



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1989

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SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1989

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ISSUE OF HALF-WAY HOUSE IN KWUN TONG RESOLVED

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A CONTROVERSY OVER A PLAN TO SET UP A HALF-WAY HOUSE IN KWUN TONG HAS BEEN RESOLVED FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID THIS TODAY (SATURDAY) AT A "STEP CLOSER SEMINAR" FOR AREA COMMITTEES IN KWUN TONG.

MR LAN SAID THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE SETTING UP OF A HALF-WAY HOUSE IN KWUN TONG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, IN CHOOSING THE LOCATION AND FACILITIES, SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE VIEWS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND RESIDENTS.

THE FACT THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN RESOLVED SUCCESSFULLY INDICATED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES HAD EFFECTIVELY PLAYED THEIR ROLE OF CONSULTING LOCAL RESIDENTS, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC VIEWS.

"ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE RESERVATION ON THE FINAL DECISION, WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS TO BRING THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

"THIS OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, AND THE GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, WILL CONTINUE TO COMPLETE THE HALF-WAY HOUSE PLAN WITH RESOLUTION AND UNDERSTANDING," MR LAN SAID.

MR LAN SAID THERE WERE ALTOGETHER 18 HALF-WAY HOUSES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY, PROVIDING NEARLY 700 ACCOMMODATION SPACES.

EIGHT MORE HALF-WAY HOUSES WERE BEING PLANNED, INCLUDING THE ONE IN KWUN TONG, TO ACCOMMODATE ANOTHER 500 DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS IN THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR YEARS, HE SAID.

THE SEMINAR, WHICH FEATURES MENTAL HEALTH AS THE THEME, IS THE FIFTH IN A SERIES OF "STEP CLOSER SEMINEAS" ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH AREA COMMITTEES.

MR LAN NOTED THAT THE SEMINAR ALSO MARKED THE LAUNCHING OF THE KWUN TONG MENTAL HEALTH VARIETY PROGRAMMES, WHICH WOULD FEATURE EXHIBITIONS, CARNIVALS AND OTHER FUNCTIONS IN THE COMING TWO MONTHS.

"THESE ACTIVITIES ARE VERY MEANINGFUL IN THAT THEY WILL DRIVE HOME THE MENTAL HEALTH MESSAGE TO EVERY RESIDENT IN KWUN TONG," HE ADDED.

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TEACHERS' CENTRE COMES INTO OPERATION

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THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE ESTABLISHED TO SERVE TEACHERS WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MRS RITA FAN.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MRS FAN SAID THE TEACHERS' CENTRE WAS BETTER THAN SIMILAR PROJECTS IN OTHER PLACES IN TERMS OF STRUCTURE, FACILITIES AND REPRESENTATIVENESS.

MRS FAN SAID WE WERE LIVING IN AN AGE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION, WHICH HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE STRUCTURE OF OUR SOCIETY AND INTER-HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. TEACHERS WOULD BE OUT OF STEP IF THEY DID NOT KEEP ABREAST OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. THUS THE TEACHERS' CENTRE WOULD HELP THEM TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES, SHE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y. T. LI, SAID THE NEW CENTRE PROVIDED AN ADDITIONAL VENUE FOR TEACHERS TO DEVELOP THEIR PROFESSIONALISM.

THE ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANISED IN THE CENTRE WOULD COMPLEMENT THE INITIAL AND IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS THE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE TEACHING RESOURCE CENTRES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MR LI SAID TEACHERS WOULD BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED TO PLAN AND TO PROMOTE ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE WHICH WAS SET UP SPECIALLY FOR THEM.

HE NOTED THAT MORE THAN 14,000 TEACHERS, REPRESENTING 42 PER CENT OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION, VOTED IN THE ELECTION OF THE CENTRE'S ADVISORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

"THIS GOOD TURNOUT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE CENTRE HAS MADE A VERY GOOD START," HE ADDED.

THE TEACHERS' CENTRE, WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AIMS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS TO MEET AND EXCHANGE IDEAS AND SHARE EXPERIENCE, TO PROMOTE IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TO DEVELOP NEW TEACHING AIDS AND APPROACHES AND TO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR TEACHERS TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES.

IT IS ACCOMMODATED IN A FORMER PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT. THE CENTRE HAS A FLOOR AREA OF 8,000 SQUARE METRES AND IS EQUIPPED WITH MODERN AUDIO VISUAL FACILITIES. IT HAS A SEMINAR ROOM, DISPLAY AREA, RESOURCE ROOM, READING ROOM AND LECTURES ROOMS.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE CENTRE. TEACHERS WILL BE CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE WITH A THREE-TIER STRUCTURE, NAMELY AN ADVISORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES.

