



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & TRAINING
40 Town Range
Gibraltar

Minister for Education, Employment & Training, The Hon C G Beltran

PRESS RELEASE

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Stephen Linares's statement in Parliament during his budget speech that "the level of truancy in Gibraltar schools is higher than in the UK and that the Government here does nothing about it" is wholly untrue and can only be interpreted as a cynical attempt to bring the Department of Education and Training into disrepute.

In the first place it is not true that comparisons can be made about truancy when even in the UK it is widely accepted that there is no consensus as to the definition of truancy. The fact of the matter is that attendances in Gibraltar schools compare very favourably with attendances in the UK.

As to the false accusation that Government "does nothing about it", Mr Linares in his indecent haste to rubbish the excellent record of the Department of Education and Training has obviously overlooked or what is worse may have chosen to ignore the fact that there exist written formal and effective strategies and procedures in schools working closely with the Department's Advisory Service to monitor and take quick preventive action whenever concern is raised regarding the attendance level of any pupil.

The Minister for Education and Training, Clive Beltran, describes Mr Linares's attempt at creating the erroneous impression that children in Gibraltar miss more school than is actually the case, all in a wild, albeit unsuccessful attempt to discredit the Department of Education and Training, as cynical and totally irresponsible.