

	<p>HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR MINISTRY OF EQUALITY & SOCIAL SERVICES 14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE GIBRALTAR</p>	<p>HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR MINISTRY OF TOURISM, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE PORT SUITE 631 EUROPORT GIBRALTAR</p>
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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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Official Bathing Season 2012

Saturday the 9th June will see the start of the Official Bathing Season, when full facilities become available at all Gibraltar's beaches. These include Lifeguard and Royal Gibraltar Police cover, together with attendants at all the toilets. Changing rooms with showers (where available) will also be open. The season ends on the 10th September.

Although most beaches have been used for many months, a refurbishment programme has been carried out by the Gibraltar Tourist Board to ensure that all the beaches are at the highest possible standard for beachgoers in time for the commencement of the official bathing season. The assistance of beach users is requested to ensure that all these facilities remain in a good state by making sure that any litter is placed in the bins that are provided and if faults are discovered, that they are reported to the attendants on site.

Western Beach will also be opened but will be the subject of strict monitoring by the Environmental Agency, the Department of the Environment and the Gibraltar Tourist Board. A protocol for dealing with contamination is in place and bathing will not be allowed if there is deterioration in the water quality.

Some new initiatives have been added to the beaches, with the toilets at Western Beach being moved beside the entrance, extra parking at Eastern Beach and more access ramps at Sandy Bay.

Once again the Care Agency will be providing facilities at the northern part of Eastern Beach in order to allow people with temporary or permanent disabilities access to the beach with ease during the summer period. This service will allow individuals with a disability or restricted mobility the opportunity to access the sea and greater integration and enjoyment for families and friends. The facility can be accessed by residents of Gibraltar and those visiting Gibraltar.

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The facilities will include a reception pergola which will be manned by Staff from the Care Agency and 3 beach tents. The specialised equipment will include amphibious chairs, a hoist and a wheelchair to assist people wishing to access the service from their cars. In addition to this, there will also be tables, chairs and umbrellas available for visitors to the service.

The service will run for the duration of the bathing season, opening from 12 noon to 7pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays and on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 6pm.

The Government will continue to work over the winter months to further improve Gibraltar's beaches for next year.

For further information on the Eastern Beach Mobility Service, please contact:

Shopmobility Centre, ICC - 200 79898
Care Agency Beach Assistance – 54018017
Gibraltar Tourist Board, Duke of Kent House, Cathedral Square –
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