

From: _____
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Addendum to Parliamentary Inquiry on Out of Pocket Costs - TELL YOUR STORY
Date: Wednesday, 23 April 2014 5:10:21 PM
Attachments:

Addendum to my earlier email, I had forgotten this until now:

I became ill after taking penicillin. It was a weekend and my usual GP's surgery had closed. I spoke to the pharmacist, who suggested I really should speak to a doctor. Being unwell, I had limited capacity to make judgements about what would be the best course of action. I remembered that there is a locum doctor service at my local hospital and made an appointment. My daughter-in-law drove me there but was unable to wait, as her 3 children then were very young. I saw the locum, who told me to stop taking penicillin and see my own GP as soon as possible. I was then told by the receptionist that the fee was \$70. I had no idea there would be a fee. Because it was held at a hospital I assumed it was free. I knew I had a few dollars in my bank account but not enough to pay the locum service and get a taxi home; I knew I was too ill to travel by bus. The receptionist spoke to the doctor, who agreed I could be bulk-billed, which I very much appreciated.

I know that in the future, if a similar circumstance arose, I would very possibly not have enough to pay a locum then, either. Having to pay for a doctor would push me to go to hospital emergency department instead.