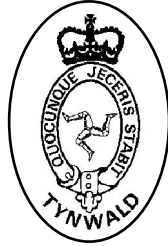


TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
19TH MAY 2009
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Chief Minister -

What the Council of Ministers is doing to combat the rise in unemployment on the Island?
2. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -

Who audits the Financial Supervision Commission to ensure their own spending, salary scales, organisational accounts and budgets are managed within a proper transparent and accepted standard of best financial practice and value for money?
3. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Chief Minister -

Whether he considers that the pay of the Chief Executive of the Financial Supervision Commission of £249,750 is appropriate when the UK Chancellor Alistair Darling only receives £141,866 for running the UK economy?

4. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- (1) Whether an application has been received for a casino licence at the Mount Murray complex; and, if so, what has been the outcome;
 - (2) what his and/or the Council of Ministers' policy is with regard to the granting of a second casino licence on the Island; and
 - (3) what consideration would be given to the effect on the owners of the existing casino on the Island if a casino licence were granted to a competitor without a substantial premium having been paid for the second licence?

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

Whether all e-mails referred to the Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Depositors and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Early Payment Scheme e-mail addresses have been responded to?

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

What representations have been made to the UK Treasury in light of the revelation that significant sums have been paid out to a single depositor from Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander UK?

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

Further to HM Government's guarantee to Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander depositors in the United Kingdom that 100% of their deposits will be returned, and given that UK actions directly resulted in the provisional liquidation of the Isle of Man subsidiary of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, what representations have been made to the UK authorities to extend their 100% guarantee to depositors Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (IOM) Ltd?

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

(1) Whether he is aware that the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee has completed its Report into the collapse of the Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander UK Bank and, if so, whether he has studied the document;

(2) if he will make a statement on comments in the Report on Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (IOM) Ltd, the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission and the Isle of Man Government?

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

Whether all Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (IOM) Bank depositors resident outside the United Kingdom will have received their proxy voting forms in time to be eligible to vote on the proposed Scheme of Arrangement?

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

Whether he is aware that a Member of the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee, Mark Todd MP, has advised depositors of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (IOM) Bank as follows:

“There is a large difficulty here. The Isle of Man is clearly sovereign in the matter (as the report indicates). It must be for their Government (Isle of Man) to seek assistance. If they (Isle of Man) could be persuaded to make an approach to the United Kingdom. I am sure that I, and other MPs could assist in pressing for assistance to be given. However it seems (so far) that they do not wish to ask;”

what his response is to this statement?

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

Whether he would favour a change in Departmental accounting rules so that the annual revenue budgets of the various Departments and Statutory Boards had to include a percentage of their wage and salary costs to reflect the increased pension contributions that would be needed to cover the annual increase in the actuarial shortfall in the future liability for the pensions of their employees so that the true current and future cost of their employment was reflected in Departmental accounts; and that the percentage referred to above was paid into the Public Sector Employees Pension Reserve Fund?

12. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
- (1) Whether he is aware of the number of tax agreements that have been signed by each of the countries on the OECD White List of jurisdictions that had substantially implemented the internationally agreed tax standards; and, if so, if he will publish the information;
 - (2) why he believes that the OECD published the number of tax agreements signed by jurisdictions on the Grey List and Black List but withheld this information for the White List jurisdictions; and
 - (3) if he will (a) publish, or (b) circulate to Hon Members, copies of the letter from the UK Prime Minister recognising the Island's compliance with international standards on taxation, following the Island's inclusion on the OECD White List?
13. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Minister for Education -
- If she will make a statement on the master plan for her Department's Isle of Man College?
14. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Education -
- If she will take immediate action to ensure that the highly paid person employed in her Department who has been suspended on full pay for eight months and referred to in written answer 22 in February Tynwald is either -
- (a) reinstated in their original position;
 - (b) offered a suitable alternative position; or
 - (c) dismissed;
- without any further delay?
15. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
- Whether his Department will assess the arrangements it has in place for a possible pandemic flu outbreak, and testing their effectiveness in the light of the spread of Swine Flu from Mexico?

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

Further to page 13 of his paper "Health and Social Care in the Isle of Man: Your Opportunity to Influence Future Policy" whether he expects anyone to answer "No" to his question "Do you agree that Social Services should help those who are vulnerable in our community"?

