

BLUE LIVES

2024



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TRUST & COMMUNICATION

We welcome you to the 6th edition of the Blue Lives Magazine. Your continued support for this annual publication is invaluable and we extend our heartfelt thanks to our readers and sponsors who make this magazine possible.

Communication with the public is a cornerstone of our work at the Malta Police Force. Every interaction, every touchpoint shapes public perception and impacts the trust and confidence you place in us. In our 210 years of service, we have never had as many internal and external communication channels as we do today, ensuring we stay connected with the community we serve.

In a world dominated by social media, this magazine remains a vital tradition, offering a yearly update on our investments and initiatives aimed at enhancing your safety and security. We take pride in sharing our stories, achievements and the strides we are making to provide you with a more professional and trusted policing service.

Thank you for your trust and support. Together, we continue to build a safer and more secure Malta.

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THE MINISTER'S GRATITUDE FOR BLUE LIVES

I am honoured to address you through this edition of our esteemed police magazine. Your unwavering dedication and service to our community continue to be a source of immense pride and inspiration. Every day, you stand at the forefront, upholding the law, ensuring public safety, and continuing to foster trust within the communities you serve.

Your role has never been more critical in these challenging times. The complexities of modern policing demand not only courage and resilience but also a commitment to ongoing learning and adaptation. I want to acknowledge your remarkable efforts in embracing positive change, new technologies, enhancing your skills, and implementing innovative strategies to address emerging threats.

Your exemplary performance during recent events has been commendable. Whether responding to emergencies, managing public events, or engaging in community, you have consistently demonstrated professionalism and dedication. These actions not only safeguard our citizens but also reinforce the bond of trust between the police force and the public.

As we look ahead, our priorities remain clear: to support you with all the necessary resources, training, and legislative backing to perform your duties effectively. We are committed to enhancing your work conditions and welfare, ensuring your safety, and providing opportunities for professional growth. The government also fosters a work environment that values diversity, inclusivity, and mental well-being.



HON. BYRON CAMILLERI

I encourage you to continue upholding the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. Your work is the bedrock of a safe and just society. Let us all stay united in our mission, embracing the values that define our noble profession.

Thank you for your service, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment to protecting our nation. We will continue to build a safer and stronger community for all. Stay safe, stay strong.

PUSHING THE BLUE ENVELOPE

Travelling downhill is easy, though dangerous and potentially life-threatening; travelling uphill is challenging, pitted against falling debris, tiresome, and at times, health-shattering.

The road we travel is not an easy one, and halfway through the strategy, a period of consolidation and reflection is ever so vital. This is necessary before we take the steps to fulfill the final two years of the Transformation Strategy. Having instigated such a process a decade ago, one could readily imagine that this process was destined to be actuated, but the rapid pace and steady progress surprised me, such that one can trace the lines of action that led to the current status. One can dream and imagine, but it was only with a steady hand at the wheel that this ship sailed. The Commissioner of Police, who was also conceptualising such a Strategy, led the charge to implement the transformation. He built a reliable and energetic team, established a target-oriented senior management structure, created synergies with social and community entities, pushed officers out into the street, prepared the Force for future-proofing, and brought on board national and international experts. Each of these steps was pivotal to the phased approach to change, eventually transforming the entire Police Force, which now owns the strategy and its implementation.

Has it been an easy run? Definitely not. There were trials, tribulations, safeguards, and insight and foresight



PROFS. SAVIOUR FORMOSA

reviews, ensuring that the uphill struggle was well worth the pain points and that each phase built on the tried and tested previous ones.

The next years will seek those who aim to maintain the gathered pace, the strivers for change, and also those who will ensure that the pace is enhanced. This is especially important since the Eurobarometer indicated that the Police Force is highly trusted by the population (61%), well above political parties (36%), justice (35%), and the media (26%). We must be doing something right.

STRIVE ON.



HAVING INSTIGATED SUCH A PROCESS A DECADE AGO, ONE COULD READILY IMAGINE THAT THIS PROCESS WAS DESTINED TO BE ACTUATED, BUT THE RAPID PACE AND STEADY PROGRESS SURPRISED ME, SUCH THAT ONE CAN TRACE THE LINES OF ACTION THAT LED TO THE CURRENT STATUS

FOUR YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRESS

Four years ago, I was privileged and honoured to be appointed to head the Malta Police Force following a public call for applications and a thorough selection process. From day one, I clearly articulated my vision: to transform the Malta Police Force into a flexible, efficient, data-driven, and community-centric organisation.

While it is up to the public to judge, supported by national and international surveys and yearly crime statistics, today I stand as a proud Commissioner of Police, reflecting on the significant transformation we have achieved. This transformation, driven by the dedication of skilled and motivated colleagues and supported by our society, has led to increased trust and confidence in the police, greater operational efficiency and effectiveness, and ultimately a safer Malta.

The cornerstone of our progress was the five-year Transformation Strategy launched in September 2020. This strategy aimed to modernise the Malta Police through 49 initiatives, of which we have implemented close to 70% to date.

The principal outcome of this strategy is the increased trust and confidence in the police. Police legitimacy is fundamental for effective policing. Ultimately, policing is not a monopoly of the police, and much of our success relies on our partnership with the communities we serve.

Not only have we restored public confidence, but as evidenced by the Eurobarometer survey, the Malta Police ranks as the most trusted institution on the Islands, far surpassing political parties, the justice system and the media.

Our success in restoring this trust is reflected in the highly motivated (74%) and proud (89%) officers who have embraced the cultural transformation. Despite some initial resistance, not only have 86% of our members reported experiencing positive changes through the implementation of the Transformation Strategy, but today 81% of our employees trust the Malta Police leadership,



POLICE COMMISSIONER ANGELO GAFÀ



POLICE LEGITIMACY IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR EFFECTIVE POLICING

signifying their enhanced commitment to be part of this essential evolution of the Malta Police Force.

Good governance principles and accountability have also been pivotal in achieving these positive results. Enhanced internal and external communication and the extension of community policing have strengthened our relationship with the public. By the end of this year, community policing is expected to encompass all towns and villages, further embedding the police within the community.

Throughout this period, we have prioritised our officers' wellbeing, significantly improving their take-home pay, modernising the fleet, upgrading technology, donning body-worn cameras, improving working environments, and introducing a modern, practical uniform. These changes have dignified our officers' roles and contributed to a more professional Police Force.

Despite challenges such as a growing population, increased diversity, and a booming tourism industry, we have successfully reduced crime. Theft reports, for instance, have dropped to the lowest levels in 25 years. As an example, last year's statistics (4,731 thefts) represent just 42% of the theft reports in 2004 (11,333 cases).

While we have succeeded in keeping the physical environment safe and secure, the stark reality is that our homes are becoming more dangerous than our streets. Indoor crimes such as computer crime, online fraud, and domestic abuse have increased substantially over the years. The ratio between street crime and indoor crime has evolved significantly in the past 20 years, from 96:4 in 2004 to 60:40 by the end of 2023.

Recognising the evolving nature of crime, we have given considerable priority to financial crime and cybercrime. We have expanded our workforce in these areas, with over 30 officers in the Cyber Crime Unit and nearly 100 in the Financial Crime Investigations Department, now the largest specialist unit within our organisation. Enhanced international collaboration, specialist training, and significant investments in technology have been crucial in addressing these complex crime challenges while enhancing overall policing standards. The operational dynamics of the Police Force have entirely changed.

