



UKOTA NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ASSOCIATION

July 2015

Overseas Territories take part in NatWest Island Games

At the end of June, athletes from across the globe came together to compete in the NatWest Island Games in Jersey. The Games have been held every two years since their inception in 1985, with the first Games seeing approximately 700 competitors from 15 different islands take part in seven different sports.

Thirty years later, this year's Games, held in Jersey from 27th June – 3rd July, was attended by 3000 competitors from 24 islands from around the world, competing in 14 different sports. The Territories of Bermuda and Gibraltar have both hosted past Games and amongst the competitors this year were teams from Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and St Helena.



▲ Falkland Islands Team ready for Jersey

UKOTA holds 2015 Annual General Meeting

On 12th February 2015, UKOTA members gathered for their Annual General Meeting. Members formally adopted the UKOTA Annual Report for 2014.

Sukey Cameron MBE, UK Representative for the Falkland Islands, was elected as Chairman; Albert Poggio GMH OBE, UK Representative for HM Government of Gibraltar, was elected to the role of Hon. Secretary; and Chris Carnegie, UK Representative for the Government of Tristan Da Cunha, was elected to the role of Hon. Treasurer.

Sukey Cameron formally thanked Albert Poggio for his service as Chairman, and all other Officers for their work for the Association, over the past year.



▲ Photo: L-R, Albert Poggio GMH OBE (Gibraltar), Jacqui Christian (Pitcairn), Dr Charles Tannock MEP, Sukey Cameron MBE (Falkland Islands) and Benito Wheatley (British Virgin Islands).

UKOTA Visits Brussels

In April 2015, UK Representatives for UKOTA member Territories made a formal visit to Brussels to continue work to strengthen their links with the European Parliament. Whilst there, the delegation met with Sir Graham Watson, former Liberal Democrat MEP for the South-West region and now Representative for HM Government of Gibraltar in Brussels.

This was followed by other fruitful meetings, including a meeting with Dr Charles Tannock MEP, a long-time supporter of the UK Overseas Territories, who met the delegation with much positivity and demonstrated his active support for the development of the Territories' and UKOTA's relationships with the European Parliament and Commission. UKOTA is now in the process of forming a UK

Overseas Territories 'friendship group' in the Parliament, to ensure their views are represented.

The UK Overseas Territories have an important relationship with the European Union, which is defined within the Overseas Association Decision (bar Gibraltar, who are full members as part of the UK). Members of UKOTA are ensuring that their voice is heard in the debate on Britain's future membership of the EU. It is vital for their economies that they maintain their trading links with Europe; access to the EU and development funding through the European Development Fund.

All of the UK OTs (apart from Gibraltar) are active members of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) which includes members from the Danish, Dutch and French Territories.

Former Tristan Representative awarded MBE

On 12th June 2015, former UK Representative for Tristan da Cunha, Chris Bates, was invested by HRH The Prince of Wales as a Member of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for services to Tristan Da Cunha in the UK and worldwide.

After a varied career with the BBC, Chris' first visit to the island came in 2005, when he was asked to edit the first book to be written by a Tristan islander, "Rockhopper Copper", by its only full time policeman, Inspector Conrad Glass. Chris was then approached about being the islanders'

representative in the UK and he agreed to take on the unpaid job to act as the 'voice' in the outside world of the 265 British citizens who call Tristan da Cunha home.

On receiving his MBE Chris said "It was the most extraordinary day of my life... Thanks to family, friends, islanders and everyone I've worked with, without whom I would never have learned how to be the voice of the extraordinary people of Tristan da Cunha. The world has much to learn from them."

Elects New Government

A new government has been elected in Anguilla. The Anguilla United Front (AUF), led by The Hon Mr Victor Banks took six of the seven seats in the election held on the 22nd April 2015. An independent candidate, Palmavon J Webster, took the seventh seat. The new Government was formally sworn-in to office on 23rd April 2015 by the Governor Christina Scott.

The Hon Mr Victor Banks, of Valley South, has been appointed to the office of Chief Minister of Anguilla. He will also be Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment & Tourism. The Chief Minister will be supported in Government by three Ministers: The Hon Ms Cora Richardson-Hodge, of Sandy

Hill, Minister for Home Affairs, Natural Resources, Lands & Physical Planning; The Hon Mr Evans McNeil Rogers, of Valley North, Minister for Social Development, Health, Education; and The Hon Mr Curtis Richardson, of Road South, Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities & Housing. Mr Cardigan Connor, of West End, has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary.

