

OPENING OF NEW LABORATORY AND PHARMACY SERVICES CENTRE AT ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL

Health Estates are pleased to report the new Laboratory and Pharmacy Services Centre at Altnagelvin Hospital was officially opened on 20 March 2007 by Health Minister Mr Paul Goggins. Construction of the centre was completed at a cost of approximately £18 million ten weeks ahead of schedule with Hugh McCullough of Health Estates acting as Project Manager.

The Minister said “The new pharmacy department represents state of the art facilities and is further tangible evidence of our investment in pharmaceutical services. Its impressive robotics system will create new opportunities to further deploy staff in clinical activities so they are free to spend more time with patients on wards.”



The new £18 million services centre replaces existing accommodation which was spread across a number of locations on the Altnagelvin site and is aimed at meeting the demands of an ever-increasing number of patients, increased provision of services to the primary care sector and the development of a number of regional specialities within the hospital including a cancer unit.

Designed over three floors of accommodation surrounding a central courtyard the building provides strictly controlled specialist laboratory facilities together with naturally ventilated offices and staff areas. The ground floor caters for Pharmacy and within that there are four separate departments Dispensary, Aseptic Preparations, Quality Assurance and Medicines Information. The first and second floors cater for the Pathology departments, general administration, offices, canteens and other shared facilities. The individual pathology laboratory departments catered for are Biochemistry, Haematology, Microbiology, Cytopathology and Histopathology.



Construction of the centre was undertaken by Farrans Healthcare with a design team lead by Kennedy Fitzgerald and Associates together with HLM Architects and Hall Black Douglas produced an initial design for the project that integrates future buildings and development at the hospital.

The five separate specialist laboratory areas will allow the introduction of new laboratory technology and further improve and enhance efficiency, the new pharmacy department incorporates special cancer drug dispensing facilities and a high tech, state-of-the-art pharmacy robot.

The development has been funded through a public/private partnership and private finance initiative (PFI) through a consortium led by United Healthcare Land Company Ltd, with a capital value of £15million combined with a public sector investment of £3.062m in a wide range of specialised equipment. It is one of the most significant and complex health PFI developments in Northern Ireland to have been undertaken to date.

