



HOUSE OF KEYS
Y Chiare as Feed

ORDER PAPER
Claare Obbyr

Douglas
Tuesday 31st May 2005
10.00 am

1. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

- 1. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -**

Do you intend to sack the Board of the MEA, if so, when, and if not, why not?

- 2. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -**

In view of the increase in rates, will the Council of Ministers consider giving pensioner couples on an annual income of less than £15,000, or single pensioners with a household income of less than £15,000, a 25% discount?

- 3. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -**
 - (1) What is the cost of the Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe Organisation in each of the years since the Island has been a member;**
 - (2) what is the cost for Island to attend the General Assembly;**
 - (3) who represents the Island at such an event;**
 - (4) what reports have been done and when was the last one published; and**
 - (5) what benefit is this organisation to the Isle of Man?**

4. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

Since the MEA have forecast that they will return to surplus in the year 2011-12, based on the assumption that electricity demand will expand at a rate of 5% per annum for the next five years, and that the price of electricity will be increased at rate of 5% per annum above the rate of inflation -

- (a) does the Government's Chief Economist agree that the Island economy will expand at a rate of 5% per annum for the next five years, and, if so, will that also result in a 5% increase in demand for electricity;
 - (b) what, in the view of the Government's Chief Economist, will be the economic impact to the Island of increasing electricity prices by 5% per annum above inflation;
 - (c) if, over the next five years, electricity demand does increase by 5% per annum, what would be the capital investment required to meet that increased demand (additional gas turbines, another cable, reticulation strengthening etc); and
 - (d) what would be the financial impact to the Island, and to the Manx electricity consumers, if electricity demand on the Island did not increase at all?
5. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure -

What safeguards will you put in place to ensure that taxpayers get the best deal for tourism from any new hotel which may be built on the old bus station site, and what will be the procedures for tendering to ensure transparency in the transactions?

6. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

What powers, other than a section 14 Notice, are there to take action against property owners who allow their properties to fall into such disrepair as to cause a detriment to the neighbourhood in which they are situated?

7. The Hon Member for Ayre (Mr Teare) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

Is it your Department's policy to enforce licensing legislation?

8. **The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mrs Craine) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -**

With regard to the proposed development of HM Prison at Jurby -

- (a) **what assessment has been made of the additional time that will be required by advocates to attend the needs of their clients in siting the prison in Jurby;**
- (b)
 - (i) **what estimate of additional cost has been placed on the delivery of advocates' services to prisoners in Jurby as opposed to the present site in Douglas; and**
 - (ii) **which sector of government will be responsible to bear that cost?**

9. **The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mrs Craine) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -**

With regard to the proposed development of HM Prison at Jurby -

- (a)
 - (i) **what is the assessed annual cost of provision of transport for prison visitors;**
 - (ii) **which sector of government will be responsible to bear that cost;**
- (b)
 - (i) **what is the cost of the video conferencing equipment required and its installation; and**
 - (ii) **is the facility for video conferencing included in the overall capital cost?**

2. QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -**

Will you provide Members of this House today (31st May 2005) with a full summary of events in chronological order of -

- (a) **matters leading up to the removal of papers from the Chief Minister/Chief Secretary's Office by members of the Cheshire Constabulary; and**
- (b) **action you have taken following the removal of the papers?**

2. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask the Chief Minister -
- (1) What powers are available to your Government to regulate the sale of residential development land; and
 - (2) what is your Government's policy regarding the regulation of monopoly interests in land sales and property development?
3. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- Would you provide for the past 15 years -
- (a) the percentage increase in the average price of residential development land;
 - (b) the percentage increase in the average price of housing;
 - (c) the average cost of a "first-time buyer home"; and
 - (d) the percentage increase in average wages?
4. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- Is it not a fact that the Manx Electricity Authority -
- (a) against an approved budget of £185M have spent, or are committed to spending, up to £355M, an unapproved over-expenditure of £170M;
 - (b) are unable to account for expenditures against their original cost allocations because they have linked (or commingled) the funds with other funds;
 - (c) have entered into a contract to transport gas to the Island, from the UK, at a very much higher cost than the cost to transport the equivalent quantity of gas from the UK to Ireland, more than twice the distance;
 - (d) have built a power station, which would have cost approximately £35M if built in the UK, for £99M (including project management and Douglas workshop);
 - (e) have spent £43M on a pipeline infrastructure with an original approved budget of £20M with no explanation of the reason for the over-expenditure;
 - (f) have not spent any of the approved budget of £50M for cable purchase, included in the initial £185M authorisation above, nor returned money to the Treasury;

- (g) have spent £50M on network reinforcement with an approved budget of £25M and with no explanation of the reason for the over-expenditure;
- (h) have not spent the approved budget of £10M for a wind farm, nor returned the £10M to the Treasury;
- (i) have purchased a half share in the cable from National Grid plc for £18M, valuing a cable, which cost £49M to build, at £68M, giving National Grid plc a £13.5M profit from an initial investment of £4.5M over a three year period; have never produced any financial justification for this purchase, expenditure which no longer appears in the current list of MEA expenditures; and
- (j) have an overdraft of £355M the interest on which at 6% per annum would be £21.3M per year, representing a cost of almost 6p/Unit (on the basis of 2003 Accounts, the latest available), and to this must be added the cost of depreciation, which on a capital investment of £300M depreciated over a 20 year period, would cost a further 4p/Unit, making a total cost to Manx electricity consumers of 10p/Unit before adding the cost of gas purchase, power generation and distribution?

5. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

- (1) What powers are available to your Department to force-purchase residential development land;
- (2) how often has your Department exercised those powers;
- (3) what, if any, problems does your Department face in using its powers to force-purchase residential development land; and
- (4) are changes to existing legislation necessary to allow your Department to more effectively exercise these powers?

6. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Earnshaw) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

- (1) What systems and guidelines are in place within our Island hospitals and places of healthcare to control and prevent the spread of MRSA;
- (2) what progress is being made in overcoming the problem;
- (3) what more can realistically be done to help overcome the problem by both medical staff and the general public entering our hospitals; and
- (4) how does the Isle of Man compare to other areas in the UK with regard to MRSA, particularly in the North-west of England?

3. BILL FOR FIRST READING

1. Noise Bill

Mr Houghton

4. REPORT

1. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to move -

That the Joint Committee on the Emoluments of Certain Public Servants First Report for the Session 2004-2005 be received and its recommendations be approved.

5. MOTIONS

1. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to move -

That this House views with serious concern the action of the Cheshire Constabulary in entering the offices of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary without a warrant and removing papers.

2. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to move -

That the Regulation of Surveillance Bill 2005 be referred to a Committee of three Members with powers to take written and oral evidence pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1876 to consider and report by the first sitting in the Session 2005-2006.

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

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

**Malachy Cornwell-Kelly
Secretary of the House**