

TYNWALD

Tinvaal



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
17TH NOVEMBER 2009
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

Whether there is a definitive legally binding Agreement between the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom in respect of the Common Purse Agreement and the Revenue Sharing Arrangement?

2. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Chief Minister –
 - (1) Whether he will confirm that in past years the Revenue Sharing Arrangements of the Common Purse Agreement have been weighted in favour of the Isle of Man and that the United Kingdom has now taken action to rectify or correct the situation;
 - (2) whether he will confirm the Revenue Sharing arrangements are now correctly apportioned and that there will be no further adjustment in calculation; and
 - (3) whether it had previously occurred to the Treasury Minister and Treasury officials that the present ratio of direct taxation (£160M) to indirect taxation (£399M) was suspect and whether this fact had been reported to the Council of Ministers?

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

Whether the Council of Ministers has determined a future policy in respect of 0 - 10 corporate taxation?

4. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister -

Whether the Council of Ministers has instructed all Departments as a matter of urgency to make savings, initiate efficiency drives, and report where cuts can be made and where capital programmes can be delayed in relation to managing the massive shortfall in our budget due to the UK shaving nearly 20% of our Government income?

5. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

Whether he intends to review the membership of the Financial Supervision Commission and the Insurance and Pensions Authority?

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

Why the revised arrangements for the sharing of common duties between the UK and the Isle of Man will take effect from April 2010, when the 2007 agreement specifically extended the notice period for any changes from six months to two years?

7. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

With regard to the sharing of common duties between the UK and the Isle of Man, if he will make a statement on the accuracy of the report in the Manx Independent of 6th November 2009 that stated: "Customs and Excise insists that the Island has actually contributed more than it received, having put into the pool some £420 million while receiving £339 million back"?

8. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

- (1) Who authorised the signing of the "Arrangements for the Sharing of Common Duties" by a Treasury official on 15th October 2009, recently published on the Government website;
- (2) when the "Arrangements for the Sharing of Common Duties" was signed on 15th October 2009 whether the financial consequences of the agreement were fully appreciated;
- (3) if the financial consequences of the "Arrangements for the Sharing of Common Duties" were fully appreciated, why Tynwald was not officially informed of the financial consequences before the agreement was signed;
- (4) in view of the financial impact on the Island, if he considers that an informal briefing to some Tynwald Members on 14th October (ie one day before the document was signed) gives adequate notice to Tynwald Members of the revised arrangements;
- (5) on what date the Common Purse Agreement update of 24th October 2007 was renewed/extended and whether this preceded or came after the "Arrangements for the Sharing of Common Duties" signed on 15th October 2009; and
- (6) if he will supply Tynwald Members with full details of the 2009 update of the Common Purse Agreement?

9. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

In a recent report to the UK Treasury Sir Michael Foot estimated that the net contribution of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to UK banking liquidity is approximately US\$ 323 Billion per year:

- (a) whether Sir Michael Foot's estimate that the net contribution of the Isle of Man to that total was, for the last financial year, US\$ 40 Billion and, if not, what the correct figure was; and
- (b) whether Treasury has fully utilised the Isle of Man's contribution to UK banking liquidity to gain leverage during its recent negotiations with the UK on the Common Purse Agreement?

10. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask HM Attorney General -

In what circumstances can an Isle of Man resident be arrested in the Isle of Man under a UK law for an offence allegedly committed in the Isle of Man and be transferred to the UK without having to go through the Isle of Man Courts?

11. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask HM Attorney General -

Whether -

- (a) any changes to the Common Purse Agreement 1979, and any updates thereof, must be ratified by both Tynwald and the UK Parliament before coming into effect;
- (b) any subsidiary agreements associated with the Common Purse Agreement, and any updates thereof, namely the "Arrangements for the Sharing of Common Duties" must also be ratified by both Tynwald and the UK Parliament before coming into effect; and
- (c) whether any changes to the aforesaid Common Purse Agreements and their associated "Arrangements for the Sharing of Common Duties" fully comply with Isle of Man law?

12. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

When the Rehabilitation Unit will be opened?

13. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

What plans there are to provide suitable accommodation for former drug users who have gone through detoxification and rehabilitation to assist them to move away from their old lifestyles and drug using friends?

14. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

What facilities for testing for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are in place, how many patients are receiving treatment for these illnesses; and whether vaccinations are available to those who wish to have them?

15. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

- (1) Whether he is aware of the NHS publication "Entitlement to NHS Hospital Treatment to Non-Resident UK citizens";
- (2) why was this document not made available to Members of Tynwald in advance of last month's debate on the Reciprocal Health Agreement;
- (3) why has he failed to negotiate the confirmation of the Reciprocal Health Agreement with the United Kingdom whilst other countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Russia, Ukraine etc, continue to have Bilateral Agreements covering their nationals and UK nationals only; and
- (4) whether he will re-open negotiations with the United Kingdom for a Bilateral Agreement for Reciprocal Health Care for the Isle of Man?

16. The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Speaker) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

What negotiations have taken place with the Scottish Government to establish a reciprocal health agreement with the Isle of Man; and what progress has been made so far?

17. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

How many people are in prison on drug charges or drug related crime compared to the overall prison population?

18. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

What the purpose was of his recent visit to Los Angeles; and what the total cost was of the visit including all travel and expenses?

19. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Whether he will reinstate the Review Stage of Planning decisions prior to the Appeal?

20. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

If he will examine ways in which his Department can assist the Government estate in becoming more energy efficient and run buildings and properties by an energy smart management process?

21. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

What was discussed at the recent meeting between the Minister and the Local Authorities at Ballakermeen School?

22. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

How many tenants are in arrears in local authority accommodation; and what his Department proposes to do to assist these tenants?

23. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

If he will initiate a consultation process to ascertain the feasibility of introducing the EU Working Time Directive or similar provisions?

24. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

If he will consider amending legislation to the current Employment Act to allow an employee to appeal to the Employment Tribunal after three months?

25. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -

If he will consider going out to consultation on an amendment to the current Employment Act to allow staff sides or professional organisations the right of recognition?

26. The Hon Member for Peel (Mr Crookall) to ask the Minister for Transport -
If his Department will prepare detailed estimates for -
- (a) linking Peel and St John's to Crosby and the IRIS Scheme;
 - (b) harnessing the electrical energy from the effluent outflow at Meary Veg; and
 - (c) the projected electrical energy costs for pumping sewage from Peel and St John's to Meary Veg?
27. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Malarkey) to ask the Minister for Transport -
- (1) What action his Department has taken with regard to implementation of the taxi and private hire recommendations approved by the July 2009 sitting of Tynwald and especially with regard to "exploring means of suspending new licence applications in the interim period";
 - (2) how many new private hire and ply for hire taxis' licences the RTLC has issued since the July 2009 Tynwald sitting; and
 - (3) how many applications for private hire and ply for hire taxis are outstanding for consideration?
28. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chairman of the Tynwald Management Committee (Mr Speaker) -
- (1) Why Hansard is still published on two column per page format other than for traditional and historical reasons;
 - (2) whether the majority of readers of Hansard now use the electronic copy; that a single column per page format is much easier to read on a computer screen and so changing to that format would reduce the amount of paper copies being printed; and
 - (3) therefore on the grounds of convenience, efficiency and environmental benefit, if he would recommend changing the publication style of Hansard to single column per page format with effect from the start of the 2009/10 parliamentary year?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

29. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Chief Minister -
- How much money in each of the last three years has been allocated for (a) drug prevention services, (b) treatment, and (c) rehabilitation?
30. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Karran) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -
- How many drug related deaths have there been in (a) the last three years, and (b) the last 12 months?
31. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Quirk) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -
- How many retrospective planning applications were considered by his Department; and what the outcome was in each case, from 2008 to date?
32. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry -
- What percentage of the Island's national income (a) the Aircraft Register, and (b) the Shipping Register represents?