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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**GSD CONTINUE TO MAKE FALSE ASSERTIONS ON SEX OFFENDERS REGISTER**

It is clear from the latest outburst of high moral indignation that the GSD now accept that, in their original statement, they put out false information about the effect of the sex offenders' legislation. To compound their incompetence, they put out further false assertions in their latest statement.

For example, they suggest that past offenders are exempt from legislation which, in certain circumstances can restrict past offenders' movements. That is a false statement.

The legislation creates a regime for obtaining from the Court an order to restrict an offender's foreign travel. Other provisions enable the court to reduce or remove the risk of sexual harm, particularly to children, by imposing certain conditions upon an individual. All of these orders can be made in respect of acts and convictions which include those occurring "BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT" of the Act. In other words, these have retrospective effect and apply to past offenders.

Why has Mr Feetham not bothered to read the legislation he himself introduced? Is he so intent on scoring political points that the facts do not matter at all?

The Opposition's sudden fascination with child protection is utterly opportunistic. In Britain, the Sex Offenders Act was passed in 1997 but the GSD Government failed to provide Gibraltar with any similar legislation until the Crimes Act was passed in July 2011. Even then, the relevant provisions were not commenced by the time they lost the elections in December 2011.

If the Opposition were genuinely concerned with child protection, they would have commenced the necessary legislation when they were in government. In the GSLP/Liberal Government, we are determined to provide more protection for the vulnerable members of our community. Sadly, the GSD are trying to hinder our progress at every turn but we will not be side-tracked.