

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF  
THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M. J. FALLAIZE**

**Preamble**

*In 2009, the World Health Organisation recommended that jurisdictions should include in their childhood immunisation programmes vaccination against Rotavirus, which is the leading cause of gastroenteritis in children and is highly contagious, resistant and often very unpleasant. Recently it was announced that with effect from September, 2013 all children in the UK will be offered vaccination against Rotavirus.*

**Question**

*In view of the recent development in the UK and the WHO advice dating back more than three years, is your Department now prepared to offer all children in Guernsey vaccination against Rotavirus as part of the normal childhood immunisation programme?*

**Answer**

Following advice from Guernsey's Immunisation Advisory Group, the Board will consider the issue of introducing the Rotavirus vaccine for all children as part of its routine immunisation programme.

If agreed, the scheme will not commence before September 2013, which would be in line with when the vaccine will be added to the UK routine childhood vaccination schedule. The UK programme cannot commence until September 2013 as the manufacturer(s) needs time to build up adequate stocks of the vaccine to enable a successful launch of the campaign.

In the past, the HSSD has generally followed the UK childhood vaccination programmes, benefiting from the synergies of information, advice and publicity with the NHS programme. Participating in the UK scheme would also mean that the distribution of the vaccine would be in step with primary care in the UK and also enables the HSSD to access the nationally negotiated childhood vaccination programme price.

**Date of Receipt of the Question:** 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Date of Reply:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013