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UPDATE ON HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

The Opposition has criticised the Government's allocation process for the new affordable housing schemes. This appears to be a naked attempt by Mr Feetham's party to ride on the back of unsubstantiated rumours on social media about alleged allocations, all of which are untrue.

HM Government of Gibraltar can do little more than to re-emphasise that the allocation is being carried out strictly in accordance with the Waiting List on 9 December 2011 – with absolutely no exemptions.

Those with a high position on that List have already been interviewed and those with a lower position will still be waiting for their interview.

No-one has jumped the queue and not a single exception has been made. Thus far, 90 applicants have been interviewed and 85 of them have accepted the offer of a new home.

The Government can categorically state that none of them were 'upgraders', who will not be considered for allocations until the end of the process.

Rather than allocate in terms of Housing List criteria, the Opposition is arguing that a public draw, thereby basing allocations on luck, resulting in situation in which someone with the greatest need and the longest time on the list might not be given the chance to buy but a newcomer with low priority might win the lottery and qualify for a new home.

In the Waterport Terraces allocations by the GSD, first those who could pay for 100% of the price were given the choice of properties, then those who could pay for 75% of the price were given the next choice. Those who could afford to only pay 50% had to take what was left. How can that scheme possibly be fair when it is based on economic power and not on need or waiting time?

The Government pledges that, at the end of the process, it will publish a full list of all the allocated properties and the full Housing List of 9 December 2011. Everyone will then be able to judge for themselves the objective fairness of this process.