

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2020**

Question

Further to the response to Written Question 546/2019, will the Minister –

- (a) advise what methods he has under consideration to assess the affordability of the current patient contribution to G.P. services for those in financial need; state whether means-testing is being considered and, if so, what form it will take; and indicate what consideration, if any, he has given to using an existing assessment, such as that used for Income Support or for Income Tax thresholds; and
- (b) state what consideration he has given to including in the new care model, in relation to those in medical and social need of affordable primary care, people on Long-Term and Short-Term Incapacity Allowance or who qualify for Impairment components under Income Support?

Answer

- a) As part of our Government Plan commitment to develop a model that improves access to primary care for financially vulnerable people, options are being scoped to identify the financially vulnerable and I anticipate that the merits (or otherwise) of means testing would be considered as part of this.
- b) Work will be undertaken to identify and prioritise the vulnerable groups in most need of affordable access to primary care and I am confident that people who qualify for the Impairment component will be considered.