

TREASURY

**3. Flybe collapse –
Outstanding money due to the Government**

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for the Treasury:

How much outstanding money is due to the Isle of Man Government from the airline Flybe?

The Speaker: Urgent Question 3, I call on the Hon. Member for Onchan, Mr Callister.

Mr Callister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Can I ask the Treasury Minister how much outstanding money is due to the Isle of Man Government from the airline Flybe?

The Speaker: I call on the Treasury Minister to reply.

The Minister for the Treasury (Mr Cannan): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I am unable to provide an exact figure for moneys owed by Flybe to the Isle of Man Government at this precise point. Customs and Excise are currently awaiting the submission of the most recent return from Flybe in respect of Air Passenger Duty. Flybe submitted and paid the January return in full, for the period 1st to 31st January, and their February return is not due for filing until 20th March.

I am, however, aware that £303,245.16 is due and owing to the Department of Infrastructure for the payment of landing fees.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Callister.

Mr Callister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Can I ask the Treasury Minister to provide Members with an update when that information is available?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: I will indeed, Mr Speaker. If it is helpful for the Hon. Member and for others, the APD return for January which was paid in full was £155,577.

I will let this Hon. House know in due course of any further outstanding debts.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Miss Costain.

Miss Costain: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

With regard to the outstanding landing fees, is Treasury able to seize an asset or put a lien on anything to secure the outstanding moneys? Has any action similar to that taken place?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Mr Speaker, indeed, the information I have is that the Department of Infrastructure have in fact placed a lien on a Flybe-operated aircraft, in effect arresting it until outstanding amounts are paid.

A Bombardier Dash 8 aircraft, which is the aircraft in question, has a replacement value of around £25 million and a book value of about £4 million; so I hope, Mr Speaker, that we should indeed get our money that is owed.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I just wonder if the Minister's Department has looked at any other contracts that the Government may have had with Flybe, particularly with regard to advertising by Visit Isle of Man, etc. and payments up front. The Minister perhaps will not have that information with him today, but can he circulate any information of other contracts that Government perhaps have paid Flybe for.

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: If it emerges, Mr Speaker, that there are other debts owing, then I will certainly be happy to inform the House.