



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The GHA Appoints New Director of Nursing Services**

The Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Sandie Gracia to the post of Director of Nursing Services. Ms Gracia had been covering the post in an acting capacity and has now been formally appointed following the usual recruitment process.

The Director of Nursing Services is an integral part of the GHA's clinical senior management structure, overseeing all nursing services across the GHA and the overall management of patient care services. The post also entails advising the GHA Board on all aspects of nursing and contributing to the strategic leadership of the GHA, such as implementing strategies and reforms to enhance the quality of patient care.

Ms Gracia began her career at the GHA in 1987, when she commenced employment as a student nurse. She qualified as a Registered Nurse four years later, before being promoted to Sister Charge nurse and then Clinical Nurse manager in 2005.

Ms Gracia commented on her promotion: "I truly feel honoured, privileged and excited to have been appointed as the Director of Nursing Services. This has given me the platform to lead the Nursing Workforce in advocating for the further development of Nursing as a profession in Gibraltar and incentivise high standards of care throughout our Health Care facilities. As nurses, we are the first and last line of defence for patients, who often are not strong enough to advocate for themselves. It is up to us as health care advocates to strive to ensure that they receive the best possible level of care at all times."

The GHA's Medical Director, Dr Daniel Cassaglia congratulated Ms Gracia, commenting that; "Ms Gracia has worked tirelessly for the benefit of all patients in an acting capacity. She has a thoughtful, caring and collaborative approach and always places patients at the centre of the service, across all areas of the GHA. I very much look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship for the betterment of both the organisation and the standard of healthcare delivered to the people of Gibraltar"

Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Hon Neil F. Costa MP also congratulated Ms Gracia, adding: "I would like to congratulate Ms Gracia on her appointment to the post of Director of Nursing Services; she has proven to be an extremely valuable asset to the GHA throughout her extensive career in nursing and has proven herself as an excellent leader in the period in which she has been acting in the post. Sandie has made vital contributions towards many of our important

Ministry of Health, Care and Justice

HM Government of Gibraltar • Zone 1, Level 7 St Bernard's Hospital, Harbour Views Road • Gibraltar GX11 1AA

t +350 20007011 (Centrex 2027) f +350 20059942 e [ministry@gha.gi](mailto:ministry@gha.gi) w [gibraltar.gov.gi](http://gibraltar.gov.gi)



reforms, especially in leading a robust bed management approach, which has resulted in major improvements in bed availability at St Bernard's Hospital. She truly is a credit to her profession, and I wish her the very best in her new role."