

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

14/2010

12 February 2010

Shadow Minister for Culture Steven Linares will ask Government to say what price it has paid for the purchase of the Theatre Royal when Parliament resumes for questions on Thursday. This will be the first question-time of 2010. Mr Linares has tabled 60 questions for the Government to answer.

The Opposition spokesman will further ask Government to give a detailed breakdown of the total amount spent in respect of the Theatre Royal site over the years since the Government first became a leaseholder. He will also want to know whether the property has now been assigned to the Government or to a Government-owned company.

Mr Linares will also probe the Government following reports that there are plans to create a new agency to deal with culture and heritage matters. He will ask what the proposals are to deal with the existing directors and employees of the company which runs the John Mackintosh Hall and the Museum. Mr Linares will also request details on the situation of the existing employees of the Ministry for Culture and will also ask questions about future charges to users of the different theatres and buildings that come under the Ministry at present.

In relation to his responsibility for Education, Steven Linares will want to know how long many teachers who are currently on supply have been covering on a continuous basis with a breakdown by the number of years. He will also ask whether the Government is aware that students in the UK might be penalised by lending institutions because they have a pending debt with the UK company which issues student loans to pay for tuition fees. He will also request details of minor and major works in schools.

Mr Linares, as Opposition spokesman for Government Services, has given notice of a number of questions on the Fire Brigade as well as the Prison and Customs departments. He will ask whether Fire Brigade vehicles are subject to MOT testing bi-annually and will want to know what ship fire fighting training has taken place in the last 12 years. Steven Linares will ask whether Customs officers man the airport when private planes come in and whether they provide customs clearance for the Algeciras ferry.

Steven Linares will also request details on the number of power cuts, where these occurred and their duration. He will also raise other issues connected with the supply of electricity and water.

ENDS