

# REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE OF KEYS (QUESTIONS)

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Douglas, Tuesday, 5th February 2002  
at 10.00 a.m.

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Present:

The Speaker (the Hon J A Brown) (Castletown); Mr D M Anderson (Glenfaba); Hon A R Bell and Mr L I Singer (Ramsey); Mr R E Quine OBE (Ayre); Mr J D Q Cannan (Michael); Mrs H Hannan (Peel); Hon S C Rodan (Garff); Mr P Karran, Hon R K Corkill and Mr A J Earnshaw (Onchan); Mr G M Quayle (Middle); Messrs J R Houghton and R W Henderson (Douglas North); Mr A C Duggan (Douglas South); Hon R P Braidwood and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East); Hon A F Downie and Hon J P Shimmin (Douglas West); Mr D J Gelling (Malew and Santon); Hon J Rimington, Mr Q B Gill and Hon Mrs P M Crowe (Rushen); with Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, Secretary of the House.

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*The Chaplain took the prayers.*

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## Questions for Oral Answer

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| 1. Sellafeld – Information re Terrorist Attacks (Mr Henderson) | KQ 36 |
| 2. Nuclear Power – Construction of New UK Reactors (Mr Singer) | KQ 37 |
| 3. Health – Manx Patients Treated in UK – Delays (Mr Singer)   | KQ 38 |
| 4. Stroke/Dysphasia Support Services (Mrs Cannell)             | KQ 40 |

## Questions for Written Answer

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 5. DHSS – Young People in Care Establishments (Mr Houghton)                           | KQ 41 |
| 6. DHSS – Young People in Care Establishments – Cost Comparison with UK (Mr Houghton) | KQ 42 |
| 7. DHSS – Successful Care Providers – Financial Provisions of Tender (Mr Houghton)    | KQ 42 |
| 8. E-Habitant Limited – Creation of Debenture (Mr Karran)                             | KQ 42 |
| 9. E-Habitant Limited – Beneficial Owners of Shareholder Companies (Mr Karran)        | KQ 42 |
| 10. E-Habitant Limited – Change of Share Ownership (Mr Karran)                        | KQ 43 |
| 11. E-Habitant Limited – Taxpayers' Benefits from DTI Guarantee (Mr Karran)           | KQ 43 |
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**Sellafield – Information re Terrorist Attacks –  
Question by Mr Henderson**

Question 1. The hon. member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister:

*Given your answer to my question in relation to the security of Sellafield in this House on 22nd January 2001 where you stated: 'The Isle of Man Government wrote on 10th December last for clear assurances' et cetera and then you went on to state: 'As yet we have received no substantive reply to our concerns' -*

- (1) *can you give a commitment to this House that you will disseminate any information the UK Government may issue in relation to security arrangements for Sellafield in case of terrorist attack by land, by infiltration of staff or by air; and*
- (2) *would you agree that we need this information sooner rather than later, and that the people of this Island have a right to know and to have proper reassurance, and will you be monitoring the response time to ensure the Island is not kept waiting for an inordinate length of time?*

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Douglas North, Mr Henderson.

**Mr Henderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister.

**Mr Corkill:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have, in fact, circulated to hon. members the reply that we have received. This was received following our pressure for a response. We are presently studying this reply and considering whether further questions should be posed.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas North, Mr Henderson.

**Mr Henderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Can the Chief Minister confirm that most of the UK information supplied in the letter he is referring to from the response to a letter that has taken nearly two months to get back to us, actually relates to general emergency planning in case of an accident at Sellafield?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister.

**Mr Corkill:** I think it is true that the letter, Mr Speaker, does describe matters in general terms. There are specific issues. The response has been referred to the Department of Local Government for their consideration and, in the light of further studying

of the response, we will be contacting the Lord Chancellor's department again.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ayre, Mr Quine.

