



PRESS RELEASE

No: 142/2008

Date: 10th June 2008

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE MV VENTURA

Following information received by the Government's Director of Public Health, Dr Vijay Kumar, yesterday evening that the MV Ventura, due to arrive in Port this morning, had 24 cases of acute gastroenteritis on board, presumably due to norovirus infection, contact was established immediately with the ship.

It emerged that the outbreak had been first identified on 30th May 2008 but after reaching a peak of 18 cases was tailing off with only 3 cases currently on board. The Director of Public Health satisfied himself that the outbreak management procedures on the ship were robust and that proper measures had been taken to prevent further infection.

On arrival this morning, the ship was instructed to retain on board a small number of persons who could still be potentially infective and was given permission to allow the rest of the passengers to disembark.

Norovirus gastroenteritis is a common infectious disease that causes diarrhoea, cramps and vomiting. It often causes outbreaks by spreading rapidly from person to person in confined locations. It is however mostly self-limiting, lasting for less than 3 days and leaving no further damage.

There should be no risk to the public health of Gibraltar from this incident.