

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 110**

**Asked on 20 February 2025**

**MR J MARTIN** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

### **QUESTION**

Will the Minister advise the criteria for a patient to be returned to a public health service, who was previously receiving care through a private health provider under the Surgery Connect program?

### **ANSWER**

The Surgery Connect program accepts patients from hospital and health services (HHS) to receive their surgical treatment in the private sector.

I am advised HHSs maintain clinical governance of the patient whilst the patient is part of the Surgery Connect program. All decisions regarding returns to the HHS are made in consultation with and approved by the HHS.

I am advised patients may be returned or referred back to the public sector for the following reasons:

- A change in the patient's clinical condition has occurred whilst the patient was receiving care in a private facility and the patient requires cares outside of the capabilities of the facility.
- Patients who require longer than expected allied health services such as physiotherapy or rehabilitation following surgery.
- Patients who, once seen at their preoperative appointment, are deemed as having a level of clinical complexity by the consulting clinician that means they are best placed to have their surgery at an HHS.