

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

113/2007 4 December 2007

The Opposition has tabled 546 questions for the meeting of Parliament which starts tomorrow. It is nine months since the last question-time took place.

The Leader of the Opposition Joe Bossano has tabled 92 questions for the Government to answer on a wide range of issues. Mr Bossano will probe the Government with a series of statistical questions on revenue and expenditure which are designed to monitor the state of Government finances and of the economy as a whole. He will also monitor the income and expenditure of Government agencies.

On other matters, Mr Bossano will ask Government to explain on what basis does the Spanish Government consider that there is a liability for the medical costs of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners which they have chosen not to seek reimbursement for. He will also ask the Government to state what is the sum which the Spanish Government consider is the total amount of the medical cost of pre-1969 pensioners and how was it calculated. Mr Bossano has also tabled a question to establish whether the UK or Gibraltar Governments accepted in the course of the negotiations which preceded the agreement by UK to pay re-valued pensions to pre-1969 Spanish pensioners, that there was a financial responsibility for the payment of medical costs of such pensioners even though no such payments had ever been claimed previously.

The Leader of the Opposition will want to know who has been contracted by the developers of the Eastside project to conduct an environmental impact assessment study. He will also ask Government whether such an assessment has been carried out for the Eastern Beach tunnel, if so by whom and at what cost.

Mr Bossano will call on the Government to provide a breakdown of the £11.5 million cost of the Leisure Centre, showing the relevant contractors and the nature of the work, service or materials supplied with pertinent costs. On the same subject, he will ask Government to state by what date the payments totalling £5.75 million being 50% of the cost of the Leisure Centre was paid and who the payments were made to.

The Opposition Leader will ask Government to say how much has been paid to date in the current financial year as the Government's contribution to the Aerodrome running expenses, and wants to know whether the estimated cost has been affected by the reduction in flights to Madrid.

Mr Bossano will press the Government to say whether employees of the Social Services Agency who are resident in Spain are required to be on-call. He will also want to know whether Government can now say whether the total cost of the catering facility of the Gibraltar Health Authority of £1,807,252 was spent over different financial years or in one financial year.

Mr Bossano was also going to ask when the 2004/2005 GBC audited accounts would be ready. However, since the question was tabled the agenda

of the Parliament has been amended to include the tabling of the audited GBC accounts for that year.

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