Approximately 11,000 Anguillians, from the 13,000 residents, were eligible to vote in this year's election. Following an invitation from the Governor, Christina Scott, an independent Election Observer Mission (EOM) was organised for the first time by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British

Anguilla – At a Glance

Capital:	The Valley
Size:	91 sq km
Population:	16,086 (estimated in July 2014)
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$), United States Dollar (US\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) to observe the electoral process, including the electoral framework, the political campaigns, voter and candidate registration, counting and tabulation of results. The mission is due to publish a final report with explanations and recommendations on the elections following a preliminary report.



▲ L-R: Mr Cardigan Connor, Ms Evalie Bradley, Mr Curtis Richardson, Mr Evans McNeil Rogers, Ms Cora Richardson-Hodge, Chief Minister Victor Banks

Bermuda – At a Glance

Capital:	Hamilton
Size:	53.3 sq km
Population:	64,237 (2010 estimate)
Currency:	Bermudian Dollar (BMD)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours



▲ Endeavour Programme participants



Americas Cup Endeavours to introduce Youth Sailing Programmes

Six months after the announcement that Bermuda will host the 2017 America's Cup Final, preparations to transform the Royal Naval Dockyard are well underway. The plans indicate viewing platforms, large video screens, and a concert venue with floating stage. Local contractors have come together and are working around the clock to ensure Bermuda provides the best facilities possible for the racing teams. Since completion of The Oracle Team USA base in April, they have since moved in and their catamaran is now a common sight in the Great Sound as they train and become familiar with Bermuda's waters.

Bermuda stands poised to join a legacy that dates back more than 150 years. Often referred to as the oldest international sporting trophy, this is the first time a British Overseas Territory has hosted the event. It is also the first time the event has been hosted on any form of British soil since its inception, when the very first race was held on the Isle of Wight in 1851.

With the sailing world focused on the island, Bermuda's youth sailors have been given a prime opportunity to learn from sport's elite. The Endeavour Programme aimed at 9-12 year olds is due to begin this summer and is designed to expose Bermuda's youth to the sport of sailing who otherwise may not have the opportunity. In preparation for the official launch, a small group of 14 youth sailors were given the chance to preview the program on eight Hobie Wave catamarans that arrived on the island late May.

Accompanying the 14, were; from ORACLE TEAM USA, America's Cup sailors Jimmy Spithill, Tom Slingsby, Rome Kirby and Andrew Campbell. From SoftBank Team Japan, skipper Dean Barker. Double Olympic gold-medallist Shirley Robertson, and five-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts. Each served as crew on the Hobie Waves, mentoring the youth sailors as they handled skippering duties.

Once the Endeavour Programme is launched, it will operate out of both the

eastern and western ends of the island. In addition to the sailing programme, there will also be a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program administered in Bermuda schools also aimed towards students aged 9-12 years old. This will include modules on everything from health and nutrition to the math and physics behind sailing and yacht design.

Equipment for the Endeavour programme has been supplied by North Sails, Hobie Cat, BIC Sport, RS Sailing, Harken, Dynamic Dollies and Racks, Magic Marine and is supported by several local partners in Bermuda such as Orbis, Appleby, Butterfield Bank and PwC.

*Images provided by Americas Cup Bermuda:
www.acbda.bm*

BVI successfully hosts 13th OCT EU Forum



▲ Dr. the Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE, Premier of BVI, and Commissioner Neven Mimica, European Commission

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) had its day in the sun on 27th February after the Government successfully hosted a week of international meetings in the Territory. Premier Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith OBE, led high-level talks on sustainable development and international and regional cooperation involving the European Union (EU), the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), EU Outermost Regions (ORs); the United Kingdom (UK), France, Netherlands and Denmark; and other development partners.

The highlight of the meetings was the 13th OCT-EU Forum, in which Premier Smith chaired a political roundtable on regional cooperation joined by Mr. Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development. Mr. Mimica is the EU's most senior development official whose attendance at the meeting and direct engagement with OCT leaders on how the OCTs and EU can work together on sustainable development, marked a high point in OCT-EU relations. Premier Smith, who served as OCT interlocutor to the EU in his capacity as Chairman of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA), was instrumental in securing the direct participation of the Commissioner at the Forum.

