

GUIDE TO JUNIOR TYNWALD

THE ISLE OF MAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

The Isle of Man is a parliamentary democracy: the House of Keys is voted into power by the people, to act in the interests of the people. Every citizen aged 16 or older has the right to vote, as long as their name is on the electoral register.

The Isle of Man has the world's only fully functioning tri-cameral parliament. Tri-cameral describes the three Chambers; Tynwald Court, the House of Keys and the Legislative Council. Each house has a different composition and functions, outlined below.

The meetings of the chambers are called sittings.



	House of Keys	Legislative Council	Tynwald Court
Members	24 members elected by the citizens of the Isle of Man. After each election one member is elected by the others to be the Speaker	President of Tynwald The Lord Bishop Her Majesty's Attorney General for the Isle of Man Eight members elected by the House of Keys	All members of the House of Keys and the Legislative Council.
Sittings	The Speaker presides over the House of Keys. From 10.00 each Tuesday except when Tynwald sits, or during recess	Presided over by the President of Tynwald From 10.30 each Tuesday except when Tynwald sits, or during recess	Presided over by the President of Tynwald From 10.30 on the third Tuesday of each month, except during recess, continuing into Wednesday and Thursday until business is concluded. It also sits annually at St John's on Tynwald Day.

Bills: The principal business of the House is the consideration of draft legislation, Bills.

Questions relating to public affairs, for oral or written answer, may be tabled by members.

Statements can also be made in the House.

Bills: The principal business of the House is the consideration of draft legislation, Bills.

Questions are from time to time tabled in the Council.

Statements may also be made in the Council.

Bills passed by both Branches of Tynwald are signed in Tynwald before being submitted for Royal Assent.

Questions may be tabled for oral or written answer.

Motions on any **matters of policy or concern** may be tabled for debate in Tynwald. This includes the following particular types of business:

Financial business including the levying of taxes and the voting of moneys for specific purposes

Committees may be appointed by Tynwald to consider any matter.

Reports of committees and of a variety of other bodies, such as the Council of Ministers or government departments

Delegated (Secondary) legislation which includes orders and regulations required to bring primary legislation into force.

Petitions and memorials are permitted under the Standing Orders of Tynwald.

COMPOSITION OF TYNWALD COURT

Tynwald, in its fullest sense, consists of; the Sovereign of the UK, the Legislative Council and the House of Keys.

Madam President presides at sittings of the Court and maintains order. Members are bound to attend Tynwald unless they have leave of absence. Leave of absence may be granted by Madam President for sufficient cause or in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council or Keys.

STANDING ORDERS

The procedure of the Court is governed by the Standing Orders of Tynwald and by precedent. For example Standing Orders 3.21 (1)-(5) set out the conduct required of Members in the house. Any Member wishing to raise a point of order should specify the relevant Standing Order when doing so. The interpretation of Standing Orders is a matter for Madam President.

The House of Keys and Legislative Council also have Standing Orders governing their procedures. Copies of all the standing orders can be found on the Tynwald website: <http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/sto/>

CONDUCT IN THE CHAMBER

Commencing a Sitting

Members of the House of Keys must be seated in the Tynwald Chamber prior to 10.30 am, when the sitting is due to commence. Members stand as the Speaker of the House of Keys and Clerk of Tynwald enter. All Members may sit down. The Members of the Legislative Council then enter and take their seats. There follows an announcement “Will Honourable Members please be upstanding for the President of Tynwald” and all Members stand while the President enters. At this point the Sword of State is also brought into the chamber and placed on the table in the centre. The Sword of State must be present as it represents the authority of the Sovereign at the sitting.

Entering and Leaving

Attendance at sittings is compulsory unless leave of absence has been granted. However, when the Court is sitting Members are permitted to go out for short periods, and are required to bow to the Chair on entering and leaving the Chamber. Members should not walk between the Chair and any Member who is speaking, and should delay entering and leaving to avoid doing so. Members of the Keys should enter and leave through the bar of the Court.

Speaking to the Court

Members are called upon to speak by the President. As the previous speaker concludes, those who wish to speak should rise in their places. The member who first "catches the eye" of Madam President will be called upon to speak. Members may, if they wish, read their speeches, but it is generally found that the quality of debate is improved if members speak only from notes or extempore. Except where the Court otherwise determines, there is no limit to the length of speeches, but speeches should be relevant to the motion being debated and contain no unnecessary repetition.



