



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Health & Environment
Floor 7, Block 1, St. Bernard's Hospital, Harbour Views Road
Gibraltar

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH VISITS ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE

Minister for Health, the Hon Dr John Cortes has visited the St John's Ambulance Association to update himself on the services which the Association provides both to the GHA and to the community in general.

"I feel that as Minister for Health I have a duty to be fully aware of all that they do for the community and for young people,' said Dr Cortes. 'But it is a real pleasure to support the work of the St John's Ambulance organisation: they are often in the background but they provide a vital service in supporting the health and welfare of our citizens. The importance of this support from the voluntary sector cannot be overstated."

Albert Mena, the Association's Chairman and Leslie Edmonds, its Commander, explained to the Minister the procedure by which the GHA asks St John's to transfer provided patients to and from Spain and, on other occasions, to transport urgent supplies of blood for use at St Bernard's. Dr Cortes was also briefed on the services which St John's provides at every big community event such as the annual fair and National Day – and all at no charge to the organisers. The Association is also an active youth organisation with around 90 members under the age of 12, all of whom are trained in basic First Aid.

'We welcomed the Minister's initiative to come and see us,' said Albert. 'We are an integral part of the community and, when asked, we give considerable support to the GHA. This has been an excellent opportunity to exchange our ideas with him.'

The Minister visited both the Association's current premises at Coaling Island and its future home in Waterport, which is currently being tailored to fit the Association's needs.