During the week of meetings in BVI, the Premier also chaired the OCTA Ministerial Conference of OCT Leaders and co-chaired with the European Commission the Caribbean Regional Conference for OCTs attended by the Caribbean OCTs and a number of regional (e.g. CARIFORUM) and international partners (e.g. European Investment Bank). BVI diplomacy

was instrumental at both meetings in brokering an agreement on the sectors of concentration for regional and international programming. Consequently, the EU's €40million earmarked for regional cooperation between Caribbean OCTs will focus on sustainable energy and marine biodiversity. It is expected that sustainable tourism and waste management will feature prominently in the programming process as sub-sectors. The EU's €16 - €18 million earmarked for cooperation across all OCTs in a thematic area will focus on climate change (including disaster risk reduction) and sustainable energy.

In the margins of the OCTA Ministerial Conference, the Premier was also elected as the Chairman of the Caribbean OCT Council that will seek to advance the Caribbean OCT regional agenda, including political oversight of Caribbean OCT regional programming funded by the EU and strengthening engagement between the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and its Associate Members, most of whom are Overseas Countries and Territories.

Successful OCTA Chairmanship

The week of meetings in the BVI were the culmination of Premier Smith's term as OCTA Chairman in which the BVI represented the OCTs in the EU and internationally. His success, strongly supported by the Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Hon. Kedrick Pickering, as well as the Premier's Office, International Affairs Secretariat, BVI London Office and Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, demonstrated the Territory's ability to manage its relationship with the EU and other international partners.

British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	Road Town (Tortola)
Size:	153 sq km
Population:	28,000
Currency:	US Dollar (US\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours

In recognition of the BVI's role in ensuring the meetings' successful organisation and outcome, Commissioner Mimica, in his closing remarks at the 13th OCT-EU Forum said, "Premier Smith, our cooperation with you has indeed been invaluable." This was further reflected in the meeting's outcome document, Common Conclusions of the 13th OCT-EU Forum, which stated that the EU and other partners "thanked the British Virgin Islands for their excellent work as OCTA Chair."

BVI as EU Hub

The next step in the BVI-EU relationship is for the Government to leverage the OCT-EU legal and financial framework for cooperation (Overseas Association Decision (OAD)) to develop the Territory into a regional hub for research on marine biodiversity and climate change adaptation. It can achieve this by partnering with EU academic and research institutions to establish centres of excellence in the field. Regional funding already provided by the EU under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) can help to facilitate such a process.

Establishing the BVI as a hub for EU activities will position the Territory to materially benefit well into the future from the relationship and advance the society in the field of environmental science, which can be leveraged to ensure the sustainability of the environment that is crucial to the success of the Territory's tourism sector. The EU is a worthwhile partner with whom the BVI must remain engaged as the Territory pursues sustainable development for the benefit of its people.

Election results

On 8th June 2015, voters in the British Virgin Islands went to the polls in nine districts across the Territory to elect 13 members to the Third House of Assembly. Premier Dr. the Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE and his National Democratic Party (NDP), were re-elected with 11 out of 13 seats, an increase on their previous majority of nine.

Shetty Hospital hopes for major patient jump

Health City Cayman Islands marked a major milestone on Wednesday when it announced that it had received accreditation from the Joint Commission International (JCI). This means that Dr Devi Shetty's first and only hospital outside India can now begin to target the US market in earnest as first intended. The hospital's goal is to boost capacity from just 22%



▲ Premier Alden McLaughlin Jr. MBE JP MLA and Dr Devi Shetty, Health City Cayman Islands

at present to as much as 75% in a short space of time.

The milestone, which was marked with a press briefing at the East End hospital on Wednesday, will also boost hopes for the realization of the long-awaited third leg of Cayman's economy with medical tourism.

Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	George Town
Size:	264 sq km
Population:	58,440
Currency:	Cayman Islands Dollar KYD
Time Zone:	EST -5 hours

Tourism

Air arrivals into the Cayman Islands have surpassed 150,000 in the first four months of 2015, an increase of almost five percent over the same period last year.

Figures released this month show just over 36,000 tourists touched down at the Owen Roberts International Airport in April, a small increase on the same month in 2014.

