Deputy A. Howell of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding management positions in the General Hospital (OQ.197/2023)

Will the Minister state the number of management positions in the General Hospital in 2016 and the associated costs of this management team?

Deputy K. Wilson of St. Clement (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

I thank the Deputy for her question. Using the same methodology that the chief officer for Health and Community Services used in their recent report on leadership and management capacity in H.C.S. (Health and Community Services), this is now available on the Assembly website under R.148/2023. I can confirm that in 2016, there were 49 management roles at an approximate cost of £4.5 million. I would note that obviously since 2016 there have been various changes in the structure of departments, for example, following the target operating models. So this may not be a like-for-like comparison.

4.2.1 Deputy A. Howell:

I was just wondering how the Minister could justify the expansion of management from the lean efficient structure in 2016 to the present day, now with an annual bill for management in Health of over £10 million, especially when we are short of front line staff, and we are not the N.H.S. (National Health Service).

Deputy K. Wilson:

Obviously, wages increase and we have had an increasing amount of expenditure on locums, as the Deputy will know, to cover some of those vacancies that are hard to recruit. This will include some clinical managerial roles as well. But, at the moment, we have 45 management staff, which takes up 1.7 per cent of the total substantive staff working in the department. I am not here to make any judgments at this moment in time on whether or not that is justified, in terms of the amount of managers we have. We may have not enough managers, which I have mentioned before, but the current position is that there has been, in terms of headcount, only a slight increase in the number of managers that we have in the service.