The increase in domestic abuse reports, up by over 50% in the past four years, is principally attributed to a reduction in previously unreported cases (the dark figure of crime) as a result of a more professional and empathetic service delivery through a centralised Police Gender-Based & Domestic Violence Unit, as well as heightened

awareness. The positive turnaround we've made in this area over the past four years is significant, and it is a great honour that days ago, this Unit was rewarded with the Quality Label, a commitment to providing excellent service to our clients.

The progress made over the past four years testifies to our commitment to good governance, professionalism, and police legitimacy. As I head into my second term as Commissioner of Police, I remain committed to steering the Malta Police Force towards its mission: 'to provide a professional and trusted policing service to ensure safety and security in partnership with the community.'

DOMINE DIRIGE NOS!



NOT ONLY HAVE WE RESTORED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, BUT AS EVIDENCED BY THE EUROBAROMETER SURVEY, THE MALTA POLICE RANKS AS THE MOST TRUSTED INSTITUTION ON THE ISLANDS, FAR SURPASSING POLITICAL PARTIES, THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THE MEDIA



MODERN SUSTAINABILITY AT MALTA'S HISTORIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS

The Malta Police General Headquarters in Floriana is a testament to historical architecture and sustainable practices. Constructed in the 1700s during the period of the Knights of St. John, this building has served as the main hub for the Malta Police Force for the past 70 years.

Our ancestors, the Knights of St. John, were early adopters of green building principles, designing structures with features that naturally regulated temperature and reduced energy needs. High ceilings were a crucial design element in these historical buildings, providing temperature stability by allowing hot air to rise above the living space. This natural convection process kept the lower areas cooler, a significant

advantage in hot climates like Malta's. On the other hand, thick walls made of materials with high thermal mass, such as stone, absorbed and stored heat energy from the environment. During the day, these walls would absorb heat, preventing rapid temperature increases inside. At night, they would release the stored heat back into the cooler exterior environment, stabilizing indoor temperatures.

However, over the years, as interior spaces were reorganised, many high-ceilinged floors were converted into two levels to maximise the use of available space. This reorganisation, combined with the advent of equipment that generates significant heat—such as computer systems which require cooler temperatures to operate efficiently—necessitated a more modern approach to energy



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conservation. These changes rendered traditional passive cooling methods less effective, making it essential to update the building's infrastructure to meet contemporary energy efficiency standards.

Following a meticulous restoration of the building's façade, an EU-funded project aimed at enhancing the environmental sustainability of governmental buildings was tapped into. As part of this programme, all external-facing apertures—amounting to around 100 windows and doors—were replaced. On the first floor, wooden fixtures were installed to maintain the building's traditional aesthetic. For the upper floors, PVC windows and doors were chosen for their durability and modern insulating properties. From a distance, the wooden and PVC fixtures are indistinguishable; only by touch can the difference be noted. Both types of apertures respect the original colours and styles, ensuring a seamless blend with the historic architecture. These new installations feature triple glazing, providing excellent insulation against noise, dust, and temperature. More importantly, they help retain interior temperatures, a crucial feature during Malta's scorching summers, ensuring the efficiency of air conditioning systems within the building.

The renovation also included an upgrade to the skylights, significantly enhancing the building's interior lighting. The large halls within the headquarters, known for their grand size, now benefit from enhanced natural light, eliminating the need for any artificial lighting during the day. This improvement not only conserves energy but also creates a more pleasant working environment for the staff.

These modern interventions reflect a careful consideration of both the historical value of the Police General Headquarters and the practical needs of its current occupants. By integrating modern materials and technology with traditional craftsmanship, the project ensures that the building continues to serve its vital role in Malta's Police Force while preserving its storied past for future generations.



About the Sponsor: Social Innovative Projects Management Ltd is a limited liability company with its objective is that of providing Professional, Project Management and Consultancy services regarding construction and embellishment projects to any department/authority entity owned by the Government of Malta. The company's three section pillars are mainly Architecture, Engineering and Procurement whereby a number of warranted architects and civil engineers, engineers, experienced project managers, site supervisors, draughts persons and qualified procurement personnel are engaged within SIPM Ltd. Social Innovative Projects Management Ltd services include but are not limited to the following: Advisory role in assisting the client to meet its project objectives; Architectural and Engineering Service; Public Procurement; Project Management; Quantity Surveying; Monitoring of Project Cost. Social Innovative Projects Management Limited focuses mainly on three (3) pillars in cost, time and quality. In this respect, Social Innovative Projects Management Ltd will ensure that the projects will be completed within the committed budget, on time and up to the required standards.

ECO-FRIENDLY PATROL

The Malta Police Force is embracing a greener future with the recent launch of seven new electric vehicles, a significant step towards sustainable policing. These new additions to the fleet, comprising the MG5 SW EV Estate models, mark a commitment to reducing the environmental impact while enhancing the operational efficiency of the Force.

Out of the seven electric vehicles, three will be assigned to the Forensic Science Laboratory. These vehicles will provide the necessary mobility for forensic teams, ensuring they can reach crime scenes promptly and conduct their critical work without contributing to pollution. The remaining four vehicles will be utilised by the Community Police Teams. This strategic allocation supports the Force's dedication to maintaining a strong and

visible presence within the community, fostering trust and ensuring quick response times.

The MG5 SW EV Estate, is an excellent choice for the Force. Manufactured in 2023, these vehicles are powered solely by electricity, representing a clean alternative to traditional fuel-powered cars. Each vehicle is priced at €46,610, offering an economical yet advanced solution for modern policing needs. With a range of 400 kilometers on a full charge, these cars provide the necessary endurance for daily police activities, ensuring officers can perform their duties without frequent recharging interruptions.

Partially funded by Komunità Malta, this initiative showcases the collaborative efforts between various entities to support the Malta Police Force's transition to sustainable practices. Komunità Malta's contribution is a testament to the community's



commitment to fostering an eco-friendly environment and supporting the modernisation of public services.

The introduction of these electric vehicles is a pivotal step in the Force's ongoing efforts to modernise and become more environmentally conscious. It reflects a broader strategy of integrating technology and sustainability into daily operations. By adopting electric vehicles, the Malta Police Force not only

enhances its operational capabilities but also takes a significant step towards a greener and more sustainable future.

This move is expected to yield substantial long-term benefits, including reduced operational costs and a lower carbon footprint. As the Malta Police Force continues to innovate and lead by example, the community can look forward to a safer and more sustainable environment.



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FEMALE PIONEERS IN THE FIELD OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

Traditionally, the realm of police forensics has been predominantly associated with men. However, in recent years, there has been a notable shift in this paradigm, with an increasing number of young women expressing interest in the field. This burgeoning interest has paved the way for a new era in forensic science, one where women are making significant strides and leaving an indelible mark on the profession.

Within the Malta Police Forensic Science Laboratory (MPFSL), this transformation is palpable. Currently, the laboratory boasts a diverse team of 28 female employees, comprising both civilian personnel and interns. Among

them, 19 are dedicated civilian staff employed with the Malta Police, while an additional 7 female interns are currently undergoing practical training as part of their criminology studies.

