



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY FOR HOUSING AND THE ELDERLY**  
CITY HALL  
JOHN MACKINTOSH SQUARE  
GIBRALTAR

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Albert Risso showers to be modified due to lack of planning by previous Government**

The new Government will have to carry out important modifications to the shower units in Albert Risso House because the GSD administration did not consult the relevant healthcare professionals before putting them in.

It has been found that around 20 flats have been waiting for the go-ahead for alterations which were approved by the Occupational Therapist. The problem is that the shower units are accessed by a step which is too high for a number of elderly people with disability or mobility issues. There are also problems related to access to the balconies. This has resulted in tenants having to remain in hospital thereby occupying beds that could easily be released to patients who are waiting for a bed. In other cases, tenants have had to endure genuine hardship and inconvenience because the alterations to their flats have not been made.

The permission for the modifications to be made was held back by the previous GSD Government. The estimate available to the new Government is that this will cost £5000 per flat or £100,000 in total.

Commenting on the matter, Minister for Housing and the Elderly, the Hon. Charles Bruzon MP said:

“It saddens me enormously that this problem was not thought of and tackled earlier at the design and construction stage. This would have saved a considerable amount of trouble and expense now.

I have always believed that it was a good idea to construct flats of this nature, but it is essential that the needs of the elderly are considered and taken into account beforehand. It is regrettable that the planning of the GSD Government has been found to be lacking.

Moreover, it has been indicated to me that bathroom shower doors have been fitted to open inwards within the flats at Albert Risso House., thereby restricting tenants from exiting the shower unit after they have finished. It also makes it more difficult, in the event of an accident, for someone to get the elderly person out of the shower.

The new Government will continue to introduce improvements wherever possible for the benefit and welfare of our elderly tenants.”

For further information please contact the office of the Minister for Housing on Tel.20075039