

PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION

PROFILE FORM

COVER SHEET

Name of place applying: Stanley, capital city of the Falkland Islands
City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status: City status
Local Authority: Falkland Islands Government
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Community and culture

When asked: ‘What is Falkland’s culture?’, the following key words are regularly used – resilient, diverse, friendly, hardworking, generous, loyal, resourceful, honest and innovative. These are just some of the core qualities embedded within Falkland Islands culture, many of which are as a result of the geographic isolation of the Islands. Because the Falkland Islands has never had an indigenous population, our heritage has been influenced by the individuals who moved here, over many decades, from across the world, to put down roots and make this place their home.

Preserving our unique and diverse traditions is important to the community, and this work is led by the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust. Quirky exhibits include a travelling dentist’s chair, penguin skeleton and relics rescued from over one hundred shipwrecks around the Islands. With support from the Falkland Islands Government, the museum has secured funding for a new exhibition hall and gallery on a second site in Stanley, and it is hoped this new space will house their larger display items, such as the Sea King Search and Rescue Helicopter gifted to the people of the Falklands in 2016.

Stanley is also home to the Jane Cameron National Archives. Falkland Islander Jane Cameron returned to the Islands in 1989, after studying overseas, to become the first official government archivist. Jane sadly passed away in 2009 and as an acknowledgement to her commitment to preserving all forms of Islands history was well known, the national archives were renamed in her honour. Today the archives provide a rich seam of historical knowledge, used by researchers and historians from across the world.

One of the largest influences on our culture, as an island nation, is our oceans. Stanley may be small, but is one of the busiest ports on the South Atlantic coast, supporting a range of seafarers from cruise ships to polar research vessels, from yachts to jiggers, and in January 2018, provided a temporary berth for the INSV Tarini – the first all-women Indian naval expedition to circumnavigate the globe.

Despite its size, Stanley is home to fully functioning front line response services, many of which are sustained by local volunteers. There is one hospital to support the local population – King Edward VII Memorial Hospital (KEMH) – as well as emergency services, including the Royal Falkland Islands Police (RFIP), Falkland Islands Fire and Rescue and the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF). While these are maintained by a small contingent of full-time employees, each are also supported by reservists who dedicate their time to the safety and security of the community. These services may be significantly smaller than in other countries, but are delivered with the same level compassion and dedication as anywhere else in the world.

Many people here still suffer from the physical and mental scars following the events of 1982. The landscape is still disfigured and debris scatters the battlefields. Until recently, the most noticeable reminders of the war were the minefields, many of which were laid on Stanley’s doorstep. However, on 14 November 2020, the Islands were officially declared mine free. This was no small feat, as an area equating to 28,800 football pitches was meticulously cleared, often by hand, to remove a range of explosive ordnance. The Islanders were then able to reclaim land and beaches that, for 38 years, had been inaccessible. Before this, Yorke Bay, schoolchildren would attend annual sessions with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) detachment, to learn about the dangers of suspicious devices – a necessary, yet very sad part of their childhood. SafeLane Global Ltd led the work with a team of Zimbabwean deminers, funded by the UK government, and it is thanks their bravery and dedication that current and future generations can now enjoy a mine free Falklands.

Economic development

The Falkland Islands are financially self-sufficient with strong fishery, agriculture, tourism and private sector industries. Stanley is the centre for agriculture, fisheries, exports, tourism logistics, retail businesses and core services. While not all economic mainstays take place within Stanley, without the supporting services and infrastructure that Stanley provides, these industries would struggle to function. The Islands have reserves of over three times their national expenditure and have largely recovered from the impacts of the global pandemic. The overriding strength of the economy has ensured a relatively high standard of living for residents and unemployment levels here are below 1%.

As the Islands economy developed following the Falklands War, Stanley became the economic hub of the Islands. Acting upon the recommendations of the economic survey undertaken by Lord Shackleton of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1976 and 1982, the Falkland Islands Government looked to implement a regulated and well managed commercial fishery. The findings of the survey, combined with a drastic decline in wool prices in the 1980s, led to the creation of a commercial fisheries industry. In 1986, the Falkland Islands Government declared the Falklands Interim Conservation Zone (FICZ) 150 miles around the Islands, giving our people complete control of the fishery. The zone was further extended to 200 miles in 1990, creating the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone (FOCZ). The revenue generated by these licence fees completely transformed our economy, and today almost 65% of our Gross Domestic Product is generated from the fishing industry; this in turn has enabled the government to invest in local services including education, medical services and telecommunications.

