

Dear Sir

In a democracy I believe that the people has the right to elect men and women to vote on their behalf and all people with a vote in Tynwald should be elected. Please consider removing the vote from the bishop.

I believe that the bishop should NOT be part of a democratically elect government. No one has voted for him so what right has he to be part of the process? His views are, at best, subjective and always coloured by his interpretation of the bible - a book which is irrelevant to any non-Christian, and is offensive to many.

The current Bishop's 'cup of tea' analogy in the Equality debate was confused, confusing and, I'm sorry to say, laughable. And yet he still had a vote, and chose to use it to vote against this far-reaching progressive bill which will enrich the lives of many and show the Isle of Man in its best light.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this review.

Suzy Holland

May 31st 2016

Paper

In the Isle of Man there is a long-standing tradition of not wanting to have political "dirty laundry" washed in public. In strict fact, the aversion to having anything that could be perceived as impinging upon the "reputation" of the Isle of Man is so ingrained that should anyone try to actually do some washing in public they are subjected to an escalating scale of efforts to dissuade and ultimately end, any and all such intentions.

Upon the altar of "reputation" have some notable sacrifices been made in the Isle of Man.

We are not alone in these particular regards, the United Kingdom has its own history of dealing with dissidents and its own collection of political corruptions with the costs to good government and human misery caused as a direct result of them. The mention of one single word is sufficient to illustrate my point and that word is Hillsborough.

I intend to restrict my comments to those that address the topics of the role and effectiveness of the Public Accounts Committee, definitions of political corruption, and the incidence over the recent years of the revolving door between the private sector and government departments, and the ever closer relationship between them, has made many question in whose interests government ministers and civil servants are working: public service or private benefit?

In 2002 the Isle of Man political establishment was subjected to a number of profoundly disconcerting events, the first of those was the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry into the Mount Murray Development. With a stellar cast of Ministers present and former, civil servants 'et al' giving evidence to the Commission under oath, nothing of its kind had ever been seen before.

Then in 2004 an acting Chief Minister was arrested and questioned by police on the Island who were investigating corruption allegations. As a result of which he was obliged to resign.

The Commission of Inquiry had this to say in part from its findings. "Given those reasons the Commission remains of the view that it is entirely appropriate and relevant that it continues to use the term corruption as explained in the Part One Report. The Commission does not agree with those who would wish the term to be restricted to a meaning involving criminal dishonesty nor did the Privy Council.

2.64 Our use of the term "corruption" has been neither unfair nor incorrect. Every person, politician or civil servant, who was in any way connected with relevant events and whom it was possible for the Commission to interview, was interviewed. There was no person with any relevant knowledge of matters and available for interview by the Commission who was not interviewed. The facts, we found, go way beyond simply accidental or inadvertent maladministration.

There was, as we have found and reported, a serious and persistent effort by the developer to undermine the planning system of the Isle of Man particularly through the Department of Tourism to the extent that this system was compromised, and those efforts succeeded when they culminated in the planning decision of 4th October 1991.

2.65 It is difficult to find a more accurate statement of what happened than to say that the system was corrupted by those efforts which produced that result. The words have every relevance to what we have found, as fact, after very careful investigation as to what happened.

2.66 Furthermore we do not agree that we should avoid reporting what we have found for the reason that the report might not be read very carefully, nor for the reason that our conclusions may be unhelpful or harmful to the image or reputation of the Isle of Man. We would be failing in our duty if we fudged reporting what we found because to do otherwise might harm the image or reputation of the Island."

Dr David Whyte, of the University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice said recently that there is a common misperception in most people. "First, that corruption is a problem that happens in far-away places, in governments that do not have our traditions. Secondly, that corruption is something that we can understand merely as a problem that stems from the actions of a minority of public officials who are 'on the make', rather than something that is routine in our most venerated institutions,"

I agree with him, and to that I say that in my own long political career as an elected Member of the Parliament on the Isle of Man, the Commission of Inquiry could not have put it better than when it reported. "The weaknesses and failures by government in handling of these matters continue in significant degree with a still present belief, in many areas of current influence, that there was really little wrong with the systems of government, and that there was simply negligence or misconduct by some limited number of individuals who were operating the systems. Such opinions are seriously misconceived".

I have stated on the public record over a very long period of time that I firmly hold the considered opinion that one of the fundamental flaws of government policies is that ruthless subscription and enforcement of "the ends justify the means" no matter what the cost to the public purse.

I have also spent a considerable amount of my time as an elected Parliamentarian in efforts to make the established systems of checks and balances vital to the functioning of democracy and accountability to the electorate work as they should.

This is much more than a simple matter of one elected Member of the House of Keys holding a divergent political viewpoint from those who are inside the Council of Ministers. These are matters of public expenditure involving tens if not hundreds of millions of pounds of public money. These are matters that have direct and sometimes very seriously adverse impact on the ordinary man and woman living on the Isle of Man.

In my time in politics I have held office as a Minister, Chairman of public authorities, I have been a political representative on Departments of Government, and I have sat on various committees of the Tynwald and House of Keys that are established to scrutinise government expenditure of public money.

It is my conviction that the Public Accounts Committee is the most important means we have to examine value for money in government expenditure, the most vital of the checks and balances to hold government to account for that expenditure made in the name of the public, and the most crucial in defending the democratic integrity of the first principal that Government is accountable to the Parliament for its actions and its policies.

It's the ABC of politics in reality isn't it? Yet, when the Government can guarantee for the most part a majority in the Parliament, when it has no funded opposition to consider, when it can depend upon the committees to be favourable to it, and when it can utterly ignore or take steps to neutralise any adverse reporting, that is a prescription for inviting the most dangerous political circumstances to be created, and which I argue have been created over a long period of time in this Island.

The question among many to be asked is so just how effective is the Public Accounts Committee? It is my opinion based upon evidence over many years that it is not very effective in the main and specifically on occasion not at all.

My greatest concern is when it is demonstrated that the conclusions, recommendations and reports of the PAC are ignored, eviscerated because of political directives from the Council of Ministers or subverted by a collusion of COMIN and the Departments of government.

I do not propose to give chapter and verse examples it would take too long and for the purposes of this present exercise would be burdensome. However, as general principles and exemplars of injustice I will say this. A Public Accounts Committee report detailed specific evidence of a fraud having been committed on the public purse in excess of £350K. The PAC recommended that the Attorney General's Chambers take up the matter for investigation by the Financial Crimes Unit. The

Attorney General's Chambers did not get the opportunity to do so because the PAC removed the request subsequently.

