



PRESS RELEASE

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GIBRALTAR TO HAVE A HEALTH SURVEY

During February-March 2008, the Gibraltar Health Authority will be conducting the first-ever Health Survey of the local population.

The Survey will aim to find out the levels of perceived health in the resident population as well as gather information on eating, drinking and other lifestyle parameters. It will do so by randomly selecting around 700 adults resident in Gibraltar and asking them some questions about themselves.

The Survey will be conducted face to face at the doorstep by trained and uniformed surveyors working for the GHA, but all the replies will be anonymous, that is, no identity details are recorded. Each survey should take about 20 minutes.

No such Survey has ever been conducted in Gibraltar. However, such surveys are conducted every few years in large countries like the UK.

Dr. Kumar, Director of Public Health, who is leading on the Survey, said that this was "the most exciting event to happen in his directorate for the last ten years".

But he appealed to all the people of Gibraltar to play their part in making the survey successful. He said : "Nobody, including myself, knows exactly who in Gibraltar will be selected to receive the Questionnaires as the whole process has been randomised to make it scientific. But if you are amongst the chosen, I hope you will give us your full co-operation and contribute wholeheartedly to this Survey. Opportunities like this come only rarely as such Surveys are very expensive for a small community such as ours".

"And if the Survey does not produce a high response", he added, "which can happen if a number of the selected people refuse to participate, then the entire Survey is at risk of being scientifically rejected".

The Minister for Health, Yvette Del Agua, has expressed satisfaction that Gibraltar, for the first time, is to have a health survey of its own. "We should no longer assume that figures from the UK are good enough to guess our local health needs. I am therefore very pleased that we are providing the necessary funds for this pioneering work and I hope that the general public cooperates fully to ensure its success".