



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Health & Environment
Floor 7, Block 1, St. Bernard's Hospital, Harbour Views Road,
Gibraltar

Telephone: (350) 20072266 Ext. 2011/2012 Fax: (350) 20059942

PRESS RELEASE

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Improvements for the disabled at St Bernard's Hospital

Following meetings with various groups representing sectors of the community including senior citizens and the visually impaired, a number of improvements have been introduced to St Bernard's Hospital.

The first is a lift and ramp to allow wheelchair access to the garden, which has been out of reach to the wheelchair bound up to now. This is already being put to good use.

The second is a 'voice chip' in the hospital lifts which indicate to the visually impaired what floors they are on, the direction in which the lift is moving and when doors are opening and closing.

Minister for Health Dr John Cortes stated, "My meetings with different groups serve to identify where we can make improvements. While all are not immediately possible, I am very pleased that we are making progress and these two in particular will be of benefit to disabled users of the Hospital."

Minister for Equality Samantha Sacramento commented, "As a government we are taking steps to make Gibraltar more accessible. These latest steps are yet other examples of this initiative. As Minister for Equality I am delighted with the completion of this latest project which makes our hospital more accessible to the whole community. "