

22 February, 2010

## **MINISTER OFFICIALLY UNVEILS BORDERS DENTAL SURGERY**

Minister for Public Health and Sport Shona Robison will visit the Borders tomorrow (Tuesday 23 February) to officially open NHS Borders' state-of-the-art dental centre at Hawick.

The dental facility was purpose built on the Hawick Community Hospital site and complements another state-of-the-art, five-surgery dental centre built at Coldstream which was opened by the Minister in September 2009.

The two projects, built at a combined total of about £1.8million from NHS Borders and Scottish Government funding, were designed to bring dramatic improvements to the future of oral health throughout the Borders

The Hawick Dental Centre, which has been operational since April 2009, contains six surgeries providing state-of-the-art treatment and care. It also offers the most up-to-date facilities including digital x-ray, decontamination and dental equipment, as well as a specialist x-ray machine which means patients can now be seen locally without having to travel to Borders General Hospital.

This dental centre has been identified as an exemplar site for decontamination of dental equipment providing a sterile at the "point of use" instrument. NHS Borders Dental Services is the first Health Board to achieve this quality of service and is fully compliant with the Glennie recommendations.

Speaking in advance of her visit, Ms Robison said: "The Scottish Government is committed to improving Scotland's dental service and oral health.

"A big part of this is ensuring that dental facilities of the highest standard are available across the country.

"I am delighted to be officially opening this state of the art centre which will continue to improve the access to NHS dental care throughout the Borders."

Mary Wilson, Chair of NHS Borders Board, said: "I am pleased to welcome Shona Robson MSP back to Borders to officially open the Hawick Dental Centre.

"Borders is fortunate in having a community dental service including the two wonderful new centres at Hawick and Coldstream providing top class modern facilities for patients and for staff to work in.

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“The service allows NHS Borders to make real improvements in dental health and many more people have access to NHS dental services now. Staff and patients tell me how marvelous it is to have these improvements across the Borders.”

## **Ends**

### **Notes to editors**

**Hawick Dental Centre, Teviot Road, Hawick, TD9 9DT  
Opening – Tuesday 23 February 2010 from 10-11am**

#### Programme

- 10.00 am Minister arrives
- 10.05am Opening Ceremony/photo opportunity  
Minister will be introduced by NHS Borders Chair Mary Wilson and will officially open the Centre
- 10.10 am Refreshments
- 10.15 am Minister tours dental practice and meets small group of staff
- 10.30 am Minister meets press/interview opportunities. (There will also be an opportunity for interviews following the official opening with NHS Borders Chair Mary Wilson and staff/patient representatives.)