



PRESS RELEASE

No: 58/2017

Date: 1st February 2017

Mr Feetham's Contradictions on the Public Sector are Laughable

The statement from the GSD in relation to the very full answer provided in Parliament by the Chief Minister on Civil Service vacancies is entirely misleading, untrue and wrong.

The GSD seems to have decided to scrape the bottom of the barrel of deception in the presentation it makes to the people of Gibraltar about vacancies in the public sector. The Government has said repeatedly that the manning level of the civil service will be completely respected. Other Government companies, agencies and authorities do not have agreed manning levels. Posts are filled where replacement is necessary. There is therefore only a fixed level of vacancies in the Civil Service but not in the Government companies, agencies or authorities. This is been the position as much under the GSD as it has been under the GSLP Liberal Government. That Mr Feetham may now wish to pretend otherwise suggests that he wants to pick a fight on a token issue. There is too much serious business to be getting on with for the Opposition to pick fights at this time. In fact most of the time Mr Feetham seems to want to say one thing to employees in the public sector and the complete opposite to the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business when it comes to the management of public sector employment.

The Chief Minister added, 'One day he attacks me for employing too many people in the public sector and the next he attacks me for not employing enough because I have not filled vacancies in the Civil Service or not created vacancies in the wider public sector. The two positions are irreconcilable. This nonsensical and contradictory position is being seen through by the general public and by employees of the Civil Service and the public-sector who point out to me regularly that they know they cannot trust Mr Feetham, especially given his desire to implement austerity in a way that would be detrimental to the public sector. The Government I lead has demonstrated that we will invest in the Civil Service and the wider public sector in a way that produces more efficient services for the general public and better working conditions for public-sector employees. We will not change that proposition.'