

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 90 / 009

EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 20 JULY 2009

Opposition Notes Publication AT LAST by the Government of draft Bills to amend the laws on possession and distribution of child pornography.

20 July 2009

The Opposition notes the publication by the government at last of draft Bills to amend the laws on possession and distribution of child pornography.

Given that the government had not acted before the publication by the the Opposition of Mr Picardo's Private Members Bill and its proposed amendments to the Children Act, it is gratifying to see that we have been able to prompt the government into finally taking some action in relation to these issues.

Opposition spokesperson Fabian Picardo said: "Despite defeating my amendments to the Children Act, that were designed to accelerate the increases in sentences for child pornographers, the government has now at last acted to publish this draft legislation. We will review it to determine whether it is in order and will support it if it is. Unfortunately, despite the fact that there was widespread agreement on the substance of this issue across the floor of the House for the protection of children, all I got from Mr Feetham and Mr Caruana in the debate on our proposed amendments to the Children Act to introduce these measures were insults and nothing constructive. Now that, finally the government are publishing something, we will reply constructively and in a manner they will produce a positive debate on the measures proposed. That is what the people who have elected us want to see, not the petty sniping which they see from the government on every issue."

Ends