



## GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Trade, Industry, Employment and Communications  
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### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **RETRENCHMENT BLOCK**

The Government has issued a tender for the total refurbishment and upgrading of the Retrenchment Block at Lathbury Barracks and the conversion of this building into facilities for local clubs and associations.

The building forms an integral part of Gibraltar's southern defensive lines. It constitutes a two-storey stone building with a defensive frontage on its external South face and a building façade on its internal North face. The building has undergone several modifications in recent times to allow it to be used in various ways by the MOD.

The new external works will include the following:

- Demolition of the present concrete walkway to re-expose the original underlying façade, including its stone features.
- Provision of a new traditional style open access walkway.
- Replacement of all windows and doors.
- New roof waterproofing measures.
- Cleaning of all external stonework.
- Landscaping of the forecourt areas including provision of planting and paving.
- Vehicular areas will provide 42 private car spaces and collection/dropping-off points.
- Further parking will be available in adjacent areas south and east of the main building.

Internally, the building is divided into rooms of approximately 25-50m<sup>2</sup>. These will form the basis of the new small clubs accommodation either as individual or joint facilities (this depending on allocation needs).

The new internal proposals will include the following:

- Provision of a maximum of 31 club rooms (to be allocated as independent individual rooms or grouped as a reduced number of larger venues depending on allocation needs).
- Internal rooms will be reconditioned to include new ramped access, new partitions, repairs to defective surfaces, new decoration, and new flooring.

- The refurbishment includes the provision of modern service needs – these include new basic electrical and emergency installations to each room (internal fittings will be the responsibility of each occupant).
- Communal facilities will include a kitchenette and toilet facilities at each level, a lift for disabled access, 4 meeting rooms, and facilities for a dedicated site operative.

The project duration is estimated to be 15 months.

The Minister for Trade & Industry, the Hon Joe Holliday said, “Overall the refurbished building will provide over 1270m<sup>2</sup> of usable internal space within a centralised venue. It will serve to give a new lease of life and make valuable use of a historic facility which would otherwise remain disused and in a state of continuing deterioration. This facility will be able to accommodate the demand there is for suitable premises for clubs and associations”.