



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR HOUSING
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Opposition Spokesperson for Housing, the Hon Charles Bruzon, has criticised the setting up of a Housing Tribunal in what must rank as one of the most absurd and ill-advised statements ever issued by the GSLP Opposition.

Housing Minister, the Hon Fabian Vinet, has said:

“Mr Bruzon has stated that the setting up of the Housing Tribunal will somehow deprive people of the opportunity of assistance simply because the matter appealed to is dealt with by the Appeals Tribunal rather than by the Ombudsman. Such a statement can only demonstrate one of two things. Either a complete lack of understanding of the reality, or a desire to purposefully misinterpret the facts to suit his party’s political agenda.

The truth is that as from 1st June (the commencement date of the wide-ranging Housing Act which modernises and improves the administration of Housing), tenants and housing applicants have – for the first time ever – the right to appeal against any and every decision of the Ministry for Housing or the Housing Allocation Committee. Rather than lament the setting up of the Tribunal, Mr Bruzon should welcome it with open arms. The Tribunal is a more open, more transparent and, most importantly, more effective mechanism that gives an affected tenant or applicant a direct line of appeal. To suggest otherwise is, quite simply, to mislead the public and to paint as black something that is white.”