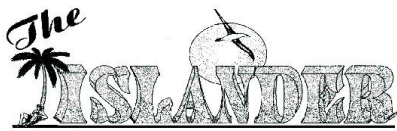


# Ascension Island Council General Election

## Thursday, 20 October 2022





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Georgetown, Ascension Island.

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[www.the-islander-newspaper.com](http://www.the-islander-newspaper.com)

**Deadline: 6:00 pm Mondays**

**Technicians: Joopy & Kerry**

The Islander post-box is situated on the downstairs  
veranda of the new AIG Offices (Islander Building).

**Deadline for all contributions: Monday's 6pm**

Please submit copy on disk or via e-mail.

**Max size for email is 1MB**

**Next weeks' editor: Dr Bill & Felicity**

**Printers: Elaine & Sam**

**CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN  
THE ISLANDER**

**FULL PAGE £10.00**

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EDITORS DISCRETION**

## *Editor's Note*

Hello readers,

Apologies that the islander is a bit sparse this week! Completely forgot that I was editing!

Tomorrow is voting day – don't forget to cast your vote!

A bit disappointed that some of the candidates didn't submit a campaign write-up – but good luck to all of you who had the courage to take a stand!

Welcome to Peter Morison and Inspector Barry Thacker as well as the new teachers and students at Two Boats School!

Until next time  
Enjoy the week!  
Kitty

## Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley



# General Election – Thursday 20 October 2022

## How to cast your vote

On **Thursday 20 October 2022** you will have the opportunity of casting your vote for the candidates you would like to represent you on the Island Council. There are five seats available on the Council and six candidates: Kerry Ann Benjamin, Kyla Benjamin, Kenneth Antony Godkin, Douglas Gordon Miller, Alan Herbert Nicholls and Laura Marie Shearer.

Please note that you may only vote if your name appears on the current Electoral Register [dated 31 August 2022] and you may vote only at the polling station which appears against your name: Saints Members Club in Georgetown; Two Boats Club; the NAAFI at Travellers Hill; and the US Base Library. Polling stations will be open from 8am to 8pm and each will display notices to show where to enter and exit. Please do not enter the polling station/area if there is already another voter inside.

On entering, go directly to the officials' table. The Presiding Officer or Assistant Presiding Officer will confirm your name and polling station against the Electoral Register. If the details are correct, you will be handed a ballot paper that bears the official stamp of the polling station and a line will be drawn through your entry on the Electoral Register to show that this has been done.

How to register your vote:

- Take the ballot paper to the voting area and mark it with **up to five crosses** opposite the names of the candidates you wish to vote for. No other mark or signature should be placed on the ballot paper.
- Fold the ballot paper so as to conceal who you have voted for but so that the official stamp on the back remains visible. Show the Presiding or Assistant Presiding Officer the stamp then place your ballot paper into the ballot box.
- Immediately leave the polling station by the designated exit.

The Presiding and Assistant Presiding Officer are there to help if you need it. However, if you have any questions before Thursday, please contact either of the following:

- Diane Baum 66403 or [diane.baum@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:diane.baum@ascension.gov.ac)
- Siobhan Stewart 67000-100 or [siobhan.stewart@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:siobhan.stewart@ascension.gov.ac)

Returning Officer  
06 October 2022



## **Candidates for General Election Confirmed**

### **Voting to take place on 20 October 2022**

In accordance with the provisions of the Island Government Ordinance 2008, the following nominations have been received for election to the Island Council:

<b>Kerry Ann Benjamin</b>	<b>Bungalow 48A, Georgetown</b>
<b>Kyla Benjamin</b>	<b>Bungalow D22, Two Boats Village</b>
<b>Kenneth Antony Godkin</b>	<b>Basha 12, Room A, Travellers Hill</b>
<b>Douglas Gordon Miller</b>	<b>Basha 17, Room B, Travellers Hill</b>
<b>Alan Herbert Nicholls</b>	<b>Bungalow 29B, Georgetown</b>
<b>Laura Marie Shearer</b>	<b>Bungalow 46, Georgetown</b>

Six candidates have been nominated, but only five persons are required to serve on the Island Council.

