

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 14th JUNE 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 21st JUNE 2021**

Question

Will the Minister advise whether appointment letters for referral to an outpatient appointment with the orthopaedics team include a date and time for the appointment and if not, why not; will he further advise whether such letters either invite the patient to seek private care or suggest they may do so and if so, why; and will he also state to how many hours of public interventions the current consultant is committed under their contract, rather than private work?

Answer

All outpatient appointment letters include the date and time of the appointment. The letter does not include information about private care.

A waiting list letter is sent to (clinically triaged) routine patients when a routine appointment is not available within six months. The following sentence in italics below is on the waiting list letter:

Should you decide to seek private care, please ensure you contact the Appointments department so that your name can be removed from the public waiting list.

This is included to ensure that people who choose to seek treatment privately are removed from the waiting list, so avoiding duplication.

Orthopedic consultants have a contract which requires them to deliver public service of 10 x 4-hour sessions of 'programmed activity' a week. This may include: on-call responsibilities; professional development; theatre; clinics; and administration time.