The Consell de Formentera reports that the island's state-accredited clerk has issued a legal report regarding whether the government acted lawfully when it contracted a worker who was on voluntary leave. The contract in question was challenged last week in a press release by local UGT representative Jose Ramon Mateos.

The secretary notes in the report that no rules were broken when work was commissioned under a "minor" €3,485 three-month contract.

As the Formentera jurist points out, "the upshot of legislation on public administration employment is that, for conflict to exist, the staff member must be actively employed, and this is not the case".

It follows, according to the report, that no rule is broken when a contract concerns a project started by the employee in question during active employment, which that person alone can perform and which is the exclusive remit of the same.

"Special arrangements have been accorded to Consell staff for previously initiated work which is to be completed off site. In the same way, when the Consell requests work on a project in the ambit of a worker on leave, there is plausible internal interest, meaning such contracts are not unlawful", the report reads.

The Consell de Formentera defends the presumption of legality as it concerns the transparency and professionalism of municipal staff.

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