Air arrival figures – the key metric for the success of the tourism industry – have been steadily rising since 2009. More than 380,000 tourists arrived on island by air last year, which was the best on record.

The Minister of Tourism, Honorable Moses Kirkconnell, says the Cayman Islands has good reason to be optimistic about the future when it comes to tourism. Kirkconnell highlighted several major infrastructure projects in his budget address last week that will increase arrival numbers, continue to pump money into the economy and “add a healthy mix of 3, 4 and 5 star brands” to the islands. This construction boom consists of the pending sale of Treasure Island Resort on Seven Mile Beach, which he said “will command an inward investment of \$70-\$80 million to renovate and refurbish the property” and will begin in the next 8 months.

Also, the construction of the Kimpton Hotel that is set to open in 2016, the redevelopment of the former Hyatt Hotel, which the minister added is currently going through the planning process, the rebranding of the Reef Resort into the Wyndham property in East End and the proposed Ironwood Golf Resort in the eastern districts. Kirkconnell also mentioned construction to begin this year on a new Health City hotel to facilitate patients who come for care from abroad and the expansion of Camana Bay with another Dart hotel on Seven Mile Beach that is set to break ground in 2018.

Budget Address 2015



▲ The Hon. Marco Archer, JP, MLA, Minister for Finance and Economic Development

In his budget address of 15th May 2015, the Hon. Marco Archer, JP, MLA, Minister for Finance and Economic Development, said:

“As I will outline today in this address, during the 2015/16 fiscal year, our cash balance will reach levels never before seen by the Government without having borrowed the money; we will once again deliver a surplus budget; our debt burden will continue to fall; and our Government will regain full compliance with all principles of responsible financial management as outlined in the Public Management and Finance Law (2013 Revision) (the PMFL). When our fiscal plans come to fruition, the Government will be better able to serve our citizens and have greater flexibility in bringing much needed relief to our citizens through

enhanced programs, better infrastructure, increased employment opportunities, and lower fees and taxes. Madam Speaker, the 2015/16 Budget placed before you, represents a historic milestone for our country. It represents this Administration's unwavering commitment to maintain accountability in its financial affairs. It is the first Budget to achieve full compliance with all six Principles of Responsible Financial Management, as cited in the Framework for Fiscal Responsibility (the FFR) and reflected in the PMFL.

Net Operating Position: For 2015/16, the requirement that Central Government revenues be greater than its expenses, will be achieved, as the Government is forecasting Revenues of \$661.2 million and Operating Expenditures of \$539.9 million, resulting in a \$121.3 million net operating surplus; **Net Worth:** At the end of 2015/16, the requirement that Central Government assets less its liabilities be positive, will be achieved, as the Government's assets are forecast to exceed its liabilities by approximately \$1.7 billion.”

Archer also later confirmed that by the end of the current financial year, as a result of better than expected revenue across the public sector, there would be a surplus of over \$134 million — some \$12 million more than originally predicted and more than enough to cover extra operating costs in the 2014/15 year.

Minerals Update

Hydrocarbon exploration in the Falklands with a focus on a Local Content approach...



The Eirik Raude semi-submersible drilling rig arrived in the Falklands on 26th February and held a position 90 miles north for a complete crew change.

Crews join the rig from a chartered 'oil flight' landing here at Mount Pleasant Airport, from London Gatwick via Cape Verde, every two weeks.

A new 'Snoozebox' hotel has been built to the south of Stanley to facilitate the crew changes. The complex and groundworks were built by local contractors and comprises 24 45ft containers. Each container is split into four rooms with ensuite facilities. The new rooms provide accommodation for workers in Stanley and, for instances where crew changes are delayed, can accommodate up to

160 people for six weeks. Situated close to town the 'Snoozebox' guests also support increased trade in the local eateries and businesses.

Last year Bristow Helicopters were awarded a contract to provide support to the Eirik Raude. Three Sikorsky S92's are used, one providing fulltime rig support including crew changes, one for search and rescue support and the third having the capacity to undertake both duties as required.

The Local Content Code of Conduct is a voluntary code which ensures that local businesses are approached and contracted to works that can be fulfilled locally. To ensure local businesses are easy to identify by companies, and importantly, are accredited as a Falkland Islands business, a South Atlantic Registry of Oil Suppliers (SAROS) and a Local Content Register have been established for interested businesses to sign-up too.

