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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**GSD at last against "Jobs for the Boys"**

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar sincerely welcomes that statement of the Chairman of the GSD that it will abandon the idea of "jobs for the boys".

The Government since 9th December 2011 has ensured that every post has been awarded to the best applicant after interview processes have been followed or, where direct appointments have been necessary (in instances where such appointments are appropriate and were also made by the previous administration), only after exhaustive consultation. In no instance has any appointment been made on any other basis.

The previous GSD Government, however, was constantly awarding jobs to its supporters without interview and became notorious for it.

This statement from Mr Hammond is therefore clearly a complete condemnation of the practice and one which - despite obviously being in the nature of a Damascene Conversion for the GSD - amounts to a further distancing by them from the actions of the previous GSD administration over its 16 years in Government.

The same is true of the practice in relation to tenders, where the announcement to put items to tender is largely in keeping with the practice introduced by the Government when elected and defended by the Chief Minister in Parliament. The scoring system proposed is already in use and does not amount to anything new at all.