

SOUTH WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE

**63. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:**

I was pleased to hear the minister's comments at the end of his reply to the previous question.

The minister will be aware of the latest series of changes announced at 4.00 pm last Friday to the South West Area Health Service, which will abolish the positions of health services manager and director of nursing.

- (1) As the minister responsible for regional development, is the minister alarmed, as is the south west community, about the disastrous impact those changes will have on the delivery of health services to local communities?
- (2) If so, what does he intend to do about it?
- (3) If not, why not?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

- (1)-(3) I heard the issues being canvassed in the media. I do not believe that the issue has been previously drawn to my attention as minister responsible for regional development. However, when the cabinet regional standing committee meets, which I think will be this week, I will make sure that the issue is discussed in that forum and the concerns of the local south west community brought to the other ministers' attention.