



PRESS RELEASE

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FIRST MEETING OF GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY HELD IN PUBLIC

*Three new policies adopted –
Nurse Practitioner prescribing to be introduced*

The first meeting of the Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) open to the public was held yesterday in a packed Charles Hunt Room at the John Mackintosh Hall, under the chair of the Minister for Health, Dr John Cortes.

The revised Standing Orders of the Authority were adopted unanimously. These will among other things govern the running of meetings in public.

The Agenda included a report from Management on activities in the last quarter, including the Director of Public Health's report.

Three motions were passed unanimously. The first followed a presentation by Xenia Duarte of the GHA's Environmental Task Group on environmental measures being taken by the GHA. The Authority then adopted the proposed GHA Environmental Policy, which will now formally influence activity throughout the GHA.

The second policy adopted was the one to govern conflict of interest of Members.

The third motion was to adopt the Formulary to be used by Nurse Practitioners. The Government will shortly be amending the law to allow Nurse Practitioners to prescribe medicines. This is standard in the UK and has been supported by General Practitioners and Nurses in Gibraltar for some time. It will greatly assist in improving the service offered at the Primary Care Centre.

A number of questions were taken from the public.

Future meetings of the Authority will provide the opportunity for individuals and groups to address the meeting, provided notice is given in advance. In future also, papers for the meetings will be available a minimum of seven days before in a number of public buildings and on the GHA website (www.gha.gi) where minutes will also be posted when approved.

It is envisaged that there will be a minimum of four meetings a year.