

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY J.M. MAÇON OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2017**

Question

Will the Minister use underspends within his Department's budget to address the waiting lists for gastric bypass surgery and, if not, why not?

Answer

The Department has been attempting to secure additional gastric surgery capacity for several months, but NHS providers have been unable to offer any spare capacity due to their own demands.

Further exploration of the private sector has been made, assuming the price is in line with NHS Trusts. One organisation has responded positively and we are working with it to try and take advantage of its offer before the end of the financial year.