

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
17th FEBRUARY 2009
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Turner, to ask the Chief Minister -

Whether he will undertake to instigate a root and branch review of the data protection legislation?
2. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -

If he will take advantage of the departure of the Chief Executive of the Department of Tourism and Leisure and the Chief Officer of the Personnel Office to merge -
 - (a) the Department of Tourism and Leisure with the Department of Trade and Industry; and
 - (b) the Personnel Office with the Chief Secretary's Office;
thus consolidating and rationalising Government spending and offering far better value for money?
3. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -

In view of the changing nature of the tourism sector in the British Isles towards a more ecological and heritage based offering if he would consider with the Council of Ministers the possibility of not replacing the outgoing Director of Manx National Heritage and amalgamating Manx National Heritage into the Department of Tourism and Leisure?

4. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Turner, to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

To whom the Information Systems Division (ISD) is accountable and who scrutinises its performance to ensure that IT projects are -

- (a) required;
- (b) value for money;
- (c) not already commercially available;
- (d) sourced locally; and

if the Minister will seek to have independently investigated whether ISD has outgrown what should be a reasonable size for an administration such as the Isle of Man Government?

5. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Turner, to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

When he intends to introduce an Insolvency Bill and if he will seek to put in to place interim measures, by way of legislation, to ensure that -

- (a) the enforcement of civil debt executions by the Coroners is carried out;
- (b) the Coroners are brought under control of a suitable division of government;
- (c) the Coroners have Island-wide jurisdiction; and
- (d) provision is made for the establishment of licensed debt collection agents to enforce court executions that Coroners fail to pursue?

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

Who in the Treasury is responsible for the failure to forward purchase euros required for payment of the Airport extension contract?

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

Whom does he appoint to be acting Minister for the Treasury during periods when he is off-Island or indisposed?

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

If he will make a statement with regard to the implications of the court hearing on Thursday 29th January 2009 in respect of the proposed liquidation of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) Limited?

9. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

(a) Whether the Department of Transport submitted a request to his Department for the purchase of euros for projects at the Isle of Man Airport; and

(b) what the substance of that request was?

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

Whether on 3rd February 2009 there was a ministerial delegation or other similar authorisation in place that Mr Philip Braidwood MHK would act in the Minister's absence if necessary and, in the case of Mr Braidwood's absence, Mr Alex Downie MLC; and whether similar arrangements existed before that date?

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

Whether he has yet received information from the UK Treasury about when it intends to carry out the 'Independent Review of British Offshore Finance Centres', and, if so, when this is to be in relation to the Isle of Man?

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

Why he has not yet held a briefing meeting with Tynwald Members with regard to -

(a) a meeting he and/or his officials attended in London prior to Christmas with the UK Treasury about a UK Independent Review of British Offshore Finance Centres;

(b) the purpose of his recent visit to Iceland and what transpired and what the outcomes of that visit were; and

if he will hold a briefing meeting for Tynwald Members to provide information on the following matters -

- (i) the latest KSF position;
 - (ii) what transpired in London prior to Christmas when he and/or his officials were told by UK Treasury officials about the Financial Review in relation to the Isle of Man; and
 - (iii) his visit to Iceland, the reasons for the visit and the outcome of the visit?
13. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- Why Treasury did not hedge the £10.8 million funds needed for the runway extension payable in euros; and who was responsible for failing to do so?
14. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- If the Isle of Man Scheme of Arrangement is not successful as a means of fully compensating depositors with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, if he will consider (once the depositors receive their final payments) applying the £150,000,000 set aside for the Government's contribution to the Isle of Man Depositors Scheme to be used to add to any payments under the Scheme of Arrangement in order to compensate fully as many accounts as possible?
15. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Minister for Transport -
- What plans he has to replace the lighthouse in Port St Mary?
16. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Minister for Education -
- What courses or initiatives her department runs for persons from the age of 16 to 18 years for employment purposes; and how many persons between the ages of 16 and 18 years are on such courses who are not in full time education?
17. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- In respect of an elderly person who is resident in a care home, but who owns their own property, and is running out of savings to pay the care home fees, whether benefit payments cannot be made to assist such a person when their savings run out because the value of their property will be taken into account in making this judgement; and if he will agree to review this situation to assist such people, especially if evidence can be supplied that their family or agents are actively trying to sell the property?

18. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- (a) When a fluorescein angiogram camera will be provided to the ophthalmology clinic; and
 - (b) how much in savings will be made in respect of patients currently travelling to the United Kingdom to receive such examinations, per annum, on average, following the provision of the camera?
19. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- What the function of e-llan Communications Limited is in relation to the exploitation of the commercial potential of spare fibre optic cables?
20. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Electricity Authority -
- If he will make a statement on his policy position on renewable energy?
21. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading -
- What action the Office of Fair Trading can take to prevent large airline operators from entering into potential predatory competition which could result in yet another small operator being driven out of business?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

22. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- (a) How many public sector employees with an annual salary of £50,000 or more are currently suspended on full pay;
 - (b) which Departments or other entities employ them; and
 - (c) what the length is of each suspension to date?
23. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- In relation to the Hymans Robertson Report, what the basis is for the assumption of future long-term growth in Isle of Man Gross Domestic Product needed in order to afford the public sector pension long-term liabilities?

