

PRESS RELEASE

No: 559/2018

Date: 21st September 2018

Minister Sacramento publishes regulations under the Disability Act 2017 to make public sector websites and apps more accessible to people with disabilities

Minister for Equality, The Hon. Samantha Sacramento MP, has published Regulations to make public sector websites and apps more accessible for people with disabilities.

The Regulations build on the existing commitment under the Disability Act 2017 which requires measures to assist people with disabilities with access to information, communication technologies and the internet on an equal basis.

The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 implement the EU Directive on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.

The Regulation ensures that the websites and applications of Gibraltar public sector bodies are made more accessible for users, in accordance with common accessibility requirements, except where it would be disproportionate to do so.

Existing public websites need to comply by September 2020 and any websites created as from today must comply by September 2019.

An accessible website or app can provide access to information on a wider scale than previously possible. This means that people with disabilities have easier access to printed, audio or visual material; that citizens can access services and information, regardless of experience or ability; and that people using all kinds of devices from the oldest to the newest, will be able to use the website.

Minister for Equality, Samantha Sacramento MP, said: "I am very happy to introduce this measure which I think is an excellent initiative. We cannot escape that we now live in a digital age where access to websites is a daily and regular part of life. It is essential that access is available to everyone

Ministry of Housing and Equality

HM Government of Gibraltar • 14 Governor's Parade • Gibraltar GX11 1AA

t +350 20066481 (Centrex 2364) f +350 20042509 (Centrex 2368) e equ&h@gibraltar.gov.gi w gibraltar.gov.gi



on an equal basis. This measure will undoubtedly help to narrow the existing digital divide. The Ministry for Equality is working closely with the Government's IT Department to give this effect”