

The Newsletter
of the Friends of
the Manx
Diabetic.
The diabetic
support Group
of the IOM

The Diabetic

All monies
collected are
spent on the Isle
of Man.
No monies are
sent
off Island

EXTRA

The Best and most Informative Diabetic Newsletter on the Isle of Man

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LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Caaryjn Lught Vannin yn Chingys Millish

A Charity registered in the Isle of Man. Charity number 894.

All monies collected from whatever source will only be used on the Isle of Man for the benefit of diabetics and their medical carers.
The Group that fights on behalf of the Manx people without fear or favour

At long last we have a signed Reciprocal Health Agreement

It has taken years and months for our Government to achieve a signature, but it is a wonderful and welcomed agreement, that the people of the Isle of Man as of right deserve.

The power of the people has been evident in pushing this agreement forward and we must thank the British Coalition Government for agreeing to a permanent solution.

I would like to thank all those who helped, in particular Mr Andrew Mackinley, those who voted with the people in the October Tynwald, Mr Steve Rodan SHK, Mr David Cannan MHK, Mr John Houghton MHK Mr Quintin Gill MHK, Mrs Brenda Cannell MHK, Mr Peter Karran MHK and later on Mr David Callister MLC and Mr Chris Robertshaw MHK and also Mrs Doreen Smith of Manx Blind Welfare and Mrs Edith Quaggin for all their help in pursuing this matter to its final conclusion, and acquiring for the Government the six months moratorium, on behalf of the Manx people that made this agreement possible.

In a communication to all members of Tynwald on Thursday 9th September at 9.02 a.m., the Minister of Health Mr Anderson says;
“Dear Colleague

I am delighted to be able to let you know that within the next hour I will be signing the Reciprocal Health Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man which will come into force on 1st October 2010, following the expiry of the temporary Agreement which has been in force since 1st April this year.

The Agreement was signed by Anne Milton MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Public Health) at the UK Department of Health earlier today.

The main point of the Agreement, which are the same as the temporary agreement are:

- 1) Manx residents visiting the UK will receive free NHS treatment if they become ill whilst in the UK, apart from statutory changes which UK residents have to pay, such as prescription charges.
- 2) UK residents visiting the Isle of Man will receive free NHS treatment if they become ill whilst in the Isle of Man, apart from statutory charges which Isle of Man residents have to pay, such as prescription charges.
- 3) No payments for such treatment will be made to the Isle of Man, by the UK, nor by the UK to the Isle of Man.
- 4) The treatment of Manx residents referred to the UK by the Isle of Man will continue to be paid for by the Isle of Man Health Services.

5) Each party to the Agreement can, if necessary, give 12 months notice of termination of the Agreement.

I am delighted to be able to sign the Agreement, and I know that you and the Manx people will welcome the end of any residual uncertainty over our long-term healthcare arrangements with the UK. It is unfortunate that the UK General Election and the need to follow the due process of consultation and proper preparation have led to this taking longer than any of us would have wished but the wait has been worth it. We now have a permanent Agreement in place and can travel to the UK, and welcome UK visitors to the Isle of Man, assured that free healthcare will be there if needed.

Kind regards

David Anderson MHK. Minister for Health” unquote.

There is no point in making any comment on the above, as this is not the time nor the place to do so because of the euphoria of the Agreement, but we shall do so in the next newsletter. In the meantime, it is only what we all expected our Government to have done ages ago.

On the 6th September (three days before the signing of the Agreement), the Chairman received an e-mail from a reliable source within the Council of Ministers to say that quote “The devolved parliament/ assemblies of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are content, and the UK Minister of Justice has given approval. It is my expectation that the new agreement will be signed by both Governments within the next fortnight, but certainly to take effect from 1st October 2010”. Unquote.

The Chairman immediately e-mailed the person concerned, that from past experience the Government has done nothing, and the Keys and Tynwald were testament to their actions.

The Chairman however sincerely hoped that what the author of the e-mail had been told was the truth, but the Chairman would keep his fingers and toes crossed.

Nevertheless he explained that he had already written to Ms Anne Milton the Minister Responsible for International Health Policy asking for a resolution and if their Government cannot at this late stage acquiesce, then the Chairman had told her we must have some sort of an extension in place until whenever they felt that in the future this will be permanently resolved.

The Chairman immediately received a return e-mail from the reliable source inside the Council of Ministers saying quote “Many thanks. I am absolutely convinced that the new Reciprocal Health Agreement will be signed within the next few days operative from 1st October. I note that you have written to the Minister Anne Milton requiring an extension if there is no resolution in time. In fairness, Minister Anderson has made it crystal clear on behalf of the Council of Ministers, that in the unlikely scenario of an agreement not signed in time, then arrangements are already in place for an extension beyond 1st October to allow further time for an agreement to be completed”. Unquote.

The Chairman started ringing people, MHK’s etc, but no one could throw any light on the matter, and at 4.45 p.m. on Wednesday the 8th September, the Chairman spoke with Mr Norman Macgregor Edwards the Director of Health Strategy and Performance and read him the above without saying which member of the Council of Ministers had sent it to him.

He asked the Question “is this true or not?” Mr Edwards explained he could not say anything but all he would say was that the Minister was confident it would be done before the 1st October, and if his Minister was confident, so was he.

This could only mean that the person within the Council of Ministers who had sent the Chairman the e-mail was correct, and we would only now have to wait hours or days for the signature.

The cat was now out of the bag, as they now knew that the Chairman was aware of the impending signature to the Agreement.

The Minister Mr Anderson informed the Manx people of the signed agreement the next morning, Thursday 9th September.

The Diabetic and the Chairman congratulate the Government in getting a signed agreement at the eleventh hour, because the Manx people deserve to have this agreement in place which should have been negotiated and signed years and months ago.

However, this does not vindicate their actions at the October 2009 Tynwald, or what the Chief Minister, Ministers and members of departments have said at sittings of the Keys and Tynwald and throughout this two and a half year sorry saga.

We shall bring you a complete report with comments in our December newsletter.