he argued that conducting this due diligence ensures public funds are invested correctly.

"The affordability argument is a tricky one, because, obviously, yes, we were going over budget... what this does is it gives us the argument for, if we're going to need to go back for money, here's the evidence to either support going back on the original project or going back on one of these options," the Minister stated. "The ultimate factor isn't necessarily, is it going to be cheaper to build? It's, are we building the right thing?"

Nichole added that the pause has allowed the education team to capture vital operational insights without losing ground on project timelines. "We're not losing anything by pausing, but we're actually gaining with our due diligence and making sure," she said.

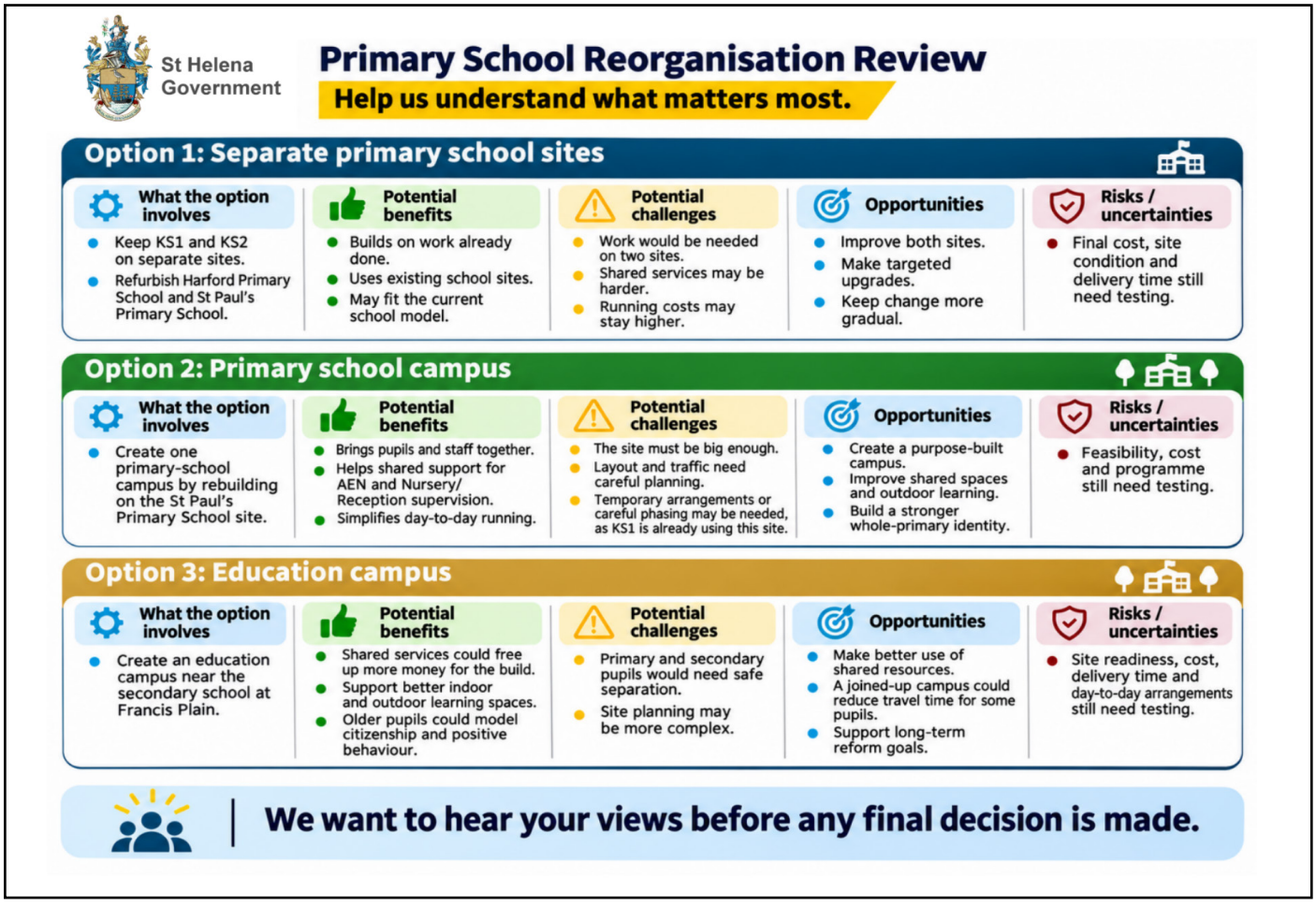
With the options established, SHG has now launched a four-week public consultation to gather feedback from parents, staff, students, and the wider community. Nicole outlined the engagement schedule. "For the next four weeks... we have two strands of work going on," she said. "The first is where the team... is fine-tuning them, really getting the evidence, making sure we're clear on the costs... Alongside that, we want to hear from parents, staff, the wider public, and the students on their views".

Consultation materials will be distributed via the media and online, with paper copies also available, alongside dedicated discussion groups and student activities.

Minister Turner stressed that the community is being brought in as an active partner at the foundational stage, with SHG having no preferred option at this moment in time. "We have no preference... because ultimately the community voice has to come in before we can make that," he emphasised. "We wanted to bring the community in at this really early stage because that community voice has to be a vital part of forming the options, not just a sort of a rubber stamp at the end of the process."

Urging widespread participation, Minister Turner issued a direct plea to the island. "Please, please, please get involved because this is something that's going to be shaping our education system and generations of children," he encouraged. "I want this to be something that we can all have a sense of ownership of, a sense of pride in even, that we've been part of coming together and creating the best option going forward for children and young people".

Following the consultation window, all public feedback will be analysed and packaged alongside technical data for presentation to the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) steering committee in December, where a final decision on the building project's direction will be made.



St Helena Government

Primary School Reorganisation Review

How the options were chosen

From the Education Review (2025) to the current Strategic Assurance Review

Step 1: The Education Review considered five approaches

Three primary schools	Two mirror primary schools	Separate KS1 and KS2 schools	One primary school on an existing site	One school as part of an education campus
Discounted	Discounted	Taken forward	Not taken forward	Not taken forward
Resources and staffing would be spread too thinly.	Falling pupil numbers could lead back to vertical teaching.	Ranked highest and became the current approach.	Not taken forward at the time because the aim was to complete the reorganisation by September 2025.	Not taken forward at the time because the aim was to complete the reorganisation by September 2025.

