

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
20th March 2007
at 10.30 am

Under Standing Orders 2.2(4), (5) and 9.1(3), the President has directed that the Question Paper will be taken at the conclusion of Order Paper No2; no question shall be taken orally after the conclusion of 2 1/2 hours from that time.

FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister –
 - (1) Do you recall that I asked for the Civil Service Commission briefing to Members to be held on 8th February 2007 to be presented by both the Civil Service Commission and the Government Officers' Association;
 - (2) can you confirm that the Government Officers' Association were in agreement with this proposal;
 - (3) can you also confirm that the Civil Service Commission declined to do a joint briefing; and
 - (4) can you advise why the Civil Service Commission felt that a joint briefing would be unhelpful, given their assertion that the Corporate Leadership Group was a joint endeavour?

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

Are all Members of the Council of Ministers fully in support of the Treasury Minister's policy of tax-capping at £100,000.00 per annum per person, and the implications of such a policy, and are Ministers fully committed to assist in promoting the policy?

3. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Chief Minister –

(1) Have you undertaken full consideration of the Independent Report into the Structure and Scope of Government; and

(2) when will you report to Tynwald?

4. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Chief Minister –

In view of your pre-determined policy position on the unfairness of waste charges being levied against ratepayers as opposed to taxpayers, what efforts have you made since holding the position of Chief Minister to address this unfairness?

5. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask the Chief Minister –

Have you considered 'the implications of implementing effective controls at the main ports of entry into the Island' in order to combat the importation of illegal drugs, as indicated in your written statement of 14th December 2006 in Tynwald Court, and if so, when will you make a Report to Tynwald?

6. The Hon Member of the Council Mr Waft to ask the Chief Minister –

(1) How many Bills are under consideration from all of the Departments to be proceeded with in this legislative term;

(2) how many are now with the Legislative Draftsmen;

(3) how many are considered urgent;

(4) how many Bills are expected to be progressed during the forthcoming year;

(5) what are the determining factors the Council of Ministers uses to decide on their priorities; and

(6) what consideration is usually given to Private Members' Bills in this process?

7. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for the Treasury –
- (1) In the spirit of corporate leadership, what discussions did the Civil Service Commission have with the Treasury about the direct costs and possible consequential costs of introducing the Corporate Leadership Group pay deal; and
 - (2) if they did not choose to discuss such matters with you, how do you plan for such unexpected expenditure in your budgeting?
8. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for the Treasury –
- (1) Has the Financial Supervision Commission recommended to branches in the Isle of Man of United Kingdom banks to advise their customers both private and corporate that are resident in the United Kingdom that HM Revenue and Customs in the United Kingdom are able to access their accounts and financial affairs as the banks' databases are situated in the United Kingdom;
 - (2) will you agree that if Isle of Man branches of United Kingdom banks accept accounts from United Kingdom residents and corporate bodies they should be advised HM Revenue and Customs are able to access their accounts, and that failure to do so could amount to misrepresentation and mis-selling of the confidentiality of the accounts;
 - (3) can you confirm that as the United Kingdom Revenue and Customs have access to United Kingdom banks' database then, by extension, Revenue and Customs have access to the accounts of Isle of Man residents and corporate bodies; and
 - (4) will you agree that the problems of (1), (2) and (3) could be resolved if banks in the Isle of Man established a database in the Isle of Man solely for Isle of Man accounts?

9. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury –
- (1) Could you confirm when the last Isle of Man interim or ordinary Census was taken and what the population figure was from that survey;
 - (2) given your Department's recent release of the Isle of Man Earnings Survey 2006, which was a sample exercise, can you project from those figures, as an estimate, what is the likely number of employees either full-time or part-time earning less than the national average of £536.00 per week as published in the Report.
 - (3) What is the total estimated projected number of employees both full and part-time earning the national minimum wage, what is the estimated total number of employees on the Island, full and part-time, who are earning £8.00 or less per hour; and
 - (4) from the latest records held by your Department, what is the estimated number of people over the age of 65 living on the Island?
10. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury –
- (1) During the most recent Earnings Survey which was published this year, was it discovered in any of the employer responses that employees were being paid below the national minimum wage; and
 - (2) if so, how many, and what does your Department intend to do about this illegal activity?
11. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury –
- (1) Can you confirm that during the Earnings Survey, when it is compulsory for employers under the Statistics Act 1999 to submit details of employees pay to Government, that all employers were compliant with the request; and
 - (2) if not, and there are employers withholding information contrary to the Act, what does your Department intend to do about it?
12. The Hon Member of the Council Mr Waft to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure –
- What is the programme of entertainment booked for the coming season for the Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre complex?

13. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport –

- (1) What figures for Runway End Safety Areas have been used in arriving at the 'Declared Distances' for the various runways at the Isle of Man Airport, as published on the Airport website and elsewhere;
- (2) what would be the effect on these 'Declared Distances' if Runway 08/26 were extended to the maximum extent possible at both ends, without moving the A5 Ballasalla to Castletown Road at the western end and without going into the sea at the eastern end;
- (3) what would be the effect on these 'Declared Distances' if Runway 03/21 were extended to the maximum extent possible, without moving the A12 road at the north eastern end; and
- (4) what further enhancement of these declared distances could be achieved if a 5.5 degree approach were adopted at Ronaldsway, as used at London City Airport?

14. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport –

In relation to the runway extension proposals at Ronaldsway airport –

- (a) when will Hon Members receive the 'briefing notes' we were promised at the presentation on 6th February;
- (b) when will Hon Members receive the information promised regarding the runway extension schemes at London City, Jersey and Shetland Airports, as reported in the Manx Independent on 23rd February; and
- (c) would you agree that the runways at all three of these airports, as well as Guernsey, are shorter than the Isle of Man's main runway and in most cases are considerably shorter?

15. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport –

Would you agree that if Hon Members make incorrect and/or misleading statements in Tynwald Court, even though they may have been made in good faith at the time, that these errors should be corrected as soon as possible?

16. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport –
- (1) Why do you believe that it is not in the public interest for you to answer questions 17, 19 and 20 on the Order Paper for the sitting of this Court on 20th February 2007;
 - (2) if you did not agree with the assertions implicit in my questions, would it not have been better to clarify the situation by answering the questions; or
 - (3) conversely, if you agree with me that incorrect and/or misleading statements had been made in connection with the proposed Airport runway extension, would it not be in the public interest for these to be corrected?
17. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport –
- (1) On what basis can you justify using the pending Planning Appeal in relation to the Airport runway extension as an excuse for refusing to answer questions in Tynwald Court and withholding relevant and important information from Hon Members;
 - (2) would you not agree that an important part of the Planning process is to establish the truth so that informed decisions can be made based on accurate and verifiable data;
 - (3) why would you wish to impede this process by withholding relevant information;
 - (4) with the Chief Minister adopting a greater degree of transparency for the current administration, for which he should be congratulated, by releasing summaries of Council of Minister meetings, why will you not adopt similar openness for your Department?
18. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask HM Attorney General –
- (1) Is it *ultra vires* for Planning Officers to use as evidence at Planning Appeals the policies of the draft strategic plan; and
 - (2) if so, on what legal precedent, and will you provide Members with a copy of that precedent?
19. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

Is your Department currently examining a way forward to meet the nursing care cost element of Nursing/Residential Home fees for residents and, if so, when is a scheme likely to be launched?

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

How many people does the Department support in Residential/Nursing Home settings who are under the age of 65 and suffer from neurological disorders of varying forms?

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

Since the announcement that the Office of Fair Trading was going to investigate the costs and pricings of certain Nursing and Residential Homes in 2006, have your relevant Departmental officials met with the affected 'Homes' Managers to discuss a way forward and any issues or concerns that they may have?

