



HOUSE OF KEYS OFFICIAL REPORT

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PROCEEDINGS

DAALTYN

HANSARD

Douglas, Tuesday, 2nd April 2019

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Present:

The Speaker (Hon. J P Watterson) (Rushen);
The Chief Minister (Hon. R H Quayle) (Middle);
Mr J R Moorhouse and Hon. G D Cregeen (Arbory, Castletown and Malew);
Hon. A L Cannan and Mr T S Baker (Ayre and Michael);
Hon. C C Thomas and Mrs C A Corlett (Douglas Central);
Miss C L Bettison and Mr C R Robertshaw (Douglas East);
Hon. D J Ashford and Mr G R Peake (Douglas North);
Hon. W M Malarkey (Douglas South);
Mr M J Perkins and Mrs D H P Caine (Garff);
Hon. R K Harmer and Hon. G G Boot (Glenfaba and Peel);
Mr W C Shimmins (Middle);
Mr R E Callister and Ms J M Edge (Onchan);
Dr A J Allinson and Mr L L Hooper (Ramsey);
Hon. L D Skelly (Rushen);
with Mr R I S Phillips, Secretary of the House.

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House of Keys

The House met at 10 a.m.

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Speaker: Moghrey mie, good morning, Hon. Members.

Members: Moghrey mie, good morning, Mr Speaker.

5

The Speaker: I call on the Chaplain to lead us in prayer.

PRAYERS

The Chaplain of the House

Leave of absence granted

The Speaker: Thank you.

Leave this morning has been granted to Mrs Beecroft.

1. Questions for Oral Answer

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

1.1. Ballakermeen High School; St Ninian's High School – Pupil numbers, past and predicted

The Hon. Member for Douglas East (Miss Bettison) to ask the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture:

How many pupils, broken down by year group, have been at Ballakermeen High School and St Ninian's High School for each of the last 10 years; and what the predicted numbers are for the next seven years both with and without the proposed catchment area changes affecting Scoill yn Jubilee?

10 **The Speaker:** We move to Item 1, Questions for Oral Answer, and I call on the Hon. Member for Douglas East, Miss Bettison.

Miss Bettison: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HOUSE OF KEYS, TUESDAY, 2nd APRIL 2019

15

I would like to ask the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture how many pupils, broken down by year group, have been at Ballakermeen High School and St Ninian's High School for each of the last ten years; and what the predicted numbers are for the next seven years both with and without the proposed catchment area changes affecting Scoill yn Jubilee?

The Speaker: Now, I refer Hon. Members to the data that was circulated last week.

	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13	Total
Ballakermeen								
Historic roll - last 10 years								
2009/10	267	243	235	242	243	150	87	1467
2010/11	284	262	248	240	239	193	106	1572
2011/12	232	293	262	253	237	165	106	1548
2012/13	211	231	290	263	252	166	96	1509
2013/14	205	207	231	303	261	193	100	1500
2014/15	225	209	212	237	299	187	99	1468
2015/16	249	223	210	225	235	217	104	1463
2016/17	258	251	230	215	219	200	127	1500
2017/18	289	259	250	231	216	192	114	1551
2018/19	308	285	262	260	230	176	140	1661
Next 7 years with no change								
2019/20	261	308	285	262	260	184	123	1683
2020/21	272	261	308	285	262	208	129	1725
2021/22	289	272	261	308	285	210	146	1770
2022/23	278	289	272	261	308	228	147	1783
2023/24	274	278	289	272	261	246	160	1780
2024/25	253	274	278	289	272	209	172	1747
2025/26	234	253	274	278	289	218	146	1692
Next 7 years with Scoill yn Jubilee catchment change								
2019/20	245	308	285	262	260	184	123	1667
2020/21	240	245	308	285	262	208	129	1677
2021/22	260	240	245	308	285	210	146	1693
2022/23	243	260	240	245	308	228	147	1671
2023/24	227	243	260	240	245	246	160	1621
2024/25	218	227	243	260	240	196	172	1556
2025/26	190	218	227	243	260	192	137	1467
St Ninian's								
Historic roll - last 10 years								
2009/10	219	213	252	212	231	118	92	1337
2010/11	205	228	213	252	209	129	104	1340
2011/12	246	205	223	216	251	110	105	1356
2012/13	183	241	209	221	218	132	92	1296
2013/14	244	183	241	210	222	124	119	1343
2014/15	230	239	183	236	208	136	115	1347
2015/16	218	227	239	181	238	120	110	1333
2016/17	200	214	222	242	178	117	92	1265
2017/18	157	197	214	227	244	118	102	1259
2018/19	218	156	187	209	225	140	79	1214
Next 7 years with no change								
2019/20	211	218	156	187	209	135	112	1228
2020/21	231	211	218	156	187	125	108	1236
2021/22	212	231	211	218	156	112	100	1241
2022/23	195	212	231	211	218	94	90	1250
2023/24	205	195	212	231	211	131	75	1260
2024/25	205	205	195	212	231	127	105	1279
2025/26	157	205	205	195	212	139	101	1214
Next 7 years with Scoill yn Jubilee catchment change								
2019/20	227	218	156	187	209	135	112	1244
2020/21	263	227	218	156	187	125	108	1284
2021/22	241	263	227	218	156	112	100	1318
2022/23	230	241	263	227	218	94	90	1362
2023/24	252	230	241	263	227	131	75	1419
2024/25	240	252	230	241	263	136	105	1467
2025/26	201	240	252	230	241	158	109	1431

20 **The Speaker:** Minister, do you wish to add to that?

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (Mr Cregeen): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Further to the circulation of the figures, since calculating the table there has been an updated provisional figure of 292 for this year's intake, which may alter when it gets to September.

25 During the forthcoming year the Department will be carrying out a larger piece of work on the catchment areas.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Miss Bettison.

30 **Miss Bettison:** Thank you; and I am delighted that the Minister is looking to carry out further work.

Would the Minister undertake to conduct a full review of secondary school provision, including consultation with schools and parents, before making any further changes to catchment areas over and above the order of a joint shared catchment area where the Scoill yn Jubilee children can choose between St Ninian's and Ballakermeen?

35

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

40 The Department has had meetings with the two secondary heads from Douglas. We will be having further meetings to discuss the Douglas catchment areas, in which we look to encompass the whole of the Eastern Area Plan.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mrs Corlett.

45

Mrs Corlett: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

It is just a follow-on from that, really, and it is just to say: would the Minister agree that there is actually a bigger issue here and that it is provision of secondary education in the east?

50 Would he also agree that this should be reviewed now in conjunction with the Eastern Area Plan?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

55 Yes, it is. It is a larger piece of work than we initially thought. But with discussions that we previously had with the secondary heads I hope that we will be able to come up with a positive move.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Miss Bettison.

60

Miss Bettison: Thank you.

Can I ask if the Department undertook an equality impact assessment to assess the potential effect on those with protected characteristics prior to taking the decision to amend the Catchment Areas Order as required by the Equality Act? If not, would they undertake to do that?

65

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

70 No, we did not. But we will be having a look at the whole of the catchment and making sure it complies with legislation.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Minister stated a figure there of 292. Which school was that for? He did not say.

75 And also with regard to the review of the catchment areas, when does he expect for it to be completed?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

80 **The Minister:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

That is for Ballakermeen; and we have no date for completion.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Ms Edge.

85 **Ms Edge:** Can the Minister not commit today as to when he will do that completion? Obviously the Eastern Area Plan covers other schools which would be Laxey, who can choose to go between schools. So can he commit to a date today so that our parents know, moving forward ...? Because the Minister said previously that he was going to only allow it for one year, not for two years, so has that extended now beyond that one year?

90

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

95 Yes, it has extended beyond that year because we are carrying out that review. I cannot give you a date because it is a review and we do not know how long it is going to take.

CHIEF MINISTER

1.2. Island donations to UK campaigns – Recording value; highlighting donations

The Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew (Mr Moorhouse) to ask the Chief Minister:

Whether his office records the total value of all Island donations to UK campaigns where Government has highlighted donations from the Isle of Man?

The Speaker: Question 2 and I call on the Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew, Mr Moorhouse.

Mr Moorhouse: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

100 I would like to ask the Chief Minister whether his office records the total value of all Island donations to UK campaigns where Government has highlighted donations from the Isle of Man?

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

105 **The Chief Minister (Mr Quayle):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

All donations made by the Cabinet Office for International Development are recorded. This includes donations to UK campaigns. Other than donations for International Development, the Isle of Man Government does not make any other donations to UK campaigns. The Cabinet

110 Office does not, however, maintain a record of the donations provided by others, such as those made by Island residents or by local businesses to Isle of Man or UK campaigns.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Supplementary, Mr Moorhouse.

115 **Mr Moorhouse:** Thank you, Mr Speaker; and thank you, Chief Minister.
Given the amount of data capture technology now available plus the levels of support given by the Manx Government to disaster emergency committees, for example, would the Chief Minister consider asking next time how much has been donated from Manx phones and postcodes?

120 **The Speaker:** Chief Minister to reply.

The Chief Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
Whilst I have said before that we do not collect or record this information, we do carry out Household Income and Expenditure Surveys. Now, we did one in 2012 and 2013, and the most recent one has just finished on 30th March of this year so we have not got the figures yet. But the figures that came back for the one previous to that in 2012-13 did ask the public about its charitable spending, and determined that the average weekly charitable donation by households was £2.74, or £143 a year. And, according to the survey, £1.29 a week, £67 a year was donated on Island; and £1.45 a week, £76 a year was donated off Island. Based on the number of households at that time this would have provided an estimated £5.086 million donated annually by Manx households.

