

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2020**

Question

Given that, at a public hearing on 13th February 2020, the Minister stated that he did not think “*we could deliver a care model with the digital services we have at the moment*” and that officers from his Department stated that a comprehensive electronic patient record “*is integral to providing joined-up care*”, will the Minister inform members –

- (a) whether the funding for this digital transformation will be sourced through any of the expenditure projects listed in ‘Government Plan 2020–2023: further information on Additional Revenue Expenditure and Capital and Major Projects Expenditure’ (R.91/2019) and entitled ‘Digital Health and Care Strategy’, ‘Maintaining health and community care standards’ or ‘Technology Transformation Programme’ and, if not, where the source of the funding may be found in the Government Plan;
- (b) what the total cost will be to ensure that all those involved in primary care in the community (including hospital staff, G.P.s, family and practice nurses, therapists, pharmacists, care workers, carers and voluntary workers) can communicate readily whilst delivering appropriate care for individuals in a cohesive manner; and
- (c) by what timescale it is envisaged that this digital transformation will be in place?

Answer

As stated, digital health transformation is integral to the provision of joined-up care, which itself is integral to the new care model and the building of a new hospital.

- a) Funding for the digital health transformation will not be sourced from the projects listed, but instead we are working towards developing the likely cost implications and potential funding sources, which we anticipate concluding ahead of the Government Plan for 2021/24.
- b) As noted above we are currently working on establishing the costs and funding which we anticipate concluding in the near future.
- c) It is envisaged that digital health transformation would take around 5 years from inception, assuming continued financing throughout this period.