



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

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Chief Minister meets Prime Minister in Downing Street

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo met Prime Minister David Cameron at No 10 Downing Street this afternoon. This is the first time in decades that a Gibraltar Chief Minister has been invited to 10 Downing Street to meet a Prime Minister but it is the second time that Mr Picardo has met the Prime Minister this year, the first having been during the events celebrating Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

At the meeting with other Overseas Territory Premiers, the Chief Minister was able to discuss with Mr Cameron the issue of Spain's continued aggression in respect of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters of which the Prime Minister was fully aware. Mr Cameron's commitment to Gibraltar was clear in his unequivocal statements as to the security of British Sovereignty over all of Gibraltar. Mr Picardo was also able to raise with the Prime Minister the issue of the Treasury's proposed "Point of Consumption Tax" and the potential effects on the Remote Gaming Industry and the likely consequences for jobs in Gibraltar, which Mr Cameron agreed to consider with Treasury colleagues.

It was clear that Mr Cameron was keen to work with the Overseas Territories and that he is committed to the principle of partnership set out in the White Paper published earlier this year. He was well aware of relevant issues affecting all the Territories.

The meeting came about as a result of the Joint Ministerial Council of the UK Overseas Territories being held in London.

Note to Editors:

Photographs will soon be available on the FLICKR website for No 10 Downing Street, www.flickr.com/photos/number10gov/