



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR ENTERPRISE, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT & HEALTH & SAFETY
76-77 Harbours Walk
New Harbours
Gibraltar

**Employment
Service**

PRESS RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF CHANGING ITS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The Government rejects the views expressed by the GSD opposition member Mr Bossino and has no intention of changing its highly successful training programmes which have reduced the level of unemployment and led to the highest ever number of Gibraltarians in full time jobs.

The Government also notes that, in his statement, Mr Bossino has welcomed comments made on this subject by a member of the Unite youth committee and, at the same time, head of the GSD youth committee.

There will therefore be no return to the discredited 'so-called' Vocational Training Schemes operated during the 15 years of the GSD Government. Those schemes paid an allowance well below the National Minimum wage which was negotiated by Mr Montiel as District Officer of Unite and later implemented by Mr Montiel as Minister for Employment. Under that system selected employers were provided with free labour by the GSD without a commitment to employ. According to the GSD 72% of the persons placed with the employers failed to get the job at the end of the period under the VTS. This is considered by the GSD an outstanding success when, in reality, it was a dismal failure.

The record of success is only quantifiable by looking at the numbers even if Mr Bossino prefers not to look at them, notwithstanding that he is constantly asking to be provided with these figures.

As Mr Bossino knows there are over 300 employers cooperating with the Government in training initiatives and some 700 Gibraltarians have obtained employment as a result. Mr Bossino has already accepted in Parliament that this is the case. However, what he still wants is to know the names of the 300 employers and the Government sees no reason to provide this.

Mr Bossino defends the record of the GSD in Government in his statements in respect of the last 15 years, yet they never saw the need to publish the names of the businesses that were being provided with free labour, with no employment rights or protection and with no commitment to employ, nor did Unite see any reason to criticise this in the 15 years in question.

Instead of asking the Government to put the clock back and restore their discredited Vocational Training Scheme they should be hanging their heads in shame at their failure to provide the skills required in the Gibraltar Labour Market which led to many jobs previously done by Gibraltarians being lost to frontier workers in both the public and the private sectors, a skills deficit that is only now being put right.

The Government will continue with the policy to which it was committed by its Manifesto in 2011 and which meets the targets of providing more jobs for local people by providing the skills in the areas where the shortages exist and have been identified.

No number of press releases from Mr Bossino is going to change that.