The MPFSL encompasses various specialised sections, each playing a crucial role in the investigation process. From the meticulous examination of crime scenes to the intricate analysis of documents, DNA, and fingerprints, these women are at the forefront of cutting-edge forensic techniques. Moreover, with units dedicated to 3D forensics, facial recognition, and CCTV analysis, they demonstrate a commitment to staying abreast of technological advancements in the field.



In recent years, the MPFSL officers have expanded their horizons beyond traditional forensic work, actively engaging with the community through outreach events. Notably, the laboratory's participation in events such as "Science at the Citadel" has become a fixture on its annual calendar. Organized by the Eco-Gozo Directorate within the Ministry for Gozo, this science education event provides an opportunity for the public to gain insights into the fascinating world of forensic science.

By participating in such events, the MPFSL not only showcases its expertise but also fosters greater public understanding of the importance of forensic science in law enforcement. Moreover, it serves as an inspiration to aspiring young women who may harbour ambitions of pursuing a career in this dynamic and challenging field.

In essence, the presence of women in police forensics is not merely a symbol of progress but a testament to their unwavering dedication and expertise. As they continue to break barriers and redefine conventional norms, these women are shaping the future of forensic science in Malta and beyond.



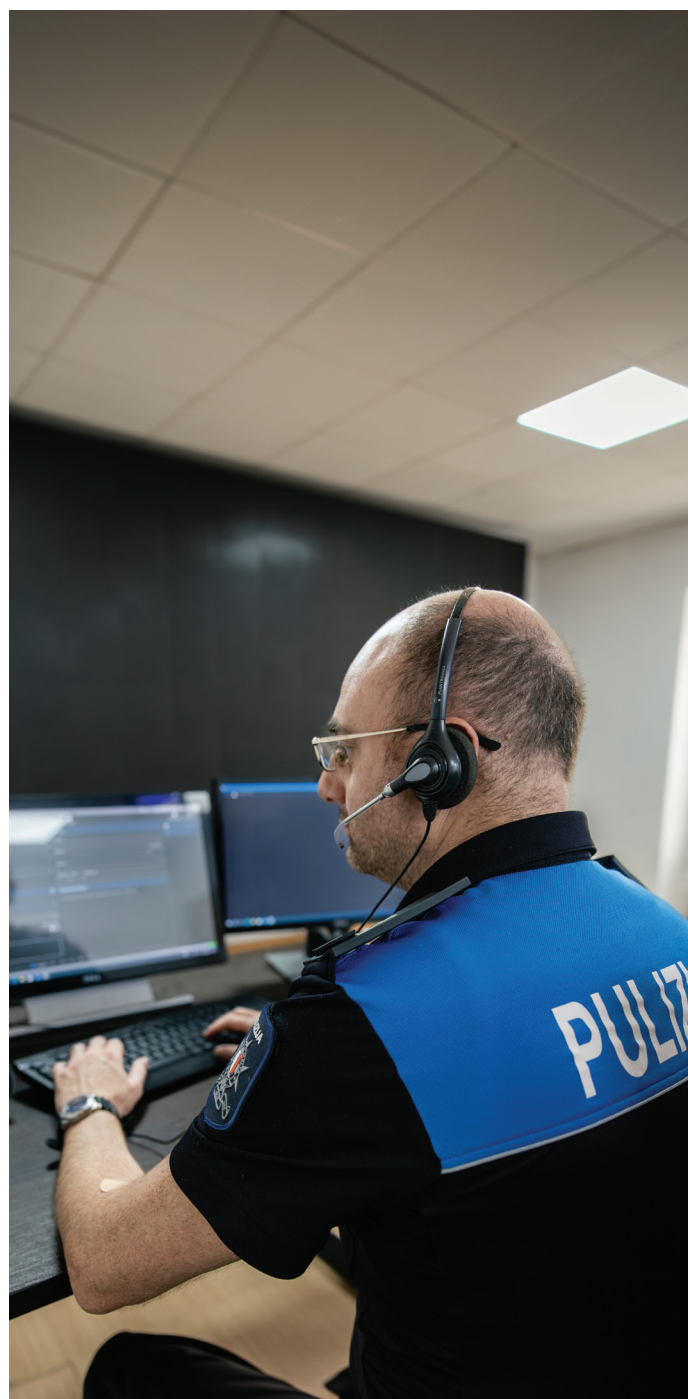
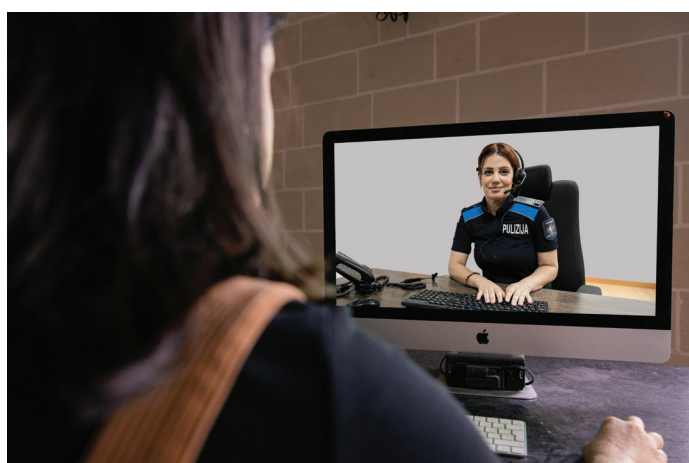
About the Sponsor: The vision of the Ministry for Gozo is to secure economic and social prosperity for the people residing in Gozo by implementing effectively and efficiently the regional and national strategies and policies within the context of the island's unique characteristics.

BRINGING POLICE SERVICES TO YOUR HOME

The Malta Police Force is revolutionising how citizens interact with law enforcement through the introduction of the Remote Reporting Unit (RRU). This innovative service allows you to report incidents from the comfort of your own home, ensuring a seamless and efficient process.

With the RRU, you can now communicate directly with a police officer without the need to visit a police station. All you need to do is fill out a simple form on the Malta Police Force website, specifying a convenient date and time for a call-back. Depending on the volume of requests, you will receive a call at your chosen time, where an officer will take your report over the phone.

The RRU utilises a variety of familiar communication platforms such as WhatsApp, Google Meet, Apple FaceTime, Microsoft Skype and Microsoft Teams. This flexibility ensures that you can choose the method that you are most comfortable with. For those who prefer traditional methods, regular phone calls are also available.