Addressing Other Members

When one Member refers to another Member they should do so by reference to constituency and not by name. For example, reference should be made to "the Hon member for Santon and Malew" and not to "Mr Cregeen". Where a Member wishes to refer to a Member in a multiple Member constituency, the reference should be to the constituency and the surname of the Member; so, for example, the reference would be to "the Hon member for Rushen, Mr Gawne". These rules are applied to maintain courtesy in debate.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF TYNWALD

The monthly Tynwald sittings are broadcast in full on Manx Radio and the Tynwald website. They are also reported on by Isle of Man Newspapers. The Tynwald Day sitting at St. Johns is streamed live on the Tynwald website.

Junior Tynwald media representatives will work with someone from either Manx Radio or Isle of Man newspapers to produce reports which are published in the newspaper and website or on Manx Radio.

Virtual Tynwald

The Virtual Tynwald service is available whenever Tynwald is in session. Details of session dates and times can be found on the Tynwald Website at www.tynwald.org.im

Webcams

Member profile

HENDERSON, Robert William MHC Douglas North (APG)

B 28 December 1961, Douglas; ed St Joseph's Primary Convent School, St Frances Primary School, Ballakermeen and St Ninian's High Schools; m 1992 Lisa; 1 s.

Trained Psychiatric nurse (1985-98); UKCC registered, post graduate qualifications (ENB) in clinical teaching and assessing, stress management; commenced nursing 1981 following various posts on leaving higher education. Hospital night manager, Ballakermeen.

Agenda

Current Item

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

To what extent do local employers when advertising for job vacancies require applicants to have a second language to English?

Agenda in full

do not go ahead?

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

Tynwald Chamber Plan

Deputy Clerk of Tynwald

Hansard Editor

Legislative Council Member	Legislative Council Member	Legislative Council Member	Legislative Council Member	Lord Bishop of Sodor & Man	PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD	HM Attorney General	Legislative Council Member	Legislative Council Member	Legislative Council Member	Legislative Council Member
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Clerk of Tynwald

Speaker of the House of Keys

Chaplain of the House of Keys

Member for Ramsey	Member for Glenfaba
Member for Ramsey	Member for Peel
	Member for Castletown

Member for Douglas East	Member for Douglas West
Member for Douglas East	Member for Douglas West
Member for Douglas South	Member for Douglas South

Sword of State

Member for Middle	Member for Onchan
Member for Ayre	Member for Onchan
Member for Michael	Member for Onchan

Member for Douglas North	Member for Rushen
Member for Douglas North	Member for Rushen
Member for Malew & Santon	Member for Rushen

Bar of the Court

Manx Radio Booth	Press Benches
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Invited Guests Benches	Distinguished Visitors Chair
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The Business of Tynwald Court

ORDER PAPER AND QUESTION PAPER

The business of the Court is set out in the Order Paper and the Question Paper prepared by the Clerk of Tynwald and issued under the authority of the President. Standing Orders require that the Order Paper must reach members at least 5 clear days before the sitting, the Question Paper at least 3 clear days before the sitting.

A Tynwald Order Paper will include many different types of business, which are described in more detail below. During Junior Tynwald, the business comprises Questions and Motions and so it is these which are considered first and in most detail. During the Junior Tynwald sitting you might be involved in any of the following:

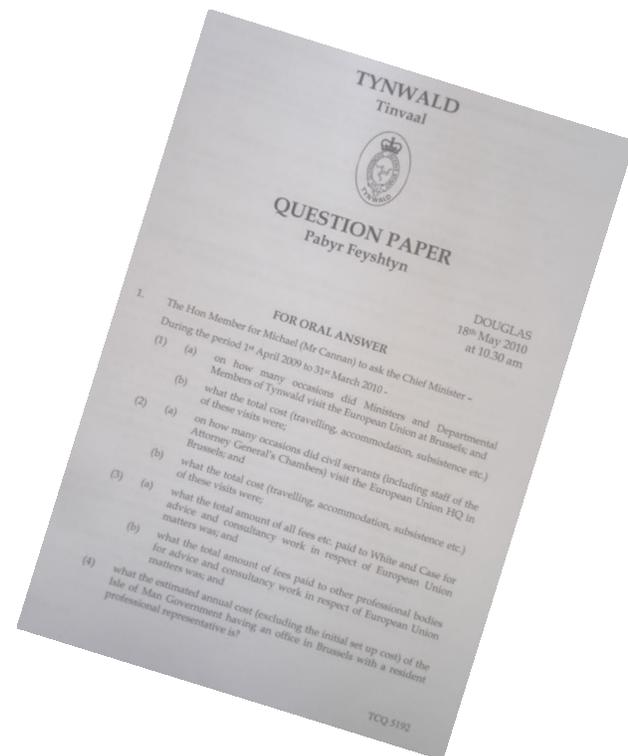
Members

- Asking a question
- Asking a supplementary question
- Proposing a motion
- Seconding a motion
- Speaking during a debate on a motion – either for or against, or perhaps for some points and against others
- Voting on a motion
- Calling for a Divide (see Voting)

Media Representatives

- Reporting on proceedings

How and when you would take part in these activities is described in the sections below.



QUESTIONS

The reason for asking a question is to obtain information on a matter of fact by addressing it to a person whom you would expect to have particular knowledge of the subject. This will usually be the Minister for the responsible department.

Examples of some recent questions include:

The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury – Whether the Treasury has commenced planning strategies to cope with next year's VAT reduction?

The Hon Member of Council (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for Education – If, as part of the consultation process, he will arrange to hold public meetings in order to address the growing concerns over the proposed introduction of the Children Bill 2010?

The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Minister for Education -

Whether her Department has set guidelines that apply to schools with regard to the reasons why a pupil can be suspended from school with any recommended period of time for such a suspension?

Members may ask questions on any almost any matter, and it is here that they have the opportunity to scrutinise the work of government. Guidance on how to write questions can be found in Appendix 1.

Submitting a Question

Members may set down questions for oral or written answer. Notices of Questions should be submitted to the Clerk of Tynwald, at least 7 clear days before the day on which the Question is to be put, on a special form obtainable from the Parliamentary Administration Office of the Clerk of Tynwald. Questions should be clearly written and signed by the Member.

The rules for writing questions are complex and so the Clerks examine the notices of Questions closely, to ensure that they conform to the rules. The opportunity is also taken to edit Questions to eliminate unnecessary wording and, if necessary, put them into proper interrogative form. Should it be necessary, the Clerks will consult the Member regarding the content of any Questions and where required, matters may be referred to the President for his decision. Should it transpire that a Question has been wrongly addressed, steps will be taken to direct it to the correct Minister.

In the case of Junior Tynwald, questions for oral answer can be submitted by email, so do not require signature. We will advise the date by which they will need to be submitted. We will check that the wording used is in line with the guidance notes and, if required, provide advice on to whom the question should be addressed.

Asking Your Question in Tynwald

Prior to the sitting all Members receive a copy of the Question Paper. During the sitting the questions will be taken in the order in which they appear on the Question Paper. So, for each question, the Member who submitted the question will be called by the President. The Member stands and reads out their Question. Once the Question has been read out the President will say "Member to reply", and the Member to whom the Question was addressed will reply.

Once this initial reply has been received, other Members may ask supplementary Questions. Normally the member who has tabled the Question will be called first to ask a supplementary Question, should they want to. The number of supplementary Questions permitted following a tabled Question is at the discretion of the President, otherwise the same guidance rules apply to supplementary Questions as to tabled Questions.

So if the Member answering the Question has not included something another Member wants to know, they may stand as the previous speaker concludes to indicate to the President that they wish to ask a supplementary Question. However, debate is not permitted to flow from this procedure and so Questions must not introduce matters not included in the original Question.

In a normal sitting, the period to 1.00 p.m. on the first sitting day is reserved for oral questions and any not reached receive a written answer. In Junior Tynwald the first hour is allowed for questions. Any not answered in that time may be returned to at the end, if time permits, or will receive a written answer.

MOTIONS

A motion is a proposal, on any **matter of policy or concern**, made to the Court by a Member. The Member putting forward the motion is known as the mover. A motion should state that Tynwald do something, order something to be done, or express an opinion with regard to some matter. It must be phrased in such a way that, if passed, it will represent the judgment or will of the Court. Notices of motion must be submitted

to the Clerk of Tynwald at least 14 clear days before the day when the motion is to be made. Motions appear on the Order Paper.