At that stage, the shorter timescale meant the two single-school options were not taken forward.

Step 2: What changed?

- Refurbishment costs are now much higher than first expected.
- The final refurbishment cost is still uncertain.
- The building programme is longer than first planned.
- Transport issues are clearer, including longer journeys and supervision needs.
- The Review was paused so the best solution can be tested before more funding is committed.

Because the timeline changed, the single-school options could be brought back into consideration.

Step 3: The current Review is testing three viable options

Separate primary school sites	Primary school campus	Education campus
Still in the Review because refurbishment is the current approach and now needs to be tested against alternatives.	Brought back in because the longer timescale means a single-site primary campus can now be tested.	Brought back in because the longer timescale means a campus near the secondary school can now be tested.

Not brought back into the Review

- **Three primary schools** — the original reasons for discounting it still apply.
- **Two mirror primary schools** — the original reasons for discounting it still apply.

Also considered, but not taken forward at this stage: building new schools on both the Harford and St Paul's sites, and identifying a completely new site.

St Helena Government

Primary School Reorganisation Review

How we will choose the best option

The decision criteria explained in simple terms

The Review will compare each option against the same decision criteria. This helps us look at every option fairly and choose the one that best supports children, families and St Helena.

Strategic fit

What it means	Does the option support the wider Education Reform Programme and St Helena's long-term goals?
Example	It helps create a stronger, more sustainable education system for the future.

Educational suitability

What it means	Will it give pupils and staff the right spaces, support and learning environment?
Example	It provides suitable classrooms, safe play areas and support for inclusion and additional needs.

Affordability

What it means	Can SHG afford it, while also managing other important priorities?
Example	The building and set-up costs are realistic and within the funding available.

Deliverability

What it means	Can it realistically be built and opened in a practical way?
Example	Contractors, site works, and temporary arrangements can be managed.

Whole-life value

What it means	Will it be a good use of money over time, not just at the start?
Example	It is easier to run, maintain and adapt in the years ahead.

Programme certainty

What it means	Does it keep the programme moving with a clear and realistic COBIS timetable?
Example	It reduces delays and helps the next stages happen with more confidence.

We are looking for the option that gives the best balance of value, quality, practicality and long-term benefit.

Your views will help inform the final recommendation.

ISLAND PULSE: RECAPPED

The Island Pulse

Education, accountability and the need to turn plans into progress



Cllr Julie Thomas,Communication Champion, Contributed

This week's edition of *The Island Pulse*, hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas, brought together almost all Councillor colleagues to discuss feedback from the final meeting in the latest round of constituency engagements, held in Sandy Bay, followed by November's Minister's Question Time (MQT), which focused on the Education Review Report published in March 2025.

Sandy Bay constituency meeting: A wide range of concerns

Councillor Clint Beard opened the programme with feedback from the Sandy Bay constituency meeting held on 28 October, which attracted 17 constituents and generated wide-ranging discussions with the Ministerial team.

Among the subjects raised were the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) agreement and the proposed People Strategy. Councillor Beard highlighted the importance of retaining local skills, creating career progression opportunities and ensuring overseas technical cooperation officers leave a lasting legacy through training and development of local employees.

Child Benefit was another significant topic. The proposed £15 weekly payment for every child under six was discussed, with constituents emphasising the importance of ensuring the money benefits the child. The Chief Minister explained that the scheme would apply irrespective of nationality, with applications administered through the Benefits Office.

Other issues included Fixed Penalty Notices, road safety and visitors understanding St Helena's Highway Code. Health and Social Care discussions covered forthcoming Health Standards, Adult Legislation, the Mental Health Strategy and service constraints. Constituents also raised the Basic Island Pension review, renewable energy and the proposed new prison.

Councillor Julie Thomas highlighted the lack of clear timelines for Ministerial commitments, pointing out that the pension review, initially indicated for November, was now seemingly being considered for implementation in the next financial year.

She also drew attention to concerns about Social Care charges, with some appearing to have increased by considerably more than the stated 2%. Councillor Beard agreed that people were struggling to understand why additional support was being introduced in one area while costs were increasing for older residents in another.

Looking ahead, Councillor Beard suggested that the next round of constituency meetings should demonstrate tangible progress, with at least one or two previously raised issues resolved before Councillors return to communities.

Minister's Question Time: Education Review under scrutiny

The second half of the programme focused on MQT, held on Tuesday, 3 November, with Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, responding to questions about the Education Review.

COBIS Standard 10 – Extracurricular opportunities

Councillor Robert Midwinter asked what progress had been made towards achieving COBIS Standard 10, which concerns extracurricular enrichment and opportunities for students to engage with the wider world.

The Minister explained that the recent COBIS team's visit had concentrated on the first standards, with the remaining standards to be considered later. A timeline would depend on completion of the team's report.

Councillor Midwinter also questioned how Government would ensure all children could access activities beyond the classroom, regardless of family income or location. He felt the response missed an opportunity to recognise existing activities, including music, enrichment classes, UK Parliament Week and Youth Parliament.

Councillor Thomas added that collaboration with New Horizons was providing sporting opportunities, alongside additional Mathematics and English support at the Secondary School. She also highlighted the potential to develop students' understanding of policymaking and the political process through Youth Parliament.

Councillor Beard stressed that MQT should also be an opportunity to communicate positive developments and celebrate what is already being achieved.

Safeguarding and the delay to school infrastructure

Councillor Thomas questioned how the September 2026 infrastructure pause and subsequent building delays might affect immediate safeguarding responsibilities and the timeline for achieving full COBIS compliance by 2031.

While acknowledging improvements to security at the Secondary School, she expressed concern about access to the primary school sites, particularly following concerns raised by parents. She sought reassurance that appropriate safeguarding measures were in place despite the infrastructure pause.

She also asked whether EDIP funding could be released to address immediate safeguarding requirements. The Minister committed to raising this with the EDIP Steering Committee.

Councillor Denis Leo highlighted concerns about the street-side gate at the Key Stage 2 school, while Councillor Clint Beard felt practical improvements should not be delayed simply because the wider infrastructure project was under review.