Polling stations will open at 08:00 on Thursday 20 October 2022 at the following venues:

- The NAAFI at Travellers Hill;
- The library at the USAF Base;
- The main hall at the Saints Club, Georgetown; and
- The main hall at the Two Boats Club.

Please note you may only vote if your name appears on the current Register of Electors and you may only vote at the polling station at which you are registered.

When the polling stations close at 20:00, the sealed ballot boxes will be taken immediately to the Court House in Georgetown where the official count will take place.

Returning  
Officer  
06 October 2022



## Ascension Island Magistrates Court

The following case was heard in the Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**Mr Joseph Alexander VARNADO** of **United States Air Force Base, ASCENSION ISLAND** was charged that between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 along the path at Redhill, United States Air Force Base, Ascension Island, contrary to section 23(1)(b) of the Public Health (Coronavirus) (Temporary Provisions) Regulations, 2022, he failed without reasonable excuse to comply with a restriction imposed under regulation 13 of the Public Health (Coronavirus) (Temporary Provisions) Regulations, 2022, by leaving his isolation accommodation and going for a walk.

Mr Varnado pleaded Guilty and received a fine of £560.00 and ordered to pay £50.00 in court costs.

13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Denise John  
Clerk of the Court

**GEORGETOWN POST OFFICE**

**MAIL NOTICE**



**Airmail and SAL (Surface Air Lift) to Great Britain, will close on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 12 noon.**

**Surface mail to the Falkland Islands, will close on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 12 noon**

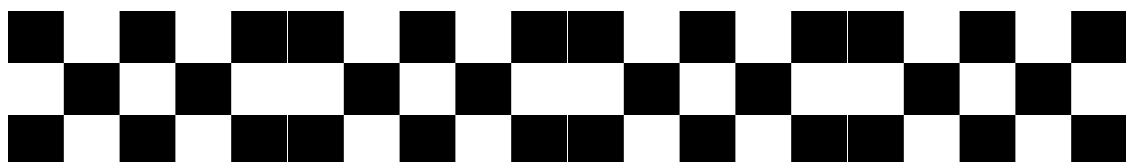
**All enquiries to Tel: 66583 and 66260**



Inspector Barry Thacker has arrived from Saint Helena to cover until Inspector Johnnie Thomas's replacement has been appointed. We wish Johnnie all the very best for his future and thank him for what he has done for the Ascension Island.

Barry retired from the Derbyshire Constabulary in the UK after 32 years' service during which time he held many different and varied portfolios and shortly after that he became the Deputy Chief of Police for the Falkland Islands for 3 years before starting last year on Saint Helena as their Training and Development Inspector; he started work on Ascension on Monday 10th October 2022 and brings this experience with him.

"I am honoured to have been asked to work on Ascension and have had a really warm welcome from my colleagues and the community. I'm looking forward to exploring this beautiful island and passing on my experience and knowledge to enhance the already excellent service provided by the police detachment here. If I can help in any way my door is always open, please feel free to pop in and see me, say hello in the street, or get in touch by phone or email; we are your police service and I'm happy to serve you." Barry commented.







## **Assistant Director, HR Begins Role**

On 20 September 2022, Peter Morison arrived at Ascension to take up the position of Assistant Director, Human Resources with the AIG.

Peter has spent close to 20 years working on HR, Operations and Project Management activity for the British Council in the UK and in the Palestinian Territories, Uganda, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

Since leaving the British Council he has worked for the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in South Africa and for the former Department for International Development (now part of FCDO) in Nigeria.

He is married to Sabina and they have two boys, Sean, 21 and is studying Fashion Design and Mark 17 who is in his final year of schooling.



Office of the Administrator  
11 October 2022

## MV Helena – Monday, 12 December 2022



The MV Helena is expected to call at Ascension on Monday, 12 December.

**Freight and small parcels** will be accepted in the warehouse from **0800 hrs to 0900 hrs on Saturday, 29 October** for those departing on **Sunday, 6 November's Airlink Flight**.

All **bookings for vehicles and containers** will close at **1200 hrs on Monday, 5 December**.

**Freight and small parcels** for **those working on the US Base only** will be accepted from **0830 hrs to 1030 hrs on Tuesday, 6 December**.

All remaining **freight and small parcels** will be accepted from **1100 hrs to 1300 hrs on Tuesday, 6 December**.