They did so because the alleged fraud had been enabled by collusion with certain individuals closely connected to Government through the Treasury. The matter was and is to this day one of controversy and one the Chief Minister and the Treasury would like to have buried and forgotten.

When it is reported that an individual has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for committing fraud by claiming benefits to which they had no entitlement to have, most people would say justice had been done. The sum in that particular case I have in mind was stated to be £20 thousand pounds.

However, when the sum of money runs to the hundreds of thousands of pounds and nothing is done to investigate, prosecute or recover that public money because of political interference, then quite reasonably anyone could make the conclusion that the rule of law does not apply to everyone equally but instead is used or not to suit a political agenda. Is it a case of the rule of law does not apply for those who are being favoured by the politically powerful, and the full rigors of it entirely for those who are considered to be expendable or socially inferior?

We have a number of very contentious examples of about the nature of the relationship between public and private interest over the past decades here on the Isle of Man, and about who gains and who loses from this relationship?

Collusive corruption, the type of corruption that arises from a common interest that exists across particular group or groups of people in government and in business, is a concept that we have experience of as the Commission of Inquiry into Mount Murray detailed.

We have also seen what has happened when private interest and the public purse are intermingled and to what degree political influence has enabled substantial sums of public money to be spent without being held to account by the Public Accounts Committee.

It seems at face as simple question to ask. "Who will guard the guardians themselves?" It is one of the most fundamental questions in political philosophy. When as in our particular set of circumstances we have a small number of individuals elected to the House of Keys, a small number of persons elected by Members of the House of Keys to sit in the Legislative Chamber. When we have a Speaker of the House of Keys with a vote in debate, an unelected Lord Bishop appointed as of right to the Legislative Council with a vote, where we have the President of the Tynwald empowered to cast a vote in the Legislative Council, where we have at the prerogative of the Chief Minister MHK's appointed to Departments with a concomitant substantial increase in pay, it is from a very small number of persons that members of the Public Accounts Committee are selected.

Sometimes those persons selected can be conflicted and I'm sure you have already taken in evidence examples of those cases under consideration.

For a true functioning of Democracy we the people must have those who have been elected to govern us accountable to us. Without a true accounting government can and does do anything regardless of law or consequence to the electorate. Simple facts with many examples from the history as warnings writ large as to just how terrible things can become when law is used as a shuttlecock in a game where the winner takes all and the losers get nothing.

All governments have by their very establishment an enormity of power which they can use or abuse. Without an effective and independent means of scrutiny and control of government expenditures, or an effective opposition within the Parliament itself then it is almost a predictive inevitability that in time we will not be able to prevent the events as described in the Commission of Inquiry into Mount Murray happening again, and again.

Nor, will we be able to prevent private individuals or private business from taking control of the reins of Government out of the elected representatives of the people as we have formerly witnessed, to create political policies that benefits them at the expense of the people, or to corrupt the very workings of Government for personal gain.

It is my sincerest wish and hope that this opportunity to make right the deficiencies that have been identified and described, and to reform and strengthen our Democratic systems of Government will be embraced and implemented.

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/offices/cabinet-office/information-archive/mount-murray-report-part-two/>

<http://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/resources/how-corrupt-britain>

Public Accounts Committee - our role United Kingdom.

The Committee of Public Accounts is appointed by the House of Commons to examine:

"the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted to Parliament to meet the public expenditure, and of such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit" (Standing Order No 148).

The Committee's remit: This Committee scrutinises the value for money - the economy, efficiency and effectiveness - of public spending and generally holds the government and its civil servants to account for the delivery of public services.

As delivery models for public services have changed, so the reach of the Committee, in following the taxpayer's pound, has spread beyond government departments to also examine public bodies and private companies providing public services.

What the Committee does not do

The Committee looks at how rather than why public money has been spent and does not examine the merits of Government policy. That role is performed by the relevant Departmental Select Committee.

The Committee does not look at the spending of individual local authorities, police forces or other local bodies. That role is performed by the relevant local auditor and/or elected scrutiny body.

The Committee cannot assist in resolving individual cases. That is the role of constituency MPs.

<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/committee/PAC/Pages/default.aspx>

Committee Remit Isle of Man.

Tynwald Standing Orders

1. There shall be a Standing Committee of the Court on Public Accounts.
2. The Committee shall have –
 - (a) a Chairman elected by Tynwald,
 - (b) a Vice-Chairman elected by Tynwald,
 - (c) three other Members, who shall be Chairman of each of the Policy Review Committees (ex officio).
3. Members of Tynwald shall not be eligible for membership of the Committee, if, for the time being, they hold any of the following offices: President of Tynwald, member of the Council of Ministers, member of the Treasury Department referred to in section 1(2)(b) of the Government Departments Act 1987.
4. The Committee shall –
 - (a) (i) consider any papers on public expenditure and estimates presented to Tynwald as may seem fit to the Committee;
 - (ii) examine the form of any papers on public expenditure and estimates presented to Tynwald as may seem fit to the Committee;
 - (iii) consider any financial matter relating to a Government Department or statutory body as may seem fit to the Committee;
 - (iv) consider such matters as the Committee may think fit in order to scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of Government policy; and

(v) lay an Annual Report before Tynwald at each October sitting and any other reports as the Committee may think fit.

(b) be authorised to require the attendance of Ministers for the purpose of assisting the Committee in the consideration of its terms of reference.

(c) be empowered to issue directions to Policy Review Committees under Standing Order 5.6(3), provided that any direction so issued shall be reported to Tynwald within a year.

5. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and any member of the Committee shall not sit when the accounts of any body of which that person is a member are being considered.

The community will not be making representations to yourself about the fundamental differences of how Tynwald should operate. That form was not purely unique to the Isle of Man, but throughout the Nordic and Celtic nations.

The fundamental that Tynwald had about it being on an equal basis, and that those at the top 'serve' instead of the British establishment where they expect everyone to 'serve' them. This system has long disappeared out of the structures of what we see today as a modern Tynwald.

There is a desperate need for checks and balances about the balance of power, which were brought about through the systems of Government in the United Kingdom and other jurisdictions. The way I describe the institutional corruption on the Island is based on 'thiefdom' – not like it was in Ulster where it was based on sectarianism, luckily those battles are over.