Recently, offshore drilling rig Eirik Raude, operated by oil company Premier Oil, has discovered oil at the Isobel Deep well in the North Falkland Basin. Isobel Deep is the second well of a six-well campaign planned to take place in Falkland Islands waters through 2015 and the quality of the crude oil is considered high.

Director of Mineral Resources for Falkland Islands Government, Mr Stephen Luxton, said: "Early signs are very positive, and prove a working hydrocarbons system exists in this part of the basin." More analysis is needed said Mr Luxton, but added that the result "potentially opens up a new development area."

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	Stanley
Size:	12,173 sq km
Population:	2,563
Currency:	Falkland Islands Pound
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours

has progressed from a colony to a self-sustaining and internally self-governing country, with its own laws, regulations and thriving economy. The Falklands enjoy a democratic and prosperous future as a result of the hard work of Falkland Islanders, explained MLA Rendell, adding that we have no wish to be associated politically with any other country but "welcome good neighbourly relations with nearby countries - apart from Argentina, because their government continues to ignore our right to self-determination."

"The current Argentine Government will not even engage with our representatives in any meetings and will not discuss matters of mutual interest." She went on to say that in recent years the Argentine Government had walked away from two agreements with the UK Government and the Falkland Islands, related to the economic development and environmental protection of resources in the South West Atlantic. "Argentina no longer shares scientific data or jointly discusses the management of straddling fish stocks with our Islands' government. The sustainable management of the fish stocks is internationally important and it is to the detriment of both ourselves and Argentina that there is no cooperation over a shared fishery. Only those exploiting the unregulated high seas benefit." Furthermore, she said that the Argentine Government breaking of an agreement on hydrocarbon exploration meant that there is no dialogue and sharing of information that would lead to a better informed industry.

Assembly member at UN Decolonisation Committee (C24) Meeting



Hon. Mrs. Phyl Rendell MBE, Member of the Legislative assembly, travelled to Managua, Nicaragua in May, to address members of the United Nations Decolonisation Committee (C24). She reminded the gathering of the overwhelming and democratic choice that the people of the Falklands made to remain a British Overseas Territory in the internationally verified 2013 referendum. She also explained to the attending delegates how the Falklands

HM Government of Gibraltar opens new office in Brussels



▲ Sir Graham Watson, Deputy Chief Minister, The Hon Dr Joseph Garcia MP and Chief Minister, The Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP

The Gibraltar Government Office in Brussels has been officially opened by the Chief Minister, The Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, in the presence of the Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Joseph Garcia MP and Attorney General, Michael Llamas. The Chief Minister was introduced by Sir Graham Watson.

The five storey building, which cost 1.3 million euros, is a typical Brussels house in a central square of the EU capital, which is close to the European Commission and to the United Kingdom representation, UKREP. It comprises three floors of office space and two floors of residential space. One of the flats in the building is occupied by Legal Officer Daniel D'Amato, who has been seconded to Brussels by the Government's European Union and International Department (EUID). The Government considers that the purchase represents excellent value for money and a great investment in bricks and mortar terms alone.

The opening of Gibraltar House in Brussels was attended by a wide cross-section of EU political society. This included several Ambassadors of EU countries to the

European Union, as well as the heads of regional offices of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Catalan Governments. There were also a large number of Members of the European Parliament present from across the political spectrum and from different countries. This included Conservative, Labour, Liberal, Green and UKIP MEPs. There were many Brussels-based journalists present and representatives of important think-tanks; the high-powered attendance reflecting the lobbying work which has been carried out by the Government in the EU capital ever since it came into office in December 2011 and indeed before then. This point was made by the Chief Minister in his address when he referred to his first visit to Brussels, with Dr Garcia, some twenty years ago as a young law student and the other as an historian who had just written the modern political history of Gibraltar.

The activities of Gibraltar House in Brussels will be directed and guided by Sir Graham Watson, who has been instrumental in Gibraltar's years of work in Brussels. Sir Graham will be supported by a team of four further members of staff.

