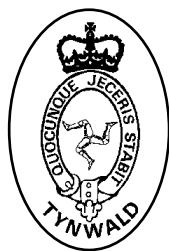


TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
21st February 2006
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

Can you explain the failure of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Manx Electricity Authority to initiate an immediate and urgent renegotiation of the Bord Gais Agreements despite the fact that the Agreements are obviously inequitable, not in the best interest of the Isle of Man and contravene an Intergovernmental Treaty?

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

What action do you take on receipt of letters sent to you in support of the retention of the title Lieutenant Governor?

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

In view of the fact that apart from the legality of certain loans, the Manx Electricity Authority financial crisis was primarily a result of the failure of Government, will you support me in my stance that the membership of the Select Committee on the Manx Electricity Authority should not include any persons who have held Ministerial Government Office during the period 1997-2006 on the grounds of conflict of interest?

4. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Can you inform this Honourable Court the reason why the Council of Ministers, in 1998, recommended to Tynwald that the Manx Electricity Authority's plan to install both a cable and power station be adopted without presenting any economic justifications for the proposal, and despite the fact that three independent consultants all advised that Manx electricity consumers could not afford both?
5. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Since the Select Committee on the Manx Electricity Authority cannot interview previous Manx Electricity Authority Board members for legal reasons -
- (a) can you explain the reasons why the pre-1997 Board of the Manx Electricity Authority, with a wealth of power generation and distribution industry experience, was dismissed, or not re-appointed in 1997, and replaced by a Board with no power generation or distribution industry experience; and
- (b) what was the thinking behind this by the Council of Ministers?
6. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Singer, to ask the Chief Minister -
- Has any progress been made to permit access by Manx charities to UK Lottery fund money?
7. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Will you circulate to Members the CoMin paper detailing the Department of Health and Social Security proposed cost reductions presented on 5th January 2006?
8. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
- (1) Will you and your Council of Ministers bring a Motion to Tynwald to terminate the litigation in respect of the legality of the £120M loan from Barclays Bank to the Manx Cable Co and onward transmission to the Manx Electricity Authority: and
- (2) consequential to this Motion give retrospective approval to the £120M loan so that the Manx Electricity Authority accounts can be signed off by the auditors?
9. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Will you and your Council of Ministers bring a Motion to Tynwald to disband the Branding Committee?

10. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
Will you and your Council of Ministers bring a Motion to Tynwald to disband the current consultation into the Scope and Structure of Government?
11. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
Will you and your Council of Ministers bring a Motion to Tynwald to disband the Boundary Review Committee?
12. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Chief Minister -
- (1) Are there any civil servants still sitting as members of decision-making bodies; and
 - (2) if so, what action has been taken to remove them?
13. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Chief Minister -
In relation to the Department of Health and Social Security and the recent and apparent inept and unsatisfactory manner in which arrangements were handled in connection with the budgeting for Health Services and provision thereof, what steps have been taken to avoid a repetition of this debacle?
14. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
In view of the United Kingdom's Government initiative over the audit of the UK Health Service, will the Treasury consider an external task force to investigate the reasons of the overspend of the Department of Health and Social Security, and to audit the systems within the Department to establish if the money is spent efficiently and effectively for providing a first class Health Service for the people of the Isle of Man?
15. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
In your News Release "The System of Tax Relief for Individuals in the Isle of Man - Extension of Consultation Period" -
- (a) when are the Members of the House of Keys/Tynwald to be given the opportunity to meet as a body to discuss what, if any, changes are acceptable to be considered;
 - (b) if it was not intended to abolish mortgage interest relief, why have it as an option; and
 - (c) as Members of the House of Keys represent the people of Mann, who have many and varied interests, and who believe in the future, will you ask them what options should be open and on which tax your Department can tax the people, before instigating a tax fishing expedition?

16. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- (1) Are you aware of increasing concerns from people across the Island about any changes that may be considered to Mortgage Tax Relief arrangements; and
 - (2) will you give an assurance that none will be implemented without the approval of Tynwald?
17. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask HM Attorney General -
- (1) What are the legal implications with regard to the Isle of Man Authorities in view of the UK Government's reclassification of the TV Licence fee as a UK tax;
 - (2) will this tax be recoverable by the Isle of Man Treasury; and
 - (3) if so, will Tynwald be required to remit such receipts to the BBC?
18. The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr Speaker) to ask HM Attorney General -
- Can you confirm who determines whether or not a prosecution should take place?
19. The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -
- Can you advise in relation to planning applications submitted under the Town Country Planning Act 1999, what procedure you have approved in relation to the determination of party status to be given to Government Departments, Statutory Boards, other bodies and agencies who may have an interest, who are not identified in the new Planning Regulations, and who will make such decisions?
20. The Hon Member of Council, Mr Lowey, to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -
- (1) What are the estimated costs of the introduction of the Constructive Design and Management Regulations;
 - (2) who monitors the introduction and benefits of the Regulations; and
 - (3) have there been any benefits resulting from these Regulations to any parties, apart from those directly employed in the introduction of the Regulations?

