



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Health & Environment
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PRESS RELEASE

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GSD INACTION CREATED LAGUNA 'APE' PROBLEM

Lack of action by the GSD when in government to deal with the problems of Laguna Estate resulted directly in the "Ape " problem currently being suffered there.

It was well known that many of our Estates were forgotten during the time of the last administration. This led to many consequences. In Laguna, for example, the bin stores were left without doors several years ago, leaving the rubbish deposited there totally exposed.

The group of monkeys currently frequenting Laguna is the one that was formerly at the Caleta Hotel, originally from Middle Hill. Possibly in response to the weather, they wandered along the base of the cliff and arrived at Laguna, where they found this continuous source of food, provided by the rubbish in bins out in the open as the bin stores had no doors. This has directly resulted in the problem with monkeys at the site at present.

Contractors and Department of Environment staff are working daily in the area to try to coax them back onto the Upper Rock, while the bin store doors are being made and their replacement will commence this week. This is the first time that Departmental staff are being deployed directly to deal with the macaques.

Other action is in the planning stages. The group at Laguna will be the first to be transported away from Gibraltar as soon as confirmation is received from one of various destinations that have expressed interest. Already the holding cages that will be used while the onward shipment is being prepared are under construction. These facilities will continue to be useful in future as part of the management of the macaques.

Reports have suggested that a number of people are feeding the monkeys at Laguna. Members of the public are asked to not do so. Apart from the fact that it is an offence that can attract heavy fines, it will render all efforts to push the monkeys away from Laguna useless. The Police should be contacted if anyone is seen putting out food for the monkeys.