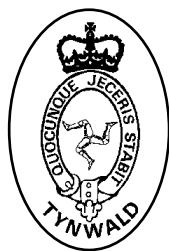


TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
11th July 2006
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister –
 - (1) Now that the Isle of Man's branding project has been approved for implementation by Tynwald, please state:
 - (a) what companies have been contracted so far to launch and implement the project;
 - (b) how many are Manx-registered companies and have been for at least the past five years;
 - (c) how were they selected; and
 - (2) what guarantee will you give that future contracts for advertising, public relations, graphic design, printing and public opinion research will be open to transparent public tender and that Manx companies established on the Island for a minimum of five years will be preferred?

2. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Chief Minister -
 - (1) When will the Langness Rights of Way be finalised;
 - (2) when was the last meeting between the parties; and
 - (3) what rôle has the Government played in this affair?

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

During this year's budgetary process, will you agree to plan in a more meaningful increase to pensions and benefits, and push for a more meaningful increase to the minimum wage, than this year's derisory increases?

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

Has the Council of Ministers a corporate view on the increasing disparity between the rise in inflation and certain commodities within the Retail Price Index such as heating and food, and the effect that below inflationary increases of most benefits and State pensions are now having?

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

What policy has the Council of Ministers got for stopping senior civil servants retiring to take up consultancy posts?

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

Has the Council of Ministers or any agency of Government officially complained to any professional body about the conduct of any individuals of the former MEA administration or Board, and, if not, why not?

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

- (1) Can you confirm that no criminal proceedings will be brought against the individuals concerned with legal claims for allowances within the MEA; and
- (2) will the same legal processes apply to any citizen charged will illegally claiming benefits from other Government bodies within the Department of Health and Social Security?

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

- (1) What action are you going to take in order to allay the fears that the MEA court case has been nothing but a smoke screen to cover up the incompetence and self-interest of the Council of Ministers and senior civil servants who should be held to account; and
- (2) do you intend to hold a totally independent inquiry into the biggest financial scandal that has such major effects on the people of the Isle of Man?

9. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask Chief Minister -
- Are you and the Council of Ministers in agreement with the statements made by the Minister of the Department of Transport made last week regarding my questions concerning IRIS?
10. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask HM Attorney General -
- At what age can someone sign a legally binding -
- (a) will;
 - (b) mortgage;
 - (c) lease/private/local Authority tenants;
 - (d) agreement; and
 - (e) deed?
11. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask HM Attorney General -
- What are the standards of ethics applied by your Chambers when dealing with alleged fraudulent events and small time crime as opposed to major serious crime?
12. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- Do you think it is fair to tax children on maintenance paid in their name by a divorced or separated parent, especially in the case of low income single parent family units?
13. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- (1) Can you confirm that there is an intention to review financial legislation and regulations and, if so, what will this be and when; and
 - (2) if so, will you also have revisited the new additional Corporate Charge of £250 levied on companies who do not already pay some form of annual charge, especially where small local businesses are concerned?
14. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- Has the Income Tax (Amendment)(No 2) Bill received Royal Assent, and, if not, why not?

15. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Minister for Transport -

Why has "disc parking" been introduced on Douglas Head?

16. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Earnshaw) to ask the Minister for Transport -

- (1) When was the Douglas Promenade walkway re-surfaced;
- (2) who carried out the relevant work and what was the cost;
- (3) who is responsible for the upkeep of the walkway;
- (4) what is causing the numerous blisters to appear in the asphalt;
- (5) who is responsible for their repair;
- (6) why have the repairs, so far, not been to the same standard as the original specification;
- (7) are these repairs regarded as temporary or permanent;
- (8) in view of the prominence and popularity of the walkway, are you disappointed by its present shabby appearance; and
- (9) how does this sit with the image that the Government is trying to promote via our "freedom to flourish" slogan?

17. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Minister for Transport-

- (1) What are the reasons for the continuing obnoxious smells emanating from the pipelines of IRIS, especially at the Ronaldsway stopping point on the Isle of Man Steam Railways; and
- (2) what timescale is envisaged for the totally unacceptable practice of spreading slurry / sludge at Meary Veg to stop?

18. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Minister for Transport -

When will you release the report on the condition and potential risks of flooding in and around the Silverburn River?

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

Will you make personal representations to the Steam Packet regarding the excessive increases in fares levied over recent months?

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

Why will your Chief Executive not respond to correspondence from Members of Tynwald?

21. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport -

(1) Why does your Department refuse to disclose details of the exemption permit granted in respect of goods vehicles using Tower Road, Bradda in Port Erin, allowing them to exceed to a weight limit of 5 tons imposed by the Traffic Regulation (Tower Road) (Port Erin) Order 1966; and

(2) what steps were taken by your Department, before issuing this Exemption Permit, to assess the risk of damage to properties adjoining Tower Road from the passage of the vehicles covered by the permit?

22. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Education -

What contingency arrangements did the Director of Education have in place in the event that Tynwald approved the motion at the June Tynwald, "that Tynwald requests the Department of Education to immediately reverse the decision to close the Special Needs Unit at Jurby Primary School"?

23. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Education -

Will you offer a public apology to the parents of children presently attending the Special Needs Unit at Jurby Primary School for the stress, misery, distress and unhappiness you caused them by your determination to close the Special Needs Unit?

24. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Education -

Following the Tynwald resolution on 21st June 2006 regarding the Special Needs Unit at Jurby Primary School, did you have a commitment to make every effort to retain the Special Needs Unit at Jurby Primary School?

25. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Education -

(1) What action did your Department take to advertise for a Special Needs Teacher for Jurby Primary School; and

(2) where were the advertisements placed and did the Department offer any incentive in the advertisements?

26. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask Captain Douglas as a Member of the Department of Education –

Did you visit the Special Needs Unit at Jurby Primary School before you made the decision to recommend to the Minister that the Special Needs Unit should be closed?

27. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Singer, to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

What plans does your Department have to reduce waiting lists for ophthalmology patients?

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

What plans does your Department have to reduce waiting lists for Orthopaedic and back surgery?

29. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

What progress have you made together with your financial consultants to address the difficulties your Department faces in relation to budget management?

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

Why were Nobles' paramedics not paid for additional duties performed during the TT?

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

Regarding performance -

- (a) what is the state of the Nation's dental health compared with the adjacent isles;
- (b) is routine dental care available without excessive waiting; and
- (c) do these practices comply with NICE guidelines on dental recalls and, if so, how do they achieve this without a computerised recall system?

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

Prior to April 2006, fee paying adults contributed 80% of the cost of treatment, and on the assumption that this will remain broadly similar under the new system -

- (a) what was the income to the salaried dental practices last year;
- (b) what were the totals for items of service, capitation and continuing care fees calculated by the Dental Practice Board; and
- (c) what are the expenses for the salaried dental practices and how are they calculated?

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

Has any Government body investigated whether salaried dental practices offered as an alternative to patients from traditional independent contractors give the same or better performance and value for money for the general public?

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

Your Department's website has a list of "NHS Dentists" which at best can be described as misleading as several names on the list have very limited NHS provision and others are wholly private and have been so for years - why is your Department condoning this misinformation about this service?

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

- (1) What controls has your Department over the quantity and quality of work carried out by NHS consultants; and
- (2) what control does the UK Department of Health and Social Security have over its consultants which differs from the Island?

36. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

- (1) Which Local Development Plans are still in being;
- (2) when were they approved by Tynwald;
- (3) do they have any statutory authority; and
- (4) if not, why are they still being used and enforced?

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

Will the you provide information on the number of occasions that Executive Release has been utilised by the Prison Service in the last six months and outline the expectation for its continued use for the future?

38. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

- (1) How many apprenticeships are there this year for each of the skills;
- (2) are there enough places for applicants; and
- (3) what can young people do if they are not accepted on any courses this year?

39. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure -

- (1) Are you satisfied that there are enough effective tourist information centres; if not
- (2) have you approached Manx National Heritage, if so, what was their response?

40. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -

What is the current position regarding the file which you said, in your statement to this Honourable Court in November 2005, was to be referred to the Police?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

41. The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr Speaker) to ask HM Attorney General –

- (1) Can you advise what, within section 3 of the Local Government (Entertainments) Act 1950, is the legal interpretation of the following;
 - (a) the visiting season;
 - (b) pleasure and health resort in any form;
 - (c) public entertainments on the occasion of, or otherwise in connection with, public ceremony or rejoicing and;
 - (d) the reception and entertainment of distinguished persons; and

- (2) would the provision of local community events organised for the community by voluntary bodies outside of a Local Authority fall within any of the above functions and, if not, where a Local Authority may wish to support such bodies or events, are they able to do so by the generality of section 16 of the Local Government Act 1985 or any other enactment?
42. The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Transport -
Would you advise what are the present equivalent United Kingdom vehicle duty licence bands/categories when compared to the present vehicle duty licence bands/categories as applied in the Island?
43. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for Transport –
What progress has your Department made to assess and address the traffic safety concerns in the area around Arbory School?
44. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Education -
Since the 2002 Election of the Board of Education, please state the attendance of Board members at -
(a) Board of Education meetings;
(b) School Governing Body meetings; and
(c) how many Board members have availed themselves of the governor training offered during the last 12 months?
45. The Hon Member for Ayre (Mr Teare) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
Since January 2002 has there been any amendment to the residency requirements to qualify for income related benefits, and, if so -
(a) what was the amendment;
(b) who authorised the change;
(c) how much in additional monies have been paid to 31st March 2006?
46. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
In the last five years -
(a) How many medical negligence claims have been brought against Noble's Hospital; and
(b) how many have been settled out of court?

47. The Hon Member for Ayre (Mr Teare) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment –

Since 1st January 2002 –

- (a) how many persons have been allocated public sector housing outside the normal residency requirements; and
- (b) who authorised any deviation from established policy?

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

Would you advise in relation to each Local Authority what is the income generated by the proceeds of a rate of 1p in the pound?

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

Would you advise what were the responses of each Local Authority in relation to your Department's recent consultation over the proposal to increase the maximum rate in the pound level of the provisions within section 3 of the Local Government (Entertainments) Act 1950?

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

Further to the questions I asked on 27th June 2006, and the answers provided:

- (1)
 - (a) can you confirm that the 51 occasions that the Hydrogen Chloride and Sulphur Dioxide acid gases exceeded the limit were half-hourly exceedances;
 - (b) what the half-hourly limits are;
 - (c) list the 51 readings;
 - (d) how many readings were/ will be discarded;
 - (e) what action is being taken to reduce the number of exceedances and/or instrument 'problems'
- (2)
 - (a) what are the daily average limits for Hydrogen Chloride and Sulphur Dioxide;
 - (b) were there any occasions when the daily average limits were exceeded;
 - (c) what were the readings;

- (d) how many readings were/will be discarded;
- (3) (a) what are the annual emissions limits for Hydrogen Chloride and Sulphur Dioxide;
- (b) what are the emissions total for the first 6 months of the year;
- (4) can you confirm that the plant is designed for 90% availability (taken as 328.5 'burning' days per calendar year) and at current rate of shut downs the plant will only just meet that design criterion;
- (5) (a) can you confirm that the amended planning conditions state, with some exceptions, that no visible plume should be emitted from the stack;
- (b) that the exceptions allow a visible plume for the first 15 minutes after start-up from cold or when the visibility is caused by atmospheric conditions at the time, resulting in condensation of water vapour;
- (c) that the emissions when the stack burners or main oil burners are being used are not entirely water vapour and, being black or brown in appearance, are more likely to be carbon particles and/or NO_x;
- (d) what methods are employed by the incinerator operator to record the time and duration of any visibility to prove that no breaches of the licence or planning conditions have occurred or;
- (e) are the operators relying on observations/complaints by residents;
- (f) if the latter, does the Department consider this acceptable; and
- (g) if not what action will the Department take to see that more robust recording and reporting procedures are introduced by the operator?