**Frozen goods** will be accepted from **0730 hrs to 0830 hrs on Friday, 9 December**.

In accordance with the Customs (Export Control) Regulations 2010, it is an offence to export fish from the island without a valid export permit. Persons exporting fish are required to purchase an export permit from the Post Office prior to delivering your boxes to the warehouse. The permit must be produced on delivery of goods. You are also reminded that a **maximum** of 10 kilograms of fish **per person** may be exported. A fisheries officer and a customs officer will be present at the warehouse when checks will be made on all frozen goods. All boxes containing fish should be delivered unsealed.

**Please note that in addition to being sold at the Shipping Office, the AWS freezer boxes are also available at the Georgetown Post Office.**

If you require any further information please contact the Shipping Office on 66244.





**Two Boats School**

# Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022



Hello Everyone,

This week we welcomed new student Tiarna Young into Year 4. We hope that Tiarna settles in and enjoys her time here with us. Kia Benjamin also joined the EYFS class this week. Kia is a temporary student here with us until the next flight to St Helena, I am sure that Kia will enjoy his short time here with us.



Also joining the team here at TBS is Miss Kaylee Young, who started on Monday as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). Kaylee has hit the ground running and has got stuck into the Primary school. Welcome to the team Kaylee and I am sure you will be an asset to the team.

You will hear from Kaylee in the coming weeks.

I am pleased to introduce you to our newly formed student council and House captains. Student leadership and voice are an important part of TBS and I looking forward to working with both teams in the coming months.



## Visit to TBS

In our assembly this morning Lorna, Toby and three members of the Zoological Society of London team spoke to our students about their work with the South Atlantic Plastics Project. They spoke about some of the work they are doing and encouraged all of us to think about what we can do to protect our

environment and reduce our plastic pollution. Thank You for coming in to visit us.



## Reminders

Please could I ask that you let school know if you are going on overseas leave for Christmas. This is so we can start our planning for the Christmas activities.

Our Annual Harvest Assembly will be on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 11.30am. This will be followed by our usual bring and share lunch and then school will finish for the half term holidays.

That's it for now.

Mrs Maggott  
Head Teacher

## Fire Prevention Week

Mr Colin Lawrence and the team from the US base gave up their time on Thursday afternoon to come in and speak to our students about Fire Safety. In addition to the important Fire safety messages there were some fun activities. The students all had a great afternoon. I am not sure that the teachers who were sponged would agree.



Thank you so much for giving up your time, it is very much appreciated.



## FIRE PREVENTION DAY AT SCHOOL





Two Boats School

# Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022



## Hello from year 9!

Here is what we have enjoyed the most about school so far this year:

My favourite thing I have done in school this year so far is DT because we are making storage boxes.  
Jaylen

I like Science, writing gothic literature in English, and the box project in DT.  
Jada

I am looking forward to going on a school trip and also to cheerleading at Sports Day.  
Jordan

DT is my favourite subject in Year 9. We are making storage boxes which is fun. I also like ICT because we are learning how to make web pages.  
Lucas

I am really enjoying science because we did an experiment to make cement with different properties and tested it to see which was the strongest.  
Wyatt

So far in year 9 I have enjoyed ICT and DT.  
Zayla

In year 9 I have enjoyed art because I love to draw and I am also enjoying English. We are learning about gothic literature and I like to scare the life out of people with scary stories!  
Leeanna

I have enjoyed making my storage box in DT and I am looking forward to going on a school trip.  
Rhiann

DT, French and HE are my favourite subjects. I love DT because I can make things with my hands. I love French because then if I go to France I will know how to speak to people. I love HE because I like eating.  
Troy







Two Boats School

# Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022



This is us in English. We had a debate about which of the two characters was the most villainous: the woman in Robert Browning's poem 'The Laboratory' or the narrator in Edgar Allen Poe's story 'The Tell-Tale Heart'.

Reminder: Annual Beach Clean Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October



We came up with some fantastic points and backed up our opinions with quotations from the texts. Everyone got really into it and enjoyed arguing for their ideas!



It was a close call, but the girls' team narrowly pipped the boys to the post to win the debate.