Post-16 education: A review still awaiting progress

In the absence of Councillor Dr Corinda Essex, Councillor Thomas read her prepared response to her question about the review of post-compulsory education.

Dr Essex reported that, beyond developing terms of reference and some initial stakeholder engagement, little progress

had been made. It remained unclear when the review would commence or who would lead it. She expressed concern that more than 18 months had already passed within the five-year education reorganisation timeframe but hoped the arrival of the designated Portfolio Director would help move the work forward.

Councillor Midwinter felt the Minister's response confused the Post-16 Review with the Sixth Form and Apprenticeship Schemes, which have different funding arrangements. He was particularly concerned about how Government intended to work with employers to ensure students developed the skills required for employment.

Councillor Thomas also questioned differing top-up arrangements for students receiving the £250 allowance, undertaking academic study or workplace training. She undertook to investigate why students returning to academic education were apparently not eligible for the same minimum-wage top-up available to those working.

School accommodation, infrastructure and investment

Councillor Ronald Coleman questioned why the affordable refurbishment options for Harford and St Paul's Primary Schools, agreed as part of the 2024 reorganisation, had encountered difficulties so soon after work commenced.

He was disappointed that the Minister considered the matter outside the scope of the Education Review, particularly given its emphasis on appropriate accommodation and safe learning environments. He also raised concerns about interim arrangements following the pause, including activities being relocated between Pilling School, the Community College and Carnarvon Court.

Councillor Thomas supported these concerns, explaining that considerable groundwork had already taken place before the Education Review was published in March 2025. This included adoption of the COBIS framework, the Education and Skills 'State of the Nation' work, approval of funding for Education Standards and submission of the strategic outline case supporting primary school reorganisation.

She questioned why the Minister repeatedly considered related questions outside the review's scope, arguing that the report must be viewed alongside the work underpinning it. She also recalled that a detailed communications and implementation plan had been expected following the reorganisation decision, suggesting its absence may have contributed to difficulties during implementation.

Teacher qualifications, training and remuneration

Councillor Denis Leo asked for an update on teacher training pathways and measures to improve local wages and address shortages of qualified staff.

The Minister reported that 69% of educators held a Level 4 qualification or higher, comprising 44% with Level 4 Teaching and Learning qualifications, 13% with Level 5 qualifications, 10% holding PGCE or IPGCE qualifications and 2% with a Bachelor of Education degree. A further 10% held historical local qualified status, 10% were working towards accredited qualifications and 11% held no accredited teaching certificate.

Councillor Leo welcomed the statistics but expressed disappointment at the Minister's description of teachers as being low on the salary scale, questioning whether sufficient recognition was being given to those educating future generations.

Councillor Thomas challenged this assessment, recalling previous work to bring teacher salaries towards 60% of UK salary scales, with progress reaching approximately 56%. She also questioned why the review of teacher job descriptions and associated pay progression work appeared not to have been completed.

Councillor Beard sought clarification on the training budget, referring to approximately £100,000 identified in the Education Review. He stressed that training commitments needed clear budget allocations and practical action.

School facilities: Where is the money going?

Councillor Clint Beard sought a straightforward update on school facility upgrades and the costs allocated, wanting to establish how much had been spent and how much remained available.

Dissatisfied that figures were not provided, he confirmed he would raise the matter formally in the November Legislative Council sitting.

Councillor Thomas referred to the £3.5 million allocated through EDIP, noting that approximately £360,000 had been spent on Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 works to date. She questioned whether the funding remained sufficient and what the revised projected costs might be.

Councillor Midwinter also sought clarification on priorities for school facilities, particularly provision for students with additional educational needs and those requiring English as an additional language. He felt considerable work in this area had not been adequately recognised.

Councillor Beard stressed that St Helena had much to celebrate in its inclusive approach to education and that positive achievements needed to be communicated alongside the challenges presented by the infrastructure pause.

Vocational training and employment: Preparing young people for the future

Councillor Derek Thomas concluded the MQT discussion by questioning what action was being taken to expand vocational training opportunities within Secondary and post-16 education.

Although the Minister confirmed that mechanics and carpentry were already offered, Councillor Thomas was disappointed that little appeared to have been done to engage local employers or identify additional specialist training opportunities.

He emphasised that local electricians, plumbers and masons were willing to support young people, but training came at a cost. He questioned why no clear budget provision or assessment of employer capacity appeared to be in place.

Councillor Thomas argued that the Education, Skills and Employment portfolio needed to take the lead, rather than leaving responsibility entirely with businesses. He confirmed he would pursue the matter through a formal Legislative Council question.

Councillor Denis Leo acknowledged the Minister's recognition of vocational training as essential for future employment, while Councillor Beard stressed that major investment projects, including renewable energy developments, should incorporate opportunities to train local people. Councillor Midwinter agreed, highlighting the importance of including training requirements within project contracts and funding agreements.

Looking ahead

The discussion highlighted a common message from Councillors: St Helena has made progress in developing its education framework, but the challenge now is to translate plans, funding and recommendations into measurable outcomes.

From safeguarding and school infrastructure to teacher development, post-16 education and vocational training, Councillors called for clearer timelines, better communication, financial transparency and stronger stakeholder engagement.

As Councillor Julie Thomas reflected, the ambition must be for education to become a driver of change, rather than a driver of decline.

The programme concluded with thanks to Councillor colleagues and listeners, with a reminder that The Island Pulse can be heard again on SAMS Radio 1 on Thursdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 5pm.

Until next week, keep the conversation going.

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. Nov 13
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 11am: American Connections
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Nov 14
- 7am - 9am: Morning show with Deon
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 12-3pm - Jaison Musindo Show
- 3pm: Country Chart Show (Repeat)
- 5pm: In the know
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: OUT! OUT! with Liam (Repeat)

SUN. Nov 15
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna Crowie
- 1pm:Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse
- 7pm: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Nov 16
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm In The Know

TUE. Nov 17
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: 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. Nov 18
- 7am: Morning show with Deon
- 11am: Indie Wave with Sue
- 1pm: 1548 with Ferdie
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett

THU. Nov 19
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Anita (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





A Brand New Show with a Brand New Voice on SAMS Radio 1!

Starting this Saturday The Jaison Musindo Show from 12noon to 3pm!