For Junior Tynwald a motion will be moved by representatives from two schools each year. They will be submitted in advance, usually in May. This allows the CPA Branch Executive, who support Junior Tynwald, to review them prior to circulating them to all the schools. Students will then have time to prepare for moving the motion and other students to prepare to support or oppose the motion.

Examples of motions include:

The Minister for Environment, Food & Agriculture to move –

That Tynwald endorses the policy of a renewable energy target of 15% electricity generated from renewable sources by 2015.

The Minister for Education to move –

That the Department of Education continues to provide free pre-school provision as currently exists and will seek to expand that provision into those geographic areas where there is a recognised shortage, in particular, the South, central Douglas and the North West regions of the Island.

The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to move -

That a Committee of three Members be appointed with powers to take written and oral evidence pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1876, as amended, to investigate the feasibility of having all mobile phones (including pay as you go) issued on Isle of Man networks registered to an identified owner and to report to the October 2010 sitting of Tynwald.

In Tynwald the President will call on the Member to move the motion, as with questions this is not read out. The mover opens the debate by putting forward the reasons for the motion being proposed. The motion needs to be seconded by another Member before it can be debated. Each Member, apart from the mover, may speak only once during each motion being debated so the Member seconding may choose to wait to speak later in which case he would say;

"I beg to second and reserve my remarks"

Otherwise he may second and make a contribution to the debate at that point.

The motion is then debated (described below), concluding with the mover being given the final opportunity to respond to comments made by other Members during the debate. Members finally vote on whether or not the motion should be passed. In the examples shown, if the second one was passed the Department of Education would be expected to seek to increase pre-school provision and if asked in the future would need to provide evidence that they had tried, whether or not successful. If the third motion was successful then a committee would be established.

DEBATE

Debate gives Members the opportunity to express their opinions about the motion being moved, and to ask the mover for more information. Each Member, apart from the mover, may speak only once in each debate.

Speaking and Conduct in Debate

A Member who is speaking in debate must address his remarks to the President, not the mover of the motion. It is usual to begin speaking with *"Thank you, Madam President."* When speaking, address the president e.g. *"However, I would suggest, Madam President,"* and refer to the mover in ways such as *"My hon. friend referred to"* and *"I am aware the Hon. Member, Mr"*

Remarks directed to another member such as, *"You know that you are being foolish"*, should be avoided. If a Member feels obliged to make such a remark it should be phrased, *"The Hon member for ... must know that he is being foolish"*. This rule is applied to maintain courtesy in debate where those debating may hold strong and divergent opinions.

Whenever the President is about to speak, any Member then speaking or offering to speak must sit down so that the President may be heard without interruption.

No Member may use offensive words against Tynwald or either Branch, or in reference to any person. No

Member is permitted to use the name of the Sovereign or the Governor irreverently in debate or with the object of influencing the Court in its deliberations.

The President, having drawn attention to the conduct of a Member who insists in irrelevance or tedious repetition, may caution such Member, and in the event of such caution being discontinued, may direct such Member to discontinue speaking.

VOTING

At the end of a debate every Member present in the Court is required to vote on whether or not they are in favour. Madam President is the only exception - he has no vote at this stage. Madam President will say:

"Honourable Members the motion before you is that printed at number ... on your order paper. Those in favour say "Aye"; those against say "No"." Members all respond together saying Aye or No, depending on their view. Madam President judges which is the strongest response and will state: *"the Ayes/Noes have it"*. If a Member disagrees with the opinion and wishes the matter to be put to a recorded vote, he calls *"Divide"*. This must be done before Madam President repeats his judgment *"the Ayes/Noes have it"*.

If a division is successfully called, the Clerk of Tynwald will set up an electronic vote in which each Member votes using the green (for) and red (against) buttons found on the desk in front of their seat. Once all Members have voted the Clerk electronically concludes the vote and the result, which includes how each member voted, is shown on the big screen. The President then announces the result of the division. Both branches must pass a motion for it to be accepted. Where there is an equality of votes in the Legislative Council, Madam President is obliged to exercise a casting vote to bring both branches into line. This will usually be cast in order to maintain the 'status quo'.

After each Tynwald sitting, the results of votes and whether motions were carried or lost, are published in the Votes and Proceedings. Examples of these can be found on the Tynwald website; <http://www.tynwald.org.im/papers/votes/main.shtml>

Other business which will not be part of Junior Tynwald but may ordinarily be brought before Tynwald Court includes the following:

COMMITTEES

These may be appointed by Tynwald to consider any matter. The **reports of Tynwald Committees**, and of a variety of other bodies, such as the Council of Ministers or its committees, may be the subject of a motion in Tynwald. There are two types of committee:

Standing Committees are constituted under statute, Standing Orders or resolution, and have a continuing remit. An example is the Economic Initiatives Committee that monitors and considers economic, fiscal and monetary initiatives of the EU, international agencies and states and economic factors generally which may affect the Isle of Man. Standing Committees are usually required to report to Tynwald annually at an agreed sitting and at other times if they consider it necessary.

Select Committees are committees appointed by Tynwald to enquire into matters specially referred to them. A select committee ceases to exist on fulfilling its remit. Recent examples include the Select Committee on Kaupthing Singer Friedlander, and the Select Committee on the Television Licence Fee.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Tynwald Court is responsible for approving the financial business of the Isle of Man Government, this includes the levying of taxes, approving the annual budget and the voting of moneys for specific purposes which are not included in the department budgets for example:

The Minister for Education to move –

That Tynwald approves of the Department of Education incurring expenditure not exceeding £29,668,698 on the "St Ninian's Lower School, Bemahague" scheme.

BILLS AND ACTS

Bills that have been passed by both Branches of Tynwald are signed in Tynwald before being submitted for Royal Assent. The Royal Assent, once given, now usually by the Governor on behalf of the Crown, will be announced to Tynwald at a subsequent sitting before the legislation can take effect.

Further details on how primary legislation is introduced and the process it goes through before being passed can be found in Appendix 2.

DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Delegated or secondary legislation, which consists of orders, regulations, schemes and other similar instruments, is made by Ministers under powers conferred upon them by statute (primary legislation). Procedurally, it is divided into two main categories - instruments requiring an affirmative resolution; and instruments subject to annulment. Affirmative instruments necessarily come before the Court since they must be approved before becoming effective or remaining in force. Negative instruments do not give rise to proceedings in the Court unless a motion is made to annul them. Except where a statute specifically provides, the Court has no power to amend delegated legislation.

For example in section 37(c) of the Education Act 2001, which is primary legislation, it states:

37 Financial support, scholarships and bursaries

The Department may, in accordance with regulations made with the concurrence of the Treasury, do all or any of the following for the purpose of enabling persons to take advantage without hardship to themselves or their parents of any educational facilities available to them-

(c) grant scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries and other awards or allowances (including awards or allowances by way of loan) in respect of persons over compulsory school age receiving continuing education or higher education in the Island or elsewhere.

So the Department may pay student awards, or grants, but the amount is not stated. This is because the amount is likely to need to vary each year. If the actual amounts were set down in primary legislation an amendment act would need to be passed every year. Making primary legislation can be a lengthy process,

as you can see below. So instead a new set of regulations, containing details of the amounts payable, is produced each year and a motion made before Tynwald in order for the new payments to be approved.

The Minister for Education and Children to move -

That the Education (Student Awards) Regulations 2010 be approved. [SD 233/10]

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

By memorial, any person who satisfies certain procedural requirements may be heard by Tynwald on any matter on the Order Paper. The most significant requirement is that the interests of the memorialist, as distinct from the interests of the general public, are adversely affected by the Order item.

An example of this would be where a person's land was subject to a compulsory purchase order under plans for a public scheme. The landowner may wish to address the Court, either directly or through an advocate to explain to Members why he was opposed to the purchase before they vote on whether the scheme may progress.

OTHER PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Many kinds of documents are presented to the Court. They range from annual reports of agencies of Government to statutory rules. Papers may be presented pursuant to statute, at the discretion of a Member or by order of the Court. Papers presented to Tynwald are laid by the Clerk of Tynwald and recorded in the Votes and Proceedings. A copy of each paper to be laid before Tynwald is supplied to every Member. All papers and documents when presented to the Court are considered public.

STATEMENTS

Ministers may make statements concerning Government policy or other matters for which they bear a responsibility. Members may ask Questions arising from the statement.

