1240/5(9576)

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TREASURY AND RESOURCES BY DEPUTY S.Y. MÉZEC OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Question

What discussions, if any, have the Minister or the Department had with the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding funding mechanisms for the construction of the planned new hospital?

What consideration, if any, has been given to the introduction of a charge on taxpayers to pay for the new hospital? Are other funding mechanisms being investigated and, if so, what are they?

Answer

The replacement of the General Hospital has been a cross departmental project from the start. An officer group has met regularly to discuss and manage the project and a political group was created to agree policy decisions and receive updates on progress.

Responsibilities for different aspects of the project have been shared with Health and Social Services being responsible for the clinical needs and Treasury and Resources originally being responsible for delivery and funding. When Jersey Property Holdings moved to become the responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure, delivery responsibilities moved to them leaving funding as Treasury and Resources' responsibility.

As far as funding is concerned, until a preferred site was decided and therefore the sum of money required identified, the Deputy will appreciate that discussions have been limited to high level options at this stage. However, those options have been discussed and were, in fact, the subject of an oral question from Deputy Southern in February of this year.

A charge has been considered. Other options currently being modelled include the use of existing reserves, the potential sale of strategic assets and accessing the debt market.