



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Department of Health and Social Care

Rhenny Slaynt as Kiarail y Theay

**From the office of the Minister
Hon. A Cannan, MHK**

1 November 2024

Wendy Reid
Manx Care Chair
Nobles Management Suite
Strang
IM4 4RJ

Department of Health and Social Care
First Floor, Belgravia House
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 1AE

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Wendy

Manx Care Back to Balance Plan 2024/25

I am writing further to recent correspondence between Manx Care and the Department on proposed further measures to close the financial gap between this year's budget and Manx Care's forecast overspend.

As you know the Manx Care Board had proposed additional mitigations to further close the gap, on top of those actions that it is already taking as part of its existing and enhanced Cost Improvement Plan. These additional mitigations, in the form of detailed savings schemes with potential service impacts were considered by the DHSC Board on 28th October, and it was agreed that they should be presented to the Council of Ministers to seek a direction on whether some, all or none of these options should be pursued in the interests of closing the financial gap. Council considered these schemes very carefully at its meeting on 31st October and resolved very clearly that it **could not** support those plans in frontline areas which would have a direct impact on the public.

For clarity those proposed schemes which Council **does not** support are as follows: -

- Ceasing the Shingles vaccination programme
- Ramsey MIU Closure
- Close MEDS
- Close Ward 4
- Close Ward 11
- Reduce Overnight Ambulance Provision
- Do not transfer critically unwell patients overnight
- Suspend the helicopter emergency service (GNAAS)
- Review of contracts with non-statutory services (third sector and private sector that provide public facing services)
- Stopping funded patient escorts

In addition, noting the additional measures that Manx Care are already implementing, Council are directing that you should maintain the Qwell and Kooth mental health service facility.

Council noted that Manx Care is taking forward several other schemes to reduce administrative, "back office" or management spend and is strongly supportive of ensuring that any duplication of effort between Manx Care and the government shared services is nullified. Council would like to request more transparency around some of those areas of spend, particularly on management and administrative overheads, as I think it will be reassuring to members of Tynwald and the public that you are taking these concerns seriously and are bearing down on those costs appropriately.

Clearly the outcome of this decision is that Manx Care still faces a challenge in bringing back its expenditure to budget this year. At this juncture it is therefore critical that you continue to drive forward the savings plans you have already begun to implement and ensure that there is effective and rigorous budgetary control across all layers of the organisation. Both the Department and the Treasury have been very supportive of ensuring you have the additional resource and expertise in place in order to assist with that. That extra support should also be tasked with identifying further opportunities for savings in this financial year where it can and I look forward to hearing from you further on this as part of the next monthly financial review cycle.

It is now imperative that we work as hard as possible to realign the Budget with the Operating Plan and the Mandate for 2025. There are opportunities for improvements through collaboration although I also recognise that healthcare delivery can be complex and costly. Nevertheless, I remain optimistic that we are capable of shaping services to fit within allocated budgetary frameworks, and I look forward to working together to achieve this outcome.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Alfred Cannan, MHK
Minister for Health and Social Care

Cc: Teresa Cope, Manx Care CEO