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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Opposition refused to publish reports when they were in office**

The Opposition are scraping the bottom of the barrel with the issues that they choose to raise in order to criticise the Government. Their latest press release on domestic matters and reports is a case in point.

They have to understand that the GSD are not operating in a vacuum. This means that when they raise issues of this kind people will go back and look at what they used to do themselves and how they behaved when they were in office.

The Opposition have complained that the Government have refused to publish or share the contents of reports that are commissioned. This is not correct. The Opposition should know that a number of reports are commissioned to guide Government policy and may require further studies.

The Government have already published the Fishing Report, many of its recommendations are in the process of being implemented.

The Government has also published the King Report into the future of GBC. It will be recalled that the GSD Government stubbornly refused, since November 2008, to agree to publish the King Report. In contrast, the GSLP/Liberals had a manifesto commitment to do so and the King Report was published by the new Government on 22 December 2011, as promised, within 30 days of the general election.

The GHA review will be published when its key recommendations have been implemented, at the request of the Board. The allegation that it cost nearly a quarter of a million pounds in interim Chief Executives is unfair, as the interim was in place of the previous Chief Executive and the cost was therefore much lower.

The Upper Rock plan is taking time to prepare because it is being done properly and it takes times to consult all the players and get it right. However, people will recall that the GSD Government commissioned an Upper Rock Management Plan in 2005 and then refused to publish it. It was only the change of Government that once again led to the publication of a report that had previously been kept secret.

It is clear that the Opposition have no credibility and are selective with their information when they are critical of the Government in this regard. Moreover, this has to be seen in the context of the wider democratic reforms that the Government has implemented in such a short time. This includes the publication of on-line statistics, , ten meetings of Parliament for questions a year instead of two or three, greater transparency through faster production of Hansard and televising of Parliament, an open planning process and public meetings of the Board of the Gibraltar Health Authority. There is no comparison between this and the closed and secretive system that the GSD Opposition presided over during their time in Government.

The moral is that people in glass houses should not throw stones.