



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
Ministry for Health & Environment  
Joshua Hassan House  
Secretary's Lane  
Gibraltar

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Cortes in London for top-level meetings**

The Minister for Health & the Environment, Dr. John Cortes will be in the UK this week to hold a series of meetings with UK counterparts. Accompanied by officials from the Department of the Environment, the Minister will be meeting with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the UK Environment Agency, the Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to discuss matters pertaining to various EU Environmental Directives and Gibraltar's position in relation to these, as well as more general environmental matters. It is hoped that these meetings will serve to open up better lines of communication between Gibraltar and UK officials to facilitate exchange of information and advice.

The Minister will also be attending a meeting of the Council of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, of which he is an elected member. Ways of increasing contacts with other Overseas Territories will be explored.

Minister Cortes will be meeting with two UK Ministers, Greg Barker MP, Minister for Energy and Climate Change, and Richard Benyons MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries.

The current situation relating to Spanish fishermen will feature in discussions.

He will also be meeting with the Born Free Foundation and the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) to discuss the issue of the Barbary Macaques and obtain international support for the Barbary Macaque Management Plan that the Government is developing.

Whilst in London, in his capacity as Minister for Health, he will also be visiting Calpe House and looking at ways in which the Gibraltar Office at Gibraltar House can improve the way it assists Gibraltar Sponsored Patients.

On Tuesday he will attend the Mounting of the Guard by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment at Buckingham Palace followed by a lunch at St James' Palace.