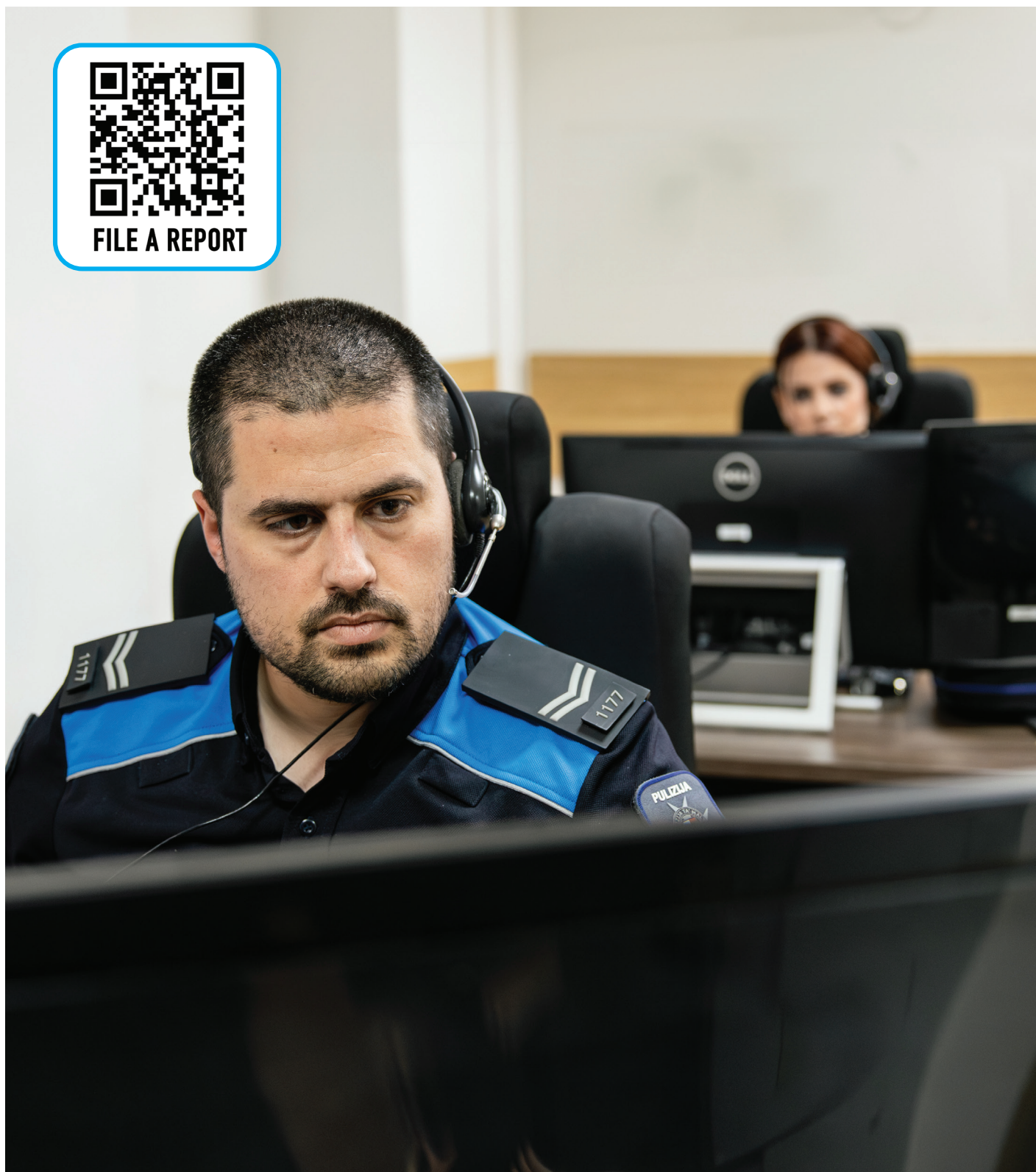
About the Sponsor: GO Business is a specialized B2B team within GO, dedicated to meeting the communication and technology needs of the local business community. By offering personalized attention and tailored solutions, GO Business ensures companies can operate efficiently and concentrate on their core activities.

This service is ideal for reporting lost items, damages, insurance claims and other non-urgent matters. During the call, the officer will record your report directly into the policing system, ensuring it is processed efficiently. In most cases, this means you won't need to visit a police station at all. A copy of the report will be sent to you via email for your records.

For more complex incidents that require further investigation, you may be asked to provide additional information or attend the police station for a follow-up.

However, the majority of reports can be fully handled through this remote system, making the process much more convenient and less time-consuming for you.

The RRU is designed to enhance your daily life by making police services more accessible and user-friendly. It reflects the Malta Police Force's commitment to leveraging technology to improve public service and ensure your safety and well-being. By using the RRU, you are assured of a responsive and efficient experience, bringing the police service directly to your home.



SECURITY THROUGH NEGOTIATING

Last February, after completing an intensive week-long course with the FBI Hostage Negotiators Team, the Malta Police Crisis Negotiating Team expanded by adding twelve new members. As a result, the team now consists of three Team Leaders and twelve Negotiators. In this training, the team was equipped with a unique skill set that includes active listening, empathy, patience and the ability to remain calm under extreme pressure.

What is the Role of the Crisis Negotiating Team? A crisis negotiator plays a critical role in resolving high-stress situations, such as hostage crises, barricade incidents, and potential suicides, where lives may be at stake. Their primary objective is to de-escalate the situation and achieve a peaceful resolution through communication and negotiation, rather than using force.

The team employs a range of psychological techniques to build rapport and trust with the individuals involved. Establishing a connection is crucial, as it enables the negotiator to influence the person's behaviour and decision-making.

During an incident, negotiators work closely with tactical teams, sharing vital information and coordinating strategies. They begin by gathering as much information as possible about the individuals involved, including their background, motives, and any immediate needs or demands. This information helps in tailoring the negotiation approach to the specific situation.

A key aspect of the negotiator's role is to slow down the incident, buying time for emotions to subside and rational thinking to return. This often involves engaging in lengthy conversations, demonstrating understanding, and offering reassurances. They also help manage the expectations of all parties, aiming to find a compromise that ensures everyone's safety.

Negotiators must be adept at reading verbal and non-verbal signals to assess the emotional state of the individual. They use this insight to guide the conversation, strategically steering it away from potential triggers and towards resolution. Ultimately, the success of a crisis negotiator hinges on their ability to foster communication,



convey empathy, and creatively problem-solve under pressure. Their efforts are instrumental in preventing violence and saving lives, making them an indispensable component of law enforcement and emergency response teams.

There are many instances when the team is deployed to ensure a smooth resolution. Most cases involve persons who express suicidal ideation. One of the longest negotiations dates back to November 2022, when

the Crisis Negotiating Team, comprised of Inspectors Omar Zammit, Kurt Zahra, and John Spiteri, engaged in negotiations with a man who had committed a homicide and barricaded himself in his house. After seventeen hours of intense negotiations, the suspect surrendered, aided by the intervention of the Police Special Intervention Team.

As long as a resolution can be achieved, time is not of the essence in negotiations!



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS,
SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT

sigurtà

About the Sponsor: The Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment plays a fundamental role in the security and well-being of the Maltese islands. The ministry gives political direction and launches initiatives in security and defence, immigration, law enforcement, citizenship and employment.

SAFEGUARDING VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, commonly known as the Istanbul Convention, promotes the cooperation of various entities working in the area of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (GBVDV). One such cooperation takes place through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting (MARAM), which aims to discuss measures to better safeguard victims.

The role of the MARAM is to facilitate, monitor, and evaluate effective information sharing between entities while enabling appropriate actions to reduce the risk of harm to victims of domestic violence and gender-based



About the Sponsor: The Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) is a national entity which helps vulnerable people by providing a variety of services for free. The foundation offers services associated with children, families, communities, and addictions, amongst others. The foundation is committed to develop its services further according to the needs of society, while remaining at the forefront, and improving social solidarity.

violence, and increase public safety. In a single meeting, a MARAM combines up-to-date risk information and assessment of a victim's safety needs. The primary focus of the MARAM is to safeguard the adult victim. Meanwhile, the MARAM also makes links with other agencies or services to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. At the heart of the MARAM is the working assumption that no single agency or professional can see the complete picture of the life of a victim, but all may have insights that are crucial to the victim's safety. Ensuring that the victim is supported throughout, and that their needs are represented at the MARAM, is crucial to managing risk, improving and maintaining safety, and reducing repeat victimization.

