Dear Colleagues,

Re: November 2014 Tynwald

At the November 2014 sitting of Tynwald the Honourable Member for Douglas South, Mrs Beecroft, asked a supplementary question to Oral question 2 regarding delegated powers to the Minister of Policy and Reform. The publication of Hansard for question 2 is as follows:

**The Chief Minister (Mr Bell):** Madam President, to date, no powers or responsibilities have been specifically delegated from the Ministers of Departments to the Minister for Policy and Reform.

Since the formation of the Cabinet Office and the appointment of a new Minister for Policy and Reform, Ministers of Departments and the Minister for Policy and Reform in Council of Ministers have concentrated on one of their key challenges of balancing the budget. The Minister for Policy and Reform has also concentrated on areas particular to his role, outside any delegated to his fellow Ministers, such as launching the Big Debate to get the public’s views on the three key future policy developments areas of smaller, smarter Government, responding to the individual and, with the Treasury Minister, welfare reform; as well as leading a review of the public sector pension schemes and chairing the Civil Service Commission.

The Reports securing the sustainable future for our Island that I have laid before this Hon. Court, and will be debated later today, shows the progress to date on Agenda for Change and sets out the key priorities for the remainder of this administration and beyond. If agreed, this will be the catalyst to ensure a pan-government policy-making framework is put in place and the Reform Agenda is revised to meet the new priorities, both of which will be led and co-ordinated by the Minister for Policy and Reform, who will be mandated by the Ministers of Departments to carry it out on their behalf.

**The President:** A supplementary question, Mrs Beecroft.
Mrs Beecroft: Thank you, Madam President. I thank the Chief Minister for his comprehensive reply. Could he confirm when he says that no Ministers have delegated any matters to the Minister for Policy and Reform that he includes himself in that statement, as Chief Minister, because he is a Minister as well? Also, if he could just clarify a little bit, because corporate matters are delegated to the Chief Secretary and I wondering if he could just give a definition of what corporate matters consist of? What is that delegation? Thank you.

The President: Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister: I can confirm that I have not delegated any specific powers to the Minister, other than what I have included in the Answer and I do not know the specific content of the corporate powers that the Hon. Member refers to, but I will find an answer for her.

The answer to the question is detailed below:

There are delegations, which came into effect from 1 April 2014, from each Minister to the Chief Secretary, under the powers conferred to each Minister by Section 1 (5) of the Civil Service Act 1990 and Section 3 of the Government Departments Act 1987 that authorise the Chief Secretary to “give such reasonable instructions to, and require the performance of such duties as necessary by, the Chief Executive of the Department, to give effect to corporate requirements in and across the Department.”

Corporate requirements include corporate strategy, policies, procedures and initiatives as from time to time approved by the Council of Ministers which are applicable to the Department.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Hon Allan Bell MHK
Chief Minister