**Mr Quine:** Yes, is it not manifestly unreasonable, Chief Minister, that the UK should refuse to release the Sellafield risk assessments carried out by the Nuclear Inspectorate in respect of Sellafield, and will the Chief Minister pursue the release of these assessments, which have been in being for many years, to the Isle of Man authorities? After all, if we were a member state of the EU, that information would have to be made available to us?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister.

**Mr Corkill:** Mr Speaker, the question refers to security arrangements with regard to Sellafield, and obviously we want to seek as much assurance as we can from the United Kingdom authorities for our own assessment of the situation. The level of that detail is difficult, obviously, to obtain in the public domain. Some of that is obviously going to be confidential and should not be discussed in the public domain. I would say that we are at the early stages of pressing for the information that we wish to have –

**Mr Quine:** For 12 years.

**Mr Corkill:** - and can I say that we will be continuing dialogue. This is a subject which I will be raising with the Lord Chancellor in London on Thursday when I visit.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas North, Mr Henderson.

**Mr Henderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the hon. Chief Minister for his further assurances and would indeed urge him to ensure that these issues are raised at the Lord Chancellor's meeting, but will he confirm that the letter that he has in his possession makes no mention of strengthening of defences against terrorist attack at Sellafield, which is entirely different and requires completely different measures, what does the Chief Minister propose to do in the light of this information not being supplied, and does he agree with me that this is just stringing the people of this Island along and we should be better informed, especially in relation to matters of national security?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister, to reply.

**Mr Corkill:** I think I would make the point, Mr Speaker, that in the event of a terrorist attack at Sellafield, it would not just be the Isle of Man that would be at risk; in fact, we have a shared common issue with regard to the United Kingdom and indeed Ireland for the safety of that operation at Sellafield, so

it is not just a matter of the Isle of Man. I would be most surprised if indeed the authorities in the United Kingdom are not looking at it from their own point of view as much as the Isle of Man's point of view. I think it is quite important to get some balance in that respect, Mr Speaker. It is an issue that would affect a great area of the United Kingdom if there was a problem. Can I say, I have not got a lot more to add to my response this morning, but I have already said I will be raising this with the Lord Chancellor.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ayre, Mr Quine.

**Mr Quine:** Yes, given the need for the Isle of Man authorities to get the information to make the assessment that we need, will the Chief Minister press for Isle of Man representation on the Nuclear Planning Liaison Group which is concerned with nuclear emergency planning and response? In the United Kingdom representation goes down to local authority level; surely the Island can have participation in that group? And if they had participation, then at least some of the information we need would be available to us.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister.

**Mr Corkill:** Mr Speaker, I think the request that the hon. member for Ayre, Mr Quine puts forward is a very reasonable thing to expect.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas North, Mr Henderson.

**Mr Henderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the light of the Chief Minister's meeting this Thursday at the Lord Chancellor's Office, will he be asking for ground to air missiles to be placed in the vicinity of Windscale, such as France have done with their civil nuclear installations, as there are as many as 200 civilian flights a day which fly within 50 miles of Sellafield, and scrambling a jet fighter from an air base miles away would prove too slow a process to intercept a civil jet airliner, which can travel at around 500 miles an hour?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister to reply.

**Mr Corkill:** I do not think it would be wise of me to discuss any particular measure that the United Kingdom authorities may be thinking of. The hon. questioner poses a particular scenario. I have not a comment on that at this stage, Mr Speaker.

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**Nuclear Power –  
Construction of New UK Reactors –  
Question by Mr Singer**

Question 2. The hon. member for Ramsey (Mr Singer) to ask the Chief Minister:

*Are you aware that –*

- (1) *whilst a draft report of the UK Cabinet Performance and Innovation Unit seeks the phasing out of nuclear power production by 2050, there are proposals to build several new nuclear power stations in the UK, some along the west coast of Scotland and north-west coast of England;*
- (2) *The European Parliament has recently given the 'thumbs up' to nuclear electricity production; and*
- (3) *will you protest about the commissioning of new nuclear reactors in the UK due to concerns about radioactive waste, accidents and terrorism?*

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Onchan, the Chief Minister, Mr Corkill.

