



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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Instituto Cervantes

The Government welcomes the news that the Instituto Cervantes is to get on with its establishment in Gibraltar soon.

However, the remarks attributed in the press to its director Carmen Caffarel are totally inappropriate. Mrs Caffarel is reported to have said that “we need to be able to produce Spanish teachers in Gibraltar because the standard is quite deficient”. There is no required standard of spoken Spanish in Gibraltar, just as there is no required standard of spoken English in Spain.

The Instituto Cervantes in Gibraltar, as in all other countries, will constitute a Spanish cultural centre in a foreign country. In this foreign country, the official language is English, and Spanish is spoken (although not perfectly) to a much higher standard than English is spoken in Spain (where Spanish is the official language). So too, Spanish is spoken here to a much higher standard than in other countries where the Instituto Cervantes has a presence, for example, the North of England.

The Instituto Cervantes will form no part of the method of production of “Spanish teachers in Gibraltar”. Academically, Gibraltar’s Spanish teachers achieve outstanding results in examinations for our school children.

The Government welcomes any contribution that the Instituto may make to a greater appreciation of culture in Gibraltar, and also any contribution that it may make, to those private individuals who may wish to take up the offer, to further improve spoken Spanish at a personal and private level. The Government encourages bilingualism, and indeed fluency in as many languages as possible, since this represents a socio-economic advantage to citizens.