Stanley plays a key role in the facilitation of the fishing industry; home to the Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Department, it is responsible for fishery management in Falklands waters. To obtain a commercial licence, vessels need to be owned or in a joint venture with Falkland Island registered companies, all of which are based in Stanley. At the beginning of each season, vessels arrive in Stanley to collect their licences and meet with local company representatives, and many use this opportunity to provision for their time at sea. When the fishing season is in full swing, many vessels return to Stanley for transshipment of their products, and these are then exported to international markets. At present, plans are well underway to design a new port for Stanley, which will provide new opportunities for future developments across fishing and tourism.

Exceptional fisheries management has been paramount to the long-term sustainability of the industry. This management not only focuses on the commercial target species, but bycatch species and marine mammals and seabirds. Extensive research and assessments are conducted throughout the year, to ensure that the appropriate management tools are being applied. With the exception of the Illex squid fishery, fishing in the FICZ and FOCZ is controlled by a system of Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ), held by Falkland Island resident companies. As part of the licence agreement vessels must report their daily catch to the Fisheries Departments, allowing the department to closely monitor fishing activity, and if needs be, close the season to avoid over-fishing of specific species.

The Falkland Islands commercial fisheries are primarily reliant on the export of catch. 83% of exports are sent to the EU with the remaining 17% directed to non-EU countries including Namibia and the United States. The Islands also indirectly benefit from the industry and their catches, as vessels require numerous onshore services and supports when fishing in Falkland's waters, including transportation, administrative services, fuel and provisioning.

Agriculture has been an integral part of the Falkland Islands economy since 1845. The Islands' wool industry was in full swing by 1870 and, for the next 100 years, it was the main pillar of the local economy, which relied heavily on the exportation of wool. The vast majority of farms were owned by private companies based in the UK or absentee landlords, but were run and maintained by the Islanders' themselves. Today, many farms are locally owned, with families choosing to build their lives in the Camp, working the land, raising and educating their children, and looking after livestock.

While life in Stanley is vastly different to life in Camp, there are deep-rooted relationships between the two, with no clearly defined rural/urban divide as in many other countries. Stanley residents have a good knowledge of rural life in the Falklands and it is due to this knowledge that they often form a temporary local workforce to support the agricultural calendar, for example during shearing season.

Tourism is a relatively new industry for the Falkland Islands. Our rich and diverse wildlife, rugged natural beauty, expansive land and seascapes, outdoor activities and welcoming community all make for a memorable visit, and the relative isolation of the Islands makes the experience all the more unique. Cruise ship tourism has developed rapidly and the mid-1990s saw the start of a regular cruise vessel tourism season; however, some of the first leisure tourists to arrive in the Islands via cruise vessel was in 1968. During the 2019/2020 tourism season, we welcomed 72,836 cruise passengers to the Islands, which was our busiest season to date, as well as almost 2,000 land-based visitors. Many visitors are returning cruise passengers, keen to undertake a range of activities such as penguin safaris, helicopter tours, visits to Outer Islands, and trips to sites of historical interest.

Most land-based visitors arrive via our airlinks with mainland South America; however, these have been suspended since March 2020, which is why the Falkland Islands Government has put in place a series of economic support packages to help local businesses to weather the impacts of the pandemic, including our hugely successful 'TRIP' staycation scheme. Many farmers and landowners have embraced the opportunities offered by tourism to diversify their income, for example by investing in purpose-built lodges and accommodation, or operating a local tours business, all of which can be run in tandem with farming activities and are popular with both the international and domestic market.

Private sector businesses are also pivotal to the Islands economic growth and the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce represents 109 private sector businesses, across 21 different industries. The last four decades have seen exponential growth in private sector businesses within Stanley, including retail and shopping facilities. There are no franchises in Stanley – the nearest McDonalds is in South America, however supermarkets predominantly sell UK-branded groceries from retailers such as Waitrose and Co-op. Fresh produce is often imported, but also grown locally using hydroponics, to ensure successful yields of fruit and vegetables that would otherwise struggle to thrive in our climate.

In recent years, some local entrepreneurs have set up their own distilleries and a brewery; these have been very successful – indeed some are award-winning – and have been well-received by the local community and visitors. Locally distilled gin is infused with Falkland Islands botanicals, including diddle-dee berries and scurvy grass. Local beer and ales have typically Falkland Islands names, such as 'Longdon Pride' and 'Peat Cutter'. Other local businesses include hardware stores, agriculture supplies, home décor, electronic and souvenir shops. Stanley also has a range of cafes and restaurants, many of which use a wide range of local produce, from locally caught squid and toothfish, to succulent cuts of mutton, lamb and beef.

Education and young people

Stanley is the central hub for education within the Falkland Islands and is where our two main schools are based – the Infant and Junior School (4-11 years) and the Falkland Islands Community School (11-16 years). Children under the age of 11 who live in Camp receive their education either within their own settlement or at a neighbouring farm; lessons are provided by travelling teachers and over the telephone, or from one of four rural ‘satellite schools’ which have a live-in teacher during the week.

Following the Liberation in 1982, two boarding houses were constructed in the grounds of Stanley House to accommodate up to 80 boarders from Camp. Stanley House is used by children who are moving from primary to secondary education, so that they can study and undertake their exams in town. Today, our education system supports over 450 students, who are taught in accordance with the principles of the English national curriculum, complemented by syllabus topics that are specific to the Falkland Islands, such as our history and natural environment.

Students who decide to attend university are in the privileged position of receiving a fully funded scholarship from the Falkland Islands Government to complete their undergraduate degree. Many students embrace this opportunity and our alumni have attended universities not only throughout the UK, but also in Australia, Canada and the USA. Providing students meet the academic and residential criteria, they can choose to study in any field, industry or practice. Upon completion of their studies, be it in further or higher education, many students return to the Islands to begin their working lives.

Falkland College, located in Stanley, was opened in 2019; the facility contains both a purpose-built college and the only library in the Islands, and is an important educational asset for the community, encouraging lifelong learning and offering a wide range of academic and vocational courses. Learning is supported through in-person classroom sessions, work placements, distance learning and online courses. Falkland College also facilitates the Falkland Islands Apprenticeship Scheme, which is sponsored by the government and enables individuals between the ages of 16-25, to develop skills in trades such as plumbing, carpentry and engineering, all while in a place of work and earning a salary.

The children of Stanley also have a wide range of youth groups to join, including Girl Guides and Scouts. On occasion, some of these groups are lucky enough to travel to international camps to meet with counterparts from other countries and learn about other cultures outside of the Falkland Islands. However, there are also a few youth groups that are unique to the Islands. Pastfinders is an offshoot of the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust; local children attend regular meetings and enjoy a range of different activities and fieldtrips where they learn about the Islands’ history and heritage. Similarly, the Watch Group is an initiative of local charity Falklands Conservation, which has the aim of encouraging young Islanders to understand, appreciate and respect their environment.

Children here are also introduced to politics at a relatively young age. Part of this is due to their learning about the 1982 war, but beyond that they are encouraged to take a world view, and in the past many young Falkland Islanders have attended the Commonwealth Youth Parliament. As part of the Commonwealth’s efforts to deepen its commitment to democracy and youth development, these annual meetings enable our young people to represent the Falklands, learn more about politics on a global scale, and to gauge views from people from different countries, religions and cultures. This participation has proved highly successful over time and the opportunity has not only been offered to students, but to young people from across the whole of the Falkland Islands community.

Environment

Environmental stewardship and the need to act now to tackle significant environmental challenges, such as climate change, is one of our foremost priorities in the Falkland Islands, despite some of the obstacles we face due to our remote location. In 2021 we published our flagship Environment Strategy for the whole of the Islands, which spans the next twenty years to 2040. The strategy identifies the global and local challenges we are facing, and highlights the initiatives and work streams that we are putting place to address these challenges. While our new strategy gives us an excellent future roadmap, we have also made significant progress in addressing some of the main issues facing the Islands, including setting up a new government Environment Department to act as the central point for coordinating our efforts, from data-gathering and research, to policy development and implementation. To date we have introduced measures to prevent bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds, supported the introduction of renewable energy across the Islands (wind and solar power) and partnering with the British Forces South Atlantic Islands to reduce the amount of waste going into our landfill sites (we have prevented 102.9m³ of materials from being disposed of in this way to date).

Islanders are extremely aware of the environment's importance and are actively involved in pursuits to preserve the unique environment in which we live. Regular community events take place in support of these aims, such as beach cleans and habitat restoration programmes. 'Plastic Free Stanley' is another community-led initiative which encourages everyone to minimise the use of single-use plastics in Stanley, as well as the Falkland Islands as a whole. We are all aware of the challenges we face in trying to develop our home in a way that is both sustainable and environmentally friendly, recognising that we live in one of the last wildernesses in the world and we want to preserve this.

