

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF  
HOUSE OF KEYS  
(LEGISLATION AND OTHER MATTERS)**

**Douglas, Tuesday, 23rd April 2002  
at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

The Speaker (the Hon J A Brown) (Castletown); Mr D M Anderson (Glenfaba); Hon A R Bell and Mr L I Singer (Ramsey); Mr R E Quine OBE (Ayre); Mr J D Q Cannan (Michael); Mrs H Hannan (Peel); Hon S C Rodan (Garff); Mr P Karran, Hon R K Corkill and Mr A J Earnshaw (Onchan); Mr G M Quayle (Middle); Messrs J R Houghton and R W Henderson (Douglas North); Mr A C Duggan (Douglas South); Hon R P Braidwood and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East); Hon A F Downie and Hon J P Shimmin (Douglas West); Mr D J Gelling (Malew and Santon); Hon J Rimington, Mr Q B Gill and Hon Mrs P M Crowe (Rushen); with Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, Secretary of the House.

*The Chaplain took the prayers.*

**Apologies for Absence**

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have granted leave of absence to Mr Cretney, the hon. member for Douglas South from today's proceedings.

**Young Persons in Care — Stolen Vehicles Accidents —  
Statement by the Minister for Home Affairs**

**The Speaker:** I now move on to item 3 which is statement by the Minister for Home Affairs and I call on the hon. member for Douglas East, Mr Braidwood.

**Mr Braidwood:** Mr Speaker, at the sitting of this hon. House held on 12th March last, I answered a question from the member for North Douglas, Mr Houghton, concerning road traffic accidents involving young people in care, where vehicles taken without the owners' consent had been involved in collisions with marked police vehicles. I gave details of three incidents which took place on 19th September 2001 at Marown, on 12th October 2001 near Kerrowmoar and on 24th February 2002 at Baldrine. My answer also indicated that one particular individual had been involved in all three incidents. Whilst this person had previously been in care for a short period, this person was not, in fact, resident at a care home at the time of the three incidents. Therefore, at the request of the hon. member, Mrs Hannan, who has responsibility for this area of the Department of Health and Social Security, I am happy to put the record straight. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Right, hon. members, there is an opportunity for members to ask questions of the statement and I call on the hon. member for Douglas North, Mr Houghton.

**Mr Houghton:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Can the hon. minister confirm that the 16-year-old in question was indeed the driver of a stolen vehicle who crashed into a police vehicle and a privately-owned vehicle involving an innocent female? The other occupants of the stolen vehicle included one boy who absconded from Nugent Care and three other teenagers who absconded from Priory Care and that this lad, the person in question, was himself in a leaving care project which came under the supervision of Priory Care. Can he confirm those points, sir?

**The Speaker:** Minister to respond.

**Mr Braidwood:** Mr Speaker, I can confirm that the individual involved had been involved in those accidents. I can also confirm that the other occupants of the vehicles were in care.

However, my understanding is that the 16-year-old was receiving the benefit of support from outreach teams working under the direction of the DHSS.

**The Speaker:** Before I call on the hon. member, I would just ask a bit of caution on this issue. It is a matter that is still, as I understand it, to go before the courts.

**Mr Houghton:** It is still going on, sir.

**The Speaker:** Right, but I just ask caution to be taken, please. Hon. member for Douglas North.

**Mr Houghton:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Can the minister further confirm that children in care are continuing to abscond on a daily basis and that they are mainly responsible for a mini crime-wave of burglaries and thefts in the Douglas area at this time? Would he also inform the House -?

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, can I just interrupt, please? In fairness, it is not related to the statement. That is a separate question related to the broader issue, therefore I will not allow the question.

### **Bills for First Reading**

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, we now move on to item 4, Bills for First Reading. I call on the Secretary of the House.

**The Secretary:** Mr Speaker, the Bills for first reading are the Matrimonial Proceedings Bill, introduced by the hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Brenda Cannell, and the transfer of Deemsters' Functions Bill, introduced by the hon. member for Onchan, Mr Adrian Earnshaw.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, that concludes the business of the House. The House will now stand adjourned until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th April in our own chamber. Thank you, hon. members.

*The House adjourned at 11.39 a.m.*