

# Cheryl Roberts

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## Introduction

Following long and hard deliberations I have decided to stand for election on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025. I had been considering taking semi-retirement from our business, therefore this decision has not come easy. The route I was about to take was for more time off but after receiving support from family and friends I feel now is the right time for me to make the biggest commitment to our Islands. Previously this had not been possible due to our own business interests with Beauchene Fishing Co Ltd and our associate companies with our Spanish partners. Whilst I will remain as a non-executive director of Beauchene Fishing and our joint-venture companies, I will not be involved in the day-to-day management and running of the companies.

In the spirit of transparency, on a personal note. I have two incredibly special events that I will be attending during the coming year, University graduation day for my daughter and a family wedding. These are unmissable but my commitment to serving the Islands will not waver.

If I am elected, I will file all required declarations of interest. Our company now has the strongest team ever, which gives me the confidence to carry out this commitment.

## My business and community involvement

- Over 30 years working in the Falkland Island Fishing Industry.
- Purchased Beauchene Fishing in 2003
- Working with two Spanish business partners and, despite many challenges, this included the commissioning and operation of a new €35m vessel following the loss of one of our vessels through fire in Vigo Spain during December 2020. This has ensured continued local and international employment through our operational staff and crews.
- Director of Beauchene Fishing Co Ltd and all related joint venture companies with Spanish associates.
- Director of CFL and Chair of SAAS. SAAS is a lifeline to our Islands, and we must ensure it continues with a strong team of Directors as we currently have with members from both CFL and FIG. The management and team at SAAS work extremely hard under some exceedingly difficult circumstances to ensure not only our southbound containers arrive in the Islands but also that the Islands export shipments depart and arrive at destination in a timely manner.
- Trustee of the Lighthouse Seafarers Mission

- Falkland Island Association Stanley Committee Member
- Former Chair and Director of the Falkland Islands Fishing Company Association for nearly two decades.
- Former board member on the following boards: Chamber of Commerce, FIDC, Pensions, Prison Visitors, Media Trust, and Port Welfare.
- The project closest to my heart is the restoration of Cape Pembroke Lighthouse. My family connection with this project is very dear to me as my maternal Grandfather William (Buz) Spencer worked as lighthouse keeper from 1928-1955 with his last nine years being principal keeper. I am proud that what began as a personal tribute has become a shared effort with Beauchene Fishing, FIG and CFL as stakeholders working with F.I. Museum & National Trust, local contractors, along with, primarily the expertise of a US company. Together we are preserving a unique part of our national heritage for future generations.

## Priorities

- What will the next four years bring that will affect the next 20 years? Our Islands' future depends on smart decision making and strong leadership, which I would bring to the Assembly, along with deep community ties and hands on experience. This requires fundamental agreement and better cooperation between the Assembly, Government, and the Private Sector.
- More efficiency in the civil service, accountability within Government, right through to delegated authority to Executive Council, along with openness and transparency.
- Better decision making throughout Government to ensure we obtain the best for our economy and best outcomes for upcoming capital projects. I am fully committed to driving that forward.
- A look into 'user pays' to understand why we are including the cost of the asset again, regarding power station infrastructure, when this has already been paid for with public funds. If this approach wasn't taken, price per unit for electricity could be significantly reduced and remain fair for the whole community.

## Capital Projects

We have a number of major capital projects that will require strong due diligence and strong decision making by elected members, in line with what I have stated above. Should the four listed priorities above be implemented correctly then all should work well.

**New Port.** Personally, I do not agree that that the proposed new port will be fit for long-term purpose, without a strong maintenance plan. Stakeholders have collaborated with the project team, but not all concerns have been listened to and included. These are matters that I would hope have not been completely set in stone, pardon the pun. Sadly, however we will not have a fixed stone port but another floating temporary one. It is imperative that a maintenance plan is in place from the outset and not left to be investigated when it is too late. FIG are not renowned for carrying out good maintenance. Only If this important work is done correctly can we hope to have a working floating port for decades to come.

**Waste management.** Whilst this has already been committed to by the previous assembly. I am not of the belief that a massive incinerator, which burns diesel, to rid us of our waste was the best, cleanest and greenest environmental option. The daily running cost of this plant remains an unknown and that is a huge concern. For me, a correctly designed and managed landfill should have been the approach taken for us in the current

economic climate. I will be keen to hear exactly where we are with this project to understand if there is any room for improvement or further environmental considerations.

**Wind farm/power station.** We will soon see the commissioning of three new wind turbines at Sand Bay, which will significantly increase Stanley's use of renewable energy. Perhaps it would have been preferable to build the new power station first, however we are already committed to the new wind turbines and therefore it is not a matter which can be changed, and even if it could at what cost? Again, I will be very keen to learn more detail for this project to ensure that it delivers the best value for public money.

I've listed the largest projects to enable the electorate to be aware of my opinion on our current infrastructure situation and their financial requirements. The previous concrete port design created a complete waste of circa £20m, paid mainly to various contractors, advisors and perhaps a plan or two, but not much to show for such a vast amount of public money. Hindsight is always a great thing; however, I make mention of the port example here because I know there are many in our Islands that are very much aggrieved with the unacceptable waste of money. I have been told, on many occasions, when mentioning this loss of money 'we should not look back we should look forward' YES I very much agree with that approach; however if we don't look back and learn by our mistakes, then we are destined to make them again.

