

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
TO QUESTIONS POSED BY DEPUTY OZANNE
PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Questions from Deputy Ozanne submitted in accordance with Rule 14

Designated Safeguarding Roles

Question 1: How long was or has the MSG been without a Named Doctor for Safeguarding? What steps have been or were taken to enforce any contractual obligation to provide this role?

A Named Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring the safeguarding and child protection policies are effectively implemented within an organisation.

Since 28 June 2024, the Medical Specialist Group (MSG) has not had a Named Doctor for Safeguarding. From that point onward, safeguarding responsibilities have been managed and shared across the wider MSG paediatric team, with immediate cover provided by the on-call duty paediatrician to ensure continuity of care and adherence to safeguarding standards.

The appointment of a dedicated Named Doctor was discussed at various Secondary Healthcare contract monitoring meetings and at dedicated safeguarding meetings. Assurances were both sought and received that, in the absence of a Named Doctor for Safeguarding, safeguarding duties continued to be fulfilled by the duty paediatrician and the wider paediatric team.

Question 2: *Have any other designated safeguarding roles (e.g. Designated Doctor, Designated Nurse etc.) been vacant in the last 12 months?*

If so:

- ***for how long were or have they been vacant?***
- ***what is being or was done to mitigate the risk consequent on any vacancy?***
- ***is there a recruitment and/or succession plan?***

For those unfamiliar with these roles, the “Designated” safeguarding roles are different to the “Named” safeguarding lead roles. Designated Professionals (eg. Designated Doctor, Designated Nurse) are experts and strategic leaders for safeguarding. There has been no vacancy in the Designated Doctor position which is provided by an external off-island based doctor with appropriate experience and expertise in safeguarding. Whilst the Designated Doctor post is currently being advertised, the existing postholder will remain in the role until a new appointment is made.

The Designated Nurse position has been vacant since July 2025. Following the recent advertisement and completion of the shortlisting process, interviews are scheduled for late January, with the successful candidate expected to take up the appointment as soon as practicable in the coming months.

Continuous cover is provided for this role by ensuring safeguarding responsibilities are maintained throughout HSC by Safeguarding specific roles within Adult and Children services and with additional support from the Designated Doctor and the Independent Chair of the Islands Safeguarding Partnership.

Date of receipt of questions: 7 January 2026

Date of response: 22 January 2026