



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

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Parliamentary Reform

The Government has to-day published the text of the draft Motion on Parliamentary Reform which it sent to the Opposition last Wednesday.

The Motion invites discussion and consideration by the House of the following specific proposals by the Government:

- Each Minister should answer to questions from the Opposition in Parliament once a month.
- The Chief Minister should answer questions from the Opposition in Parliament every two weeks.
- There should be a permanent, standing General Purpose Select Committee, chaired by an Opposition Member able to summons Ministers, Officials and others.
- Opposition Members should be able to bring motions every month.
- Parliament should be broadcast on TV
- Standing Orders should be brought up to date.
- There should be back benchers on both sides of the House, paid only a normal attendance fee, so that people can “cut their teeth” in Parliament, and participate in debate and the legislative process without having to commit to Ministerial Office. This will encourage wider participation in local politics.

The Government's draft motion also calls for political parties not represented in Parliament, NGO's and all citizens to have the opportunity to submit proposals to Parliament for its consideration.

The Government has invited the Opposition to include in the text of the draft motion any other proposals that they may wish to make.

Note to editors: text of draft motion attached.