



FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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New Training Facility for the Falkland Islands

A new world of training and qualifications is available for the Falkland Islands' population at the modern new premises of the Falkland Islands Government's Training Centre. Staff at the Training Centre worked with colleagues in the Public Services Department to transform a former plumbers' workshop into a brand new training facility for the Falkland Islands.

At the heart of the new building is a large workshop for carpentry, plumbing, electrical and decorating trades, with work bays representing rooms in a house. There is a small commercial kitchen, a test area, classroom facilities and a computer suite plus staff offices. Apprentices in the construction trades can undertake practical training on-site, which is of particular benefit where their employer is unable to provide the opportunity to do work required as part of the NVQ syllabus. Catering candidates will be able to train and learn in the commercial kitchen.

A wide range of NVQs are already available in the Falkland Islands, but the new facility will enable the Training Centre to strengthen links with the Department of Agriculture and related employers and the Centre hopes to offer courses in horticulture and agriculture. New courses in leatherwork and furniture making are also being explored. Other apprenticeships already sponsored by the Falkland Islands Government include mechanics and aircraft maintenance.

Councillor Jan Cheek, who holds the Education Portfolio, said: “We welcome the opening of this new facility which will improve training within the Falklands and develop the expertise of our already skilled workforce.”

The Training Centre is part of the Department of Education. As well as managing the apprenticeship programme, it provides Key Skills Training, the European Computer Driving Licence, Entry 2 Employment for school leavers who are not going straight into employment or further education, courses in book-keeping and supervisory management, and much more besides. Its vision is to enable young and old to obtain the qualifications that will benefit the Falkland Islands’ continuing growth and development.

Office of the Legislative Assembly
Gilbert House
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For more information please contact Alison Inglis, Media Liaison Office, Falkland Islands Government at tel. +500 27451 or email media2@sec.gov.fk. Photographs and interviews are available on request, and more Falkland Islands information is available at www.falklands.gov.fk.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Falkland Islands are a United Kingdom Overseas Territory situated in the Southern Hemisphere about 350 miles east of the South American mainland. The Islands are made up of two main Islands (East and West Falkland) and some 700 smaller Islands, covering an area half the size of Wales. The capital Stanley is located on East Falkland.
2. Over the past 28 years, the Falkland Islands have become one of the most modern and dynamic Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom. The Islands enjoy a sophisticated system of internal government and are economically self-sufficient in all areas except defence.
3. The Islands’ population has risen from 1,800 in 1982 to around 2,500 in 2006 (the latest Census). Nearly 96% of the population is British and 79% of the population is

aged 55 years and under. The majority of young Islanders chose to return to the Islands to live and work, contributing to its thriving private and public sectors.

4. Education in the Falkland Islands is compulsory from age 5 to 16. The Falkland Islands Government funds further and higher education for young Islanders. Many students undertake A-levels or vocational training at Peter Symonds College, Winchester or Chichester College of Further Education, before progressing to university. Graduate traineeships are available on return to the Falklands.