Stanley is surrounded by some of the most beautiful natural scenery and wildlife in the world. There can be few places where, on your drive home from work, you can see dolphins play in clear waters and seals basking in the sun just off of Stanley's main road. This special environment is what makes the Islands so unique and is the backbone to our social and economic success. The rugged landscape and glittering seas are home to an extensive range of wildlife; including five species of penguins, land and sea birds, fish, cetaceans and marine mammals; all of which are right on Stanley's doorstep.

Extensive wildlife can be found on Stanley Common, both native and endemic to the Falkland Islands. Recent surveys indicate there are up to 30 different species of birds on Stanley Common throughout the year, including some very well-known species: Kelp Goose, Falkland Steamer Duck and Sooty Shearwaters. Several species of penguin rest and breed on the shorelines of the surrounding coastline, more commonly the burrowing Magellanic Penguin and the Gentoo Penguin; with Rockhoppers, Macaroni and King Penguins also visiting from the surrounding areas. Cape Pembroke sits within Stanley Common and is classified as an Important Plant Area (IPA), with the rest of the town boundary home to 66 different species of native plant, four species of endemic plants and 21 habitat types.

In Stanley, the community has access to a number of green spaces, such as Victory Green, located on the seafront, which was named to mark the victory of the Great War. The Green has been home to saluting guns since the early days of Stanley, and these are still used today as a mark of respect. Each year, Victory Green hosts The Queen's Birthday parade, the finish line for the Cape Pembroke half marathon and the Christmas Parade. There are also numerous play parks for children located around the town, to ensure our young people have easy access to green spaces and can enjoy the outdoors.

Health and wellbeing

Sporting events play an important role in the social calendars of many Islanders, including regular participation in international competitions. For more than 30 years, the Islands have competed in the Commonwealth Games and the Island Games, where they have been able to build relationships with different countries and their sporting representatives, particularly with other small island nations. Islanders of all ages have represented the Falkland Islands in a range of sports, including shooting, badminton, athletics, lawn bowls, archery and swimming. Our first appeared in the Commonwealth Games was in 1982, just months after the Falklands War, where we received a standing ovation. Louis Baillon is the only Falkland Islander ever to have become an Olympic champion, as a member of the British field hockey team, which won a gold medal in 1908 – so we are overdue a new champion!

Speaking of hockey, 'dek hockey' is a fairly new, but popular sport in the Islands, with multiple leagues for adults and children. So popular has it become that we have started to compete on the international stage, most notably in 2016, when a Falkland Islands team brought home the 'Copa Invernada' tournament by winning a series of ice hockey matches against Chile and Argentina competitors, despite the lack of an ice rink in the Falkland Islands!

As with any small community, there are only a few recreational facilities available here. Stanley is home to the Islands' only sporting facility – Stanley Leisure Centre. It houses a multi-use gymnasium – which provides a sporting venue for a variety of different sports including badminton, short tennis, basketball and circuit training – as well as a squash court, fitness suite and 25m swimming pool. The growing population means that the leisure centre is now at maximum capacity, which is why a new multi-purpose, all weather sports facility is planned for the future. Funded by the Falkland Islands Government, our National Sports Council will design and deliver this much-needed facility, which will help our sports teams to practice throughout the year, come rain or shine. It is hoped that with once this new facility is complete, it will provide additional space for various sports, relieve the pressure on existing facilities, and encourage increased participation and activity levels for the whole community.

However, one sporting activity which has been practiced here for decades and arguably enjoys the most popularity in the Falkland Islands is sheep shearing. What was once considered a general farming skill has evolved into a series of sporting events across the Islands. Stanley has played host to many annual shearing events, where the community comes together to support Falkland Island shearers and wool handlers. These events are used to identify individuals for international shearing competitions, namely the World Championships and the Golden Shears, where Falkland Islanders regularly achieve excellent results across individual and team events – if only it was an Olympic sport!

As important as physical health is, Falkland Islanders are very aware of the importance of emotional health, and the need to provide activities which keep people socially connected and mentally alert. For example, there are numerous music and craft clubs in the Islands, such as the Spinners and Weavers group, which is also based in Stanley. It is a place where people, young and old, come together to spin Falkland Islands wool and make local products for themselves, their families and for sale to tourists. Accomplished artists and keen enthusiasts alike attend a weekly watercolour painting class at Falkland College, and a range of evening classes are also provided via the college to help people brush up on a range of skills from foreign languages, to computer programming, to jewellery making. The Falkland Islands Science & Humanities Society also offers regular fossil hunting field trips and talks.

