



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
GIBRALTAR COURTS SERVICE
Chief Executive's Office
277 Main Street
Gibraltar

CIRCULAR TO ALL CHAMBERS

12th July 2012

Updates on court services

Following the opening of the new Law Courts, we are now moving forward on other changes and improvements to our services. This circular provides a brief update on these.

New performance indicator for receipt of hearing dates at the Supreme Court

In response to concerns from the Bar about delays in the receipt of hearing dates, a new performance indicator for this area of work is being introduced this month.

Standard: Following submission, Supreme Court applications will receive notification of a first hearing date within five working days. For applications with a hearing time estimate of more than one day, notification of the first hearing date will be within 10 working days.

Target: 95% of applications to receive their hearing date within five working days, or 10 working days in the case of hearings estimated at more than one day.

Our performance against the target will be monitored on a monthly basis.

Change of e-mail addresses for Gibraltar Courts Service

Please note that we have moved our e-mail addresses to a new domain name (www.gcs.gov.gi). All GCS staff e-mail addresses now have the format firstname.surname@gcs.gov.gi

The old e-mail addresses will continue to be active for several months and e-mails to these old addresses will be forwarded to our new e-mail accounts automatically. However, it is recommended that any electronic contact lists with court e-mail addresses are updated as soon as possible.

New Gibraltar Courts Service website

A new website covering information about the courts in Gibraltar, court services, jury service and the justice system was launched this week. The website can be found at www.gcs.gov.gi and it will continue to be developed over the coming months to add additional information and features.

Videolink

A new videolink between the Magistrates' Court and HM Prison has now been tested and is in use. Initially, this system will remove the need for defendants to be produced to court for remand hearings, which will save time for the court, prison officers and police officers.

The system will continue to be developed and we are working to provide additional videolink facilities in the coming months. This will allow the possibility of providing videolink evidence to be provided in court by vulnerable victims and witnesses. It will also give the Supreme Court options in the handling of hearing involving parties from overseas. Further updates will be provided when these services become available.

Alan Davies
Chief Executive, Gibraltar Courts Service

c.c: The Hon. Mr. Gilbert Licudi QC, Minister for Justice
Mr. Ricky Rhoda, Attorney General