APPENDIX 1 – GUIDANCE ON WRITING TYNWALD QUESTIONS

How to write a Question

The following rules apply to the right to ask Questions:-

- (1) Not more than one subject shall be referred to in any question and a question shall not be of excessive length.
- (2) A question must not contain the name of any person or any statement not strictly necessary to make it intelligible.
- (3) If a question contains a statement, the Member asking it is personally responsible for the accuracy of the statement.
- (4) A question shall not contain any argument, inference, imputation, or unnecessary, disparaging, abusive or ironical word.
- (5) Unless the President is satisfied that it is a matter of urgency and that special reasons exist, a question shall not renew or repeat in substance a question already answered.
- (6) Unless an answer has been refused or a Member has refused or failed to take action in response to a question, that question may not be asked until after a period of six months has elapsed.
- (7) A question shall not refer to proceedings in a Branch (The House of Keys or Legislative Council).
- (8) Except in relation to the date on which a Committee expects to report, a question shall not refer to proceedings in a Committee, unless such proceedings have been placed before Tynwald by a report from the Committee.
- (9) A question shall not seek an expression of opinion or the interpretation of a statute or the solution of an abstract legal question or of a hypothetical proposition.
- (10) A question shall not refer to any matter which is *sub judice* (currently under consideration by a judge or a court of law and therefore not to be commented upon publicly).
- (11) A question shall not reflect on the character or conduct, other than in an official capacity, of any person.

- (12) A question shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion.
- (13) A question shall not make or imply a charge of a personal nature.

Questions should accordingly be framed in interrogative form and be as direct as possible, eg:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| "What action has been taken to ..." | "Were steps taken to ..." |
| "Why was action taken to ..." | "What action will be taken to ..." |
| "Is it a fact that ..." | "Are you in a position to ..." |
| "What has been the cost of ..." | |

When a Question is directed to a Minister in his own capacity "you" is used when referring to the Minister, e.g.:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| "Are you able to state ..." | "Has your attention been drawn ..." |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Examples of styles to be avoided are:

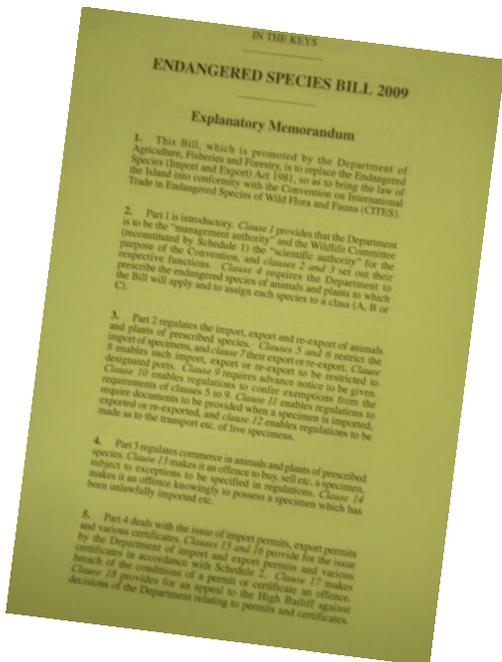
- "Are you aware that ..."
- "In view of the fact that ..."
- "Is it not a fact that ..." - *Instead it is usually possible to use "Is it a fact that ..."*
- "Do you think that ..."
- "Do you consider that ..." - *Avoid if framed in such a way as to seek an opinion.*
- "Is it the policy of your Department to ..." - *A Question should not ask a Minister to announce Government policy. As an alternative, a Member may ask "Does your Department intend to ..."*
- "Is it a fact that ... stated that ..." - *A Minister should not be asked to ascertain what was said by a particular person. The Question should be framed "Has your attention been drawn to the statement made by ... that ...". The questioner is presumed to make himself responsible for the*

accuracy of any statement imported into the Question.

"Is the Government of the United Kingdom making ..." - As the actions of another Government do not come within the direct responsibility of a Minister and the Question is one which the Minister may or may not be in a position to answer, the Question is better framed "Are you able to state whether the United Kingdom Government ... is making ..."

