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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Chief Minister writes to Prime Minister about Civil Guard shooting incident**

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo, has told the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron, that the incident in which Spanish Civil Guards shot at a jet-ski inside British Gibraltar Territorial Waters was dangerous and wholly unacceptable. He added that this and other incursions constitute a serious challenge to Gibraltar's jurisdiction and British sovereignty.

The Chief Minister has sent a long letter on the subject to Downing Street today in order to put across the strength of feeling in Gibraltar on this issue.

Mr Picardo has told Mr Cameron that the protest made by Minister for Europe David Liddington to his Spanish counterpart in Luxembourg yesterday is both welcome and necessary but that this could prove insufficient.

"Diplomatic action to date appears to have had no material effect and I fear that Spain will not be deterred by yet another verbal protest no matter how robust," Mr Picardo has said.

He has added that it is important that Spain feels the true weight of British reaction to continuing violations of our sovereignty.