Each entity or service is represented by their Designated MARAM Officer (DMO), who is also trained in the Risk Assessment tool used to determine the level of risk a victim is experiencing. The role of the DMO is to present and share relevant information about the cases discussed while taking responsibility and making a commitment of resources and action to be taken to minimize the risk to safeguard the victim and children. The MARAM reviews and discusses cases that are referred by the DMOs of the various entities, which would have been assessed and deemed to be high risk.



THE MULTI-AGENCY FORUM PROVIDES VARIOUS ENTITIES WITH THE SPACE TO COOPERATE FURTHER IN THEIR WORK WITH THE VICTIMS, THEIR CHILDREN, AND THE PERPETRATORS.





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ANIMAL-FRIENDLY TRANSPORT

The Malta Police Force is taking a significant step forward in enhancing the capabilities and welfare of its K9 and Mounted sections with the introduction of newly launched vehicles. These additions are set to improve the efficiency, safety, and comfort of transporting police animals, marking a notable upgrade from previous resources.

FOUR NEW VANS FOR THE K9 SECTION

The K9 section, currently holding 31 dogs, has recently acquired four Ford Transit Connect vans. Manufactured in 2024, these vehicles are priced at €32,959.97 each, excluding VAT. These vans are specifically designed to cater to the needs of police dogs, ensuring their safe and comfortable transport to and from various operations.

Each van is equipped with multiple accessories tailored to the unique requirements of the K9 unit:

- Made-to-measure kennels: These kennels are custom-built to provide secure and comfortable spaces for the dogs during transit.
- Climate control: This feature ensures that the temperature inside the van remains optimal, regardless of external weather conditions, safeguarding the health and well-being of the dogs.
- Water pump: Essential for maintaining hydration and cleanliness, the water pump is a practical addition to the vans.
- Cladding: The interior cladding offers enhanced durability and easy maintenance, crucial for a vehicle frequently used in demanding situations.



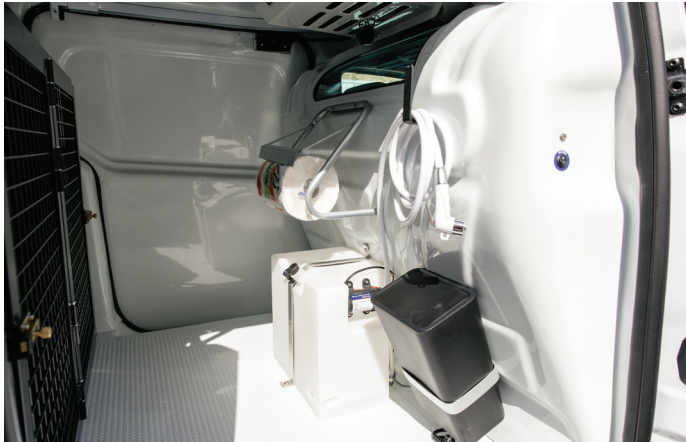


UPCOMING TRAILER FOR THE MOUNTED SECTION

In addition to the new K9 vans, the Malta Police Force is also awaiting the shipment of a specialized trailer for the Mounted section, expected later this year. The trailer, a Ford Transit model manufactured in 2024 and priced at €87,700, is designed to transport up to two horses at a time. The Mounted section currently comprises 14 horses, and this new trailer will significantly improve their transportation logistics.

The trailer boasts several features tailored to the needs of the Mounted section, including climate control to ensure a comfortable environment for the horses, preventing stress and potential health issues during transit, a water pump providing a reliable source of hydration, ample equipment storage for saddles, tack, and other necessary items, and cladding to enhance the trailer's durability and ease of cleaning, making it well-suited for frequent use.

The introduction of these new transport solutions represents a significant advancement in the support and operational efficiency of the K9 and Mounted sections, ultimately contributing to the overall effectiveness of the Force.



About the Sponsor: GasanZammit Motors Ltd is Malta's leading Automotive & Marine company, bringing world renowned brands to the Maltese market under one roof in Malta's Central Business District. GasanZammit Motors stands as the largest automotive and marine operation in Malta, and is the local exclusive representatives of: Ford, BYD, Mazda, Honda, Volvo, Isuzu, Yamaha, Maxus and Capelli. With the largest selection of vehicles, motorcycles & marine brands on the island, the GasanZammit showroom is a fully equipped centre that houses a body & spray shop, an extensive parts department and impressive 'frontline' workshops that are fully equipped with manufacturer-specific systems such as engine diagnosis and fault-finding apparatus, brake testers, wheel balancing systems and more. As the mobility industry evolves, GasanZammit Motors leads this change, championing sustainable technologies such as electrification, self-drive vehicles and charging infrastructure.

HOW TO SPOT AND AVOID ROMANCE FRAUD

In recent years, romance fraud has become an increasingly prevalent issue, with fraudsters exploiting dating platforms to deceive and financially exploit their victims. The Malta Police Force has identified several common methods used by these criminals, and it's crucial to be aware of these tactics to protect yourself.

Fraudsters typically begin by meeting their victims on dating platforms and quickly invite them to move the conversation to another chatting platform such as WhatsApp or Facebook. They often introduce themselves as soldiers on a mission or doctors, creating a persona that evokes trust and admiration. Once the fraudsters establish a rapport, they either request money directly or manipulate their victims into feeling guilty about not helping them financially.

If the victim agrees to send money, they are provided with multiple bank account numbers and bank details across different jurisdictions, making it difficult to trace the funds. Throughout this process, communication remains constant, with fraudsters providing false invoices and receipts to make their requests appear legitimate. Victims are often promised that their money will be returned, but when they start asking persistent questions about the return of their funds, communication may cease abruptly.

It's important to note that anyone can be targeted by romance fraud, but those who live alone, are separated or widowed, or are going through a breakup are at higher risk. Victims should not confuse these fraudulent schemes with genuine investment opportunities or other legitimate financial transactions.

To avoid falling victim to romance fraud, consider the following tips:

- Don't rush into online relationships. Take your time and ask frequent questions to verify the other person's identity.
- Check their name online using a search engine to see if there are any red flags.
- Never send money for any reason, no matter how convincing the story may be.
- Never provide your bank account details, as you could end up being used as a money mule.
- If you met the person on a dating app, continue communicating through that platform and avoid moving to other applications.
- Discuss the relationship with friends and family members to get their perspective and advice.

In 2023, the Malta Police Force received 20 reports of romance fraud, with an estimated total defrauded amount of €500,000. By staying vigilant and following these precautions, you can protect yourself from becoming a victim of romance fraud and help others by spreading awareness of these deceptive practices.



NEVER SEND MONEY FOR ANY REASON, NO MATTER HOW CONVINCING THE STORY MAY BE



About the Sponsor: APS Bank is one of the oldest banks on the Maltese Islands and is a leading provider of financial services, offering personal, business and investments solutions. Being a pillar of community banking for over a century, APS Bank is committed to the economic and social development of its marketplace.

