



The Association of Private Family Doctors  
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DOR. 8  
HEALTH COMM  
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The Chairman,  
Parliamentary Health Committee  
Valletta.

28th May 2014

Dear Dr Grech,

I would appear the the Dept of Health's IT manager, has turned down our proposal for a VPN connection to access MDH databases because he cannot source the 60k required to activate the system. In the grander scheme of things 60k is an insignificant sum for Govt but for the DH's IT man it is, understandably, a hefty some to deduct from his limited budget.

The chief govt supporter of this effort, Dr Michael Farrugia, has now moved on to another ministry and is unable to pursue the matter. The matter should now be, but is not yet in, the hands of Michael Falzon - the man now responsible for simplification of Govt processes.

Dr Chris Barbara was involved in meetings in Castille about this project which was progressing but now this seems to be in limbo. Apart from the obvious benefits, Dr Barbara believes that, the proposed system would free four of his people who are presently tied up in the collection, printing and dispatching of results to us via snail mail.

Ultimately it is Michael Falzon who will have to allocate money for this venture as the project falls under "simplification etc" and not under "health". The Dept of Health would save the salaries.

It is fairly obvious that the salaries of 4 persons would quickly eat up 60K from the country's coffers and this ought to be a strong argument in discussions with the Ministry.

Furthermore without the IT dept's agreement, the chip on the new ID cards will be next to useless. As you know Dr Fearne is expecting great things from the new ID Cards. The myHealth system was created in order to provide secure



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online access for private doctors to patient data, but its usefulness was limited because it depends on patients accessing the system with an e-ID, (not so easy to obtain) because doctor-patient registration does not exist yet.

It appears that Dr Chris Barbara is due to be heard by the Parliamentary Group on Health – This would be an opportunity to obtain his very relevant opinion. As we all know, such access is central to Primary/Secondary Health "symbiosis".

So basically it all boils down to put our money where our mouth is: A decision at the political level is required.

Thank you,

Kind regards,

Anthony P. Azzopardi