

ST JOHN AMBULANCE, CONTRACTS

121. Mr BOARD to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the minister advise when the contract between St John Ambulance and the Health Department will conclude and any other possible various contracts with individual hospitals will be completed?
- (2) Will there be a tendering process for the provision and evaluation of further ambulance contracts?
- (3) Will the market place be opened up for competitors in regard to ambulance services?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) The current statewide contract with St John Ambulance covers the period July 1999 to June 2004. Most hospital arrangements for interhospital transfers are out of the initial contract period and extension provisions are in operation. Patient transport arrangements are being evaluated against the Government's pre-election commitments.
- (3) No. The Government has the policy intention to move away from competitive tendering for services delivered by not for profit organisations and achieving accountability through more flexible service agreements.