

**Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2014 –
Second Reading approved**

Mr Turner to move:

That the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2014 be read a second time.

The President: Do you want to carry on with your Second Reading? If you wish to reply you can introduce it into your...

Mr Turner: I certainly will, Madam President.

Thank you; and I thank my hon. friend, Mr Coleman, for his kind words.

I should point out that the Department did actually want both of the Bills to go through and I *did* decline the earlier Bill and said that I would not be doing it.

I think there is quite a difference in what is being asked this morning in that we are asking for a road closure for a few hours on a Sunday, whereas the majority of the legislation we put through this place has a wide effect on the public at large. Certainly the Sewerage Bill, which he cited, may well be raising £4 million, but that is extracting that £4 million from the public who, without any real say in the matter, are going to see some of their charges absolutely rocket – and it is those types of Bills and legislation that has a wide effect on the public which I think we do a disservice when we take them through in one sitting, when it has such a wide effect.

I had to tell the Department I was not willing to take these through in one sitting, but it was explained to me that the whole event, the Southern 100 – or the Pre-TT Classic as it is called on the Southern 100 course – is very much reliant on this. As a Member of the Department I think, given the fact that they are relying on this for a major event, it would have been quite irresponsible for me to not have asked Members for their indulgence on this particular Bill. But the Department, and indeed Hon. Members, are left with no illusion on my view on taking legislation through.

I *have* supported legislation being taken through in one sitting if there is a case to do so, and I did not think there was a case with the Sewerage (Amendment) Bill – it was a rushed matter to plug a hole in accounts that have clearly not been managed as well as they could have been. So I will leave it at that; but I thank Mr Coleman and he does remain a good friend.

So, I would like to thank Members for agreeing to suspend Standing Orders for this. I have explained that it is... I will not go over the whole thing again because we have just had the First Reading explaining what it is about. It is quite simple: it enables the Department to issue a Road Closing Order on Sunday 31st May *this* year and then there is a sunset clause that will allow it to cease; and that will be that, until any future legislation comes into being.

So, I will move the Second Reading of the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2014.

Mr Downie: I beg to second, Madam President, and reserve my remarks.

The President: Mr Downie, do you wish to speak?

Mr Downie: Yes please, Madam President.

During the First Reading the mover indicated that the Department was looking at updating all their legislation to deal with road races, and so on. I think that is a wise move because it does require an update right across the board. It is difficult to understand and if we had a piece of legislation now which consolidated everything, and also provided for emergency provision, I think that would be better all round. And then things that have happened historically which are not enshrined in legislation... for example, if there is to be a late start, if the Monday races are cancelled, and then Monday's race does not take place, if there is racing it would be on the Tuesday... well, there has always been a gentleman's agreement in place where the races would not start until much

later in the day, because it interfered with the operation of the crematorium and people's funerals and so on.

They are not covered in legislation, they have been brought about by gentlemen's agreements and an understanding of each other's requirements – which is a really good thing in the Isle of Man. But I think the message I would give to the mover would be that the Department should really be looking at bringing this new legislation forward as quickly as they can.

It is important to the development of motorsport in the Isle of Man and it is important that all these areas are covered. The last thing we want is for us to embark on a thing like a World Series and then find that we have a terrible week of weather, and due to inclement weather or *force majeure* half the event has got to be abandoned because we cannot hold races on certain days! That would be an absolute tragedy. We have got to make sure that the investment that we put into events like that is covered and it is enshrined in the law properly.

So, in supporting the Second Reading of the Bill I would just like the Member to bring that message back to the Department that we need to get on with this.

The President: The mover to reply.

Mr Turner: Thank you, Madam President.

Mr Downie is correct and we did touch on the fact that there is a revised Road Races Bill in draft at the moment – and indeed it has been in draft for some time. We heard the announcement last week that the Isle of Man is to launch a cycling festival; and many of these events will need road closures. There are provisions where some of these events can take place under Highways Act road closures, but what we are trying to do is have an all-encompassing Road Races Act so they can be closed properly, the marshals will have the proper powers, the authorities that are involved in policing them will have the correct brief – and everything else.

So it is in draft, we thought we were going to have it before the branches at the back end of last year, but again there are some things we spotted that we need to tweak and hopefully it will be coming relatively soon. So again, I think Mr Downie has hit the nail on the head as to where we need to go. The old Act from 1982 has been amended a couple of times but it is not really... although it *works* it is not entirely fit for the purposes that we ideally want nowadays.

Yes, we get by and everything is in order, but there are provisions we need and organisers need to protect both themselves and the public. So that is it.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The President: The motion is that the Bill be read a second time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.