REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M. P. J. HADLEY

Question 1

How many staff are required to operate the King Edward VII hospital?

Answer

At the beginning of 2012, the care setting had 44 beds across two wards and the agreed establishment was 54 wte which included registered and unregistered practitioners. The King Edward VII Hospital reduced to 20 continuing care beds and 2 respite beds for older people as of November/December 2012 and now has a care establishment of 31 wte. This slightly increased establishment for one ward is to mitigate some of the risk of having a ward isolated from the core of services.

Other services provided from the King Edward site include St Luke's day care and bathing service, home help co-ordination, driver / handymen service, wheelchair and postural management clinic and Meadows day care.

From January, 2013, The Croft will provide a dedicated short break service for children and young people. However, there will be a six month period where The Croft will continue to provide a service to a small number of young adults (under the age of 25) whilst Adult Services develop the full range of bespoke services. During this period, 3 beds will also be available at King Edward VII Hospital for young adults with a disability.

Question 2

What is the cost of salaries for the hospital including doctors and agency staff per annum?

Answer

In 2012, the King Edward VII Hospital was fortunate not to have to employ agency staff and therefore did not incur any costs in this respect. However, the wards did at times rely on bank staff and overtime payments to cover long term sickness and absence, maternity leave and vacancies.

The total cost of salaries (for registered nurses and unregistered healthcare assistant roles) in 2012 was £2,093,081.53 versus a budget of £2,093,004.08. This can be broken down, as follows:

£60,965.39
£117,719.84
£214,791.66
£473,804.18
£135,874.41
£485,926.69
£595,291.91
£8,707.45
£2,093,081.53

Other KEVII salary costs in 2012 include catering staff amounting to $\pm 210,139$. Salary costs for housekeeping staff amount to $\pm 311,000$.

There are no clerical, administrative or portering staff based at the King Edward VII Hospital.

In addition to the above, the MSG provides Consultant Geriatrician input as part of their contractual agreement and there is also a visiting service by General Practitioners twice a week.

NB. GP costs have been excluded as the information was commercially sensitive.

Question 3

What other operating costs are incurred by the hospital?

Answer

In 2012, the non-pay costs associated with care delivery for the continuing care areas were $\pounds 46,364.78$ versus a budget of $\pounds 43,579.60$.

In addition to the above non-pay care delivery costs, expenditure in respect of maintenance / running costs amounted to $\pm 175,209$ in 2012, as follows:

	£175,209
Water	£10,405
Mains Gas	£3,751
Heating	£73,566
Electricity	£49,587
Rates / Insurance	£6,039
General maintenance / repair	£31,860

Catering costs (food etc) in 2012, amounted to £99,660.

Grounds maintenance costs are £14,618.05 per annum.

The Department does not incur costs in respect of the capital cost of the building.

Question 4

How many patients are in the hospital currently and what has been the average occupancy over the last twelve months?

Answer

On Monday the 7th January 2013, there were 20 continuing care service users and one individual in respite care. Bearing in mind the higher number of beds prior to November/December 2012, the average occupancy in 2012 was 65%.

Question 5

What if any plans have been made to move patients to other accommodation?

Answer

In line with the HSSD's 2020 Vision and in response to changing demands for older peoples' care and support services in the island, the Department will continue to make appropriate plans for the future in consultation with staff and key partners (MSG).

Date of Receipt of the Question: 3rd January 2013

Date of Reply: 21st January 2013