

*Petition forms available*  
*Peter Karran calls for a Free Vote on Medical Insurance*

Due to immense public reaction Liberal Vannin has forms to petition government to support Peter Karran's motion next Tuesday. These are available online at [www.liberalvannin.org](http://www.liberalvannin.org) or from the Party Chairman, Kate Beecroft on 853352.

Liberal Vannin believes that this is A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE and that all MHKs should be allowed to vote with their conscience on this vitally important issue.

As per our previous press release:

Liberal Vannin Party Leader, Peter Karran MHK, had tabled a Private Members Bill for the sitting of the House of Keys this Tuesday, 26 January. The Bill will introduce primary legislation to enable a government department to put a levy on travel. It will enable the government to use the funds generated by this levy to fund the cost of medical insurance for all Manx residents when visiting the UK and for visitors to the Island. He has delayed this motion for a week and will now bring it to Keys on Tuesday, 2 February.

Liberal Vannin have sourced medical insurance for Isle of Man residents which would cost less than two pounds per trip but it would be compulsory on all Manx travelers. The weeks delay is to be used to inform the Manx public of this option and also all MHKs will be invited to a presentation by the brokers giving full details of the insurance and answering any queries they may have.

However, unless the Chief Minister, Tony Brown, allows a Free Vote it is unlikely to succeed. Under the current system of government all Ministers have to support each other (or resign) and the

departmental members involved have to support their Minister. Without a Free Vote this means that Peter Karran's Bill will automatically have twelve votes against it.

Peter Karran stated, "The Reciprocal Health Agreement will end on 31 March this year and the government do not have a Plan B. This is the only option on the table and time is running out. I would ask everyone to contact their MHKs and let them know how you feel. They are there to protect you and to serve you – not to support each other. Liberal Vannin have initially concentrated on making sure Manx residents will be protected but the insurance policy could easily be extended to cover visitors coming from the UK to our shores as well."

This issue is far, far too important for the sick and elderly of the Island to allow petty political shenanigans to interfere with what is really a vote of conscience.

"ENDS"

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Press Office