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital:	Gibraltar
Size:	6.5 sq km
Population:	29,752 (2011)
Currency:	Gibraltar Pound
Time Zone:	Central European Time

Gibraltar Police Commissioner and UK Representative attend ACCP Conference

In May this year, Eddie Yome CPM, Commissioner of the Royal Gibraltar Police, and Albert Poggio GMH OBE, UK Representative for HM Government of Gibraltar, travelled to St Kitts to attend the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) AGM and Conference; the first time Gibraltar has attended.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Community Policing... Delivering Quality Policing Service' and was opened by ACCP President Mr David Baines, OBE, CCM, Mst (Cantab), Commissioner of the Cayman Islands. Commissioner Baines expressed the view that such conferences were key to the sharing of information and best practice. Various presentations were given by learned individuals from both the private and the public sectors, mostly in areas of Community Policing and Building Trust; and enhancing Community and Police relations.

Gibraltar to be Enfranchised with UK in EU Referendum

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar is delighted to note the confirmation from the Office of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon David Cameron MP, that Gibraltar will be included in the franchise for the European Union Referendum to be organised by the Government of the United Kingdom.

This confirmation is in keeping with the assurances the Chief Minister had previously obtained from the Minister for Europe, the Rt Hon David Lidington MP, as to the intention of the Conservative Party if it won an absolute majority in the UK General Election.

The Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Hon

Fabian Picardo QC MP, said: "David Cameron has been true to his word to the people of Gibraltar and, as a British part of the EU, our voice will be heard as part of the franchise for this seminal exercise in democracy. We are working closely with the Prime Minister and his Government to ensure the necessary framework for the EU Referendum is in place in Gibraltar at the same time as in the UK. I look forward to this important debate."

Montserrat – At a Glance

Seat of Government:	Brades
Size:	102 sq km
Population:	4,922
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

Housing Strategy



Speaking at the 44th Annual St Patrick's Co-operative Credit Union General Meeting, the Honourable Minister of

Agriculture, Trade, Housing, Lands and the Environment, Claude Hogan, outlined the Government of Montserrat's plans for reviving the housing strategy on island to ensure provision of affordable housing for persons resident on Montserrat. Montserratians in the Diaspora who may be desirous of returning to take up residence on the island can also benefit from this initiative.

In setting out the key elements of the strategy, the Hon. Minister Hogan, said, "To promote private housing we will maintain a policy where a contractor or developer can be retained, or a private

person retain his own contractor, to build a house with all imported building materials duty free and consumption tax free on a property valued at least US\$300,000. We already have the system in place for this where the bill of quantities are assessed and approved by the Public Works Department, authenticated by the Ministry of Finance and managed at the border by the Montserrat Customs services. Returning nationals will also enjoy duty free and consumption tax free imports of building materials, on household effects and tools of trade as soon as we get the Cabinet memo through to create the necessary legal instrument and administrative systems to make this work properly".

The Minister also outlined proposals to enter into an arrangement with the Bank of Montserrat, private banks and the Montserrat Social Security Fund (MSSF) to finance housing, on serviced lots to be made available by the Government of

Montserrat (GoM). These will be allocated on a means test basis. The Minister said the government will be re-juvenating the Housing and Land Allocation Committee (HLAC) to make recommendations to the Government on all social housing solutions. In making its recommendations for social housing support the HLAC is expected to advise or recommend GoM's support from a range of options including mortgage facilitation and a government financed soft mortgage scheme.

New Governor Appointed



Governor Designate for Montserrat, Ms Elizabeth Carriere OBE, met with the Government of Montserrat UK Representative, Mrs Janice Panton MBE, at the Montserrat Government UK Office.

Elizabeth Carriere OBE has been appointed as successor to Mr Adrian Davis who will retire from Diplomatic Service. Ms Carriere currently heads the DFID Office in Juba, South Sudan; she is expected to take up her appointment as Governor of Montserrat in early August 2015.

During her DFID career, which spans some sixteen years, Ms Carriere has worked in a range of countries in Asia, the Caribbean and Africa.

On appointment as Governor of Montserrat, she is quoted as saying, "I am delighted to be appointed as Governor of Montserrat. I am also pleased to be returning to the Caribbean, and specifically to help Montserrat achieve sustainable economic development and increased financial independence. The Montserratian people's resilience in the face of setbacks is inspiring, and a solid

platform for building a positive future for the Island. I look forward to being part of that."

During the meeting with Mrs Panton, Ms Carriere reiterated her pleasure of being appointed as Governor of Montserrat. They discussed the history of Montserrat, the devastating effects of the volcano, and the efforts of Montserratian people to re-establish the Island's economy. They also discussed the pristine and outstanding beauty of the Island. Ms Carriere re-emphasised how much she is looking forward to arriving in Montserrat at the beginning of August.