## VOTE FOR ALAN NICHOLLS



I guess that by now most of you, who are intending to vote tomorrow, have already decided on who you are going to cast your vote for, I just hope that you have chosen wisely.

For those of you who have decided not to vote, I would ask the simple question, why have you come to this decision? Is it because you think that there are no suitable candidates or that your interests will not be effectively represented on the Island Council? In this respect, I would just like to remind you that, although five councillors are needed to make up the Island Council you do not have to vote for five persons – you can vote for any number of persons, up to a maximum of five, if you should so wish to do so. In fact you can vote for only one person (which I hope will be me), if you should think that there are no other suitable candidates. So please reconsider your decision, if you have decided not to vote, and go along to a polling station tomorrow, and vote for the person or persons, who you would like to represent you on the Island Council for the next three years. The process of voting is very simple and will not take up much of your time.

By now you will be well aware of who the candidates are for tomorrow's General Election. You will also have probably noticed that the majority of the candidates are new, with only two candidates (including myself) having prior experience from the previous Island Council. You might be thinking that a totally new council might not be a bad idea, however, and with the greatest respect, I would suggest that a totally new council will need a considerable amount of time to familiarise themselves with Government business (including finance) and Council processes and procedures, whereas, if elected, I will be able to hit the ground running. As I said in my letter to you last week, it is important to have some continuity, so that unfinished Council business can be properly concluded. Having the necessary background knowledge, will enable these matters to be completed in a timely manner.

When considering who to vote for tomorrow, please consider this: (a) It is important to have experienced and outspoken councillors who are prepared to challenge the government on all matters that affect the wellbeing of everyone on this island; (b) I am confident that I have considerable relevant experience and ability, and am certainly not afraid of putting this into practice for the wellbeing of everyone on this Island; (c) I have a certain amount of experience in financial matters (I was also a member of the previous Finance Committee), and will therefore be amply suited to hold the Government to account on this subject.

To enable to me to put all of my experience, knowledge and ability to use, for the benefit of all of you, I will need your vote tomorrow. So please vote, and you certainly will not be disappointed if you **vote for**:

**ALAN NICHOLLS.**

# **X VOTE LAURA SHEARER FOR COUNCIL**



My name is Laura Shearer and I am the Seabird Scientist for AIG. I have been on island for 4 years and I see myself remaining on Ascension long-term. Over the last 4 years, I have fully integrated myself into the island community- volunteering with the Sea Rescue team for 2.5yrs, coaching the teenager's football club for 3yrs as well as becoming treasurer for both island dive clubs.

Becoming a member of the island council is something I have thought long and hard about and feel now is the most suitable time. Living on island for several years, I now feel I understand how the island works and what is important to the community. I have spoken to previous councillors, read the minutes of meetings over the last few years and familiarised myself with recent legislation and policy changes. My motivation for becoming a councillor is to work towards building partnerships and improving opportunities for the island to become a more prosperous and happy place to live and work.

In the build up to running for council, I have spoken to a number of people across the island to find out what is important to them. A recurring theme was improvement of mental health provisions. For several years I was a community carer, providing support to vulnerable adults in their own home including those with severe mental health issues so this is an area in which I have experience. As a councillor, I would be keen to work alongside AIG to continue raising awareness and ensuring that people feel their mental health needs are being met.

I would also like to see improvements made to the settlements and in recreational spaces. I would like to look at options to make public areas actually work for people- improved lighting, more seating options in popular areas, better road signage. I think it is important to look after our island, our heritage and take pride in our home.

Should I be elected, I plan to organise regular drop-in sessions to allow everyone's voice to be heard. I can be contacted in a number of ways of which you feel most comfortable- send me an email, catch me around town, I am always ready to listen and hear what is important to you. I value confidentiality, honesty and trust and I commit myself to listen to the expectations and concerns of islanders. I will work hard to ensure that community feedback is heard to ensure the best future for Ascension.



## **Georgetown Hospital Optician Visit**

Ms Priscilla Brown is currently in Ascension for approximately one month from now until her departure for St Helena on the 06 November 2022.