The concept of a Tynwald system of Government works on totally different value which are at odds with what we have seen with many in public life, so there is a need for fundamental changes.

Particularly when you realise the total lack of transparency and the amount of spending power which Government has to use a political weapon to silence or bankrupt people – this has to change in the future.

The ridiculous situation recently where I couldn't put questions down about the scandalous conflict where the Public Accounts Committee could not do their job without putting a motion down in Tynwald. Whilst I can take some pleasure at being at the forefront of getting rid of some of the absurdities of the membership of the Public Accounts Committee, but we are a long way from getting to a point where we can actually have a 'worthy' Public Accounts Committee in a modern functioning democracy.

I was not allowed to ask questions about a sitting Committee, even though the results would have been seen as a public scandal because of the horrendous issues of conflict, and the only way I could expose this was by putting a Motion to Tynwald.

What is also very saddening is that one of 'establishment' told me afterwards "we know you're right, but we couldn't let you win". It is dishonesty and 'party system' which works within, we have recently seen that we can have the absurdity of a fresh mandate by the Honourable Member for North Douglas made null and void because of quango Committee which is within its own greenhouse, and therefore has the audacity to nullify the democratic votes of the people of North Douglas – this has to be sorted out. It is yet another piece of armoury for this dishonest, one party state by patronage system of Government which has been allowed to develop on the back of the present Tynwald system.

I find it incredible that the present situation of the elected Member for North Douglas is more or less because he has fallen out of favour with establishment and is not now seen as one of their mouth pieces, he is has now fallen victim of this squalid and undemocratic process.

One of the problems with the present system – as to how a Manx Celtic Tynwald should operate under a total different power structure and not the way it is, which some would call a stateless parliament. I believe that we have lost any ability to think of unique ways for check and balances to be put into practice, and that is why we have got to re-balance the audit into the system. I have been described as the 'hereditary opposition', because of the years of hard work I have put into trying to bring out about checks and balances.

There are now more journalists working for the Manx Government than in the media! No wonder we have lost the independent audit and the ability to hold the 'Executive' to account. That is why when I was a member of the executive Committee of the CPA I was very keen on trying to get a young Manx journalist to visit another Commonwealth country to see the pressures and responsibilities that the media are under.

So with the wilful lack of resources throughout, it all goes to show and helps to augment the dishonest status quo, which claims to be independence working for the common good individually.

There have been long and hard battles to try to change the ridiculous policy whereby Departments of Government cannot prosecute one another, which has now been won, but alas I do feel that it is creeping back to 'postcode justice'.

An issue which I would like you to discuss is secondary legislation and the absurdity of how the executive can do this without public debate.

As a member of the Tynwald Management Committee, it horrifies me to see the utter trivia they deal with when fundamental issues such as good service for Members is not seen as a priority – it is just another extension of the ‘club’ and the what we have allowed to develop. Serious issues are not being addressed on ? issues for Tynwald

An Ombudsman service has to be addressed – form outside the Island. Anyone who is an expert on everything is either a liar or an idiot, and we don’t want another little sweetener by executive government to be given enhanced pay.

The Manx have a saying – “a little by little it will get better”, and to be fair things have improved, but the changes to bring in the good systems of structure for Tynwald has to be prioritised further if we are to protect the Island from reverting back to when it was an evil, corrupt little hole, which was administrated at the behest of the British Government and various petty thiefdoms which ran the Island. For anyone who ‘stood up’ to these scandalous ways – they were told, “there is always a boat in the morning”.

I hope that your Commission can now to start to put some of the rungs on the ladder of what people have been fighting for over the last decades.

I wish you will with your endeavours.


Peter Karran - 31st May 2016

Please find attached my submission to the Lord Lisvane Review. In short representative democracy is a diluted form of democracy. It is ineffective at representing the people as evidenced by voter turnout. Further layers of dilution occur in the Isle of Man : MLCs, Bishops, block voting and Chief Minister is not elected by the people. A more direct form of democracy is required to restore real democracy.

Many thanks,


Juan Kelly

Democracy
Where did we go wrong?




Freedom

- The quality or state of being free: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action
- If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom
Somerset Maugham
- Freedom is 'the raison d'être of politics'
- Freedom and democracy should trump everything else
- Authority of a state and its government is created and sustained by the consent of its people



The Evolution of Freedom

- **Monarchy**
 - Simon de Montfort and the Great Parliament of 1265
 - The French and American revolutions
- **Representative democracy**
 - Bill of Rights 1689
- **Direct democracy**
 - Back to the future



Representative Democracy (1)

- This is democracy in diluted form and is fraught with problems

1. You have given your power to someone else
2. Policy bundling – issues need to be considered individually and not bundled together. Supermarkets don't bundle!
3. Time – representatives manifestos are stuck to election dates. How is a mandate refreshed when circumstances change?
4. Lobbying – unequal access to representatives
5. Agency theory – conflicts of interest
6. Party politics – loyalty to the people or the party?

Representative Democracy (2)

1. Over 75% of people feel they have little or no power between elections and over half of people feel they have no influence over what the UK government does
2. Only 25% of people trust MPs
3. Only 14% of people think MPs are in touch with public concerns
4. Only 17% of the UK electorate have confidence in Parliament
5. Princeton University study: 'The preferences of the average American appear to have only a miniscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy'



Direct Democracy

• A democracy in which the power to govern lies in the hands of the people. Citizens have a large degree of participation in the legislation process political self-determination.

1. **Recall** – citizens' power to remove a representative (subject to threshold)
2. **Citizens' initiative** – requires parliament to debate and propose policy subject to referendum
3. **Referenda** – required for fundamental changes (constitution) or as result of citizens' initiative



Direct Democracy

Never been done before !

