

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
21st November 2000
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. The Hon Member for Ayre (Mr Quine) to ask the Chief Minister -

Pursuant to the Report into Coastal Erosion on the Northern Coasts of the Isle of Man, dated October 2000 -

- (1) is it proposed that responsibility for policy, works and maintenance relating to -
 - (i) rivers,
 - (ii) coastal areas, and
 - (iii) surface water drainageshould be vested in the Department of Local Government and the Environment; and
- (2) if so, will you report in writing to this hon Court by February 2001 on the structural, organisational and resource implications of this re-organisation?

2. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mr Singer) to ask the Chief Minister -

Will Members of the Council of Ministers be allowed a free vote on the motion tabled for this sitting relating to the refurbishment of the Queen's Pier, Ramsey?
3. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Delaney) to ask the Chief Minister -

What do you consider to be the appropriate procedures for informing hon Members of Government policies and decisions?
4. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Cannell) to ask the Chief Minister -

What plans does the Council of Ministers have to reduce the annoyance and unease experienced by Island residents from the detonation of fireworks for some weeks before and after 5th November?
5. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -

What action does your Government propose to address the interdepartmental deficiencies following the judgment in *Frost v Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Transport*?
6. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mr Singer) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

What arrangements are in place to offer a reading service to registered blind persons?
7. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Can you confirm that Willem Bigl, whose name was recently erased from the Register of Medical Practitioners for serious professional misconduct, has previously been employed as a *locum tenens* surgeon at Noble's Hospital?
8. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Will you give an undertaking that the increase in the basic retirement pensions will not be clawed back from pensioners who are in receipt of supplementary benefit or the Isle of Man pension supplement?

9. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

- (1) What procedures and protocols are in place in the Island's hospitals, residential and nursing homes to prevent the spread of MRSA; and
- (2) what can the general public do to prevent its spread?

10. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

In each of the years from 1997 to 2000, how many persons resident on the Island are known to have been diagnosed as HIV positive?

11. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Will you make a statement with respect to the recent application by Douglas Corporation for powers to borrow £245,000 for the purpose of undertaking a Douglas drainage area study?

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

Will your Department consider an increase in the level of grant for the House Purchase Assistance Scheme presently set at £85,000 to cover the increasing price for residential property, particularly property which is not classed as first time buyer units?

13. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Cannell) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

What statutory control has your Department over the manner in which local authorities allocate their public housing?

14. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry -

- (1) What studies have been undertaken or commissioned by your Department into the viability of coarse fishing on the Island;

- (2) what is the present policy of your Department on such fishing;
 - (3) what are the terms of reference of the working party on aspects of coarse fishing on the Island; and
 - (4) to what extent is, or has been, the fresh water fisheries inspectorate in your Department supportive of these Departmental activities?

15. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Education -

What action has your Department taken to develop sports and recreation facilities for school children at Watterson Lane, Douglas?

16. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

What is the remit of the Police Forum?

17. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -
 - (1) What provisions of the Licensing Act 1995 have not yet been brought into operation;
 - (2) what is the reason for the delay in bringing the remaining provisions into operation; and
 - (3) when does your Department expect to make an appointed day order in respect of them?

18. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -
 - (1) What is the maximum number of prisoners which can be accommodated in the Isle of Man prison;
 - (2) During this year -
 - (a) what was the average daily occupancy of the Prison;
 - (b) how many of the prisoners detained in the Prison were transferred to UK penal institutions as a consequence of overcrowding in the Prison; and
 - (c) what was the net cost of these transfers;
 - (3) During this year -

- (a) how many prisoners have been granted early executive release as a consequence of overcrowding in the prison;
 - (b) what was the minimum, maximum and average number of release days in the grants of early executive release;
- (4) During this year -
- (a) in how many instances has there been delay in bringing cases to court as a consequence of overcrowding in the Prison;
 - (b) in what categories of case has this occurred; and
 - (c) what has been the average delay in each category; and
- (5) have you discussed these matters with those who have responsibilities for the administration of justice?
19. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Waft) to ask Hon C M Christian -
- (1) Has the Social Issues Committee of the Council of Ministers considered the Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain Report; and
 - (2) does the Committee contemplate commissioning a similar independent report on social issues in the Island?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

20. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Can you confirm that a person with learning difficulties resident in a Department of Health and Social Security home, who is not entitled to a disability working allowance, would have an application for a discretionary payment to meet the purchase of personal items favourably considered by your Department?

21. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Have the transitional arrangements in respect of the entitlement to disability working allowance of those with learning difficulties resident in Department of Health and Social Security homes resulted in such persons being financially

better off than they would have been had the changes in this entitlement proposed by your Department in April 2000 been implemented?

22. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

When are the properties on the Threshold Estate, Jurby, scheduled to have external re-decoration?

23. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

When are the properties on the Bretney Estate, Jurby, scheduled to (a) have internal refurbishment; and (b) external re-decoration?

24. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

(1) What progress has been made to date in the provision of serviced housing plots at the Bretney Road, Jurby;

(2) when will the plots be available and at what price; and

(3) has the Department received enquiries from potential purchasers and if so, are potential purchasers able to reserve plots?

25. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

(1) When does your Department expect to complete the assessment of options in respect of the future needs and uses of the Jurby Industrial Estate and airfield;

(2) when does your Department expect to formulate a comprehensive strategy for revitalising and promoting the Estate and airfield; and

(3) what is the reason for the delay in completing the assessment and formulating the strategy, when the closing date for making submissions to your Department was Friday, 25th August 2000?

26. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

(1) Do you and the Members of your Department fully support the Tynwald resolution in respect of coastal erosion and accept responsibility for

undertaking appropriate and effective measures to safeguard the Island's coastal lands;

- (2) when do you expect to establish a coastal management working group and what will be its terms of reference; and
- (3) will you advise the coastal management working group that the coast between Glen Wyllin access and Balleira Road access, Kirk Michael, is an area where coastal management and safeguarding require immediate attention?

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

Will you examine -

- (1) the extent to which existing home improvement house purchase assistance schemes might apply to property identified by the Empty Properties Officer as empty property; and
- (2) the feasibility of introducing a scheme to provide financial support to the owners of such property to enable them to comply with fire regulations?

28. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Has your Department given any further consideration to a policy of selling local authority houses to sitting tenants?

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

What has been the outcome of meetings of the Road Traffic Commission and the operators of public service vehicles with respect to the alleged use of such vehicles for contract carriage work?

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

- (1) In respect of the period 1st July to 31st October in each of the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000, how many persons have passed a driving test for motor vehicles after their -
 - (a) first attempt,

- (b) second attempt,
 - (c) third or further attempt;
- (2) how many persons passed the theory test by 31st October 2000; and
- (3) how many of them passed the theory test at their first attempt?