

2024.03.19. **5.2 Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding services provided at Sandybrook Nursing Home (OQ.40/2024)**

In respect of the Sandybrook Nursing Home, will the Minister advise why it does not provide the residents with ophthalmic or dental care, or offer a dedicated transport service for them?"

Deputy T. Binet (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

The Constable is quite correct that we do not offer ophthalmic care at Sandybrook and we do not provide a dedicated service. However, residents over 65 are eligible via Pension Plus and they can gain financial support for that. That is paid through the C.L.S. (Customer and Local Services). While younger people can get that through income support and potentially through a special payment. Transport can be provided to appointments via patient transport. Alternatively, private taxi transport can be organised where necessary and staff are available to support residents to attend appointments.

5.2.1 The Connétable of St. Lawrence:

I am grateful to the Minister for his answer. What I would like to know then is why is there no procedures manual for patients and families so that they understand the answer to the questions that I have just asked? There is nothing provided for families or patients to know the policies of the nursing homes. Will the Minister ensure that this is provided as a matter of priority, please?

Deputy T. Binet:

That comes as something of a surprise. I had no idea that was the case. I am very happy to look into doing that. I just remind the Constable that I am only an email away if she has any concerns of this nature. She is absolutely free to get in touch with me and point them out, and I can take action accordingly.

5.2.2 Deputy G.P. Southern:

On a closely related matter, it has come to my attention that the bus service to hospice has been ceased. It is my understanding. Could the Minister examine this and report back to the States to ensure that we still have an active bus service for those who need it, going to visit people in hospice?

The Bailiff:

Deputy, I think that does fall outside the parameters of the question, which is specifically related to the Sandybrook service. But if the Minister wishes to answer it, then I will allow it.

Deputy T. Binet:

I am happy to refer that to Constable Jehan in his capacity as Minister for Infrastructure.

5.2.3 The Connétable of St. Lawrence:

Will the Minister commit to providing a dedicated lease vehicle for patient use, similar to the provision for patients on Cedar Ward?

Deputy T. Binet:

We do have budget limitations. I am certainly happy to look at it, but I am not prepared to commit absolutely at this point in time.