



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**Ministry for Environment and Tourism**  
**Joshua Hassan House**  
**Secretary's Lane**  
**Gibraltar**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **PLANTHOPPER INFESTATION – SOUTH DISTRICT**

The Environmental Agency has received a number of complaints from residents of the area around Merlot House and Vineyards Estate in the south district regarding large numbers of a type of flying insect which have colonized the dense foliage in the waste ground between Vineyards Estate and Naval Hospital Road. Other green areas in the south district have similarly been affected by this insect but to a lesser extent.

The insects have been identified as a type of plant hopper that feed on numerous types of plants and their presence is evident by the white fluffy wax secreted by young insects on infested plants.

These insects are of no public health significance but winged adults fly away from the infested foliage and create a nuisance if they happen to find their way into nearby residential properties.

To reduce the nuisance created by these insects Government have introduced the following measures at the abovementioned waste ground:-

- 1) Partial removal of infested foliage.
- 2) Treatment of localised infested area with the use of non-persistent insecticides.

Small infestations in gardens, patios etc of individual dwellings may be treated by hosing down affected plants with fresh water under pressure as this removes the eggs and nymphal stages from stems and branches.