



HOUSE OF KEYS
Y Chiare as Feed
ORDER PAPER
Claare Obbyr

Douglas
Tuesday 9th March 2004
10.00 am

- 1. COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**
- 2. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**
 - 1. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -**

How do you respond to the statement that the Mount Murray Inquiry is concerned only with a minor planning matter?
 - 2. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -**

In relation to the financial difficulties currently facing Port St Mary Commissioners will you explain -

 - (1) what role Treasury undertook in overseeing local Government accounts and in ensuring copies of auditors' letters were laid before Tynwald;**
 - (2) how closely did Treasury work with the Department of Local Government and the Environment in this work;**
 - (3) why did Treasury undertake such work;**
 - (4) does Treasury possess a copy of a signed auditors' letter for Port St Mary Commissioners' accounts for the year ended 31st March 1998 and, if so, why was an unsigned letter laid before Tynwald in the Financial Information and Miscellaneous Accounts - year ended 31st March 1999 in March 2000; and**
 - (5) do you agree that had a more robust mechanism been in place for either Treasury or the Department of Local Government and the Environment to scrutinise local Government accounts, the financial difficulties in Port St Mary could have been identified much earlier and so significantly minimised?**

3. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask a Member for Health and Social Security -

Given the Departmental answer of the 24th February 2004, in regards to the Department's SIP (Computerised) Project and the fact this expensive project was closed on 15th December 2003, will you divert the monies budgeted for this for the introduction of digital hearing aids on the NHS for the Island?

4. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask a Member for Health and Social Security -

Can you confirm there is a bed block crisis in the Health and Social Services for care of the elderly due to a continuing shortage of beds and closure of bed spaces within the Department of Health and Social Security?

5. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

(1) Has your Department submitted a work permit application in respect of a candidate to undertake the function of Acting Deputy Chief Constable; and

(2) if so, why?

6. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

If, as you have stated, it is important to quickly ensure that possession of Cannabis once more becomes an arrestable offence, will you explain -

(1) why did you include the controversial Clause 2 in the Criminal Justice (Arrestable Offences) Bill 2004;

(2) is Clause 2 necessary to make the possession of Cannabis an arrestable offence;

(3) which politicians instructed the legal draftsman to include Clause 2 in the Bill; and

(4) do you believe with the benefit of hindsight it was a mistake to include Clause 2 in the Bill, bearing in mind the speed with which you wished to progress this legislation?

7. **The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask a Member for Local Government and the Environment -**

In respect of the allocation of public sector housing by your Department -

- (1) what is the criteria for allocation;**
- (2) which persons are responsible for making the allocation; and**
- (3) is the process of allocation open to scrutiny by Members of Tynwald?**

8. **The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Transport -**

- (1) What improvement, if any, are the Works Division undertaking to the sealed boundary linking Lhonvane Close and Wyburn Drive, Onchan; and**
- (2) what is the cost of these works?**

9. **The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask a Member for Manx National Heritage -**

Would you please inform this Honourable House -

- (1) if it is the intention of Manx National Heritage to restore the exterior of the Rushen Abbey Hotel to a more presentable appearance, bearing in mind it is in a conservation area;**
- (2) would you also confirm that Manx National Heritage have early plans to return the Rushen Abbey Hotel to suitable commercial activities; and**
- (3) can you also confirm whether the roadway abutting the river running between the main road bridge and the foot bridge at the ford is in Manx Heritage ownership or not?**

3. QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -

In respect of the Financial Information and Miscellaneous Accounts, year ended 31st March 2003 - "Orange Book" and laid before the February 2004 Tynwald and at -

(1) Page 42 - DHSS, Health Services Division - Trusts Charities Registration Numbers 509, 512 to 516, 521 to 522 and 690, and

(2) Page 72 - DHSS Social Services Division - Trusts - Charities Registration Numbers 474 to 478, 482 to 506, 580, 691, 692 and 836;

- (a) what is your Government prepared to do at both sections where it is stated by the independent auditors of these accounts -

"In respect solely of the limitations in our work relating to voluntary donations:

- We have not obtained all the information and explanations that we consider necessary for the purpose of our audit; and
- in our opinion, proper accounting records have not been maintained";

- (b) how much money is being held in each of these funds;

- (c) what is it in detail that has not been maintained and what information is missing; and

- (d) are accounting tables not balancing and, if so, how much as far is ascertainable, or estimated to the nearest £100, is the variance between what ought to be there as opposed to what is being reported?

2. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -

Does the Council of Ministers still support the recommendations by Darwin Strategy Consulting Limited and Oliver and Ohlbaum Associates Limited Report on the Future Role, Structure and Funding of Manx Radio approved by Tynwald in November 2002?

3. **The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -**
 - (1) **How many businesses have applied for the Commercial Buildings Allowance in -**
 - (a) **Port St Mary;**
 - (b) **Peel;**
 - (c) **Ramsey; and**
 - (2) **how many businesses have actually benefited from such allowances?**

4. **The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask a Member for Local Government and the Environment -**
 - (1) **What power do local authorities have to introduce variations in the rate they charge; and**
 - (2) **with a view to encouraging businesses, could a local authority charge, for example, double or triple the commercial rate for commercial properties which have fallen into disuse and/or charge a significantly reduced rate on commercial properties being used for business purposes?**

4. BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. **Audit (Amendment) Bill** **Mr Karran**

2. **Human Tissue (Amendment) Bill** **Mr Karran**

5. BILL FOR THIRD READING

1. **Income Tax (Amendment) Bill** **Mr Bell**

The House may be asked to suspend Standing Orders to take further stages of the above Bills.

Unless the House otherwise determines, the above business will be considered in the order shown.

Malachy Cornwell-Kelly
Secretary of the House