



PRESS RELEASE

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Feetham Continues with Same Tired Arguments on Public Sector

HM Government of Gibraltar notes with regret the statements of the Leader of the Opposition, which seek to divide the community over what should be a non-partisan issue.

This Government has a clear manifesto commitment to maintain Public Sector staffing and to modernise the Public Services to ensure the highest possible efficiency and thereby the best value-for-money for the taxpayer. This issue has been dealt with extensively both by way of Press Releases and Parliamentary debate in October and November 2016.

Once again, Mr Feetham sticks by an impossible catch-22 demand: that the Government should simultaneously curb cut numbers and spending on the public sector whilst at the same time insisting on us filling every single public sector vacancy. Such a contradictory approach is politically unconstructive and is not in the interest of those who would be most affected by it: public sector workers.

Over the past 5 years the Government has made fantastic headway on employment issues in both the public and private sectors, tackling both current demand and anticipating future need. Unemployment is at a historic low and the employment development service has been created to match our graduates with the right vacancy. Simultaneously, Government deals holistically with education, training and employment and is taking steps to ensure that Gibraltar's expertise and skillset matches our future requirements.

Brexit is not a smokescreen to be 'hidden behind' but the most important diplomatic challenge facing Gibraltar at present. It is entirely regrettable that Mr Feetham's has used headline-grabbing comments in an attempt to make Brexit a divisive issue. Conversely, the Government strongly considers Brexit as an issue on which Gibraltar must get behind the Government in our universal best interest, and the Government will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the whole community. For this we will make no apologies.