The management and staff at the Montserrat Government UK Office congratulate Ms Carriere on her appointment and look forward to working with her.

Development Projects



Photo by Andrew Christian

Since the upgrade of the Bounty Bay jetty in September 2009, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), Pitcairn's ongoing infrastructure development has been funded by the European Commission (EU). From 2009, the EU has funded increased water storage capacity via European Development Funding (EDF) 9, envelop C - "Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Pacific OCTs". Climate change is significantly affecting the rain distribution on Pitcairn, leaving the island with water shortages during dry spells and landslides in periods of extreme excessive rain. Work on improved waste and erosion management is soon to be started, funded by INTEGRE, the Pacific Regional EDF 10 fund.

EDF 9 Territorial funding for the Tourism Sector is underway; after many delays due to human resource capacity constraints with the administration and EU programming processes and logistical challenges to get the equipment to Pitcairn. EDF 9 was approved to construct a jetty at Tedside, on the North Western side of the Island, and upgrade the road linking Tedside to Adamstown.

Pitcairn identified Tourism as the main sector for economic growth during the government restructure in 2009. Along with 'on island' stay of small groups, Pitcairn is on a major cruise ship route, approximately half way between Easter Island and Tahiti. Stopping at Pitcairn is a welcome break for cruise tourists on this seven day sea journey.

Pitcairn – At a Glance

Capital:	Adamstown
Size:	47 sq km
Population:	48
Currency:	New Zealand Dollar
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -8 hours

International research data identified Tedside as being the site where Pitcairn was more likely to land passengers in tenders than at the jetty at Bounty Bay, due to marginal weather conditions at Bounty Bay during the Cruise Season from November to April. A desired breakwater at Bounty Bay was costed at over 250 million Euros to construct, which was not considered economically feasible.

The Tedside project is being developed for just 2.4 million Euros. Progress has been slow due to rough and wet weather conditions hampering the construction, but work is underway and the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

Further EU funding under the Tourism Sector for the EDF 10 Territorial and the Pacific Regional fund implemented via "INTEGRE" is helping to provide and upgrade services to facilitate the growth of the Tourism sector and part of the next funding, EDF 11, is earmarked to assess improved access to the Island and upgrading communication, health and safety facilities and renewable energy.

St Helena – At a Glance

Capital:	Jamestown
Size:	410 sq km
Population:	4,289
Currency:	St Helenian Pound (SHP)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time



Enterprise St Helena helps people to prepare for Air Access

On 27th March 2015 Enterprise St Helena (ESH) held an Opportunities Fair in the Castle Gardens in Jamestown. The fair gave people the chance to view displays and hear talks illustrating training and education opportunities, including various initiatives for private enterprises. The event also advertised careers and vacancies currently on offer and airport related business opportunities which will be available in early 2016.

The Opportunities Fair was opened by Governor Capes and Chief Executive of ESH, Niall O'Keeffe, who both spoke about recent developments on the Island. On a day that Governor Capes described as 'Good News Friday', he announced a contract worth £2.8 million for the refurbishment of the Jamestown General Hospital to greatly enhance the Island's medical care, and confirmed that Comair will provide the Air Service to St Helena. People were encouraged to take a look around at



Governor Capes ended by saying:
'As we continue to steer St Helena towards new opportunities, to shape a prosperous future for the

benefit of all who live and work on the Island, we are indeed fortunate to have on-board two strong partners of the calibre of Mantis and Comair.' The Governor ended by commenting: 'By any reckoning, we have achieved a great deal in just a few years... for such a small community, with limited resources, we can be proud of the progress made in such a short time.'

The event was a tremendous success both locally and internationally. Streams of people visited the pop-up career centre in the Castle Gardens, up until it closed, and ESH has had quite a number of follow-up calls since the day itself. ESH is also busy fielding high level enquiries internationally, following a parallel event on the same day in Cape Town.



Photographs:
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TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Sustainable island



▲ The Repetto family in Edinburgh of the Seven Seas

Tristan da Cunha is working hard to build a sustainable future, and to become less reliant on supplies of diesel fuel that are shipped vast distances across the Atlantic. With local labour and support from the European Development Fund, solar water heaters have been installed as a trial on the homes of three island families, and a 6.5kW solar electricity farm has been created near the fish-processing factory.