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FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SOLVES RECRUITMENT PROBLEMS

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EMPLOYERS ARE TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED TO MAKE USE OF THE FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO SOLVE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEMS.

"AS A LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOOL-LEAVERS AND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE SERVICE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, EMPLOYERS SHOULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THEIR STAFF NEEDS," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MORE THAN 26,000 VACANCIES FOR BOTH SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS, INCLUDING LABOURERS, CLERKS, SALESMEN, TECHNICIANS, TEACHERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND OTHERS, WERE FILLED LAST YEAR WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SERVICE," HE NOTED.

THE LES CURRENTLY OPERATES 15 BRANCH OFFICES IN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, PROVIDING A COMPLETELY FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR BOTH EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS.

THESE OFFICES SELECT AND REFER SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO THE EMPLOYERS FOR JOB INTERVIEWS AND ARE ALL EQUIPPED WITH A FACSIMILE SYSTEM TO FACILITATE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION ON VACANCIES AND CANDIDATES.

"THE PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYERS TO PLACE VACANCY ORDER IS VERY SIMPLE. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS TO TELEPHONE THE LES OFFICES IN THEIR DISTRICT, AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR THEM TO CALL AT THE OFFICE IN PERSON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE LES OFFICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WAN CHAI OFFICE	5-270276
NORTH POINT OFFICE	5-711351
CHAI WAN OFFICE	5-570201
WONG CHUK HANG OFFICE	5-520131
YAU MA TEI OFFICE	3-7355525
SHAM SHUI PO OFFICE	3-7770189
MONG KOK OFFICE	3-936175
HUNG HOM OFFICE	3-856261
SAN PO KONG OFFICE	3-265121
KWUN TONG OFFICE	3-452838
TSZ WAN SHAN OFFICE	3-280194
TSUEN WAN OFFICE	0-4920154
TUEN MUN OFFICE	0-4599300
TAI PO OFFICE	0-6565183
SHA TIN OFFICE	0-6047916
HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE	5-8523235

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MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES

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THERE ARE NOW 167 SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG, PROVIDING SOME 18,000 PLACES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHAI WAN BAPTIST CHURCH BRADBURY CHILD CARE CENTRE, MR LAW SAID THAT AN ADDITIONAL 1,600 CHILD CARE PLACES WOULD BE PROVIDED EVERY YEAR, AND THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO PROVIDE 100 CHILD CARE PLACES FOR EVERY 20,000 POPULATION.

"HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE SUBVENTED AGENCIES WILL CONSTANTLY REVIEW THE DEMAND FOR THIS SERVICE AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS," HE SAID.

"FOR INSTANCE, CHILD CARE CENTRES IN AREAS WITH AN AGEING POPULATION ARE REPROVISIONED TO NEWLY DEVELOPED DISTRICTS.

"ALSO, SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND THEIR CAPACITY TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH IN POPULATION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD."

A GOOD EXAMPLE WAS THE BRADBURY CHILD CARE CENTRE, THE CAPACITY OF WHICH HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM AN INITIAL 100 IN 1987 TO THE CURRENT 120 TO COPE WITH GROWING DEMAND, HE ADDED.

ON THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME, WHICH ASSISTED LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, MR LAW SAID THE AVERAGE SUBVENTION FOR PARENTS LAST YEAR WAS ABOUT \$430 PER CHILD WHILE THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THIS YEAR WAS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$54 MILLION.

MR LAW COMMENDED THE CHAI WAN BAPTIST CHURCH FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL SERVICES SINCE 1972.

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SAFETY DAY ON WATER SPORTS TOMORROW

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VISIT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE IN THE FUN AT A WATER SPORTS SAFETY DAY.

ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS, THE EVENT IS TO PROMOTE THE "PLAY SAFE" MESSAGE THROUGH A VARIETY OF WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

/THE PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME WILL START AT 2 PM WITH A SPECTACULAR SEA PARADE OF FIRE BOATS, PATROL CRAFT, LAUNCHES, CANOES AND WINDSURFERS REPRESENTING THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ROYAL NAVY, CIVIL AID SERVICES AND NUMEROUS SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE AN AIR-SEA RESCUE DEMONSTRATION BY HELICOPTERS, VARIOUS SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS, A VIDEO SHOW AND AN EXHIBITION.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WATER SPORTS SAFETY DAY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WATER SPORTS SAFETY DAY TO BEGIN AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE.

