



PRESS RELEASE

No: 375/2016

Date: 18th July 2016

"UK will always stand up for Gibraltar" says Cameron

The Government has received a further written undertaking from the former Prime Minister David Cameron, while still in office, that Gibraltar should be fully involved in the process established by the United Kingdom to exit from the EU. He added that the UK will work in partnership with the Government of Gibraltar to seek to ensure that its interests are properly taken into account. These comments were made in a letter to Conservative MP Bob Neil, a good and constant friend of Gibraltar, who raised a number of questions with Downing Street.

In addition to this, Mr Cameron has said that the idea of a "UK-Gibraltar common market" is being looked at across the UK Government as a matter of urgency.

Importantly, he confirmed that there are currently no plans to introduce any changes to the treatment of gambling marketing services, in particular in relation to VAT.

The former Prime Minister also made it clear that, following a request from the Chief Minister, the Ministry of Defence have agreed to place the planned redundancy announcement on hold and have agreed to pause the public consultation over the implementation of the new Operating Model in British Forces Gibraltar.

Mr Cameron also declared that one of the top priorities of the UK remains a well-functioning Gibraltar-Spain border. "It will take some time for our future relationship with the EU to become clear but I can assure you that there will be no immediate changes in Gibraltar's circumstances. There will be no initial changes in the way people can travel or in the way services can be sold", he has explained.

"Gibraltar has been British for 300 years and I want to keep it that way," said Mr Cameron. "The United Kingdom has always stood up for Gibraltar, and we always will", he concludes.

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said: "The Government is very pleased that the issues we raised with the United Kingdom have been dealt with at the highest level and are being looked into so quickly. I also want to thank Bob Neil who is a great friend of Gibraltar for taking up these matters with Downing Street. This final communication from former Prime Minister David Cameron, whilst he was still in Downing Street will be very welcomed by all and in particular by the gaming and insurance industry and those who are employed in the Ministry of Defence."