

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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Shadow Minister for Financial Services Fabian Picardo will press Government for the text of the new proposed tax legislation when Parliament meets for questions next week. He will point out that Government has now missed both the intended publication date of June and its “slippage” date of September.

In relation to his responsibility for the Environment, Mr Picardo will ask what progress has been made on the epidemiological study which was commissioned by the Government. He will also want to know why nothing has happened “on site” about the relocation of the rubbish dumps at Tankerville and Tank Ramp and at the foot of Castle Steps. The Opposition spokesman will also seek to establish the cost to the Government of each and any contract granted for the killing of seagulls and he will press the Government on whether any progress has been made in respect of the possibility of exporting 60 to 70 apes.

On other matters, Mr Picardo will ask for details of the payments made to Haymills or any associated company in respect of Bayview, Nelson’s View, Cumberland Terraces, the Trafalgar Interchange and any other project. He will want to know when the audible alarm on the zebra crossing at Line Wall Road beside the American War Memorial will be repaired and how many flats at Bishop Canilla House are empty.

Fabian Picardo has also given notice of a question to establish the exact cost charged to the Government in respect of the use by the Chief Minister of the VIP lounge at Gatwick since 2005. He will also ask for details of the amounts paid to date this financial year to any law firm for the provision of legal drafting services and will want to know what progress, if any, has been made in respect of the Review of GBC. Mr Picardo will ask Government for the cost of the Gibraltar supplement published in the Spanish newspaper Expansion on 26th August 2009.

On other financial services matters, Mr Picardo will ask whether Government has refused consent for any application made under S74A of the Financial Services (Banking) Act and if so how many. The Opposition spokesman will ask questions on employment levels in the banking and insurance industry, on Category 2, 3 and 4 status, and on companies formed, removed and re-domiciled out of Gibraltar.

ENDS