

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

111/2007 3 December 2007

Shadow Minister for Financial Services, the Environment and the Media Fabian Picardo has tabled 14 questions on the Pollution Prevention & Control permit granted by the government to the OESCO power station just after the election. He will ask Government whether they will now publish the report they commissioned in respect of noise insulation of the power station.

He will also want the public to know by what date the Government expect to have completed the works for the sound insulation of the buildings at Europa Business Park presently housing the OESCO power station. The Opposition spokesman will also ask Government if they are satisfied that OESCO has carried out a review of the design, method of construction and integrity of all bunds surrounding above ground tanks of the OSECO installations, which is one of the conditions imposed on the grant of the permit to OESCO to allow it to continue to operate. Mr Picardo has also tabled a similar series of questions on the Slop Oil reception and treatment plant at Waterport, which is also in receipt of a similar permit.

These are among nearly 50 questions which Mr Picardo will ask on a wide range of issues when Parliament meets on Wednesday for ONLY the second time in 2007.

Also on environmental matters, Mr Picardo has tabled a question to establish the date by which the Government expect to have set up recycling

facilities and wants to know exactly what those facilities will entail. He will also ask why Government has not installed cages over rubbish collection points in parts of Gibraltar where the apes continue to be attracted to household rubbish, such as the area of Catalan Bay.

The Opposition spokesman will ask questions designed to probe the issue of air quality in the area close to the residential areas of Jumpers and Schomberg. Mr Picardo will ask Government to identify who are the UK expert air quality advisers it consulted in relation to the ESG's concerns about the allegedly illegal levels of Nitrogen Dioxide within that part of the South District.

He will also ask the Chief Minister to give details of all his travel arrangements since October 2006, with a breakdown of the travel expenses incurred.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Financial Services, Mr Picardo will question the Government on Cat2 status, HEPPS status, exempt companies, and employment in the banking and insurance industries. He will ask Government whether they have any indication of when a ruling is expected in the legal proceedings in the Court of First Instance against the EU Commission on the business taxation issue.

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