



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

PRESS RELEASE

No: 201/2014

Date: 5th May 2014

LIABILITIES FOR GSD'S PROJECTS MAY COST UP TO £15m

Some of the major housing projects undertaken by the GSD administration are costing this current Government around £15M. Essential repairs to the various housing estates built in the last 10 years will cost about £8M and, furthermore, this Government is in litigation, facing a claim for £7M to Barclays under the OEM's liquidation, although the current Government is challenging that claim. In total therefore, the GSD administration's projects may end up costing the taxpayer an additional £15M, all of which would otherwise have been available to spend on our schools, medical facilities and other projects.

The biggest single area of expenditure will be at Nelson's View, Bay View and Cumberland Terraces where windows and balcony doors have needed to be replaced, external walkways to be resurfaced and external cracks repaired. Substantial other refurbishments, such as new gutters and downpipes, are also needed.

The same is true of remedial works required at Bishop Canilla House, parts of Waterport Terraces and at the Mid Harbours estate.

As a result, this Government has inherited a huge repair bill across the GSD estates, most of which are only a few years old.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo, said, 'Whether the cause of these repairs was poor design or inadequate building by the original contractor, Haymills (which has since been liquidated), this Government is committed to putting the faults right and to improving the quality of life for the residents. It is our intention to complete the vast majority of the work within the next 12 months. Sadly, the money we now need to spend on some of these repairs could have been used to good effect on our other commitments and works which would have benefitted the whole community.'