- Athens 5,000 BC
- Switzerland - Old Swiss Confederacy in 1291
- Power of recall exists in 30 countries across 5 continents including the UK, Canada, Germany, Poland, Japan, India, South Korea, Costa Rica, Taiwan, Mexico, Argentina, Peru and Ecuador.
- Jury system



"This really is an innovative approach, but I'm afraid we can't consider it. It's never been done before"

Direct Democracy

People aren't interested in politics


- Correct
- People are interested in issues
- Voter apathy is a myth
- The apathy equation:
 $Kv < Bv$
- The benefit of voting must outweigh the cost of voting



Direct Democracy

People aren't qualified to make important decisions


- *National Careers Service Job profiles*
 - **MP** you must be at least 18, and be a citizen of Britain, a Commonwealth country or the Republic of Ireland
 - Trainee in a **bakery** without any specific qualifications. Some employers might ask for GCSEs in English, maths or food technology
 - **Pharmacist** you will need to complete a five-year programme of education and training. This includes a four-year Master of Pharmacy degree and a one-year pre-registration training course in a pharmacy



Direct Democracy


People don't have the time to get involved

- In practice, direct democracy is about returning power to citizens when they want it
- Government still governs
- Information is widely available



Direct Democracy

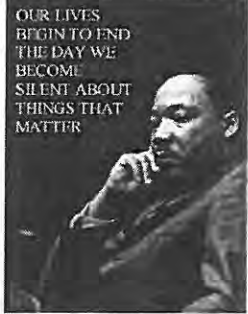
- '...MPs must not be left vulnerable to *attack* [emphasis added] from those who simply disagree with them or think that they should have voted a different way on a particular measure' *Nick Clegg MP*
- The recall mechanism is 'an intrinsic corruption of our democracy' *Geraint Davies MP*



Direct Democracy

Change is up to you

- Change doesn't happen by itself
- If you want to see the system change you are going to have to change it



Michelle

I am sorry to be missing the Clerks' follow-up session with Lord Lisvane later this week. Instead I would like to submit the attached items of written evidence which he might like to discuss with my colleagues.

The first item is a presentation I prepared for a clerks' conference in September 2011, at the point where our current array of Standing Committees had been designed and approved but had not yet come into operation. I would draw attention in particular to the quotation which I have included from Eddie Lowey MLC (slide 7) illustrating his ability to operate simultaneously as a Member of a Department and a member of a parliamentary committee commenting on the work of that Department. Colleagues from legislatures dominated by political parties are always surprised by this aspect of Manx parliamentary tradition. All I would say is that it seems to work.

The second item is an updated version of the table in the Report of the Select Committee to Review the Committee System (PP 2015/0149), pages 27 to 28. Now that we are six months closer to the 2016 General Election we can start to compare very nearly all the 2011-2016 term with the preceding term.

The review Committee was already able to see that the amount of committee work had increased (paragraph 21 of its report). The updated figures show that that the increase is greater than previously thought. This has coincided with a reduction in the number of people with the word "Clerk" in their job title (from five when I was appointed to three today). But there has not necessarily been a reduction in resources available to Committees, since we have made better use of other people, in providing services directly to Committees (the two interns) and in taking work off the Clerks' shoulders and enabling us – well me, anyway – to spend a lot more time on Committees.

One of the possible outcomes of the 2011 reforms, which some people thought might be a good thing, was to promote a shift from a habit of setting up Select Committees all the time towards a situation where matters of concern might be more likely to be picked up by an appropriate Standing Committee. This does appear to have happened, with the proportion of reports produced by Select Committees having fallen from 51.4 per cent under the old system to 38.6 per cent now.

Jonathan

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000196



Parliamentary scrutiny of the executive: recent developments in the Isle of Man

Jonathan King

23 September 2011

1



Manx parliamentary system: “government by consensus”

- 24 Members of the House of Keys
- 8 elected Members of the Legislative Council
- 3 other Members of the Legislative Council

- 2 presiding officers

- 1 Chief Minister
- 9 Ministers
- c25 Members of Departments
- 6 other remunerated executive roles



Collective responsibility within CoMin; and within, but not
between, Departments

2



Usually something like this happens...

Tynwald voting reports (12 July 2011)	
Item 9 Clagh Vane redevelopment	
In the Keys	
For: 20	Against: 2
In the Council	
For: 8	Against: 0
Those who voted for:	Those who voted against:
Mr Quirk Mr Earnshaw Mr Brown Mr Anderson Mrs Craine Mr Bell Mr Quayle Mr Teare Mr Curran Mr Crippen Mr Henderson Mr Maloney Mr Roberts-Law Mr Cookall Mr Sharnon Mr Cooney Mr Waldman Mr Gavne Mr Gill Mr Speaker Mr Callister Mr Crowe Mr Dowds Lord Bishop Mr Lowrey Mr Butt Mr Turner Mr Braddwood	Mr Jernin Mr Crookall

3



But this can also happen...

Tynwald Voting Reports

195711 item 21 OFT Constitution Order (13 July 2011)

In Keys	
For: 11	Against: 13
In Council	
For: 3	Against: 5
Those who voted for:	Those who voted against:
Mr Earnshaw Mr Callister Mr Brown Mr Anderson Mrs Craine Mr Bell Mr Quayle Mr Teare Mr Sharnon Mr Cooney Mr Gavne Mr Crowe Lord Bishop Mr Butt	Mr Quirk Mr Crookall Mr Callister Mr Curran Mr Houghton Mr Henderson Mr Maloney Mr Roberts-Law Mrs Carruthers Mr Cookall Mr Waldman Mr Gill Mr Speaker Mr Callister Mr Dowds Mr Lowrey Mr Turner Mr Braddwood

4



Committee scrutiny as at April 2010

Standing	Select
PAC	Manx Electricity Authority [procurement of power station/financial impropriety]
Constitutional Matters	Crossag Farm [land contract/financial risk/misreporting to Tynwald]
Economic Initiatives	Whittaker [legal aid for challenging public authorities]
Scrutiny	Spadoni [safety of fishing vessels/ compensation] Advertising in the countryside Legal aid in family matters Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander [banking collapse] Television licence fee

5



How do they do it?



"Crossag" model – Department A scrutinised by Members of Departments B, C and D

PAC approach – rule against scrutinising own Department

KSF example – member left Committee when appointed to Department

Some topics (immigration, legal aid) not directly under Ministerial control in any case

6



Some Members are highly adept at wearing two hats at the same time

Scrutiny Committee recommendation – that reference continue to be made in the annual Tynwald Policy Decisions Report to progress in implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People, until such times as all the recommendations have been implemented or, with the leave of Tynwald, rejected. (PP49/09)

Mr E G Lowey MLC was a member both of the Committee which put the recommendation to Tynwald and of the Department of Education, to which the recommendation was primarily addressed.

Mr Lowey: ... it is a privilege for me to be on the Education Department and I am also privileged to be on the childcare committee, so I am contaminated with Government and I know the work that we are doing and the Ministers – in particular of Home Affairs, Social Security and Education – in pursuing that very difficult job of getting childcare right for the Isle of Man. I do know the timescales. All we are really saying to Government, is, in your thinking, please bear in mind that self regulation is fine to a degree, but we do firmly believe that we need to have external examination of what we are doing. (22 April 2009)

7



Committees do not always get their way...

