



PRESS RELEASE

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Contraction of air services happening everywhere says Government

The focus of the criticism by the Opposition at the cancellation of some flights to Gibraltar during the winter months is both unfair and misleading.

It does not present an accurate picture of the current situation in respect of air services to the Rock and it ignores the small matter of a global pandemic that has shaken the airline industry across the planet to its foundations. The Government itself does not like it when flights to Gibraltar are cancelled. However, this is happening against the background of tens of thousands of redundancies on the part of the airlines that serve Gibraltar and hundreds of aircraft grounded everywhere. It should be obvious to anyone who knows what they are talking about that less staff and less aircraft will mean less flights.

Moreover, the fact that the airlines serving the Rock are reducing their schedules this winter is not in itself unusual. This happens every year. It again would be evident to anyone who knows anything about the airline industry. It is also logical in the current climate that any reduction of air services would be exacerbated by weaker demand due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The cancelling and consolidation of flights in the coming months is no different to what the airlines have been doing with their flights to Gibraltar and indeed to airports worldwide during these difficult times.

The Hon Vijay Daryanani MP, Minister for Tourism said, “The point is that this is a global issue and not a Gibraltar issue. The Government has already demonstrated that it is prepared to do whatever is necessary to ensure the continued air connectivity of Gibraltar with the United Kingdom. It is clear that Mr Bossino has once again not presented the facts properly in a feeble attempt to be critical.”