

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

98/2008

17 September 2008

The Opposition has tabled a total of 457 questions for the Government to answer at the meeting of Parliament which opens tomorrow. The Leader of the Opposition Joe Bossano has tabled a series of questions on a wide range of issues which are designed monitor the state of public finances and the economy in general. In addition to this, he will ask Government to state what changes have taken place in the investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank since the coming into effect of the Gibraltar Savings Bank (Amendment) Act 2008.

On other matters, Mr Bossano will ask the Government to say what discussions have taken place with the MOD over the future strength or other aspect of the Gibraltar Services Police. He will also want to know the dates on which these discussions took place and who represented the Government. Mr Bossano will also ask Government whether they have sought an explanation from the MOD as to why they persist in giving the erroneous impression that the preferred option of the Gibraltar Government is the option the MOD is pursuing of reducing the level of direct employment in the GSP and transferring some jobs and responsibilities to the Gibraltar Government.

The Opposition Leader will ask Government for the total relocation costs to date arising out of the 2004 MOD Land Transfer and wants to know what relocation costs, if any, have been borne by private developers who have acquired MOD land for development since 2004. In relation to Waterport Terraces, Mr Bossano has tabled a question to establish what further payments have been made to the contractors or other parties.

Mr Bossano will also put questions to the Government on number of staff issues. He will want to establish what are the succession plans for the Chief Officer in post in the Fire Brigade. He will seek confirmation as to whether it is Government policy to discontinue the final salary civil service pension scheme for new entrants into the civil service and replace this with the provident fund arrangements currently applicable in Government agencies.

Mr Bossano will ask for an explanation from Government as to why there is a £25 fee charged by LPS for unlocking the padlock that gives access to the Casemates Arcade for businesses on public holidays. He will want Government to confirm that there is a policy in place to require sponsored patients to reimburse the GHA for cancelled flights when their appointments with UK medical facilities are cancelled at the UK end or for some other substantial reason. The Opposition Leader will also want the Government to state what is the total number of pensioner households that have been provided with panic buttons and what criteria is used to determine

whether they should be provided to a particular household.

ENDS