History and heritage

The Islands were first discovered in 1592 by English explorer Captain John Davies in his ship *The Desire*. The ship features on the Islands' coat of arms and is reflected in our motto: "Desire the Right". The first known landing on the Islands was made in 1690 by British Naval Captain, John Strong, and at this time the Islands were named after Viscount Falkland. The British made their formal claim to the Island in 1765, and throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the French and Spanish briefly made their own claims to the Islands, but these never superseded the British claim. With the exception of 74 days in 1982, the UK has administered the Islands peacefully and continually since 1833. Some of the earliest settlers here were the gauchos. The term 'gaucho' usually refers to a man of Latin-American origin who works on horseback with cattle and here they were employed to manage herds of wild cattle for the Islands' early entrepreneurs. These men came from all over the world including, Uruguay, Brazil, France and even Britain.

In 1841, Richard Moody was appointed by the UK Government as Lieutenant-Governor in order to determine what should be done with the Islands. Upon arrival, he recommended that the British Government should do more to encourage further settlers as well as large-scale sheep farming. Moody established an administration and subsequently relocated this from Port Louis – the original capital of the Falkland Islands – to Stanley in 1845. Moody and his escort of military sappers undertook the designing and construction of the new capital and, by the winter of the following year, Stanley had begun to take shape, with the construction of a new drainage network, system of streets and essential buildings. At the time, Stanley comprised 15 cottages, 12 houses and three huts. Moody Brook, to the west end of Stanley, was named after him, but his true and enduring legacy is the 180 years of British administration that he helped to support and the establishment of Stanley as our capital.

Many of Stanley's streets are named after key people and specific places that have contributed to the development of Stanley and the Falkland Islands. Some of the older parts of Stanley are named after some of the early settlers, including Dean Street (after J M Dean – early entrepreneur) and Brisbane Road (after Matthew Brisbane, who was left in charge of the British Settlement at Port Louis). As Stanley grew, many of the new streets were named in memory of some of the families from the 1840s, including Biggs Road, Goss Road and Watson Way. The recent Sapper Hill Housing Development has streets named in tribute to individuals who played significant roles in the Falklands War including Rex Hunt Road, Rick Jolly Way and Ajax Close. At the apex of this development are two roads which honour the Royal Family – Diamond Jubilee Road and Prince Philip Street.

Stanley grew quickly, with many of the original buildings still in use today. The Chelsea Pensioners that arrived in 1849 brought with them prefabricated wooden cottages, which even now stand on Pioneer Row; one of these has since been converted into a museum to give the impression of how life was for people living in Victorian Stanley. The influence from Victorian Britain can be seen in other buildings, such as the police station and a set of terraced houses built in 1887 by the Dean family to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. To mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, Stanley will also be twinned with Portsmouth. The relationship between Portsmouth and the Falkland Islands goes back a long way, but was significantly strengthened in 1982 where dockworkers helped to prepare the taskforce to recapture the Islands. This enhanced relationship will build on our shared history, as well as offer new opportunities for social and business developments.

Population and Workforce

Our prosperity has rapidly accelerated in the last four decades, stimulating economic growth across a range of different industries and avenues. This growth has seen our level of unemployment remain considerably low, at just 1.0%, and is something that the Islands can be very proud of. However, this also means that there is a limited local labour market, leading to a variety of different resourcing and delivery problems across the private and public sector. There is very little room for organic growth of the labour force, which the Islands require due to the high investments that the Falkland Islands Government has planned for essential infrastructure, including a new port, power station and housing developments. It is widely recognised that to offset this issue, we need to recruit the talent and expertise of overseas professionals. There is already a large pool of overseas contractors working in the Falkland Islands, many of whom move from the UK and are employed on 2-4-year contracts. 86% of those in employment are based in Stanley and 14% in Camp, across various sectors and industries. Our 2016 census showed that the top five primary employment sectors were: public service, agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, construction, and business and administration services.

