



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF TYNWALD
HEAD OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
RESEARCH EXERCISE

Please submit by the prescribed deadline a briefing paper of 1200 to 1500 words on one of the policy topics listed below. The paper should draw together, in a politically impartial manner, accurate information which you believe is likely to be of interest to Tynwald Members. The structure of the paper should be determined by the nature of the topic but the following elements should be considered for inclusion:

- background information including key dates and historical developments, if relevant
- significant differences between the approaches to an issue taken in the Isle of Man and comparator jurisdictions which could include the UK; its component jurisdictions; the Republic of Ireland; the Channel Islands; the UK's Overseas Territories; and other small Commonwealth jurisdictions.
- significant publications including reports by Tynwald Committees and Isle of Man Government Departments
- recent public proceedings in Tynwald, its Branches and Committees
- Isle of Man Government commitments
- controversial or unresolved issues

Please include in your submission:

- a statement of how much time you spent on the submission.
- a word count

There is no specified template for your paper but in producing it you should have regard to the “Qualities of a parliamentary researcher” listed below. You may also wish to look at the examples of parliamentary research which have been published on the Tynwald website.¹

¹ <https://www.tynwald.org.im/links/research/Pages/default.aspx>

Policy topics

Population and residency

Economic diversification

Post-16 education and training

Housing

Town and country planning

Delivery of infrastructure projects

Qualities of a parliamentary researcher

Objective and balanced (aiming for lack of bias at a minimum) – cut through the partisan rhetoric and skewed data and gain trust of the Members in the product that is authoritative, objective free from bias. Where total objectivity is not possible deliver a balanced presentation with competing policy perspectives presented a balanced and fair manner. Usually avoid recommendations or advocacy of any sort – these usually require a value judgement, these are for the elected Members.

Timely (meeting deadlines) – better to be on time with a partial response than miss a political deadline. Anticipate where possible to begin work before it becomes an issue in the Chamber.

Accurate and authoritative – free from error, uses best sources, effective analytical techniques and methods. Official/peer review highly recommended – check for accuracy, substance, understandability and freedom from bias.

Legislative relevance – keep to issues of current relevance to the legislature not just of one interest. Also ensure the writing style is appropriate for the intended audience.

Accessibility for busy and non-specialised legislators – style and structure should lead to quick understanding of key points – ensure a logical progression of the argument, use bullets highlighting, charts, graphs.