This will be a fortnighly show just for you. So make sure to tune in as Jaison helps you get through your Saturday afternoon with some amazing vibes!

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 'Easy'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



12th November 1978:
The Royal Engineers arrive for 'Project Bonaparte', including building the Swimming Pool and levelling Francis Plain.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Do you have an Air Fryer? Are you looking for ideas on what you can make? Well, for the month of November, we're sharing some recipes that you can try out using your Air Fryer!

Tuna and Sweetcorn Nuggets



Ingredients

- 250g potatoes, peeled, cut into 3cm pieces
- 150g Cauliflower florets
- 425g can tuna in oil, drained, flaked
- 2 x 125g can corn kernels, drained
- 80g (1 cup) grated cheddar
- 2 eggs
- 50g (1/3 cup) plain flour
- 75g (1 1/2 cups) panko breadcrumbs
- Sweet chilli sauce, to serve

Method

1. Cook the potato in a large saucepan of boiling water for 10 minutes or until tender. Drain. Return to pan.

2. Meanwhile, cook the cauliflower in a steamer basket over the saucepan of potatoes for 5-10 minutes or until tender. Transfer to the pan with the potato. Use a potato masher to mash potato and cauliflower until smooth. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside to cool slightly.

3. Line two baking trays with baking paper. Add the tuna, corn and cheese to the potato mixture and stir until well combined. Season. Shape heaped tablespoonfuls of the potato mixture into balls. Transfer to 1 of the prepared trays. Flatten slightly

4. Whisk the eggs in a bowl. Place the flour and breadcrumbs in separate shallow bowls. Working one at a time, carefully coat the nuggets in flour and shake off excess. Dip in egg and turn to coat, allowing excess to drip back into bowl. Dip in breadcrumbs, pressing gently to coat. Arrange in a single layer on remaining tray and spray with oil.

5. Lightly grease the air fryer basket with oil. Place a batch of nuggets (spaced about 3cm apart) into the air fryer basket. Cook at 200C, turning halfway through cooking, for 12 minutes or until golden. Repeat with remaining nuggets, in batches. Serve warm with sweet chilli sauce for dipping.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

GROW ST HELENA

Agricultural Innovation Award

Got an idea for farming or aquaculture on St Helena? Pitch it for a share of £10,000.

Up to £10,000 across up to three winners!

1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
Up to £5,000	**Up to £3,000**	**Up to £2,000**

How it works

1. Complete the application form
2. Pitch live, in person, to a judging panel, followed by questions
3. Panel picks the winners
4. Sign agreement, claim costs back

KEY DATES

Applications open	**Thu 15 October 2026**
Applications close	**Thu 19 November 2026**
Pitch event	**Early December 2026**

What can the award support?

- **Equipment and set-up costs** - tools, equipment and small scale infrastructure
- **Land lease support** - SHG-owned land or help securing a private lease
- **Training** - SHG-arranged mentors or training you source yourself

Who can apply?

- Anyone 18+ with an agricultural or aquaculture business idea based on St Helena
- New ideas, or existing businesses looking to expand or diversify
- Individuals, or partners applying jointly (one application per person)

Please note: funding is paid by reimbursement against invoices, not as an upfront cash payment. Winners must commit to keeping their business active for at least two years, to be tax registered and to take part in milestone check-ins over that period.

How to apply

Forms available from the Trade and Investment Team. Questions? Contact Alexandria Thomas or Michael Ormrod via invest@sainthelena.gov.sh or +290 22470

Career Opportunity

Transmission and Provisioning Technician – Falkland Islands

Join Sure as a Transmission and Provisioning Technician and develop your career in electrical, telecommunications and mechanical work. This varied role offers opportunities to learn and grow, with travel beyond Stanley to West Falkland and other islands.

Ideally, you will bring the skills and experience below. We also welcome enquiries from candidates who are keen and able to learn and develop in these areas:

- Knowledge of fibre and copper transmission systems
- Knowledge of radio transmission networks
- Able to work at height
- Experience working with DC voltage systems
- Understanding of mechanical operations involving generators, diesel equipment and turbines (desirable)
- Strong interpersonal and written and verbal communication skills (essential)
- Proficiency in Office 365 applications
- A safety-conscious approach to work

The nature of this role requires the successful candidate to hold a satisfactory Police Disclosure. The post is for a two year fixed term contract.

To discuss the role's responsibilities, contact Nevin Middleton on freephone 131 or email Nevin.Middleton@sure.com. For a copy of the job description, email recruitment@sure.com. To apply, send your CV to recruitment@sure.com by **4pm on Monday 16 November 2026**.

sure.

NOTICE BOARD



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

St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. is seeking Expressions of Interests from suitably qualified persons interested in serving as a non-Executive Director.

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

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

Expressions of Interest should be made using the form and should be submitted, along with a current Curriculum Vitae to the Company Secretary, Miss Nicole Plato via email, or in hardcopy addressed to the Secretary at the Castle, by **Friday, 27 November 2026**.

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

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

INVITATION TO TENDER

The St Helena National Trust would like to invite suitably experienced boat operators to submit tenders for the following contract:
Operational Support for Whale (Bone) shark research and data collection in St Helena's Marine Protected Area during the 2027 season (Jan - March).

Only tenders from *Accredited Marine Tour Operators* will be considered, as per St Helena Research Institute Licence conditions.
Tenders should consider the following:

- Boat trips from Jamestown Wharf to Whale Shark aggregation sites around the Island, within coastal waters. These sites include (but are not limited to): Barn Cap, Barn Ledge, Flagstaff Bay, Egg Island, Speery Island Cap, George Island and specific windward sites.
- Anticipated start date: **January 2027** *(subject to whale shark sightings).*
- Anticipated end date: **31 March 2027** *(contract may be extended depending on whale sharks' presence and project requirements).*
- Anticipated frequency of 3 to 6 trips per week, with a peak period of 5 to 6 trips per week anticipated between 15 February and 12 March.
    - Quotes required for both **half-day** *(3 to 4 hours)* and **full-day** trips *(6 to 7 hours), inclusive of vessel, crew and fuel costs.*
- Please provide details on the suitability of the vessel and crew to undertake this research work, including the vessel's passenger capacity and available deck size.
- Tenders must provide a current copy of their Health and Safety policy, Risk Assessments, and relevant valid Insurance documentation as part of the tender application.
- Please feel free to provide any additional information relevant to this work that may support your application.

