



| States Assembly

States Greffe

Deputy Tom Binet
Minister for Health and Social Services

BY EMAIL

25th September 2024

Dear Minister,

Re: Concerns regarding the reduction of pharmacy operating hours

I am writing on behalf of the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel regarding the recent public announcement by Roseville Pharmacy, the only pharmacy locally that provides late evening and weekend services, stating that it will be reducing its opening hours from Monday 30th September due to financial and staffing challenges. As a Panel, we are concerned about the potential impact this will have on the community, especially for individuals who rely on access to medication and pharmaceutical services outside of standard business hours.

The extended hours provided by this pharmacy have long been a valuable and crucial service, particularly for the elderly, those with chronic conditions, families with young children and individuals who are unable to visit during regular working hours or who require urgent access to medication during the evenings or weekends. I would therefore like to ask what discussions, if any, have taken place between your department and the pharmacy regarding this matter. Furthermore, as a Panel, we are keen to understand what support has been offered to help the pharmacy maintain its extended hours, or if any alternative solutions are being explored to ensure that this essential service remains available to the community. Specifically, we would like to know whether there are plans to extend the opening hours of the Hospital Pharmacy if private pharmacies are not providing this service.

In addition, what assessment, if any, has been undertaken of the impact on out of hours GP and A&E for those who need health advice that they might otherwise access from pharmacies?

Thank you for your attention to this matter, we look forward to receiving a response **by Wednesday 2nd October 2024**. Please note that it is the intention to publish the response on the States Assembly website. Information can also be provided to the Panel in confidence by noting any information that should be treated as private and confidential and the reason(s).

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Louise Doublet
Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel