

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
16th February 2010
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

If he will publish the Government's written evidence to the House of Commons Justice Committee Inquiry into Crown Dependencies?
2. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -
 - (a) why he has chosen to move the Council of Ministers Report (Item 8) on the Review of the Scope and Structure of the Isle of Man Government at this month's Tynwald so speedily; and
 - (b) why this is being done against his own policy on communication with affected parties?
3. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -

What effect will abolition of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have on local agricultural business?

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

Whether the report and motion at Item 8 of the Order paper has the support of all the Ministers within the Council of Ministers?

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

If the Council of Ministers' report on the 'Review of the Scope and Structure of the Isle of Man Government' is approved by Tynwald, what are the estimated costs involved with this restructuring process?

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

If he will make a statement as to the process the report 'a Review of the Scope and Structure of Government in the Isle of Man - an Independent Report to the Council of Ministers' went through to reach the Council of Ministers; whether it was presented to Council in the usual way via 'Council Papers' prior to the CoMin meeting; and whether Council agreed as a whole to have it referred to the Governance Committee; whether the recommendations from the CoMin Governance Committee came back to the Council of Ministers in the usual way of the Chief Secretary's Office and was placed in Ministers' briefing packs prior to the CoMin meeting and on the CoMin agenda; and whether the Chief Minister has the authority to direct Ministers to vote in a certain way?

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

What is the Council of Ministers' reasoning in backing proposals to abolish the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as set out in his report on the Structure of Government?

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

What was the justification for the Isle of Man Constabulary being required to deliver the document 'The Review of the Scope and Structure of the Isle of Man Government' to the private residence of every Member of Tynwald on Sunday afternoon 31st January 2010; and is this appropriate use of Police time and were overtime costs involved?

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

Whether the House of Commons Justice Committee which is currently looking into the relationship between Crown Dependencies and the Crown is to widen its remit and examine the termination of the Reciprocal Health Agreement; if so, who is to give evidence to the Committee on behalf of the Isle of Man; and whether he will ensure that the evidence represents as many interested parties on the Isle of Man, such as:

- (i) all Ex-service Personnel Associations;
- (ii) Manx Blind Welfare Association and Friends of the Manx Diabetic Centre;
- (iii) Manx Foundation for the Physically Disabled; and
- (iv) other healthcare associations and organisations including those responsible for care of the elderly?

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

Whether the Council of Ministers will do everything within its power to advise the House of Commons Justice Committee members when they visit the Island about the negative effects of termination of the Reciprocal Health Agreement; and if he will highlight the stance the UK has had towards the Island in respect of the re-arranging of the VAT sharing arrangements which together would appear to have severed the Isle of Man's relationship with the UK?

11. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Rodan) to ask the Chief Minister –

Whether radical changes to the structure of Government proposed from 1st April have been informed by discussion and debate across the Island; and, if so, with whom consultation took place?

12. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Rodan) to ask the Chief Minister –

Whether the Code of Practice on Consultation for Departments, Statutory Boards and Offices is still used as 'a template for best practice when considering major policy decisions where consultation may be appropriate'?

13. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Rodan) to ask the Chief Minister -

What the timetable is for the introduction into the Branches of the Access to Government Information Bill?

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

If he supports Government Policy on food security for the Island, and whether 80% of the Island's land mass is currently used for productive farming?

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

Whether the 58 page report on the Cost spreadsheets and NPV calculations can be made available for the public to access?

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

What is the annual cost of the office in 1, Cornhill, London; and if he will make a statement on its value to the Isle of Man?

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

Whether there are going to be cut backs in spending on Capital Projects by Government and, if so, by how much; what effects will any cut backs have on the construction industry; and whether Treasury has taken any initiatives in order to minimise the effects of unemployment in the construction industry ?

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

What percentage of the Gross Domestic Product the agricultural industry represents and how much this is in money; and what percentage of the Gross Domestic Product is represented by the Gross Expenditure and Returns of Laxey Flour Mills, Isle of Man Creameries and the Isle of Man Meat Plant and other allied industries and how much is that in money?

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

Whether he will arrange for the Economic Affairs Division to include the output of the Meat Plant and the Creamery in the Gross Domestic Product ('GDP') for Agriculture and if so

- (a) what will be the increase in GDP for Agriculture; and
- (b) what will be the decrease in GDP for Manufacturing?

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

Whether a UK or Off-Island company has been awarded a contract to fit certain Government vehicles with tracking devices and, if so, what was the process that this company had to go through in order to be successful; at what point was the local company supplying this service told to make an application to tender; and how the prices quoted and specification of equipment offered by the various companies, including fitting of the devices, differed?

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

If his Department was aware of the typing error which mentioned £4.1 million in the 2007 Mouchel Parkman review document, option 6 for the west, before the document was presented to Tynwald for vote in October 2007 and, if so, whether his Department checked the document and other reports that are based on this document for other financial discrepancies; and in the light of the financial pressures his Department is under and the need for better value for money, if he would agree to a review of the document in the interest of protecting the taxpayers?

