

2020.05.12

6 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding clinical waste (OQ.112/2020)

With reference to private contractors managing the clinical waste from care homes, what guidelines, if any, are currently in place in respect of the collection of COVID-19 waste; the protection of the contractors' staff and care home staff; and when were any such guidelines provided, if any?

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

Specific guidance has been compiled for care homes on the disposal of waste and is published on the gov.je website. This includes guidance on how waste from care homes is defined, packaged and stored awaiting collection. It was issued on 28th April to expand on earlier guidance published in August 2016 for care homes on infection control. This revised guidance has a particular emphasis on waste from care homes in the light of the COVID-19 situation.

[10:45]

P.P.E. (personal protective equipment) guidance for healthcare professionals and other essential workers was updated on 24th April. It is based on information published by Public Health England and that is also available on the gov.je website.

4.6.1 The Connétable of St. Brelade:

Would the Minister agree that in the parallel the treatment given to care homes in the earlier stages of the pandemic, this was an area overlooked by Government?

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

Yes, I said in my answer that the revised guidance was issued on 28th April, which is of course fairly recently. So as a formality, it may be that the guidance that was published was not sufficient. But I do believe that our waste regulators were in touch with the various companies that are waste carriers from the outset of the disposal, giving advice and assisting them to make any adaptations.