



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EQUALITY, SOCIAL SERVICES & THE ELDERLY
14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE
GIBRALTAR

PRESS RELEASE

No: 138/2014

Date: 27th March 2014

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ACCUSES OPPOSITION OF DISTORTING FACTS OVER THE CARE AGENCY

Isobel Ellul-Hammond, can try as hard as she can to mislead on figures relating to a staff turnover crisis at the Care Agency, but, no matter how many press releases she issues, this will not alter the facts.

The problem with Isobel Ellul-Hammond is that she clearly doesn't know how to count and, as such, she is simply distorting the figures. The answer to the Parliament question and the recent Government press release very clearly states that the staff complement of 74 people that have resigned in the past 2 ½ years represents the **whole** of the Care Agency complement to include Elderly Care services.

Mrs Ellul-Hammond insists on misleading the public by taking that figure but calculating the percentage on the figures relating only to Social Services even though it has been clearly explained to her that this is not the case. Isobel Ellul-Hammond may wish to rewrite history by manipulating the figures. At least now she has admitted her inability to work out percentages and confirms that the previous press release issued a few days ago quoting a 25% turnover was wrong. The problem is that because she continues to use the wrong figures, the new percentage turnover figure of 12.2% the opposition now assumes is still wrong. The correct calculation is in fact 3.4%.

Once again, the figures are as follows and the turnover is very clear.

Staff turnover for the whole of the Care Agency:

2010 – 72 (complement of 507 = 14%)

2011 - 81 (complement of 509 = 16%)

2012 - 23 (complement of 588 = 4%)

2013 - 35 (complement of 610 = 6%)

Given that the GSD now seems to have an unprecedented concern about turnover of staff in Social Services, the true figures of staff relating to the Social Services department of the Care Agency is as follows:

2010 – Complement 180 – staff turnover 25 – 13.8%

2011 – Complement 190 – staff turnover 20 – 10.5%

2012 – Complement 190 – staff turnover 9 – 4.7%

2013 – Complement 214 – staff turnover 14 – 6.5%

No matter how figures are broken down, the reality is that the staff turnover has dramatically reduced in each and every sector so all Isobel Ellul-Hammond has achieved is to expose the high turnover in Social Services while they were in Government.

The Government is glad that the GSD has finally recognised that Social Services is an important front line service. This has always been taken very seriously by this administration and the action being taken has been explained very clearly both in the press and parliament. Isobel Ellul-Hammond may choose to ignore what has been explained in order to make political capital and at the expense of the morale of social workers this week.

There can be no doubt that the Minister is taking action to tackle the issues that have been raised, has engaged in a review of the service and is working to improve the Agency as a whole. This review is not yet complete. There will be a further independent review when the time is right and in consultation with management and not when the Opposition says so.

Minister for Social Services, Samantha Sacramento said 'It is clear that Isobel Ellul-Hammond has an inability to digest figures and is intent on simply distorting figures and facts. It is not for her to decide what needs to be done in Social Services, the GSD had their chance but they need to be reminded that they were booted out of office in December 2011, no doubt a predominant factor being the little attention offered to Social Services and the services and support available to the most vulnerable in our community.'