TIPS TO AVOID

ROMANCE FRAUD

think twice before using your webcam

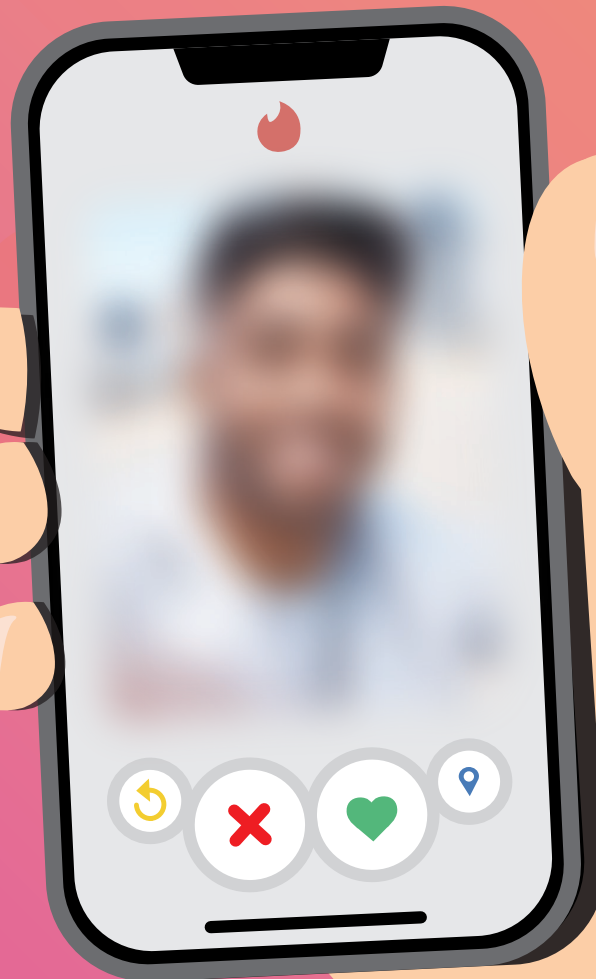
don't share personal contact details

only use trusted sites

don't send/recieve money

don't share personal details

trust your instincts



BALANCING DUTY AND PASSION

JANICE XUEREB - POLICE SERGEANT AND MALTA'S NATIONAL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM GOALKEEPER

Janice Xuereb is a remarkable example of dedication and resilience. Serving as a police officer for eight years, Janice has also been the stalwart goalkeeper for the Malta National Women's Football Team. Her journey in football began at the tender age of six, and she made her national team debut at just 16 years in 2013. Balancing a demanding career in law enforcement with her passion for football, Janice trains between 15 to 18 hours per week, often squeezing in sessions both in the morning and evening while managing her personal life and police shifts.

One game Janice will never forget is from last December when the Malta National Team achieved a historic 2-1 victory over Latvia. This triumph secured their promotion to League B of the UEFA Women's Nations League, marking the first time a Maltese team has qualified beyond League C. This achievement is a testament to the skill, dedication, and the collective effort of the team and it stands as a proud moment for the nation.



ANDREW GRECH - POLICE CONSTABLE AND ELITE RUNNER

Andrew Grech has served as a police constable for 21 years, and alongside his duties, he has established himself as one of Malta's fastest long-distance runners. With 24 years of running under his belt, Andrew trains daily, adjusting his kilometers according to the season while managing his personal life and police responsibilities. His dedication to the sport has seen him become the national champion in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters for two consecutive years. He also represented Malta at the World Half Marathon Championships, where he set a national record.

Since 2012, Andrew has been a regular participant in the Malta Full Marathon (42.195 km), consistently being the first Maltese national to cross the finish line for the past five editions. His achievements extend beyond national borders; in 2019, he represented the Malta Police Force in the World Police and Fire Games in China, where he won a silver medal.

INSPIRATION ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Both Janice Xuereb and Andrew Grech exemplify the extraordinary dedication required to excel in both their professional duties as police officers and their athletic pursuits. Their stories inspire not only their colleagues in the Malta Police Force but also the broader community, showcasing the incredible achievements that can be attained through perseverance, hard work, and passion. As they continue to serve and inspire, Janice and Andrew demonstrate the harmonious balance between duty and personal passion, embodying the spirit of excellence in all they do.



THEIR STORIES INSPIRE NOT ONLY THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE MALTA POLICE FORCE BUT ALSO THE BROADER COMMUNITY, SHOWCASING THE INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT CAN BE ATTAINED



About the Sponsor: Refreshing Malta for over half a century, GSD is the sole licenced bottler for the iconic Coca-Cola Company products, and a distributor for Monster Energy, Royal Swinkels, AB-InBev, Carlsberg, Heineken, Caffe Mauro and Llanyr source – offering the ideal beverage for every time of the day. Our dedication extends beyond quenching thirst; its about creating memorable experiences and opportunities for others to thrive in – offering a meaningful career experiences through our vast operations and exposure to world renowned branded well as participating in nation wide environmental initiatives driven by our vision of sustainability.

COMMUNITY EFFORT FOR A SAFER SOCIETY

Since January 2023, the Malta Police have received over 350 reports regarding shoplifting incidents. Out of these cases, over 50% has been successfully resolved, leading to the prosecution of the offenders. This achievement underscores the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between law enforcement and the community in combating this pervasive crime.

Today, the prevalence of closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance in most retail establishments has proven instrumental in identifying and apprehending shoplifting suspects swiftly. The integration of advanced technology has significantly enhanced the investigative process,

enabling law enforcement to gather crucial evidence and build strong cases against perpetrators.

However, it's crucial to recognize the severe consequences that shoplifting entails. Beyond the immediate police notification and apprehension, individuals caught shoplifting face the prospect of acquiring a criminal record, which can have long-term repercussions on their lives. In serious cases, imprisonment becomes a stark reality, highlighting the gravity of this offense.

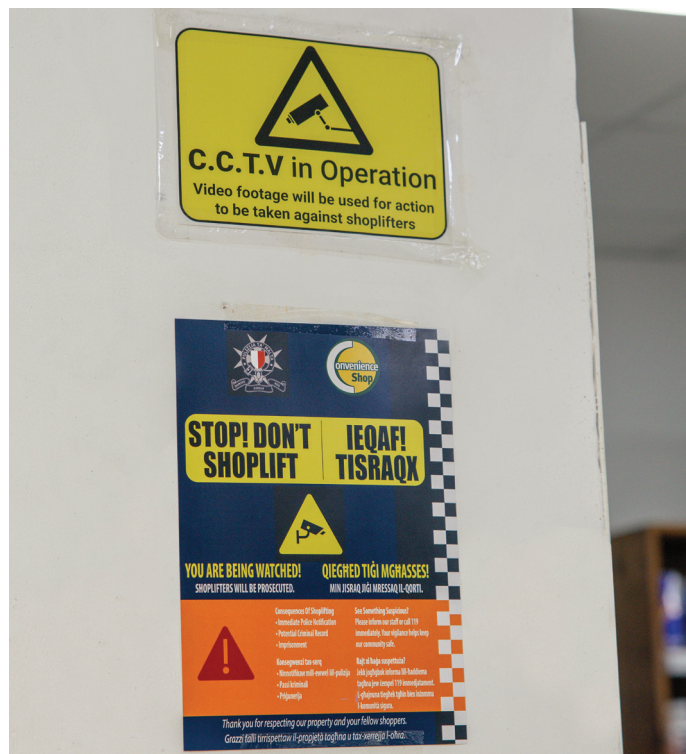
Community involvement is indispensable in the fight against shoplifting. If you observe any suspicious activity or witness a potential shoplifting incident, don't hesitate to inform the store staff or contact the authorities immediately, either directly or through the emergency



hotline 119. Your vigilance serves as a vital deterrent and contributes to maintaining the safety and integrity of our neighbourhoods.