**Mr Corkill:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not believe that there are any definite proposals for the construction of new nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom, so the third part of the question is really then hypothetical. However, in accordance with our general approach to developments, which have any relationship with Sellafield, if any specific proposals were to be made, we would certainly look at them and form a view on whether or not it would be appropriate to register an objection.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Can I ask the Chief Minister, would he agree with me that nuclear safety of Sellafield is only one aspect, that we should be concerned about the safety of other nuclear reactors, and can he tell me what his government's policy is towards nuclear power generation now and in the future, considering that 25 per cent of the electricity produced in the United Kingdom at the present is by nuclear methods? Does his government oppose nuclear power or is he for nuclear power now and in the future?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister, to reply.

**Mr Corkill:** The current government policy which has been standing for some years, Mr Speaker, has been more focused on nuclear waste reprocessing, MOX, at the Sellafield installation and the expansion that has occurred and been approved. That is where the Isle of Man Government has been registering its main objection, along with the Irish Government. The broader issue of electricity generation from nuclear ways of doing it is a different issue and there is no laid-down policy, as I understand it, with regard to the Isle

of Man's view on electricity generation from nuclear power, but can I say again, the hon. questioner for Ramsey, Mr Singer, talks about other installations, perhaps throughout the British Isles, in terms of nuclear power. There are a number of those existing and it is most definitely in the interests of ourselves, but perhaps even more of the United Kingdom, to make sure that those plants are safe.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** In his answer the Chief Minister said that he was not aware of new nuclear power stations being planned. Has he not heard that the nuclear industry has plans to build up to 15 nuclear power stations and the British Government is under pressure to meet its Kyoto targets and also under pressure to avoid unemployment in the industry and reduction therefore in economic benefits? Does he not believe, therefore, that the safety of the public is not therefore the priority of the UK Government for its own people, but that we should put nuclear safety as our priority and therefore we should say that quite publicly and that we should protest most strongly against any of these new 15 nuclear reactors being built at all?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister, to reply.

**Mr Corkill:** Mr Speaker, I am aware that Mr Blair, the Prime Minister in the United Kingdom, has sanctioned a review of energy policy and obviously nuclear power generation is an important element of that review, and I have nothing further to add at this stage. There are no firm proposals, Mr Speaker, to build a new nuclear generation. There are proposals, there are discussions, as I understand it, and there is a review going on about the policy that the United Kingdom wish to pursue in the future. Obviously the Department of Local Government and the Environment and the Isle of Man Government will be looking at these developments with interest.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Could I then ask the Chief Minister, if he says that the UK Government have no specific policy, why does he believe then that Brian Wilson, UK Energy Minister, recently said on the BBC that the nuclear energy option must remain open?

**The Speaker:** Hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister.

**Mr Corkill:** He was expressing his view, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Peel, Mrs Hannan.

**Mrs Hannan:** Thank you, Vainstyr Loayreyder. Could I ask the Chief Minister, even if there is not any expansion in the UK of nuclear power stations, will the Chief Minister look at the policy of any expansion in the future of nuclear energy in relation to the effect that it will have on Sellafield and keeping Sellafield alive by the reprocessing processors that are going on there in that plant so close to us?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Onchan, Mr Corkill, the Chief Minister, to reply.

**Mr Corkill:** I think the hon. member raises a valid point, that if the industry expands throughout the British Isles there is the potential for increased reprocessing at the Sellafield site, which obviously brings it nearer to our shores. So that is an issue that is obviously something that we would wish to have a view on if applications for new plants are brought forward.

Can I also say - there was a comment there about Mr Brian Wilson - his comment, as I understand it, said that the group that he chairs has been set a vital task identifying the longer-term strategic objectives of energy policy for Great Britain, and he went on to say, 'We will examine all aspects of energy policy including how we can meet the challenge of global warming.' So there is a debate going on and that is something that obviously we need to keep abreast of.

