



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 15th October 2025

Chief Minister's Address to Parliament – Reassurance for the Business Community following Residency Pause

Madam Speaker,

Honourable Members will be aware of the Government's decision on 6th October 2025 to introduce a temporary administrative pause on new long-term residency registrations for EEA and UK nationals, following publication in the Gazette of Legal Notice No. 246 of 2025 - the Immigration (EU Exit) Regulations 2025.

Madam Speaker, given the significant interest for local and international media and, in my view, unnecessary concern being expressed by some in Gibraltar, I wanted to make a Ministerial Statement today to provide further reassurance to our community, and business community in particular.

Firstly, and most importantly, GIBRALTAR REMAINS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

The measure we announced earlier this month is NOT a closing of our doors.

It is the Government acting in the best interest of our community in a way that will manage the UNPRECEDENTED demand for residency.

Over the past three years, Gibraltar has experienced an exceptional rise in new arrivals, with figures showing over 3,000 people migrating to Gibraltar between 2022 and 2024:

- 952 in 2022
- 896 in 2023
- and 1,245 in 2024.

The increase since the conclusion of the UK-EU treaty negotiations has been UNPRECEDENTED.

The temporary suspension simply means that, from 6th October, anyone without a valid registration certificate, residence card, or permanent residence document, and who had not applied before that date, cannot now submit a new application.

Those who did so before the 6th October remain unaffected, and their applications will continue to be processed as normal.

The Chief Minister, that is to say ME, retains a statutory power to authorise new residence documents in limited circumstances, such as where it is necessary to meet an international obligation, prevent extreme hardship, or serve Gibraltar's economic interests.

Those decisions require my approval.



Following the publication of the Regulations, the Department of Immigration and Home Affairs saw a sharp rise in attendance and enquiries, including from individuals whose documentation had long expired or who had not been in contact with the Department for several years.

I want to make it absolutely clear, Madam Speaker, that these measures are not intended to affect people who are legitimately living, working, investing, or otherwise contributing to our community and economy.

They are designed to prevent ABUSE of the system and to strengthen the integrity of our residence framework as Gibraltar prepares for the new treaty environment.

Madam Speaker, I also want to address the business community directly, because I know that this announcement has generated understandable questions from employers and investors, both here at home and overseas.

Let me be very clear: nothing in these Regulations prevents legitimate business growth, relocation, or the recruitment of necessary expertise.

Existing or NEW businesses, financial services firms, gaming operators, maritime companies and other sectors that rely on specialist talent will continue to operate without disruption.

Where a business demonstrates an economic need to recruit skills not readily available locally, or where investment supports growth and employment in Gibraltar, such cases will continue to be considered under the provisions that allow authorisation in Gibraltar's economic interests.

So Madam Speaker, to be clear, if a local business needs to recruit someone from outside Gibraltar or if a new business wants to relocate to Gibraltar – THIS HAS NOT BECOME AN ISSUE AFTER 6 OCTOBER 2025.

Madam Speaker, what we are trying to do is PROTECT the integrity of our systems while ensuring that those who genuinely wish to live, work and invest here continue to find an OPEN and WELCOMING Gibraltar.

Madam Speaker, Gibraltar is open for business and it will stay that way.

I hope that this now provides the House and the wider community with the additional reassurance that was being sought.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ENDS