130 This confirms what we already of course know about the people of the Isle of Man and their generosity. For example, this past weekend the Isle of Man Development, Education and Awareness charity – the One World Centre – held an Island-wide street collection to raise money for the Disaster Emergency Committee’s Cyclone Idai, which I understand raised a considerable amount of money.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Moorhouse.

140 **Mr Moorhouse:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you Chief Minister.
In the Chief Minister’s tweet he encouraged direct giving of £30, £50 or £100. Are there any additional ways the Government could boost private sector giving in such situations?

145 **The Speaker:** Chief Minister to reply.

The Chief Minister: I am sorry; I am trying to understand where the Hon. Member is coming from on this. Maybe if he could restructure the question to me?

150 **Mr Moorhouse:** Yes. It is focusing on the way in which in your tweet you identified direct giving in the form of various amounts, and I was wondering if there are any other ways you could encourage private sector giving to this sort of charitable need?

The Speaker: Chief Minister.

155 **The Chief Minister:** Okay, well I suppose it is a personal view. I try, and I am sure we all give donations privately. I tweet sometimes what the Isle of Man Government has given or what I am getting up to just to give people an update on things.

160 I think, however, it is important when people do give that they analyse the percentage of money that an organisation uses for the management of the fund; for example, the Isle of Man

Government does not give any funds to any charity that uses more than 10% of its income for the administration of that charity.

We do publish on our Government webpage where the money goes. We give £2.5 million a year on behalf of the taxpayer through the Government's Aid Programme. But if the Hon. Member has any ideas or views on how we can improve that then of course I am more than happy to take on board his comments.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1.3. Biosphere partners – Numbers; advancement of biosphere status

The Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew (Mr Moorhouse) to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture:

How many Biosphere Partners the Island has and how they are helping advance our biosphere status?

The Speaker: Question 3 and I call on the Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew, Mr Moorhouse.

170 **Mr Moorhouse:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture how many Biosphere Partners the Island has and how they are helping advance our biosphere status?

The Speaker: I call on the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture to reply.

175

The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture (Mr Boot): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man runs a partnership scheme to encourage organisations across five categories to engage with their biosphere – our biosphere – and contribute to a more sustainable future for the Isle of Man. Partners sign up to a six-part pledge although they do not have to be fulfilling all aspects of the pledge in order to apply to become a partner.

180 Partners' proactive engagement with UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and their commitment to the pledge points demonstrates their commitment to the Island's environment, economy, community, culture and heritage. Partners pledge to: protect our natural resources; develop our economy in a sustainable way; support and promote our cultural heritage; make a positive environmental impact; engage with the local community; and promote our outstanding living landscape and seascape through active involvement with UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.

To date, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has 167 partners across five categories – environment and culture, community, education, business and Government. Others have expressed an interest and are in the process of becoming partners.

190 In addition to integrating the pledge into the ethos of their organisations, many partners use their partnership to promote themselves and our biosphere within and off the Isle of Man making it more visible and better known. Ground-up projects initiated by partners can result in benefits to our biosphere.

195 The new Isle of Man Community Fund announced in the Budget, to be administered by the Manx Lottery Trust, should lead to more partners and others being able to instigate projects of this kind.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Moorhouse.

Mr Moorhouse: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and thank you Minister for that detailed answer.

200 One hundred and sixty-seven partners is an incredible number. Towards the end of your answer, you gave an idea of how more companies could be encouraged to participate in this. How do you see that could be built on? Also, is there a financial cost to becoming a partner?

The Speaker: Minister.

205

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Our Biosphere Champion is working with a number of parties and I expect the number of participants to increase substantially over the next while.

210 In terms of cost: there is no cost, only the cost of actually the effort of putting their application together. So there are no financial costs there.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Moorhouse.

Mr Moorhouse: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and thank you, Minister.

215 Are any checks actually put in place to ensure the biosphere partners are enhancing our biosphere status?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

220 **The Minister:** Applications, Mr Speaker, are assessed on an overall rather than points-based system. It is not essential to be contributing in *all* areas of the pledge; engaging with biosphere is, for some partners, the start of a journey towards more sustainable practices and encourages them to do more.

225 When it comes to checks, it is our intention to contact biosphere partners annually, or as often as we can with limited resource, to see where they are in that journey.

The Speaker: Final supplementary, Mr Moorhouse.

Mr Moorhouse: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and thank you, Minister.

230 How are current partners encouraged to support the Biosphere Project in terms of outlining what they have done? And is there anywhere the public can actually see all the schemes they are involved with and all the changes they are bringing about?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

235

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

240 All partners are listed on the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man website and some partners choose to create their own publicity around their membership. We contact them and stay in touch to try and see where they are going in terms of contributing to the overall biosphere package.

All new partners are listed and that list is made available to people, and we are encouraging them to follow the ethos of biosphere on the Isle of Man. To date, all the partners that we have signed up are keen participants in the scheme and they are moving themselves forward, as well as the biosphere forward.

**1.4. Manx representation at IFE 2019 –
Success and effectiveness**

The Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew (Mr Moorhouse) to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture:

Whether the recent Manx representation at the International Food & Drink Event 2019 was a success; and whether attendance at this and similar events is an effective way to promote local produce?

245 **The Speaker:** Question 4 and I call on the Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew, Mr Moorhouse.

Mr Moorhouse: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture whether the recent
250 Manx representation at the International Food & Drink Event 2019 was a success; and whether attendance at this and similar events is an effective way to promote local produce?

The Speaker: I call on the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture to reply.

255 **The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture (Mr Boot):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As part of my Department's Food Matters Strategy, it was identified in 2017 that exhibiting at high profile events such as the International Food & Drink Event (IFE) was essential for the Island's food and drink sector to grow. The objective in attending is to support the increasing range of successful and expanding local food businesses who are now considering moving to the next level either by starting to export or, in some cases, to expand their exports. It is exciting to see that the Food Matters Strategy has continued to help the sector grow, and this is the next step.
260

I would like to make the Hon. Member aware that, as part of my Department's review of the exhibition, all businesses have been asked to provide feedback to ascertain whether similar events should be supported in the future. Feedback so far has been resoundingly positive, with one business reporting between 80 and 90 leads and another claiming that orders have already been placed. With all this in mind, not forgetting the value of raising the Island's profile amongst key global players to an international audience, my Department will look at every opportunity to promote Manx produce both on and off Island.
265

270

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Moorhouse.

Mr Moorhouse: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and thank you Minister.

How large is the budget that the Department allocates to such initiatives? And what advice can be given to other local entrepreneurs wishing to benefit from the Department's expertise in this area?
275

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

280 **The Minister:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

In terms of our overall budget, we have some £400,000 allocated to promoting food businesses – that includes grants and marketing, and it also includes a food and drink festival on Island. Food entrepreneurs are included in that and it has to be food-related to equate.

We are constantly assessing the success of the promotions that we do, and our promotion ability and development ability is available to anyone involved in that sector. We invite people to
285

contact us; as well as, on occasions, make contact with producers we think might benefit from help from the Department.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Baker.

290

Mr Baker: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

295

Would the Minister agree with me (**A Member:** Yes.) that by supporting initiatives such as that referred to, the Department is assisting individual businesses to open up opportunities that they would struggle to connect with individually? And, that it was good to see both other Island businesses working collaboratively and the presence of the Department for Enterprise at the International Food & Drink Event, presenting a coherent picture and promoting the Isle of Man brand?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

300

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I do indeed agree with the Hon. Member and I know that he was at the festival, not paid for by the Department, but promoting Isle of Man Meats. Feedback from the Hon. Member is that they made some good contacts.

305

The Department is very keen to move small businesses on to the next level. Sometimes it is very difficult for entrepreneurs – single or two-people businesses – to move to that next level. So our Food Matters Strategy is working very well in that respect.

310

Promotion at these events is essential. We need to reach out of the Isle of Man to enable some of our businesses to develop. I had a meeting with the Isle of Man Creamery yesterday and we were talking about the IFE and what feedback they had had. They had got some good contacts.

But I am sad to say that Brexit came up on several occasions and that is a bit of an impediment for people doing business in Europe at the moment. Everyone is sitting there waiting for something to happen.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

1.5. Patient transfer services – Use of EasyJet and Steam Packet

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Care:

If he will make a statement on future patient transfer services using EasyJet and the Isle of Man Steam Packet?

315

The Speaker: Question 5 and I call on the Hon. Member for Onchan, Mr Callister.

Mr Callister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Can I ask the Minister for Health and Social Care if he will make a statement on future patient transfer services using EasyJet and the Steam Packet?

320

The Speaker: I call on the Minister for Health and Social Care to reply.

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Mr Ashford): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

325 The Department has a contract with Flybe for the provision of air transport from the Isle of
Man to the north-west of England for patients referred to the UK for an NHS appointment. This
contract has almost two years left to run. There are occasions where scheduled Flybe flights to
the north-west are not the most suitable form of travel for a particular patient journey and the
contract allows the necessary flexibility to use an alternative route or provider in these
330 circumstances; for example, a more appropriate flight time or destination may be offered by an
alternative provider for a particular patient journey, and in these instances the Patient Transfer
Office will liaise with the patient to determine the most suitable transport to book.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Callister.

