

NURSES, EMPLOYMENT

461. Mr BIRNEY to the Minister for Health:

Does the minister agree with the recent comments made by an executive general manager of the Department of Health that the Government's commitment to employ a further 400 nurses over four years is unrealistic?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I have already acknowledged that there is a shortage of nurses worldwide. Whether it is realistic or unrealistic, we will strive towards making sure that we have the nurses for a first-class health system in the State.