



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Tough on Grime and Tough on the Sources of Grime : A New Contractor to Keep Gibraltar Clean**

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar is pleased to confirm that the new public cleansing contractor, selected after an open EU tender procurement competition, Britannia Premium Cleaning, will be taking over from Master Services and commencing operations as from Saturday 1st September.

Members of the public are advised that any cleansing issues can still be reported to the Department of the Environment's Environmental Feedback section on 200 65964 or email: [env.feedback@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:env.feedback@gibraltar.gov.gi).

The new arrangements entered into will provide for increased and improved cleansing that will now start to be implemented as a result of the Government's renegotiation of the provisions inherited from the previous administration.

These improvements will be particularly welcome by the general public in relation to increased frequency of street flushing.

Importantly, in respect of the key issue of cleanliness, the Government reminds members of the public of their own responsibility not to litter or dirty public places. A zero-tolerance approach will be taken by the competent authorities with regards littering and fly-tipping offences.

Increased resources, including CCTV and environmental monitors, will therefore be deployed to act on reports of litter hotspots and general cleansing issues as part of the new cleansing and monitoring arrangements moving forward.

The Minister for the Environment, Dr John Cortes, explained that "I am delighted that Britannia is now engaged in the business of keeping our public areas clean. We have re-negotiated the terms of the public cleaning contract for Gibraltar and I am looking forward to seeing the step change I anticipate this development will represent in the context of local cleanliness. For the Government, the commencement of the Britannia contract marks the start of HMGOG's 'Tough on grime, Tough on the sources of grime' campaign, with a view to tackling in a sustained and sustainable manner, the perennial issue of cleanliness of our urban and other environments. To keep Gibraltar clean requires commitment not just from a cleansing contractor, however, but also from each and every



citizen. We must all take personal responsibility not to litter and to properly dispose of our rubbish in the required manner."

Chief Minister, The Hon Fabian Picardo, QC, MP added: "This is a new chapter which I have no doubt will improve the overall cleanliness of Gibraltar. The cleanliness and proper upkeep of our urban and other public areas is a critically important issue for the community. We are committed to doing what is within the reach of this Government and the resources available to it, to contribute to the effort of keeping Gibraltar looking its best. But it is equally important for people to realise that there are issues of civic pride in play in this respect too. We are all in this together, and whilst we spend a significant amount of taxpayer resources in this respect, I believe that we can do more, as a community, to keep Gibraltar clean. We all have to do our bit. We must each ensure we do not litter and we must each ensure that we dispose of our rubbish properly. That is why we are not just going to be tough on grime. We are also going to be tough on the sources of grime. We are therefore considering how to improve the current practices/collection in respect of business refuse, in particular in the context of catering establishments. Additionally, we are looking at campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of disposing of litter and refuse properly as well as looking at how to modernise the information available to the public in the context of waste and refuse disposal. This may also involve the introduction of a requirement that dog walkers should be equipped to clean up after their pets, and the introduction of fixed penalties for failing to comply with such requirements. This is all part of our campaign of enforcement in respect of the cleanliness and upkeep of our common outside areas with a particular focus on key locations where leisure and entertainment establishments operate.

Coupled with our new, non-polluting power station soon to come on stream and the new wastewater treatment plant on which we are progressing, this new contract will help to make our environment more attractive. Our ministerial 'environmental filter' is working.

Together, we can all make all the difference. I therefore call on citizens and business owners alike to do their bit to keep Gibraltar clean. This Government encourages all citizens to be tough on grime and tough on the sources of grime. We all have a personal responsibility for our common environment and that's how we'll make Gibraltar cleaner than ever. I know the workforce of Britannia and it's directors will not let us down!"