Scrutiny Committee recommendation – that reference continue to be made in the annual Tynwald Policy Decisions Report to progress in implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People, until such times as all the recommendations have been implemented or, with the leave of Tynwald, rejected. (PP49/09)

Amendment moved by the Chief Minister:

To delete all of the words after "made in the" and insert: "Government's Annual Report on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People."

Court divided
Amendment carried 15-8 and 7-2

22 April 2009

8

000200



... and yet overall the system seems to work

- Concerns are aired, views heard and conclusions reached
- Difficult questions are asked of Ministers and officials
- Influence of Committees can be seen on Government policy
- Potential for scrutiny tomorrow influences executive behaviour today – probably
- Scrutiny system *per se* not an election issue



Examples of policy areas influenced by Committees (according to PP167/10)

- Ministerial system
- establishment of PAC
- Auditor General and ombudsman
- public sector pensions
- immigration
- legal aid
- health service complaints
- police complaints
- registered buildings
- planning system
- local government
- rural advertising

9



Weaknesses identified (PP167/10)

- Errors not prevented
- Lack of time to think
- Inconsistent approaches to pre-decision scrutiny within Departments
- Ambivalence towards the scrutiny of policy-making
- Lack of comprehensive coverage
- Lack of specialism of Committee Members
- Influence of executive government over which investigations are undertaken



10

000201



Changes debated in 2010 and 2011

April 2010	Restructuring of Government Departments takes effect
June 2010	Juan Watterson MHK's proposals for a Committee system relating to the work of Departments published
July 2010	Select Committee on the Committee System established
January 2011	Select Committee's recommendations debated and agreed in principle
May 2011	Detailed Committee remits written into Standing Orders. New remuneration arrangements agreed and Treasury instructed to bring forward the necessary secondary legislation.
July 2011	Secondary legislation proposed by Treasury (in line with May resolution) rejected.

11



Committee scrutiny as at October 2011

Standing	Select
PAC (formed of the Chairs of the three Policy Review Committees plus two other Members)	Manx Electricity Authority [public procurement]
Economic Committee (a Policy Review Committee)	
Environment and Infrastructure Committee (a Policy Review Committee)	
Social Affairs Committee (a Policy Review Committee)	

12

000202



Workload and staffing, 2006 to 2011



- 38 reports
- £84,000 expenditure on specialist assistance
- 4.5 FTE clerks, reduced to 3.5 FTE from Sept 09
- 5 administrators
- With the exception of the 0.5 clerk, all staff have other roles in addition to scrutiny, e.g. Chamber duties, other Committees, ceremonial and events, management

13



Known unknowns

- How many Committees will exist?
- How many concurrent investigations will a Standing Committee run?
- How often will a Committee meet?
- How many sources of evidence will an investigation call for?
- How voluminous and how complex will the evidence be?
- What kind of use will be made of specialist advice?
- How soon will a Committee need a draft report?
- How many iterations will a draft go through?



14

LIST OF REPORTS SINCE NOVEMBER 2006

Bold text denotes Select Committee report

Date shown is month report written, not month of debate

List excludes Bill Committees, PAC annual reports and "domestic" Committees including Standards, Emoluments, Honours, Tynwald Management.

2006 to 2011		2011 to 2016	
Jul-07	Economic Initiatives Annual Report	Mar-12	PAC: IT Projects and Support
Jun-07	Manx Workshop for the Disabled		
Dec-07	PAC: Ice Mann	Oct-12	Local Authorities: Members' Interests (Petition)
Dec-07	Scrutiny Committee Annual Report	Oct-12	PAC Bus ticketing
Mar-08	Poacher's Pocket	Oct-12	EPRC: Legal Professional Privilege
May-08	Immigration	Nov-12	Kirk Michael School Land Exchange
Jul-08	Economic Initiatives Annual Report	Jan-13	SAPRC: Pupil Database
		Feb-13	Manx Electricity Authority
		Apr-13	PAC: Commercialisation of the TT
		May-13	PAC: Handling of Dr Hoehmann
		May-13	EPRC: Progress with Inquiries
		Jul-13	SAPRC: Pupil Database: Supplementary
		Sep-13	EPRC: Open Skies
Nov-08	Steam Packet Company	Oct-13	ENVI: Progress with Inquiries
Dec-08	Immigration	Nov-13	EPRC: Support for the Sefton Group
Apr-09	Scrutiny Committee Annual Report	Nov-13	SAPRC: Breast Care
May-09	PAC: Reserve Funds	Dec-13	SAPRC: Pupil Database: Further Supplementary
May-09	Constitutional Matters	Apr-14	ENVI: Countryside Care
May-09	Braddan Parish Commissioners	Feb-14	Kirk Michael School Land Exchange 2
Jun-09	PAC: Neil Kinrade	Feb-14	SAPRC: Pre-School Education
Jul-09	Economic Initiatives Annual Report	Feb-14	Public Service Broadcasting
Jul-09	Steam Packet Company	Mar-14	PAC: Visitor Accommodation Online Booking

		Jun-14	PAC: Expenditure on Consultancy (Ci65)
		Aug-14	EPRC: Damages (Personal Injury)
		Sep-14	Domestic Rating System (Petition)
		Sep-14	Care and Upbringing of Children (Petition)
Oct-09	PAC: Fines collection	Oct-14	Towed Caravans
Nov-09	Petition for Redress of Donald Whittaker	Feb-15	ENVI: Peel Road and Finch Road
Apr-10	PAC: Forward purchase of euros	Feb-15	Building Regulations Etc (Petition)
Apr-10	Constitutional Matters	Mar-15	SAPRC: Over-referral and Under-Preparedness
Apr-10	Spadoni (Petition)		
May-10	Advertising in the Countryside		
Jun-10	Scrutiny Committee Annual Report		
Jun-10	Economic Initiatives – Cttee structures		
Jul-10	Economic Initiatives Annual Report		
Jul-10	Legal Aid in Family Matters 1 (Petition of Broad)		
Jul-10	Television Licence Fee		
Oct-10	Economic Initiatives – cruise ships	Nov-15	Committee System
Oct-10	Legal Aid in Family Matters 2 (Petition of Smith)	Dec-15	PAC: Procurement of Dredging at Peel and Related Services
Nov-10	Crossag Farm	Mar-16	Animal Welfare (Petition)
Dec-10	Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander	Apr-16	First Time Buyer Arrangements at Harcroft Meadow (Petition)
Jan-11	Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander	Apr-16	SAPRC: Social Care Procurement
Dec-10	Committee System	Apr-16	Registration of Land (Petition)
Apr-11	Service Charges (Petition)	May-16	ENVI: Statutory Procedure for Complaints Against Local Authorities
Jun-11	PAC: Annual "BEAR" Process	May-16	Planning and Building Control (Petition)
Jul-11	PAC: Corporate Leadership Group		
Jul-11	Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander		<i>Unpublished as at 1/6/2016</i>
		May-16	<i>SAPRC: Progress with Inquiries</i>
		May-16	<i>SAPRC: Children and Families Services</i>
		May-16	Operation of the Jury System
		Jun-16	<i>ENVI: Dredging at Peel</i>

