

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

78/2010

11 June 2010

Shadow Minister for Health Neil Costa will ask Government to say how much it has paid out to claimants against the GHA for the settlement of disputes out of court since 2007/2008. Mr Costa has given notice of 95 questions for the meeting of Parliament which starts on Thursday.

Mr Costa wants to know how many doctors are employed by the GHA and how many of these are registered with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, with a breakdown showing GPs, consultants and hospital doctors. He will also ask for the composition of the Medical Registration Board and wants to know how many times it has met and how many complaints it has heard since 2007.

The Opposition spokesman will again press the Government on the establishment of a structured, routine mammography service. He will ask when the GHA took the policy decision to commence a process of negotiations with UK accredited providers to implement a model of breast screening using Teleradiology. He will also want to know whether it is still the policy of the GHA to recruit a third radiologist. Mr Costa will ask Government to say how many people are waiting for an ultrasound test, a CT scan or an MRI scan.

Neil Costa has tabled a question in order to establish whether complaints made by users of the GHA to the Minister or the Chief Executive are logged as formal or informal complaints. He will ask for details of the number of cancelled operations and the reasons for such cancellations. He will also take up the matter of the fine imposed on a Gibraltar ambulance in Spain because its beacon lights were blue instead of orange.

The Shadow Health Minister will probe the Government on a number of issues relating to patients with Alzheimers and Dementia. He will ask for details of the number of persons affected and what therapeutic and medicinal programmes are run by the GHA in respect of such persons. Mr Costa will press Government to say on what date it took the policy decision to reduce the number of speech therapy lessons offered to children. He will want Government to confirm whether they are planning any changes to the sponsored patient's scheme whereby patients who have been given repeat appointments by doctors in the United Kingdom will no longer be able to make arrangements directly and automatically to attend those appointments without seeing a consultant in Gibraltar first.

In relation to his responsibility for Social Services, Mr Costa will want to know when the Government will implement subsidiary legislation in respect of the Children Act in respect of matters relating to care proceedings. He will also want to know how many qualified Social Workers were employed in the Care Agency before the coming into force of the Children Act and how many are employed after the act came into force.