

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

107/2007 27 November 2007

Shadow Minister for Government Services, Education and Culture Steven Linares has tabled over 70 questions for the Government to answer in the meeting of Parliament which starts next week. This is the first time since February that the Opposition have had an opportunity to question the Government.

Mr Linares has tabled a series of questions on the Theatre Royal. He will ask the Government to say when they commissioned a new detailed report into the future of this project, and wants to know who is conducting the report, the cost, and what its terms of reference are. The Opposition spokesman will also ask when the Government took the policy decision to look at whether to proceed with the present theatre in town or to build a new one. Mr Linares will want Government to list the experts and the components of the Rock's theatre community that it intends to consult once the new report into the future of the Theatre Royal has been compiled.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Education, Steven Linares will ask Government to state how many children have been suspended from school in 2006/7 and in 2007 to date. He will also raise the issue of what amount of money the Government has spent on maintenance and minor works in schools. Mr Linares will ask Government to state how many referrals the Principal Educational Psychologist has at the beginning of the academic year 2007/8, and will want to know how many children are statemented, as in the special

educational needs code of practice, in this academic year.

Mr Linares has tabled a question to establish how much time is given to executive members of the NASUWT(GTA) for them to conduct union business during working hours.

In his new portfolio as Shadow Government Services Minister, Mr Linares will ask Government to say by when they envisage ex-MOD properties and areas that are currently supplied with water by the MOD being supplied by AquaGib instead. He will ask how many power cuts there have been since 1 January 2007, stating when these occurred, their duration the districts affected and the reason why the supply of electricity was interrupted. Mr Linares has tabled questions on electricity and water consumption, the Customs Department, the Fire Brigade and the planned Sewage Treatment Plant among other issues.

ENDS