Jun-16 ENVI: Handover Report
Jun-16 Funding of Nursing and Residential Care

Jun-16 Civil Legal Proceedings

Total number of reports 37
 Reports by Select Committees 19
of which Petition Committees 5

 Select Committee reports as percent of all reports 51.4

Total number of reports 44
 Reports by Select Committees 17
of which Petition Committees 8

 Select Committee reports as percent of all reports 38.6

Review of the Functioning of the Branches of Tynwald - Submission to Lord Lisvane

by Tristram C. Llewellyn Jones

1. I have lived in the Isle of Man since 2005 and have campaigned on a range of civil liberties issues relating to personal privacy and the use of data by public authorities. This has included writing submissions to public consultations and giving evidence in public and in camera to Tynwald select Committees. The purpose of this submission is to highlight the complex issues involved in scrutinising, and correcting public policy in the Isle of Man when that policy goes wrong.
2. A particular focus of my campaigning has been the impact of the policies and working practices of the Children & Families Social Services division on local families. I have had a lengthy correspondence on this issue with my MHK Mr Steven Rodan, Speaker of the House of Keys, and have made seven written submissions to the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee (SAPRC) and have twice given evidence to them in camera. The purpose of this submission is to highlight the work of the Tynwald SAPRC who chose to investigate my concerns.
3. A significant, and seemingly intractable, political issue has been the legality of child protection legislation and the lack of statutory vires to collect sensitive and personal data on children. Allied to this is the lack of any statutory complaints process to enable families who encounter problems with Children's and Families Social Services to seek redress. The detailed background to these concerns is as follows:
4. In 2010 the Isle of Man launched a public consultation on its proposed Children Bill 2010 consultation¹ which contained contentious legislation to introduce a very broad, statutory remit to override parental consent to compulsorily intervene in a child's life. The statutory child protection threshold of '*a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm*' was to be broadened out to include 5 new statutory outcomes: '*Being healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a positive contribution and Economic well-being*' based on New Labour's Every Child Matters (ECM) policy. Also proposed was a universal database flagging all children not meeting the 5 outcomes together with statutory information sharing information between public authorities. This would allow compulsory intervention for a threshold as low as a concern that a child apparently might not be '*enjoying*' life.
5. After extensively researching the ECM policy I gave 4 public presentations² in the Isle of Man to stimulate interest in the public consultation and also gave a private presentation to the Minister for Education & Children. There were 76 responses to the consultation and, as a result of public opposition, the Government withdrew the Children Bill³. The public were concerned with two main issues arising with the ECM policy. Firstly, Government had not justified a case for universal surveillance of children. I.e. evidence was not produced to convince the public that there were systemic problems with local children and families requiring a broad interventionist policy. Secondly, the public were concerned about harmful intrusion into family life that might result from the policy.
6. Despite withdrawing the Children Bill, the Government proceeded, ultra vires, with the ECM policy⁴.
7. As a campaigner I gained a public profile in the sphere of issues with children & public authorities. In the years following the introduction of ECM a number of parents contacted me, often via intermediaries, to tell me of their experiences arising from the policy. Being neither a civil servant (seeking public money) nor a politician (seeking votes) I became entrusted with some very sensitive and personal information.

1 **Children Bill 2010, Isle of Man Government, February 2012**
www.gov.im/lib/docs/education/consultations/childrenbill.pdf

2 **'Should They Tell You How to Raise Your Child', Positive Action Group, Isle of Man, March 2010**
http://positiveactiongroup.org/index.php?option=com_attachments&task=download&id=42

3 **Children's bill axed after public opposition, BBC News, 28 April 2011**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-13229074>

4 **Service integration reaches the Isle of Man, Children & Young People 'Now', 19 December 2007**
<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1041153/service-integration-reaches-isle-man>

Simon Griffin, director of social policy in the island's Department of Home Affairs, said: "We've lifted all the principles of the Every Child Matters agenda and are now drawing up a children's plan and forming working groups to work out how best to integrate our services."

8. It became apparent to me that the ECM policy was falling prey to the law of unintended consequences in that a policy which was seeking to help children was, in fact, causing great distress and damage to families and children due to the working practices employed in the investigations.
9. The parents who contacted me were unable to seek redress for their experiences at the hands of Isle of Man public servants. There is no statutory complaints process and no ombudsman in the Isle of Man. I was unable to direct these families to any form of help. A significant issue being that, without exception, all of these families were far too frightened to reveal their identity either by their names or by their circumstances which, in this very small, close knit community, would easily identify them to the authorities.
10. I therefore decided to lobby my MHK, Mr Steve Rodan, with the aim of seeking change to the overall children's policy. I had already supplied Mr Rodan with a lot of information on issues relating to electronic data gathering. A particular focus was the legality of an information database run by the Department for Education and Children.
11. From 2012 I started writing to Mr Rodan regarding the concerns from parents. Initially I related the concerns as policy issues since the personal issues I was becoming aware of were entirely in confidence. Mr Rodan's assistance with the overall issue was exemplary and, over several years, he asked many Tynwald questions about children's services, enabling a detailed statistical picture of the operation to be constructed.
12. Analysis of Government documentation, Tynwald records and the information gained from Mr Rodan's written Tynwald questions show how the policy causes over referral to children's social services, staff turnover and increased expenditure as follows:
13. First indications that ECM was causing problems were in July 2011 when the Government had to ask the Tynwald for £498,000 additional funding for a further 10 children's social workers. The Minister stated⁵ that due to new policies *'workloads for new cases and for support to the Courts have risen by approximately 500% in the last year'*. Fierce debate ensued in Tynwald⁶ and a back bench politician complained of the *'damage inflicted on the lives of a number of children and families during the time the (children's social) service has been dysfunctional'*. He raised concern about the *'massive increase in referrals'* to children's social services.
14. Tynwald was told that⁷ referrals to children social services had increased as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Increase</u>
A log of a concern re a child or children from an agency or member of the public	20%
A contact resulting in a referral to Social Services	497%
A referral warranting a more detailed investigation	1560%
An Initial Assessment warranting a more detailed investigation	560%