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### **Health – Manx Patients Treated in UK – Delays – Question by Mr Singer**

Question 3. The hon. member for Ramsey (Mr Singer) to ask a member of the Department of Health and Social Security:

*What length of delay in receiving NHS treatment is being experienced by Manx patients due to be treated in the UK, as a result of lengthening waiting lists in the UK?*

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

**The Speaker:** I call on a member of the Department of Health and Social Security, the member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson, to respond.

**Mr Anderson:** Mr Speaker, I regret to advise that the department does not possess the relevant data to provide a definitive reply to the question. The hon. member will, I am sure, appreciate that over the course of a year very many patients are referred to the United Kingdom for many different specialist treatments which are not available on the Island. Approximately 7,000

trips are made to the UK by patients annually, probably double the number that travelled off the Island for treatment only 10 years ago.

As I have already indicated, the types of treatment are many and varied, waiting times being dependent upon the nature of the medical condition and the workload of the specialist unit to which the patient has been referred. As with waiting time on the Island, patients are assessed on the basis of their clinical need, with those patients requiring urgent medical intervention being given priority over those cases where clinical considerations indicate immediate and urgent treatment may not be necessary.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I should remind the hon. member that the majority of referrals to specialist units in the United Kingdom fall within the long-standing reciprocal agreement between the UK and the Island. Under the agreement the Isle of Man patients are not afforded a special priority, all decisions in terms of waiting times being based on clinical considerations.

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** I thank the hon. member for health for his answer. Could I refer him particularly to the operations for orthopaedic replacement hips and knees, cataract operations, cardiac operations: does he have available the number of people who have been waiting for over six months for these operations and, as waiting times increase in the United Kingdom, can he assure me that Manx patients will not be at the end of those ever-increasing lists so that the UK Government treat their own patients first and treat ours when they can?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Mr Speaker, as indicated in the answer, the department does not have readily accessible data and waiting times of Isle of Man patients waiting for appointments in the UK without trawling through individual patient files. However, indications from patients transfer data do suggest that units where delays may be causing concern are the cardiothoracic centre at Broad Green and also such units as Whiston Hospital, which provides treatment for non-threatening life conditions, such as removal of moles, breast reductions et cetera. The department is trying to ascertain the number of people on these lists, but it will take some time before we are able to give a definite reply to the hon. member, but when it is available we will provide them.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Cannell.

**Mrs Cannell:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Is the hon. member for health, or at least is the department he is representing today, aware that the UK, in order to get down their patient waiting lists, are sending their patients abroad for surgery, particularly in the

orthopaedic area? Is he aware of that and could we benefit from a similar situation, given that we do have a reciprocal agreement with the United Kingdom?

**The Speaker:** Hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. So far as the UK is concerned there is no doubt, the National Health Service is facing severe criticism. As you will be aware, some initiatives have recently been announced including buying services from the private sector, and a small number of patients have recently travelled to France under a pilot scheme for joint replacement surgery. The UK have set down targets within their 10-year National Health Service plan, which contains the following commentary: 'We will progress our objectives on a staged basis, the pace of progress being linked to the growth in staff. The plan will see a staged reduction of maximum in-patient waits from 18 months through 15, 12, 9 down to six and eventually to three months, but I must stress, this is a 10-year strategy? I would also like to add that patients travelling to the UK from the Island are based exactly on the same criteria as the UK base their waiting lists. If we have an urgent problem they will see them urgently, as they will see their own patients.'

