

## Research Briefing

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# UK Overseas Territory legislatures: 2023 census

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## Summary

This Commons Library research briefing provides data on the makeup and administration of the 12 legislatures of the UK's Overseas Territories (OTs): Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Data was collected with the support of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and Territory governments and legislatures from September to December 2023.

The briefing includes data on:

- The membership of Territory legislatures.
- The frequency of elections to the legislatures.
- The frequency and length of meetings of respective legislatures.
- The number of committees in each legislature.
- Number of staff supporting each legislature.
- Budgets, pay and remuneration for the Speaker, Members, and staff.

The data should be read in conjunction with the Commons Library research briefings on the [UK's OTs and their Governors](#) and [The Separation of powers in the UK's OTs](#), which provide information on Territory legislatures, the role of appointed members, and their Public Accounts Committees.

Background on the Territories can be found on [The Overseas Territories hub page](#), including the briefing, [The UK OTs: An introduction](#).

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has also undertaken reports on the administration and independence of three OT legislatures:

- [Anguilla: Benchmarks report](#) (PDF), 2020
- [Montserrat: Benchmarks report](#), 2022
- [St Helena: Benchmarks report](#) (PDF), 2021

In October 2023, the CPA also began [an assessment of the Cayman Islands Parliament](#).

# 1 Membership of Territory legislatures

This section provides data on the membership of Territory legislatures. Except for Bermuda's Parliament, all legislatures are single chamber (unicameral).

## Total number of Members in each legislature

These range from 10 (Pitcairn) to 36 (Bermuda's lower House of Assembly).

## Number of directly elected members

Aside from Gibraltar and Bermuda's House of Assembly, at least one Member of each legislature is appointed by the executive. These are typically the Attorney General, the Deputy Governor or Financial Secretary.

In only three Territories do these ex-officio Members have the right to vote: Anguilla, Monserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## The number of ministers and Members of the executive in each legislature

Due to the small size of Territory legislatures, ministers represent a higher proportion of the elected membership, and in some cases a majority.

The Falklands Islands and Pitcairn operate differently: In Pitcairn, executive power is reserved to the Governor. In the Falklands, no member takes a ministerial role. This is also the case in Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

## Number and proportion of elected female Members

Based on the most recent election, the proportion of elected female Members ranges from 11% in Montserrat (1 of 9 elected Members, after the 2019 election) to 57% in Pitcairn (4 of 7 elected members, after the 2021 election).

Only St Helena and Pitcairn (together with the appointed Senate in Bermuda) meet the target for Commonwealth parliaments for women to account for at least 30% of representatives.<sup>1</sup>

## Political parties

The Falkland Islands, Pitcairn and St Helena do not have a political-party system. Cayman's legislature is constituted of independents and one political party. In Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman and the Turks and Caicos, their legislatures are constituted of two political groups. The British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, and Montserrat have three or more parties in their legislatures.

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<sup>1</sup> CPA HQ, [Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians gender-sensitising parliaments](#)

## Membership of Territory legislatures

	Total membership	Number elected	Members appointed by Executive	Number of Ministers (not including ex-officio members)	Female elected Members (last election)		Political party membership (of elected members)	
					Total no.	% of total	Parties	No. of members
Anguilla	13	11/13	2*/13	5/13	3	27.3%	Anguilla Progressive Movement Anguilla United Front	7 4
Bermuda (Assembly)	36	36/36	0/36	13/36 (max)	8	22.2%	Progressive Labour Party One Bermuda Alliance	30 6
Bermuda (Senate)	11	0/11	3/11 <sup>^</sup>	2/11 (max)	6	54.5%	-	-
British Virgin Islands	15 <sup>1</sup>	13/15	1/15	7/15	3	23.1%	Virgin Islands Party National Democratic Party Progressive Virgin Islands Movement Progressives United	6 3 3 1
Cayman Islands	21 <sup>1</sup>	19/21	2/21	7/21	4	26.7%	Independent/non-partisan People's Progressive Movement	12 7
Falkland Islands	11 <sup>1</sup>	8/11	2/11	N/A (portfolio system)	2	25.0%	Independent/non-partisan	8
Gibraltar	17 <sup>2</sup>	17/17	0/17	10/17 (max)	2	11.8%	Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party and the Gibraltar Liberal Party Gibraltar Social Democrats Together Gibraltar	10 6 1

Notes: \*Appointed members have the right to vote in the legislature.

<sup>^</sup>For Bermuda, all members of the Senate are appointed formally the Governor (5 recommended by the Premier, 3 from the official opposition and 3 independently selected by the Governor)

<sup>1</sup> This is the maximum size of the legislature, assuming the Speaker is elected from outside the house—otherwise they are smaller by one member.

<sup>2</sup> Gibraltar: Does not include Speaker, who is elected from outside the House.

