

April 2026

Parliamentary Oral & Written Questions

Monday, 27 April 2026

Written Question

13/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following;

(a) what is the total unpaid overtime owed to health workers, and how long has this liability been accumulating to date; and

(HFAM)

Response

(a) Mr Speaker Sir, the Ministry has decentralized budget allocations to its 14 Cost Centers which is controlled by Heads of Cost Centers (HoCC) such as Medical Superintendents and Divisional Medical Officers. This means that Heads of Cost Centers are responsible for managing their budgets through payment of salaries, wages, overtime and related Allowances for their staff.

When Heads of Cost Centers exhaust their overtime budget allocation, they are advised to implement Time Off-In Lieu (TOIL).

At this stage, a total of 8 out of 14 Cost Centers have exhausted their overtime budget and these include the CWM

and Labasa Hospitals, both specialized Hospitals of Saint Giles and Tamavua Twomey Hospital and the four Divisions of Central, Eastern, Western and Northern Health Services.

The Ministry's was allocated a total overtime budget of **\$7.5million** for both Established Staff and GWEs. The current expenditure until last pay is approx. **\$9.9million**, overspent by **\$2.4million** (131.6%)

Summary	Annual Budget	Actuals	Budget Balance	Utilisation %
SEG 1 Overtime	5,653,000	7,572,170	- 1,919,170	133.9%
SEG 2 Overtime	1,878,000	2,334,890	- 456,890	124.3%
Total	7,531,000	9,907,061	- 2,376,061	131.6%

All overtime for both Established and GWEs for the Ministry has been fully paid up to December 2025 while approved overtime on TOIL has been accumulating from January 2026 till to date.

The unpaid overtime from January till March 2026 for the Ministry is approximately **\$1.7million**.

Summary	Amount
SEG 1 - Established Staff	\$ 1,083,163.83
SEG 2 - GWEs	\$ 407,072.96
	\$ 1,490,236.79
FNPF (10%)	\$ 149,023.68
Total Gross	\$ 1,639,260.47

This unpaid overtime amount is expected to increase as unpaid overtime information for a few major Cost Centres are yet to be included.

The above unpaid overtime cost is for officers entitled for Overtime on Band E and below plus Registered Nurses, Medical Imaging Technologists (MITs) and Senior Pharmacy Technicians (SPT) on Band F that have worked overtime but could not be paid due to insufficient overtime budget.

(b) how many emergency patients were referred to private facilities since 2023, and what is the total cost of these referrals.

(DSHS & NMCG)

Response

(b) Mr Speaker Sir, the Ministry does not refer ^{emergency} patients to private facilities in fact, it is the other way round.