And referrals were elevated to enquiries for 2010/11 as follows⁸ :

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Referrals to children's social care	959
Child abuse enquiries	26
Child identified as being in need	210
Entries on the child protection register	60
False referrals (959-(210+60))	689

5 **Children's and Families - Social Care Press Release, Isle of Man Government, July 2011**
<http://www.gov.im/Infocentre/ViewNews.gov?page=lib/news/socialcare/childrenandfamil1.xml&menuid=10160>

6 **Tynwald Hansard, 11th July 2011, line 6085**
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/hansard/20002020/th110712.pdf>

7 **Department for Social Care, Isle of Man Government, Information in support of the case for additional resources for Children & Families Services, 29 June 2011**

8 **Tynwald Hansard, Written answer 37, 'Children and Families Social '16 October 2012**
<http://cots6.tynwald.org.im:47851/business/OPHansardIndex1114/1107.pdf#search=social>

15. The statistics were startling because there are just under 1000 children born per year in the Isle of Man. So, with circa 959 referrals to children's social services per year, it is likely that most children will be the subject of a referral before they are 18 – with at least 70% of the referrals being utterly unnecessary. In plain terms, nearly three quarters of all children will be the subject of intrusive enquires by social services at some stage in their childhood. This hugely intrusive policy is a direct consequence of over broad referral criteria.
16. A further adverse consequence of ECM is the high turnover of social workers. Such a high rate of referral caused the system to become overloaded. Statistics⁹ showed that, in addition to recruiting an extra 10 social workers to handle extra case loads, children's social services then spent £2,027,538 employing a further 51 locum social workers after ECM was introduced. 28 of these locums failed to complete their employment. Such a high turnover of staff does indicate a problem within the system. Quite simply, the over referral to children's social services needlessly caused the service to become overstretched without any increase in the average number of child protection cases.
17. National child protection statistics in the Isle of Man are similar to those in England. There are an average 38 children per 10,000 on the child protection register in England¹⁰ and 35 per 10,000 in the Isle of Man.
18. In accordance with ECM dogma the core advice¹¹ to public authorities in the Isle of Man is *'The rule must always be 'if in doubt – refer' to Social Services.'* Thus the onus was on staff in public authorities to reduce their individual liability by elevating any concern to further enquiry without attempting to offer local help.
19. Broadly, the settled position in Britain is that the threshold for compulsory intervention, and breach of family privacy, is when a child is at *'risk of, or suffering from, significant harm'*. Policing that necessary threshold, on its own, is fraught with difficulty.
20. Compulsory child protection assessments are not legal under the Human Rights and and Data Protection Acts if the available evidence does not meet the statutory threshold. The Haringey case law Judgement¹² found that Article 8 was breached when a public authority commenced investigations into a family before the *'significant harm'* threshold had been reached.
21. Analysis of the child protection statistics revealed by Mr Rodan's questions gives figures for the referrals to children and families social services since ECM was introduced as follows:

2008 –	34 children subject to a child protection plan.
2009 –	42 children subject to a child protection plan.
2009 –	51 children subject to a child protection plan. ¹³
2010 / 2011 -	895 referrals, 55 new child protection cases.
2011 / 2012 -	959 referrals, 48 new child protection plans.
2012 / 2013 -	729 referrals, 45 new child protection plans.
2013 / 2014 -	1385 referrals, 24 new child protection plans.
2014 / 2015 -	<u>795 referrals.</u> <u>38 new child protection plans.</u>
Totals:	4763 referrals, 210 new child protection plans.

9 Tynwald Hansard, Written answer 27, 18 June 2013
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/hansard/20002020/Written%20Answers%20June13.pdf>

10 Characteristics of Children in Need, Department for Education, 30 October 2012
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/167406/sfr27-2012v4.pdf

11 Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures, Isle of Man Safeguarding Children Board, 23 April 2010, page 13 para 1.16
www.gov.im/lib/docs/socialcare/.../scbinteragencychildprotection.pdf

12 England and Wales High Court (Administrative Court) Decisions, AB & Anor, R (on the application of) v The London Borough of Haringey [2013] EWHC 416 (Admin) (13 March 2013)
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2013/416.html>

13 Tynwald Written Answer No 11, 18 October 2011

22. The ECM policy was supposed to aid the detection and prevention of child abuse. However, the figures show that, after the introduction of ECM in 2010, the average number of child protection plans remained broadly the same. However, the figures also show that a significant proportion of local families became needlessly subject to investigations by children and families social services.
23. The intrusion created by the policy, which was what the public were concerned about when they rejected ECM in the public consultation, was utterly needless. Some of these families contacted me in order to discuss their experiences and explain their frustration at the lack of any available redress for the upset and trauma of the needless referrals and investigations.
24. From 2012 I made a series of submissions to the SAPRC outlining concerns about ECM. The Committee also invited me to explain my concern in two private meetings. Furthermore, they took expert witness evidence from a child psychiatrist working on the Island and from the deputy of the British Association of Social Workers. Their enquires, and cross examinations have been considered and thorough.
25. Giving evidence on 29th June 2015 Ms Maggie Mellon. Vice Chair at the British Association of Social Workers, commented on the issue:

" . . . the increased number of referrals isn't turning up an increased number of children at risk, and in fact the number of child homicides and serious injuries has been fairly flat over 30, 40 or 50 years. So referral and assessment is not actually identifying more children. It is not that for every 1,000 more assessments you have got a consequent rise in the number of children you are protecting, and so that is obviously not an accurate statement to say if it saves one extra child's life. "

26. Giving evidence on 10th September 2015 Dr Foreman, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Nobles Hospital, Isle of Man, commented:

" . . . people are frightened of Social Services, more so than almost any other group, because having your children removed is possibly the worst pain a parent can feel."

