

Question on Notice

No. 441

Asked on 18 April 2024

MR M CRANDON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the cost of any equipment and supplies that has been written off or disposed of as a result of the fungal contamination, or concern of contamination, at the Prince Charles Hospital?

ANSWER

Metro North Health is committed to providing safe and quality care to the community and the contamination concerns were investigated. In September 2023, during these investigations, testing found higher than expected fungal presence in the area where organ transplant retrieval equipment and supplies are stored.

The heart transplant program was paused on 27 October 2023, to enable further investigation, then the program was recommended on 1 November 2023 with support measures to support the recommendations from the investigation. These included a new storage area for equipment, portable HEPA air filters, deep additional cleaning and all reviews of air filters, heater coolers, air conditioning units, cleaning protocols, and swabbing of sinks and wet areas.

Metro North Health have been advised that there has been no medical equipment disposed of as a result of fungal contamination, or concern of contamination, at the Prince Charles Hospital. There were only minimal consumables which were disposed of, and the costs were insignificant.