The public are requested to note that there will be no "automatic" appointments made for patients. If you require an appointment or a follow-up review please contact Lara on telephone number 47470 during the following times:

### **Monday to Friday**

**08:30 - 12:00**

**14:00 – 16:30**

Georgetown Hospital  
17 October 2022


# Met Office Ascension Island Base

## The Met Office Weather Report





### Statistics for the week ending Monday, 17 October 2022

Location	Max (Celsius)	Min (Celsius)	Rainfall (mm)
AIRHEAD	27.8	20.9	0.6
TRAVELLERS HILL	N/A	19.4	8.1
RESIDENCY	N/A	16.9	13.2
GEORGETOWN	N/A	N/A	N/A
ST. HELENA	19.3	13.7	1.0
FALKLANDS	N/A	N/A	N/A
UK (Brize Norton)	16.8	1.5	12.0

### Tide Times & Georgetown Pierhead/English Bay Swell Outlook

Day	Swell	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon		Moon Phase
						Rise	Set	Set	Rise	
Wed, 19 Oct	1.1 m	01:37	14:30	08:24	20:16	06:33	18:51	14:16	02:20	
Thu, 20 Oct	1.4 m	02:38	15:18	09:11	21:07	06:33	18:51	15:04	03:03	
Fri, 21 Oct	1.8 m	03:22	15:53	09:48	21:47	06:32	18:51	15:51	03:45	
Sat, 22 Oct	1.8 m	03:58	16:26	10:20	22:21	06:32	18:51	16:38	04:25	
Sun, 23 Oct	1.6 m	04:32	16:57	10:50	22:55	06:32	18:52	17:26	05:05	
Mon, 24 Oct	1.4 m	05:05	17:29	11:22	23:29	06:31	18:52	18:14	05:46	
Tue, 25 Oct	1.3 m	05:38	18:02	11:54	--:--	06:31	18:52	19:06	06:29	

#### Moon Phase Key

 New Moon	 First Quarter	 Full Moon	 Last Quarter
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For more detailed information, including swimming and swell warnings, please contact the Met Office on Ext: 3317





# **Public Consultation on Amendment to National Protected Area at Long Beach**

## **End of public consultation period**

On Friday 07 October, a public consultation on a draft Policy to amend the boundaries of the National Protected Area at Long Beach concluded.

The proposed change is driven by the fact that the only suitable site for an urgently required new wastewater plant for Georgetown lies just within the land side edge of the current protected area. In order to allow the wastewater treatment plant to be constructed, the boundary of the Long Beach Nature Reserve would need to be adjusted.

An environmental impact assessment for new wastewater treatment plant has been carried out by the Conservation and Fisheries Directorate. This has shown that, with appropriate mitigation in place, the construction and operation of the treatment plant at the preferred location would not have a negative impact on the natural features of the Long Beach Nature Reserve.

Following completion of the consultation period on Friday 07 October, no responses were received and therefore the proposed changes was accepted.

Copies of the draft policy amendment are available online through the AIG website via <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/public-document/policy-on-amendments-to-national-protected-areas> or through the Administrator's Office in Georgetown.

Operations & Facilities Directorate  
14 October 2022



# **Georgetown Water Works Treatment Plant**

## **Work to commence shortly**

Next week, work will begin on a long planned project to replace the water works treatment plant at Georgetown. As the location of the new site is immediately adjacent to the current one, it is anticipated that there will be no noticeable disruption to the public during the works.

Initial work will start on 17 October with the clearance of the site, located next to the existing plant. Groundworks and installation of services will follow and will continue until the end of January.

The new plant is a closed system in separate units and will arrive via the October FIRS. It will then be installed in the coming months with the commissioning of the plant scheduled for February 2023.

The need to replace both the Georgetown and Two Boats waste water plants was identified in 2017 and the replacement of both has now been enabled thanks to joint funding from both the UK government and AIG.

The waste water plant replacement projects are being managed by Project Manager Frikkie Myburgh and the work required for the replacement of both plants is being provided by members of the Operations and Facilities Directorate.

Further updates will be issued on both plant replacement programmes as and when they occur.

Operations and Facilities Directorate  
14 October 2022



## **Weekly COVID-19 Statistics**

### **Monitoring of community spread continues**

On Monday 08 August, Ascension recorded its first case of COVID-19 within the community. Since then, further cases of COVID-19 have been recorded and authorities are monitoring the spread of virus.

