



Press Release

SELECT COMMITTEE OF TYNWALD ON THE ISLE OF MAN STEAM PACKET COMPANY - PUBLIC VIEWS REQUESTED

A new Select Committee of Tynwald investigating the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has started its work and is now seeking evidence from the public.

The Committee initially consisted of the Hon S C Rodan SHK, Mr W Malarkey MHK and Mr J Turner MLC, and was charged to:

- examine the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's fare structures over the **past twelve months**, any increases to fares in that period and the reasons why,
- to make a comparison of prices when booking on and off the Island,
- to consider whether the prices charged throughout this period are fair and equitable and represent best value for money for Isle of Man customers and off-Island customers,
- to examine whether any excessive charging has taken place' and
- to report to Tynwald Court by October 2007.

The Hon S C Rodan SHK was elected as the Chairman of the Committee at its first meeting.

During the July 2007 sitting of Tynwald Court the remit of the Committee was widened by a motion tabled by Mr W Malarkey MHK which enabled the Committee also to:

- consider the standard of service offered to both passengers and freight users by the Company and the extent to which it is in accordance with the Company's agreements with the Government

At the same sitting a further motion was proposed by Hon S C Rodan SHK to increase the number of Members serving on the Committee to five in view of the extended remit. The two additional Members elected by Tynwald Court were Mr G Cregeen MHK and Mr G H Waft MLC.

The Committee is very keen to receive the views of members of the public and organisations concerning these issues. A public notice inviting the public to submit their views has been issued in the press and on the radio.

Mr Speaker Rodan commented:

“We hope that many members of the public and organisations that use the Steam Packet’s services will take the trouble to write to the Committee with views they may have over the Company’s fare structure and standard of service to the Committee. It is vital that the Committee are made fully aware of any concerns people may have and it will be examining these. In due course, we will take oral evidence from interested parties.

In view of the widening of the Committee’s work it remains to be seen if the October Tynwald reporting deadline will be achieved.”

Any members of the public wishing to make a submission should do so in writing (or via e-mail) by 31 August 2007. Submissions should be addressed to:

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18/7/07