

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

121/2009

22 September 2009

The Opposition notes with dismay the traffic chaos on Saturday morning which prevented many people from being able to reach Europa Point in time to enjoy the display by the Red Arrows.

Shortly before 11 am, the time when display was due to start, the queue stretched all the way to Winston Churchill Avenue.

Many people decided to leave their cars behind and travel by bus. There were scores of people waiting at bus stops. The traffic congestion made it impossible for buses to convey many of those persons to Europa Point.

After the display, those who had attended took as long as two hours to return to the town area. Families including young children had to endure hours of gridlock.

Opposition Spokesman for Traffic, Gilbert Licudi MP, said:

“The obvious alternative route to Europa Point, Dudley Ward Tunnel, was closed on Saturday as it has been for over seven years despite numerous calls by the Opposition that it should be reopened. Much of the problem encountered on Saturday morning would have been avoided had Dudley Ward Tunnel been open.

Although the problems of last Saturday were clearly acute, traffic congestion and gridlock has now become an almost daily occurrence in Gibraltar.

The pilots of the Red Arrows have said that they enjoyed their time in Gibraltar. The Opposition regrets that the traffic chaos caused by the lack of foresight and planning by the Government spoilt the day for so many.”

ENDS