

**His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE
Governor & Commander-in-Chief**



**The Convent
Gibraltar**

Tel: +350 200 45440

The Honourable Fabian Picardo KC MP
Chief Minister
His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar
No 6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
GX11 1AA

10th September 2026

Dear Chief Minister,

I am commanded by His Majesty The King to submit to you the following message on the occasion of Gibraltar's National Day:

"As the people of Gibraltar mark the occasion of their National Day, my wife and I take this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations to your Chief Minister and to all those who call Gibraltar home.

I have a very special affection for the Overseas Territories, and I greatly value the unique character, traditions and contributions of each Territory within our wider British family. The strength and steadfastness of your community, your pride in our shared heritage and your commitment to progress are all qualities I deeply admire.

This year's celebrations come at a particularly significant moment in Gibraltar's history, following the signing of the Treaty between the United Kingdom and the European Union in respect of Gibraltar. This historic milestone opens a new chapter for the Territory, and I am confident that Gibraltarians will embrace the opportunities it brings while continuing to cherish the close bonds that unite Gibraltar and the United Kingdom.

As Gibraltar looks to the future, I am heartened by the commitment shown to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. The new arrangements offer important opportunities for greater environmental cooperation, helping to safeguard the rich natural heritage of the Rock and its surrounding waters for generations to come. I am particularly encouraged by the efforts of local organisations and volunteers to protect Gibraltar's coastline, including through their support for the Royal Commonwealth Society's Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign.

My wife and I trust that the coming year will bring continued progress and wellbeing to the community of Gibraltar.

Charles R."

Yours,

Ben