HOUSE OF KEYS, TUESDAY, 25th FEBRUARY 2020

2.10. Coronavirus tests – Procedure and individuals awaiting results

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for Health and Social and Social Care:

If he will explain the procedure around the tests undertaken on the Isle of Man for the Coronavirus and what happens to the individuals as they await the test results?

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Mr Ashford): Public Health England are leading on the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, their expert guidance is followed and, as this is a rapidly evolving situation, information is updated as it becomes available.

Those meeting Public Health England criteria for testing would stay at home if clinically assessed as appropriate, otherwise arrangements for safe transport to hospital would be made.

Initial local tests for common respiratory viruses would be undertaken at Noble's Pathology Department. A set of swabs would also be sent to a Public Health England laboratory to test for COVID-19. Home isolation requirements differ depending on the laboratory result and travel history.