

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

132/2008

21 November 2008

The Opposition has received representations from a member of the public who has had a scheduled operation cancelled five times.

The patient was informed that there was a piece of equipment missing which meant that the surgeon could not perform keyhole surgery and instead would have had to use old surgical techniques which involved making a sizable incision.

The Opposition considers that the situation is scandalous. The 39 year old lady is in pain and taking pain-killers and wants to have this ordeal over and done with once and for all. The Government must understand that going in for surgery is a traumatic experience for some people and it is totally unacceptable that the patients should psyche themselves up for it only to be told that the operation has been cancelled.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Minister for Health Neil Costa said:

“It is bad enough that an operation should be cancelled once because of a lack of equipment. When it has been cancelled five times it is only logical that the patient should be upset and that we should question why this is happening. The Government continues to boast that we have a state of the art hospital. The experiences of patients like this one suggest otherwise.”

This is not the only case which has been brought to the attention of the Opposition of a cancelled operation because of a lack of keyhole surgery equipment.

ENDS