The commercial fishing industry is supported by Stanley-based businesses, such as shipping agencies and logistics coordinators. Although the majority of the labour force within the commercial fisheries is based at sea – approximately 1,500 non-residents – the 2016 census reported that 64 local residents' primary employment was based within onshore fishing companies. The largest employer in the Islands is the Falkland Islands Government, with over 700 employees, which is perhaps unsurprising given that it is a parish council, local authority and international government rolled into one. This means that it provides and supports a wide and diverse range of functions, and therefore requires a workforce that is adequately resourced to carry out these duties, which include vital services such as health and social care, emergency services, education, power, water, legal and central administration.

The agricultural sector is the second largest employer in the Islands, and represents 9.7% of overall workforce, although many of these individuals are self-employed. As with fishing, many Stanley-based businesses provide vital support for this workforce, from agricultural supplies to the local abattoir.

The tourism industry is also supported by many different businesses and people who operate in and around Stanley. Some businesses, such as excursion providers, rely heavily on land-based and cruise ship tourism every summer, while others have diversified their revenue streams from commercial fisheries to retail services, which during Covid-19 have had a distinctly more local focus. However, outside of the pandemic, the seasonal nature of tourism in the Falkland Islands means that we see a higher concentration of visits from vessels and people within a few short months, which requires a larger temporary labour force during this time. This can be challenging with a small population, but often provides many individuals a secondary, supplementary income.

What people often find surprising is how relatively youthful our community is – our average age is 38, with most of our population falling within the 15-64 age bracket. Equally, the fact that our community is made up of over 3,200 people from more than 60 countries, including 6% from Chile (the largest diaspora outside of their home country) and 10% from Saint Helena. This makes for a culturally diverse population, which also includes Falkland Islanders who can trace their heritage back through nine generations in the Islands, stretching back nearly 200 years.

Public diplomacy and international relations

1982 was a turning point in our history and while many remember the Falklands War, it is important that Islanders today use public diplomacy platforms and the building of international relations to share the story of Stanley and the wider Falklands Islands, to showcase our social, political and economic development over the last four decades and to share our vision for the future.

Falkland Islanders take great pride in our national identity and British heritage; the majority of residents hold a British passport and consider themselves not only Falkland Islanders but also British citizens. Islanders are still faced with daily political aggression from Argentina and continue to defend our right to self-determination. A referendum held in 2013 gave the people of the Falkland Islands a chance to decide their future sovereignty and received global media coverage with reporters travelling to the Islands from all over the world. 92% of the eligible voters cast their vote, with 99.8% voting in favour of remaining an internally self-governing UK Overseas Territory; a very clear indicator of Islanders' wishes. The referendum was observed by an independent team of international observers, who concluded that the referendum was well organised, free and fair.

As the Prime Minister responsible for the liberation of the Falkland Islands in 1982, Margaret Thatcher is held in high regard by the people of the Islands and was awarded the Freedom of Stanley in 1983. To commemorate the role the late Baroness played in the Falklands War, a bronze bust was commissioned and erected to the east of the 1982 Liberation Memorial, and the plaque beneath it bears her words from 3 April 1982: "They are few in number, but they have the right to live in peace, to choose their own way of life and allegiance".

Similarly, the Islands are grateful for the support of the Royal Family during the Falklands War, specifically the role that Prince Andrew played as a naval helicopter pilot.

Despite regular aggression from Argentina, the Islands have built relations with other South American countries and have worked together over different industries over the last 20 years. Weekly flights from Chile and Brazil have been established, with many individuals receiving specialist and emergency medical treatment in Chile and Uruguay. Indeed, the Islands continue to strengthen their relationship with Uruguay, and each month a resupply vessel reloads in Montevideo and heads across the sea to the Falkland Islands, bringing with it essential cargo and provisions for the community. Similarly, the majority of the Islands' meat, fish and wool exports are loaded up in Stanley and are sent across to Uruguay on the return voyage. Industry officials from the agriculture, commerce and tourism industry also regularly work with Uruguayan companies and attend their annual 10-day agriculture exhibition 'Expo Prado', using this opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones.

As a UK Overseas Territory many island residents have received a variety of different honours, decorations and awards for services and commitment to the Islands, with over 240 decorations awarded since 1918. In 1982, 25 Islanders, including Sir Rex Hunt, were recognised for their services to the community, particularly throughout the Argentine occupation. Most recently, our Chief Medical Officer and Director of Emergency Services and Islands Security were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours for their contribution to the fight against Covid-19; also Guy Marot, the former lead for the demining programme received an OBE for his efforts in ensuring that our home was once again made safe. Thank you for reading through our profile document and considering our application.