



PRESS RELEASE

No:603/2018

Date: 2nd October 2018

Government Provided GADS with Purpose-Built Premises, GADS House

In 2012, GADS approached the Government requesting premises where they could meet. At the time, the society were temporarily given the use of the common room at Bishop Canilla House until they were allocated their own premises. The common room at Bishop Canilla House, as with the other elderly residential blocks, is managed by its Tenants' Association for the benefit of its tenants and they agreed to GADS' temporary use of it.

In July 2017 the Government awarded GADS the allocation of brand new purpose-built premises by the new residential dementia facility at Hillside and the Bella Vista Day Centre. As such, and per the original agreement, their use of the Bishop Canilla premises expired.

Indeed, since July last year the Tenants' Association have been reminding the Housing Department that the use of the block's community premises was only temporary, particularly since the tenants of the Bishop Canilla were not attending the GADS sessions and it was used as a meeting area for people who were not tenants. The sessions that the premises were used for can now be properly accommodated at the new GADS premises.

Bishop Canilla House is undergoing major refurbishment works with the common area being part of the next phase of the refurbishment and therefore being out of bounds to everyone. GADS can, of course, continue to use the wonderful new facilities that have been provided to them by this Government.

GADS has always enjoyed the support of this Government and as a Government we have delivered care for people with dementia and their families in a way that is totally unprecedented, not just in a remarkable increase in medical facilities for the care of people in dementia by way of increased residential care, day centre services and domiciliary care, but also in a tremendous investment in research and staff training, policies and procedures and the development of a national strategy. In short, no Government has cared more or provided more to people with dementia than the GSLP/Liberal Administration, an investment that we are rightly proud of.

It is regrettable that Ms Hassan-Nahon has jumped the gun without first verifying the facts.