## Membership of Territory legislatures (continued)

	Total membership	Number elected	Number ex-officio	Number in executive	Female elected Members (last election)		Political party membership (of elected members)	
					Total no.	% of total	Party	No. of members
Montserrat	11 <sup>2</sup>	9/11	2*/11	4/11	1	11.1%	Movement for Change and Prosperity People's Democratic Movement Independent	5 3 1
Pitcairn	10	7/10	3/10	N/A	4	57.1%	Independent/non-partisan	7
St Helena	13 <sup>2</sup>	12/13	1/13	5/13	5	41.7%	Independent/non-partisan	12
Turks and Caicos	21 <sup>1</sup>	15/21	5*/21 <sup>^</sup>	7/21	3	20.0%	Progressive National Party People's Democratic Movement	14 1

### Notes:

\*Appointed members have the right to vote in the legislature: This is only case for 4 of the 5 members in the Turks and Caicos Islands

<sup>1</sup> This is the maximum size of the legislature, assuming the Speaker is elected from outside the house—otherwise they are smaller by one member

<sup>2</sup> Montserrat: Does not include Speaker (elected from outside). St Helena: The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected from outside the house and are not included this figure.

<sup>^</sup>For the Turks and Caicos Islands, one of those appointed is the Attorney General (with no vote), two are appointed by the Governor at their discretion and the remaining two by the Governor following the advice of the Premier

Sources: House of Commons Library research briefing, [The separation of powers in the UK's Overseas Territories](#), November 2022; [Europa World](#); [CIA World Factbook](#); [Bermuda Parliament](#); [Elections Office Cayman Islands](#), and the [Montserrat Legislative Assembly](#)

## 2

# Elections in the Overseas Territories

### 2.1

## How frequent are elections?

The timing of legislative elections are set out in the respective constitutions of each Territory, and range from every four to five years (with the exception of Pitcairn, where Members of the Island Council have a two-year term).

Governors can choose to hold elections outside this period, however. In some cases, such as in Montserrat, legislatures can only be dissolved on the advice of the Premier. In other Territories, such as Gibraltar, Governors can choose not to follow this advice if they consider it against “good government”.<sup>2</sup>

Constitutional provisions on frequency of elections		
	Constitutional limits	Last election date
Anguilla	5 years	29 June 2020
Bermuda (Assembly)	5 years	1 October 2020
Bermuda (Senate)	5 years	N/A*
British Virgin Islands	4 years	24 April 2023
Cayman Islands	4 years	14 April 2021
Falkland Islands	4 years	4 November 2021
Gibraltar	4 years	17 October 2019
Montserrat	5 years	18 November 2019
Pitcairn	2 years	10 November 2021 <sup>x</sup>
St Helena	4 years	13 October 2021
Turks and Caicos	5 years	19 February 2021

Note: \* Senators in Bermuda are appointed and serve five-year terms in office. The most recent appointments were made in 2022. <sup>x</sup> at time of publication, no election proceedings have been publicised.

Sources: [Europa World](#) and Territory constitutions: [Anguilla Constitution Order 1982](#), Schedule 2, Article 63; [Bermuda Constitution Order 1968](#), Schedule 2, Article 49; [Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007](#), Article 84, [Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009](#), Schedule 2, Article 84; [Falkland Islands Constitution 2008](#), Schedule, Chapter 3; [Gibraltar Constitution Order 2006](#), Annex, Section 38; [Montserrat Constitution Order 2010](#), Part IV Article 67; [Pitcairn Local Government Ordinance 2009](#), Part II ; [St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009](#), Schedule, Chapter 1, Section 76; [Turks and Caicos Constitution Order 2011](#), Schedule 1, Section 57

<sup>2</sup> Sources can be found in the Table on this page.



## 2.2

## Voter turnout at last election

While British citizenship is determined in UK legislation, local immigration and “belonger status” is determined locally by Territory constitutions or laws. In most Territories, belonger status is required in order to register to vote.

Ian Hendry and Susan Dickson in their book on British Overseas Territory law set out two broad grounds for belonger status being granted: 1) Being judged “sufficiently indigenous to the Territory” or 2) Gaining the status by residing for a certain period in the Territory or being married to a belonger.<sup>3</sup>

Because of belonger status, not all adults have the right to vote in all the Territories. For information on this status across the Territories, see section 3.3 of the Commons Library research briefing, [The UK OTs: An introduction](#).

The below table shows the proportion of the registered electorate who voted at the last election in each Territory.

Registered electorate and voter turnout at last election			
	Registered electorate	Turnout at last election	
		Number	% of total
Anguilla	11,951	7,263	60.8%
Bermuda (Assembly)	46,311	25,760	55.6%
British Virgin Islands	16,130	9,275	57.5%
Cayman Islands	23,594	17,404	76.8%
Falkland Islands	1,592	1,229	77.2%
Gibraltar	24,189	17,135	70.8%
Montserrat	3,858	2,410	62.5%
Pitcairn	38	36	94.7%
St Helena	2,162	1,296	59.9%
Turks and Caicos Islands	8,581	6,460	75.3%

Sources: CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR), [Anguilla general election](#) (PDF), June 2020; Bermuda Parliamentary Register, [October 2020 general election results](#); CPA (BIMR), [British Virgin Islands general election](#) (PDF), April 2023; International Foundation for Electoral Systems, [Falkland Islands election 2021](#); Falkland Islands Television, [2021 Election results](#), 4 November 2021; International Foundation for Electoral Systems, [Gibraltar election 17 October 2019](#); CPA (BIMR), [Montserrat general election](#) (PDF), November 2019; St Helena Government, [General election 2021 - The results](#), 14 October 2021; CPA BIMR, [St Helena General election](#) (PDF), October 2021; International Foundation for Electoral Systems, [Turks and Caicos Islands election 19 February 2021](#) [accessed 25 September 2023]; FCDO Correspondence, 25 October 2023 (Pitcairn)

<sup>3</sup> Ian Hendry and Susan Dickson, *British Overseas Territory law*, 2018, p221

### 3

## Legislature: budgets, staffing and salaries

This section covers the staffing and budget of the legislature, and the salaries of its Members (including the Speaker or presiding member).

### International comparisons of remuneration

Caution should be taken when comparing the budgets of each legislature and salaries. This is because of the different price levels between the Territories.

Currencies of the Overseas Territories		
Territory/Country	Currency	UK £
Anguilla	Eastern Caribbean Dollar	3.39
Bermuda	Bermuda Dollar	1.25
British Virgin Islands	US Dollar	1.25
Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands Dollar	1.03
Falkland Islands	Falkland Islands Pound	1.00
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Pound	1.00
Montserrat	Eastern Caribbean Dollar	3.39
Pitcairn	New Zealand Dollar	2.06
St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	St Helena Pound	1.00
Turks and Caicos Islands	US Dollar	1.25

Sources: Territory Government websites and HMRC, [Monthly exchange rates: December 2023](#)

### Staffing

The number of staff employed to support the legislature varies from one (Ascension, Pitcairn, and Tristan da Cunha) to 25 (Cayman Islands). In those legislatures with smaller population such as Ascension, support is provided by staff from the executive branch.

The Speaker does not have specific support staff in most legislatures: This is the case in only the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and the Turks and

Caicos Islands. The Leader of the Opposition also has dedicated support staff in these three legislatures, as well as in Bermuda's House of Assembly.

## Salaries and remuneration

In all legislatures aside from Tristan da Cunha, Members are paid. Those roles commonly receiving additional remuneration to their Member salaries are Ministers, Speakers, and the Leader of the Opposition (where these posts exist).

In no Territory do Committee Chairs receive extra remuneration (these positions do receive extra remuneration in the UK Parliament). In The Turks and Caicos Islands, appointed members of the Appropriations and Public Accounts Committees receive a daily allowance (under the constitution, in the case of the former, up to two people from outside the House may serve on, and in the latter up to two individuals from outside must be appointed to it).<sup>4</sup>

Members are also commonly provided with allowances for the internet, telephone, and some travel.

Members are also eligible for a pension or pension scheme in all Territories.

## Situation in Commonwealth legislatures

In 2021, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association published [Commonwealth Parliamentarians Pay and Remuneration: Survey Outcome Report](#). This provides information on pay and remuneration across CPA member parliaments (though data was not reported for all CPA branches). The report found:

- In its survey of lower houses, the basic salary of Members is highest in the Parliament of Australia US\$163,936 per year. The Member's basic salary is lowest in West Bengal at US\$1,651.
- Across the Commonwealth, a Member's basic salary is the lowest paid position in the lower house, with the exception of St Helena, where the Deputy Speaker received the least.<sup>5</sup>

Information on remuneration in the UK House of Commons is provided in the Commons Library research briefing, [Members' pay and expenses and ministerial salaries, 2022/23](#), March 2023, including in the accompanying appendices.

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<sup>4</sup> [Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution 2011](#), as amended, sections 114 and 122

<sup>5</sup> For a summary of the report findings, see CPA HQ, [Commonwealth parliamentarians pay and remuneration survey and outcome report, 2020-21](#), pp12-21

## Overseas Territory legislatures: Remuneration and staffing

Note: “LO” stands for Leader of the Opposition

	Annual budget	Number of staff	Specific staff for Members?	Basic salary for Member	Members with additional remuneration	Member allowances
Anguilla	Eastern Caribbean (EC) \$1.2m [£0.4m]	7 (3 part time)	X	EC\$106,152 [£31,300]	- Speaker - Ministers - Leader of the Opposition	Telephone and travel allowance (Ministers and LO)
Bermuda Assembly	Bermuda(B) \$5.34m [£4.3m]	7	X (but 1 for LO)	B\$56,023 [£44,800]	- Speaker/President/Deputies - Ministers - Leader of the Opposition - Whips	Phone allowance and Government GP car (Speaker and Ministers)
Bermuda Senate				B\$30,367 [£24,300]		
British Virgin Islands	US\$0.27m [£0.2m]	17	X (but 1 for LO and Speaker)	US\$36,000 [£28,800]	- Speaker/Deputy Speaker - Ministers - Leader of the Opposition	Office, housing, travel, telephone & Entertainment (all Members)
Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands (CI) \$3.0m [£2.9m]	25	X (but 1 for LO and Speaker)	CI\$133,128 (First term MP) [£129,250]	- Leader of the Opposition/Deputy - Ministers - Parliamentary Secretary (MPs that assist Cabinet Ministers)	Entertainment (Speaker)
Falkland Islands	£0.91m	4	X	£45,000	- No position other than Member	Internet, computer, transport, limited overseas costs and travel
Gibraltar	£1.7m	4	X	£38,221	- Speaker - Ministers - Leader of the Opposition	None

