

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 28TH JUNE 2016**

Question

The Minister stated during the States sitting on 14th June that he had ‘no plans to bring forward significant user pays charges’. Could the Minister define what he meant by ‘significant’ user pays charges?

Answer

My department seeks to deliver services to Islanders in the most efficient and effective way possible, while prioritising the safety of patients. Services are always under review to ensure value for money. I was making the point that, at this time, I have no plans to bring forward such initiatives – ‘significant’ or otherwise. Was I ever to do so, those needing protection from charges would be protected.

Health and Social Services is one of the priority areas highlighted in the Strategic Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan and consequently £40 million of additional annual funding will be provided for health and social care by 2019. As already announced, this spending will be supported by the introduction of a new health charge so we can care for Islanders as our society ages.