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Feetham Totally Wrong on Cruz

The comments made by the Leader of the Opposition on the appointment of Mr Jason Cruz to head the Gibraltar Office in Hong Kong are the height of hypocrisy. The public will see through this as they see through much of what Mr Feetham does and says.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar required an individual with an intimate, high level, working knowledge of Hong Kong's commercial sector and Jason Cruz has exactly the qualities and experience we were looking for. He is the only such Gibraltarian in Hong Kong and the fact that he is a Gibraltarian is a bonus and makes him unquestionably the ideal candidate to promote our nation's interests in the region.

Mr Feetham should know that it is not unusual for Governments to head-hunt people for specialised posts in this way for a variety of reasons. Indeed, they regularly did it themselves when the GSD was in office. They filled many highly-paid posts without advertising them beforehand. There is a long list of people who were "parachuted into a job" by the GSD during their sixteen years in office.

In particular, one Gibraltarian individual was directly recruited - without advertisement or interview - by the GSD and brought back to Gibraltar WITHOUT paying tax and WITH a luxury property thrown in. The individual has done and is doing an excellent job in his field; but the process of recruitment of the individual by Mr Caruana's government was identical to that undertaken in respect of Mr Cruz but with a higher remuneration thrown in!

Mr Feetham did not complain at all when the GSD acted in this way, but now suggests that the Government is wrong to seek out the best person for the job.

In addition, there were many others who were promoted in questionable circumstances without going through proper boards and others still whose salary was set personally by the then Chief Minister at a whim. In some instances, it isn't even clear how some people were able to become Civil Servants.

The Chief Minister said: "I have never discussed party politics with Jason Cruz, so I am surprised Daniel Feetham can say that the man is a GSLP supporter, but I guess he might have been in the days when Mr Feetham himself was in the ranks of the GSLP. Frankly, what is not clear is why Mr Feetham now believes that it is wrong for my Government

head-hunt individuals but that it was all right for his GSD to have done so. As ever with Danny, this smacks of 'do as I say not as I do' and is typical of his double-standards and hypocrisy. It shows up in everything he does and taints his ability to persuade people of anything. Danny is either being entirely hypocritical in his approach OR he is actually going out of his way, with Trevor Hammond, the new GSD Chairman, to criticise Sir Peter Caruana's way of doing things as much as he is ours. Either way, his position on this issue is untenable."