## Civil Servants

There is seriously an immediate need to make our government more efficient and accountable. This would be one of the first steps I would like to see the new Assembly take. There needs to be clear commitments from Heads of Department to demonstrate that within their teams they have exactly what is required to ensure full efficiency across the Civil Service and that accountability is very much understood throughout all of FIG. Effective management requires delegation. Heads of Departments should be empowered to carry out their responsibilities which allows them to make day to day decisions.

## Education

We need to continually ensure that we have the best education systems for our youngsters. That is not only guaranteeing they can attend colleges and universities in the UK, or other countries, but also that we have the best professionals and facilities, to teach them here at home.

We need to ensure that funding and the appetite for apprenticeships is a key career path available for our young people. This requires that our government and private sector work closely with Falkland College to enable it to happen. There are currently 34 apprentices, which could be viewed as an adequate amount for a population of our size. However, there are many trades that we could do with more of; electricians, plumbers, and carpenters, although not limiting to just those. Whilst ensuring this happens, we must also encourage our young people to want to return home, and for them to want to return, with competitive salaries and terms and the necessary accommodation that will make it attractive for them to do so.

# Telecommunications

I firmly believe in allowing for competition. I would not be in agreement for SURE S.A. to enter into another monopolised contract, as they currently hold and due to be finalised end of 2027. The payout of up to £6+m which they may receive for recent service choice changes, may be understood as necessary but let us ensure it ends at that point. No further payouts and no further monopoly.

# Tourism

The infrastructure for our tourism industry is very clearly inadequate. A public jetty that remains unsuitable for any vessel to moor up and does not facilitate easy tourism activity. Pontoons which whilst are improved are still not sufficient and should be correctly secured.

Mount Pleasant Airport terminal facilities and rotor winds are a huge concern which has resulted this year in only one passenger exchange for cruise ships. It can be fully understood why companies no longer wish to take such a risk with routing passengers through our Islands. This is a huge impediment to a vital industry in our economy. Whilst it is very clear there is currently not the funding to sort this problem it is imperative the Assembly continues to work with the tourism industry to be able to assist when at all possible. The second flight will be crucial to the growth of this Industry and our Islands connectivity. This is a matter that must be taken forward into the next assembly and progressed as soon as possible.

# Possibilities for the future

**Hydrocarbons Industry.** As we edge closer to possible commencement, we must be fully confident that our government has the correct legislation and procedures in place for the benefit of the whole community. A sovereign wealth fund should be very quickly put in place which will provide security for the future generations of our Islands. This has worked well in Norway, and we would do well to follow their lead and take advice, where necessary.

**Salmon Farming.** There have been many discussions regarding potential of salmon farming with much government money sadly and unnecessarily spent in litigation, due to incorrect decisions being made. At this stage, without being able to see and understand all the potential pros and cons it is impossible to take a final decision now. As the situation stands presently, I would not advocate for salmon farming, however, I will be committed to making any decision based on facts presented by both sides.

# Private and Public sectors

I have many concerns regarding the track our Islands have been taking over the last eight years. As stated above I feel very strongly that these next four years will be absolutely crucial in providing the vision and laying the foundations required for the next 20 years, it requires tough decisions and hard work, both of which I have done throughout my career, and I am willing to do if elected. Establishing this stable foundation will give our future generations, and the world at large, the desire and confidence to want to invest in our Islands.

Currently the government, do not work close enough with our private sector, making it difficult for our private sector to work meaningfully with the government. Given the knowledge and expertise held within our private sector, I feel this is a missed opportunity and to the detriment of the Islands. The Chamber of Commerce have made big efforts to improve this in recent years but sadly it has not been the success that had been hoped for. It should not be hard to work together in a small community as we are after all not that many in number and we all should want our community to prosper. I very much believe that our private and public sectors should and could work together, and I would use the Economic Development Strategy and Island Plan to inform the backbone of that improved relationship. The coming years are not a time for a 'them and us' divide, we are one community.

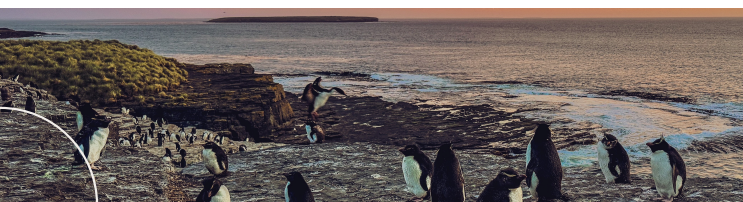
## Self determination

We must always continue with our firm stand on self-determination. Argentina has no basis for their continued claim on our Islands and the fact that they have it written into their constitution just shows that whichever government is in power their stance will not change unless they have the will to change said constitution.

## Conclusion

If elected I intend to apply the same work ethos that I have applied throughout my 30+ years in the Falkland Island private sector. I am hard working, diligent and sensitive to peoples needs. Equally, I am not afraid of making tough decisions and standing by the consequences.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on mobile 51380 or email [robertscherylfk@gmail.com](mailto:robertscherylfk@gmail.com) I will make myself available to anyone who wishes to discuss anything with me prior to the upcoming election and I can be available to meet at the Beauchene Fishing Office or wherever suits people, for a coffee and a chat.



Thank you!