

PORT CIRCULAR 5 OF 2019

To: All Shipping Agents

From: Captain of the Port

Date: 10 June 2019

Re: **PORT CLEARANCE LETTERS**

Dear All

It has been brought to my attention that some agents have sought port clearance letters from the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce. The GPA understands that this practice has been now discontinued by the Chamber. The GPA has also become aware that agents may be issuing letters themselves purporting to be port clearance letters and that these are signed before a notary public although, it appears, the letters are not themselves notarised. We have been made aware that in at least one instance such a letter has been rejected by the Italian authorities.

IMPORTANT

1. All agents should be aware that the GPA will neither recognise nor endorse any port clearance letter which has not been issued by the GPA itself;
2. All agents should advise their clients of the risk in relying on a port clearance letter which has not been issued by the GPA;
3. The GPA will not issue port clearance letters retrospectively;
4. The GPA considers that the issuing of port clearance letters other than by the GPA itself exposes Gibraltar to negative publicity and affects the reputation of Gibraltar and is contrary to the public interest.

Please also note that consideration will be given to making it an offence for any person other than the GPA to issue a letter which purports to be a port clearance letter.

Please ensure that this information is cascaded appropriately.

BY ORDER OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT