



PRESS RELEASE

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THE OPPOSITION'S LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF LNG IS WORRYING

The Opposition's incessant criticism of the Government's handling of the proposed LNG power station and potential bunkering of LNG makes it abundantly clear that it is they who wish to stifle the debate on LNG and manipulate the importance of this issue in a desperate attempt to score cheap political points.

If the Opposition have legitimate questions regarding LNG in Gibraltar that have not yet been answered by the Government then such questions should be asked in the appropriate forum, such as during one of the monthly meetings of Parliament. Before they do so, however, perhaps their purported 'experts' should explain the facts to them and perhaps they should read the information that they suppose supports their arguments.

Indeed, Mr Feetham's latest tweet on LNG, attached, cites an article in the New York Times that he implies is to do with the certification of fire departments to handle LNG. The link, however, is not to the New York Times but to a lawyers' blog called Lexology. Moreover, the article is about 'the growing percentage of the nation's [USA] trucking fleet that is converting to LNG', and how lawyers are dealing with 'out-of-date' legislation that requires trucks fuelled by LNG to travel along 'certified intrastate transportation routes'. This is clear demonstration of the Opposition's obvious and deeply concerning lack of understanding of LNG and the fuel industry. The Opposition's incapability to get basic facts like the source of their 'evidence' right brings the validity and reliability of their arguments into serious question.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has been given a mandate by the electorate to work in the best interests of Gibraltar as a whole. The cancellation of the contract for a power station that would have doubled the cost of electricity to the public whilst spewing out toxic black fumes from within the Gibraltar Nature Reserve was undoubtedly in Gibraltar's best interests. In signing that contract the Opposition did not consider the consequences of exponential fuel price increases, dwindling global reserves of diesel and the polluting effects of its waste products on the people of Gibraltar. The Opposition are clearly still in mourning for a project that was always doomed to fail.

Moreover, their call for transparency and open debate at this moment in time is pretty hollow in the context of the secrecy and lack of debate that surrounded their own proposals for a power station at Lathbury Barracks. In any case, there has been on-going debate for the last few weeks so the Opposition should be happy about it! The problem for them is that they have lost the argument and already lost the debate.



The Government has chosen to look to the future and provide Gibraltar with an economically prudent, environmentally sustainable and consistently reliable source of fuel for decades to come. As part of this investment in Gibraltar's future the Government is considering the prospects of offering LNG bunkering facilities, which have been successful in Norway and Sweden.

It would be irresponsible of the Government not to investigate every technical development which has the potential to improve and enlarge Gibraltar's bunkering industry just as it would be to dismiss any other potential to ensure our future economic growth and stability.