

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION**

108/2007     30 November 2007

Shadow Minister for Health and Social Services Neil Costa will ask the Government to set out the total costs to date and the estimated total expenditure in respect of the plumbing works at St Bernard's Hospital. This is one of the issues that he will raise in the 70 questions that he has tabled in his first working meeting as a newly elected Member of Parliament.

Mr Costa will ask the Government to say why the GHA does not accept a passport as proof of identity when a person applies to register in the GPMS as a person not in employment or for exemption on the grounds of low income. He will also ask why pensioners who apply to register with the GPMS are required to declare their income.

On other health issues, Mr Costa has tabled a question to establish whether persons who have been prescribed generic medicines in the past, and have been adversely affected, have now been asked to take these again. He wants the Minister for Health to state whether the Government proposes to follow the United Kingdom in providing a vaccine for girls which reduces the risk of cancer of the cervix.

The Opposition Health spokesman will ask Government to confirm whether an unemployed married couple that have previously contributed to the social insurance fund, will have to pay for medical prescriptions whilst unemployed. He will also want to know specifically whether the retired husband of a

woman who is still in employment has to pay for medial prescriptions. Mr Costa will ask Government to say why staff at the hospital blood department no longer use surgical gloves when taking blood.

Neil Costa will ask Government to give the total number of GHA employees and will also want to establish details of the £150,000 spent last year by the GHA in recurrent IT expenses. He has also tabled a question to find out how the Health Authority spent £13,000 on official travel abroad in the last financial year.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Social Services, Mr Costa will ask Government to say why the section on the Social Services Agency in their website has not been updated since 1 February 2002. He will also ask how many persons were employed by the Agency, giving a breakdown as between industrials and non-industrials and the location where they are employed. Mr Costa will also ask for a breakdown of the £29,000 spent by the Agency on training and official travel, and the £90,000 on the Dr Giraldi Home, among other issues.

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