



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Government Responds to GSD Statements on Public Efficiencies**

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, replied to the statements from the GSD on public efficiencies.

"The Government does not need the advice of the GSD on engagement with the GGCA. We are already working well with all unions in Gibraltar, including the GGCA on all industrial relations matters. As a result, we have delivered progress in the Civil Service which the GSD blocked, including the introduction of new working hours which the GGCA had been seeking for years. The process of seeking efficiencies was our idea and it is one we are also progressing very positively with, instead of imposing austerity measures in the Civil Service, as the GSD proposed at the last election. That efficiency process includes our commitment to the manning level of the Civil Service, something that Mr Feetham is also constantly challenging by saying we employ too many people in the public sector.

It really beggars belief to hear Mr Feetham argue we should advance in the recruitment of 'AAs' when he has been complaining endlessly about employing too many people in the public sector. In effect, he says one thing one day to one audience and then the opposite the next day to another audience, leaving himself totally lacking in any shred of credibility. What Danny cannot be is both the saviour of the Civil Service and the slayer of the Civil Service!

Mr Feetham should in fact look to put his own house in order before giving us any advice and reprimand Mr Clinton for his disrespect to all Civil Servants, whose salaries the latter has said in Parliament are not based on any merit. We have more respect for the Civil Service and that is why we are working well in progressing our efficiency drive without having to threaten £50m in austerity cuts that would decimate public services."