

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

PRESS RELEASE

No. 241/2011

Date: 10th August 2011

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Please find attached a letter sent by The Hon J Netto, Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs to The Hon J J Bossano MP in connection with the Minimum Income Guarantee.



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MINISTRY OF FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE GIBRALTAR

"Please quote our reference when replying"

Your ref:

Our Ref: 15000/4(2)

9 August 2011

The Hon J J Bossano MP Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party Suite 16 Watergardens 3 Gibraltar

Dear De/

SUBJECT: MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

in the GSLP Press Statement of the 3 August 2011, It states "The Opposition has received numerous complaints from senior citizens with reduced levels of social insurance pensions who as a result qualify for the Minimum Income Guarantee and have been paid a lower level of Minimum Income Guarantee for August that they had been getting up to July. They are now worse off financially as a result" [my emphasis].

Furthermore, in your recent Press Statement of the 8 August 2011, you state, "all the pensioners who have approached the opposition have made it clear that their income in July was the same as their income in August and that they have not been given any explanation [my emphasis] why the reduction from MIG for the month of August has been in many cases twice the amount of the increase in their Old Age Pension, leaving them with a lower income in August than they had in July and in previous months" [my emphasis].

Let me say that I find it odd that those "numerous" individuals who allegedly have gone to complain to the Opposition have not alternatively sought to come to the DSS for an explanation. I can tell you that many other elderly persons have done so and are now in a better position to understand how the procedure works, and why they are not worse off.

However, be that as it may, given that you say there are "numerous" people in search for an explanation, may I suggest you contact them once again for the purpose of allowing my staff at the DSS to arrange a suitable and independent meeting with each and every one of them for the purpose of giving them such an

explanation. I would be grateful if you could provide names and contact numbers. These can then be emailed to dss@gibraltar.gov.gi

Finally, given that the GSLP has made this a public matter; I am releasing this letter to the Press.

Yours sincerely

Hon J. Wetto

Minister for Family, Youth & Community Affairs

Telephone No: (350) 200 44070, Centrex 2389; Fax No: (350) 200 74941, Centrex 2388