

14 December 2011

Press Release

THE MIN RECEIVES FOOD HYGIENE AWARD WITH MERIT FOR FIFTH TIME IN A ROW

The catering team at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD), known locally as 'the Min' has once again achieved a Food Hygiene Award with Merit, following a routine inspection from Bath & North East Somerset Council's Public Protection Team.

This is the fifth time in a row the Min has received this award in recognition of their high standards in food safety and cleanliness.

Councillor Dixon, the Council's Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods said: "This is a magnificent achievement; to maintain such high standards time after time really demonstrates the professionalism and dedication of the catering team at the Min.

"Bath & North East Somerset Council carries out rigorous inspections to promote a healthier and safer environment. The Public Protection Team looks at all aspects of hygiene, cooking and cleaning and inspects all the kitchen and food preparation areas in the hospital.

"This award recognises standards well above the legal minimum and places the Min in the top 2% of food businesses in Bath and North East Somerset, with the hospital one of a handful of places to achieve a Merit. Congratulations to Nigel and his team."

Nigel Elwell, catering manager at the hospital said "I am really proud of the team and it's great that their efforts have been recognised once again.

"The team work hard every day to maintain these very high standards. We have fantastic feedback from patients and staff which means a lot to us and we are delighted that people enjoy the food we prepare, but receiving our fifth Food Hygiene Award with Merit is the icing on the cake."

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Kirsty Matthews, Chief Executive at the hospital said “We are very lucky here at the Min, day after day Nigel and his team provide us with fantastic food that meets the highest standards of quality.”

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people, the trust has expertise in general and complex:
 - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
 - Neurological rehabilitation
 - Chronic pain management
 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
- The award will be presented by Councillor David Dixon, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to Nigel Elwell, Catering Manager and his team on Wednesday 14 December at 1.30pm.