For further details, please get in touch with the Trust Marine Team on *22190/22307* or email the Marine Conservation Project Manager at *neil.thorp@trust.org.sh*

Interested operators should submit tenders in a sealed envelope to the Office Manager, Amanda Constantine, by no later than 16:00hrs on Friday, 26th November 2026.

NOTICE BOARD

Mantis St Helena

We're Hiring

As we prepare for Christmas and tourist season the Mantis St Helena hotel is looking for passionate, reliable and enthusiastic people to join the team.

PART TIME AND FULL TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- WAITERS
- BAR STAFF
- KITCHEN ASSISTANTS
- COOKS AND CHEFS
- HOUSEKEEPING STAFF
- FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER
- RECEPTIONIST
- NIGHT MANAGER
- PORTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Matt Joshua
matt.joshua@mantiscollection.com
25505



Behind the Lens:
An Evening with Aperture Adventures

Photographers and content creators share how they turned a passion for adventure into a career.

Date: Tuesday 24 November 2026
Time: 17:00
Venue: St Helena Museum, Jamestown

Free entry



Mike Eloff
Director and content creator, with a social following of more than 450,000 across platforms



Kyle Mijlof
Photographer and videographer specialising in lifestyle, portraits and B-roll



Jarryd Smith
Photographer and videographer specialising in high-end action, adventure and aerial content

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

APERTURE ADVENTURES

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Marathon Early Bird Registration!

Register now for access to the local discount

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air





Are you ready to make history?
Through leafy green highlands and rugged rocky shores, face the challenge of one of the world's most remote marathon's, right on your doorstep.

Lace up for the inaugural St Helena Marathon on the 28 February 2027, the race of a lifetime, set records, experience the thrill, cross the finish line on the landscape you know best.

Locals who enter before the **13 December 2026** gain **early bird access to discounted entry fees**:

Route	Full Price	Early Bird Price
42km	£65.00	£40.00
21km	£38.00	£25.00
10km	£20.00	£13.00
5km	£11.00	£7.00

To enter visit the Tourist Office or Email: Events@sainthelena.gov.sh

ST. HELENA'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ENTERPRISE
SHAPE
Opportunities for all abilities

Come and be Part of Something Special!

We are looking for a Permanent, Full-Time
Care & Programme Co-ordinator – Carraresi Programme

An exciting opportunity to lead and co-ordinate SHAPE's Carraresi Programme, combining hands-on personal care and support with the planning and delivery of meaningful, inclusive and enriching activities for adults with high support needs.

Purpose of Role
To lead and deliver an engaging, inclusive and enriching programme through Carraresi, creating meaningful opportunities for adults with high support needs to develop their skills, build confidence, experience new things and enjoy greater independence.

The role will involve:
Inspiring participation and personal development: Coordinate and deliver a varied programme of exciting activities, both in small and large groups, designed to develop and reinforce daily living skills, encourage personal growth, build confidence, strengthen social connections and promote wellbeing. Activities may include creative arts, play, therapeutic experiences and other opportunities for learning and enjoyment.
Providing person-centred care and support: Deliver compassionate, respectful and individualised support to disabled and vulnerable adults with high support needs. This includes assisting with personal care, feeding, toileting, hygiene and mobility, while supporting individuals to access SHAPE's enrichment activities and make the most of the opportunities available to them.
Creating safe and positive journeys: Safely transport clients to and from SHAPE using SHAPE's wheelchair-accessible vehicle, ensuring every journey is comfortable, enjoyable and delivered with care and consideration.

Above all, the role is about making a meaningful difference to people's lives, creating positive experiences and helping every individual reach their potential.

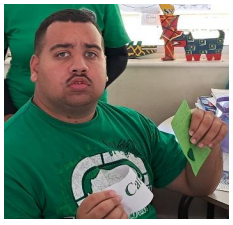
Responsible to SHAPE Inclusion Manager
5 Days per week – 8:30am – 4:00pm.

For a full job description and requirements of the role please contact
Mrs Marianne Young-Crowie (Manager) on **24690**
or email shape@helanta.co.sh

Application forms can be requested from SHAPE Sandy Bay Main Office by phone **24690** or email shape@helanta.co.sh

Please submit your application form
no later than 4pm on Friday 27th November 2026

We look forward to hearing from you!







NOTICE BOARD

Mantis St Helena

WE'RE HIRING

As we continue to develop our team **at the Mantis St Helena Hotel,** we are looking for passionate, reliable and enthusiastic people to join us in the following **full-time** roles:

Head of Finance

Lead the hotel's financial operations, overseeing accounting, budgeting, financial reporting and cost control. You will ensure sound financial management, maintain compliance, support strategic decision-making and contribute to the hotel's operational performance and long-term financial sustainability.

Chef de Partie

A hands-on kitchen role, preparing and presenting high-quality dishes to a consistent standard. You will support menu delivery, maintain kitchen standards, manage your section effectively and contribute to a great dining experience for our guests.

Reservations Clerk

Manage guest reservations and enquiries, ensuring accurate bookings, room availability and rates across all booking channels. You will deliver friendly, efficient and professional service, creating a seamless booking experience and a positive first impression of the hotel.

Human Resources Manager

Lead the hotel's human resources function, overseeing recruitment, employee relations, training and professional development. You will guide performance management, support departmental managers and foster a positive, professional and inclusive workplace where employees feel valued and supported.

Opportunities for training and professional development

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you.

For the full job profile and other information contact:

Matt Joshua
General Manager
Mantis St Helena Hotel
25505 | **matt.joshua@mantiscollection.com**

Transport operators: one island, one platform. List free on TransportHub

TransportHub St Helena, the island's all-in-one transport app, invites every operator to list their services: taxis, hire cars, buses, motorbikes, bikes, boats, and delivery trucks and tippers carrying goods and construction materials.

Your business, your way. We appreciate that every operator has their own way of doing business, and that it has served them well over the years. TransportHub does not change that. It brings all operators together on one platform, so customers on the island and overseas can easily find you, and it lets you use technology to your advantage.

Free until the end of January 2027. The free trial has been extended, so you have nothing to lose by listing. The more operators who list, the more useful the platform becomes for customers, and the more easily those customers find each of you.