335 **Mr Callister:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I thank the Minister for his Answer this morning. My concerns relate to the Wednesday
service via Flybe at 2.20 p.m. and that patients will have to be flown back possibly via
Manchester at 17.35 or later in the evening.

340 Can I ask the Minister if the additional costs for transferring passenger patients from
Liverpool back to Manchester is included with the current contract from Comcabs or can the
Department be claiming these back from Flybe? As the Minister has just said, they have got two
years left to run on that contract.

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

345

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

There will be no claim back from Flybe, because Flybe and the change in flight times are still
within the confines of the contract. They are not outside of the contract in relation to that.

350 Each patient is looked at individually. I can see what Mr Callister is saying about the
Wednesday evenings, but again it will be dependent upon the individual patient. There should
not be an automatic assumption they are going to be transferred to Manchester.

355 At the moment, with a lot of patients who travel over, particularly to Liverpool, they have
their appointment and then they have got an exorbitant wait before they can come back to the
Island. So in some patients' cases the change to Flybe's timetable might actually work to their
advantage and get them back on Island sooner than they otherwise would.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

360 I wonder if the Minister would agree with me in saying that the Patient Transfer Team
(**A Member:** Hear, hear.) do an excellent job?

365 But I would like to ask: he did say that they do liaise with patients in respect of their travelling
arrangements. Obviously, as we all know, flights can change and be cancelled at very short
notice. Is the Minister aware that sometimes it can be extremely difficult to get hold of the
Patient Transfer Team in these circumstances? And, if he will commit to doing a small review of
the service just to make sure that it is accessible to people when they do need it?

Thank you.

370 **The Speaker:** We are moving into the patient transfer services; this is specifically about using
EasyJet and the Isle of Man Steam Packet.

Minister, if you would like to add anything?

The Minister: I am happy to answer, Mr Speaker.

375 Firstly, like the Hon. Member for Ramsey, the work that Patient Transfers undertakes is an
absolutely excellent amount of work, they do a very good service for the patients of the Island.

There are always teething difficulties with any service, but when you consider the Patient Transfer Office books around 17,000 return journeys a year, just to put it into context, the volume of work going through is quite extraordinary.

380 There are other ways than phone to contact the Patient Transfer Office as well – there is via email. And one of the things I would say is, for once, I am already actually ahead of the Hon. Member for Ramsey and there is already a review of the service being undertaken.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Dr Allinson.

385 **Dr Allinson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Not wishing to stray off the subject, would the Minister agree that what his Department provides is funding to get people across, but it is completely up to their choice if they would like to fund it themselves, particularly for those people who have relatives in the United Kingdom who might want to travel beforehand and stay over whilst they get their appointment?

390

The Speaker: We are slightly straying.
Minister.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

395 In relation to the other Hon. Member for Ramsey, Dr Allinson, I would say I am aware of people who do decide to fund it themselves. I am aware of people who say that they are happy for the NHS provision but they feel that they themselves can afford to provide the flights. Not everyone is obviously in that position – the vast majority of people are not.

400 So what is important, from my point of view as Minister, is that we ensure that people travel by the best means possible. That is one of the reasons we have provision with the Steam Packet as well, going back to the Question, because there are some medical conditions where you physically cannot fly.

405 So this is not something new, we have utilised EasyJet and the Steam Packet in the past. It is a very small amount of cases but it has always been there as long as those services have been there.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Callister.

Mr Callister: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and I thank the Minister for his response.

410 I also want to give my sincere thanks to the Patient Transfer Team, I have dealt with them personally over the last couple of months and I have found them to be incredibly helpful.

415 My concerns again just relate to – Liverpool to Manchester is about 30 miles – the additional cost. I know the Minister says that they will do everything possible, but it is more to do with: does the Minister have any idea what the additional costs would be for that small number of patients that may have to fly back via Manchester?

420 Plus, the Minister has also just mentioned that he is talking about undertaking a review. I was wondering if the Minister could also look at possibly the daily allowances – £28 for a person per night – because there may be a few people travelling who are unable to get flights from Liverpool or Manchester that may need to have overnight accommodation as well.

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

425 Firstly, taking it in reverse, the daily allowances as far as I am aware are actually laid down by Regulation, so it is not simply a case of the Department needing to look at it and say it needs to be different; we need to actually assess the Regulation. That is something I am actually keen to

do, Mr Speaker. So again I am happy to say to the Hon. Member for Onchan that is something that I have already mentioned previously within the Department.

430 In relation to the costs between Manchester and Liverpool, the Flybe contract allows for people to travel by Flybe from Manchester – it includes Manchester *and* Liverpool as it stands in terms of flights. It is not really possible to stand up, Mr Speaker, and say we know what that will be going forward, because everyone has different conditions that require treating at different times. The cohort of patients travelling now is not going to be necessarily – apart from a few cases where it is repeated treatment – the same cohort of patients travelling in 12 months' time.

435 The hospitals that we deal with in the north-west tend to try and fit their appointments in around the flight times that we can provide. So it is actually more a case not just of saying, 'You're flying into Liverpool, your appointment time doesn't match so we're going to transfer you to Manchester'. We need to also work with our providers in the north-west to actually ensure that they can fit appointments around the appropriate times.

440 As I say, I am sure Hon. Members in the House will know themselves, the number of times constituents contact you to say they have been over and they have been sat around the hospital for four or five hours waiting to come back. So like I say, let's see how it plays out, because I think in a lot of patients' cases these new flight times could actually work better for them.

445 **The Speaker:** Supplementary question, Mr Callister.

Mr Callister: Thank you, Mr Speaker; last one from me.

450 We focused a little bit more on EasyJet and Flybe, but I was wondering if the Minister could just give a little bit more information with regard to patient transfers using the Steam Packet service – how that service is undertaken, and what reassurances he can give to actually make sure that those patients are treated equally as they would be on EasyJet and Flybe?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

455 **The Minister:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

In relation to the Steam Packet: the Steam Packet is very rarely used. It is normally only in those conditions where people cannot fly because of the medical condition they suffer from. So, for instance, to give the Hon. Member for Onchan ... and I am happy to do some figures.

460 As I said, on average each year there are 17,000 booked by Patient Transfers. In the current 2018-19 financial year so far, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company was used on 24 occasions. In the previous financial year before that, 2017-18, the Steam Packet was used a total of 43 times. So it is not a huge amount of people being pushed on to the Steam Packet.

465 I have great confidence in the Steam Packet. I think that they provide very good facilities. We obviously make them aware when patients are journeying and I think they offer a tremendous service in that respect.

INFRASTRUCTURE

1.6. Sheltered housing – Additional points for formal notice to quit

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Minister for Infrastructure:

When the policy decision was made to grant additional points for sheltered housing to tenants who give formal notice to quit to their landlords; and what the rationale for this decision was?

The Speaker: Question 6 and I call on the Hon. Member for Ramsey, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister for Infrastructure when the policy decision was made to grant
470 additional points for sheltered housing to tenants who give formal notice to quit to their
landlords; and what the rationale for this decision was?

The Speaker: I call on the Minister for Infrastructure to reply.

475 **The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The criteria for older persons' sheltered housing were reviewed in response to the
recommendations of the Independent Housing Review in 2013; prior to this date there were no
points awarded for prioritising sheltered housing. Following the housing review the criteria,
including points for notice to quit, were aligned with those available for general needs housing.
480 The resulting older persons' sheltered policy was subsequently approved at the 2016 March
sitting of Tynwald.

As I indicated in another place when I presented the two housing criteria orders for approval,
the existing criteria for older persons' sheltered housing were only subject to minor amendment
mainly to allow discretion around the age for access. The existing points award for the 'notice to
485 quit' remained unchanged to those previously agreed in Tynwald in 2016.

I can also advise the Hon. Member that the interpretation definition of the 'notice to quit'
does not accord with a particular context in which the word appears under the policy
criteria. In relation to the policy, it is clearly intended to mean a notice given by a landlord.

To support this statement, there is no evidence of sheltered housing tenants issuing notices
490 to quit, essentially making themselves homeless in order to obtain points.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

495 That is quite an interesting statement from the Minister. This came up in Tynwald last week
and the Attorney General stated very clearly that he agreed:

... that the statutory definition of 'Notice to quit' includes a notice issued by either a landlord or a tenant and ...
where a formal legal notice to quit has been served, five points are at stake.

He went on to say as far as he was concerned this was a matter for the Department, as a
matter of policy – which is what prompted my Question to the Minister.

500 So this is a matter of policy and the Attorney General has clearly stated that it applies where
a tenant issues a notice to the landlord as well as the other way around. So, back to my original
Question, Minister: what is the rationale for this policy decision?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

505 **The Minister:** Thank you.

I think there has been a misunderstanding. The policy was, as I say, after 2013 and then went
through to Tynwald in 2016.

It was a Programme for Government requirement that we reviewed the general housing. At
that time it was understood that there was a particular issue, where there was a housing need
510 for those who were under 65 relating to sheltered housing. Now, with the general housing, that
had been through a full consultation; but with sheltered housing it was a specific issue to fix that
we wanted to address to meet that absolute need. So whilst the Member is technically correct a
person could, if they are wanting sheltered housing, choose to make themselves homeless, in a

515 sense, or give a notice to quit. But I would venture to argue that we have no evidence of that.
There are also other ways of choosing to leave a property – for example, if they did not pay rent
or create a tenancy breach to force the landlord to issue a notice to quit.

