

2.3 Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding a Ministerial response to the “Overdale, the closure of Leoville and McKinstry Wards” Scrutiny report:

When will the Ministerial response to the Scrutiny Report entitled: “Overdale, the closure of Leoville and McKinstry Wards” be available?

Senator S. Syvret (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

I hope to have it completed and with the Greffe later this week, Sir.

2.3.1 Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity:

I wonder if the Minister could inform the House if any patients are still at McKinstry Ward, please?

Senator S. Syvret:

I would need to check to get the latest figure but my understanding was that some patients were still there because of complexities and the need to identify appropriate places to put them but certainly, we are moving closer towards being able to close down those 2 patient areas.

2.3.2 Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Clement:

Could the Minister confirm when those patients will be removed and to where they will be removed?

Senator S. Syvret:

I cannot give a time when the people when will be removed. There are a variety of factors at play. For example, the clinical condition of the individuals concerned may make moving them a high risk activity and, therefore, they will not be moved. I cannot give a precise time as to when all of the individuals will be moved. Where they will be moved to will be high quality, appropriate settings principally in the private sector.

2.3.3 Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier:

Building on that, would the Minister tell us whether the respite facilities at Overdale have been closed and whether his department is now purchasing all those replacement facilities from the private sector?

Senator S. Syvret:

Not entirely, Sir. We are certainly purchasing some of those facilities from the private sector. There is still some usage being made of the Overdale facility which is regrettable. As we have repeatedly stated, we do not believe the building to be adequate and indeed, that is reflected in the great downturn of people taking up the respite facility at Overdale, so certainly, we are looking to a move as quickly as circumstances allow to make sure that better, higher quality respite facilities are available.