	Annual budget	Number of staff	Specific staff for Members?	Basic salary for Member	Members with additional remuneration	Member allowances
Montserrat	EC\$1.6m [£0.47m]	4 (inc. for opposition)	X	\$60,480 [£17,840]	- Speaker - Ministers	Duty, travelling, telephone, entertainment
Pitcairn	NZ\$0.09m [£0.04m]	1	X	NZ\$10 per hour [£4.90]	- No position other than Member	None
St Helena	£0.5m (incl. Executive Council)	3	X	£20,000	- Speaker/Deputies - Ministers	Internet, computer equipment, transport, limited overseas costs and travel
Ascension	£0.025m (incl. overseas travel costs)	1	X	£3,000	- No position other than Member	Internet costs
Tristan da Cunha	No set budget	1	X	None	- No position other than Member	None
Turks and Caicos	\$3.9 million [£3.1 million]	7	X (but 1 for LO, Ministers and Speaker)	US\$97,500 [\$78,000]	- Speaker/Deputies - Ministers - Leader of the Opposition	Some housing costs (Ministers) Telephone and constituency allowance (all members)

Sources: Correspondence with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Parliamentary Clerks for Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, St Helena and Bermuda. Correspondence with the FCDO for Gibraltar, Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension and The Turks and Caicos Islands. Government of Bermuda, [Government salaries 2021](#) (PDF) and Parliament of Bermuda, [Remuneration](#); Turks and Caicos Islands [House Of Assembly \(Speaker And Other Members\) \(Salaries And Allowances\) Ordinance](#), 2012, Schedule.

## 3.1

# Further resources on pay and remuneration

This section provides, where available, a table of salary remuneration and further reading on remuneration, pensions, and allowances of Members.

## Anguilla (EC\$3.39=£1)

Salaries of the Chief Minister, Ministers, Speaker and Parliamentary Secretaries are among the positions that have experienced reductions since 2009.<sup>6</sup> The CPA's [Governance, organisational and administrative review of the Anguilla House of Assembly](#) (PDF), 2021, states that:

A Member of the House of Assembly receives an allowance of approx. EC\$9,000 per month. The average monthly salary of a parliamentarian from across the Caribbean region is approx. EC\$9,483. However, when compared to the salary of a Permanent Secretary or a Senior Magistrate based in Anguilla the amount is considerably lower. The amount paid has decreased on average over many years as opposed to being increased with inflation. Most recently, March 2021, a Bill was brought forward for a reduction of salaries and allowances for Members of the House. The 15% reduction was approved by the House.

Overall, the total package of support for Members is small. Especially when consideration is given for the fact that they receive virtually no expense allowance, no support for staffing, no office accommodation, or IT or stationery provision. Members have repeatedly highlighted that this significantly hinders their ability to perform their parliamentary functions. For members of the opposition, this is an even greater handicap, as unlike their ministerial counterparts, they have no administrative support to conduct research or challenge the government.<sup>7</sup>

[The Legislators Pension Act](#), 2004, as amended, regulates pensions.

## Bermuda

The below table shows the remuneration of Members of the House of Assembly, ranging from the basic salary of a Member (B\$56,023) to Premier (B\$207,285). The Speaker, Whips, Opposition Leader, and Ministers receive higher remuneration, while Committee Chairs do not.

In 2016, the total median gross annual income from main job for all workers in Bermuda was B\$58,113.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [Public Service Salaries \(Temporary\) Reduction Act 2014](#), Schedules 1 and 3 and [Salary reductions for parliamentarians continues](#), The Anguillan, 15 March 2021

<sup>7</sup> CPA, [Governance, Organisational and administrative review of the Anguilla House of Assembly](#) (PDF), 2021, pp17-18

<sup>8</sup> CPA correspondence, 1 November 2023

## Remuneration of Members of Bermuda's House of Assembly (B\$1.25= £1)

Position (full-time)	Remuneration (Bermuda \$)
Member of House	\$56,023
Speaker of House	\$82,592
Deputy Speaker of House	\$69,308
Premier	\$207,285
Deputy Premier	\$168,965
Minister of Finance	\$177,033
Other Minister	\$156,864
Opposition Leader	\$86,390
Junior Minister	\$67,410
Party Whip	\$63,616

Does not include Attorney General salary. Source: Bermuda Parliament, [House of Assembly: Remuneration](#), accessed 5 December 2023

The CPA's [Pay and remuneration: Survey outcome report, 2020-21](#) (PDF), pp186-88, provides more on pay, allowances and pensions for Bermuda.

## British Virgin Islands (US\$1.25=£1).

2012 data collected by The Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission states that in the British Virgin Islands:

- The Premier received a basic salary of US\$72,000, with allowances bringing this up to US\$163,836.
- Ministers receive a basic salary of US\$60,000, with allowances bringing the salary up to US\$126,612.
- The Speaker receives a basic salary of US\$45,000, with allowances bringing this up to US\$102,216.
- Elected Members receive a basic salary of US\$36,000,<sup>9</sup> with allowances bringing this to US\$98,724.

The Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Premier and Deputy Speaker received no specific remuneration.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> This figure of \$36,000 remains the case: CPA correspondence, 1 November 2023

<sup>10</sup> Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission, [Report on the remuneration and allowances of the Speaker and other members of the House of Assembly](#) (PDF), 2012

[The Retiring Allowances \(Legislative Service\) \(Amendment\) Act, 2023](#), governs the allowances of those serving in the recent BVI Assembly.

