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<b>PRESS RELEASE</b>
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No: 74/2013

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**Feetham is the last person to accuse anyone of “electoral fraud”**

It is unfortunate that in his first public comments, the new Leader of the Opposition Daniel Feetham has already shown just how much he still has to learn. While this is to an extent logical and to be expected, having just arrived in the post, there is no doubt that he should have shown more restraint and exercised better judgement in his choice of words.

The accusation that the Government has perpetrated an “electoral fraud” on the electorate because we will not be able to deliver our election manifesto is absurd. It betrays a lack of understanding of what has happened in the recent past where the GSD themselves often repeated the same pledges in manifesto after manifesto because they themselves were unable to deliver those pledges on time. Therefore by the standard just set by Mr Feetham, his own party perpetrated electoral fraud after electoral fraud on the electorate because parts of their manifesto were not delivered time and again. The Leisure Centre, for example, was famously repeated in GSD election manifestos in 2000, 2003 and 2007.

Mr Feetham’s comments are all the more surprising when Mr Caruana himself is on the record as having said that a manifesto is only a wish-list.

It is a bit rich, quite apart from all this, for Mr Feetham to accuse anyone of “electoral fraud”. It will be recalled that when in Government, the GSD sent letters to hundreds of people on the housing waiting list, just before the 2007 general election, informing them that they had been allocated a home in a planned new rental estate in the area of Rooke when the estate did not exist. Quite apart from the fact that the flats had not even been built, it later transpired, once the election was over, that the number of letters far exceeded the flats that came to be available.

Moreover, also in the last general election the GSD used design images of projects in their election manifesto which had been paid for by the taxpayer and not by the party. They also signed contracts with third parties after the general election had been called and while they were still a caretaker Government. Indeed, one such contract was signed on the very day before polling day itself. This is potentially unconstitutional.

In the light of his record and that of his party in Government, Mr Feetham has no right to accuse anyone of “electoral fraud”. It is obvious that people in glass houses should not throw stones.