

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

19/2010

17 February 2010

The Opposition has given notice of over 660 questions for the Government to answer in Parliament on Thursday. The Leader of the Opposition Joe Bossano has himself tabled 176 questions on a wide range of issues, including a number of specific questions to probe the collapse of Bruesa.

Mr Bossano will ask Government to say how many persons were employed by Bruesa at Waterport Terraces and at the rented housing development in Rooke. He will also want to know whether Bruesa has any arrears of PAYE and social insurance when the housing contracts were terminated. Mr Bossano will press Government to provide the dates on which visits took place by inspectors to the two construction sites to establish compliance with their legal requirements.

The Opposition Leader will want to know what the original contract price was for Waterport Terraces and for the housing rental project and what variations, if any, were agreed with Bruesa in the course of construction and the additional cost of these changes. Mr Bossano will also seek to establish what retention monies were held by the Government and how much was paid to Bruesa until the contracts were terminated. He will ask for confirmation that the contract to build Waterport Terraces was awarded to Bruesa by GRPI Company Ltd and will want to know whether the transfer of the contract to JBS carries with it any liabilities from the previous contractor.

Mr Bossano will want to know whether the Minister for Employment has given any commitment or indication that the former Bruesa and/or sub-contract workers from the Waterport Terraces or Rooke housing will be paid any wages owed to them by the former employer by the Government of Gibraltar.

Mr Bossano has also tabled a series of questions in relation to Haymills and the housing projects in the South District. He will want to know the current estimated final cost of Cumberland Terraces, Bay View and Nelson's View.

The Opposition Leader will ask a series of questions on GBC. He will want Government to explain why it decided to publish a summary rather than the full King report. Mr Bossano will ask Government to list the grades of GBC staff and their BBC analogues in respect of the current complement and will request a breakdown by grade of the salary structure at GBC based on the current composition.

On other matters, Mr Bossano has tabled a number of questions which are designed to monitor the state of public finances and of the economy in general. He will also want the number of Spanish frontier workers registered with the Employment Service. Mr Bossano will seek confirmation from Government as to whether they have received any representations regarding the grievances of Spanish frontier workers in relation to deductions from their wages.

ENDS