



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EQUALITY, SOCIAL SERVICES & THE ELDERLY
14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE
GIBRALTAR

PRESS RELEASE

No: 265/2014

Date: 4th June 2014

New opening of the John Mackintosh Home

The Government is proud to announce that it has partially opened the Mackintosh Wing of the Old St Bernard's Hospital to provide elderly residential care. This new facility will be known as the John Mackintosh Home.

This part of the old St Bernard's Hospital has been totally refurbished and has been converted into an elderly care home. The building has only been partially opened and, for the time being, will accommodate the residents currently at the Jewish Home in order to allow for a full refurbishment of that building. Given the size of the John Mackintosh Home, it allows for the service to be expanded to accommodate some elderly people who have been occupying hospital beds at GHA wards.

The facility is running at a reduced capacity at present and will be fully operational once the refurbishment of the Jewish Home is complete and its residents return. Once this facility is fully operational it will be able to offer 54 residential beds which will have a significant impact on the elderly community who require residential care, particularly those who are currently occupying hospital beds.

"It is my absolute pleasure to be able to operate this new facility which adds a further string to the bow of elderly services that we now offer. Elderly residential beds are much needed at present and this facility will assist to alleviate this problem in the short term, and more beds will become available as soon the building becomes fully operational. I must thank the contractors and all professionals at the Care Agency who have worked so hard in making this project a reality; they have worked closely to ensure that we have a top quality facility. The Care Agency has worked closely with the GHA in preparation for the transfer and this close co-ordination between both agencies resulted in a very smooth transition of all patients over the weekend, the operation was run with military precision," said the Hon Samantha Sacramento, Minister for Equality, Social Services and the Elderly.

Minister for Health, the Hon Dr John Cortes, added, “This is another example of how well and how closely the Care Agency and the GHA work in delivering their services to the community. The new facility will provide excellent care for the elderly who do not need to be in a hospital ward and will assist in allowing St Bernard’s to continue working towards returning to specialising in acute patient care. It’s all part of the Government’s strategy to improve care of the elderly and delivery of health services.”