

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BY
THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2009**

Question

As Verita's terms of reference require it to "review the main actions taken by the Health and Social Services in response to the death of Mrs Elizabeth Rourke including its own interim internal investigation. This will include establishing whether or not there are any significant omissions to the investigation and, if so, exploring these" -

- a) Was one of the 'main actions taken' the decision to exclude a Senior Consultant Gynaecologist?
- b) Would the Minister give the reasons for the exclusion and the reasons why the Consultant Gynaecologist is still excluded?
- c) Will the Minister give an updated breakdown of the cost incurred by Health and Social Services to cover the salary and incidental costs of the excluded Consultant Gynaecologist together with the cost of the salaries and incidental costs to cover the work not being undertaken by him?
- d) Has the hospital's own interim internal investigation (also known as the Serious Untoward Incident Investigation) been concluded and when will the report be published?
- e) Will the Minister explain the purpose and terms of reference of the proposed Hutchinson investigation/review and give the cost of this proposed investigation, including the funds already expended on the related court case?

Answer

- a) I can confirm that one of the main actions taken, following the events of the 17th October 2006, was to exclude a Senior Consultant.
- b) The exclusion of a member of staff is not covered within Verita's terms of reference.
- c) I can confirm that the costs incurred in covering the work not being undertaken by the excluded Consultant has, since October 2006, been calculated as £634,000.
- d) The hospital's own internal investigation, know as a Serious Untoward Incident Investigation (SUI), was halted upon the instruction of the Law Officers so as not to impede the criminal investigations. Subsequently, and immediately following the Royal Court trial, it was deemed more appropriate that an external investigation be commissioned and this is being undertaken by Verita.
- e) The terms of reference of the Hutchinson enquiry are private and confidential as they relate to an employee for whom I have a duty of care. It is not possible to predict accurately what the costs will be, but I will return with more details at an appropriate time.