

Ministry of Housing and Equality

PRESS RELEASE

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Equality Means Business; further training on making premises accessible organised by Government in March

The Ministry for Equality, in preparation for the introduction of new disability legislation, is pleased to announce further training on disability diversity. This forms part of the Equality Means Business seminars aimed at the private sector and also educates on the business case for inclusive organisations.

This week will see various types of training seminars on a range of matters in relation to public events delivered by Attitude is Everything for both the public and private sector. There will be further, different training on offer in early March, the latter focusing on access audit training making premises accessible.

One of the major changes that will be brought about by the new legislation, will be the introduction of building rules which will require that all buildings or any refurbishments that require building applications will need to be totally accessible to people with disabilities. The new rules will be very similar to the Part M Document in the UK.

Once again the Ministry for Equality has engaged Ian Streets from About Access to provide access audit training. Ian is no stranger to Gibraltar having already provided very successful training on this subject several times in the last few years.

Following on from a fully subscribed morning training session offered to the private sector in December last year, further, more in depth training on the subject is being offered by way of a 2 day course to be held at the University on Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th March 2016. This training is aimed at professionals in the building industry and will be taught how to be more inclusive in their designs and creations.

Minister Sacramento said "The Disability Bill and Building Regulations are important pieces of legislation that will introduce changes to ensure that access to buildings and services are more inclusive to people with disabilities, we continue to organise training to support the community in understanding the impact of these changes. Gibraltar is a caring community and these changes are being embraced positively, as a Government we will ensure that everyone affected by the changes are supported with training and information on the new requirements and will therefore be offering training on different subject matters throughout the year".

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure that Gibraltar is more inclusive of people with disabilities"

From past experience we know that this is training is very popular and likely to be fully subscribed. The Ministry for Equality ask that you register your interest in attending as soon as possible on <u>equality@gibraltar.gi</u> or 200 70112.

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