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

When do you intend to bring forward an order to Tynwald to vary the amount specified in section 3(1) of the Local Government (Entertainments) Act 1950?

22. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Are there rules governing Local Authority house tenants with regard to tenants who do not occupy their allocated property for long periods of time for no other reason than that they are residing elsewhere?

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

Are there any discussions ongoing regarding Local Authority and Government Housing Tenancy Agreements?

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

- (1) Does your Department support conservation areas;
- (2) what are the reasons for them;
- (3) what developments are allowed subject to planning approval; and
- (4) does a registered building consent allow changes to such buildings?

25. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Do you know of any plans to build Local Government houses or first time buyers' homes on any current or planned housing developments in Kirk Michael?

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

- (1) Are you aware of any problems affecting Local Authorities, due to the lengths of time taken to obtain full audited accounts from their Auditors, appointed by the Isle of Man Government; and
- (2) if so, would you not agree that any late submission of audited accounts from any Local Authority, may reflect badly on such a body, but may not actually be due to any fault of the Local Authorities?

27. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

Have you changed the policy with regard to breaches of our employment law as quoted that you "do not prosecute on the first offence"?

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

(1) What contractual arrangements does your Department operate in running the Port Erin Dental Clinic; and

(2) are you aware of the worsening employee relations with managers there?

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

Will you review the management structure of the entire Department of Health and Social Security and management spending in order to identify any savings or efficiency initiatives that could be made?

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

With regard to the concern I expressed on 7th February 2005 re the public land hotel development at the Airport -

(a) are you aware of the press article that appeared on the 9th/10th February three days after you replied to me in another place;

(b) when answering, were you aware that the company, according to the press article, do not wish to place a new hotel on the site that your Department have granted them sole rights for just that purpose so to do;

(c) when were you made aware of these changes;

(d) have your Department's Officers had meetings with representatives of the Company to ask why they have now decided not to carry out the commitments on which the sale franchise was awarded; and

(e) now that it appears that this site is not to be developed by the present franchise holder, when will the land be brought back into public control to enable all other options to be consistent?

31. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

When will the boat, the Solway Harvester, be taken out of Douglas Harbour?

32. The Hon Member for Peel (Mrs Hannan) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -
- (1) Have all flats been inspected for Fire Regulations purposes since the 1996 Act came into force;
 - (2) if not, why not;
 - (3) how many flats have yet to comply; and
 - (4) if a fire occurs before the work is carried out, who is held liable?
33. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Delaney) to ask the Chairman of the Insurance and Pensions Authority -
- Will you provide Members of Tynwald with copies of the statement of case in the court action *Cable and Wireless Subsidiary Pender Insurance v Messenger Insurance* for return of the alleged £80M?
34. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- (1) What were the costs incurred by the Manx Electricity Authority in supplying the water pipes to Little London; and
 - (2) were all the costs passed on to the Isle of Man Water Authority?
35. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Chairman of the Isle of Man Water Authority -
- Can you confirm that the costs of the water supply supplied via the Manx Electricity Authority trench to Little London were borne by your Authority in their entirety, or were contributions made by the local inhabitants who were in receipt of such service?
36. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Earnshaw) to ask the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Expenditure and Public Accounts -
- (1) Is there a prescribed timetable in Standing Orders for your Committee to report to Tynwald;
 - (2) if so, what is the frequency;
 - (3) when did you last report to Tynwald;
 - (4) when will you next report; and
 - (5) when will you finalise and provide your Reports on Ramsey Post Office and Island Film Studios?

37. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Could you confirm that the Intergovernmental Treaty, between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Ireland provides for the supply of up to 767,000 cubic meters of natural gas per day to the Isle of Man on fair commercial terms (Article 10(2))?
38. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Could you confirm that 767,000 cubic meters per day of natural gas is more than sufficient to meet the needs of both the Manx Electricity Authority and Manx Gas now and for the foreseeable future?
39. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Would you advise why the Chief Executive of the Manx Electricity Authority was authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry to enter into the Bord Gais Agreements under conditions which were demonstrably not on fair commercial terms?
40. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Are you aware that the tariff for third parties transporting gas from Moffatt in Scotland to Dublin in Ireland is regulated by the CER in Dublin and is published on their website?
41. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Are you aware that the “operating cost” alone that the Manx Electricity Authority currently pay to transport their gas from Moffatt in Scotland to the Spur Connection off the coast of the Isle of Man is far greater than the CER regulated tariff for third parties transporting their gas all the way from Moffatt in Scotland to Dublin in Ireland, more than twice the distance?
42. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Are you aware that, in addition to an “Operating Cost” the Manx Electricity Authority also pay a “capacity charge” which, over the life of the BGE Agreements, will cost the Manx Electricity Authority (and therefore the Manx electricity consumers) an additional £106M?
43. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Can you explain why the Department of Trade and Industry authorised the Chief Executive of the Manx Electricity Authority to enter into an agreement with Bord Gais to pay a “Capacity Charge” when the Government of the Republic of Ireland was already required to provide that capacity, at no cost to the Manx Electricity Authority, by Intergovernmental Treaty?

44. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Can you explain why the capital cost of the Spur Line has recently escalated from the £34M reported in the PKF Report to £40M as recently advised to me at a recent meeting with the Manx Electricity Authority over twelve months after the completion of the Spur Line?
45. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Can you explain the Manx Electricity Authority's refusal to conduct an audit of the capital cost of the Spur Line despite there being specific provision in the Bord Gais Agreement for such an audit?
46. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Are you aware that third parties have advised that the cost of the Spur Line should not have exceeded £8M (unless there were exceptional circumstances)?
47. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Are you aware that failure to renegotiate the Bord Gais Agreements will cost Manx Electricity consumers many hundreds of millions of pounds over the life of the Agreements over and above the £106M Capacity Charge?
48. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Are you aware that the heavy subsidies paid by the Isle of Man taxpayers to bail out the Manx Electricity Authority is enabling the Manx Electricity Authority to compete unfairly with other energy suppliers such as oil companies and Manx Gas and contravenes the Gas and Electricity Act 2003?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

49. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Chief Minister -
- Will you ensure that there will not be a reduction in essential healthcare and services to the public?
50. The Hon Member of the Council, Mrs Crowe, to ask the Chief Minister -
- Throughout Government Departments and Statutory Boards, how many officers and at what grade are -
- (a) involved in the management and maintenance of property; and
 - (b) involved in human resource management and training?

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

- (1) What is the new level of delegation approved by your Department to the Director of Planning for the consideration of planning applications made under the Town and Planning Act 1999 and when was such delegation introduced;
- (2) is it correct that a new post has been created within the Planning Office for a new Planning Officer to be appointed to deal also with planning applications under delegation;
- (3) with this new procedure, how many planning applications are envisaged, in percentage terms, to be determined by the Director of Planning and any new Planning Officer under delegated authority; and
- (4) will all such planning applications be dealt with under delegation whether or not there are individuals, Government Departments, Statutory Boards or Local Authorities opposed to such application?

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

Can you advise what is the new procedure that has been adopted by your Department in relation to the consideration of planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1999 for -

- (a) residential property;
- (b) commercial property;
- (c) the registering of properties;
- (d) the de-registering of properties;
- (e) householder applications; and
- (f) what is your Department's laid down definition of the above categories?

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

- (1) How many paying customers visited the camera obscura during 2005;
- (2) how much income was generated;
- (3) what were the operational costs; and
- (4) what were the total capital costs involved relating to its restoration?

54. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Can you supply the answers to -

- (a) how many separate applications have been made by Raven Hill Resources Ltd for the development of the Poacher's Pocket;
- (b) how many times have they been declined at the first time of asking;
- (c) how many times have they been approved at the first time of asking;
- (d) how many separate review hearings have there been;
- (e) how many applications have gone to the Independent Planning Inspector;
- (f) what has been the cost to the Department over the years;
- (g) are there any regulations with regard to the number of planning applications that can be submitted by a developer substantially of the same nature on a single site; and
- (h) is there a "5 year rule" which prevents situations such as this?

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

Can you give assurances that the Gynaecology Ward at Noble's Hospital will remain open and not understaffed?

56. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Can you supply the daily cost of feeding patients on an individual basis in -

- (a) the new Noble's Hospital;
- (b) Newlands;
- (c) Ramsey Cottage Hospital; and
- (d) Southlands?

57. The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Quayle) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- (1) What percentage of the Island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is spent on health and how does it compare with Members of the European Union, United States of America, Canada, Switzerland, Jersey and Guernsey; and
 - (2) will you publish the amounts spent on health by the Isle of Man Government over the last 20 years (and the relevant percentages of GDP) for each year?
58. The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Transport -
- (1) When were the latest traffic speed surveys undertaken on the highway known as the "Ballamodha Straight" in Malew;
 - (2) what were the locations at which the speeds were measured and how long was the measuring equipment in place at each location;
 - (3) what are the results of those traffic speed surveys; and
 - (4) what are the 85%tile speeds identified at each location in those surveys?
59. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Duggan) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure -
- (1) What is the age limit and permitted height restrictions in place at the Villa Marina for children in the play area; and
 - (2) does your Department intend to improve indoor and outdoor facilities for children of all ages?
60. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Capt Douglas) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -
- Can you supply the daily costs of feeding prisoners on an individual basis in -
- (a) the Isle of Man Prison; and
 - (b) the Secure Unit at White Hoe?