Launch event: Thursday 19 November 2026, The Museum of St Helena at 7pm. Come to see how it works, give feedback, list your services and get help installing the app.

Phone/WhatsApp 64100
solutions@nextechsthelena.com
www.transporthub.sh



NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Cloud Forest Project – Project Officer (Maternity Cover)

Through the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the St Helena Cloud Forest Project has a vacancy for a **fixed-term Project Officer (Maternity Cover) for up to 1 year**.

We are looking for a passionate and driven individual to facilitate the delivery of the next phase of partnership-based Cloud Forest restoration efforts on St Helena. This exciting opportunity is funded by the UK Government's Darwin+ funding (project DPLUS224). The St Helena Cloud Forest is a truly unique habitat and is home to more than 250 species which are found nowhere else on earth. In addition to the biodiversity value, the cloud forest is important for providing the majority of the island's freshwater resource.

The successful applicant will work with the Project partners to deliver key outputs under DPLUS224 to recover St Helena's cloud forest for wildlife and water security.

Further information about the role as well as details on how to apply can be found via the link: https://app.hireroadrecruit.com/careers/rspb/jobs/x735k1CcCEW5S_YjoCUG9

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 15 November 2026. This role is based on St Helena and is offered as a fixed-term maternity cover contract of up to 12 months.
Please note that applicants must already be living on St Helena to be considered for this opportunity. Unfortunately, we are unable to consider applications from candidates who would need to relocate to the island.

For further information please contact Jenny Weston (RSPB) via: jenny.weston@rspb.org.uk

RSPB | 03 November 2026

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 17th November:
Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 18th November:
Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 19th November: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6-10 yrs old
Saturday, 14th November:
Baptist School Hall, 10am-11.30am

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 15th November 2026 - 33rd Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade/Junior Church	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
	Thursday 19th November 2026	
7.00 p.m.	**Praise and Worship**	**Blue Hill Community Centre**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday15th November 2026 – 33rd Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 19th November 2026	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 15th November 2026 – 33rd Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 17th November 2026	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark

NOTICE BOARD





Church Notices

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 15th November at 11am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue..
Kids zone at 11am.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 17th November
Jamestown @ 7pm, (contact Bramwell 62117)
Tuesday 17th November
Cape Villa @5.00pm, (Contact Priscilla 51919)
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue
at 5.30pm Wednesday 18th November.
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)
Wednesday 18th November
Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Mercy 53227 or Pastor 51672)
Saturday 21st November- Prayer meeting online. Contact Mercy 61707

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

The Christian gift/bookshop & DVD rental (as well as second-hand goods shop) is available. For further information call 51672 or 64295



JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 8 PM

AGENDA:

- Welcome.
- Chairperson's report.
- To read the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting,
- and if approved, confirm.
- To receive the audited Accounts of the past year.
- To dissolve the Committee.
- To elect Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Members to serve
- on the Committee for the ensuing year.
- Any other business.
- To close the meeting.

To enable the Centre to continue functioning, a Committee must be formed.

The residents of Jamestown, Ruperts and the Briars are encouraged to attend.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Changes to Driver Testing Services Over the Festive Period

The public is advised that driver tests cannot be booked or conducted from **18 November 2026 to 4 January 2027**. Normal services will resume on **4 January 2027**.

For further information, please contact the Vehicle Inspector on **23695** during normal working hours.

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/

SHG
04 November 2026

Extended Banking Hours This Saturday

Saturday
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Please be advised that Bank of St Helena will extend its opening hours on Saturday, 14 November, remaining open until 2:00 pm.

This extension will give you more time to complete your banking following the King's Birthday Public Holiday.

The Customer Service Centre will close on Saturday at 12 pm, as per the normal operating hours.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.
www.sainthelenabank.com



PLANTATION HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAIR

SUNDAY 6th December 2026

- A Fundraising event 1pm to 5pm
- Various traditional crafts, confectionary & Christmas stalls
- Ice cream van, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies and lots more
- Photo Shoot with Santa
- Face Painting, Kiddies Scavenger Hunt
- Colin Peters will provide music to entertain you throughout the afternoon
  - Hot Food on sale:
  - Melvin Benjamin with various curries
  - Other Hot Tasty food
  - The Dook's will serve afternoon teas/coffees and confectionary
  - Amphibians Bar facilities who will also be selling hot food
  - You can relax on the lawn with your afternoon tea/Drink

Come & and support this fund raising event for the St Helena Girl Guides

Entrance fee – Adults £1.00, children 10 years to 15 years 50p under 10 years free

If you like to book a stall or require further details, please contact Debbie Yon on 24453 or 61883 or email ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ST HELENA GROWERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Members are advised that a Special General Meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday, 28 November 2026 at the Kingshurst Community Centre.

All Members are requested to attend to discuss the 2025/26 Accounts as well as future plans.

Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact 22511 if you have any queries.

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.

Administrative Assistant

(£10,088 per annum) (Fixed term until February 2027)

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Central Support team? If so, we are looking to recruit an Administration Assistant. The Administration Assistant is responsible for completing straightforward administrative processes that support the smooth running of Portfolios and delivering a high quality, customer focused service. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who works methodically and has a keen eye for detail that can provide administrative support across the Portfolios.

This opportunity is also open on a job-sharing arrangement. Job sharing is a great way to manage your responsibilities outside of work and maintain your life-work balance. Job sharing is a form of flexible working which enables two employees to share the responsibilities of a single full-time job. Pay, benefits and leave entitlements for job sharers are allocated on a pro-rata basis (divided approximately by hours worked).

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**26 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**02 December 2026**
Interview date:	**15 December 2026**

General Operative

(£10,088 per annum)

We are seeking a General Operative to support the Charge Hand in the general upkeep of roads and related machinery, the assembly of site huts, and to aid in the construction, cleaning, and overall maintenance of roads across the island. If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, this is an opportunity for you to join the Roads Section team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Deon Robbertse on Tel No. 23765 or Email: deon.robbertse@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**19 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**25 November 2026**
Interview date:	**03 December 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

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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.