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

How many patients' appointments in the last 6 months have been cancelled due to a dentist or dental nurse not being available and what action needs to be taken to get a better dental service for all?

18. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

Further to his written answer to my oral question (No 28) of April Tynwald relating to the Drug and Alcohol Strategy, if he will provide a breakdown of how the £5.4M has been spent since 2000?

19. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

What plans he has to make use of the old prison and over what timescale?

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

(1) Whether the Work Permit Committee is granting work permits for brick/blocklayers; and

(2) if so, given the amount of unemployed people currently on the books why?

21. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Mr Cregeen) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

(1) What his predicted cost is for the contract with VENDIA;

- (2) who in his Department made initial contact with VENDA and on what date; and
- (3) what the predicted financial benefit to the Island is?
22. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -
- Why the partner in the project to allow Isle of Man retailers to set up their own on-line retailing site, VENDA, was selected without the approved tender process being used, not giving any local IT suppliers the ability to bid for the project?
23. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Minister for Transport -
- What lessons have been learnt from last year's traffic management fiasco, and what assurances he can give that traffic will flow smoothly at rush hours during TT practice and race weeks?
24. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry -
- If he will make a statement on the current situation with regard to his Department, the Government and the Isle of Man fully signing up to the Rio Convention on Biodiversity and what, if any, progress has been made to date?
25. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask HM Attorney General -
- What legal obligations there are, if any, for voluntary tips and gratuities, added to credit or debit card payments by customers at restaurants, to be passed on to staff and not retained by the owner or manager of the establishment?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

Whether the Financial Supervision Commission is funded by public money applied each year for its organisational running and salaries, and, if so -

- (a) who approves this; and
- (b) what monitoring takes place to ensure that this organisation gives value for money?

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

- (1) From where the Financial Supervision Commission draws its early organisational budgets resource, including staff salaries;
- (2) whether it is partially self-funded or otherwise;
- (3) in each of the last three years how many staff were working there;
- (4) by alphabetical denotation to respect privacy, what each post's salary was for each of those years;
- (5) whether salaries are fully publicly funded; and,
- (6) if not, what percentage of each post has public funding applied to it?

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

Whether the £250,000 salary and additional bonuses of the Chief Executive of the Financial Supervision Commission is paid for entirely from public money, or, if not, what proportion is paid from public funds and what the other source of the payments is?

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

If the Council of Ministers will give a categorical assurance that persons currently in receipt of a public service pension will not at any time in the foreseeable future have that pension reviewed?

30. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Chief Minister -

Since 1st January 2009, what briefing papers or information leaflets have been circulated to members of the Anglo-Manx Parliamentary Group in Westminster, as well as MPs and Peers who regularly speak on issues concerning the Isle of Man?

31. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Chief Minister -

Whether there is an obligation under the code of practice on access to Government information that places an obligation on the respondent to disclose the information set out in the Commissioner's ruling?
32. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister -

Who owns Noble's Hospital, Braddan?
33. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

How many public sector employees have Government credit cards?
34. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

The estimates for the Legal Aid Budget on page 40 of the Pink Book for 2009/2010 show that the budget is estimated at £1.963M; what steps are being taken to ensure expenditure is maintained within the limit?
35. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

In relation to Civil Legal Aid -
 - (a) how many Green Forms have been issued each year in the last three years;
 - (b) of the number of Green Forms issued, how many were
 - (i) in respect of individuals; and
 - (ii) on an annual basis;
 - (c) how much each firm of advocates claimed each year in the last three years for advice given on the Green Form basis; and
 - (d) what the total cost of claims for work done on Green Forms was for each year in the last three years?

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

How does the Legal Aid Department ensure that none of the following exists in claims for Civil Legal Aid -

- (a) making claims in respect of work that has in fact not been carried out;
- (b) duplicating claims for work carried out;
- (c) exaggerating time spent on work carried out;
- (d) giving inaccurate details of clients' eligibility for Civil Legal Aid both for the Means and Merits Tests; and
- (e) ensuring there are no Civil Legal Aid Certificates issued without providing evidence of prior negotiation?

