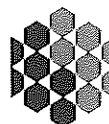


FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,  
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
Edwin Poots MLA



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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Mrs Judith Cochrane  
56 Upper Newtownards Road  
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BT4 3EL

Our Ref: SUB/187/2012

21 February 2012

*Dear Judith*

I refer to your recent written Assembly Question requesting information on the number of patients referred to another part of the UK for cyberknife stereotactic body radiotherapy in the last year (AQW 7632/11-15) and I would advise of an amendment to my original reply.

In respect of the answer I provided, I have been advised by the Health and Social Care Board that further analysis has highlighted that 56, as opposed to 53, patients were transferred to another part of the United Kingdom for stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment during the calendar year 2011.

I trust this information is helpful and apologise for any confusion this error may have caused.

I have copied the letter to the Assembly Library Services for their information.

**Edwin Poots MLA**  
**Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE FOR ANSWER: 8 February 2012

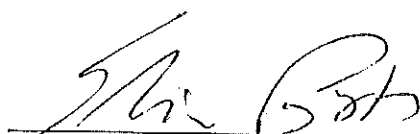
PRIORITY WRITTEN No: AQW 7632/11-15

**Judith Cochrane:** To ask the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been referred to another part of the UK for cyberknife stereotactic body radiotherapy in the last year.

**Edwin Poots**

I have been advised by the Health and Social Care Board that during the calendar year 2011, they received requests from consultants within the HSC in Northern Ireland for funding approval to send a total of 56 patients to a specialist provider of stereotactic radiotherapy in another part of the United Kingdom. Of these, one request related specifically to the CyberKnife method of stereotactic radiotherapy.

All 56 patients were transferred for treatment, but in the case of the request relating specifically to the CyberKnife method, the HSCB requires additional information for what would now be a retrospective funding. There were no instances where a referral was not approved.



Date: 21/2/2012

Signed and approved by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety