



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

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GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT LAMBASTS UK LIBERAL DEMOCRATS...

The Government is surprised to note that the UK Liberal Democrats have taken the UK Government to task on its biodiversity record in Gibraltar, and have moved an amendment to extend the UK's Marine Bill to Gibraltar.

This is wrong and unacceptable. The UK Liberal Democrats have not consulted the Gibraltar Government before taking this action.

The UK Government has no biodiversity obligations in Gibraltar, beyond ensuring that Gibraltar complies with international obligations. Under our Constitution, the environment in Gibraltar is a matter for the Parliament and Government of Gibraltar and not for the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom.

A spokesman for No 6 Convent Place said: "This is interference by the Liberal Democrats in our internal affairs. It is Constitutionally retrograde and suggests a deep misunderstanding of the Constitutional relationship between Gibraltar and the UK, even under the old Constitution, never mind the new one. It would be wholly unacceptable for a UK Act of Parliament to be extended to Gibraltar. This has not happened for very many decades. The Government calls on the Liberal Democrats to withdraw their amendment in so far as concerns Gibraltar."