

Ministry of Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

## PRESS RELEASE

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## **Changes to the Primary Care Centre Appointments System**

As announced on 5th November, the GHA wishes to remind the public of planned changes to the Primary Care Centre appointments booking system. In order to streamline its appointment service the PCC will be introducing a 48 hour pre-bookable appointment system, which will become operational as from Monday 4th January 2016. Appointments will no longer be released exclusively on the 1st working day of each month as has been the case for the past few years.

The way the new system works will be as follows:

- On Mondays release Wednesdays Appointments
- On Tuesdays release Thursdays Appointments
- On Wednesdays release Fridays Appointments
- On Thursdays release Mondays Appointments
- On Fridays release Tuesday's Appointments

In cases of Bank Holidays patients will be offered an appointment for the next working day after the holiday; if Monday is a Public Holiday, on the previous Thursday patients will be able to obtain an appointment for Tuesday.

Since 2011 the GHA appointment system has been under constant improvement and continuous review, in a stage-by-stage process. This revision of the appointment booking system is being implemented after close consultation with Primary Care Centre staff, doctors and patients, in response to the needs of the community.

Leaflets explaining the new appointment system are available at the Primary Care Centre and are printed in English, Spanish and Arabic. Appointments can be booked as usual either via telephone 20052441 or in person at the Primary Care Centre counters.

Minister for Health, the Hon Dr John Cortes, said: "We continue to improve Primary Care Services and as announced several weeks ago this system aims to decongest the Primary Care Centre on the 1st of the month and allow patients access to appointments on an ongoing basis as required. Patients have been informed over past two months by press releases and leaflets issued at the Health Centre."