



The

Voice

October 2009

The Argentine Next of Kin Visits—Response from the FCO

Following the Argentine Next of Kin Visits which took place in October 2009 Chris Bryant from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London sent the following message to His Excellency the Governor:

"Dear Alan

I have been following the visits of the Argentine Next of Kin closely. As you know, the British Government, including the Prime Minister personally, were particularly keen for these visits to be a success.

I should like to congratulate all those involved in the planning for these visits. I have seen the reports and the media coverage, and undoubtedly the visits can be considered a success. The excellent preparations were noted and appreciated wisely by the next of kin, Families Commission and the visiting Argentine media.

There have inevitably been a number of real and sensitive challenges. It is clear that a large degree of the success of the visits is attributable to the constructive and pragmatic actions of many in FIG, made all the more difficult by the impending elections.

These were important humanitarian events. I would appreciate if you could pass on my thanks to all involved in FIG for their contribution and support towards these successful humanitarian visits.

Yours sincerely

Chris Bryant"

Public Service Excellence Awards

The introduction of an annual honours function in FIG has been requested by the Chief Executive. These annual awards will aim to encourage and reward outstanding performance from staff members that have demonstrated continuous quality improvement, team spirit, excellence in the performance of assigned duties and those who have established a quality service orientation, so as to benefit his or her department, the Government or their customers.

An awards committee has been established and will manage the process to ensure success. The committee consists of 7 persons: Gina Smith, Samantha Brownlee, Andrew Newman, Claudette Prior, Nick Barrett, Julie Courtney, and Steve Dent as Chairman.

The committee has already had initial meetings, where details of the awards were discussed, as well as an agreed timeline of progress set. The awards will comprise of several categories for nomination, of which teams and individuals at all levels will be eligible to enter.

Details of the nomination procedure will be sent out to all FIG staff in due course, it is hoped that the nomination process will be complete by February 2010 for a judging panel to assess and elect winners.

It is anticipated that the first annual awards ceremony will take place in March 2010.

A Note from the Chief Executive

Dear Colleague,

The recent elections have returned a completely new Legislative Assembly. Members will of course take a little while to get to grips with the many issues and opportunities which face the Government. These include the budget, the economy, the future of Camp and the Rural Development Strategy, public service issues such as health and education, the onset of oil exploration, transport issues and of course international relations. They will also wish to review in detail the current Review of Government.

Directors and other staff are involved in briefing new Members over the next few days and it is hoped departmental visits and meetings can be arranged shortly.

In the meantime whilst we await the reviews of policy and new decisions it is 'business as usual' in terms of our usual hard work to deliver good public services.

Thank you once again for your efforts, and a particular thanks to staff involved in the efficient running of electoral processes including polling stations and the counting of votes.

With good wishes.

Tim Thorogood
Chief Executive

Competency Framework

Trainers from the National School of Government visited the Islands in October to help us to develop a Competency Framework for FIG.

We would like to thank all of you who gave their time to attend the workshops and the briefing sessions and give us feedback on the events. The general feedback was that perhaps we had tried to move too far too fast on this first visit. Staff generally thought the idea was good but the details and complexities of how it would work caused many of us a puzzled frown.

GMT considered the feedback and as they still feel that the idea is sound have asked the Trainers to come back for another week on 21st November. This time working groups will look at producing the Competency or Skills framework in two halves starting with the Directors and Heads of Service. Richard Fogerty, Ag Director of Education and John Barton, Director of Natural Resources will lead on this project. Later on Manfred Keenleyside, Director of Public Services has agreed to lead the working group looking at skills for Supervisors and front line workers.

We hope to produce a comprehensive assessment framework to identify the skills needed to perform well in our jobs wherever we sit in the management structure of FIG.

EDS Summary

In July 2008, the Legislative Assembly and the Chamber of Commerce thought it time to put together a vision for how to develop the economy of the Islands over the next 10 to 15 years through a partnership between the local public and private sectors.

