

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 86/2007

4 September 2007

The Opposition is very glad that at the request of the affected parties, it issued a Press Release making public the totally unacceptable manner in which the patient's relatives were being treated by the Government.

The result has been that the person concerned has been given assurances that the matter is being dealt with as the problem with the medication should now be concluded.

No doubt, the Government prefer that shortcomings that affect users of the Health Service, or any other service, should be kept away from the public, since they wish to claim they can do no wrong.

In their reply, it is the Government that is showing an incredible level of ignorance about what has been happening in this case.

The UK Guidelines quoted by the Government state that therapy, with this drug, should be INITIATED by a specialist and routine supervision of the therapy can then be continued by the local G.P in a shared care programme with the specialist.

The UK guidelines confirm the need to provide support to the carers of patients who are dealing with the very stressful conditions of their loved ones.

The carer in this case was faced with the absurd situation of being told that the drug prescribed between January 06 and April 07, by the patient's GP was not being paid for because the prescription had to be signed by a Consultant.

It is the responsibility of the Health Service to ensure its consultants and doctors know what the policy is and not for the patients' carers to do this. If the Government's Press Release is to be believed, then for over a year, this drug has been prescribed by GP's without authority.

And if the information provided by the family is correct, the Government's reaction has been to refuse to pay for it rather than acting to put matters right.

ENDS