

21.06.08

2 Senator S.W. Pallett of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding whether requests for funding had been received from the charity, Focus on Mental Health. (OQ.131/2021):

Will the Minister advise whether he has received a request from a new local charity, Focus on Mental Health, for funding for 2 full-time staff and, if so, whether he has formally responded; and if he has not yet responded to such a request, will he explain why?

Deputy R.J. Renouf of St. Ouen (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

My Assistant Minister, the Deputy of St. John, will respond to this question.

Deputy T. Pointon of St. John (Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services - rapporteur):

There to date has been no formal request to the Government of Jersey for the funding of 2 full-time staff for the new charity, Focus on Mental Health. We are in dialogue with the new charity and the 2 staff members regarding the services provided. We understand there are sustainable funding challenges for this newly-established organisation.

3.2.1 Senator S.W. Pallett:

As much as I can understand there are funding challenges I think with any service within Health, especially any new service, there is a dire need for this service and I have spoken to a senior clinician within Adult Mental Health Services. What is the timeframe for the Assistant Minister to enter into dialogue with this charity? It is a service that is in dire need, will he confirm to Members that he will engage with this charity at the earliest possible opportunity?

The Deputy of St. John:

I thank the Senator for that question. In fact, in my initial reply I do mention the fact that we are in dialogue with this new charity. We have spoken to the original charitable funders, we are speaking to the staff and we do hope to find suitable resolution to the difficulties that they are experiencing.