The Economic Strategy Document (EDS) has as its goal: “developing a sustainable economic future for the Falkland Islands”. This can mean many things – ensuring employment is available to all those who seek it; helping people maximise incomes; facilitating the growth of new industries; ensuring FIG has the funds to continue to provide public services. The specific targets are numerous; however, overall the aim of the project is for the public, private and voluntary sector to work together on ensuring the islands continue to thrive.

The first step was to put together a cross-sectoral ‘Core Group’ that could help with the task of formulating the strategy. It was agreed that we should break our economy down into 5 key sectors: (1) Agriculture (2) Fisheries (3) Services (4) Tourism (5) New Industries (developing new sectors to our economy). The 5 industry groups will develop an industry strategy in two parts. Part A is about ‘setting the scene’, and Part B will entail setting growth targets and devising strategies for achieving those targets.

FIG is currently in the Part B stage of the EDS, where the 5 existing industries are in the process of setting targets, identifying opportunities and developing strategies for growth. The timings of this process and each step are relatively fluid, but an agreed target finish (for publication of the final document) is for June 2010.

Travelling on official business any time soon?

Then don't forget to check out the FIG Travel Insurance Guidance Notes on public folders. They can be found under “Insurance/Travel Insurance/Schedule and Guidance Notes”. Remember to carry laptops and other valuables in hand luggage as the policy does not cover for such items to be carried in hold luggage and please note that the policy does not cover mid-tour leave, therefore contract officers and their families should make their own insurance arrangements for such travel. For full information refer to the FIG Travel Insurance Guidance Notes.

Bon voyage!

Government Restructure—Starters and Leavers

As published in the October Gazette there were four key “Transfers” of senior personnel in the organisation as a result of the Government Review.

- The Public Works Department is now the Public Services Department. Manfred Keenleyside is now therefore known as the Director of Public Services.
- The Finance department, which includes the Treasury, Internal Audit, Pensions and Taxation is now known as the Department of Corporate Resources. Keith Padgett will now be known as the Director of Corporate Resources.
- Phyl Rendell is now the Director of Mineral Resources.
- Agriculture and Fisheries have been combined to form the Department of Natural Resources under John Barton as the Director of Natural Resources.
- David Pickup remains as Attorney General, leading the Attorney General's Department.

News on the other Strategic Director appointments :-

- The Department of Procurement and Efficiency, which includes Computer Section, FIGAS, Airports, HR, Stanley Leisure Centre and the Post Office is headed by the Director of Procurement and Efficiency Andrew Lee, as reported last month.
- The Department of Health and Education will be headed by David Jenkins who is due to take up post as Director of Health and Education in mid January.
- The Royal Falkland Islands Police, Fire Service, Customs and Immigration and Falkland Islands Defence Force will combine to form the Department of Community Safety under the Director of Community Safety. Recruitment to this post is now well advanced and a press release is expected shortly.
- For the sake of completeness The Chief Executive, Tim Thorogood, continues to manage the Secretariat which comprises Policy, Environmental Planning, Executive Management, Port Development and FIGO in London, in addition to the eight Strategic Directors.

Health and Social Services Update

Key objectives in the Islands and Business Plans relate to the need to tackle some of the underlying health issues here in the Islands and to develop strategies to promote healthier lifestyles. We believe that, our priority should be to look at: smoking, drinking, diet/obesity, exercise, looking after our children and maintaining good mental health.

These priorities will always be our core themes, but some months we will also target an area such as blood pressure or oral health. We will aim to provide up to date information, as well as identifying professional support available here for those who wish to learn more about the implications of some of our lifestyle choices – and what we can do to improve our health, both now and in the longer term. We would also hope to be able to start to offer individual health checks.

We need community support for this and are looking to ‘recruit’ staff in Government and from the wider community who would like to get involved in developing this programme. If you are interested, please contact Mandy Heathman on 28000.

Objective	Planned Outcome	Performance Indicator
11) We will promote and maintain a healthy and fit society	11.1) Improved community health	A Average life expectancy of population to match corresponding ages in the UK (males 79 years and females 84 years)
		B) Reduce the number of people smoking
		C) Reduce the number of people that are clinically obese
		D) Reduce the number of those abusing alcohol.