## Cayman Islands

The table shows the remuneration of Members of Parliament ranging from the basic annual salary of a Member (CI\$130,512) to Premier (CI\$234,000). The Speaker, Whips, Opposition Leader, and Ministers receive higher remuneration, while Committee Chairs do not.

Remuneration of Members of the Cayman Islands Parliament (CI\$1.03=£1)	
Position (full-time)	Remuneration (Cayman Islands \$)
Premier	\$234,000
Deputy Premier	\$223,572
Speaker	\$202,512
Minister	\$188,076
Leader of the Opposition	\$152,340
Deputy Speaker	\$130,512
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	\$130,512
Councillor/Parliamentary Secretary	\$130,512
Member	\$130,512

Source: Office of the Auditor General of Cayman Islands, [Remuneration of the Cabinet, Judiciary, MPs, and key management personnel within the civil service](#), November 2022, p16

Pay and remuneration is regulated under the [Legislative Assembly \(Management\) Law, 2020](#) (PDF). Cayman's [Parliamentary Pension Act 2016](#) regulates the pensions of Members.

The CPA's [Pay and remuneration: Survey outcome report, 2020-21](#) (PDF), pp189-91, provides more on pay, allowances and pensions.

## Falkland Islands

Under the Territory's [Members' Remuneration Ordinance 2009](#) (PDF), Members have an annual salary of £45,000. There are no ministerial roles in the Falklands. The Ordinance provides further information on allowances. The Speaker is paid a day rate of £174 and half-day rate of £87 (see section 5).

Members are eligible for the [Falkland Islands Pension Scheme](#).



In the Falkland Islands, the mean salary of the population is £29,100 and median is £24,000.<sup>11</sup>

The CPA's [Pay and remuneration: Survey outcome report, 2020-21](#) (PDF), pp95-7, provides more on pay, allowances and pension.

## Gibraltar

The table shows remuneration ranges from £38,221 for Members to £142,689 for the Chief Minister. Ministers, the Speaker and Leader of the Opposition are the only Members to receive additional remuneration.

Remuneration of Members of the Gibraltar Parliament	
Position (fill-time)	Remuneration (£)
Chief Minister	£142,689
Minister	£109,253
Speaker	£55,982
Leader of the Opposition	£64,336
Members	£38,221

Source: Gibraltar Parliament, [Ministerial and parliamentary allowances](#), last updated 2022

In Gibraltar, average earnings of the population were £34,105 in 2022.<sup>12</sup>

The CPA's [Pay and remuneration: Survey outcome report, 2020-21](#) (PDF), pp98-100, provides more on pay, allowances and pensions for Gibraltar.

Gibraltar's [Parliament Act, 1950](#), as amended, Part VI, sets out the regulation of pensions for members.

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<sup>11</sup> CPA correspondence, 1 November 2023

<sup>12</sup> FCDO correspondence, 29 November 2023

## Montserrat

The [Legislators' Conditions of Service Act](#), 1984, as amended, includes information on pensions and remuneration.

Salaries of Members range from EC\$101,112 (Premier) to EC\$60,480 (Members).

Remuneration of Members of the Montserrat Assembly (EC\$3.39=£1)	
Role (full-time)	Remuneration (Eastern Caribbean \$)
Premier	\$101,112
Deputy Premier	\$98,100
Ministers	\$96,516
Speaker	\$65,232
Deputy Speaker	\$62,064
Leader of the Opposition	\$65,232
Parliamentary Secretary	\$62,064
Members	\$60,480

Source: [Montserrat Legislators' conditions of Service Act](#), 1984, as revised to 2019, Schedules 1 to 3

The CPA's, [Montserrat: Benchmarks for democratic legislatures](#) (PDF), 2022, noted that:

The Assembly is compliant with [CPA] benchmark 1.5.1 in that fair remuneration and reimbursement is provided to Members, although stakeholders had differing views as to the definition of 'fair'.<sup>13</sup>

## Pitcairn (NZ\$2.06=£1)

There are only two salary scales in Pitcairn: NZ\$12 per hour for Departmental Heads and NZ\$10 for all others.

There is no specific pension scheme for councillors. Instead, all pensioners on Pitcairn receive NZ\$600 per month.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> CPA, [Montserrat: Benchmarks for democratic legislatures](#) (PDF), 2022, p7

<sup>14</sup> FCDO correspondence, 25 October 2023

## St Helena

The [Legislative Council \(Remuneration And Allowances\) Ordinance](#), 2010, as amended, provides information on salaries and allowances. Salaries range from £50,000 (Chief Minister) to £11,000 (Deputy Speaker).

Remuneration of Members St Helena Legislative Council	
Role (full time)	Remuneration (£)
Chief Minister	£50,000
Minister	£35,000
Member	£20,000
Speaker	£15,000
Deputy Speaker	£11,000

Source: [Legislative Council \(Remuneration and Allowances\) Ordinance](#), 2010, Schedule 1

The average wage in St Helena was £9,460 in 2021/22.<sup>15</sup>

The CPA's [Pay and remuneration: Survey outcome report, 2020-21](#) (PDF), pp117-19, provides more on pay, allowances and pensions for St Helena.

The [St Helena report of the independent body on a review of the remuneration and allowances for the elected members of the legislative council](#) (PDF), 2021, provides a discussion of allowances and pay.

