

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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Shadow Minister for Education, Culture and Government Services Steven Linares will ask Government to confirm whether it intends to hold a commemorative event at the Theatre Royal and to say whether this will take place before or after its demolition. Mr Linares has tabled 60 questions for the Government to answer when Parliament meets for questions next week.

In his capacity as Government Services spokesman, which includes utilities, Mr Linares will ask Government for an explanation as to why Gibraltar was plunged into total darkness due to a power cut on 28th April. He will also want to know whether there are any back-up systems in place and, if not, whether new systems will be established in order to avoid a repetition of the incident. Mr Linares will also want Government to state whether there are any compensation schemes from Gibelec or from the Government itself to cover damage caused by the power failure.

On Education matters, Steven Linares will seek confirmation as to whether the Department has taken over the running of the careers fair and will also want to know the reason why. He has tabled a question to establish the cost of developing the “Alternative Learning Centre” at Bayside School with a breakdown by financial year since it was set up. He will also want to know how many boys have made use of the “Alternative Learning Centre” by year since it was set up.

The Opposition spokesman will want Government to state how many times the Educational Advisory Committee has met in 2009 and 2010 to date. He will also ask how many employees who were at St Bernadette’s Occupational Therapy Centre on the same terms as teachers have been transferred to another location in the Department of Education. Mr Linares will also seek to establish how many teachers are currently working on a supply basis with the number of years that they have been in this position.

In relation to Culture, Mr Linares will want to know whether a tender has been issued for the installation of a lift in the Ince’s Hall. He will ask whether the Minister for Culture met with either union or staff over the possibility of converting the Ministry into an Agency. He has also tabled questions on the Mackintosh Hall Library and its Theatre.