Also, in particular, a notice to quit is a very temporary set of affairs and obviously when they
are in a property it no longer applies. All existing Landlord and Tenant legislation is predicated
on protection of the tenant, with the onus on landlord obligations, and the landlord to follow
520 proper procedures and provide adequate proof of breach to recover their property.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.
525 The Minister is talking a lot but he is failing to answer this quite straightforward question.
In his original Answer he stated it was the intention of the policy for it only to apply where a
landlord issues a notice to quit. That is not what the policy does. That is not what the law does,
that he brought to Tynwald last week.

So my question for him is, for the third time: why did he make that particular policy decision?
530 Why is it appropriate that a tenant can get some extra points by issuing a notice to quit – which
could be a very long-term notice to quit? This whole idea of people make themselves homeless
is pure nonsense.

So the question for the Minister, for the third time, is: why did his Department make this very
specific policy decision in order to grant tenants additional points?

535 **The Speaker:** Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you.
It is really the same Answer. As I said: in 2013, following the recommendations of the
540 Independent Housing Review, prior to this date there were no points awarded for prioritising
sheltered housing. Following the housing review the criteria, including the points for notice to
quit, were aligned to those available for general needs housing. The resulting older persons'
sheltered housing was subsequently approved in the 2016 March Sitting of Tynwald.

545 **The Speaker:** Supplementary question, Mr Callister.

Mr Callister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
I was wondering if the Minister would consider changing the policy in order to make sure it is
very clear for both future landlords and for future tenants?

550 **The Speaker:** Minister to reply.

The Minister: At this point we will not. It has already been reviewed, in 2016, but there will
no doubt be reviews in the future and they will look at this policy. But at the moment we are not
555 seeing this as a particular issue and it is unlikely that an elderly person would make themselves
homeless.

The Speaker: Final supplementary, Mr Hooper.

560 **Mr Hooper:** I am loath to try again, Mr Speaker.
The Minister has explained very carefully *what* has happened. He has failed to explain *why* it
has happened. So the *why* is what I am after, Minister.

Why have you drafted the legislation in this particular way?
And you have also stated three times now that you have aligned the sheltered housing
565 allocation policy with the general needs policy – that is not the case in respect of notice to quit.

Those two are very, very different. A formal notice to quit is all that is required for sheltered housing, but an actual court order for possession is what is required in general needs. The two are not aligned.

So could the Minister please explain why he has changed his position on *that* as well?

570

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you.

575

No, I do not know what you are trying here, but if you look at exactly what we were trying to achieve: we did a general needs housing assessment and went out to full consultation on that. It was considered that it should have a court order for general needs housing and should be 25 points. At the same time it was brought to our attention there was a particular issue with sheltered needs housing and the fact that there are people who are younger than 65 and that, in the case of an emergency, they might have a housing need. So it was a specific issue that we are specifically solving.

580

What you are talking about now is the history of why they were originally aligned. Yes, they were originally aligned in 2016. We were not changing anything else to do with sheltered housing. We were simply dealing with one specific issue and it was one specific change that we did, and it was the right change to do.

POLICY AND REFORM

1.7. Death of a vulnerable adult – Serious case review requirement

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Minister for Policy and Reform:

When it was decided that a serious case review would not be required in all circumstances where vulnerable adults die whilst in the custody of the Constabulary or an institution within the meaning of the Custody Act 1995, detained under the Mental Health Act, or in the care of, or being looked after by, the Department of Health and Social Care; and what the rationale for that policy decision was?

585

The Speaker: Right, moving on to Question 7 and again I call on the Hon. Member for Ramsey, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

590

I would like to ask the Minister for Policy and Reform when it was decided that a serious case review would not be required in all circumstances where vulnerable adults die whilst in the custody of the Constabulary or an institution within the meaning of the Custody Act 1995, detained under the Mental Health Act, or in the care of, or being looked after by, the Department of Health and Social Care; and what the rationale for that policy decision was?

595

The Speaker: I call on the Minister for Policy and Reform to reply.

The Minister for Policy and Reform (Mr Thomas): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

600

When drafting the Safeguarding Regulations it was never the intention to prescribe *all* of the circumstances in which a serious case management review would be undertaken for a vulnerable adult. There are already mechanisms in place for the review of the circumstances

where anyone dies in police or prison custody. So there was no need for the Regulations to require a review by the Safeguarding Board in every case.

Careful consideration is given to each case referred to the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board. The Chair must be satisfied that the case is not confined to a single agency, and concerns multi-agency practice; and, importantly, that there is learning to be gained by undertaking a serious case management review.

There are no provisions within the Safeguarding Regulations which preclude a serious case management review being undertaken in the circumstances which the Hon. Member for Ramsey has described.

I can confirm that the Coroner of Inquests has a duty under section 6 of the Coroner of Inquests Act 1987 to conduct an inquest where:

... a death occurs in prison or in police custody, or as a result of an injury caused by a constable in the performance or purported performance of his *[or her]* duty;

I have previously given an assurance that should the need arise to make revisions to the Regulations, particularly during or after the first year of the Safeguarding Board becoming statutory and the Regulations coming into effect, then amendments can and will be made.

615

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Minister has outlined that there are other circumstances and other bits of legislation in place where these reviews *may* be undertaken. I would be grateful if he could set out where that legislation is.

The Question was not whether such a review *could* be undertaken; it was why such a review is not *required* to be undertaken. The Safeguarding Regulations are very clear that where a child dies in these circumstances there is an absolute requirement for such a review to be undertaken and there is no opt-out, no get-out at all.

So the question for the Minister is: why does he feel that this is not appropriate, these circumstances should not be the same, and that this review should not be absolutely required in every circumstance where a vulnerable adult – that is, a person who needs care or protection – dies in the circumstances outlined in the Question?

630

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you.

We have an expert Independent Safeguarding Chair for a reason. We have a Safeguarding Board made up of people who work wholeheartedly professionally in this area for a reason. I am sure they are interested in the Hon. Member for Ramsey's views on this matter, and during the course of preparation of the guidance, working together for safeguarding, the Regulations and also the law, the comparison has been made between the various circumstances.

And I repeat my original Answer: there is no preclusion against undertaking such a review; it could be undertaken if the professionals involved decided it was necessary.

640

The Speaker: Dr Allinson.

Dr Allinson: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Would the Minister agree that in these rare circumstances often the Coroner himself, or herself, might direct the Safeguarding Board to actually conduct a serious case review? Or that the board themselves are within their remit to conduct a serious case review on conclusion of the Coroner's case?

645

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

650

The Minister: That is exactly right, Mr Speaker; and I appreciate the other Hon. Member for Ramsey raising that case, so that both of those circumstances could apply in the process.

And how the Coroner's process and the Safeguarding Board process interact is all covered in the excellent guidance document on pages 37 to 40.

655

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: I will try again, Mr Speaker.

660

The other circumstances that were outlined by the Minister, there has to be a cause for concern as to the way that various Government agencies work together – it is a *conditional* review that is required.

665

My question for the Minister is: why was the policy decision made that it is an absolute requirement for a safeguarding review to be undertaken in the case where a child dies in custody, but not where a vulnerable adult dies in custody? That is the question: why is he differentiating between the two? What is the rationale for that decision in respect of there being an absolute unconditional requirement to conduct such a review?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

670

The Minister: Thank you very much; and I have answered that question in the original Answer.

675

I am very interested in the Hon. Member's views. I am sure the Chair and the members of the board are very interested in the Hon. Member's views. But their professional judgement and the professional judgement of people who are developing safeguarding practices in the nations around us are that this difference is worthwhile.

I do remind the Hon. Member that in the statute which we passed through the Branches at the beginning of last year – section 8, part (4):

For the purpose of identifying lessons to be learnt and applying those lessons in future cases the Board must –
(a) undertake such case management reviews as may be prescribed in such circumstances as may be prescribed;

680

Basically, the Act empowers the independent professionals to make judgements about how they apply their professionalism and use their resources, and I am happy with the situation that went through the Branches in law and that went through the other place in Regulations. I am sure the Safeguarding Board and the Independent Chair will reflect on the Hon. Member for Ramsey's views, and the annual report which I expect to be published at the end of the summer, and I am sure we will comment more on their first year's experience.

685

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: I feel like I am banging my head against a wall here, Mr Speaker.

The legislation is very clear, it says:

... must – undertake such reviews as may be prescribed

They were prescribed.

690

The Minister has talked extensively about professional judgement, but in the case of a child dying in the circumstances outlined in the Question there is no professional judgement. The Regulations have entirely removed any element of professional discretion. The Regulations require absolutely, unconditionally a serious case management review to be undertaken.

695 Why is the Minister of the view that it is acceptable to allow professionals to use their discretion in the case of a vulnerable adult but not in the case of a child? What is the reason for the difference, Minister? That is the question I am trying to ask here.

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

700 **The Minister:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

As I say, we are going round in circles. I am quite happy to rely on professional judgement. The whole point of us having put in place – after 15 years of trying to do this – a Safeguarding Board, is to have independent professionals making these sorts of judgements.

705 I hope the Hon. Member will accept there is a profound difference between the very rare cases of children passing away and adults. There are differences, but practice is developing very quickly across and practice will develop now we have got a statutory Safeguarding Board in place here. It will build on experience over the 10 years since some nasty incidents that happened in this nation of ours. We will learn and we will report annually to the other place; and I am sure all the professionals involved are very interested in the Hon. Member from Ramsey's
710 opinions on this matter.

