



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EQUALITY & SOCIAL SERVICES
14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE
GIBRALTAR

PRESS RELEASE

No: 679/2012

Date: 22nd October 2012

Dr Giraldi Home Inquiry

The Government announces that, under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, it has appointed the Rt. Hon. Sir Jonathan Parker to chair an Inquiry into allegations of mismanagement, misconduct and malpractice, including abuse, at Dr Giraldi Home as alleged by Joanna Hernandez. The Inquiry will also investigate the conduct of the relevant authorities in response to these allegations.

The GSLP/ Liberals when in Opposition, were greatly concerned about allegations which had been brought to the fore by Ms Hernandez, a former manager at Dr Giraldi Home, whose employment was terminated. As such, this Administration committed itself to an independent review of the allegations that were made at the time.

The Inquiry's Terms of Reference are attached. In due course representations will be invited as to a possible extension of the Terms of Reference.

It is envisaged that the hearing of the Inquiry will take place in the spring of 2013.

Notes to Editors:

Sir Jonathan took Silk in 1979, became a High Court Judge of the Chancery Division in 1991, and a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2000. In 2010 he was appointed to the Court of Appeal in Gibraltar. Sir Jonathan was a member of the Tribunal which inquired into the conduct of former Chief Justice Schofield.

DR GIRALDI HOME INQUIRY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To inquire into:
 - (a) allegations of mismanagement, misconduct and malpractice (including abuse) at the Dr Giraldi Home contained in witness statements intended to be relied on by Ms Joanna Hernandez in connection with her claim of unfair dismissal by the Social Services Agency; and
 - (b) the conduct of the relevant authorities and agencies in response to, or otherwise in relation to, such allegations.
2. To inquire into such other matters relating to the Dr Giraldi Home as the Chairman of the Inquiry shall, in his absolute discretion, consider appropriate.
3. To find the relevant facts.
4. To report on the above.

NOTE: Representations will in due course be invited as to a possible extension of these Terms of Reference pursuant to paragraph 2 above.