



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**GSD Exemption hypocrisy**

HM Government of Gibraltar is surprised by the statements of the Opposition on a Bill to exempt a small part of the Casino from the provisions of the Smoke-Free Environment Act when after 16 years in Government they wholly failed to introduce any measures to control or prevent smoking in any premises in Gibraltar, and consequently permitted smoking in all establishments in Gibraltar including of course the entirety of the Casino.

The Bill specifically limits the exemption to a small part of the Casino in Gibraltar and importantly requires the Operator to construct a self-contained area, independently ventilated, with specific air extraction equipment. Further no alcohol or any drinks or food will be available in this area and no employees will service the area whilst in use.

Government has carefully considered all aspects of this exemption following a long period of engagement with the Operators and further investments will be made to improve the facility in addition to the substantial cost of the works to the designated area that will be required to be made if the Bill is approved by Parliament.

Minister for Gaming Albert Isola commented "It is important for Gibraltar to be able to continue to have the benefit of a Casino facility which is viable and fit for purpose and this is a part of ensuring that is the case. We have achieved what we set out to achieve with the smoking ban. No-one needs to inhale anyone else's second hand smoke. We have ensured that this exemption does not affect that huge step forward that the GSLP/Liberal Government took which protects children and every person who does not wish to smoke or be in a smoke filled environment. The terms of the exemption are very strict and will in effect create a fishbowl for smokers who are playing slots in a confined area of the Casino. This exemption therefore also protects workers, as they will not be required to enter the area in question whilst it is open to the public. The extraction facilities required will clear the smoke from filtering through to the rest of the Casino which will remain entirely non-smoking. I should make it clear that we have no intention to permit any further exemptions at this time."

It is the height of hypocrisy for the Opposition to question this exemption for a small part of the Casino, when in 16 years in Government they failed to apply a single ban on smoking in any part of our community.