



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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Government welcomes the appointment of Eleanor Laing MP as the MOD's Special Representative to Gibraltar

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The Government warmly welcomes the appointment of Eleanor Laing MP as the MOD's Special Representative to Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Government has been consulted and kept informed about the proposal, and has supported it. Eleanor Laing MP knows and supports Gibraltar well. She gives up the chair of the All Party Gibraltar Group in Parliament to take up this important role.

There is a mutually valuable relationship between Gibraltar and the MOD, not just historically, but in the present time as well. The MOD's continued significant presence in Gibraltar is politically important to us, and also contributes (albeit in reducing but still important amount) to our economy. MOD remains the most visible and important physical manifestation of our relationship and links with Britain.

For all these reasons the Gibraltar Government has, since 2004, invested considerable effort in doing all that it reasonably and properly can to assist to maintain the MOD's presence in Gibraltar in the face of deep cuts in MOD spending, assets and presence elsewhere. At the same time the Government has tried to achieve as much job security as possible for MOD employees, and land and property for reuse for civilian purposes.

This policy has involved the ISP Contractorisation Agreement and MOD Global Agreements in 2007, and various lands agreements. Presently, the Government is in negotiations to take over the delivery of certain MOD non-military services, of which MOD would become a full cost paying customer. Without this proactive collaborative approach the nature and extent of the MOD's presence in Gibraltar, and with it the job security of hundreds of local families would be in much greater jeopardy.

The Government warmly welcomes the UK Government commitment to maintain a joint forward operating base in Gibraltar.

Chief Minister Peter Caruana said:-

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“Gibraltar is now benefitting from the Gibraltar Government’s new approach in recent years to the relationship with the MOD, and all the agreements struck, and the negotiations that are ongoing. As a result, the effects in Gibraltar of the very severe MOD budget problems and cuts, from which we cannot escape, are being limited, contained and managed. I very much look forward to Eleanor Laing’s participation in and contribution to the maintenance and development of this mutually beneficial approach and relationship.”