

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE.**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2007

Question

Would the Minister advise the Assembly -

- (a) the average cost to the public of an MRI scan charged to the Health and Social Services Department compared to a scan charged to a private health scheme?
- (b) whether the MRI scanner paid for by public donations has become obsolete after some 36,000 scans, how many of the scans were paid for privately or by private health insurance and what financial advantage did the public gain from such agreement?
- (c) will the Minister advise whether a new MRI scanner will be provided by the taxpayer and if so, will it continue to be used by individuals who provide a scanning service for private healthcare or private health insurance patients, and if that is the case, what arrangements are being made to make these private concerns pay an appropriate fee for this service?

Answer

- (a) The current cost to Health and Social Services of providing one MRI scan is approximately £176.00. Public patients are charged £21.00 for this service. Private patients are charged £650.00 per examination. This may be higher if more than one examination is requested and is in line with the fee structure negotiated with private health insurance companies.
- (b) The scanner, paid for by public donations, was installed in 1999. It has now become obsolete and is no longer serviceable or sufficiently reliable for the work required by Health and Social Services. During the eight years of operation, 8,332 scans were undertaken privately. This is approximately 23% of the total number of scans which has produced a profit of £1.6 m for reinvestment in the Department.
- (c) The new scanner has been secured in part exchange for the old one with the balance paid for by the taxpayer. It will continue to provide a comprehensive service for all, with the patient / insurance companies paying a fee to the hospital and the radiologists for private scans.

The profit gained will continue to be reinvested to support of the Department's overall provision.