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

- (1) How often independent internal audits are carried out by Treasury of the Legal Aid Department to check that the system gives value for money and that there are proper internal controls in place to ensure that there is no abuse of Legal Aid funding;
- (2) when the last audit was conducted and whether those results have been published; and
- (3) if so, where?

38. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

- (1) Whether he is aware of an allegation of a breach of a treaty agreement between the Isle of Man and UK Governments lodged in writing to him in a letter dated 22nd April 2009;
- (2) whether he has responded and/or acknowledged this letter;
- (3) whether the allegations have any basis; and
- (4) if he will make a statement outlining the full circumstances of this matter?

39. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
What steps he is party to in trying to recover the Manx depositors' funds held by the UK Government under anti-terrorism legislation?
40. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -
Further to his Answer to my question for written answer No 34 at the December 2008 sitting of Tynwald -
"What measures he intends to introduce to protect mortgage holders who are temporarily unable to meet their repayment commitments owing to circumstances beyond their control?"
if he will make a statement in relation to the final paragraph's comments particularly
"... I will however keep this matter under review, and if repossessions so emerge as a wider issue, will undertake to come back with additional measures if required."?
41. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Minister for Education -
When she will publish the response to her consultation on the allocation of Government-funded pre-school places?
42. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
Whether Swine Flu is any more dangerous to humans than the usual influenza winter outbreaks we suffer from time to time?
43. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -
Why so many people have died in Mexico from Swine Flu, or reportedly secondary complications, whereas in the reported UK cases the symptoms seem to present as cold-like and people are making a rapid recovery without any complications?

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

When he claims "better productivity" in relation to health budgets in his paper "Health and Social Care in the Isle of Man: Your Opportunity to Influence Future Policy" why he is unable to make such a claim in relation to Social Services and Social Security budgets and what he is doing to achieve similar claimed benefits in these areas?

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

Further to his circulated paper "Health and Social Care in the Isle of Man: Your Opportunity to Influence Future Policy" - on page 7 in the Introduction, but with specific relation to Health spending, he claims "better productivity achieved over the last few years", if he will list examples and the attendant cost savings?

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

Further to his Answer to my question for written answer No 43 at the December 2008 sitting of Tynwald -

"What the number of active cases are for each of the Social Services Division Children's Services field social workers?"

if he will make a statement on the current situation in relation to this matter?

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

Further to his Answer to my question for written answer No 31 at the December 2008 sitting of Tynwald -

"What plans he has to introduce provisions similar to those in the United Kingdom's Children and Adoption Act 2006 to enhance the Manx Court's powers in relation to contact orders?"

if he will make a statement on the current situation in relation to this matter?

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

Further to his Answer to my question for written answer No 37 at the December 2008 sitting of Tynwald -

“Following the recent tragic death of “Baby P” in England if he will make a statement outlining the measures taken or intended to be introduced to guard against such a situation happening in the Isle of Man?”

if he will make a statement on the current situation in relation to this matter?

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

Further to his Answer to my question for written answer No 44 at the December 2008 sitting of Tynwald -

“How many active cases involving children at risk do not have an allocated qualified social worker?”

if he will make a statement on the current situation in relation to this matter?

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

(1) How many work permits have been granted in the last 12 months;

(2) how many of those were for the construction industry; and

(3) how many were for brick/blocklaying?

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

(1) What the current unemployment statistics are for each of the last 12 months in relation to total numbers of people unemployed;

(2) how many people are unemployed who are associated with the construction industry; and

(3) how many brick/blocklayers are unemployed?

52. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask HM Attorney General -

When a person is issued with a Civil Legal Aid Certificate the other party is notified in writing that a Legal Aid Certificate has been issued; what

procedures are in place to notify the other party for any work undertaken on a Green Form Application?

53. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask HM Attorney General -

In relation to Green Forms and taking into account successful prosecutions and convictions in respect of Legal Aid fraud in the UK -

- (a) Whether there is a limit to how many Green Forms a client can have in any 12 month period, and, if so, what the limit is;
- (b) what the time limit is between repeat consultations on the same matter, while claiming on separate Green Forms;
- (c) what procedures are in place to prevent a client progressing the same matter by claiming on separate Green Forms and how the Legal Aid Department monitors this; and
- (d) what controls and checks are in place to ensure that there is no abuse or fraud in relation to claims for work on Green Forms?