



PRESS RELEASE

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MR FEETHAM NEEDS TO PUT UP OR SHUT UP REGARDING LNG

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar notes the Opposition's latest press release on the issue of LNG bunkering and agrees that, in terms of the potential for future economic growth, LNG bunkering is a matter of public interest. The public do not need to have any concerns about LNG bunkering, contrary to what Mr Feetham would like them to believe.

As Mr Feetham acknowledges, the EU is trying to establish and grow an EU-wide LNG bunkering industry through the TEN-T network initiative. Surely then, Mr Feetham's concerns regarding the safety implications of LNG must extend to all the major ports and transport routes that will form part of this network. Mr Feetham cannot be as ignorant or so bold as to suggest that all these European governments, experts and international institutions would be so negligent as to knowingly develop an industry that may have consequences that he is afraid of. Conversely, to alienate Gibraltar from such an important industry development, as Mr Feetham is advising that we do, would be entirely irresponsible and would spell the end of our bunkering industry. Gibraltar under Mr Feetham's GSD would not be a major port in bunkering terms as it is today.

Indeed, Mr Feetham's consistent refusal to name the 'experts' he initially purported to rely on when he first started to make his sensationalist, exaggerated and unsubstantiated remarks begs the question as to what exactly he is basing his hyperbolic statements on. Instead, he cites a few select newspaper articles and blog posts and calls it 'evidence'. The Government is left with no choice but to ask how exactly Mr Feetham's adamant assertions against LNG, unsubstantiated by any tangible evidence of his own and considering his refusal to say exactly where he has sought expert opinion from, are generating a debate that is in the public interest. If Mr Feetham truly seeks a debate that will enable the public to make up their own minds on LNG bunkering, the Government challenges him to name his experts rather than attempt to spark public fear based on a few cherry-picked articles. For its part, the Government has already named its experts and is in the process of drawing up the final reports.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, said, 'If Mr Feetham considers LNG to be as dangerous as he is suggesting then he must be willing, publicly, to announce that he is totally against LNG and LNG bunkering in Gibraltar as in the rest of the EU. Anything short of this proves that he is only seeking to scare the public as a political tactic and is clear demonstration of the chameleon-like policies for which Mr Feetham is famous, adapting himself to the colour of the opinion he likes to curry favour with at any particular time. It is time for him now to put up or shut up and tell us who his experts are so the public can determine the calibre of the advice on which he is purporting to rely.'