



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**Ministry of Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice**  
**Suite 771**  
**Europort**  
**Gibraltar**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Government issues Consultation Paper on the Age of Consent**

The Government has issued a consultation paper inviting representations from the general public on the age of consent for sexual activity.

The consultation paper is available on the Government's website [www.gibraltar.gov.gi](http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi).

On 8 April 2011, the Supreme Court of Gibraltar made a ruling, following a reference to it by the then Chief Minister, which had the effect, for all practical purposes, of equalling the age of consent at 16 for heterosexuals and homosexuals.

In accordance with the Constitution, the ruling of the Supreme Court and Government policy, the age of consent for both heterosexuals and homosexuals must be equal. This consultation is about the setting of that age by statute.

It is also Government policy that the age of consent should not be lower than 16. The public are therefore being invited to comment on whether the age of consent should be fixed by statute at 16 or a higher age.

Comments on the consultation paper should be sent via email to [ageofconsentconsultation@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:ageofconsentconsultation@gibraltar.gov.gi) or addressed to Age of Consent Consultation, Ministry of Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice, Suite 771, Europort.

The consultation period will end on 9 May 2012.

Commenting on the consultation process, the Minister with responsibility for Justice, Gilbert Licudi, QC, said:

"The consultation paper we have issued today is in line with a long-standing commitment by the GSLP/Liberals both in Government and in Opposition to consult the public on this issue.

Equalisation of the age of consent has already occurred as a result of the ruling of the Supreme Court. The issue now is what age should be set by statute.

The responses received will be analysed and a feedback statement summarising the results will be published by the Government."