

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 42/2007**

**3 April 2007**

The Opposition has received a number of complaints from patients of St Bernard's Hospital that their scheduled operations have been cancelled. In one particular case, a patient was asked to fast for a number of hours before the operation was due to take place only to have it cancelled at the last minute.

The Opposition understands that the cancellations are related to the fact that the GHA have stopped using Calpe Ward for the care of post-operation patients. It appears that this ward is being kept empty and the intention is to use it to decant patients from different wards as a major overhaul of the entire plumbing system is apparently underway. This is said to involve the removal of existing pipework and its replacement.

These works are necessary to address the problems that have been experienced since the hospital opened with many instances of overflowing toilets and sewage, which have in many cases been complained of but have been covered up with denials of the existence of such problems.

It is absolutely incredible that the hospital should require re-plumbing so soon after it was converted from an office block at a cost of millions of pounds. It is obvious that the original plumbing was intended for office use, and not for the heavier load that is required by a hospital.

The Opposition was always against the move of St Bernard's Hospital from its old site to the office complex at Europort. It would have made much more sense to have designed a purpose made building from scratch somewhere else to house a new hospital.

The lack of foresight and planning by the GSD Government in relation to this issue will add to the cost of the Health Authority. Already we see how the need to provide money in some areas is at the expense of proper stock of consumable items being kept which adds to the stress on staff and patients and affects the quality of the treatment provided.

**ENDS**