The island has also partnered with the Royal Institute of British Architects to run a global competition, seeking ideas for a more sustainable Tristan. It's hoped experts



will suggest ways to re-design homes and public buildings, and to improve grazing and the growth of fresh produce.

Positive words: now Tristan needs action

The UK government has given encouraging signs that it's willing to defend Tristan da Cunha from the threat to its lifeline harbour – and now the island awaits the results.

The alarm was raised when serious erosion was identified in the structure of Calshot Harbour; sole link with the fishing and freight vessels that maintain the Tristan economy. Chief Islander Ian Lavarello journeyed thousands of miles through the



▲ Damage to Tristan's Calshot harbour

Atlantic swell to tell UK ministers how the survival of a unique community depends on their help. Tristan is largely self-sufficient, but cannot finance larger capital costs such as major infrastructure repairs.

The result was a published commitment from HM Government that the Tristan harbour is a 'priority infrastructure need' that will be monitored, addressed and supported where appropriate. Two more statements have given further hope to islanders. First, the Department for International Development released its business case for repairs to the existing structure, with the stated aim: 'Tristan da Cunha's self-sufficiency safeguarded'. Then, the Conservative manifesto for the 2015 general election pledged the incoming government to 'protect our Overseas Territories'.

A real commitment to long-term harbour access is vital if this special community is to maintain its industrious way of life. Tristan da Cunha's heard the encouraging words. Now comes the anxious wait for action.

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital:	Edinburgh of the Seven Seas
Size:	98 sq km
Population:	268
Currency:	Pound Sterling
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time



▲ RFA Gold Rover

UK's helping hands span the miles

The Tristan islanders' affection for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary has grown even stronger, after the service again lent a helping hand to the world's most isolated community.

The crew of the RFA Gold Rover set course for Tristan da Cunha when they heard the island's hospital needed fresh stocks of important medical supplies. Gold Rover revised her existing South Atlantic itinerary to deliver the precious cargo in April, earning a message of 'sincere thanks and appreciation' from the island's Administrator Alex Mitham. Tristan already had reason to be grateful to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary: back in 2008 RFA Lyme Bay brought a joint-service task force to carry-out urgent harbour repairs.

Photo credit: Ministry of Defence

New chapter for lobster tale

The proud story of 'Tristan Rock Lobster' has moved into an exciting new phase, with the fish now imported into the European Union. A sustainable fishery is the lifeblood of a self-supporting economy for Tristan, so the island carefully controls the size and the number of lobsters taken each year.

For decades, America and Asia have been key markets for Tristan's lobster exports. Now, thanks to hard work by the island's team and the fishing concessionaries Ovenstone Agencies, the EU also welcomes Tristan da Cunha's signature product. Selfridges in London, and top restaurants in Paris, are among the first European destinations for this gastronomic treat.

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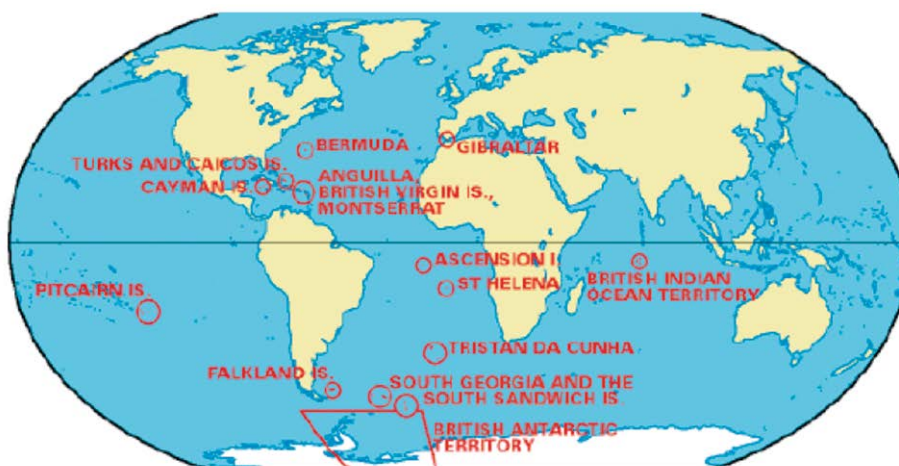
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