Tourism Destination Development Manager
(£19,814 per annum)

St Helena Government are seeking to recruit a Tourism Destination Development Manager to play a key role in enhancing St Helena's tourism offering, developing exciting visitor experiences and supporting the sustainable growth of the island's tourism industry. The postholder will lead destination development, tourism investment, product innovation and industry partnerships to improve the visitor experience, strengthen tourism infrastructure, diversify the tourism product and support the delivery of the Tourism Strategy and Tourism Development Programme. This is an excellent opportunity for a motivated and proactive professional to help shape St Helena as a distinctive and attractive tourism destination.

Key Responsibilities

- **Lead Tourism Product Development –** Drive the Product Development workstream of the Tourism Development Programme, identifying and developing tourism products, experiences and attractions that enhance visitor appeal and support sustainable growth.
- **Build Strong Partnerships –** Develop and maintain effective working relationships with tourism operators, Government departments, community organisations, NGOs and private sector partners, encouraging collaboration, investment and best practice across the tourism industry.
- **Enhance Destination Infrastructure –** Oversee and improve tourism assets, including trails, viewpoints, interpretation, visitor facilities and the Post Box Walks network, ensuring these continue to meet the needs of visitors and the local community.
- **Manage Projects and Resources –** Prepare business cases, project plans, funding applications, procurement documentation and progress reports. Identify external funding opportunities and monitor budgets, expenditure and performance indicators to ensure projects are delivered on time, within budget and to agreed standards.
- **Lead and Support the Team –** Supervise and support the Destination Marketing Officer and Product Development & Tourism Officer, providing guidance, allocating work and monitoring performance.
- **Work Collaboratively –** Work closely with the Tourism Manager to ensure destination development complements industry capacity building and visitor servicing, helping to deliver a coordinated and high-quality tourism experience.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Jonathan Passaportis on Tel No. 22158 or Email: jonathan.passaportis@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**19 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**24 November 2026**
Interview date:	**02 December 2026**

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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

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

Police Constable
(£13,569 per annum)

A unique and challenging opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and dynamic individual, to join the Royal St. Helena Police Service (RSHPS). The Royal St. Helena Police Service covers both Ascension Island and St. Helena and, at full strength, consists of 34 officers. We are seeking to recruit further Police Constables to support current Policing on both Saint Helena and Ascension.

In line with the requirements of the Police Service Ordinance 1985, the post holder must be under the age of 60 on the date of appointment.

Why join us?

Career Progression – Clear pathways for advancement within the Service, with opportunities to specialise and take on supervisory roles.

Training & Development – Access to professional training, accredited courses, and continuous development to help you grow in your policing career.

Salary Advancements – Competitive incremental pay structure as you gain experience and qualifications.

Enquires:	**Annabelle Palmer on Tel No. 22626 or Email: annabelle.palmer@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**01 December 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**07 December 2026**
Interview date:	**Week Commencing 14 December 2026**

Customs/Immigration Officer
(£11,604 per annum)

If you're looking for a challenge, have an inquisitive mind and see yourself working as part of a team why not join the Customs and Immigration team. We need you on the front line where you will be required to help reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena, by protecting the borders of St Helena by performing anti-smuggling duties, detecting prohibited and restricted goods entering and leaving the island and to ensure the effective control of passengers, crew and cargo on St Helena in accordance with the Customs & Excise Ordinance and associated legislation. This is a critical and demanding role where you will interact with the public on a daily basis.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Juliette O'Dean on Tel No.22287 or Email: juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**18 November 2026**
Assessment date:	**24 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**25 November 2026**
Interview date:	**04 December 2026**

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St Helena Government

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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.

Handyman Driver (CCC)

(£10,213 per annum)

The Health & Social Care Portfolio are seeking to recruit for the position of Handyman Driver. The successful candidate will play an important role in maintaining and improving the CCC premises, helping to ensure a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment. The role will also involve undertaking driving duties to support the effective and smooth operation of the Service. If you are practical and enjoy making a positive difference, we would love to hear from you!

Get in touch for further information or to arrange an informal discussion about the role.

Enquiries:	**Rosalie Brown on Tel No. 22920 or Email: rosalie.brown@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**27 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**02 December 2026**
Interview date:	**09 December 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

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Holiday Opening Hours

December 2026 – January 2027

St Helena Teller Services • Customer Services
International Payments • Lending • Ascension Branch

Date	Opening hours
Thursday 24 December	09:00 – 12:00
Friday 25 & Saturday 26 December	Closed
Monday 28 December	Closed
Tuesday 29 December	09:00 – 13:00
Wednesday 30 December	Closed
Thursday 31 December	09:00 – 13:00
Friday 1 January	Closed
Saturday 2 January	Airport Opening Only
Monday 4 January	Normal Bank Business Hours

In-Branch International Remittance Cut-off Times

24 December — 11:00
29 December — 12:00
31 December — 12:00

Wishing you a holiday season filled with warmth, rest, and cheer.
Thank you for your continued support.

Happy Holidays!

Tel: +290 22390
Email: customerservices@sainthelenabank.com

Make this year's celebration a little more magical



If a little financial assistance is all you need to make this year's celebration a little more magical, our unsecured personal loans up to £5,000 might be what you're looking for.

Unsecured personal loans up to £5,000

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

1. Decide what you would like to use your loan for this Christmas.
2. Complete your loan application form and submit it to the Lending Section. You can complete and submit your application online.
3. Following application processing, an appointment will be arranged for you to sign your loan agreement and receive your funds. A minimum of 3 weeks is required.
4. Repay your loan as agreed in your loan agreement, over a maximum term of 3 years.

Apply online; or submit your application to the Lending Section. For further details call +290 22390 or personallending@sainthelenabank.com

Applications should be submitted no later than 2 December for applications to be processed by the 24 December.

Terms and Conditions Apply

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.
www.sainthelenabank.com

NOTICE BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

Strong Market Interest in St Helena's Rifle Range Solar Farm Expansion

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) is pleased to announce a positive response to the Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the Renewable Energy Phase 1- Rifle Range Solar Farm Extension Project, which closed on 23 October 2026.

The level of interest received from experienced renewable energy and infrastructure organisations is an encouraging milestone for both the project and St Helena's ongoing transition towards a more sustainable energy future.

The proposed extension of the Rifle Range Solar Farm forms part of Connect's commitment to increasing the island's renewable energy generation, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and enhancing long-term energy security for the community.

