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<b>PRESS RELEASE</b>
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The Government and the GHA strongly refute the allegation made by the Opposition that an 83 year old man was sent home from hospital by the GHA's Chief Executive, Dr David McCutcheon, whilst the man was unwell, and without checking if there was anyone at his residential address.

Without going into the confidential details of this case the facts are as follows:

An elderly gentleman was granted bail by the Court. One of the bail conditions was that one of his sons would make himself responsible for the gentleman's care and supervision whilst on bail. Immediately after being released on bail, the gentleman was brought into the A & E Department and kept in St Bernard's Hospital whilst a series of medical tests were carried out. He was subsequently medically released by the doctor looking after him, and not by the GHA's Chief Executive as the Opposition claims. It immediately became apparent that the son had withdrawn the care/supervision which he had agreed to in Court, thereby breaching the bail conditions.

There being no medical need for the gentleman to remain in hospital, arrangements were made for him to be sent home by the bed management team. At this point, during a recess in the court hearing, Opposition Member, Fabian Picardo, in his legal capacity, phoned the Chief Executive, and strongly argued in favour of his client being retained in hospital, despite already being informed by the Chief Executive that the patient had been medically released by the medical team and that his bed was needed for acutely ill patients or patients who required surgery.

The family members were informed of the time and date of discharge. As the indication was that no family member would make themselves responsible for him, the police were asked to be present outside the gentleman's home so that he could be discharged into their care in case members of the family failed to attend. It is therefore not true, as the Opposition claims, that the gentleman was sent home without any arrangements being put in place.

With regard to Mr Picardo's claim that he has previously made no public comment on this case at all, as soon as the patient was discharged, the Opposition's political organ proceeded to issue an article entitled "McCutcheon sends 83-year-old to jail!". Ordinary

citizens will judge for themselves whether Mr Picardo had any input into the contents and publication of this article.

Nothing that the Government or the GHA has said previously, by which they both stand, is either defamatory of Mr Picardo or insults him in any shape or form. It is purely a statement of facts.

Health Minister Yvette Del Agua said “The bail issues surrounding this case are not the responsibility of the GHA. The GHA’s responsibility is to do its utmost to ensure that patients who have been medically discharged are sent home, thereby releasing its beds for acutely ill patients or patients who require surgery. What the Opposition cannot do is to have Mr Costa criticise the GHA for cancelling surgery due to lack of beds, and Mr Picardo, albeit in his legal capacity, lambasting the GHA for sending home a person who had no need to be in hospital, merely on the basis that the bail conditions of Mr Picardo’s client, for which the court had made a family member responsible, and which have nothing to do with the GHA, would be breached”.