



Press Release

MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERS' STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS

The Management and Members' Standards Committee of the House is constituted by Standing Orders 38, 39 and 40 of the House and has among its duties to "consider and report upon any matter that may from time to time be referred to the Committee by the House, or by a Member, which relates to the conduct of a Member". The Members of the House of Keys elected to the Committee are Mr D M Anderson (Glenfaba), Mr J D Q Cannan (Michael) and Mr Q B Gill (Rushen). The Speaker of the House, The Hon J A Brown (Castletown), is *ex officio* a member of the Committee and its Chairman.

The following reference to the Committee has been made by five Members of the House, Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East), Mr P A Gawne (Rushen), Mr J R Houghton (Douglas North), Mr P Karran (Onchan) and Mr R E Quine (Ayre), and supported by Mr R W Henderson (Douglas North)-

"Further to the finding of the Commission of Inquiry into Mount Murray (at page 133 of its Part One Report) that, on 7th April 1992, the Hon Member for Ramsey, Mr Bell, knowingly misled the House of Keys:-

- (1) whether the making of the Hon Member's statement (of 7th April 1992) may be treated as a contempt; and*
- (2) what disciplinary action should be taken in this matter."*

In addition, Hon A R Bell has requested the Committee -

"to examine and report on the conclusion at paragraph 11.134 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Mount Murray that I knowingly misled the House in the circumstances there described".

Mr Speaker has decided that, because he has been informed that he is to be called as a witness in Part 2 of the Mount Murray Commission's Inquiry, he will not take part in the work of the Committee in so far as the references above mentioned are concerned. The Committee considering the references is therefore composed of Mr Anderson, Mr Cannan and Mr Gill.

The Committee has determined that they will hear evidence in public from Mr Dominic Delaney MLC (who as a Member of the House of Keys asked the Question on 7th April 1992 which gave rise to the statement by Mr Bell which is the subject of the reference), from Hon A R Bell MHK and from the Chairman of the Mount Murray Commission Mr Nigel Macleod QC.

I give notice that there will accordingly be the first round of public hearings by the Keys' Management and Members' Standards Committee as follows -

On 4th September 2003 at 10 a.m. - Mr Dominic Delaney MLC

On 29th September at 10 a.m. - Hon A R Bell MHK

The hearings will be held in the Millennium Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Government Offices, Douglas, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Malachy Cornwell-Kelly
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