The Speaker: It may just be worth mentioning in the context of this Question, the duty of the State under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights which would also be applicable here.

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

1.8. School meals service – Fresh food source checked

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Ms Edge) to ask the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture:

Whether the source of all fresh food products for the school meals service is checked by his Department?

715 **The Speaker:** We will move on to Question 8 and I call on the Hon. Member for Onchan, Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

720 I would like to ask the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture whether the source of all fresh food products for the school meals service is checked by his Department?

The Speaker: I call on the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture to reply.

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (Mr Cregeen): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

725 The requirement standards with regard to sourcing are stated in the initial documentation required for supplier procurement, this being the scorecard for Isle of Man Government food and non-food related goods. The scorecard addresses traceability and highlights basic schemes of assurance, such as Lion Mark or Laid in Britain for eggs; Red Tractor, Farm Assured, Soil Association, Ethical Trade, Marine Stewardship, Fair Trade. All these certification schemes assist
730 in the development of the traceability of products through the food supply chain.

The suppliers are made aware that the Government's catering services' aim is to operate under the Food for Life catering mark which enables the service to meet basic criteria and covers

management systems that ensures the supply of food and food products to our end users are covered under the main assurance schemes, which will also include Isle of Man Fairtrade Agreements.

735

Due to these requirements, the Department does not check the source of all fresh food products but requires the receiver's regular feedback with regard to any deviation from the initial agreement. The successful suppliers must adhere to the Isle of Man Government Application for Admission on to the select tender list for food and food-related products, which is set out in the documents for safety and service and quality.

740

DESC main suppliers for school meals are: Robinsons for fresh fruit and salad items; Ramsey Bakery for bread; A&J Butchers and Harrison and Garrett's for fresh meat; Isle of Man Creameries for milk and dairy items. I have been advised that the suppliers go above and beyond the supply of fresh produce for our Island schools and DESC is satisfied with the service they provide.

745

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

750

The Minister has just quoted there that they aim to operate within the Food for Life Catering Mark. Can he advise when this was introduced and what documentation has been provided to individual schools for this, and whether he could circulate that?

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

755

The Minister: Sorry, Mr Speaker, I do not have that information but I will get it circulated.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

760

The Minister also talks about a scorecard for Isle of Man Government. I am not sure what a scorecard for Isle of Man Government with regard to food services is. He also talked about Government catering services – he did not specifically talk about schools; he included Government catering services there.

765

I am just wondering if the Minister could circulate what his Department is requiring now that he has taken responsibility for this service. And also if the Minister could answer, and if he does not have it with him ... with regard to HACCP – where and who checks that within his Department?

770

The Speaker: Sorry, checks what?

Ms Edge: HACCP.

The Speaker: Can you tell me what that is, sorry?

775

Ms Edge: It is a food control mechanism to ensure that the Department ... Well, I will tell you exactly, sorry, I have written it down!

So it is a management system for food safety and it is addressed through analysis control, chemical, physical hazards and in the procurement process.

780

The Speaker: Thank you very much.
Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

785 The procurement of items is actually done through the Procurement Portal, which is across
all Government catering, so it does not just fall within my Department and so it would be very
difficult for me to go and provide the documentation the Member says just for my Department,
because it is done through a central procurement which is actually getting value for money.

790 As part of the other information: deliveries are checked daily. The kitchen staff will check the
items received for quality, quantity and that the temperature is correct and recorded. If there is
anything that is not satisfactory – for example, cracked eggs, damaged yogurt or mouldy
grapes – it is reported to the supplier, delivery driver and to the catering manager. It is dealt
with promptly and returned, replaced or credited. Once the quality is checked and accepted the
produce is stored at the correct temperature and used within three days of receipt.

795 Over the past few years, school catering managers have regularly liaised with the suppliers to
discuss menu items, availability and most appropriate delivery time.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and I thank the Minister for that.

800 I am not concerned about a cracked egg, Minister; I am concerned as to whether the
suppliers that he is utilising are using the required standards for ensuring the sources of their
food coming through. And I am quite certain that the suppliers you have talked about will be
utilising HACCP regulations.

805 But also, if the Minister could answer: he said that the aim for the Food for Life Catering
Mark ... This is an accreditation, it is something that is used in catering, but it is an accreditation
that you achieve. It is not something to ensure that the food is coming and it is of good quality.
So I would like the Minister, if he could, to confirm whether the procurement process actually
states that HACCP has to be accounted for.

810 **The Speaker:** Minister to reply.

The Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
I will check.

815 **The Speaker:** Supplementary question, Mrs Corlett.

Mrs Corlett: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

820 HACCP is Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points. It is contained within food hygiene
training. The only thing that I could think that schools would use HACCP for is their original
delivery when they would take the temperature – that would see the Critical Control Point.
Other than that it would be down to staff who would be trained in food hygiene and have
HACCP alongside that.

I think we are overdoing the HACCP part of the question.

825 Thank you.

The Speaker: I did not actually find a question in there – *(Laughter)* so we are certainly not
overdoing the question! *(Interjections)*

We will move on.

The Minister has agreed we will look into it and we will circulate more information.

PLANNING

**1.9. Planning Committee –
Public speaking scheme**

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Chairman of the Planning Committee:

Whether the planning committee public speaking scheme is working well; and whether he has any plans to review the scheme?

830 **The Speaker:** I call on the Hon. Member for Ramsey, Mr Hooper, to ask Question 9.

Mr Hooper: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to ask the Chairman of the Planning Committee whether the Planning Committee public speaking scheme is working well; and whether he has any plans to review the scheme?

835

The Speaker: I call on the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mr Baker, to reply.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee (Mr Baker): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I am of the belief that the public speaking scheme is working well; it helps the Planning Committee make better decisions by allowing both applicants and objectors, *and* local authorities, to explain their perspectives and to respond to questions from Committee members to clarify and add additional information where helpful. It allows the public the opportunity to personally address the Committee.

840 The process was fine-tuned only recently, in May 2018, within the Standing Orders of the Planning Committee when the opportunity for the Committee to address the speakers was also included as a result of the action plan to improve the planning system. There is currently no intention to further review the scheme.

845 In responding to the Hon. Member's Question, I would like to clarify that the Planning Committee receives a detailed report from the Planning Officer into each planning application that is in front of it. The Planning Officer's report summarises the representations that have been received when it is drafted. In addition, it outlines the detail of the application, how it fits with policy and all the consultations that have been undertaken, and makes a recommendation.

850 The detailed representations from objectors, from local authority, from the applicant, are available online to both the public and the Planning Committee; and any late representations which are received after the Planning Officer's report is issued are summarised by the Planning Officer to the Committee when he presents the report. So it is important to recognise that the public speaking scheme is additional to all of the above.

855 I would also highlight that the ability for the Committee to ask questions of the speakers is very helpful to clarify facts and statements that have been made.

860 So I am confident that, through the combined elements the Planning Committee has at its disposal, it has the right information to make the appropriate decision for the planning applications that are in front of it.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Hooper.

865

Mr Hooper: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Planning Committee for that quite detailed Answer and for his confirmation that this is just one part of the whole planning process.

870 The reason I tabled this Question is because I have been contacted by a few people who are concerned not only about the short amount of time that is allocated – the three minutes – but also that it must be shared between all the various parties that are wanting to speak either for

875 or against an application; and really whether or not the Chairman feels that this arrangement, which is entirely a voluntary arrangement amongst all the people that have registered, is actually the most appropriate way of doing that especially seeing that, as he has already highlighted, it can be quite valuable to allow the Committee members themselves to question the people who have raised these concerns previously in writing.

880 So I am just trying to explore that a little bit and whether or not he feels that a review of the whole scheme actually might be beneficial to try and get the most out of it, both for the Committee and for the members of the public who are trying to access it.

The Speaker: Chairman to reply.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

885 The scheme has been devised in the interest of fairness. There is one three-minute slot for objectors, as the Hon. Member has asserted; one three-minute slot for applicants; and one three-minute slot for local authorities. It would be disproportionate and impractical for there to be a three-minute slot for everyone who wanted to speak. And the scheme has worked well to date.

890 In many instances there is only one objector. In other instances objectors have elected a speaker and in some instances people have shared the time. If no agreement can be reached, then the ability to speak is given to the first person to telephone. The provision to address the Committee is supplementary to the ability, of course, for anyone to write to the Department as part of the application. And, as I have stated earlier, all comments are summarised and taken into consideration.

895 On average, I would estimate that around half of applications have no speakers whatsoever. As an example, just taken at random from yesterday's Planning Committee, in which there were 10 applications covered in a three-and-a-half-hour Planning Committee meeting, of those: five had speakers; in four of those cases the applicants or the applicant's agent spoke; in two of those cases local authorities spoke; and in only one did an objector speak. Interestingly, in that particular case, the objector spoke on behalf of several neighbours and he also spoke on behalf of another objector who had also registered to speak. So they found a very amicable way of dealing with it.

905 Other than one particular case recently, the Department has not experienced any real discontent about the arrangements; and, whilst the Department is always open to looking to improve the process around planning, at this stage I simply do not believe there is sufficient evidence to say that we have a problem that we need to fix.

The Speaker: Supplementary question, Mr Shimmins.

910 **Mr Shimmins:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to ask the Chairman of the Planning Committee how the Committee takes account of differing levels of experience? (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) Developers may have hired in planning barristers who have had decades of this type of forum, whereas local authorities will have less experience and perhaps objectors may have not been in this situation before, and the additional pressure due to time limits can be quite intimidating.

