



POST OFFICE ACT

DESIGNATION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVIDER

NOTICE NO. P01/2020

1. On 17th July 2013, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 4B (2) of the Post Office Act (the "Act"), the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), designated the Royal Gibraltar Post Office (the "RGPO"), as the Universal Service Provider in Gibraltar (the "Designation").
2. The Designation was valid for a period of 7 years subject to conditions imposed on the RGPO.
3. In February 2020 it was determined by the Authority that a process of public consultation would be undertaken to determine whether the RGPO would be designated as Universal Service Provider in Gibraltar, following the expiry of the Designation. It was envisaged that the process would involve feedback being obtained from interested parties in order to ensure that, in accordance with section 4B (3) of the Act, the conditions under which universal services are entrusted are based on the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and proportionality so as to guarantee the continuity of the universal service provision, by taking into account the important role it plays in social and territorial cohesion.
4. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Authority determined that proceeding with the public consultation during the period of uncertainty had the capacity to render the exercise fruitless and thus not compatible with the above stated principles.
5. The Authority has determined that following the measures undertaken by Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar in its Unlock the Rock document¹ the above-mentioned public consultation can now be carried out in a manner compatible with the above principles.
6. In order to ensure that the public consultation proves productive, a particular amount of time must be afforded to interested parties for the provision of comments, and subsequently, for the Authority to provide a response to the consultation. It is envisaged that the period by which the Authority will be in a position to publish the response to consultation will be after the 17th of July 2020 and therefore, after the Designation expires.

¹ Unlock the Rock, Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, May 2020
<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/Unlock%20the%20Rock/UNLOCKTHEROCK.pdf>

7. In order to avoid there being an undetermined period in which no entity or entities are designated as Universal Service Providers

**THE AUTHORITY HEREBY EXTENDS THE DESIGNATION BY A
PERIOD OF NO LONGER THAN ONE CALENDAR MONTH**

that being the latest date by which the Authority will publish its response to consultation.

Dated this 1st day of July 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J Canessa', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Paul J Canessa
Chief Executive Officer
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority**