

# News Release

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| <b>Date of Issue:</b>  | 18th January 2002                                  |
| <b>Place of Issue:</b> | Douglas, Isle of Man                               |
| <b>Contact:</b>        | The Hon Tony Brown<br>Speaker of the House of Keys |
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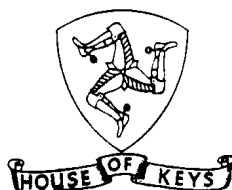
Speaker for the House of Keys and Member for Castletown, Tony Brown SHK has reviewed the rules that apply to the public who attend House of Keys sittings and its Precincts.

The rules which are made by the Speaker under the powers given to him by the House - Standing Order 35(1) - and lay down the rules of attendance by the public when visiting the House of Keys and its Precincts.

Speaker Brown said "it is some years since the rules have been updated and due to the changes in technology and other general factors I have reviewed the existing rules and made some changes". He continued, "I believe it is important that the public who wish to attend the sittings of the House are aware that there are strict protocols which must be observed to ensure the proper operation of the House during public sittings. I believe the review of the existing rules" [copy attached - Appendix 2] "will more effectively reflect today's environment".

The new rules [copy attached - Appendix 1] come into immediate effect.

[END]



## HOUSE OF KEYS RULES

### For admission to the Public and Press Galleries and the Precincts of the House

(made by Mr Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 35(1))

**Members of the public must observe the following rules; contravention of the rules may result in removal from the Precincts of the House or other appropriate sanction as determined by Mr Speaker.**

#### **Members of the public must:**

- Permit any bags, packages or belongings to be searched and, if so required, deposit them until they depart
- Enter and leave the proceedings quietly
- Switch off mobile phones, pagers and laptops
- Obey any instructions given by Mr Speaker
- Obey any instructions given by any official of the House

#### **Members of the public must not:**

- Enter the floor of the House on sitting days except with the authority of Mr Speaker
- Enter the Members' Room on sitting days except with the authority of Mr Speaker
- Talk, applaud or shout out
- Display banners or slogans
- Use cameras, recording or audio equipment without prior authorisation
- Paint, draw or sketch without prior authorisation
- Read newspapers or magazines
- Eat, drink or smoke
- Leave baggage or belongings unattended
- Enter the House or Members' Room when the House is not sitting unless accompanied by a Member or Officer of the House
- Bring any firearm, knife or other offensive weapon into the Precincts

**The Messengers on duty shall be responsible for seeing that such regulations are observed.**

**By Order of the Speaker**

**January 2002**

## **HOUSE OF KEYS**

# **RULES**

### **For admission to the Public and Press Galleries and the Precincts of the House**

(made by Mr Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 32(1))

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1. Access by any person except a member or officer of the House to the floor of the House and the Members' Room will not be permitted -
  - (a) when the House is sitting except with the authority of Mr Speaker;
  - (b) when the House is not sitting unless he is accompanied by a member or officer of the House.
2. No person in the Public Gallery may, while the House is sitting, interrupt the proceedings of the House, read newspapers, take notes or otherwise act in a manner calculated to disturb the business of the House.
3. No person may bring into the Public Gallery any tape recorder, camera, machine, umbrella, stick or bulky object. Valuables, handbags etc may be deposited with the Messenger of the House on duty in the Public Gallery on receipt and visitors to the Public Gallery shall comply with the instructions of the Messenger to remove any object from the Gallery.
4. Each person proposing to enter the Public Gallery shall be issued with a ticket stipulating the regulations governing conduct in the Public Gallery by the Messenger on duty who shall be responsible for seeing that such regulations are observed.