



PRESS RELEASE

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MAJOR INVESTMENT IN GIBRALTAR'S PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

The Government is pleased to announce that work is continuing on the design and on identifying the staffing and other resources needed for the new Mental Health Facility which Government intends to build to replace the KGV Hospital. Government hopes to be able to announce soon the location and timeframe for the inauguration of this new Facility. Tenders for the provision for project management and architectural services are currently being prepared. Having already greatly enhanced the Primary Care Centre Facility and having opened the new St Bernard's Hospital, this new Mental Health Facility will be the third phase of the Government's overall plan for improvement of Gibraltar's Health Services.

The Government is conscious that Gibraltar's Psychiatric Services have long been in need of significant development. Rather than wait for the completion of the new Mental Health Facility, Government is pleased to announce further immediate increases in staffing at the KGV Hospital. In addition to the Assistant Director of Nursing for Mental Health Services who commenced work in February of this year, the GHA is now increasing staffing levels as follows:

- The number of full-time psychiatrists has been permanently increased to two posts.
- The number of psychologist posts has been increased to two posts.
- The number of Psychiatric Occupational Therapists has been increased to two posts.
- The number of Registered Mental Health Nurses has been increased by a further 4.5 posts.

Recruitment for these positions is already underway and it is expected that these positions will be filled by October of this year. This will mean an additional annual investment of close to a quarter of a million pounds in Gibraltar's Psychiatric Services.

“These improvements in staffing coupled with the design and construction of a new facility reflect my Government’s commitment to significant and sustained investment in development in all sectors of the Health Service. It follows on previous funding increases for St Bernard’s and the Primary Care Centre”, said Mr Ernest Britto the Minister for Health.

“The GHA is taking another major step in the achievement of international standards for caring and in this case, caring for some of the most vulnerable in our community” added Dr David McCutcheon, the Chief Executive of the GHA.