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NEW OFFICIAL ADDRESS REGISTER

For many years Government departments and agencies have held separate address databases often with different or inaccurate addresses. This has caused and continues to cause confusion and has not been helped by the fact that people and businesses have sought to use an address of their liking or named a building or property, without there being any sort of official control or management.

The Government is setting up an Official Address Register, that will apply to all premises in Gibraltar and which is being set up by legislation and relevant regulations. As soon as the Register comes into effect all official documents, applications and legal documents will have to include the official address as it appears in the Register. The Register will be managed and held at the offices of Land Property Services Limited.

Most people will find that their address will remain the same, but some addresses have had to be corrected and some streets renumbered. In the latter case, occupiers have already been informed of changes to their address. The Government is launching a consultation period of four weeks in which persons or businesses can check their address in the Register and raise any anomaly. An address can be checked on the internet if you are a Ratepayer at <u>www.lps.gi/addressing</u> or in person at the offices of Land Property Services Limited at 50 Town Range. Anyone wishing to raise a query can do so at addressing@lps.gi or in person.

In future, addresses can only be allocated by the Address Registrar and anyone wishing to put a name to a property or building must apply to the Registrar for approval to that name. This is to avoid duplication, conflict with another name, or confusion that may arise with postal or other services.

In order to complete the Register, the Government has also had to name 35 streets, lanes and paths which up to now did not have an official name. These are in the process of being Gazetted.

The new Register has been incorporated into the Government GIS system and official addresses will be gradually synchronised through Government departments and agencies including emergency services. There will therefore be a transitional period whilst other databases are updated.

The Government hopes that by regulating the creation and management of addresses, more efficient delivery of mail and public services will be achieved. It will also lead to compliance with EU Directives related to the dissemination of information and services.