



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Opposition raises red herrings to defend the indefensible**

The feeble attempt by the Opposition to defend the appointment of spokespersons outside Parliament raises a red-herring and ignores the central point. They are clearly defending the indefensible.

The central point is that the Opposition have chosen to undermine the role of their Elected Members by appointing spokespersons who are not elected to Parliament. Equally, the latest GSD release fails to explain why publicly-funded MPs are not doing the job that the tax-payer expects of them.

This has nothing to do with freedom of speech which is a universal human right that applies to everyone in Gibraltar. It is to do with the highly irregular and peculiar internal re-organisation that the Leader of the Opposition has chosen to carry out.

It is absurd in the extreme to suggest that the Government can or does object to people expressing an opinion. What the Government objects to is the lack of openness and transparency of the Opposition in proceeding in such a manner and in attempting to hide the truth with smokescreens.

It is also the height of irony for the Opposition to raise this accusation against the Government and then in the same breath attempt to muzzle the Government for expressing an opinion! It is also clear that they have yet to read the press releases that they issued themselves as a Government when they were in office!

Moreover, the Opposition is wrong. This is a fundamental political and constitutional issue. First, because the role of Elected Members of Parliament has been undermined by the actions of the Leader of the Opposition and secondly because Elected Members are paid for by the taxpayer to carry out a job.

There are presently six Members who sit on the Opposition benches with Mr Feetham. Three have already said they will not be standing with him at the next election. Time will tell how many of the other three will also decide not to stand.