

HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR Ministry of Tourism, Public Transport and the Port Suite 631 Europort Gibraltar

## PRESS RELEASE

No. 257/2012

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012

## Opposition comments on Sardeña case are a distortion of reality

The latest comments by the Opposition on the Sardeña case are nothing more than yet another cheap and transparent attempt to distort reality.

Opposition spokesman Damon Bossino appears to believe that the taxpayers of Gibraltar pay him to repeat the same thing over and over again - week in and week out. The use of words like "unsavoury", "murky", "political deception", "smoke and mirrors" and "scandal" are designed to create the impression that suits the political agenda of the GSD.

The Government is convinced that the real scandal is what took place under the previous administration and looks forward to every relevant detail being made public at the appropriate time when an investigation takes place. It will be recalled that the general perception is that Mr Sardeña was singled-out and victimised by Mr Caruana and his Government because of his political beliefs.

The Opposition have no interest in the truth or in the facts. It is obvious that their only interest lies in politicising everything "under the sun" in an obvious fit of pique because they lost the last general election. People have had enough of the bitter, divisive and personalised politics that the GSD conducted when they were in Government and now continue to conduct in Opposition.

The action the Government has taken in the Sardeña case is entirely consistent with the position it took on this matter when in Opposition. Minister Costa personally reviewed all the documentation in the case, took legal advice and decided that the defence of the case against the former employee of the bus company should be dropped for all of the reasons previously set out. The Opposition is free to agree or to disagree and they would have been free to pursue a different course of action had they been elected into Government on 8<sup>th</sup> December last year. However, given that they were not elected, they must respect the right of the new Government to approach the matter differently.