**The Speaker:** Hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Can I just thank the hon. member for the way that he has answered his questions for the first time on behalf of his department. Can I suggest to him that, rather than reducing times over the 10-year period going from 18 to 12, from nine to six, to three months at present, we seem to be going from 3 to 6, to 9 to 12 to 18, that people are suffering in the United Kingdom and that people are then going to consequently suffer here; and that the suggestion made by the last questioner, the hon. member for East Douglas, should be looked at most closely? Does he not think that our patients should in fact, rather than have to wait on the ever-increasing lists in the United Kingdom, should go to other jurisdictions where they can get treatment and have their pain relieved much sooner than would normally be expected?

**The Speaker:** Hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I suggested earlier, we are part of this reciprocal agreement and we are bound to that. However, I am sure if certain waiting lists get to a certain stage, then the department will have to reassess its position, but until we have that data I cannot make any further comment.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ayre, Mr Quine.

**Mr Quine:** Yes, the DHSS have in the past had special initiatives where they have sent a number of patients off-Island to private hospitals to have some certain surgical specialities performed. Are there any such initiatives at this time and, perhaps equally important, are any planned for the immediate future?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Yes, Mr Speaker, we will undoubtedly look at these lists and the waiting times when we have the information and, on an assessment of that information, decisions will be made, but at this point in time nothing has been planned in reducing any of the waiting lists, but we will have to see exactly what the waiting lists are before deciding to prioritise any.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Cannell.

Mrs Cannell: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My final supplementary for the hon. member - I also am very pleased with his response today; it makes a refreshing change! Could he please express the concern of members of this hon. House to his minister in respect of this and ask her to bring forward a package of measures, such as been suggested by the previous speaker, to make it a priority to send our patients off-Island? And further, will he also inform his minister that we have patients who have had orthopaedic surgery in terms of hip replacement and they have had one side done and are now being told they have to wait two or three years before they can have the other side, and meanwhile the investment this Island has made in the first replacement hip, is being ruined? Can he express that to her, please, and ask her to look at this as a priority?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If any member has any individual concerns regarding any individual they know, I would be pleased to look into that and take it forward to the department.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Could the hon. member please explain to me why his department has not got this list of people who are waiting and why he is saying it now has to be ascertained and he will let us have this list when it is ready? Why has the department not got a list that is running all the time, so they are quite aware of who needs operations and who does not need operations? They seem to be working in a vacuum.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Our on-line waiting lists were discussed at a recent Health Service Policy Group. It was clear that in a number of specialities we remain a long way off there reaching our targets and, as far as the UK is concerned, it does take quite a lot of discerning to find out this information, but we are trying to put a system in place now through patient transfer that will enable us to have these facts and figures, but it is going to take a few weeks to work out the system and, once that system is in place, hopefully the figures will be available and we will be able to bring them back to this hon. House.

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### **Stroke/Dysphasia Support Services – Question by Mrs Cannell**

Question 4. The hon. member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask a member of the Department of Health and Social Security:

*What plans does your department have for the development of stroke services on the Island, and in particular, the development of family and dysphasia support services?*

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Cannell.

**Mrs Cannell:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

**The Speaker:** I call on the hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson, a member of the Department of Health and Social Security.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My department is always keen to look at ways of improving all aspects of health care, including service for stroke patients.

In this regard, hospital and community staff are working closely with the Manx Stroke Foundation, who have submitted a report on the future development of services, which contained a number of proposals aimed at enhancing existing family support and dysphasia support services to individuals who have suffered strokes. Bids relating to the additional resource requirements, together with bids for increased therapist posts, have been incorporated into the department's revenue estimates, although these have to be considered against many other competing bids from across the health service.

I am sure the hon. member will be aware that services have improved significantly over recent years through the development of stroke rehabilitation services based at both Newlands and Ramsey Cottage Hospital, and I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the medical, nursing and therapist staff for their dedication and commitment towards improving patient care in this area.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I can further advise that the department is in the process of completing a

comprehensive review of rehabilitation services, the recommendations arising out of which we will use to develop a business plan outlining the future developments of the services.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Cannell.

