



## PRESS RELEASE

No: 481/2018

Date: 21st August 2018

### **Hammond Hypocritical Over Parking Enforcement**

HM Government of Gibraltar notes with incredulity the contents of the latest GSD Press Release entitled 'Parking Harassment'.

Ironically, when posting his press release on mistaken parking fines on social media, Mr Hammond himself made a mistake in doing so, thereby demonstrating that mistakes are sometimes made even when care is being taken in performance of a function.

It beggars belief that Mr Hammond should have the gall to accuse the law enforcement bodies, namely Gibraltar Parking Management Services Limited and the Royal Gibraltar Police, whose responsibility is parking enforcement, of harassing citizens and visitors by adopting a zero-tolerance policy on illegal parking. Mr Hammond really has to stop trying to run with the hare and hunting with the hounds because this really does him no favours.

Parking Management Officers (PMOs) are responsible for enforcing the Traffic (Parking & Waiting) Regulations 2011 throughout Gibraltar, and any infringements are penalised accordingly. The PMOs actively patrol all areas and parking zones ensuring that parking law and order is kept and that appropriate signage is respected. It is, in fact, because of complaints and call outs from the public that PMOs often need to respond, and this leads to the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices. Cleaning campaigns also result in numerous fines being issued. Once again, the GSD will jump on the bandwagon that politically suits them at any given time. By the GSD's argument, if streets are dirty, then those responsible for cleaning are not doing their job or those that are responsible for clearing an area of vehicles are not allowing for the cleaning to be done efficiently. At the same time, if vehicles are removed for street cleaning, then the GSD argue that authorities are harassing the public and visitors. Law enforcement authorities are simply doing their job and enforcing the law. In fact, Mr Hammond's Budget speech in 2016 implied that there was a need of a continued and proper enforcement to tackle the amount of illegal parking around Gibraltar, which was then entirely at the discretion of the RGP without the provision of additional resources.

It is pertinent to point out that the new PMOs came into force in September 2016, following two weeks of extensive training, which included an in-depth study of the Traffic (Parking & Waiting) Regulations 2011, Control of Traffic Regulations, First Aid, Physical Intervention Skills and Conflict Management Training. This training package remains effective with new recruits. Mr Hammond



should be aware that the Parking Management Officer's Course is exactly the same training package as was delivered to the HEOs under the previous GSD administration. Furthermore, the training is still provided by the same two officials that were employed by the GSD and who have since been taken on by this Government on a consultancy basis for this purpose. The Government is confident that the PMOs receive proper training to carry out their job effectively and professionally.

With regards to the number of rescinded Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN), although there is a margin of error that has to be assumed, which is perfectly normal, it must be noted that not all parking tickets rescinded are as a result of human error. The virtues of each contested FPN are viewed on a case-by-case basis and certain mitigating circumstances may be considered, including medical and other factors of a compassionate nature, which may lead to FPNs being cancelled. There are also other reasons of a more technical nature that could lead to contested FPNs being cancelled through no fault of the law enforcement bodies.

Nevertheless, there is a fair appeals procedure, by which any member of the public that feels that they have been unjustifiably issued with an FPN may contest the fine.