

FRIENDS OF OUR NEW HOSPITAL
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News for Immediate Release
2nd July 2020

Release Begins

Friends of Our New Hospital say “What’s All the Fuss About?”

The Friends of our New Hospital have expressed surprise at the reaction on the part of Health & Community Services and the Primary Care Body representing the Island’s GPs to their announcement on Monday regarding developments with the new hospital project.

The Friends announcement expressed their concern that Jersey’s GPs were being asked by Health & Community Services to extend the agreement under which they had relinquished their private practice and become full-time employees of the government in response to the Covid-19 crisis. They also raised questions regarding the Jersey Care Model, the closure of the Samares Ward at Overdale and the lack of information released to the public. Deputy Renouf, Minister for Health & Community Services, made a statement to the States Assembly on Tuesday, 30 June accusing the Friends of publishing falsehoods regarding the government’s negotiations with the GPs. The Friends have written to Deputy Renouf detailing the facts in their announcement and saying firmly that they stand by their announcement.

The Primary Care Body and Deputy Renouf have issued a joint statement today stating that the announcement by the Friends on Monday was factually incorrect, inaccurate and misleading. The statement also said that Dr Nigel Minihane had distanced himself from comments attributed to him by the Friends in their announcement.

Mr Peter Funk, a member of the Friends of Our New Hospital steering group, responded to the joint statement:

The joint statement’s reference to Dr Minihane is a source of bewilderment to us. We did not make any reference or attribute anything to Dr Minihane in our announcement. It is a matter of great regret that the joint statement has drawn Dr Minihane into the public area without reason. Contrary to assertions in the joint statement the Friends maintain that the facts conveyed in their announcement on Monday are entirely accurate.

Mr Funk went on to say:

“We are extremely pleased that the GPs and the Minister have confirmed they will not be extending the contract between them under which the GPs were nationalised and became government employees. Continuing that relationship was one of our strong concerns. Debate between the government and public interest groups such as the Friends are the healthy and productive elements of any democracy. What’s all the fuss about?”

Release Ends

Further Background Information Follows:

- Friends of Our New Hospital correspondence with Deputy R J Renouf Please see our letter to the Minister for Health & Community Services dated 2nd July 2020 enclosed.
- Joint Statement from GPs and Minister for Health & Social Service Please see the Government of Jersey News Release dated 2nd July 2020 enclosed.
- Friends of Our New Hospital Our objective is to create and sustain a public campaign to assist Our Government in accelerating the completion of the new hospital. We will make every effort to mobilize public opinion and to lobby our government to ensure progress is made as soon as possible.

For further Information please contact:

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