



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE
Suite 771
Europort
Gibraltar**

PRESS RELEASE

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Please find attached the speech delivered by The Hon G Licudi, Minister for Justice, on the occasion of the 2011 RGP Recruits Class Passing Out parade.

Your Excellency, Chief Minister, Commissioner, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be here at this Passing Out Parade and as Minister for Justice to welcome the new recruits to a career as a police officer with the Royal Gibraltar Police. It would not be an understatement to describe the job that they are about to embark on as one of the most important to any community.

It will be their job to protect the public from violence and other crime.

They will face daily challenges where no two days will be the same.

They will support victims and witnesses of crime and provide a reassuring presence in the community.

The challenge to the new recruits will be to live up to the values expected of the office of constable so as to contribute to and enjoy the trust of the community.

They will be required to perform their duties with honesty, integrity and impartiality.

They will be expected to treat people with dignity and respect at all times irrespective of their background, status, circumstances or appearance.

They must also be versatile. In addition to their role as law enforcers, there will be times when they will be called upon to act as first-aider, social worker, counsellor and negotiator. The recent survey by the Gibraltar Police Authority indicated that 64% of the respondents were satisfied with the overall service provided by the police.

The challenge now is not only to maintain this level of public confidence but to improve upon it.

Over the last 22 weeks, the recruits have completed a comprehensive course to allow them to respond to the day to day needs of the Police Service.

The recruits have been provided with tuition on Neighbourhood Policing, on law and on operational procedures.

They have also undergone training in other areas such as First Aid, Safeguarding Children, Public Order and Unarmed Defence.

I know that to attain the standards demanded by the Royal Gibraltar Police is no easy task.

I would therefore like to congratulate the recruits for their dedication and application in successfully passing their course.

But today does not mark the end of the road in their training. Indeed, this is just the beginning.

For the next 19 months, they will be deployed to operational duties where they will be tutored and mentored by their peers.

During this period of their learning and development programme, the recruits will be enrolled in an Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Policing.

They will be investigating crime using not just technology but also traditional methods which have stood the test of time.

They will also be using their knowledge and their skills in the important area of crime prevention.

The Royal Gibraltar Police is moving to a new, modernised, intelligence led neighbourhood policing style with a strong emphasis on citizen focus and problem solving.

This will involve a concerted multi-agency approach to address the needs of the community.

The new recruits will form an integral part of this programme.

I wish them every success in their new career.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Commissioner Wink who retires after 36 years of dedicated and valuable service to the police and to Gibraltar as a whole. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

I also welcome the Commissioner designate, Eddie Yome, to his new role at the helm of the force. He has difficult shoes to fill but I have no doubt that he will do so with professionalism and enthusiasm.

The efforts of each and every member of the Royal Gibraltar Police make our daily lives safer and better. We thank them all for the great service they provide.