915 So how do you take account of those different backgrounds?

The Speaker: The Chairman to reply.

920 **The Chairman:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his question and it is very important for the Planning Committee to operate a process which leads it to make the right decision. The Hon. Member's concerns are relevant.

925 I must say, in the two and a half years that I have chaired the Planning Committee, which is probably around 60 Planning Committee sittings, that on no occasion have there been planning barristers addressing the Committee. What there can be is the agent, which is usually the architect for the applicant; or the applicant themselves. And, yes, those individuals often do have more experience than individual members of the community who were objecting, because that is their trade – to develop.

930 The Committee is very mindful of that and we try and do the best job we can in terms of putting people at ease. We allow a little bit of latitude in terms of the enforcement of the absolute Standing Orders to the letter, so we do acknowledge that people may be nervous. And where we feel it is beneficial to try and make the right decision, we utilise the new ability to ask questions of facts and clarity to speakers which helps them to articulate their position to the full, because it is very important to the Committee to make the right decision – not only from the point of justice but also from the point of view of avoiding unnecessary appeals.

935 So it is something that the Committee very much takes seriously and I think, on balance, most of the time gets it right.

940 **The Speaker:** Supplementary question, Miss Bettison.

Miss Bettison: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I wonder whether the Chair of the Planning Committee feels a similar set-up might work well in Tynwald with three minutes for the 'for', and three minutes for the 'against'; and how we can divide them amongst ourselves! *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: We will move on.

Item 2, Questions for Written Answer; and those will be circulated.

2. Questions for Written Answer

CHIEF MINISTER

2.1. Chief Secretary – Powers, functions and responsibilities; appointment and authority to instruct

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Chief Minister:

Further to his Answer of 30th October 2018 when he will provide a full response to the Question regarding the Chief Secretary's powers?

950 **The Chief Minister (Mr Quayle):** I will commit to providing the information to the Question regarding the Chief Secretary's powers by Friday, 5th April 2019, to all Tynwald Members.

POLICY AND REFORM

2.2. PSPA Scheme – Total transferred per sector pension scheme

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Ms Edge) to ask the Minister for Policy and Reform:

How much in total was transferred into the PSPA Scheme, broken down by each sector pension scheme?

955 **The Minister for Policy and Reform (Mr Thomas):** The PSPA sought clarification of this Question and subsequent confirmation from Ms Edge suggested that the requestor wanted to know how much was held in each individual fund at the point the funds were transferred into the Isle of Man Government Unified Scheme 2011.

The Public Sector Pension Schemes managed and administered by the PSPA are unfunded Statutory Schemes, therefore there are no assets attributable to each scheme. The schemes are maintained by incoming member and employer contributions and also currently, from a top-up via the Public Sector Employees' Pension Reserve Fund.

960 The numerous public sector schemes that did amalgamate to become the Isle of Man Government Unified Scheme in 2011, 2012 and 2016 were also unfunded and as such, there were no funds or 'assets' to transfer.

Pension arrangements for the Teachers, Police and Judicial are also unfunded schemes which remain separate from the Isle of Man Government Unified Scheme 2011.

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

**2.3. School meals –
Employees’ qualifications to advise on quality**

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Ms Edge) to ask the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture:

What qualifications are held by Department employees who advise on regulations and policy in relation to the quality of school meals and in particular the responsible persons in each school?

965 **The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (Mr Cregeen):** The Department’s qualification requirement for the Primary School Catering Manager position is attached, please see person specification. This post holder is responsible for giving advice on regulations and policy regarding the quality of school meals.

970 Releasing information about the specific qualifications of employees in the manner suggested in the question could be attributed to and identify an individual. We therefore cannot release this information as this goes against the principles of GDPR and would potentially result in a data breach.

Person Specification

Post:	Primary Schools Catering Manager
Department:	Education, Sport & Culture
Job Summary:	The development, operation and management of the School Meals Service.

Job Summary:

ATTRIBUTES	Essential Or Desirable	METHOD OF ASSESSMENT
Qualifications		
Hospitality and/or Catering degree or higher diploma	Essential	CV
Institute of Hospitality professional qualification	Desirable	CV
Experience		
A minimum of 5 years post qualification experience in a large scale catering environment	Essential	CV/Interview
Budget management experience at a senior level	Essential	CV/Interview
Staff management experience at a senior level	Essential	CV/Interview
Policy development and implementation experience	Essential	CV/Interview
Marketing and public relations experience	Essential	CV/Interview
Experience of the implementation and control of quality assurance systems	Essential	CV/Interview

Knowledge & Skills		
Strong oral and written communication skills	Essential	CV/Interview
Health and Safety and food hygiene knowledge	Essential	CV/Interview
Computer literacy (incl. Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet)	Essential	CV/Interview
Experience of creating healthy eating menus and catering for special dietary needs	Essential	CV/Interview
Sound organisational and time management skills with the ability to prioritise effectively	Essential	CV/Interview
Strategic and operational planning skills	Essential	CV/Interview
Knowledge of the IOM Government financial regulations	Desirable	CV/Interview
Disposition		
Strong interpersonal and influencing skills	Essential	CV/Interview/References
Ability to consistently perform effectively as a team leader and team member	Essential	CV/Interview/References
Energetic and enthusiastic	Essential	CV/Interview/References
Circumstances/Interests		
Isle of Man Worker	Desirable	CV
Full, Clean IOM/UK Driving Licence and access to a vehicle.	Essential	CV

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2.4. Energy efficiency grants – Details of numbers and costs

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture:

How many energy efficiency grants have been paid; how many people have received them; what the median grant was; and what the total cost was since the launch of the energy efficiency scheme?

975 **The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture (Mr Boot):** The Energy Efficiency Scheme 2018 is eligible to low income households living in privately owned or privately rented residential properties to apply for grants for energy efficiency improvement works. These grants may fund up to 75% of the costs of energy efficiency improvement works, or up to £250 for each item of work (whichever is the lesser sum), up to a maximum of £1,000 per property.

980 Since the Energy Efficiency Scheme was launched in July 2018, two energy efficiency grants have been awarded to one household. The energy efficiency grants were £250 towards the cost of loft insulation and £150 towards the cost of radiator control temperature valves.

The Energy Efficiency Scheme has also distributed free LED light bulbs to 132 low income households, annually saving each home around £150. Cumulatively, this is an annual energy saving of around £19,500 and reduction in emissions of 50 tonnes CO₂.

985 I would accept that these figures do not indicate a great uptake, considering that around 12,000 households currently qualify for this grant. I am hopeful that the current consultation will identify how we can reposition and evolve the scheme to get more uptake and importantly, more impact towards reducing emissions.

**2.5. Interested party status in planning –
Submissions received prior to changes**

The Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew (Mr Moorhouse) to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture:

When changes to interested party status in planning are introduced whether submissions received earlier in the application process will still be reviewed as part of any appeal?

990 **The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture (Mr Boot):** All submissions received as part of a planning application and part of an appeal are considered by the independent inspector in reaching a recommendation for the Minister. The changes introduced as part of the Operational Policy on Interested Person Status does not change that. The implication of the changes relate only to the criteria of who is eligible to make an appeal after a decision has been made.

**2.6. Planning appeals –
Challenges by Manx charities in last five years**

The Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew (Mr Moorhouse) to ask the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture:

How many appeals were lodged by Manx charities to challenge a planning decision in each of the last five years?

995 **The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture (Mr Boot):** The charitable status of organisations is not captured as part of the processing of applications or appeals. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide an Answer to this Question.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

**2.7. Genotype III Hepatitis C –
Availability of medication**

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Care:

When medication relating to Genotype III Hepatitis C will be made available to patients on the Island?

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Mr Ashford): The Department expects that this medication will be made available during the first quarter of the 2019-20 financial year.

INFRASTRUCTURE

**2.8. Public housing –
Number of units; maintenance allowances**

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Minister for Infrastructure:

How many housing units (a) each local authority and (b) his Department managed; what the maintenance amount allowable was; and what the resulting amount available per property was, for the 2017-18 financial year?

1000 **The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer):** The figures below relate to general stock housing only.

Local Authority	No of units (@ 31/03/2018)	Maintenance allowance @ 24.8% of gross rental income	Maintenance Allowance per unit
Braddan	185	£202,922	£1,096.88
Castletown	258	£293,708	£1,138.40
DOI	1193	£1,328,592	£1,113.66
Douglas	2224	£2,522,591	£1,134.26
Malew	8	£9,644	£1,205.50
Onchan	408	£521,811	£1,278.95
*Peel	377	£390,317	£1,035.32
Port Erin	215	£236,484	£1,099.93
Port St Mary	122	£137,144	£1,124.13
Ramsey	553	£651,194	£1,177.57
Rushen	4	£5,026	£1,256.50

**2.9. Local authority housing –
Rental income spent on maintenance**

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Minister for Infrastructure:

What percentage of rental income, net of rates, local authorities were permitted to expend on maintenance during the 2017-18 financial year?

The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer): The percentage of rental income, net of rates, local authorities were permitted to expend on maintenance during the 2017-18 financial year was 24.8%.

**2.10. DOI housing –
Rental income spent on maintenance**

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Minister for Infrastructure:

What percentage of rental income, net of rates, the Department spent on maintenance during the 2017-18 financial year?

1005 **The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer):** The percentage of rental income, net of rates, spent on public sector housing rental stock during the 2017-18 financial year was 29.1%.

