

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

18th March, 2020

Proposition P.2020/22

SURSIS MOTIVÉ

Proposed by: Deputy H J R Soulsby

Seconded by: Deputy G A St Pier

COMMITTEE for EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY

SCHEME FOR THE FUNDING OF MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR
GUERNSEY AND ALDERNEY RESIDENTS TRAVELLING IN THE UK

To sursis the Propositions and to direct the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security and the Committee *for* Health & Social Care to return to the States with revised proposals:

1. Once at least **six months** have elapsed since any warnings or restrictions on off-island travel, in relation to the current CoVID-19 pandemic, have been lifted;
2. Having addressed certain issues which have been identified in respect of the practical implementation of these proposals, as set out in the Explanatory Note to this Sursis Motiv  ; and
3. Only if, during the intervening period, the States has not yet agreed to the introduction of a new Reciprocal Health Agreement with the UK.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Islanders have been advised to minimise off-island travel, as part of the response to the current CoVID-19 pandemic. More information is available at www.gov.gg/coronavirus.

The purpose of this sursis motiv   is to support that advice. It is considered that approving the scheme, at this point in time, risks giving false confidence to older and vulnerable islanders – who appear to face a higher risk from coronavirus – that they can safely travel off-island. **The States advise all islanders to avoid non-essential travel to and from the Bailiwick at the present time.**

The sursis motiv   allows the Assembly to make a clear commitment that these proposals will be brought back when it is sensible to do so.

The window provided by the *sursis motivé* will also allow the Committee *for* Health & Social Care and the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security to work through a number of issues relating to the practical implementation of these proposals, and how they will be integrated with HSC's existing policies relating to on- and off-island healthcare.

The issues arise because, although the scheme has been developed by ESS, it will transfer to HSC along with other schemes funded through the Health Service Fund, in accordance with earlier resolutions of the States. This means that the scheme will interact directly with HSC policies relating to off-island healthcare, in a way it might not have done before the transfer. The Committees will use the additional time offered by this *sursis* to work through those issues, so that patients do not find themselves caught between conflicting policies.

Finally, HSC is of the view that it may be now possible to make constructive progress on negotiating a full Reciprocal Health Agreement with the UK, once the CoVID-19 response no longer dominates. Recent engagement with our counterparts in the UK has been positive. If the States agrees to a new Reciprocal Health Agreement before the end of the period specified by this *sursis motivé*, the need for these proposals will fall away.