**Mrs Cannell:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Whilst being pleased that a bid has been made by the department for such an essential service, can I ask the hon. member - he referred to the report which was submitted by the Manx Stroke Foundation; does he appreciate there was also a business case that was submitted at the same time as the report and that that was presented to the department following a presentation that was given by the UK Stroke Foundation, who came over and gave a presentation to the department and the minister? That was back in 1999. Can the hon. member explain, therefore, why it is taking so long to actually provide or to acknowledge or to respond to the actual business case which was presented to the department in 1999?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not aware of that 1999 report, I presume that is what the department has been talking about recently. However, things are in the pipeline, things are moving forward and I would like to reassure the member that we have actually applied within bids to put further posts in place but, as I said earlier, these bids come up against other bids, which are in other people's eyes just as important in the health service. Nonetheless, services are being developed, services are being improved within existing resources and I think it is fair to quote the General Medical Service Directorate, which has commented as follows: 'The multi-disciplinary staff at Newlands are currently formulating a stroke pathway in line with the Royal College of Physician's National Guidelines on Stroke Care. This stroke pathway is aimed at ensuring patients who have suffered a stroke receive a constant level of care which is evidence-based. A group of professions is in the process of being set up to work towards achieving the standard 5 (stroke care) of the National Service Framework for Older People.'

Jane Bridge, senior occupational therapist at Newlands, is chairperson of the Manx Stroke Foundation. She has been working closely with the Stroke Foundation in the UK to develop a one-day intensive training course in stroke care for health assistants across the Island's health, social services and private sector. This rolling programme of training will be held at Masham Court and is due to start shortly. A further development includes a stroke advisory service for patients, relatives and carers, held at Newlands every Tuesday evening.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Singer.

**Mr Singer:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As the first few hours after a stroke are the most important hours to get treatment to the patient, will this policy being developed by the Newlands Stroke Pathway include a centre for the first 72 hours of urgent treatment as they have in Liverpool now, which is a very successful centre? Is that what we are looking to get on the Island here, so that the first 72 hours, the most critical hours, will be the time when the patients get the most intensive treatment and probably then have the best recovery chances?

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Mr Speaker, I do not have the details of the scheme, but when I do get to them I will pass them on to the hon. member.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Cannell.

**Mrs Cannell:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, my last supplementary. Is the hon. member aware that what the Manx Stroke Foundation are actually asking for in their business case is help with the support of a part-time therapist and also a part-time person to do the administration, that all training would be undertaken by the UK Stroke Association and that they will provide the training and the support in that respect? And further, could he please again go back to his minister and say that there is high expectation, there was high expectation in 1999, that the service to which he has alluded this morning would be in place within the period of 12 months maximum and that generally families who need emotional support and victims of stroke themselves are feeling very let down by this department, and would he make sure that his minister looks at this and makes it a priority for the next financial year?

**The Speaker:** Hon. member for Glenfaba, Mr Anderson.

**Mr Anderson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I did refer earlier, bids have been made in the bidding process for the next financial year, but I am sure and I would just like to confirm that in the eyes of most people the service has improved significantly over the last two years, and what will take place in the next year will build on what has already been achieved. I think I will take back the comments the hon. member has made to the department, but I can assure you that progress is being made in this area.

**The Speaker:** Right, hon. members, that completes the questions for oral answer on this morning's agenda. The other questions are for written answer and will be circulated in compliance with standing orders.

**DHSS – Young People  
in Care Establishments –  
Question by Mr Houghton  
for Written Answer**

Question 5. The hon. member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask a member of the Department of Health and Social Security:

- (1) *How many young people are currently residing in care establishments provided by your department on the Island;*
- (2) *what is the average weekly cost per person; and*
- (3) *how many care units are being operated within the Island?*

**Answer**

- (1) Thirty-six (including five at the IOM Children's Centre which is not provided by the department but in respect of which a significant financial contribution is made. The other residential places are in three department properties (five at Priory House, five at white Hoe, seven at Leece Lodge) or in four properties provided and operated by Manx Family Services in respect of which the places (14) are fully funded by the department.)
- (2) c. £2,450
- (3) see information above.