In a proactive initiative, the Malta Police have recently partnered with the Convenience Stores to raise awareness about the consequences of shoplifting. Signs prominently featuring the Malta Police Force logo have been strategically placed within these establishments, serving as a visual reminder to potential offenders that their actions are being monitored. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of collective vigilance in deterring criminal behaviour and fostering a culture of accountability within our community.

As we continue to prioritise the safety and security of our society, let us remain vigilant and proactive in combating shoplifting. Together, we can create a safer environment for all, where the principles of honesty and respect prevail.



About the Sponsor: The Convenience Shop (Holding) plc - Founded in 2009, The Convenience Shop has grown to over 90 outlets across Malta and was listed on the Malta Stock Exchange in 2022. Partnering with COOP Italian FOOD S.P.A, it offers a wide range of affordable products. The company launched The Convenience Online and collaborates with international delivery networks to ensure customer convenience. With over 400 employees, the company values teamwork and corporate social responsibility, supporting local NGOs and vulnerable group including The Convenience Shop for Puttinu Cares in Qormi which directs all profits to the Puttinu Cares Foundation. Committed to being Malta's retailer of choice, it continually engages with stakeholders for growth and customer-centric services.



inectio

About the Sponsor: INECTIO LIMITED's dedication to excellence is evident in the robust functionality and seamless integration of the NGATE project. Their innovative approach has streamlined critical processes, providing the Malta Police Force with a reliable and efficient solution to modern security challenges. The NGATE project exemplifies the future of law enforcement technology, setting new standards in operational efficiency and security. Experience the transformative impact of INECTIO LIMITED's NGATE project and witness the next generation of policing solutions.

ENHANCING IT SYSTEMS FOR EFFICIENT BORDER SECURITY

In recent years, the Malta Police Force (MPF) has undertaken a significant transformation in its approach to border management, leveraging cutting-edge IT solutions to enhance security and streamline travel processes. This strategic endeavour, guided by the principles of Regulation (EU) No 2014/2015 Article 15, has seen substantial investments in IT infrastructure aimed at fortifying border controls while facilitating smoother travel experiences for legitimate passengers.

At the heart of this initiative lies a series of projects designed to modernise and optimise border management IT systems across Maltese border crossing points. With a focus on improving the management and control of travel flows at external borders, these projects aim to reinforce security checks while expediting border crossings for regular travellers. Central to this effort is the integration of advanced IT systems, including updates to the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the imminent deployment of large-scale systems such as the Entry Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).

The National Gateway (NGATE) project, developed by **INECTIO LIMITED**, represents a major leap forward in the operational capabilities of the Malta Police Force. This cutting-edge solution facilitates comprehensive person vetting through both national and international checks, leveraging advanced technologies such as security document capture, facial recognition, and fingerprint processing. By incorporating these sophisticated tools, NGATE ensures accurate and efficient identity verification.

Collaboration between the MPF's ICT section and operational units, notably the Immigration Section and the International Relations Unit, has been instrumental in driving these initiatives forward. Through close coordination and cooperation, the MPF has been able to ensure the seamless integration of IT systems and the effective deployment of associated equipment at border crossing points.

One of the key achievements of these projects has been the deployment of 45 Facial Image Capture Pedestals at strategic border crossing points; the Malta International Airport and Seaports including the Gozo Marina Port. These pedestals play a crucial role in enhancing border security by capturing facial images of travellers, thereby facilitating compliance with the EU regulation (EU) 2017/2226 for the Entry Exit System. By leveraging biometric technology, these pedestals enable authorities to verify the identities of travellers efficiently and accurately, contributing to robust border controls.



THESE PEDESTALS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN ENHANCING BORDER SECURITY BY CAPTURING FACIAL IMAGES OF TRAVELLERS, THEREBY FACILITATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE EU REGULATION (EU) 2017/2226 FOR THE ENTRY EXIT SYSTEM

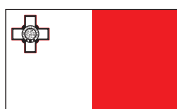
In addition to hardware deployments, through **EWORLD**, the MPF has implemented sophisticated server solutions to bolster audit mechanisms for file and domain services. The establishment of a Server Cluster Farm solution, configured for High Availability (HA), ensures the integrity and security of critical data while facilitating seamless access to information across MPF departments. This initiative underscores the MPF's commitment to maintaining enterprise-grade security standards in line with EU regulations governing large-scale IT systems.

Furthermore, the acquisition of a Multivendor IT Solution represents a significant milestone in the MPF's efforts to modernise border management capabilities and fulfils the EES regulation (EU) 2017/2226. This comprehensive solution enables secure connectivity for corporate devices, facilitating access to internal resources and enhancing operational efficiency. By deploying biometric mobile and handheld devices equipped with specialised applications, the MPF can efficiently process

and verify travellers at border crossing points, ensuring compliance with Schengen Border Code Regulation (EU) 2016/399.

The project "The development of the IT systems covered by Article 15 of the ISF Border and Visa and the premises hosting them", represents a substantial investment, which totals €2,238,681.57 excluding VAT. Co-funded through European Funds from the Internal Security Fund (Borders and Visa) National Programme 2014-2020, this investment underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in strengthening border security and safeguarding the integrity of Malta's borders.

In conclusion, the MPF's unwavering commitment to enhancing border management capabilities through advanced IT solutions reflects its dedication to fostering a safe and secure environment for all. As these initiatives continue to evolve, Malta remains steadfast in its efforts to uphold the highest standards of security and efficiency at its border crossing points.



Internal Security Fund 2014-2020
This project is co-financed by the European Union
Co-financing rate: 75% EU Funds; 25% Beneficiary Funds
Sustainable Management of Internal Security





About the Sponsor: EWORLD is a leading IT partner offering design, implementation, warranty and post-warranty services for a diverse set of IT solutions from corporate servers, storage, networking and cloud services to laptops, desktop pc's and printers, all backed by industry-leading managed services, across diverse markets with a total focus of our customers.

INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING

Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are generally long-standing organisations that need to adapt to societal changes and crime trends. In fact, the Malta Police Force was established on 12 July 1814, making it older than the London Metropolitan Police Service, which was founded in 1829 by the father of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel. In the current era, both the police and offenders are adopting new techniques with the help of modern technologies. Crime is continuously becoming more complex, fast, without borders, and proceeds of crime move in real-time.

LEAs are no exception to other businesses when it comes to data analytics. In fact, the modern-day idea of intelligence-led policing (ILP) is to operate with decisions supported by the availability of data. ILP is defined as the collection and analysis of information related to crime and conditions that contribute to crime, resulting in actionable intelligence products intended to aid law enforcement in developing tactical responses to threats and/or strategic planning related to emerging or changing threats.