## Ascension

The basic annual stipend for a member of the Island council is £3,000 (tax free), plus monthly internet costs. They receive expenses if representing Ascension overseas.

There is no pension scheme, as all councillors are either employed by one of the employing organisations on the Island or are a dependent.<sup>16</sup>

## Tristan da Cunha

Members of the Island Council of Tristan Da Cunha do not have a basic annual salary or receive additional allowance or remuneration. They sit on the Council voluntarily. There is also no pension scheme for any Council members.

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<sup>15</sup> CPA correspondence, 1 November 2023

<sup>16</sup> FCDO correspondence, 9 October 2023

The Deputy President (Chief Islander) gets a small allowance per month for their role as Chief Islander but not for their role on the council.<sup>17</sup>

## Turks and Caicos Islands

The [House of Assembly \(Speaker and other Members\) \(Salaries and Allowances\) Ordinance](#), 2012, as amended, provides information on remuneration and allowances. Salaries range from US\$195,000 (Premier) to US\$97,500 (elected member). The Speaker is among the posts for which higher remuneration is paid.

Nominated members of the Appropriation and Public Accounts Committees receive a stipend of US\$350 for each meeting they attend.<sup>18</sup>

Remuneration of Members of Turks and Caicos Islands Assembly (US\$1.25=£1)	
Role (full-time)	Remuneration (US\$)
Premier	\$195,000
Deputy Premier	\$175,000
Minister	\$157,950
Speaker	\$104,464
Deputy Speaker	\$100,286
Leader of the Opposition	\$104,464
Elected Member	\$97,500
Appointed Member	\$97,500

Source: Correspondence with the FCDO, 20 December 2023

The CPA's [Pay and remuneration: Survey outcome report, 2020-21](#) (PDF), pp204-6, provides more on pay, allowances and pensions for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

<sup>17</sup> FCDO correspondence, 25 October 2023

<sup>18</sup> FCDO correspondence, 20 December 2023, see [Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution 2011](#), as amended, sections 114 and 122

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## Legislatures: Committees and sitting days

There is a wide range in the number of days the legislatures sit each year, and the number of committees each legislature has. These partly reflect the size of the Territory and the relative powers and responsibility the legislature has.

The below table also provides links to the records of proceedings of each legislature (if these are published online) and the main page for the committees each legislature has.

### Sitting days and hours

The number of sitting days per year ranges from 7 (St Helena) to 30 (Cayman Islands). Most Territory legislatures meet one or twice a month, on average.

The number of sitting hours per year ranges from 11 hours (Ascension) to 216 (Bermuda's House of Assembly). Legislatures of the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands have also met for around 200 or more hours each year in recent years.

In the 2021/22 session, the UK House of Commons sat for 152 days and for 1,245 hours. The average sitting day lasted 7 hours 53 minutes.<sup>19</sup>

### Committees

The number of committees and their roles differs between the Territories. All Territory legislatures except Gibraltar, Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha, and Ascension have a Public Accounts Committee.

For more on parliamentary committees, see section 5.4 of the Commons Library research briefing on [The separation of powers in the UK's OTs](#).

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<sup>19</sup> UK Parliament, [FAQs: Business](#), accessed 15 December 2023

## Overseas Territory legislatures: Sitting hours and committees

	Sitting days per year (with link to records, if available)	Sitting hours per year	Committees (with link to main page, if available)	Public accounts committee?
Anguilla	<a href="#">24</a> (recent average)	120 (recent data)	2 <a href="#">standing committees</a>	✓
Bermuda (Assembly)	<a href="#">24</a> (2022/23 session)	216 (2022/23)	8 <a href="#">committees</a>	✓
Bermuda (Senate)	16 (2022/23 session)	64 (2022/23)		
British Virgin Islands	20 (recent data)	200 (recent data)	7 <a href="#">committees</a>	✓
Cayman Islands	<a href="#">30</a> (recent average)	195 (recent data)	5 <a href="#">committees</a>	✓
Falkland Islands	<a href="#">12</a> (meets monthly)	48 (recent data)	19 <a href="#">departmental committees</a> (and 2 others)	✓
Gibraltar	<a href="#">24</a> (average since 2020)	84 (average since 2020)	5 committees	X
Montserrat	<a href="#">11 to 15</a> (2019-22 pattern)	78 (2022 data)	3 <a href="#">committees</a>	✓
Pitcairn	At <a href="#">least once a month</a> . Some special meetings	36 (based on average length of 3 hours)	1 (Policy Review Committee)	X
St Helena	<a href="#">7</a>	56	3 <a href="#">committees</a>	✓
Incls. Ascension	<a href="#">8 formal</a> and 8 informal sessions	10.6 (based on average length of 40 mins)	3 committees	X
Incls. Tristan da Cunha	<a href="#">8 formal</a> and 4 informal sessions	No data	15 committees	X
Turks and Caicos	<a href="#">24 meetings</a> (2023) (though individual meetings can last for up to four days)	120 (2023)	7 committees	✓

Sources: Commons Library research briefing, [The separation of powers in the UK's Overseas Territories](#), November 2022; [Pitcairn Local Government ordinance](#), revised 2019, section 6 (4); Correspondence with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Parliamentary Clerks for Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, St Helena and Bermuda. Correspondence with the FCDO for Gibraltar, Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension and The Turks and Caicos Islands.

