

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
19th June 2012
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

In respect of Planning Application 12/00573/B for the development of 95 dwellings in Kirk Michael, who will judge matters relating to section 4.4 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2005?
2. The Hon. Member for Douglas South (Mrs Beecroft) to ask the Minister for Community, Culture and Leisure -
 - (a) how many bus drivers have lost their posts in the last two years by way of voluntary and involuntary redundancy;
 - (b) what has the cost been in redundancy payments;
 - (c) how many new drivers have been recruited in the same period;
 - (d) how many of those recruited in the same period are -
 - (i) full time;
 - (ii) part time;
 - (iii) casual;
 - (e) whether all of the drivers that have been recruited in the last two years were Manx residents and, if not, what percentage needed work permits;
 - (f) of the current part-time/casual drivers how many, if any -
 - (i) have another job(s);
 - (ii) have another post within Government, i.e., paid out of the public purse;

3. The Hon. Member for Douglas South (Mrs Beecroft) to ask the Minister for Community, Culture and Leisure -

Whether Bus Vannin employs a consultant and if so -

- (a) why a consultant has been hired and what is their remit;
- (b) who was instrumental in hiring a consultant;
- (c) when did their consultancy commence;
- (d) what is the length of their contract;
- (e) what is the cost to date split into consultancy fees and other expenses?

4. The Hon. Member for Ramsey (Mr Singer) to ask the Minister for Economic Development -

If he is satisfied that the recruitment policy of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company encourages the employment of Isle of Man workers?

5. The Hon. Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Economic Development -

Why his Department failed to advertise the forthcoming MGP Festival during this year's TT?

6. The Hon. Member for Douglas North (Mr Houghton) to ask the Minister for Economic Development -

Why the TT crossings and corridors were not opened at the advertised time on Wednesday 6th June 2012 causing gridlock and serious inconvenience to motorists?

7. The Hon. Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chairman of the Planning Committee -

If section 4.4 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2005 is enforced and if so in what circumstances?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

8. The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Hall) to ask the Chief Minister -

How much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in each month between January 2012 and April 2012?

9. The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Hall) to ask the Chief Minister –
- (a) when making regulations, schedules, or orders about this, what criteria does the Council of Ministers use to determine which bodies should have membership either nominated or appointed by the Appointments Commission; and
 - (b) why the Office of Fair Trading, rather than the Appointments Commission, nominates some members of the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal?

10. The Hon. Member for Douglas South (Mrs Beecroft) to ask the Minister for Economic Development –

In relation to his Department's support for planning application PA12/00028/B, conversion of stables into self-catering tourist accommodation units –

- (a) if he will give the breakdown and calculations that demonstrate an “exchequer benefit for the Isle of Man from the construction cost alone” of “approximately £651,700”, in his letter dated 21st March 2012 to the Director of Planning and Building Control, with particular reference to the VAT benefit;
- (b) if he will give the calculations that demonstrate a “VAT benefit from one-off construction cost (less salaries)” of £412,580, in the email dated 11th April 2012 from his Head of Inward Investment and Business Support, giving updated figures;
- (c) if he will justify how the figures quoted in parts (a) and (b) are valid in view of the revenue sharing agreement between the Isle of Man and the UK; and
- (d) whether it is the policy of his Department to support all planning applications for conversion of apparently redundant agricultural buildings to residential use, when contrary to planning policy legally adopted by Tynwald Court, if requested by the applicant; and if not, if he will define the circumstances when his Department will do so?

11. The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Hall) to ask the Minister for Economic Development –

- (a) Whether his Department uses a model to determine or estimate economic benefit from a proposed development when deciding whether to support it during the planning process;

- (b) what economic benefit will arise from Ballavartyn equestrian facility development which his Department supported, and how this economic benefit was derived;
- (c) how the economic benefit of a greenfield housing development like that proposed for between 10 and 19 houses in the woods between Belmont Hill and Ballakermeen Avenue, West Douglas would be determined or estimated; and
- (d) how the economic benefit of Lower Douglas Master Plan development would be determined or estimated?

12. The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Hall) to ask the Minister for Health -

In respect of the Health Services Consultative Committee -

- (a) whether membership of this body will be sought in the near future, and if so, how recruitment will be undertaken; and
- (b) whether any review of the members' role and activity has been undertaken and whether any change can be expected?

13. The Hon. Member for Douglas South (Mrs Beecroft) to ask HM Attorney General -

In relation to the section of the Minister of Infrastructure's Budget speech on 21st February 2012 concerning planning and the proposed Planning Policy Statement 'Planning & the Economy' -

- (a) whether the Minister's instructions that "I expect ... Government Departments, planning officers, the Planning Committee and planning appeal inspectors to take account of the draft planning policy statement and this speech with immediate effect when determining planning applications and appeals" breached any Government policies or codes of practice on consultation;
- (b) whether the Minister's instructions as quoted in part (a) were *ultra vires* in any respect including -
 - (i) encouraging, instructing or inciting "Government Departments, planning officers, the Planning Committee and planning appeal inspectors" to ignore established and legally adopted planning policy with immediate effect and without following due process;

- (ii) attempting to change established planning policy legally adopted by Tynwald Court "with immediate effect" without the approval of Tynwald and without following due process;
- (c) whether the Minister's instructions to "Government Departments, planning officers, the Planning Committee and planning appeal inspectors" were legally or contractually binding on any of them and if so which and why and if not why not;
- (d) whether his Chambers' advice was sought prior to the Infrastructure Minister's Budget speech as to the legality of the instructions given and whether they were legally binding on "Government Departments, planning officers, the Planning Committee and planning appeal inspectors"; and
- (e) in the case of persons either employed by or having a contractual relationship with the Department of Infrastructure, what their legal obligations are if and when instructions given by their Minister are in conflict with legally adopted planning policy and/or their professional duty?

14. The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Hall) to ask HM Attorney General -

How many -

- (a) successful; and
- (b) unsuccessful prosecutions were brought by his Chambers for offences in each of the past five years; and

how this compares to the UK national average?

15. The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Hall) to ask HM Attorney General -

How many criminal cases his Chambers has reviewed for trial in the past 24 months for which figures are available and in how many of these cases his Chambers has concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to proceed to court?