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

Has your Department kept the commitment given in Tynwald last year to my questions from the previous Minister with regard to agreeing for the Department to contact residents/families of residents who are finding it more or less impossible to meet the new increased pay levels of certain Nursing Homes now pitched at £695.00 per week?

23. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading –

Has part 2 of the investigation into the costs of pricings of certain Nursing and Residential Homes been completed, if not why not, and how soon will Members of Tynwald be briefed on the findings?

24. The Hon Member of the Council Mr Waft to ask the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading –

- (1) Would you give an explanation regarding the legal situation relating to bank charges in the Isle of Man;
- (2) what consumer protection is in place which may deal with a disproportionate charge should it be found; and
- (3) what relevant provision does the Fair Trading Amendment Act 2001 give to cover this issue?

25. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission –
- (1) Will you give some examples of where you believe there have been demonstrable occasions where senior civil servants have failed to act ‘corporately’; and
 - (2) if not, why not?
26. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission –
- (1) Was the Civil Service Commission decision to sign the Corporate Leadership Group agreement with the Government Officers’ Association unanimous, or based on a majority vote;
 - (2) if it was a majority vote, who voted which way?
27. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission –
- (1) Do you have the supporting evidence justifying the JESP scores for the Corporate Leadership Group members;
 - (2) have you shared this evidence with the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers; and
 - (3) if not, why not?
28. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission -
- (1) How do you reconcile the comment made to Tynwald Members by the Government Officers’ Association spokesman on 22nd February 2007 when he stated “all this (the Corporate Leadership Group deal) does is give some people a pay rise – nothing more” with your assertion that it represents an Agreement which brings in other areas of agreement; and
 - (2) which version is accurate?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

29. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister –

Do you recall the clear undertaking by the Civil Service Commission to furnish you and the Council of Ministers with the evidence supporting the JESP scores of the Corporate Leadership Group members at the briefing to Members in the Barrool Suite on 8th February 2007?

30. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister –

- (1) Have you received the supporting evidence from the Civil Service Commission justifying the Corporate Leadership Group JESP scores;
- (2) if so, when did you receive this evidence and are you entirely satisfied that the evidence is compelling; and
- (3) if you have not received such evidence, as you have previously been promised by the Civil Service Commission, what do you intend to do about it?

31. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister –

- (1) What would the adverse consequences be should you choose to publish the evidence the Civil Service Commission advised Hon Members they have to support the Corporate Leadership Group JESP scores; and
- (2) if such alleged adverse consequences do not exist will you, in the spirit of openness and transparency, require them to be published in full and unedited?

32. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Speaker) to ask the Chief Minister –

In respect of the Review of Scope and Structure of Government in the Isle of Man –

- (a) what was the cost of producing the Report;
- (b) when was it laid before Tynwald;
- (c) will you confirm that the Review was commissioned by the previous Administration for the consideration and action by the incoming Administration;
- (d) what action has been taken by the present Council of Ministers to consider the Review and respond to its 48 recommendations; and
- (e) when do you intend that the Review and Government's response to the 48 recommendations be debated by Tynwald?

33. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Speaker) to ask the Chief Minister –

The findings of the Review of the Scope and Structure of Government in the Isle of Man were as follows –

- (a) the scope of Government is too large;
- (b) there has been insufficient emphasis on value for money;
- (c) there is a need for corporate government to be improved;
- (d) there is a great need to separate policy making from operations;
- (e) greater transparency is needed;

with which of these findings do you agree, and if not why not?

34. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Speaker) to ask the Chief Minister –

- (1) Can you confirm that a principal recommendation of the Review of the Scope and Structure of Government in the Isle of Man is the specific creation of a Department of Corporate Development in order to drive forward the changes and pursuit of value for money at the heart of the Report; and
- (2) since this recommendation is one “on which attention should be first focussed and on which early decisions will be needed”, will you advise how early in your Administration such decisions will be taken?

35. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister –

- (1) When was the Chief Minister’s Alcohol strategy set up;
- (2) how much public funding has been spent on this strategy to date;
- (3) how is this figure broken down into constituent parts (eg wages, administration, direct service provision);
- (4) can you give examples of outcomes to justify the expenditure in this strategy;
- (5) what alternative options have you considered to replace the strategy with a more service-driven administration?

36. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mr Braidwood) to ask the Chief Minister -

What is the individual yearly cost for the last three financial years of all Governmental and Departmental notices, advertisements etc placed in Isle of Man Newspapers?

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

- (1) For each of the last five years, what have the gross and net year end profits posted for Manx Gas and its parent company been; and
- (2) if only the parent company profits have been posted, can it be determined what element in percentage terms were Manx Gas profits in comparison with the other elements within the parent company including a "per head of population" percentage calculation to illustrate how well, in comparison, the Isle of Man Branch is performing against the other sections of the parent company?

38. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

In respect of the House of Keys General Election held on 23rd November 2006 -

- (a) will you confirm the historic significance and international interest in this event due to permitting 16 and 17 year olds to vote for the first time;
- (b) what percentage of 16 and 17 year olds was eligible to join the Electoral Register registered as voters;
- (c) what was the overall turnout on polling day of all voters eligible to vote;
- (d) is it the case that the actual turnout of registered 16 and 17 year olds was also to be determined from polling data and then published;
- (e) if so, what is the reason for not yet providing this important information;
- (f) when do you expect the Economic Affairs Division to do so, and do you agree that this four month delay so far since the Election is regrettable?

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

Can you confirm that most new properties and estates built in the last seventeen years usually have been fitted with gas services, including heating etc which will, in nearly all cases, mean most buyers of such properties, including first-time buyers, will have gas central heating fitted?

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

Can you confirm it is the aim of most local authorities and the Department of Local Government and the Environment to centrally heat their housing stock, by oil and gas systems?

41. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

What percentage -

- (a) of all gas sold by Manx Gas to its customers is natural gas sourced from the Manx Electricity Authority;
- (b) of Manx Gas customers, both private and business, use natural gas; and
- (c) of residential customers living in homes use -
 - (i) natural gas; or
 - (ii) other types of gas?

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

With regard to your Department's commissioning and receipt of the Isle of Man Government Ply for Hire Taxi and Private Hire Demand Study - Final Report, dated December 2006 - which concludes that, "that on the basis of the analysis conducted we conclude that there does not exist a significant unmet demand for Ply for Hire Taxis on the Isle of Man at this time", what does your Department intend to do with this Report, how much weight will your Department give to this Report, has the Road Traffic Licensing Committee been furnished with this Report and what weight will they be giving to the Report in subsequent months when reviewing the issuing of Tax Licences?

43. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mrs Cannell) to ask HM Attorney General -

- (1) What regulations and procedures are in place to regulate those persons seeking application to the Isle of Man Land Registry for "Ownership based on Possession"; and
- (2) who is responsible to ensure the non-abuse of such applications?

44. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Services -

How much did it cost Social Security for free BBC television licences to pensioners in the last financial year?

45. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –
- (1) Does the pharmaceutical committee still exist;
 - (2) if so, who is on it;
 - (3) if not, who issues pharmaceutical licences; and
 - (4) what controls are there on setting up retail pharmacies?
46. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading -
- (1) What are the current known, or estimated as best your Office can determine, total number of residential addresses on the Isle of Man; and
 - (2) what percentage of those residences are gas customers?
47. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- (1) What price are you currently selling gas per unit or the equivalent when worked out to Manx Gas; and
 - (2) if known, what price currently is Manx Gas charging per unit to home owners/residential properties?
48. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- In each of the last relevant years in which natural gas has been brought to the Island how much, in each of those years, has been “exported” to Manx Gas in terms of volume/units and total price per year charged?
49. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Chairman of Isle of Man Post –
- (1) How much did the Post Office collect in TV licences for the BBC in the last financial year; and
 - (2) how much commission did the Post Office receive from the BBC for collection of the licence fees?