



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

PRESS RELEASE

No: 659/2014

Date: 1st December 2014

AIR DISASTER EXERCISE

On Wednesday afternoon, 3 Dec 2014, a joint Government-MOD Air Disaster Exercise will be held at the Eastern end of the runway. It is a requirement of both civil and military aviation authorities that such exercises are held regularly. Wednesday's exercise will also provide Emergency Service commanders with the opportunity to exercise the new Gibraltar Airport Emergency Plan.

The exercise activity will start once the BA flight has departed at about 1500 and is likely to last between two and three hours. It will involve about 100 'passengers', many of them with supposed injuries, played by soldiers from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and by students from the secondary schools. Many of the 'injured' passengers will need to be quickly taken by ambulance to St Bernard's Hospital.

As the exercise will involve all the emergency services, members of the public are warned to expect to hear sirens and to see fire engines, ambulances and police vehicles in the vicinity of the airport and the hospital. There will be extra traffic around Winston Churchill Avenue so motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible late on Wednesday afternoon.

Note to Editors:

Minister Linares, Minister for Civil Contingencies, will formally handover the new Command Support Unit to the emergency services on Wednesday 3rd December at 11:30am in the Rosia Police Compound.

Members of the press wishing to cover the exercise should meet at the Devil's Tower Camp barrier at 1500.