

Draft for Release 28th January 2008**Press Release****Western Trust New South West Hospital Pioneers the Way Forward
In Single Room Care**

The Western Health and Social Care Trust's new South West Hospital, to be built just outside Enniskillen, will be the first leading edge hospital in Northern Ireland with full single room care. The Western Trust welcomed the Health Minister's announcement this week on single room care and reaffirmed its commitment to deliver the £267million hospital, which is planned to open in 2012.

Speaking this week, the Western Trust's Chief Executive, Elaine Way, said: "This is great news for health and social care in the Western area and across Northern Ireland. Single room care offers a wide range of benefits and we are delighted to be pioneering the way forward at our new South West Hospital."

She further commented: "An increase in single room accommodation will help greatly in meeting our aim of providing the highest possible standards of patient-focused healthcare. We will work to maximise the clear advantages that this offers, not only in terms of patient satisfaction, but, as research supports, in the positive impact on the healing process and the control of infection. We look forward to launching this new hospital as an example of best practice in modern design standards."

The Western Trust's Project Director for the new Acute Hospital for the South West, Alan Moore, added: "We have worked extremely hard throughout the development of the new South West Hospital project to ensure we capitalise on the many benefits offered by a modern state-of-the-art hospital and single room care provision will allow us to deliver the very best care for patients. The Minister's decision supports our thinking in single room care and will now allow us to forge ahead with the delivery of the new hospital project which is part of the Western Trust's wider capital development programme."

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Notes to the Editor

1. The Western Health and Social Care Trust will receive final tenders for the New Acute Hospital for the South West in February 2008 and plans to announce the Preferred Bidder in May 2008. The target completion date is 2012.
2. The New Acute Hospital for the South West, and the Omagh Hospital Complex will be planned on the basis of 100% single rooms.