

# Duchess carries out first solo engagement

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE Duchess of Cambridge carried out her first solo engagement at a private dinner when she stood in for her father-in-law, the Prince of Wales.

The Prince was due to attend the dinner in aid of In Kind Direct, one of his charities, at Clarence House.

However, he was unable to attend because he was in Riyadh to present condolences to the Saudi royal family following the death of Crown Prince Sultan.

The Duchess wore a pale empire line dress at the reception on Wednesday which was attended by about 30 guests.

A palace aide said: "It all went very well. The Duchess was so pleased that her first solo engagement was for the Prince of Wales, who has shown her so much support over the years."

The reception was held to thank supporters of the charity which redistributes surplus goods from manufacturers and retailers to UK charities working at

## Scar Result of surgery as a child

Pictures of the Duchess of Cambridge have shown she has a scar on her left temple as a result of an operation as a child.

The 3in-long mark could be seen just under her hairline as the 29 year-old held her first solo royal engagement at Clarence House on Wednesday.

St James's Palace said the scar related to a childhood operation but her spokesman would not elaborate. John Scurr, a consultant surgeon, said it could have been caused by the removal of a birthmark.

home and abroad.

The Prince of Wales founded the charity in 1996.

Robin Boles, chief executive, said: "We were delighted that the Duchess was able to step in at such short notice after our founder was unexpectedly called away."

"The Duchess hosted a very special evening with absolute professionalism and charm."



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The Duchess of Cambridge with guests at the function in aid of the charity In Kind Direct at Clarence House, London, last night