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**Notes on calling the Gibraltar Parliament:** Pursuant to section 37(3) of the [Gibraltar Constitution Order 2006](#), there is a requirement for there to be at least three meetings of Parliament in any calendar year except a calendar year in which a general election is held when there needs to be at least two meetings of the Parliament. Since 2011, it is a manifesto commitment of the present Government to hold monthly meetings of the Parliament except during the Easter and Summer recess.

**Detailed list of committees (where provided in correspondence):**

- **Ascension:** Public Works, Welfare and Social Care and Finance Committees
- **Bermuda:** House and Grounds, Public Accounts Committee, Standing Orders and Privileges, Private Bills, Office of the Auditor, Regulations, Panel of Chairmen and Register of Members Interests
- **Falkland Islands:** There are departmental committees: Agricultural Advisory; Education Board; Environmental Committee; Falkland Islands Development Board; Falkland Islands Landholdings; Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children Board; Falkland Islands Tourist Board; Fisheries Committee; Health and Medical Services Committee; Historic Buildings Committee; Housing Committee; Minerals Committee; Planning and Building Committee; Police Committee; Prerogative of Mercy; Standing Finance Committee; Stamp Advisory Committee; Transport Advisory Committee. The Assembly also has an open Select Committee on the Constitution and annual open the Select Committee on the Estimates. It has previously held Select Committees relating to Bills coming forward but no inquiries.
- **Montserrat:** Public Accounts, Orders Committee and Access Special Committee.
- **Turks and Caicos Islands:** House Committee, Standing Orders Committee, Privileges Committee, Expenditure Committee, Administration Committee, Appropriations Committee and the Public Accounts Committee

## 5

## The position of Speaker

All Territory legislatures aside from Pitcairn, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha have a position of Speaker (in Pitcairn, the role of presiding officer is played by the directly elected Mayor, and the Administrator, appointed by the Governor, in Ascension and Tristan da Cunha).

### Is the Speaker a member of the legislature?

Only in Bermuda, which has the largest House of Assembly of OTs, at 36 members, must the Speaker be elected from among its elected members.<sup>20</sup>

In three legislatures, the Speaker/Presiding member must be chosen from non-members: Gibraltar, Pitcairn, and St Helena. In six, the Speaker can be selected from either in or outside the House.

### How are speakers elected?

In all cases, the Speaker or presiding Member is elected by a majority of Members of the legislature. In Gibraltar, the Speaker is presented after consultation between the Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition.<sup>21</sup>

### Full-time role for almost all Speakers

In all Territories aside from the Falklands and St Helena, the Speaker is paid a full-time salary (though in the Turks and Caicos, the role is part-time). In the Falkland Islands, a day or half-day rate is paid. In St Helena, the salary is based on a three-day role.

### Specific support staff

Legislatures that provide dedicated support staff to a Speaker are few: the Speakers of British Virgin Islands and Cayman have a personal assistant. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, daily support is provided by the clerk. In other Territories, general support is provided by the legislature's staff.

### Pay and allowances for the Speaker

The Speaker is a paid role in all the Territories with such a position. They are eligible to receive additional allowances (as can other Members—see section 3). In Anguilla, the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar the Speaker receives no additional allowances to their salary.

<sup>20</sup> Commons Library, [The separation of powers in the UK's OTs](#), November 2022, section 3

<sup>21</sup> See notes after the table in this section for sources



## Overseas Territory legislatures: Sitting hours and committees

	Speaker is an elected Member of the House?	Full time role?	Annual salary	Additional allowances	Dedicated support staff?
Anguilla	✓ <sup>0</sup>	✓	Eastern Caribbean (EC) \$143,832 [£42,348]	None	X <sup>2</sup>
Bermuda (Assembly)	✓	✓	Bermuda \$82,592 [£66,000]	Telephone and access to Government's GP car fleet	X <sup>2</sup>
Bermuda (Senate)	All members appointed	✓	Bermuda \$86,903 (£69,200)	No data	No data
British Virgin Islands	✓ <sup>0</sup>	✓	US\$45,000 [£36,000]	Housing, travel, telephone, entertainment	Personal Assistant
Cayman Islands	✓ <sup>0</sup>	✓	Cayman Islands (CI) \$206,568 (plus increment for each 4-year term) (£200,500)	CI\$1,000 monthly as an entertainment allowance	Personal Assistant
Falkland Islands	✓ <sup>0</sup>	X	£174 per day/£87 per half day	None	X <sup>2</sup>
Gibraltar	X	✓	£55,982	None	X <sup>2</sup>
Montserrat	✓ <sup>0</sup>	✓	Eastern Caribbean (EC) \$65,232 [£19,242]	Entertainment, duty, travelling and telephone of EC\$42,600 per year	X <sup>2</sup>
St Helena	X	X	£15,000 (based on three-day week)	Internet and computer, transport, some overseas costs and travel	X <sup>2</sup>
Turks and Caicos	✓ <sup>0</sup>	X	US\$104,464 [£83,571]	Telephone and travel	Clerk on daily basis (deputy clerk also provides support)

Notes: <sup>0</sup> Can be either an elected member or from outside. <sup>2</sup> Can request support from wider staff supporting the legislature

## Sources for the above table

House of Commons Library research briefing, [The separation of powers in the UK's Overseas Territories](#), November 2022; Constitution of [Pitcairn](#), section 6 (4); Correspondence with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Parliamentary Clerks for Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, St Helena and Bermuda. Correspondence with the FCDO for Gibraltar, Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension and The Turks and Caicos Islands; Government of Bermuda, [Government salaries 2021](#) (PDF) and Parliament of Bermuda, [Remuneration](#); Turks and Caicos [House Of Assembly \(Speaker And Other Members\) \(Salaries And Allowances\) Ordinance](#), 2012, Schedule.

