

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION  
77/2008**

**31 July 2008**

The Opposition has received further representations from residents of 12/13 College Lane that they still have not seen any progress in the repair or replacement of the lift in their building.

The insurance company that provided cover for the building has now been identified in public by the media as Argus Insurance Company (Europe) Limited, who took over the long-standing business of Norwich Union in Gibraltar some years ago.

As far as the Opposition is concerned, there is no valid reason in any of the points made by the company in its statements to the press for there to have been no progress at all in the repair or replacement of the lift or even a reply to the correspondence from those representing the tenants.

“We have reviewed the policy ourselves and seen the arguments of the tenants and of the company. There is a clear obligation to repair or replace the lift, which the company appear to accept. If timely repair has not yet been possible, then replacement is clearly the only available alternative option. The company needs to grab the nettle and at least reply to the correspondence of those representing the tenants in this matter. It is frankly surprising that they have not done so already given that we understand there are letters awaiting reply from as long ago as 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008. A delay of that length in even answering correspondence is clearly not normal and has nothing to do with a “misunderstanding over what cover is provided”, “said a spokesman.

The Opposition will continue to monitor developments on this issue and will pursue this matter further during question time in the Parliament, when we will be asking the government whether Argus provides any insurance cover to the government and/or any independent statutory bodies funded by the public purse.

**ENDS**