



PRESS RELEASE

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Statement On Community Care

The Government rejects that there is any legitimacy in the criticism by Mr. Clinton on behalf of the GSD regarding the level of reserves of the Charity Community Care which were below the level estimated by the GSLP in the 2015 General Election at which time the accounts of the Charity were not available.

Mr. Clinton needs reminding that if the GSD had won the 2011 Elections Community Care would have ceased to exist as the GSD had announced in 2010 they would close it down and replace it with payments from Social Security funds when they described the charity as a ticking time bomb.

Although they failed to do this at the time, and the advice they had from the professionals in the Civil Service was that their proposed alternative would not work and could not provide Gibraltarians pensioners with the same protection as the Charity gave, the GSD still persisted in their policy in the 2011 Election Campaign saying they would close it down if re-elected.

Whilst in Government the GSD promised to continue providing the funding both in Election Campaigns and in statements to Parliament to make sure that the Charity would never have to make use of the £63M in reserves it had accumulated under the GSLP Government up to 1996.

These promises were never honoured and were never intended to be honoured. This was revealed in 2010 when the GSD admitted in public that the failure to provide funding to the Charity over the years had been a deliberate policy to allow the reserves to become run down and then close it.

Since 2011 the GSD has said it would not close it down if they got back into Government but of course they have never kept their promises in the past so no-one can guarantee that they would keep them in the future. They have however said they would stop funding to increase the reserves and Mr. Clinton says that the GSLP policy of a rainy day fund should not be by providing reserves for the Charity.

So given that they got rid of the reserves of Community Care before 2010 and that they did it to close it down and that they do not support the policy of increasing these reserves they have no legitimacy in criticizing a policy that they do not believe in and would not practice in Government or have any commitment to do so for our future.

The GSLP created the Charity and is fully committed to it.



The Government will continue to provide funding to the Charity every year in order to increase its reserves. The degree to which it is able to meet the target set out in the manifesto will depend on the demands for other socially required expenditure at any given time.

But the policy remains to achieve higher reserves and will continue to be the case for the future.