



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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NEW AIR TERMINAL TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL THIS MONTH

The Government has set a target date of Wednesday 26th September to transfer the departure operations at Gibraltar airport to the new air terminal building. Notice to this effect has now been given to the commercial entities, organisations and other stakeholders in the Air Terminal.

This will mean that under the current plan, flights to and from Gibraltar Airport will operate exclusively from the new terminal after that date.

The decision to commence full operations follows the resolution of most of the technical and other matters that prevented the move from happening before now. It was simply not possible for the new Government to have commenced departures from the building earlier, given the number of issues that needed to be resolved as a consequence of the rush to open it for arrivals only at the end of last year. The different staff, for example, needed to be trained on the new systems and the equipment itself needed to be thoroughly and properly tested.

The traditional lower incidence of flights during the winter season, as opposed to the summer months, will permit the organisations involved to continue learning how to better operate all the systems incorporated into the new building.

The Government has entered into a number of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with different contractors in the building who will continue to provide the service at a cost. Fourteen additional Borders and Coastguards Agency staff have been recruited and are being trained.

Commenting on the matter, the Deputy Chief Minister, with responsibility for Civil Aviation, Dr Joseph Garcia said:

“There are further works planned in order to enhance the passenger experience. This includes the provision of landside and airside overhead weather protection to protect passengers as much as possible in the event of inclement weather. There are also further sums of money to be spent on equipment which is required and which was not provided for in the original contract. On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank the Air Terminal Director Terrence Lopez, his staff and all the agencies and organisations who are working very hard to make this happen.”

The new air terminal building was opened on 26th November last year just before the general election was called in a move which included a series of public viewings. The total cost of the building alone is already well over 80 million Euros.