



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport
Suite 771
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Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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“New Port Charges, and Eastern Anchorage”

The Government notes Spanish press reports seeking to link recent port charges changes in Gibraltar, to an alleged request by Spain for action by Gibraltar in relation to the Eastside Anchorage. This is absurd. We are not aware of any such request.

The new, increased fee structure reflects primarily the wish to see Gibraltar benefit to a greater extent financially and economically from the use by shipping of our waters on the Eastside of the Rock. The use by shipping of our eastside anchorage exposes Gibraltar, and its tax payers, to financial and environmental risk from maritime incidents (eg Fedra), and this should be reflected in the tariff regime.

Indeed, the Government intends to extend the facility for the provision of port services to ships anchored on the eastside anchorage (as is presently the case with the western anchorage), thus considerably extending our Port's anchorage facilities. This will occur when the new Vessel Tracking System covering all our waters, including the Eastside Anchorage, is operational.

The Government also rejects the views expressed late last week by a small group of port operators. Port operators interests are represented on the Port Advisory Council by some of Gibraltar's longest established and most important shipping services companies. The Government has discussed and agreed the new charges regime, and its introduction, within the Port Advisory Council over many, many months.

The Minister for Shipping, Joe Holliday said:-

“The Government is embarked on a programme of significant investment and change in the port to modernise, extend and improve its facilities, so that it continues to be an important engine of our economy. International competitiveness is key and uppermost in the Government's mind. But Gibraltar taxpayers as a whole must get a fair deal in the process. This new tariff regime achieves all of these things.”