2.11. Driving Permits issued – Revenue generated

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

How much revenue has been generated from Driving Permits issued under (a) the 1968 Road Traffic Convention; (b) the 1949 Road Traffic Convention; and (c) the 1926 Road Traffic Convention, in the last five years?

1010 **The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer):** The Isle of Man Post Office, which issues International Driving Permits (IDPs) as the Department's agent, only holds data for the past two years and the total revenue figure over that period is £17,549.00. No record is kept of the split between the revenue from the 1926 and 1949 Conventions.

The Island is not a signatory to the 1968 Convention agreement.

2.12. Road Traffic Convention 1968 – Whether Isle of Man is a signatory

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

Whether the Isle of Man is a signatory to the 1968 Road Traffic Convention, and if not why?

1015 **The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer):** In common with the UK and other Crown Dependencies, the Isle of Man did not become a signatory to this Convention. As part of its Brexit preparations, the UK is likely to become a signatory to the Convention; however, the Isle of Man has chosen not to.

It is the view of the Department that being party to the Convention brings few benefits, yet it would require the Isle of Man to make significant changes in the way that it chooses to undertake road traffic administration – for example, the introduction of routine vehicle testing, an example of which is the UK's MOT testing regime.

1020 The Isle of Man has the option to become a signatory in the future should it wish to do so.

2.13. Driving Permits – Comparative costs

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

Why the cost of permits issued in the Isle of Man for one year is higher than the cost in the UK, Guernsey and Jersey?

The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer): The cost of an International Driving Permit issued in the Isle of Man at £11 is in line with the charges in the Channel Islands, where Jersey charges £10 and Guernsey £13.

1025 The UK charge of £5.50 must be seen in the light of economies of scale, with costs for administration and production of permits having to be factored in against the number of individuals taking out a permit.

2.14. Driving Permits – Number issued in last five years

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

How many Driving Permits have been issued by his Department under (a) the 1968 Road Traffic Convention; (b) the 1949 Road Traffic Convention; and (c) the 1926 Road Traffic Convention, in the last five years?

The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Harmer): International Driving Permits (IDPs) are not issued under the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic as the Isle of Man is not a signatory to that Convention.

1030 Data is not recorded separately for each Convention and is only held for two years. The total number of IDPs issued under the 1926 and 1949 Conventions over the past two years is 956.

IDPs are issued by the Isle of Man Post Office as agent of the Department.

POST OFFICE

2.15. Isle of Man Post Office Strategy – Details of meetings since 2016

The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Hooper) to ask the Chairman of the Post Office:

If she will provide dates and attendees for all meetings about the Isle of Man Post Office Strategy with; (a) Postal Workers; (b) Sub Postmasters; (c) Unions; (d) Ministers; (e) Other Tynwald Members; (f) IOM Post Board; and (g) IOM Post leadership team, since 01/10/2016?

1035 **The Chairman of the Post Office (Ms Edge):** It is important to note that Table 2.15A lists the meetings which IOMPO can identify, this is not an exhaustive list. The following has also taken place:

- regular updates in IOMPO's weekly staff newsletter to all IOMPO staff;
 - informal *ad hoc* meetings with the local branches of the CWU and CMA have been held with the IOMPO CEO and/or General Manager Mails;
 - the Executive Team have undertaken quarterly staff briefings across all areas of the business ;
 - members of the IOMPO Retail Team have met with a number of local authorities and associated organisations;
 - IOMPO CEO & officers have met with nominees from each Government Department when conducting an internal Government services consultation;
 - IOMPO CEO has met with the Chief Secretary on a quarterly basis;
- 1040
1045

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- IOMPO CEO has met with the DFE CEO on a quarterly basis;
- a list of political activity with regards to IOMPO's strategy was distributed to Tynwald Members during the December 2018 sitting.

Table 2.15A

Date	Meeting type	Attendees
7th Oct 16	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
2nd Nov 16	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
15th Nov 16	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
6th Dec 16	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
9th Jan 17	Union	IOMPO Executive & CWU local branch
26th Jan 17	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
1st Feb 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
15th Feb 17	Political visit	IOMPO Board, Executive & divisional managers hosted the Chief Minister & Chief Secretary
22nd Feb 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
3rd April 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
28th April 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
3rd May 17	Political visit	IOMPO Board, Executive & divisional managers hosted President of Tynwald & Bill Shimmins MHK
10th May 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
17th May 17	Political	DFE Board, IOMPO Board & Executive Team
25th May 17	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
31st May 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
15th June 17	Board Workshop	IOMPO Board, Executive Team & Divisional Managers
19th July 17	Political visit	IOMPO Board, Executive & divisional managers hosted Jason Moorhouse MHK
26th July 17	Political visit	IOMPO Board, Executive & divisional managers hosted Tim Baker MHK
27th July 17	Political visit	IOMPO Board, Executive & divisional managers hosted David Ashford MHK
9th Aug 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
5th Sept 17	Board	IOMPO Board, Executive & OHR officers
14th Sept 17	Board Strategy Workshop	IOMPO Board, Executive Team & Divisional Managers
28 Sept 17	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
10th Oct 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
16th Oct 17	Political Treasury Meeting	Treasury Minister, Treasury Board, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Internal Auditor, Treasury officers, IOMPO Board & Executive Team and DFE Minister
20th Oct 17	Union Meeting	Interim CEO & CWU UK negotiator
25th Oct 17	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
31st Oct 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
28th Nov 17	Union meeting	Interim CEO & CWU UK negotiator
30th Nov 17	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
5th Dec 17	Union meeting	Interim CEO & CWU UK negotiator
7th Dec 17	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
Nov 18 to Feb 19	Sub postmasters 1-2-1's	Sub postmasters
18th Jan 18	Quarterly sub postmasters	Sub postmasters
22nd Jan 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
25th Jan 18	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
29th Jan 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
31st Jan 18	DFE Board	DFE Board, IOMPO Board & Executive Team
5th Feb 18	Union Meeting	IOMPO CEO & CWU UK negotiator
15th Feb 18	Council of Ministers	Council of Ministers, IOMPO Chairman, Vice Chairman, CEO & COO
20th Feb 18	Strategy staff roadshow	Mails Managers
28th Feb 18	Strategy staff roadshow x 2	IOMPO Business Unit Leaders, line managers and Stamps & Coins Team

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28th Feb 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
2nd Mar 18	Political meeting with Treasury	IOMPO CEO, Bill Henderson MHK and a Treasury officer
8th Mar 18	Sub postmasters	Sub postmasters
9th Mar 18	Strategy staff roadshow x 2	Admin teams
13th Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow	Northern Delivery Office
16th Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow	Admin Team
19th Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow x 2	Mails earlies Part 1 and admin
20th Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow	Mails earlies incl. parcels
21st Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow	Admin
26th Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow	Southern Delivery Office
27th Mar 18	Strategy Staff roadshow x 3	Mails Part 3, Peel Delivery Office and Late staff
28th Mar 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
29th Mar 18	Union	CWU local branch and members of the IOMPO Mails Management Team
12th April 18	Union	IOMPO Executive Team, CWU UK negotiator & CWU local branch
24th April 18	Presentation to Tynwald Members	Tynwald Members
25th April 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
2nd May 18	Operating Plans & Financial Planning	IOMPO Executive Team & Divisional Managers
17th May 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
May - July 18	Council of Ministers	Council of Ministers
13th June 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
14th June 18	Union Meeting	IOMPO CEO, CWU UK negotiator & CWU local branch
3rd July 18	Emergency Board meeting	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
4th July 18	Political	DFE Minister, DFE CEO, IOMPO Chairman & CEO
9th July 18	Political	IOMPO Board, CEO and Tim Baker MHK
11th July 18	Union	IOMPO CEO & CMA local branch
17th – 19th July	Tynwald Debate	Tynwald Members
26th July 18	Quarterly sub postmasters	Sub postmasters
26th July 18	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
27th July 18	Cabinet Office	IOMPO CEO & Corporate PR Manager, members Retail Team with Director for Change & Reform & Change and Reform Programme Lead
1st Aug 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
8th & 9th Aug 18	Union	IOMPO Executive Team, CWU UK negotiator & CWU local branch
14th Aug 18	Political	Minister for Change & Reform, IOMPO Board, Executive Team and Corporate PR Manager
17th Aug 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
6th Sept 18	Union Meeting	Executive Team, CWU UK negotiator & CWU local branch
10th Sept 18	IOMPO Board meeting	IOMPO Board & Executive Team, PA to CEO, Jane Poole-Wilson MLC, Kerry Sharpe MLC, Jason Moorhouse MHK, Claire Bettison MHK, Ralph Peake MHK, Ann Corlett MHK and Marty Perkins MHK
14th Sept 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
27th Sept 18	Political visit	IOMPO Executive & divisional managers hosted the Lord Bishop
10th Oct 18	Political	Tim Baker MHK, IOMPO Chairman & CEO
10th Oct 18	Union Meeting	IOMPO CEO, CMA UK representative* and CMA local branch representative <i>*Prior to this date, a UK CMA/Unite representative had not been available</i>
11th Oct 18	Quarterly Sub Postmasters'	
12th Oct 18	Political with Treasury	Treasury Minister, Treasury Board, Chief Financial Officer, IOMPO Board, CEO & FD
15th – 19th Oct 18	Strategy staff briefing	All Post Office staff
18th Oct 18	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team

