



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and
Justice
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PRESS RELEASE

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COMPLETED LAW COURTS BUILDING OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE HON.
GILBERT LICUDI QC, MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Following the final completion of the Gibraltar Law Courts, the building was officially opened on the 14th September by the Hon. Gilbert Licudi QC, Minister for Justice, in the presence of the Hon. Fabian Picardo, Chief Minister and the Rt. Hon. Sir Paul Kennedy, President of the Courts of Gibraltar.

The completed Law Courts now provide four Supreme Courts, two Magistrates' Courts and a Coroner's Court. As well as the additional courtrooms, the building has facilities for all court users, disabled access, security facilities and a range of new technology to help the court processes.

Speaking at the opening of the Law Courts the Minister for Justice, the Hon. Gilbert Licudi QC, said,

"The completion of the new Law Courts has allowed the Government to introduce a number of improvements to the Court Service. A video link between the Magistrates' Courts and HM Prison has been established. This allows routine hearings to be dealt with by the Court without the need for defendants who are held in custody to be brought to the court.

New IT systems are being installed. This is part of a wider e-justice programme which is aimed at improving online access to court services. We are already starting to see the benefits of this with access to court judgments online and a new website for the Court Service.

With the new courtrooms comes a need for greater resources. The Government has approved the engagement of nine additional staff. In addition, a new system for dating court applications has been introduced. This means that applicants no longer have to wait months to be notified of the date of their hearing. Generally, the most they will wait is two weeks.

All of these improvements represent a significant step forward in the administration of justice in Gibraltar."

Mr Licudi thanked all those involved in making the new building a reality.