



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Health & Environment

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MINISTER IN UK TRIP

Minister for Health and the Environment Dr John Cortes will be in the UK for several days this week to attend a number of meetings in the Isle of Wight and London.

The Isle of Wight's health services are similar to Gibraltar's in that primary, secondary and mental health care are managed by the same health care provider. It is hoped that close links will be developed between the GHA and the Isle of Wight, which will provide opportunities for training and development in particular. Designate Chief Executive of the GHA, Freddie Pitto will be closely involved in developing this initiative, and the visit is part of his preparation for taking on the role of CEO on 1st September.

During the visit, Dr Cortes will be performing the official opening of the new Pathology Department of the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, an event which will be widely covers in the Isle of Wight's media.

In London, there will be meetings with the Department of Health and visits to a number of hospitals with a view to improving services available for patients from visiting consultants and as sponsored patients.

A visit to Kingston and St George's University will serve to develop the relationship that already exists with the GHA School of Health Studies.

While in London, Dr Cortes will also be meeting with Foreign & Commonwealth Office officials to discuss a number of matters related to environmental protection in Gibraltar.