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New Chairman for Police Authority

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has thanked Richard Garcia for all his work as Chairman of the Gibraltar Police Authority (GPA) and it now welcomes the selection by the Specified Appointments Commission of Mr John Gonçalves MBE as his successor.

The GPA is an essential element of the constitutional architecture as it ensures the operational independence of the RGP. It also ensures the RGP's transparency and its accountability to the community it serves. Gibraltar has gone further than the UK in ring-fencing the police from political or other control by actively excluding politicians from the GPA.

Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo said, 'I am very grateful to Richard for his outstanding work in this role. On behalf of the whole community I wish to thank him for his commitment to the task and to congratulate him for his undoubted achievements over the two years he has spent as Chairman.'

Mr Gonçalves has a Civil Service background but he was also the General Manager of Gibraltar Airport Services from 1989 to 1992 and Chairman of Terminal Management Ltd from 1992 to 2011. He has been a member of the Gibraltar Sports Advisory Committee since 1972, President of the Gibraltar Amateur Basketball Association since 1984, a member of the Board of the European basketball Federation (FIBA Europe) since 2003 and its Vice President since 2010.

He was appointed as a Member of the British Empire in 2007.