



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
14 Governor's Parade
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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Mr Bossano criticism of DSS "No Info" policy in today's media, is based on totally misleading conjecture. Mr Bossano claims that he was informed that, "there was a policy directive that they could not provide him with information and that he could write to the Principal Secretary setting out his grievance or complaint". What the Leader of the Opposition has left out from that conversation is that the staff member said "we could not provide Members of the Opposition over the telephone details of individual claimants. Any request for information, would need to be addressed in writing to the Principal Secretary".

In his Press Release Mr Bossano makes the analogy with how much better other Parliamentarians are treated in other European Parliaments, as opposed to the treatment received by Gibraltar's Opposition. It is obvious that Mr Bossano is out of step with his own Parliamentary colleagues, and with other Parliamentarians in Europe. It is a fact that his colleagues do not have a problem with soliciting information on behalf of their constituents by writing to the DSS, nor is it normal for Leaders of Opposition in Europe to phone front-line staff for information. Mr Bossano's analogy just shows his customary shenanigan by converting normal Social Security work into a political hoo-ha in order to serve his political window dressing.

In a further attempt to confuse the public, Mr Bossano then contrasts the role of the Employment Service with that of the DSS. The Leader of the Opposition is well aware that the *raison-d' être* of the Employment Service is to assist those seeking work or those in employment wishing to aspire to better their employment opportunities by the assistance of Employment Advisors at the Employment Service. In contrast to this, the role of DSS in this matter is to obtain clear evidence of termination of employment (inclusive the reason for such termination), in order to determine a claimant's position regarding such benefits. In this context, Mr Bossano has chosen to omit from his statement the fact that in this particular case an appeal against dismissal was lodged and until last week there have been on-going discussions. Therefore, this individual case has not been determined in accordance with Social Security procedures. The staff at DSS will continue to assist and advise all claimants as to their benefits in accordance with reasonable practice, and we would ask Mr Bossano to stop interfering politically on what is reasonable practice in Gibraltar and throughout Europe.