



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY FOR HOUSING AND THE ELDERLY**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Opposition housing statement has distorted the facts**

The Opposition have once again jumped to the wrong conclusion and issued a statement which is based on their own flawed analysis of the Government's housing policy. This misrepresents the position completely in order to score cheap political points.

It is also the height of political hypocrisy for them to complain about the number of houses that the Government has announced to date that it will build, after only 14 months in office, when it took the GSD over ten years to construct rental housing for our people.

Moreover, the reality is that the failure of the GSD Government to provide a timely flow of houses over 16 years in office accounts in large measure for the housing situation that Gibraltar faces today. This is reflected in the fact that they inherited a housing waiting list with only a few hundred people on it in 1996 and they left one with over 1400 people on it at the end of 2011. Indeed, it will be recalled that after the 2003 election Mr Caruana himself recognised that housing was an issue where his Government needed to do better.

This Government has already allocated 324 flats since we were elected on 9 December 2011. The majority of these have been allocated through the waiting list. The rest through the social, medical and other lists. It has been possible to do this, in part, because of the refurbishment programme on which the Government has embarked since being elected. This contrasts with the policy of the GSD when they were in Government of keeping a large number of flats empty instead of refurbishing and allocating them.

The GSLP/Liberal Government have announced five housing schemes to date of which three have already gone out to tender. These will provide approximately 950 flats, the exact number of which will be determined once the tenders have been awarded. It is also correct to say that the Government intends to house everyone who was on the housing waiting list on the day that we were elected. This remains the position.

However, the Opposition have wrongly assumed that the housing projects that have been announced to date are the only ones that the Government is looking at. This is wrong. These are only the projects that have been announced so far. They have also not given due weight to the fact that affordable housing on a 50/50 basis will allow for the price to the purchaser to be kept down to the lowest possible level and will make the purchase of these flats accessible to more people.

The Opposition continues to behave as if they have not been in Government before and as if they had nothing to answer for. The reality is that the GSD failed to provide an adequate supply of housing for our people and they must take full political responsibility for that failure instead of nitpicking at the coherent housing policy that Gibraltar enjoys today.