

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 121/2005
8 December 2005

Shadow Minister for Government Services Lucio Randall will question the Government on staffing issues at Gibtelecom and Shadow Minister for Health Marie Montegriffo has tabled a question to establish whether cases of MRSA have been detected at St Bernard's Hospital in the months of October and November 2005.

Lucio Randall will ask the Government to state what was the current staff level at Gibtelecom at the time that the voluntary separation package was offered to 32 employees and how many of these 32 employees have taken up the offer by the closing date. On a separate matter, Mr Randall will ask the Government to state the number of power cuts that affected whole districts in October and November 2005, providing a breakdown of the areas affected and the reason why they occurred.

The Opposition Spokesman for Government Services will also table a number of questions on the Buildings and Works Department. He will quiz the Government on how many tradesmen have left Buildings and Works in the past five years and how many of these have been replaced. Mr Randall also wants to know when the vacancy for the post of Human Resources Officer for the department opened, how many individuals applied for that post, how many were interviewed, and what the result of the interview procedure has been. Mr Randall also wants Government to confirm that members of the Buildings and Works Department have to rely on their own transport to attend job functions.

In relation to the bus company, Mr Randall will ask Government to give the number of fee paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares collected from these passengers in October and November 2005. On another issue he will ask Government to say whether they have now looked at or come to a policy decision in respect of the claim from retired Senior Fire Officers regarding backdated pay and conditions.

For her part Shadow Health Minister Marie Montegriffo will ask Government to say when they expect to repair or replace the TV sets that are not functioning in the wards at St Bernard's Hospital. She also wants Government to confirm whether they have now finalized the discussions with the General Practitioners regarding their job description.

Ms Montegriffo will also want Government to say whether they have finalized their consideration of the appropriate way to deal with the sub-letting to GHA of properties at Harbour Views, Montagu Gardens and Westview Park, where sub-letting is prohibited. She has also tabled a question to find out how many complaints have been lodged with the new independent review panel in the months of October and November 2005, by users of the health service, specifying the date of each complaint.

The Opposition Health Spokesperson will ask Government to state what is the average waiting time for school children to be provided with dental braces by the dental department of the GHA.

ENDS