

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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The Opposition has received a complaint from the son-in-law of a 90 year old woman who has been given a place in KGV because there are no beds available for her at St Bernard's Hospital or at Mount Alvernia. This is a totally unacceptable state of affairs and the Government must act immediately to resolve the issue.

The lady in question lives on her own in Varyl Begg Estate. She recently and currently suffers from acute dementia. One night last week, she was found lying unconscious on the road by the RGP and was taken to St Bernard's Hospital. In the first instance, this lady was not even admitted as an out-patient and was left in the casualty department until the following day. After the son-in-law liased with an official of the GHA, this official threatened to call the RGP to forcibly take the 90 year old woman back to her flat where she lives on her own and open the door to her house by force, if necessary, if the son-in-law refused to take her away from the hospital. The family did not acquiesce to this threat and approached the Opposition instead.

The lady is now residing in the KGV Hospital, which is obviously not at all suitable for her requirements or for her condition. She is on the waiting list for Mount Alvernia, but the family have been told that there is still a one and a half year waiting list. The son-in-law has expressly requested that we make public his unsuccessful attempts to fully discuss this very urgent situation with Ministers Netto and Del Agua, who have both tried to pass the buck to the other.

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

"The family have asked me to make this case public because they want everyone to know the appalling way in which the GHA have treated a 90 year old woman. It is intolerable that the Government should be prepared to leave a person who is among the most vulnerable in our society to fend for themselves because there are not enough beds available. This is the case at the same time that the GSD seem to find plenty of money wasted on other projects like the Theatre Royal and the new Air Terminal. The priorities of the Government are completely wrong and shows a complete and utter lack of humanity."

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