

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
13th December 2005
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
Is it policy of the Council of Ministers to change the name of -
 - (a) Government House to Crown Commissioner's House;
 - (b) Governor's Bridge to Crown Commissioner's Bridge; and
 - (c) all other place names that use the word "Governor"?

2. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
Is it your intention to seek re-election as Chief Minister following the House of Keys' General Election in November 2006?

3. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
 - (1) Can you confirm that since December 2001 Ministers have mis-used their position to instruct civil servants to attend to their personal constituency affairs; and,
 - (2) if so, will you instruct the Chief Secretary to obtain details in writing from Chief Officers of Departments of the Ministers who have abused their appointments since 2001 and required civil servants to attend to their constituency affairs; and
 - (3) will you publish the Chief Secretary's Report together with the offending Ministers' names?

4. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -

Will you direct the Minister for the Treasury and/or the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority to provide Members of Tynwald no later than 31st December 2005 with the terms of the agreement attached to the repayment of £50M, part of the alleged illegal borrowing of £120M, to Barclays (Barclays Private Clients) Bank?

5. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Chief Minister -

(1) Why has the Council of Ministers not complied with the Resolution of this Court in July 2005 "that the Council of Ministers report to Tynwald no later than the sitting in December 2005 with proposals to light the unused fibre optic cable linking the Isle of Man with Great Britain"; and

(2) when will such a report be made?

6. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Chief Minister -

(1) Will there be an Annual Report on the activities/meetings of the Chief Executives' Group;

(2) how often have they met in the past twelve months; and

(3) do they get a "same day" briefing of the Council of Ministers' meeting and, if so, why?

7. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Chief Minister -

(1) How many people are/have been employed directly in the Chief Secretary's Office in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005;

(2) how many part-time employees have been employed during the above periods, if any;

(3) are all the positions advertised; and

(4) what are the total costs of this Office, including salaries?

8. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for the Treasury-

On what evidence did you make the public statement that Hon Members spend Monday afternoons in the Members' Writing Room thinking up questions to ask the following Tuesday?

9. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

In relation to the reduced rate of Value Added Tax (5% VAT) applicable for the repair and maintenance of buildings and which is due to expire on 31st December 2005 -

- (a) would you agree that it has been of benefit to the Island;
- (b) will you do all possible to support its continuation from 1st January 2006; and
- (c) will you support the reduced rate of 5% being extended to restaurants as is desired by some countries in the European Union, which would be of benefit to tourists and residents?

10. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

Will you confirm that you have recently publicly stated: "that it is not the legality of the loan from Barclays Bank to the Manx Cable Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of the MEA) but the legality of the onward transmission of the loan to the Manx Electricity Authority that is in question"?

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

- (1) Has the consultation meeting that you indicated would take place early in December with the IOM Law Society regarding legal aid taken place; and
- (2) has the Council of Ministers considered that report?

12. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

- (1) How much has been spent on IT in the past two years -
 - (a) on consultancy-
 - (i) with whom; and
 - (ii) at what cost
 - (b) on software and equipment -
 - (i) with whom; and
 - (ii) at what cost;
- (2) how much has been spent by Treasury on office accommodation and other incidental costs over the past two years associated with IT?

13. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask HM Attorney General -
- Will you confirm that the loan of £120M from Barclays Bank to the Manx Cable Company was legal and did not require Treasury approval?
14. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask HM Attorney General -
- (1) Has anybody been charged with theft of money from the Police Social Club; and
 - (2) how much money was involved?
15. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask HM Attorney General -
- (1) Will you confirm that you advised the Council of Ministers of the content of the Agreement and/or gave Ministers a copy of the Agreement, between the Manx Electricity Authority and Bord Gais Eireann (BGE) before the Agreement was signed;
 - (2) are you satisfied the Agreement did not disadvantage the Isle of Man and unduly benefit Bord Gais Eireann; and
 - (3) can you confirm that the Manx Electricity Authority should attempt to re-negotiate the Agreement in the light of current circumstances?
16. The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment --
- Can you advise if the Health and Safety Executive of your Department has provided general written advice to your Department in relation to the retention of old buildings and buildings within Conservation Areas and, if so -
- (a) what is the basis of that advice;
 - (b) has that advice been accepted by you and your Department;
 - (c) what effect does such advice have in relation to the protection of such buildings, especially through the planning system; and
 - (d) does the advice given reflect such advice given to appropriate agencies within the United Kingdom?
17. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -
- Can local authority tenants put election posters in their windows?

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

- (1) When taking over a tenancy of a local authority or Government property does that property become the home of the tenant;
- (2) if so, why must they seek the consent of the Commissioners for papering and painting walls or woodwork in the demised premises; and
- (3) do the regulations state that they are not allowed to drive nails into inside or outside walls?

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

In a Tenancy Agreement issued recently by Peel Town Commissioners it is stated that -

“If any rent shall be in arrears for seven days after the due date of payment whether formally demanded or not or in the event of any breach or non-observance by the tenant of the Agreement on his part contained herein or in the Schedule hereto or if the tenant shall become insolvent or bankrupt then and in any such case the Commissioners may re-enter at any time thereafter upon the demised premises or any part thereof in the name of the whole without giving notice to quit and expel the tenant therefrom and repossess the same.”

- (a) while everyone will agree that rents should be paid, does this Agreement if signed by the tenant, remove their right of appeal at a court hearing and the protection of the tenant’s human rights; and
- (b) if that is the case, is it lawful?

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

What is the cost of all the professional fees on the refurbishment of Old Government Offices?

21. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

- (1) Have you received the Report from the Cheshire Constabulary into the covert listening device at Police Headquarters; and
- (2) if so, will it be circulated to Members?

22. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -
- (1) Has any internal police telephone been subject to interception during the last five years; and
 - (2) if so, have records of such interceptions been maintained in compliance with the Interception of Communications Act 1988?
23. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- Given that Manx Gas have just announced an 18% increase to the price of natural gas, and that according to the recently published figures from the Office of Fair Trading illustrating that basic energy costs have doubled in the last five years, will you reconsider adjusting eligible people on benefits and pensions to have those benefits and pensions adjusted proportionately outside of the annual up-rating, as the annual up-rating does not rise anywhere near the increase in fuel and energy costs?
24. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- (1) How do you intend to deal with the funding problems of your Department; and
 - (2) have you had a serious look at increasing the National Insurance upper limit as a way of dealing with it?
25. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- (1) What are the costs of sending persons off-Island for rehabilitation/detox;
 - (2) is it limited because of the cost;
 - (3) who manages this service; and
 - (4) who manages this facility?
26. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Singer, to ask the Minister for Transport -
- (1) How much revenue will be raised annually by the £5.00 supplement added to car licence fees; and
 - (2) how will this revenue be spent?

27. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport -
What is total cost of the IRIS Project in each year from the start, including the consultancy fees, been highlighted in each year?
28. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mrs Craine) to ask the Minister for Education -
Will you -
- (a) introduce a comprehensive Departmental policy on bullying in schools; and
 - (b) advise what measures are in place to prevent school staff behaving in a manner which could intimidate or undermine the self-esteem of children and young people attending school?
29. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission -
- (1) Will you give an update on proposals for pay and pensions for the Civil Service; and
 - (2) are you aware that many civil servants appear to have little or no confidence in the Civil Service Commission; and,
 - (3) if so, what measures are being taken (or are planned) to address this serious issue?
30. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Chair of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- (1) Are discounts available to MEA workers in MEA shops; and
 - (2) if so, who is able to make use of the discounts and to what extent are any other Government personnel able to make use of this facility?
31. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- (1) Is it a fact that 62 employees of the MEA are paid through an accountancy firm, and if not that many, how many;
 - (2) what is the reason for this;
 - (3) why have two payrolls; and
 - (4) what is the extra cost for doing this?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

32. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister -
Who covers for the following office holders in the event of their absence on leave or sickness etc -
- (a) HM Attorney General;
 - (b) the Chief Secretary;
 - (c) the Secretary to the Civil Service Commission; and
 - (d) the Secretary to the Planning Committee?
33. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
When was the very first time, either KPMG or the relevant sections within the Treasury, especially in relation to your answer to my written question "Number 5, November 2005", became aware that the Manx Electricity Authority had or were arranging to borrow the first tranche of the £120M from Barclays (BPCI)?
34. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
In respect of a set of copied documents recently circulated to all Members of Tynwald "MEA Documents: £50 million loan from Barclays Private Clients International Ltd (BPCI)" dated 161105 -
- (a) can you confirm who supplied Treasury with the documents; and
 - (b) when was the very first knowledge of their existence, ie date etc?
35. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- (1) Will you detail the population as it existed in 2001, and give the current estimate for 2005 and 2020 in the following age categories -
 - (a) 0 - 4 years;
 - (b) 5 - 7 years;
 - (c) 8 - 11 years;
 - (d) 12 - 16 years;
 - (e) 17 - 64 years;
 - (f) 65 years and over; and

- (2) for any age category that shows a significant percentage increase, what actions or measures are being considered to cope with any resultant increasing demand upon finances?
36. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- (1) In relation to where a Government Department or a Statutory Board is obtaining a service from a private contractor, can you advise what requirements such Department or Statutory Board are required to comply with, as it relates to compliance with capital procedures and financial regulations; and
- (2) based on current procedures and regulations, can you advise, that where a tender has been obtained for a service from a private contractor, what would be a reasonable and acceptable time period for such service to be provided prior to seeking fresh tenders for the provision of the same service and after taking into consideration that a contractor will have incurred costs in relation to plant, machinery and staffing?
37. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- Referring to the last statistics -
- (a) what numbers approximately of the Island's adult population are in full-time employment and part-time employment;
- (b) what percentage of these are earning below the latest average weekly earning figures;
- (c) how many, or approximately, are earning in or around the minimum wage; and
- (d) how many are earning, approximately £8/hour or under?
38. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mrs Craine) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- (1) How many consultants have the Information Services Division of Treasury employed from outside the Isle of Man in the financial years -
- (a) 2004/05;
- (b) 2005 to date; and
- (2) what is the breakdown of costs for -
- (a) their professional services; and
- (b) travel and other expenses?

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

Within the last five years, year by year, how many properties have -

- (a) been newly registered; and
- (b) been de-registered?

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

Now the demolition of the Lower Pulrose Estate is complete, will your Department's Environmental Health Officers check to ensure that the estate is not contaminated with asbestos?

41. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

How many employees of the IOM Constabulary have for each year since 1999 to date been -

- (a) suspended from duty and for what reason;
- (b) on sickness leave and for how long;
- (c) undertaking light duties; and
- (d) undertaking "acting up" ranks?

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

- (1) What qualification is attained by a nurse trained on the Island;
- (2) how many years training are undertaken to achieve that qualification and what is the maximum number of students in each year of the course;
- (3) how many applications were received since the re-introduction of the course and how many students have been accepted;
- (4) are there any persons on a waiting list and, if so, how long will it be before they can be offered a place on the course; and
- (5) what grants are available to students wishing to train off-Island and are these offered to suitably qualified candidates for whom there are not places on the Island nurse training course?

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

(1) What is your Department doing to assist the General Practitioners and Health Centres of the Island to acquire sufficient stocks of basic flu vaccine; and

(2) if necessary, will you source stocks from outside the UK?

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

By way of duty rosters, time sheets or other methods of transmission to the Pay Section, by the relevant managers of the Renal Unit -

(a) how much overtime (if any) was incurred by staff working in the Peritoneal Dialysis Nursing Service for each of the months from 2004 through to July 2005, illustrating staff by A, B, C etc; and

(b) can you confirm that during this time there were 1.64 NTE staff allocated to the Community Service and that the allocated staff were the same two people through this period?

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

Given your answer to me that it has been three years since the Governor's Hill Estate has benefited from any white line painting, can you ensure that a programme of repainting all white lines is undertaken?

46. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Minister for Transport -

Has your Department taken steps to ensure that the Tower of Refuge is structurally sound?

47. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Minister for Transport -

Will your Department give consideration to returning the Crows' Nest at the Douglas Sea Terminal back to its former use as a scenic restaurant?