



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY FOR ENTERPRISE, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT & HEALTH & SAFETY**  
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**Employment  
Service**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GOVERNMENT REJECTS GSD CLAIMS**

The Government rejects the statement made by the GSD's Mr Damon Bossino which is, in fact, a repetition of the self-serving false arguments the Opposition has used since the 2011 General Election. The GSLP/Liberals promised during the election to set up a company to support training leading to employment, no later than the 1st February 2012 to replace the useless, GSD Vocational Training Scheme (VTS) which used to pay cheap labour rates of £400 or less a month up to 2011. According to the GSD this discredited scheme had resulted in 28% of those participating obtaining employment after completion. They called this 28% a huge success.

There was nothing structured about the GSD's Vocational Training Scheme since, in some cases, individuals had been on it up to 6 years on it with no employment rights and no prospect of employment.

The present scheme costs much more because every trainee is paid the national minimum wage which is 2.5 times what was paid in December 2011, that is £1,000 a month instead of £400. It is right to pay people on the scheme no less than the minimum wage and wrong for the GSD not to have done so.

The success rate in terms of employment at the end of the training so far is that 546 out of 999 were employed as at the end of September, over 54%. Given that this is double the percentage who found employment under the GSD's VTS, this GSLP/Liberal programme must necessarily be double the 'huge success' the GSD claimed their cheap labour scheme was.

The failure of the 15 years of GSD Government and their alleged structured training is reflected in the published figures in the employment surveys. The decline of the Gibraltar workforce in the construction industry speaks for itself. This sharp decline between 1996 and 2011 was blamed by successive GSD employment Ministers on the reluctance of Gibraltarians to work in the industry which was being taken over by imported labour.

The position now is that in 2012 the increase in the number of Gibraltarians in employment was greater in 12 months than the GSD increase in 15 years. The number of fulltime jobs held by Gibraltarians was up by 6.1% and in all construction jobs up by 11% in the period October 11 to October 2012.

The Government is confident that when the results for the 2013 employment survey are published, they will again show an increase in the number of Gibraltarians in employment and a new record high delivered by the GSLP/Liberal Government

The GSD's failure to train carers for the elderly, nursing assistants for the GHA, construction workers, bus drivers and heavy goods drivers has led to these areas having to depend almost entirely on imported workers in the last 15 years. These and other skill shortages in our economy are now being addressed and supplied by training local workers as part of the GSLP/Liberal strategy to deliver jobs for local residents.