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**DHSS – Young People  
in Care Establishments –  
Cost Comparison with UK –  
Question by Mr Houghton  
for Written Answer**

Question 6. The hon. member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask a member of the Department of Health and Social Security:

*What is the average weekly cost for a young person residing in a care establishment –*

- (1) *in a department agency-run home on the Island; and*
- (2) *in a secure establishment in the United Kingdom?*

**Answer**

- (1) c. £2,450;
- (2) Between £3,000 and £4,500.

**DHSS – Successful Care Providers –  
Financial Provisions of Tender –  
Question by Mr Houghton  
for Written Answer**

Question 7. The hon. member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask a member of the Department of Health and Social Security:

- (1) *Is there a difficulty with the financial provision set out in the Successful Care Providers tender to your department for the operation of the new secure unit; and*
- (2) *if so, should this facility not be subject to fresh tenders from appropriate service providers?*

**Answer**

Since the original tender process was entered into, the department has changed the specification for the secure unit and the way in which it is intended to operate. As a result, the cost of providing this service has increased.

Negotiations are still taking place with Nugent to finalise the cost of operating the secure care facility.

Under the circumstances, it is not felt necessary to re-tender.

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**E-Habitant Limited –  
Creation of Debenture –  
Question by Mr Karran  
for Written Answer**

Question 8. The hon. member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry:

*Will you say why a debenture of £1 million was created in favour of your department against E-Habitant Limited when the company has no liability to your department having not received £1 million?*

**Answer**

As explained in the department's written answer dated 22nd January 2002 the debenture was created to provide security for a conditional guarantee offered to the company. This will only create a liability against the company if the offer is activated, and some or all of the funds are released.

An invitation has already been extended to the hon. member to discuss in private any issues relating to this matter which may concern him, but so far, he has chosen not to accept this offer.

**E-Habitant Limited – Beneficial  
Owners of Shareholder Companies –  
Question by Mr Karran  
for Written Answer**

Question 9. The hon. member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry:

*Who did your department understand were the beneficial owners of the two companies listed as the shareholders of E-Habitant Limited when the offer of a conditional guarantee for £1 million was first discussed by your department?*

**Answer**

The department has no interest in the two companies referred to in the question and understands that they were merely vehicles used by the company's registration agents to establish legal incorporation.

The department's offer was made after the date when the two companies referred to in the question as being the shareholders of E-Habitant Limited had transferred their shares to Invisimail (IOM) Limited.

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**E-Habitant Limited –  
Change of Share Ownership –  
Question by Mr Karran  
for Written Answer**

Question 10. The hon. member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry:

- (1) *Will you say why the claimed change of ownership of shares of E-Habitant Limited described in your written answer dated 22nd January 2002 has still not been notified to the Companies Registry; and*
- (2) *why did this not come to light when the mortgage was registered?*

**Answer**

- (1) *Companies are required to notify the General Registry of changes of share ownership when the annual return is submitted. It is understood that the company is actively addressing the submission of the return.*
- (2) *The department was in receipt of copies of executed share transfer forms prior to the debenture being registered.*

**E-Habitant Limited –  
Taxpayers' Benefits from DTI  
Guarantee -  
Question by Mr Karran  
for Written Answer**

Question 11. The hon. member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry:

*What are the perceived benefits for the Island's taxpayers arising from the provision of the £1 million guarantee to E-Habitant Limited by your department?*

**Answer**

The department seeks to encourage economic growth and diversification through the establishment and development of commercially viable businesses. The benefits of pursuing this policy bring wealth creation for the Manx exchequer and a diverse range of employment opportunities for the Island's workforce.

Benefits will accrue to the Island if the company successfully exploits its products in its target markets, a task which can only be hindered by the tactics being pursued by the hon. member and those who are prompting him for motives which so far are unclear.