In order to ensure the public has a clear picture of infection rates within the territory, weekly infection statistics are being published during the period of transitioning to 'living with COVID-19'.

As of Friday 14 October 2022, the total number of positive results from tests conducted by, or registered with, a healthcare worker at one of the three testing sites is as follows:

	<b>08/08/22 – 14/10/22</b>
USAF Base Clinic	48
RAF Base Clinic	14
Georgetown Hospital	169
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>

These figures are based on results of tests conducted at each of these sites. However, the test site may not necessarily reflect the primary accommodation location of the person that tested positive.

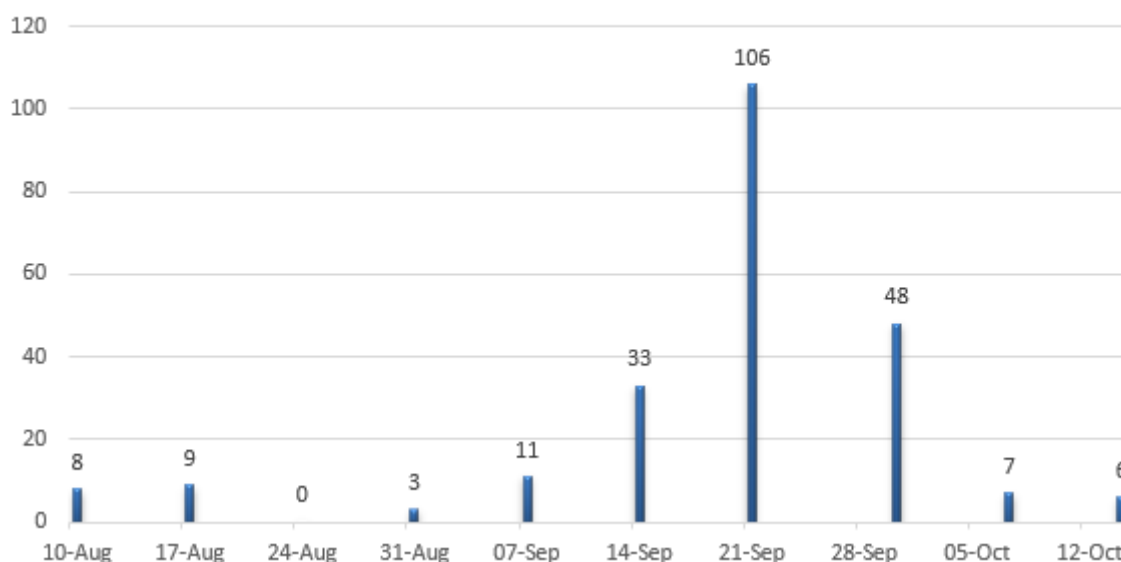
Between Saturday 08 October and Friday 14 October, the following number of daily positive results from tests conducted by, or registered with, a healthcare worker was recorded:

<b>08/10</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/10</b>	<b>11/10</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>13/10</b>	<b>14/10</b>	<b>Total</b>
0	0	1	1	1	2	1	6

As of Friday 14 October, there has been a total of one critically ill patient, who had tested positive for COVID-19, admitted to Georgetown Hospital. They have since been medically evacuated for further treatment off island.

The number of confirmed weekly positive results is as follows:

## Weekly Positive COVID-19 Cases



All members of the public are encouraged to monitor their own health for signs of possible infection. If you believe you have symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection you should arrange to take a test at your relevant medical facility and follow the guidance in place. Guidance can be found online at [www.ascension.gov.ac/public-document/living-with-covid-19](http://www.ascension.gov.ac/public-document/living-with-covid-19) and is available through your employer, local medical clinic and Georgetown Hospital.

If you test positive, you should isolate for five days. After this time, you should end your isolation once you feel well. A test is not required to end isolation.

Authorities are monitoring the ongoing spread of the virus and the current guidance will remain in effect until they are satisfied that the daily positive incidence rate indicates that the peak of the spread has been passed.

Georgetown Hospital  
17 October 2022





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**[ladiesorders@zedcore.co.za](mailto:ladiesorders@zedcore.co.za)**

# BOYS 2 MEN

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5pm & Saturday  
22nd Oct @ 10am

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