



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Financial Services & Gaming
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PRESS RELEASE

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Government confirm exemption to Casino only

The GSD continue to seek to misrepresent the facts relating to the exemption proposed for a small part of the Casino.

The exemption will apply ONLY to a small area within the Casino, measuring some 10% of the Casino floor space. In effect, the small area will be glassed in with strong air extraction equipment for the locating of slot machines, and without any other service being available in the space. No food or drinks will be served and no staff will be required to enter the area whilst in use.

The GSD fail to understand that the legislation already has a series of exemptions including for example designated Hotel rooms where smoking is permitted and the extension of the exemption to cover this "fishbowl" area within the Casino does not water down the ban or indeed indicate that there will be any further exemptions to licence holders as the GSD continue to suggest. There will not.

Our legislation already achieves what we intended it should and what the GSD failed to act on: it protects children, workers and the general public from being exposed to second hand smoke. That will continue to be the case everywhere and even in the Casino, where the smoking area will be a fishbowl with double doors on entry and extraction facilities. No children, no workers and certainly no-one who does not wish to will be exposed to this "no drink, no food, no service" slots area. We have achieved what we set out to do and we have maintained the position entirely. The GSD did nothing and is now whingeing about our excellent delivery on this commitment. It appears that they just can't get over their almost two decade failure to act.

The GSD do not like to be reminded that in 16 years in Government they wholly failed to take a single legislative step to create smoke free areas when they had the opportunity. It is ironic that they should now be so concerned that 10% of the Casino area may be exempted, with stringent conditions attached safeguarding those that do not want to share in that environment.

The Government looks forward to the debate in Parliament when the Bill is presented and all these issues will be fully aired and discussed.