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Concerns about the new Tax law?

Do you have concerns about the proposed Income Tax Ordinance? Do you really know what effect it is likely to have on your business and your bottom line? Can you imagine what extra work will be required of you to collect tax on behalf of the Tax Office?

If you have any of these concerns, or indeed any other related to the upcoming Tax law, come and join us for an informal discussion – see the invitation at the end of this newsletter.

Chamber News

At the last Annual General Meeting of the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce in November 2008, plans were devised to be even more efficient in supporting the future development of the Private Sector.

Today, boasting a membership base of 55 private entities, the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce represents approximately 90% of the island's Private Sector. The membership roll includes the largest companies and employers on the Island, including Solomon's, Cable & Wireless, Thorpe's and the Bank of St. Helena.



**Could you explain that again
in real words?**

Tax Law Changes?

Do you have concerns about what the new Income Tax law will mean? **The Chamber of Commerce has grave concerns.** Come and discuss with us at Ann's Place on the 22nd March

The Chamber regards itself as an organisation representing the common interest of the Private Sector:

- Extending the communication platform for members, focusing on the points important to members, enabling the Chamber Council to direct and balance its policies.
- For many years, the Chamber has been one of the Island's main lobbying groups for the agreed and shared interests of its members. It is the oldest and most influential political interest group on the Island. The direct lobbying methods used by the Chamber in recent years have been:
 - *Inviting politicians and officials to meetings, workshops and seminars*
 - *Writing letters to local government officials, including the Governor.*
 - *Information updates in newspapers*
 - *Scheduled meetings with Executive Council*
- The Chamber has developed a close relationship with DfID, and is frequently informed about what is being debated.
- The Chamber addresses common concerns relating to import/export and sourcing of materials and services, strengthening links with Walvis Bay and Cape Town.
- In order to offer help from "within" in tackling persistent obstacles to inward investment, the Chamber joins forces with less conservative forces at the St. Helena Development Agency (SHDA).
- On behalf of all businesses and the general public, the Chamber of Commerce acts as a watchdog on questionable practices by the ruling powers, e.g. taxation, discrimination, immigration issues, and similar.

In a quest to maintain and improve communication with our members, and to allow for a communication platform outside of the Council meetings, ...

The Chamber Council invites all members to an informal get-together every second month - an open Sunday morning with pre-lunch drinks and light nibbles (11am to 1pm) at Ann's Place

There will be a cover charge per member at the gate, and every member can bring as many staff and guests as they wish. The Council will open the event with a few introductory remarks, touching on issues of the day, then invite free informal discussion and opinion building.

Chamber Membership annual fees

No. of employees	Fee
<2	£ 5
<5	£10
<10	£15
<25	£30
>25	£50

Airport Petition

The petition started by the St.Helena Chamber of Commerce to get the UK Government to lift the Airport project "pause" is showing a lot of support both on island and on Ascension, in the Falklands and in the UK.

There is still time to add your name if you haven't already done so. See petition forms in most of the retail outlets. The deadline is now **FILL IN HERE**

Meadow Muffins

"Traditional realism implies that desirable philosophy contradicts superfluous absentmindedness."

Invitation

The first Sunday-morning informal get-together will take place on

**22nd March from 11am
at Anne's Place**

The focus of the discussion will be:

**The proposed new
Income Tax Ordinance**

We look forward to seeing you there.
