



PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Return to London to Engage in Further 'Serious' Discussions on Brexit

The Chief Minister of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, and the Deputy Chief Minister, Hon Dr Joseph Garcia MP, travelled to London today for twenty four hours of meetings related to ongoing Brexit matters. They were accompanied by the Attorney General, Michael Llamas QC.

The meetings in London will concentrate on matters arising from the potential for a no-deal Brexit, as well as how to address future negotiations.

The Chief Minister said: "We have a duty to work and continue working tirelessly on finding the best solutions for Gibraltar for all potential eventualities. That includes continuing our work with the UK Government and lobbying our political counterparts in London without pause. This is what enables us to manoeuvre Gibraltar into as advantageous a position as we can secure. We do this in the context of unprecedented turmoil in the British political establishment - something to be bemoaned, not celebrated - but confident that we have covered all bases. I return to London this week to continue this work. My work and the work of this Government in this respect is far from over as we look at all potential strands for continued and further action. This includes ensuring that we make clear our view that the best and safest option for Gibraltar in the event that Mrs May's deal is eventually not accepted is a straight revocation of the Article 50 notification."

"As for the continued, malicious criticism from the GSD, it seems clear now to me as it does to so many in this community, that the Opposition party has failed to live up to the expectation of our nation or the needs of this difficult moment. They have failed to understand the nuances of the position of Gibraltar and how much we have achieved. They have forgotten the sense of despair and concern in Gibraltar after the result of the referendum was announced and how we turned our nation away from the potential for the worst. They want to forget and ignore that we have delivered continued economic growth, even in these challenging circumstances. That is what history will see we have achieved in protecting our people for any of the eventualities that may arise on the 29th of March next year. History will judge them harshly for their baseless criticisms designed to bang a flash drum to seek political support which will just not be there. The GSD are devoid of talent, devoid of sincerity and devoid of any sense of duty to this community. They are so determined to gain even the slightest political advantage at any cost, that they are now visibly celebrating any developments which might appear to pose a serious threat to Gibraltar. That is a very poor way to serve this community. Our people can see and compare our hard and diligent approach to the work



required, which is in stark contrast to the amateur, cheap 'keyboard warrior' posturing of the GSD in respect of this issue."

"Indeed, the trivialisation of these issues by the GSD is an unfortunate and disrespectful dismissal of the hard work of the Government and the Civil Service, work that often goes unrecognised. Daniel Feetham, the de facto Leader of the Opposition, the most active and effective of the motley crew of the 'new' GSD, has, to his credit, at least recognised this hard work in saying that he was of the view that the Government has left 'no stone unturned'. The same is true of Ms Hassan Nahon, also a member of the Parliament's Brexit Select Committee, who, when push has come to shove, has demonstrated more mature approach than the much diminished Mr Azopardi."

The Chief Minister concluded: "I will continue to focus on securing the best deals for Gibraltar and for our future generations in these very difficult circumstances. I fully intend to ignore the silly name calling from some factions in the GSD. There is too much important work to do to waste time replying to an incoherent and fractured group of amateurs with nothing to do but take pot shots at us to get their names in the news."