



## GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Environment

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Gibraltar

### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **REPORTS ON THE AUTOMATIC AIR POLLUTION MONITORING PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 2005 – 2006.**

The Government of Gibraltar started monitoring air quality from its two automated monitoring stations in February 2005. Air quality monitoring is carried out to comply with European Air Quality objectives as detailed in EC legislation.

These stations are sited at Rosia Road next to Gibelec offices and at the northern end of the car park at Bleak House. The Rosia Road station is classified as an urban station because of its proximity to a major road, electricity generating stations and dock area. This station measures carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants are mainly derived from road transport and combustion processes such as the generation of electricity. The station at Bleak House is considered as a suburban/rural station and measures nitrogen dioxide and ozone. Ozone is primarily formed by a complicated series of chemical reactions between some of the afore-mentioned pollutants in the presence of sunlight.

Standards for all these pollutants are concentrations over a given period that are considered to be acceptable in the light of what is known about the effects of each pollutant on health and on the environment. They can also be used as a benchmark to see if air pollution is getting better or worse. Air pollution in Gibraltar on the whole is low meaning that the effects are unlikely to be noticed even by individuals who know they are sensitive to air pollutants. In the warmer months i.e. from April to September, ozone levels tend to rise and are closely monitored. During these months the air pollution is at times classified as moderate due to these higher levels of ozone recorded. All other pollutants are consistently low. There have been no excesses of the levels recommended by the EU Air Quality Directives.

The reports on the Automatic Air Pollution monitoring networks for the years 2005 and 2006 is now available on [www.gibraltar.gov.gi](http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi) under "Government and Public Services" – Environment.

The report for 2006 is provisional and may be subject to further quality control.

The public are reminded that daily information on Gibraltar's air quality is available on via [www.gibraltairairquality.gi](http://www.gibraltairairquality.gi) for further information regarding air quality, please phone Mr F Martin at the Environmental Agency.