



PRESS RELEASE

No: 14/2015

Date: 10th January 2015

GIBRALTAR TO HAVE A HEALTH SURVEY

In his Budget Speech of June 2014, the Minister for Health Dr John Cortes gave his commitment to the next Health and Lifestyle survey to take place in 2014-15, stating that the creation and successful completion of such projects highlighted the commitment by the Government and the Gibraltar Health Authority to ever closer understanding of the health of our people.

During January-March 2015, the GHA will be conducting the Health and Lifestyle survey. This will be Gibraltar's second Health Survey of the local population, the last one having been in 2008, with the results published last year.

The Survey will aim to find out the levels of perceived health in the resident population as well as gather information on eating, drinking, physical activity and other lifestyle parameters. It will also be able to make comparisons with the earlier Survey and examine trends.

The Survey will collect data by randomly selecting around 750 adults resident in Gibraltar and asking them some questions about themselves. It will be conducted face to face at the doorstep by trained and uniformed surveyors working for the GHA, but all the replies will be anonymous, that is, no identity details will be recorded. Each survey should take about 20-30 minutes.

Dr Vijay Kumar, Director of Public Health, who is leading on the Survey, said that it was very good news that the Government has approved the Health Survey. Such surveys are quite demanding and usually conducted only every five years or so in large countries like the UK, but for a small country like Gibraltar to do the same demonstrates its farsightedness. The information from the Survey will be valuable in determining future health priorities for the nation.



But Dr Kumar appealed to all the people of Gibraltar to play their part in making the Survey successful. He said: “Nobody, including myself, knows exactly who in Gibraltar will be selected to receive the Questionnaires as the whole process has been randomised to make it scientific. But if you are amongst the chosen, I hope you will give us your full co-operation and contribute wholeheartedly to this Survey, as opportunities like this come only rarely.”