



PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Minister Opens the New Catering Facility at St Bernard's

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, has today officially opened the new Catering Facility at St Bernard's Hospital which has launched the new food serving service.

The Chief Minister unveiled a plaque of the opening of the facility.

The food is no longer served on plates prepared in the old kitchen on the North Mole, but is being served fresh onto plates in the wards, just a very short distance from the point of preparation. There is now increased choice and there will soon be further additions in the range of food prepared and the ability of patients to choose. This has now been introduced on all the wards.

Specific new menus for St Bernardette's and St Martin's are also currently being prepared.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by the Minister for Health, Dr John Cortes, toured the new facility and two of the wards, and chatted with patients and staff. All were delighted with the standard of the new meals offered.

Mr Picardo said: "This has been an important investment in our health services. Gone are the days when meals came plated from the port area, arrived cold and soggy and were not up to the standard we all expect. Some are still having to have low fat meals which don't allow the kitchen staff to demonstrate what they can do, but those who are able to eat normal meals will be delighted with the new standard being achieved. In particular I am very proud about the introduction of a specific, separate, Kosher cooking area and another separate area for other specific dietary requirements. Like all our projects, this has cost money, of course but - as in every other investment - it is money well spent! I am very happy to see the work that has been done here and I congratulate the contractors, designers and in particular the staff of the kitchen for the great work they do day-to-day. They now have the tools they need to do their jobs properly."