

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION
142/2008**

28 November 2008

Shadow Minister for Health and Social Services Neil Costa will ask Government to list the entirety of the allegations that have been received by the management of the Social Services Agency concerning the welfare of service users since January 2005, stating the nature of the allegation, the date that the allegation was made and the action taken if any. Mr Costa has tabled 74 questions for the Government to answer in Parliament.

The Opposition spokesman will ask the Government to say how many keyhole operations have had to be cancelled at the hospital this year and the reason why. He will also want to know the piece of equipment that is required to perform keyhole surgery, the cost, and the date when the equipment was ordered. In addition to this, he has also tabled a general question to establish the dates in respect of which operations at St Bernard's Hospital needed to be cancelled and the reason why in each case. Mr Costa will also want to know the number of formal and informal complaints that have been lodged against the GHA.

Mr Costa will also press the Government on whether the new arrangements for hospital users to park at Europlaza will be operational before Christmas as the Minister indicated to Parliament earlier this year. He will also want to know whether parking will be free or whether certain categories of users will be charged.

Also on health matters, Neil Costa will ask Government to confirm whether the GHA intend to recruit an additional radiologist to facilitate the work of the anticipated structured mammography service. He will also ask whether the selection process in respect of the selection of the necessary equipment for this service has now been finalised.

The Opposition spokesman will want the Government to give the policy of the GHA in relation to stem cell retrieval from the placenta and birth. He will also want to know whether the GHA have any plans to construct new kitchens adjacent to the hospital building in Europort. Mr Costa will also ask the Government to say when the purpose built mental health facility will be constructed and what site has been earmarked for the project.

ENDS

