

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY SENATOR S.C. FERGUSON
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 18th JULY 2011**

Question

- a) Will the Minister supply as promised the answer to 6476 and state the total hours on duty undertaken by each of the hospital Middle Grade doctors for the period from 9am on 6th June to 9am on 13th June, including the hours of 'on call' which may partly have been spent at home for which no distinction needs to be made for the purposes of this answer?
- b) Under the present rota arrangements, do any Middle Grade doctors undertake more hours on duty than they did in the specified week if their colleagues are on annual or study leave?
- c) When Middle Grade doctors undertake extra hours on duty to cover the 'on call' duties of colleagues on leave, is this on a voluntary basis, or compulsory?

Answer

This information should be read alongside the answer to Question 6494.

- a) A summary of hours worked by individual Middle Grade doctors from 9am on 6th June to 9am on 13th June is attached. Names have been removed for reasons of confidentiality.

A distinction has been made between resident on-call¹ and on-call² because it is not possible to understand or interpret the data without this information. The difference between resident on-call and on-call has a significant bearing on work intensity and hours spent at home. In addition it has a bearing on the application of European Working Time Directive standards.

- b) Under present rota arrangements, if middle grade colleagues are away on leave this may generate additional hours for other middle grade doctors, particularly in relation to out of hours cover.
- c) These shifts are currently offered on a voluntary basis and prove popular with individual doctors as they attract additional payments.

¹ **Resident on-call:** A doctor who is resident on-call is resident in the hospital and can be called upon to work as and when required. During the hours that they are resident on-call they could be working or resting (ie. they are available for work but not necessarily working). Doctors who are resident on-call are much more likely to be required to work during the on-call period (ie. the work intensity is higher)

² **On call:** A doctor on-call will be at home, as opposed to in the hospital. They will be called upon to work as and when required. During the hours they are on-call they could be working or resting (ie. they are available for work but not necessarily working). Doctors on-call are very rarely called on for any significant period of work (ie. the work intensity is much lower).

				06/06/2011			07/06/2011			08/06/2011			09/06/2011			10/06/2011			11/06/2011	12/06/2011	Total	Voluntary (inc in total hrs)
Department	Grade	Shift Type	Resident On-Call	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	OC	OC		
Accident & Emergency	SG	Full	Yes	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16	
Accident & Emergency	SG	Full	Yes	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33	
Accident & Emergency	SG	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	34	
Accident & Emergency	Locum SG	Full	Yes	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	12.0	12.0	57	
Accident & Emergency	AS	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	53	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	4.0	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Anaesthetics	AS	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	7.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	24.0	24.0	93	
Anaesthetics	AS	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	60	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	58	
Anaesthetics	SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	3.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	65	
Anaesthetics	Locum SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.0	24.0	98	
Anaesthetics	Locum SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43	
Anaesthetics	Locum SG	24 Partial	Yes if ICU, No if Theatres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
ENT	AS	On-Call	No	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	24.0	24.0	72	
ENT	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	0.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	68	

Department	Grade	Shift Type	Resident On-Call	06/06/2011			07/06/2011			08/06/2011			09/06/2011			10/06/2011			11/06/2011	12/06/2011	Total	Voluntary (inc in total hrs)
				AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	OC	OC		
General Surgery	SG	On-Call	No	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	3.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	58	
General Surgery	SG	On-Call	No	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	41	
General Surgery	AS	On-Call	No	3.5	5.0	15.5	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	15.5	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	74	15.5
General Surgery	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
General Surgery	SG	On-Call	No	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	4.0	15.5	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	3.5	5.0	0.0	24.0	24.0	105	
Elderly Care	AS	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	52	
Acute Medicine	AS	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Diabetes & Endocrinology	AS	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Nephrology	AS	Full	Yes	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
Gastroenterology	AS	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Respiratory	AS	Full	Yes	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	9.0	0.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	46	
Cardiology	AS	Full	Yes	5.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	9.0	0.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	47	
Neurology	AS	Full	Yes	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
Diabetes & Endocrinology	Locum SG	Full	Yes	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	9.0	0.0	13.0	13.0	71	
Acute Medicine	Locum SG	Full	Yes	4.0	9.0	0.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	9.0	0.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	57	
Acute Medicine	Locum SG	Full	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	13.0	26		
Psychiatry	SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	24.0	24.0	104	
Psychiatry	SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
Psychiatry	SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56	
Old Age Psychiatry	SG	On-Call	No	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	64	16.0
Psychiatry	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56	
Public Health	AS	None	n/a	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	4.5	4.0	15.5	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	74	15.5
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	24.0	24.0	87	
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	4.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	54	
Obs & Gynae	AS	On-Call	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	15.5	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	54	
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	15.5	4.5	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50	

Department	Grade	Shift Type	Resident On-Call	06/06/2011			07/06/2011			08/06/2011			09/06/2011			10/06/2011			11/06/2011	12/06/2011	Total	Voluntary (inc in total hrs)
				AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	AM	PM	OC	OC	OC		
Obs & Gynae	SG	On-Call	Yes	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	15.5	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	58	
Oncology	SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
Oncology	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	39	
Ophthalmology	SG	None	n/a	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24	
Ophthalmology	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32	
Oral Surgery	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	16.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	64	
Paediatrics	SG	24 Partial	Yes	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	
Paediatrics	SG	24 Partial	Yes	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19	
Paediatrics	SG	24 Partial	Yes	3.0	5.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48	
Paediatrics	SG	24 Partial	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32	
Paediatrics	SG	24 Partial	Yes	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	24.0	0.0	72	
Paediatrics	Locum SG	24 Partial	Yes	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48	
Paediatrics	Locum SG	24 Partial	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	12	
Paediatrics	Locum SG	24 Partial	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	16.0	0.0	12.0	36	
Orthopaedic & Trauma	AS	On-Call	No	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Orthopaedic & Trauma	SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	24.0	0.0	76	
Orthopaedic & Trauma	SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	68	16.0
Orthopaedic & Trauma	AS	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	52	
Orthopaedic & Trauma	SG	On-Call	No	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	
Orthopaedic & Trauma	Locum SG	On-Call	No	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	0.0	24.0	80	