Speaking on the response to the EOI, Connect's Interim Chief Executive Officer, Phanual Shangwa, said:

> "We are very encouraged by the level of interest shown in this important project. The response reflects the opportunities for renewable energy development on St Helena and is a positive step towards achieving our long-term energy goals.
>
> "Expanding renewable energy generation is important for the island's future. It will help reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels, strengthen energy security and support a cleaner, more sustainable energy supply for Saint Helena.
>
> "We thank all organisations that expressed an interest and look forward to progressing to the next stage of the procurement process." – Phanual

What happens next?

Connect will now undertake a detailed evaluation of all submissions received in line with its procurement procedures and project requirements. Organisations that successfully meet the assessment criteria may be invited to participate in the next stage of the procurement process.

While several stages remain before the project can be delivered, the strong response to the EOI provides confidence that there is significant interest and capability within the market to support the development of this important renewable energy project.

Connect remains committed to keeping the public informed and will share further updates as the project progresses.

4 November 2026

JOB VACANCIES ADVERT

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit persons for the following posts:

Mechanic to assist in the planning, organising, and co-ordinating the day-to-day running of the vehicle workshop

The individual will inspect, service, repair and maintain all types of Ground Service Equipment (GSE) at SHAL to ensure proper performance and safety.

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- Relevant Specialised trade qualification in Vehicle Maintenance (NVQ-3) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- At least five years of working experience in a vehicle maintenance role.
- A sound knowledge of vehicle systems (including the engine area, transmission area, chassis area, body area and electrical area).
- An understanding of procedures for the systematic inspection of vehicles.
- A clean and valid St Helena Drivers licence categories C and J4

Starting Salary: £19,626.13

General Assistant

The individual will undertake cleaning throughout St Helena Airport Ltd facilities to the highest possible standard and be in possession of a clean and valid St Helena Drivers licence category C.

Starting Salary: £9,464.18

Applicants for both posts must be of a professional manner be able to provide the following:

- A full medical assessment
- A 5-year verifiable employment history check and be able to show proof for periods of unemployment in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.
- Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- A Criminal Background Check.

For more information on Mechanic post contact Nigel Henry, on email nigel.henry@sthelenaairport.aero or Telephone Number 25180 Ext 141 and for details of General Assistant post, a full Job Description for either post and or an application form contact Elaine Hopkins, on email recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 Ext 0.

The closing date for these positions is **23 November 2026**.

NOTICE BOARD



StHelenaRedCross

We are rescheduling our

AGM
Annual General Meeting

"New Date" Monday 23rd November 2026

At The Girl Guide Hall in Half Tree Hollow

At 6.30pm

All are welcome

There will be light refreshments after the AGM.

Thank You

The family of the late Trevor Alexander Fowler (Tich), who passed away on 16th September 2026 and was laid to rest on 22nd September 2026, wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to all who attended the funeral and memorial service and sent messages of sympathy and offered support during this difficult time.

We thank Father Josiah for officiating the funeral service, Mrs Dulcie Herne for reading the lesson and tributes, Ms Valerie Joshua for delivering the eulogy, Ms Joy George for playing the organ, and funeral directors Williams Enterprises for their assistance. Our appreciation also goes to Kenicki and Fiona, and to all those who made and donated wreaths and flowers. Thanks to Chris, Eddie, Donny, Gina, and Jackie for providing musical accompaniment at the graveside.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Bishop Dale and Father Ernest for their pastoral care during Tich's illness, to the oncology team and community nurses for their dedicated support, to Heather and Lulu for their assistance, to our neighbours for their kindness, and to all those who visited, phoned and messaged him during his illness.

We also thank Jade for arranging the memorial service at St Marys on Ascension Island, Father Clarence Roberts for conducting the service, for Paul and Samantha for reading the lesson and eulogy.



Tich's loss profoundly affects us all. He lived with passion and generosity, contributing with dedication to his workplace, family, friends, and community. We give thanks for his life and take comfort in the belief that he rests in eternal peace.

SPORTS ARENA



More to Fight For

Football Season nears climax with added District Knockout and date set for Grand Finale

Liam Yon, SAMS

As the local football season enters its final, action-packed stretch, local fans have even more action to look forward to following a surprise addition to the calendar.

Thanks to a few spare weeks remaining in the schedule, the St Helena Football Association (SHFA) Committee has introduced an exciting new tournament—the District Knockout—giving teams a final chance at silverware before the season wraps up next month.

The thrilling conclusion comes on the heels of a fiercely contested season so far. Congratulations go out to Bellboys, who was crowned League Champions after another stellar campaign, with Rovers taking a well-earned runners-up spot after topping the standings for most of the season. In the district competition, Half Tree Hollow dominated to take the District League title, with Jamestown finishing as strong runners-up.

The newly added District Knockout gets underway this weekend and over the next two Sundays, offering fast-paced cup action. On Sunday, 15 November, Half Tree Hollow will face Longwood/Levelwood at 1pm, followed by Jamestown taking on St Paul's at 3pm. The tournament continues the following week on Sunday, 22 November, with the 3rd Place Playoff kicking off at 1pm and the District Knockout Final following at 3pm.

Following the conclusion of the District Knockout, players will transition back to their usual club sides for the premier competition of the season; the SHFA Knockout 2026. The quarter-finals kick off on Sunday, 29 November, featuring St Helena Young Boys against Fugees at 1pm, and Rovers facing Harts in a blockbuster match at 3pm. The intensity steps up on Sunday, 6 December, with the Knockout Semi-Finals, featuring league champions Bellboys, La Verde, and the winners of the quarter-final clashes, with the official draw to be confirmed.

The historic 2026 football calendar will then officially draw to a close on Saturday, 12 December, with the highly anticipated Knockout Final followed immediately by Presentation Day 2026, where trophies, medals, and individual awards will be handed out to celebrate another fantastic year of local football.

Players, supporters, and community members are encouraged to head over to Francis Plain over the coming weeks to back their teams and catch the final moments of the season.



How it works

the post will go live on Facebook on Thursday 12th November 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 only on Thursday evening, once the sweepstake goes live, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you. She will request a number for you on the Facebook page, and she will call you back with your allocated number. 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 15th December. Draw will be done on the 18th December

Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.