22. The Hon Member for Peel (Mr Crookall) to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry -

Given that his Department is negotiating with the UK to change the Fisheries Management Agreement that could extend the power of Tynwald from the 3 mile to the 12 mile limit, if he thinks that it is fitting that Government officials, if government restructuring proposals go through, from the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure will represent the Island's fishing industry?

23. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

What are the current duties of the Deputy Chief Constable?

24. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mr Braidwood) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

If he is satisfied that the improved educational and work facilities at the new prison at Jurby are being utilised to their full potential?

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

Further to Q43 for written answer at the October 2009 sitting of this Court and Item 11 on the Order Paper for this sitting why he has failed to make either:

- (i) an interim statement about the 'current discussions' with the UK authorities; or
- (ii) a statement to this sitting of the Court about such discussions?

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

Further to Item 11 on the Order Paper for this sitting, if he will define the word 'harm' as used by the UK ISA in assessing the 'physical, emotional, financial or developmental harm to a child'?

27. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Mr Cregeen) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

Whether the advertised position on TTFMAG for safety co-ordination is a new position; what is the budget for this position; and how long is this position required for?

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

If he will make a statement on what the existing workload is for staff in the Planning Division; how long the planning process should last, from the planning application to the final decision; whether his Department is satisfied with the planning process and the length of time it takes; and whether he has any initiatives in order to resolve the problems regarding delays in reaching speedy decisions?

29. The Hon Member of Council (Mr Lowey) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

(a) when is the proposed new hotel development at Lord Street Bus site planned to start;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) how much has this proposal cost to date?

30. The Hon Member of Council (Mr Lowey) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure -

What steps have been taken by the Department to encourage the re-opening of the Castletown Golf Links Hotel and the Castlemona Hotel; how many years have they been boarded up; and whether both buildings are registered historic buildings and what steps are being taken to protect the fabric, and the internal and external appearance of both buildings?

31. The Hon Member of Council (Mr Lowey) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure -

Why was the Legal Work for the Road Races Amendment Bill undertaken by an off-Island law firm; how much did it cost; and who authorised it?

32. The Hon Member for Peel (Mr Crookall) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure -

Why has the contract for 'Radio TT' been given to Manx Radio without its going out to tender?

33. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Transport -

Whether the treatment and drying of sludge in the drying plant at a temperature of 800 degrees Celsius and energy costs of £987,000 is excessive considering that the melting point of aluminium is 740 degrees Celsius; and in view of the high energy costs involved whether he should be considering an alternative and more cost effective means of treating the sludge?

34. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Watterson) to ask the Chairman of the Manx Heritage Foundation -

In light of her assurance on 24th February 2009 that 'the Foundation is confident that its Responsible Financial Officer will ensure full compliance in liaison with the auditors for all future years', if she will explain why the Foundation accounts have yet again been qualified by the auditors?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

35. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Chief Minister-
If he intends to appoint a new Boundary Review Committee to carry on the work of the previous Committee in light of the fact that the Constitution Bill 2007 does not appear to be progressing?

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

- (a) whether a meeting took place on 30th June 2008 between the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey to discuss an 83 page document by Jersey's Constitution Review Group on the subject of independence from the UK;
- (b) if he will lay the document before Tynwald with recommendations for debate; and
- (c) if he will publish the minutes of the meeting and of any subsequent discussions with the other Crown Dependencies on the subject of independence?

37. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Rodan) to ask the Chief Minister -

Whether the Ministry of Justice has yet concluded its deliberations on the legal competence of the Isle of Man entering into separate reciprocal health agreements with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; and if not, whether the Isle of Man Government considers it acceptable that this matter remains outstanding from September 2009?

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

If he will expand on the statement 'no functions [of Government] would be lost in the move, which is not designed to create redundancies' which is part of his Office's News Release dated 1st February 2010 ?

39. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Gill) to ask the Chief Minister -

How many times has the Council of Ministers' Governance Committee met to discuss the Review of the Scope and Structure of the Isle of Man Government since the last General Election and on what dates?

40. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Rodan) to ask the Chief Minister -

Whether the requests for meetings with the UK Government to discuss the ending of the reciprocal health agreement which were refused, were made directly to the Secretary of State for Health - Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP (until June 2009) and Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP from June 2009); and if he will state the dates such meetings were requested?

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

Who are the members of the Parole Committee ?

42. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

During the period 1st January 2009 to 31st December 2009 what is the total number of new work permits issued and existing work permits renewed, in respect of citizens of the following countries -

- a) Russia;
China;
- b) Poland;
Lithuania;
Estonia;
Albania;
Latvia;
Czech Republic;
Other EU countries by name;
- c) South Africa;
Other African countries by name
- d) Philippines;
Other Asian countries by name;
- e) Australasia by country name; and
- f) North and South America by country name?

43. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Transport -

- (a) whether all the deficiencies in the operational IRIS drainage system have been rectified or there are continuing problems; and
- (b) whether all outstanding claims and litigation have now been settled and at what cost, or is there still litigation in progress?