

HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR MINISTRY OF EQUALITY & SOCIAL SERVICES 14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE GIBRALTAR

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

No: 192/2013

Date: 20TH March 2013

NEW MINI BUS

The Ministry for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port, together with the Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd, announce that a new mini bus has been purchased to suit immediate needs for the daily operation of services to Mount Alvernia.

The Government received representations about the need for a bus service to Mount Alvernia, particularly given that many who visit the residents are elderly themselves. It will be recalled that very shortly after this Government took office, the Bus Company made arrangements to introduce bus route No 7. In order to do this as soon as possible, an existing bus was used pending the acquisition of a new vehicle.

The Mini Bus was purchased from local dealer Lucas Imossi Motors Ltd.

The Ford Transit's emissions conform to EU Regulation 80/1268/EEC, as amended. It has undergone some modifications to meet the logistics of the service and is equipped with seat belts for the safety of passengers.

Commenting on the acquisition of this new mini bus, Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port, the Hon Neil Costa MP stated:

""My Government is fully committed to the renewal of the aging fleet of the Bus Company with ECO Friendly Buses, as previously announced in Parliament. Due to delays of spares of one of the older mini buses, it has been necessary to purchase this new Ford Transit Minibus which has been in service on the Mt Alvernia route and Both Worlds route since 4th March."

The Minister for Equality and Social Services, the Hon Samantha Sacramento MP said: "The route is used by some residents but mostly by their relatives and visitors, many of whom now visit more frequently. It also helps members of staff, given that there is very little parking available at Mount Alvernia. The initial route was reviewed and extended following consultation between the Ministry for Transport, the Gibraltar Bus Company and the Care Agency. We have received nothing but positive feedback since the introduction of this much needed service which is now enhanced with the provision of a brand new bus".

Telephone No: (350) 200 78871 (Centrex: 2750) ; Fax No: (350) 200 78899 (Centrex: 3511) Email: <u>info.mttp@gibraltar.gov.gi</u>