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24th Oct 18	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
1st Nov 18	Political	Lawrie Hooper MHK, IOMPO Vice Chairman & CEO
3rd Nov 18	Political	DFE Board, IOMPO Board and Executive Team
13th Nov 18	Union	Local CWU branch and members of Mails Management Team
16th Nov 18	Political	DFE Board
19th Nov 18	Union	Member of CWU local branch with members of Mails Management Team
21st Nov 18	Quarterly Strategic Update Document	Newsletter to all staff
22nd Nov 18	Political	Council of Ministers
3rd & 4th Dec 18	Workshop with NFSP	NFSP local and UK representatives
5th Dec 18	Presentation to Tynwald Members	Tynwald Members
10th Dec 18	Board	IOMPO Board & Executive Team
11th Dec 18	Tynwald	Tynwald
12th Dec 18	Union	IOMPO Executive Team, CWU UK negotiator & Local CWU Committee & for part - Manx Industrial Relations Officer
13th Dec 18	Union	IOMPO CEO, CWU UK negotiator & Manx Industrial Relations Officer
7th Jan 18	Political	Tim Baker MHK, IOMPO Chairman & CEO
9th Jan 19	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
11th Jan 19	Union	Douglas-based Postal workers (approx. 70) & IOMPO General Manager Mails
24th Jan 19	Board	IOMPO Board, Retail Team, Executive Team and for part - DFE Minister & DFE CEO
29th Jan 19	Union	Member of the CWU local branch with IOMPO General Manager Mails
29th Jan 19	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
5th & 6th Feb 19	Union	IOMPO Executive Team, CWU UK representative, CWU local branch & Manx Industrial Relations Officer
13th Feb 19	Union	IOMPO Executive Team, CWU UK negotiator, CWU UK representative, CWU local branch & Manx Industrial Relations Officer
26th Feb 19	Political	Change & Reform Minister, Chief Secretary, IOMPO Chairman, CEO & FD
26th Feb 19	Quarterly sub postmasters	Sub postmasters
1st Mar 19	Union Meeting	IOMPO CEO with CMA local branch representative
5th Mar 19	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
5th Mar 19	Retail Strategy workshop	IOMPO Retail Team, Board and Exec
12th Mar 19	Union	CWU local branch, 15 postal workers, IOMPO General Manager Mails and Delivery Manager
15th Mar 19	Union	IOMPO CEO & CWU local branch secretary
21st Mar 19	Board meeting	IOMPO Board, Executive Team, DFE Minister and DFE Deputy CEO
22nd Mar 19	Union	CWU local branch, approx. 12-15 postal workers, IOMPO General Manager
25th Mar 19	Political	IOMPO Chairman & Vice Chairman, CEO Treasury Minister, Treasury Board, Chief Financial Officer, Change & Reform Minister, CEO of PSPA, DFE Minister, DFE Deputy CEO & Chief Secretary
25th Mar 19	Political – Economic Policy Review Committee (EPRC)	IOMPO Chairman & CEO and EPRC political members
27th Mar 19	Leadership Team	IOMPO Executive & divisional leadership team
April/May19	Planned focus groups as a result of the public consultation	Public

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

**2.16. Employer and employee pension contributions –
Amounts for all public sector workers**

The Hon. Member for Garff (Mrs Caine) to ask the Vice Chairman of the Public Sector Pensions Authority:

How much employer and employee pension contributions are for all public sector workers, including local authorities?

1050 **The Vice Chairman of the Public Service Pensions Authority (Mr Thomas):** The rate of employer contribution to public sector pension schemes varies. The majority of employers contribute 15% of an employee’s superannuable pay. The exceptions are: the Manx Utilities Authority who contribute 22.10%, Isle of Man Hospice who contribute 11% and Manx Radio who contribute 16.80% of their employees’ total superannuable pay.

1055 The rate of employee pension contribution also varies across the public sector pension schemes managed by the Public Sector pensions Authority (PSPA). The Isle of Man Government Unified Scheme 2011 has nine sections, all of which have differing contribution rates. Police Pension Regulations and Teachers Superannuation Order 2011 have tiered contributions depending on pensionable pay. Public Sector pension scheme contributions are paid as a percentage of an employee’s pensionable pay.

1060 Table 2.16A below shows the rate of pension contributions at 1st April 2019 in each public sector pension scheme. The contribution rates under most sections of the Government Unified Scheme are transitioning upwards.

1065 For the year ended 31st March 2018, total employee pension contributions to the schemes managed by the PSPA were £19,852,449 and total employer contributions were £40,175,580. These figures as currently subject to external audit.

The Public Sector Pensions Authority does not manage or administer local authority pension schemes in the isle of Man and therefore the requested information is not shown. This information is however available from the Douglas Borough website via the following link: <http://iomlgps.im/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2018-Annual-Fund-Report-1.pdf>

Table 2.16A

Public Sector Pension Scheme	Rate of employee pension contribution as at 1st April 2019
IOM Government Unified Scheme 2011:	
Section 1	7% to 7.50%
Section 2	9.50% to 11.60%
Section 3	11.50%
Section 4	8.60%
Section 5	11.50%
Section 6	10.40%
Section 7	13.00% to 13.50%
Section 8	10.00%
Section 8a	12.00%
Police Pension Regulations 1991	
Annual Salary:	
Under £27,000	11.00%
£27,001 to £60,000	14.25%
Over £60,000	15.05%

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Police Pension Regulations 2010	
Annual Salary:	
Under £27,000	11.00%
£27,001 to £60,000	12.05%
Over £60,000	12.75%
Teachers' Superannuation Order 2011	
Annual Salary:	6.40%
Up to £14,999	7.20%
£15,000 to £25,999	8.30%
£26,000 to £31,999	9.50%
£32,000 to £39,999	9.90%
£40,000 to £44,999	11.00%
£45,000 to £74,999	11.60%
£75,000 to £99,999	12.40%
£100,000 +	
Judicial Pension Scheme 2004	3.00%

Order of the Day

3. BILLS FOR THIRD READING

3.1. Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 – Third Reading approved

Mr Malarkey to move:

That the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read a third time.

1070 **The Speaker:** Item 3, Bills for Third Reading; 3.1 Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019, and I call on Mr Malarkey to move.

Mr Malarkey: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1075 In moving the Third Reading of the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019, I wish to thank Hon. Members for their support through the Second Reading and clauses stage. I also wish to acknowledge the support of my Department Members, Dr Allinson and Miss Bettison.

1080 This Bill gives the Council of Ministers the responsibility for upholding and supporting both the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Those principles are key to our freedom as a democratic community and our attractiveness as a place in which to do business. These two principles are placed on a statutory basis by clause 3 and are inserted into sections 6A and 6B in the Council of Ministers Act 1990. The Bill represents another step in the evolution and development of our Constitution and the Island's assumption of a greater responsibility for its own domestic affairs.

1085 Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House and beg to move that the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read for the third time, sir.

The Speaker: I call on the Hon. Member for Ramsey, Dr Allinson.

1090 **Dr Allinson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.
I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The Speaker: I put the question that the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read for a third time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

3.2. Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill 2019 – Third Reading approved

Mr Thomas to move:

That the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read a third time.

1095 **The Speaker:** Item 3.2, Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill 2019 and I call on the Hon. Member for Douglas Central, Mr Thomas, to move.

Mr Thomas: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

1100 I thank Hon. Members in this House for careful consideration of the principles and also the detail of this important legislation that will be helpful for a very important topic – a sustainable development in the Isle of Man.

In so doing, I would also like to pay particular thanks to my seconder and colleagues in the Cabinet Office and DEFA who worked very closely. I think we all appreciate the careful attention given to the clauses from Mr Baker and Mr Shimmins, and we had a very important and helpful debate at that stage. I would also like to thank the officers, and I think everybody involved in the Bill would like me to mention Helen Helfrich's particular attention to all of our concerns, and I would like to put that on the record.

So with that, Hon. Members, I commend this Bill to this House and I beg to move.

1110 **The Speaker:** I call on the Hon. Member for Garff, Mr Perkins.

Mr Perkins: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and I thank the Minister for his introduction.

I am not a conspiracy theorist, but I am concerned that this Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill is making its way through the legislative process exactly at the same time as the public inquiry has been delayed until September.

1115 **The Speaker:** Sorry, Mr Perkins, are you seconding the motion?

Mr Perkins: No, sir.

1120 **The Speaker:** No, I am sorry I took the indication from you as seconding the motion.

Mr Perkins: Oh, I beg your pardon.

1125 **The Speaker:** I will call on you once we have a seconder and the motion is available for debate. Mr Boot.

Mr Boot: I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

1130 **The Speaker:** Now, Mr Perkins, please, if you care to resume your comments.

Mr Perkins: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I shall just reiterate what I said first of all.

I am not a conspiracy theorist but I am concerned that the Bill is going through at exactly the same time as the public inquiry has been delayed until September. I wonder if this combination of events is because the Minister realises that there may be many objections to proposed designations of sites and the plan for the East.

1135 Is he delaying the public inquiry until the Bill is passed into law to allow the Council of Ministers to pass national policy directive before the public inquiry is held, consequently overriding some of the objections?

Please could the Minister categorically confirm that this is not the case?

1140 Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Mover to reply.

Mr Thomas: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

1145 I categorically confirm that this is not the case. *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: I put the question that the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read for a third time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

1150 Hon. Members, that concludes the business before the House today. We will now stand adjourned until next Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. in Tynwald Court.

The House adjourned at 11.02 a.m.