

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

140/2009

12 October 2009

The Opposition has given notice of 444 questions for the Government to answer at the meeting of Parliament which starts today. The Leader of the Opposition Joe Bossano has tabled over 160 questions on a wide range of issues which include a series of statistical questions which are designed to monitor the state of the economy and of public finances.

The Opposition Leader will probe the situation that has come about following the collapse of the PCG Group and Haymills. He will ask Government to confirm that the former company rented its offices at Gun Wharf from them, and will want to know at what rent and whether the rent is in arrears. Mr Bossano will also seek to establish whether both PCG Group and Haymills were in arrears to the Government of their payments of PAYE and whether PCG Group was in arrears of social insurance. He will also want to know how many employees of Haymills were offered employment for 8 weeks in Gibraltar General Construction Co Ltd with a breakdown by trade and nationality.

Mr Bossano will ask Government to explain what work Armaduras del Sur SL has been contracted to undertake in the construction of the tunnel at the airport. He will also seek confirmation that frontier workers other than detached workers, cannot be paid the Euro equivalent of their local wages in Sterling without their agreement, whether this has to be in writing, and what protection is available to any such worker that does not wish to be paid in Euros.

On other matters, Mr Bossano will ask Government to confirm whether it has received, formally or informally, any representations regarding the grievances of Spanish frontier workers in relation to deductions from their wages and/or eligibility payments, compared to residents, and if so by whom the representations were made. He will also want to know in respect of the 290 pre-1969 Spanish pensioners with entitlement to a payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the month of March 2009, how many were resident in Gibraltar, Spain, the UK or elsewhere. Mr Bossano will also be seeking this information in respect of British, Moroccan and pensioners of other nationalities.

The Leader of the Opposition will press Government to confirm whether there have been any cases of alleged abuse referred to the Care Agency by the CID in September and if so how many. He will also want to know whether there have been any instances of out of hours social workers declining to attend call-out requests from care workers and/or the Police. He will also ask Government to state how many children in care are staying at Merlot House, what is the total occupancy, including carers and what is the size of the flat.

Mr Bossano will in addition ask Government to confirm that the information on the incursion of the Spanish fisheries protection vessel into Gibraltar British waters earlier this year came from the Royal Gibraltar Police.

ENDS