



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Minister Costa meets RGP and GDP trainees at New Mole House**

Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Honourable Neil F. Costa MP, addressed the new intake of Royal Gibraltar Police (RGP) and Gibraltar Defence Police (GDP) recruits ahead of their passing out parade.

Minister Costa's visit to the RGP headquarters at New Mole House Police Station, which he undertakes annually, since his appointment as Minister for Justice, allowed him, once again, to gain first-hand insight into the final stages of the new recruit's preparation, prior to becoming operational Police Officers. The current recruit intake is made up of 14 RGP and 3 GDP recruit constables, who are currently undergoing a 17-week initial police training course. The training includes: criminal offences, police powers and other legislation, along with investigative skills and interview training. The recruits are also involved in practical sessions, including public order, unarmed defence tactics and the use of, and exposure to, incapacitant spray. The recruits will take part in their passing out parade at John Mackintosh Square on Wednesday 13th March 2019, prior to becoming operational.

Commissioner of Police, Mr Ian McGrail said: "A Minister's visit to New Mole House provides recruits with an invaluable opportunity to have close contact with a Government Minister, which is not something that will be very common, once they start their operational duties. As with previous occasions, it was encouraging to see how new entrants pose interesting questions to politicians, which helps them to understand their thinking. Given the law and order challenges that Gibraltar faces in the coming months and years, it is very important that we have clear lines of communications with the government of the day to ensure that vital policing issues are prioritised and given the importance that they deserve."

As Minister with responsibility for Justice, Minister Costa highlighted the vital role that police officers play in upholding law and order in our community, providing a key public service and keeping Gibraltar safe. He stated: "I would like to thank Commissioner McGrail for offering me the opportunity to, once again, address the new recruits at New Mole House. To serve and safeguard one's community is an honour and a great responsibility. Every one of the new recruits is taking a brave step in facing the trials and sacrifices that come with a career in policing. I wish to reiterate my strong support and admiration, and that of the Government and, I am sure, of our community,

Ministry of Health, Care and Justice

HM Government of Gibraltar • Zone 1, Level 7 St Bernard's Hospital, Harbour Views Road • Gibraltar GX11 1AA

t +350 20007011 (Centrex 2027) f +350 20059942 e [ministry@gha.gi](mailto:ministry@gha.gi) w [gibraltar.gov.gi](http://gibraltar.gov.gi)



for the invaluable work the police forces carry out. As Minister with responsibility for Justice, I am entirely committed to ensuring that the RGP is adequately resourced and equipped to deal with the challenges that arise.”