



PRESS RELEASE

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The GHA is pleased to report that the response from the public to the appeal has been phenomenal. The 4 hotline phones opened at 9.00 am this morning. By noon today over 1000 people were booked to be tested. The 4 hotlines have been so saturated that the GHA have had difficulty in dealing with calls regarding general hospital matters as the GHA's exchange has been overloaded at times.

In order to manage both situations and with the immediate collaboration of Gibtelecom, a new number has been assigned which will allow for both the appeal and normal hospital activity. The new number is **200 44411**. **This is the number that volunteer donors now need to call.**

The GHA asks for patience from the public when trying to get through to the hotline. Due to the initial huge surge of calls, some people will have difficulty in getting through and are urged to try again during the course of the week-long campaign. All calls will eventually be answered.

The GHA appeals to the public not to go to the hospital to get an appointment or to ask to donate blood there and then. All appointments have to be channelled through the hotline as there is a series of questions that need to be answered together with a commitment to proceed to bone marrow donation before the appointment is given. It is the interest of the public and in the interest of Julian that the GHA adheres strictly to the protocols in place. We ask for everybody's co-operation in this matter.

The GHA has become aware of an email being circulated which says that if someone donates bone marrow you would then not be able to do so ever again. This is completely false and should be disregarded.