

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION**

105/2007 20 November 2007

The Opposition has received representations from MOD drivers who have been given "dismissal" letters because they have not accepted the imposition of new terms of reference regarding their employment conditions.

The MOD claims that this is as a result of the agreement entered into with the Gibraltar Government in order to facilitate the entry of Serco to take on an MOD contract and the transfer of MOD employees.

The MOD position, therefore, is that those not affected by the transfer and remaining in MOD employment are also required to accept changes in their conditions of employment.

The agreements between the MOD and the Gibraltar Government which were signed on 31 May this year, are not confidential as to the disclosure or publication of the fact and the terms of these agreements. However, the MOD employees affected have not been provided with copies of these agreements and have not been able to establish whether the MOD is telling the truth.

Whether they are or not, what is being attempted is a fundamental attack on MOD drivers in an attempt to bring in changes in their working conditions, without their agreement, on penalty of instant dismissal if they do not accept.

The MOD is treating its drivers as if UK were still running a Victorian Empire with India as its Jewel in the Crown. Such behaviour is unacceptable in this day and age, and in all probability illegal. The "dismissal" letters were dated 13 November and delivered to the drivers on 16 November. Today a further letter has been handed to drivers telling them that they are to be redeployed to other jobs, that they are surplus as drivers, and that they should submit a CV

The first letter tells them that by not accepting the changed terms of reference they are deemed to be signifying a wish not to continue in MOD employment as drivers.

The MOD clearly does not have a clue what it is doing, or else is trying to hide what it is up to. In practical terms, this amounts to a compulsory collective redundancy of all its drivers and is being done in a manner which fails to observe all the legal requirements attached to such a situation.

The Opposition condemns the behaviour of the MOD and calls on it to withdraw the threatening letters and enter into meaningful negotiations with the affected groups of workers to reach an agreement acceptable to both sides.

**ENDS**

NOTE - Copies of the two letters concerned are available only by fax.