

23.03.21

9 Deputy L.J. Farnham of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the Health Care Facilities programme drop in (OQ. 43/2023)

Further to the invitation to Health and Community Services employees to receive an update and provide feedback on the new Health Care Facilities Programme at a series of drop-in workshops, will the Minister advise the Assembly the number of workshops that were held and the number of employees who attended?

Deputy T. Binet of St. Saviour (The Minister for Infrastructure):

I would like to thank the Deputy for his question. I am always delighted to take questions from Deputy Farnham about the hospital and I often feel that my life would not be complete if he failed to ask me something. Given that the nature of the question was quite narrow, I will answer it in a straightforward way and I am sure that the Deputy will have other questions for me. But I can confirm that there were 19 workshops and 59 attendees.

3.9.1. Deputy L.J. Farnham:

It is nice to receive an answer from the Deputy, for which I am grateful. That is approximately, to my working, 2 per cent of the approximately 2,500 to 3,000 employees that work for the Health Department, many of whom feel completely disenfranchised because the previous consultation advice they gave for a single-site solution has been ignored. Why does the Minister think the workshops were so poorly attended and what is he going to do to re-engage the medical staff in the process of a multisite option, given the fact that the majority of them had previously overwhelmingly supported a single-site solution? What is the Minister going to do to re-engage the staff?

Deputy T. Binet:

I am going to start by correcting the Deputy when he claims that everything that took place before has been ignored. That is not the case. Quite simply everything that has been said before has been taken into account and the fact that there was a fairly comprehensive engagement before goes a long way towards explaining why there has not been necessarily a huge turnout. This latest engagement was just part of a series of engagements. We will be engaging again with the Medical Staff Committee. That is taking place today. There is an online questionnaire for all staff concerned and part of that questionnaire relates to them expressing a view as to how they wish the engagement process to be run in the future. So there is a very healthy engagement process at work at the present time and the feedback that we have had so far has been extremely helpful.