

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION
144/2008**

1 December 2008

Shadow Minister for Trade, Industry, Tourism and Heritage Dr Joseph Garcia will ask government to say whether they have received any proposal or approach from private entities to take over the running of the Upper Rock tourist sites, and if so who are the individuals behind the approach. Dr Garcia has tabled over 80 questions for the Government to answer at the meeting of Parliament which opens on Wednesday.

In relation to the Port, Dr Garcia will ask whether the investigation by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration into the Fedra accident has now concluded and if so with what results. He will also want to know how many port state control inspections have been carried out on ships by the Port Department since January 2008.

Dr Garcia has tabled number of questions on specific projects in relation to his responsibility for development and planning. He will ask Government to say what part of Mount Barbary in Mount Road the present owners were authorised to demolish. He will also want the Government to list the payments that have been made by the developer of Ocean Village in respect of the project for waterside villas and apartments in the Marina Bay area. Dr Garcia will also want to know whether planning permission has been granted for an office development at 47 Line Wall Road and whether it is the policy of the Government to support the construction of an extension to the Sunrise Motel. Also on planning matters, he will ask when the Government envisages that the changes that have been proposed to the Draft Development Plan will be exhibited.

On aviation matters Dr Garcia will ask the Government to say whether their claim that there would “soon” be flights re-established between Gibraltar and Madrid, and established to Barcelona and Valencia is a result of the specific negotiations that they have been holding with different airlines. He will also probe Government on whether they have received any expressions of interest from any ferry operator or any airline interested in reopening maritime or air links between Gibraltar and Morocco. The Liberal Leader will also ask Government to confirm what is the salary of the Director of Civil Aviation and on what date it was first paid.

On commercial affairs, Dr Garcia will ask Government to say whether and if so when the dialogue has commenced between them and the Chamber of Commerce to see what could be done to assist those businesses in the retail and wholesale sector that are going through difficult times. He will also ask Government whether they have any plans to expressly outlaw computer hacking in and from Gibraltar. He has also tabled questions on the commercial units at Chatham Counterguard and Waterport Terraces.

Dr Garcia has tabled a series of other questions on gaming, tourism and heritage matters.

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