ILP is only one of the strategies under the bigger umbrella of evidence-based policing. To keep up with such modern policing techniques, the Malta Police Force (MPF) has invested more resources in all its departments, including the Central Intelligence and Analysis Unit (CI&A). This investment primarily includes resources in staff (which also includes crime and data analysts), equipment,

and intelligence analysis software such as the i2. Crime analysis is considered the heart of the evolution of modern policing. This is because LEAs need strong analytic capabilities to address the challenges faced, allocate resources, and carry out effective policing measures.

This investment is in line with the MPF Transformation Strategy 2020-2025, whereby Strategic Outcome 2 highlights the “Transformation of the police organisation into a flexible, efficient, data-driven, community-centric, outcome-focused, and modern Police Force.” Policing does not operate in a vacuum, and we are only as strong as the weakest link. To keep our communities safe in the increasingly digital world we live in, another important aspect is the sharing of intelligence. This means that part of our job is also that of domestic and international cooperation, to move quickly and act proactively.



About the Sponsor: PTL Limited (part of the Harvest Technology plc group), is an ISO-9001 and ISO-27001 certified IT solutions provider founded in 1946, having over 40 years' experience in the technology industry. The company is a multi-brand information technology solutions provider, and leverages on its enterprise architecture capabilities, expertise in hardware infrastructure and software business applications to provide clients with value-added insights and solutions to drive their businesses. PTL offers hardware infrastructure solutions, software development within web / back-office solutions, and other digital transformation services around cloud deployment, systems integration, databases & middleware administration, networking and information security. PTL currently provides end-to-end services to a well-diversified client base in Malta, UK, Germany and Mauritius.

NEW SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

The Malta Police Force is dedicated to enhancing the support and protection available to victims of domestic violence. A significant milestone in this effort is the recently opened Gender-Based & Domestic Violence Hub in St. Lucija. Operated by Malta Police officers alongside other professionals, including risk assessors, this hub represents a crucial step forward in our ongoing battle against domestic violence. Services related to domestic violence are now available at both this hub and our Police Headquarters in Floriana, ensuring that victims have more accessible avenues for assistance and support.

In addition to these new facilities, the Malta Police Force have launched a comprehensive resource titled the Handbook for Victims of Domestic Abuse. Available online in both Maltese and English, this handbook provides vital information and guidance for victims, helping them understand their rights and the support services available to them.

Moreover, a new law has been enacted to further protect potential victims of domestic violence. This law allows individuals in intimate relationships to submit an application with the Victim Support Agency or the Police to verify if their partner has a history of domestic violence. The disclosure process ensures that the applicant will only receive information on convictions for domestic violence, not allegations or pending cases. To safeguard data protection, the Police will verify the applicant's right to access this information through specific criteria

established by the law. The response to the applicant will be provided within seven days, and if necessary, a risk warning notice will also be issued. In such cases, the Police, in conjunction with the Victim Support Agency, will explain the potential risk of domestic violence and provide information about available support services.

The Gender-Based & Domestic Violence Unit has this year been awarded the prestigious Quality Label during the Public Service Awards. This award is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence. Our team's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to providing exceptional service have over the past years made a profound impact on the lives of those affected by gender-



VICTIM SUPPORT AGENCY

About the Sponsor: As the national contact point for victims of crime, the Victim Support Agency aims at promoting victims' rights and facilitate access to Victim Support Services. Victims of crime, are entitled to accessible information, legal guidance and emotional support. Services are provided free of charge and in a confidential manner. Since its establishment, the agency has offer support to more than 4,000 Victims of Crime and such services included information and follow up on police reports and court cases, legal advise, court accompaniment, emotional and therapeutically support.

based and domestic violence, ensuring they receive the support and justice they deserve.

These initiatives highlight the commitment of both the Malta Police Force and the Victim Support Agency to improving the safety and well-being of those affected by domestic violence. By offering more resources, improving access to crucial information, and ensuring swift legal

responses, we aim to create a safer environment for all citizens. The establishment of the new hub, the comprehensive handbook, and the proactive legal measures underscore our dedication to combating domestic violence and supporting victims in their time of need.



POLICE EXHIBITS: NOT IN COURT BUT IN A MUSEUM

What do you do when you have a precious collection of artifacts and memorabilia that needs to be displayed as effectively as possible in a brand new museum? You seek expert advice from Heritage Malta, of course! That's exactly what the Malta Police Force did when it decided to dismantle its old museum and set it up anew in another area within its Headquarters in Floriana.



Heritage Malta's long-standing assistance was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed last February to enable collaboration between the two entities in areas such as restoration, education, cultural activities, and research, among others. The MOU, covering a five-year period, also provides for Heritage Malta's support in the design, presentation, and operation of the Malta Police Museum.

The former museum had been open since 1994, displaying a wide array of artifacts related to the Police Force – from uniforms, weapons, and old photographs to various means of police transport, communication facilities from a bygone era, and equipment dating back to duties that are no longer the responsibility of the Malta Police Force today.

Heritage Malta's mission is now to help the Malta Police Force transform the space available for the new museum into a visitor experience that does justice to the Corps' rich history. Indeed, the Malta Police Force, established

under Sir Thomas Maitland's governorship in 1813-1814, is one of the world's oldest, making for a museum that is a worthy testament to this long legacy and strong identity.

To this end, Heritage Malta has provided several suggestions to ensure a much better museum layout and interpretation. A section of the new museum will be dedicated solely to the history of the Malta Police Force from its very beginning up to the present day. Another part will expound on the work of the various units within the Police Force, while medals and other decorations will be displayed centrally. Plans for the new museum also include a poignant section focusing on the heroic efforts of police officers who went beyond the call of duty and whose stories truly deserve public appreciation.

With the museum design ready, showcase carpentry well underway by the Police in-house carpenters, and interpretation being prepared, it is now just a matter of months until the Malta Police Force can start proudly sharing its story through a brand new museum.



About the Sponsor: As the guardian of over 8,000 years of history, Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation practice, and cultural heritage. Established by the Cultural Heritage Act of 2002, the agency proudly manages over 90 museums and landmarks, national monuments, and underwater sites. The agency has three main objectives. It is committed to building a strong emotional connection with the Maltese community, while raising our international profile by inspiring and engaging visitors to visit Malta, hence making the necessary income to ensure the agency's longevity and self-sustainability. Through its various activities, Heritage Malta promises to safeguard and ensure a future for a heritage which is part of us, and to inspire generations to come.

OPEN DAY 9AM 4PM SUN 14/7/24 POLICE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

The Malta Police Force invites the public to an open day at the Police GHQ in Floriana on Sunday, 14th July 2024, between 9 am and 4 pm. Visitors can witness the ongoing renovations and watch a 3-D video detailing the plans for the new museum. This event offers a unique opportunity to engage with the rich history of the Malta Police Force and see firsthand the exciting developments in the creation of the new museum.



10:00am
Display by
Silent Drill



10:30am
Display by
K9

11:00am
Abseiling
by SIU



11:30am
Display by
K9



12:00pm
Display by
Silent Drill



1:00pm
Abseiling
by SIU



2:00pm
Concert by
Police Band



DON'T MISS OUT ON

Access to underground Shelter, Police Open Museum, Displays by the Forensic Science Laboratory, Display of old and new police vehicles, Mounted section

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