

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. MARTIN
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2024
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 10th JUNE 2024**

Question

“Will the Minister explain how, in the absence of the Women’s Health Strategy, he intends to centrally identify, implement and monitor improvements to health services for women, and in lieu of a strategy, will he publish a Delegation of Functions to designate a specific Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services to be responsible for Women’s Health?”

Answer

I have asked Deputy Howell, as Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services, to lead on Women’s Health matters. The formal delegation of this function was made by Ministerial Decision on Wednesday 5th June.

With regard to existing women’s health services delivered by the Health and Community Services (HCS) , matters relating to those services are reported via monthly Care Group performance reviews, and bi-monthly HCS Advisory Board Committees and HCS Advisory Board, enabling the Department’s senior leaders, executive and non-executive Board members to be sighted on trends related to operational performance (including service, workforce and financial performance), quality and safety performance, and improvements related to implementation of the maternity services improvement plan.

Regarding the development of new services and / or reform of services, the Women’s Health and Wellbeing survey results, which are currently being analysed, will provide insight into the matters which are of greatest concern to women in our community. Once the findings of that survey are available, Deputy Howell will work with the members of the Women’s Health Political Advisory Group to develop a statement of intent, setting out priority services development that the Group intends to focus on during the coming years. This will be in addition to termination of pregnancy, IVF and contraception services review work which is already underway.