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

What is the present situation regarding the long overdue redevelopment of the Upper Pulrose Estates?

52. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -

- (1) How much electricity did the Authority estimate it would import from the incinerator for the first six months of this year and how much did it actually import; and
- (2) did this variation, if any, have any financial implications for the MEA and what are they?

53. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage –
- (1) What is the Manx National Heritage policy with regard to Tynwald Members and/or the public corresponding with its Trustees;
 - (2) does this policy include a requirement for the Chairman to approve all correspondence received by Manx National Heritage before its distribution to Trustees;
 - (3) does this policy prevent Tynwald Members who wish to correspond with Trustees, directly receiving copies of the names and addresses of Trustees;
 - (4) when was the policy on correspondence to Trustees agreed by the Trustees and what was the motivation for such a policy; and
 - (5) what action will you take to reverse this policy so allowing Tynwald Members and indeed the public direct access to Manx National Heritage Trustees?
54. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -
- (a) Can you confirm that Manx National Heritage has refused to provide a list of names and address of its Trustees to the Tynwald Members' Office;
 - (b) is it normal for statutory agencies responsible for spending public money to refuse to release such information to Tynwald Members; and
 - (c) will you raise this issue with Manx National Heritage on behalf of Tynwald Members with a view to reversing this uncooperative stance?
55. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -
- (1) In view of the stated purpose and responsibilities of the Trustees of Manx National Heritage, will you list the projects and policies initiated by the Board of Trustees as distinct from those proposed by the staff of the Manx National Heritage;
 - (2) where are the policies of the Trustees available for public viewing; and
 - (3) what changes, if any, will you introduce to improve the existing policy development process at Manx National Heritage?

56. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -

It is the practice of all Departments of Government to implement regular staff appraisal within the Civil Service, and in view of the highly ambiguous relationship between Manx National Heritage and Government will you explain which member of the senior Civil Service is charged with appraising the Director of Manx National Heritage and where the appraisal is lodged?

57. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -

Can Tynwald be satisfied that the Trustees of Manx National Heritage, as distinct from the Director, are actively initiating policies to ensure fair and reasonable dealing in matters affecting staff, tenants of Manx National Heritage and adjoining owners?

58. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -

As Manx National Heritage Trustees are responsible for considerable public expenditure, what action do the Trustees intend to take to demonstrate a more directly accountable structure for the operation of this publicly funded organisation?

59. The Hon Member for Glenfaba (Mr Anderson) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -

- (1) How much did the restoration of the thatched cottage at Niarbyl cost;
- (2) did Manx National Heritage pay all the costs for the restoration;
- (3) when was the restoration completed; and
- (4) how many weeks since the completion has it been occupied?

60. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -

- (1) Why has Manx National Heritage failed to find a new and compatible use for the Rushen Abbey Hotel, Ballasalla, since its acquisition at public expense nearly seven years ago; and
- (2) to what extent have the Trustees, and specifically the "publicly accountable" Tynwald representatives on Manx National Heritage, had an impact on policy and progress?

61. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mrs Craine) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -
- (1) Please list the attendance figures for each Manx National Heritage site since the House of Manannan was opened;
 - (2) indicate the figures forecast for the House of Manannan by the Director of Manx National Heritage and his professional advisors prior to the opening and the variance between forecast and actual attendance figures;
 - (3) what impact has the under-performance of the House of Manannan had on the promotion of Manx National Heritage's other public sites; and
 - (4) is it correct that other sites like Rushen Abbey and the Grove, Ramsey, have suffered from under-promotion by Manx National Heritage in an effort to boost the attendances at the House of Manannan?
62. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mrs Craine) to ask the Deputy Chairman of Manx National Heritage -
- Will you please explain last year's poor visitor figures across the board on all Manx National Heritage sites?
63. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Expenditure and Public Accounts –
- (1) What is the present position regarding Crowe EPH; and
 - (2) were any monies repaid?