

My comment from Facebook verbatim.

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The only people who ever go to A&E to avoid doctors fees are those who can't afford them. Many of those people have serious health needs and some of them owe 000s in doctors bills, after a spell of illness.

If you let them go without health, in the name of cost, then you might as well introduce full privatisation, where the proposed initiative is a step towards that anyway.

Then you and your children can catch the diseases, during the epidemics caused by a large percentage of people unable to afford healthcare, who live in close proximity to one another, in their poverty that is caused by this governments ineffectual economic policies and your self interest in charging for those things that should be a given in any civilised society, rather than introducing a decent system of progressive taxation.

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In addition to the above, it should be understood that the people who attend A&E that are not attempting to get free health care are not experts in health, and are at A&E because they believe it is the correct answer to the situation they face.

They have often driven from places distant in the island to get to A&E. Perhaps you should consider introducing an expert system like NHS direct, to allow them to appreciate whether or not they should attend A&E before they travel that distance?

James Miller