GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Virgin Islands Anti-Crime Summit

- I look forward to next week's Anti-Crime Summit. It's an opportunity to come together and confront rising crime rates - particularly the serious issues of gun violence and domestic abuse. The Summit offers a platform for **collaboration across government, law enforcement, and the community**, which I expect will shape a meaningful and actionable plan to strengthen public safety.

Police Graduation Ceremony

- I was delighted to celebrate recent graduates of Community Policing Training and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training. Their work is pivotal to the security of our islands.

HMP Balsam Ghut

- **New Induction Unit**: A dedicated First Night Centre has been opened to ensure new arrivals to the prison are supported, assessed and safely integrated into the prison community.
- **Staff Recruitment & Training**: Six new Prison Officers have joined to replace retirees. A UK Training Officer is currently deployed to help train new recruits and upskill experienced staff. The recruitment of Prison Counsellor, Dr Paul Ricketts marks a positive step in strengthening rehabilitation and mental health support.
- **Community Projects**: The prison wood workshop continues to support community initiatives, most recently partnering with the Association of Reef Keepers to build a sensory garden at the Eslyn Henley Richez Learning Centre. Inmates constructed benches and signage, demonstrating how rehabilitation can create lasting benefits for the wider community.

Financial Crime

- Over recent months, the UK's **National Crime Agency** has deployed several subject matter experts into the Financial Investigation Agency (FIA) and Financial Crime Unit (FCU) to assist with investigations. I thank all agencies for their collaborative efforts.

Vetting

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Additional Documents or Media

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