24. The Hon Member of the Council, Mr Turner, to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

How many limited companies the Government is a shareholder in, and whether the company directors are solely and legally responsible for decisions of a company if that company's shares are held by Government or a statutory board?

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

If he will explain the meaning of the statement in "A Guide to Civil Legal Aid" available on the General Registry website -

"... that it is reasonable to fund proceedings, even if they are unlikely to be cost effective"?

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

In the Government Report Number 16/07 May 2007 "Legal Aid Services Legal Services Commission A Report to the Council of Ministers" in relation to the merits test for Civil Legal Aid it was stated at 3.2.5 "Action – General Registry will provide clearer information and guidance on the 'merits test' by April 2008";

- (1) what clearer information and guidance has been issued on the merits test other than that stated in the document "A Guide To Civil Legal Aid";
- (2) since June 2007 how many Civil Legal Aid Certificates have been issued;
- (3) of these how many have been issued which were initially limited to "attempting to negotiate a settlement";
- (4) what is the definition of "attempting to negotiate a settlement", what guidance has been issued in relation to this definition and to whom has it been made available; and
- (5) what proof has to be submitted to the Legal Aid certifying officer to show that the negotiations have failed in order for the certificate to be amended?

27. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

In relation to the article in the 'Sunday Times' on 8th February 2009, comparing the salary and benefits of public sector employees in the UK with their private sector counterparts, where it is stated that -

- (a) 2008 median annual pay (full time workers) was £27,144 in the public sector, compared with £23,920 in the private sector;
- (b) 90% of workers in the public sector had the benefit of final-salary pension schemes, compared with 12% in the private sector; and
- (c) average annual employer pension contributions were £4,000 in the public sector, compared with £1,600 in the private sector;

what the equivalent figures are for the Isle of Man?

28. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

- (a) In relation to the 42 pension schemes run by the Isle of Man Government, if he will identify equivalent schemes run by the UK Government;
- (b) how the funding contributions for the Isle of Man schemes differ from their UK equivalents; and
- (c) how the benefits differ between the Isle of Man schemes and their UK equivalents?

29. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

What his Department's estimate is of future long-term growth in Manx Gross Domestic Product; and if he will supply the data that would support that assumption?

30. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

What the impact is on Government revenue resulting from the reduction in interest rates since the last budget on -

- (a) income from Government deposits; and
- (b) tax revenue resulting from reduced deposit interest received by taxpayers?

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

What percentage of the Isle of Man Treasury reserves a full payout of the £150,000,000 of the Isle of Man Depositors Compensation Scheme would represent and what percentage of the UK reserves a full payout by the UK Government to their depositors by way of their scheme would represent; if the proposed Isle of Man Scheme of Arrangement is activated, what in the end would be the final cost to the taxpayer and what percentage of the Treasury Reserves this sum would represent?

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

Whether the UK Government has agreed to pay out or guarantee UK Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander depositors 100% of their money and will be making such payment fairly soon, if it has not already done so?

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

What the main proposals of the UK Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Depositors Scheme are and what the main differences are between it and the Isle of Man Depositors Compensation Scheme and the Proposed Scheme of Arrangement?

34. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask HM Attorney General -

Whether he has any evidence to justify the assertions of the Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) at the January sitting of this Court that -

- (a) Government Departments; or
- (b) individual Members of Tynwald in their various Government roles

are liable to prosecution for failing to protect Queen's Pier, Ramsey's status as a registered structure?

35. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask HM Attorney General -

What legal responsibilities, including funding requirements, arise in relation to -

- (a) an employer running a pension scheme for employees in the private sector;
- (b) a Local Authority running a pension scheme for employees; and
- (c) Government running a pension scheme for employees?

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

How many patients are on waiting lists for hip and knee replacement operations; and what the current average waiting time is between a patient being referred by their GP and the actual operation?

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

If he will make a statement on the authority required for (a) one and (b) more than one escort to be provided for patients by the Department; whether this requires a consultant's authorisation; and by what procedure GPs can obtain escorts for their patients?

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

- (a) How many type 1 diabetics are being treated on the Island;
- (b) what the recorded increase was last year; and
- (c) what the average cost is for treatment of each type 1 diabetic in respect of -
 - (i) medication; and
 - (ii) advice and support per annum?

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

With regard to the department's policy in allocating Public Sector Housing, to what extent the following factors are taken into account -

- (a) the area where applicants currently reside;
- (b) the areas where applicants have close family connections or friends; and
- (c) the areas where applicants are employed?