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**PRESS RELEASE**

No: 708/2012

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**PRESS OFFICE RESPONSE TO MONCKTON CRITICISM**

In response to the Monckton Press Release, we can only re-state our original version of events.

The first contact we had with the Monckton team was a telephone call received from a Mr Scott on Thursday 18 October. The conversation was perfectly polite and reasonable. Mr Scott asked if accreditation could be arranged and we said that, although the deadline had passed, it would be possible for a Press Pass to be issued in the name of Lord Monckton. We confirmed that the Pass would be ready for collection on the following day – indeed, Mr Scott was the first to collect a Pass on the Friday and hence it was ‘Number 1’.

We now turn to the issue of the missing emails. Our email address at [pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi) has multiple users. None of our several PCs has any record of an incoming email on the two dates/times mentioned in the Monckton Press Release. Even if one person had, either by accident or design, chosen to ignore or delete his message, other members of staff would have seen it. We were anticipating an application from Monckton, we were looking out such an application and we were surprised that none had been received – especially as the Chronicle twice contacted us to ask if we had received anything. On both occasions, we made it clear to Paco Oliva that we had heard nothing from the Monckton team.

It would have been utterly illogical for us to have ignored emails from Monckton and then immediately to have provided accreditation via a telephone call.