The Chief Minister must have known for approximately 18 to 20 months that the reciprocal health agreement was coming to an end and yet, apart from a rather lethargic flurry of half hearted posturing in the dying days of the agreement, he has appeared to lack both interest in the problems its loss raises, or ideas about how they might be ameliorated, particularly for those for whom the impact will be the greatest and most worrying. His limited utterings on the subject have been fairly perfunctory and can be boiled down to the following 'the agreement is lost and there is nothing we can do about it so you will just have to look after yourselves'.

The real concern is not about all those who can afford to pay the insurance cover, rather it must be about those who cannot, or who have pre-existing medical conditions (including children) or the elderly - all of whom will either find insurance cover expensive or impossible to get.

I thought we were supposed to be a caring inclusive society.

I have not got access to the data that the Council of Ministers enjoy nor the time they have had (and wasted) to come up with a solution but the following seems reasonable to me:

If there are approximately 1,600,000 single journey movements in and out of the Island each year and the cost to our Government would be say £2.8m for uncovered health care for Island residents in the UK and say £0.5m at cost for about 300 hospitalised visitors here, then, expressed as a cost per journey, this would work out at just over £2. Is there anyone who would begrudge paying this when one considers how many problems it would solve so easily and how much it would save both island residents and our visitors?

This might even encourage the Government to look at ways of running our airport more cost effectively thus cutting fares - but then thats hoping for too much isn't it?