



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2)

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR ED COCKS MLA

Addressed to: MS RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA, MINISTER FOR HEALTH

In relation to: Forward estimates for the health portfolio

Hearing: 7 March 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript TBC (Question Taken on Notice at 10:58am in hearing)

Transcript provided: TBC

Answer Due: 7 March 2025

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Mr Cocks: Building on Mr Rattenbury's question before, it sounds like the updated data, the growth and new assumptions around what the future is going to look like hasn't been incorporated into forward estimates at this stage. Now one of the principles in accounting is that you use conservative assumptions. What I'd like to understand is what's the degree of uncertainty in each of the forward estimates years? What's the maximum that you expect those budget amounts could grow by for the health portfolio?

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: Well, I certainly can't answer that question now. I might take on notice to come back to you with what we can. I suspect the answer would be that we would be pre-empting the Budget process, because that's exactly the work that we're doing through the 2025-26 Budget process to understand what that looks like. But in the interests of time, I'll just take the question on notice, and you may want to come back to the Treasurer on it this afternoon.

MS RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I refer to the Treasurer's comments during the hearing on 7 March 2025.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature:

Date:

7/3/25

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA