HM Government of Gibraltar

Ministry of Education, Justice and
International Exchange
of Information

PRESS RELEASE

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Proposed amendment to Parliament motion on co-education

The Minister for Education, Gilbert Licudi QC, has written to the Speaker of Parliament giving notice that he proposes to move an amendment to the motion on co-education filed by Mr Feetham. The amendment would delete all the words after "THIS HOUSE" in Mr Feetham's motion and replace them with the following text:

[THIS HOUSE]

Acknowledges that education and ways to improve it must always remain at the top of the political agenda in this community.

Notes that there are educational arguments both in favour and against co-education for Gibraltar's Comprehensive schools.

Notes that the GSLP/Liberals manifesto for the 2015 elections posed the question whether co-education is a good or bad idea for the Comprehensive schools and provided a commitment to review this "dispassionately and on a non-partisan basis by experts".

Acknowledges that in keeping with its commitment, the Government has already set up a working group made up of teachers, officials at the Department of Education, union officials and parents to report to the Government by March 2017 on co-education for the Comprehensive schools with the following terms of reference:

1. To advise H.M. Government of Gibraltar on the advantages and disadvantages of the current and mixed (co-educational) models for the Comprehensive schools in Gibraltar;

2. To make recommendations on whether secondary education at the Comprehensive schools in Gibraltar is best delivered using a mixed or single gender model;

3. To make recommendations on possible implementation scenarios, and;

4. To make recommendations on an appropriate consultation model to ensure that the views of relevant stakeholders are taken into account.

AND notes that the working group's report will form the basis of a consultation by the Government with all relevant stakeholders before a decision is taken on whether co-education is to be introduced in the Comprehensive schools and, if so, in what form.