## Process to elect the Speaker

The respective constitutions of each Territory set out the process by which legislatures must choose their Speaker. In all cases, majority support of the legislature must be given.

- [Anguilla Constitution Order 1982](#), as amended, Schedule, Section 50
- [Bermuda Constitution Order 1968](#), as amended, Schedule Section 32
- [\[British\] Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007](#), as amended, Section 69
- [Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009](#), as amended, Schedule 2, Section 65
- [Falkland Islands Constitution Order](#), 2008, as amended, Schedule, Section 39
- [Gibraltar Constitution Order 2006](#), as amended, Schedule, Section 26
- [Montserrat Constitution Order 2010](#), as amended, Schedule, Section 59
- [St Helena Constitution Order 2009](#), as amended, Schedule 1, Section 55
- [Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011](#), as amended, Section 44

## 5.1

# Legislatures with no Speakers

## Pitcairn

The Pitcairn Mayor acts as presiding officer of the Island Council in a part-time role.<sup>22</sup> They:

- Are elected directly for a three-year term but are also a member of the Council. They hold the casting vote.
- Receive a salary of NZ\$580.00 per month (for all their roles) and no additional allowances.
- Are supported by the Island Secretary, who supports the Council as a whole.<sup>23</sup>

## Ascension

The Administrator, appointed by the Governor, chairs Island Council meetings.<sup>24</sup> They:

- Are supported by their office manager, who acts as Council Clerk in a part-time role.
- Do not receive any remuneration for their role in the Council.
- Also perform other roles in government.

## Tristan da Cunha

The Council's President is the Governor-appointed Administrator.<sup>25</sup> They:

- Are supported by other staff for their work.
- Do not receive additional remuneration for their presiding role.

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<sup>22</sup> Europa World, Pitcairn: Introduction; [Pitcairn Islands Local Government Ordinance](#), Revised 2019, Part II, Section 6

<sup>23</sup> FCDO Correspondence, 25 October 2023

<sup>24</sup> Commons Library, [The UK Overseas Territories and their Governors](#), June 2022, sections 4.11 and 5.11  
FCDO correspondence, 9 October 2023

<sup>25</sup> Commons Library, [The UK Overseas Territories and their Governors](#), June 2022, sections 4.11 and 5.11

- Also perform other roles in government.

A deputy President is also elected from among the Council's members. This is not a full-time role and they do not receive additional remuneration.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> [Island Council \(Tristan da Cunha\) Ordinance 1985](#) (PDF), as amended, Section 3 and Section 8; FCDO correspondence, 25 October 2023

## 6 Appendix: Links to legislature websites

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) pages for each legislature provide further links, including to standing orders and CPA engagement.

### Anguilla

- CPA HQ, [Anguilla House of Assembly](#)
- CPA UK, [Anguilla](#)
- Government of Anguilla, [House of Assembly](#)

### Bermuda

- CPA HQ, [Parliament of Bermuda](#)
- CPA UK, [Bermuda](#)
- [Bermuda Parliament](#)

### British Virgin Islands

- CPA HQ, [Legislature of Virgin Islands](#)
- CPA UK, [British Virgin Islands](#)
- British Virgin Islands Government, [Office of the House of Assembly](#)

### Cayman Islands

- CPQ HQ, [Parliament of the Cayman Islands](#)
- CPA UK, [Cayman Islands](#)
- Cayman Islands Government, [Parliament](#)

### Falkland Islands

- CPQ HQ, [Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands](#)
- CPA UK, [Falkland Islands](#)
- Falkland Islands Government, [Legislative Assembly](#)

## Gibraltar

- CPA HQ, [Parliament of Gibraltar](#)
- CPA UK, [Gibraltar](#)
- [Gibraltar Parliament](#)

## Montserrat

- CPA Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region, [Montserrat](#)
- CPA UK, [Montserrat](#)
- [Montserrat Parliament](#)

## Pitcairn

- Government of Pitcairn, [Government](#) and [Island Council Minutes](#)

## St Helena

- CPA HQ, [Island Council of St Helena](#)
- CPA UK, [St Helena](#)
- St Helena Government, [Island Council](#)

## Ascension (part of St Helena Territory)

- Ascension Island Government, [Island Council](#)

## Tristan da Cunha (part of St Helena Territory)

- CPA UK, [Tristan da Cunha](#)
- Tristan da Cunha, [Island Council](#)

## Turks and Caicos Islands

- CPA HQ, [House of Assembly of the Turks and Caicos Islands](#)
- CPA UK, [Turks and Caicos Islands](#)
- Government of Turks and Caicos Islands, [House of Assembly](#)

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