



Joint Statement from the Isle of Sark Shipping Company and the Medical & Emergency Services Committee

The Isle of Sark Shipping Company ("IOSS") and the Medical & Emergency Services Committee (the "Committee") wish to advise residents that the subsidised medical travel concession has been withdrawn with immediate effect.

The concession has, for some time, provided reduced fares for Sark residents travelling for medical appointments, together with a reduced fare for an accompanying chaperone where required. The arrangement has been funded entirely by IOSS as part of its wider discretionary concessions framework.

Following a Board review of historic concessionary fares, IOSS has confirmed that the subsidised medical travel concession will be withdrawn with immediate effect. The Committee has considered the position and has agreed that, at this stage, it will not continue the subsidy directly.

Both IOSS and the Committee recognise that travel for medical appointments is an important issue for Sark residents, particularly where appointments require off-island travel. The decision has therefore not been taken lightly.

IOSS is currently reviewing its discretionary concessions to ensure that fare arrangements are fair, consistent and sustainable across its services. The Committee will continue to keep the matter under review and further consideration may be given to whether a medical travel subsidy should be reinstated in future, including whether a paper should be brought to Michaelmas Chief Pleas.

Residents travelling for medical appointments should therefore book travel through the normal ticketing arrangements with immediate effect. Medical travel bookings already made under the existing concession will be honoured and passengers should contact IOSS if they have any questions about their booking.

IOSS and the Medical Committee appreciate that clear communication is important and will work together to ensure residents understand the change.