APPENDIX 2: PRIMARY LEGISLATION – BILLS TO ACTS

New legislation, the laws of the Isle of Man, begin life as Bills. The majority of these Bills are *Public Bills*, which are Bills of general application. They are normally introduced in the Keys either by the Government or on the initiative of an individual Member who has been given leave by the House (and where the Bill has financial implications, has obtained Isle of Man Treasury agreement in principle) to introduce the Bill. It is also possible for outside bodies or individuals to petition either the Keys or the Council for leave to introduce Private Bills, which are Bills of a local or personal character. The procedure for considering Bills in the House is essentially the same for each category of Bill.



The *First Reading* of a Bill is the initial stage of its consideration. The first reading formally brings the Bill before the House. The Secretary reads the short title of the Bill and states the member of the House who is taking it through the House. There is no debate.

The *Second Reading* of the Bill takes place at a subsequent sitting of the House and at this stage the principles of the Bill are debated. If the motion "That the Bill be now read a second time" is carried the Bill, or some of its clauses, may be referred to a committee of Members appointed by the House. After the motion for the Second

Reading has been carried, or after the report of a committee has been considered, the Bill proceeds to the Clauses Stage.

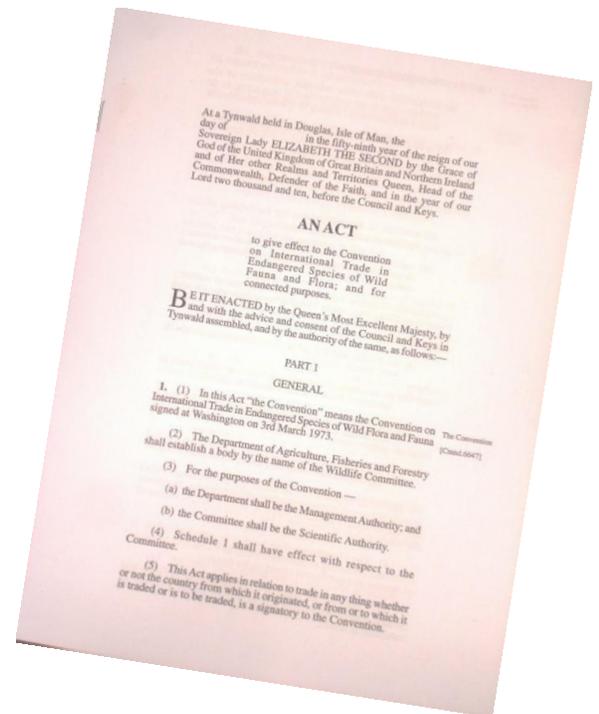
At the *Clauses Stage* the House considers and debates the Bill clause by clause and amendments may be moved to the clauses and new clauses added. At this stage some or all of the clauses may be referred to a committee and the House proceeds with the Bill once it has considered the report of the committee. In the House the clauses are considered either individually or in groups on a motion that the clause or clauses "stand part" of the Bill. When consideration of the clauses, and any associated schedules, of the Bill has been completed the Bill proceeds to the next stage, the third reading, at a subsequent sitting.

At the *Third Reading*, the Bill, as then agreed by the House, is further debated on a motion "That this Bill be now read a third time". For this motion to be carried it requires to be supported by the votes of at least 13 members of the Keys.

The Bill is then submitted to the Legislative Council for its consideration. If the Council should amend the Bill the amendments are considered by the Keys. At this stage the House may agree, disagree or amend the Council amendments or disagree the amendments, and seek a conference with the Council to resolve the differences between the two Branches. The President of Tynwald presides when there is a conference. If an agreement is reached at the Conference this is reported to the House where the conference agreement may be approved or disapproved.

Where a disagreement cannot be resolved, under the Isle of Man Constitution Act 1961 if a Bill is passed by the House of Keys and rejected by the Council and is then passed by the House in the next session and not passed by the Council it may proceed without the agreement of the Council. The power of the Council is, therefore, ultimately a delaying power.

After a Bill has been passed, or deemed to have been passed, by both the House of Keys and the Legislative Council it must be signed by at least five members of the Council and thirteen members of the Keys in Tynwald Court before it may be submitted for Royal Assent. The Royal Assent is now commonly given to Bills by the Lieutenant Governor acting on behalf of the Crown but the Crown may reserve to itself the right to determine whether Royal Assent should be given to any particular Bill.



There remains one final procedure. An Act of Tynwald must be promulgated (read out in Manx and English) within 18 months on Tynwald Hill, St. John's, or it ceases to have effect.