

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Opposition do not have clue about rules and procedures of Government**

It is complete nonsense for the Opposition to claim that the allegations of bullying against Ms Joanna Hernandez have been swept under the carpet.

The GSD continue to behave as if they have never been in Government before and do not have a clue how the internal administrative machinery of the Government actually works. This may well be because their elected members are dropping like flies and they now have to resort to others who are unfamiliar with the processes in question.

The Opposition should know by now that the matter was referred to the Chief Secretary for an investigation to be carried out under the rules and procedures of the civil service. The Government has already indicated that this is an internal matter for the civil service in which the political Government will not get involved.

The Opposition are clearly trying to politicise something that should not be politicised. These employment issues are a matter for the employer and the employee. The political views of the person in question are completely irrelevant.

Given that Ministers are not involved in the investigation, the Opposition can only be questioning the integrity and independence of those who have carried it out. This is a disgraceful slur on the character and professionalism of the Civil Service.

The GSD are free to change the existing rules if they ever return to Government in order to allow their Ministers to interfere in these matters as they please and to create a public circus of every internal investigation. The Government, however, will continue with the long established practice of an investigation by the independent and impartial civil service, based on the evidence presented, as required by the internal nature of the issues at stake.

What is obvious is that the GSD have continued from the opposition benches the same campaign of harassment and victimisation against the person in question that they started in Government.