THERE WILL BE A PRESS POSITION TO FACILITATE COVERAGE. PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING ALONG TELE-LENSES.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE RECEPTION AREA AT THE PROMENADE (OPPOSITE TO THE TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE) BY 1.45 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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U.S. GOLD CAMERA AWARD FOR APA FILM

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THE DOCUMENTARY "THE GODS REJOICE", DEPICTING THE ORIGINS AND EARLY YEARS OF WORK OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS (APA), HAS WON FOR ITS PRODUCER, MR NEIL FORSYTH, THE GOLD CAMERA AWARD IN THE U.S. FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL AWARDS COMPETITION, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

THE GOLD CAMERA AWARD WAS THE TOP PRIZE IN THE CULTURE AND PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORY. THE FILM WAS SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE AWARD WAS ACCEPTED ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG, THE JOCKEY CLUB, THE ACADEMY AND MR FORSYTH BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK, MR KERRY MCGLYNN, AT A CEREMONY HELD IN CHICAGO ON FRIDAY NIGHT (JUNE 9).

IN RECEIVING THE AWARD, MR MCGLYNN SAID THAT IT REFLECTED THE RICHNESS AND DIVERSITY OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY WHICH HAD DEVELOPED IN A UNIQUE WAY OVER THE LAST GENERATION.

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"HONG KONG IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE, A VERY INTERNATIONAL PLACE, YET IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR OWN SPECIAL PERSONALITY AND LIFESTYLE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS IN THE REGION," HE SAID.

MR MCGLYNN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE MUCH IN RECENT YEARS TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE FLOWERING OF A RESERVOIR OF NATURAL TALENT WHICH HAD SHOWN THAT HONG KONG WAS VERY MUCH MORE THAN JUST A BUSINESS-ONLY SOCIETY.

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EARLY WELFARE PAYMENT

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS MAY RECEIVE EARLIER WELFARE PAYMENT IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BETWEEN JUNE 17 AND 19.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON JUNE 14 TO 16 RESPECTIVELY OR AFTER AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAYS IN KENNEDY TOWN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 12), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK RENEWAL:

- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KENNEDY TOWN PRAJA FROM HOUSE NO.49 TO HOUSE NO.51; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SANDS STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CATCHICK STREET TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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CLOSURE OF A KUNG NGAM ROAD, SHAU KEI WAN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SLIP-ROADS LEADING TO THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, A KUNG NGAM ROAD BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES TO THE SOUTH WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 12).

MOTORISTS ON SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST HEADING FOR A KUNG NGAM ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE SHIPYARDS AND A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN KOWLOON CITY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLYOVERS AT PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST OUTSIDE THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE CLOSED FROM 12.01 AM TO 5 AM DAILY BETWEEN MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY (JUNE 12 AND 14).

THESE SECTIONS ARE : THE FLYOVER LINKING MA TAU CHUNG ROAD WITH PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST EASTBOUND; AND THE SOUTHERN EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST SECTION BETWEEN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST AND CHOI HUNG ROAD.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON MA TAU CHUNG ROAD HEADING FOR KWUN TONG AND SAN PO KONG WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA THE KOWLOON CITY ROUNDABOUT, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER, TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM DAILY ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (JUNE 12 AND 13).

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

THE STRAIGHT-AHEAD MOVE FROM JORDAN ROAD EASTBOUND ONTO THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WILL BE BANNED. THE STRAIGHT-AHEAD MOVE FROM THE ACCESS ROAD IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL ONTO JORDAN ROAD WESTBOUND WILL ALSO BANNED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE RIGHT TURN FROM JORDAN ROAD EASTBOUND ONTO GASCOIGNE ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE BANNED, AS WILL THE RIGHT TURN FROM THE ACCESS ROAD IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL ONTO GASCOIGNE ROAD WESTBOUND.

THE RIGHT TURN FROM GASCOIGNE ROAD WESTBOUND ONTO THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WILL ALSO BE BANNED.

DURING THE CLOSURE, A TEMPORARY TURN-AROUND FACILITY WILL BE PROVIDED AT GASCOIGNE ROAD WESTBOUND AT A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH JORDAN ROAD, SO THAT MOTORISTS TRAVELLING ON GASCOIGNE ROAD WESTBOUND CAN MAKE A U-TURN ONTO GASCOIGNE ROAD EASTBOUND.

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