

STATEMENT FROM:



# BILLY ARMSTRONG MLA

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## **Billy Armstrong welcomes introduction of free prescriptions**

Mid-Ulster MLA Billy Armstrong has welcomed the implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> April of the proposal by Health Minister Michael McGimpsey to end prescription charging thereby fulfilling an Ulster Unionist Manifesto Commitment made at the last Assembly elections.

Mr Armstrong said;

“I am sure everyone will join me in welcoming the introduction of free prescription charges by the Health Minister.

This is good news for everyone in Northern Ireland and removes what is effectively a tax on the sick. It will be of particular benefit to those who require repeat prescriptions for long-standing illnesses and medical problems.

This is a clear example of how a locally elected Assembly and Executive can work for the people of Northern Ireland and can deliver tangible benefits.

The idea of free prescriptions was an Ulster Unionist manifesto commitment at the last Assembly Election in May 2007, and I am delighted to see an Ulster Unionist Minister delivering on his promises for the benefit of all the people of Northern Ireland.”

ENDS