However, there has been research on what enables social workers to engage effectively and the results, I am pleased to say, are really simple and common sense. Families are likely to engage with their social workers if three things happen: first, they are seen as competent; second, they communicate positively, not negatively; and thirdly, they come with practical or emotional help at the outset. That seems to engage families. Mrs Mellon has already given very good descriptions of the opposite to those approaches, as in 'It is entirely voluntary to talk to us but, if not, it will be held against you' – and versions like that, which clearly are not going to work. This is a key professional training issue for social workers to get that right.

There is also – and I think you touch on it elsewhere – a very important public education component which needs to be supported, so the way that the agencies actually behave on the doorstep is adequately communicated, so people can talk about it and feel much more confident that they are going to receive help; and that they understand the statutory duty of social workers is actually to keep children with their families unless all else fails. This is not understood in the community at large: that the social worker's job is to stop the child leaving the family if at all possible, consistent with the safety of the child. That kind of public education could be hugely helpful."

27. Giving evidence on 13th April 2016 Ms Deborah Brayshaw, Director of Children and Families Service, responded: "With regard to Dr Foreman, I would hold him as unqualified and not sufficiently informed to make comment on the referrals of the Department." In reality Dr Foreman¹⁴ is specialised in the 'methodological, ethical and legal aspects of child protection' and is, therefore, well qualified to make his comments, which are obviously unpopular.
28. Giving evidence to the Committee on 13th April 2016 the Speaker posed the question to DHSC Chief Executive Dr Couch: "Is it any wonder that families become very nervous when social workers appear, and refuse to engage or co-operate further because they know of the threat that the child can be taken away?" Dr Couch replied: "from the outset this is a very emotionally charged situation. I do not think any of our officers would be wanting to coerce or intimidate; however, we do need to give certain information"
29. Quite so. It appears there is little, if any, will in the Department to recognise concerns or to initiate investigations on the basis of offering help or keeping families together. The proposal to families is merely one of policing child protection with the threat of a court order for non compliance.
30. On 23 November 2015 the Committee put out a call for evidence¹⁵ for first hand accounts from families who had been in contact with children's social workers. Over 21 adults have since spoken to the Committee who now have detailed information as to what actually happens between social workers and families. This is a ground breaking inquiry. I am not aware of any select Committee within Britain that has gone into this level of detail regarding the working practices of children's social workers.
31. The reason we have these problems is that ECM was the wrong policy for the Isle of Man, was poorly implemented and the workings of the policy were below the radar. The reason it came to light was because of the persistent and forensic questioning by the Speaker over a number of years.
32. Any policy can go wrong. What matters is that we know it is happening and can act to correct the failings. The root cause of the problem is the lack of transparency in Government. Every Child Matters was allowed to operate 'under the radar' for one reason and one reason alone: it was introduced 'ultra vires'. I.e. although the Children Bill was cancelled the policy went ahead.
33. Consequential on this is that the Protecting Children Board lacks statutory vires. Recommendation 29 of the Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People, which inquired into the deaths of two children in care in the Isle of Man in 2004, was that: 'The Inquiry recommends that primary legislation place the Island Child Protection Committee on a statutory basis.' The consequence of not implementing this is that the current Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) is, in effect, no more than an informal committee. It is, however, a very powerful and unaccountable body being responsible for child protection policy.

14 **David Foreman, MB ChB, MRC Psych, FRC Psych, FRCPCH**
<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/socialwork/staffdirectory/davidforeman.aspx>

David Foreman has been awarded a Visiting Professorship by the college for his contribution to both the Centre for Abuse and Trauma on its advisory board, and to the Lifespan Research Group in terms of grant applications involving adolescent experience and methodological issues around measurement. David's research lies in four main areas: methodological, ethical and legal aspects of child protection, especially Factitious Illness and Injury; the use of structured assessment tools to improve the detection and treatment of child psychiatric disorders, especially ADHD; telemedicine; and the Manx cohort of the European Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (MELSPAC). His clinical base on the Isle of Man allows close integration of his service-related research interests and their practical application

15 **Child protection: Tynwald Committee seeks first-hand accounts on confidential basis**
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/about/news/Pages/1563.aspx>

The SAPRC, a Standing Committee of Tynwald, is scrutinising the child protection policy of the Children and Families Social Services Division within the Department of Health and Social Care. The Committee wishes to hear from the public first hand accounts of the working practices of children's social workers. Of interest is the impact on children and families when social workers investigate referrals, and when they process assessments and inquiries. The Committee will not take a view on any individual case and will not liaise with the Department regarding any individual case. The Committee can, however, listen to all witnesses including public sector workers and is willing to do so in complete confidence. This is in order to ensure that the Committee understands what actually happens between social workers and families. This understanding will improve the Committee's ability to scrutinise the implemented policy of the Department in this area. To express an interest in giving evidence, members of the public are invited to contact the Clerk of the Committee using the contact information below.

34. The non statutory Chairman of the Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for child protection policy which is purchased from Tri-x-consultancy Limited who are based in Coventry. Consequential on this situation is that there is no statutory complaints process which would allow transparency when things go wrong. The Chairman is the only individual who, according to the procedures, can operate an informal, and very limited, complaints policy which only applies to complaints about a Child Protection Conference. There is no complaints policy for referrals and initial assessments. Families have literally nowhere to complain to. Hence the big response to the Committee's call for evidence.
35. This also means there is no independent inquiry available in the event of a major failure of child protection policy when, for example, there is a child / parent death. In England, Local Safeguarding Children Boards are legally separated from child protection functions. This means that any inquiry would be conducted by a legally independent body.
36. A proper, legally constituted, system of child protection oversight would, ultimately, ensure that improvements can be made. Not least, a statutory complaints process would ensure unacceptable working practices are exposed.
37. There is a form of complaints process available under the Tynwald Commissioner for Administration Act 2011. However, although the Tynwald Commissioner for Administration Act 2011 was passed by Tynwald the Commissioner has never been appointed. In my view, the Government broke faith with the electorate by not doing this. The appointment of the Commissioner, coupled with creating a statutory Safeguarding Children Board as a listed authority under the Act, would enable a complaints process.
38. External inspections of Children & Families Social Services are currently carried out by the Scottish Care Inspectorate. Again, these inspections are non statutory. Worse, the terms of the inspection are set by the Department itself. This means that areas of concern to the public are left out of the inspection. I.e. the referrals and investigations processes.
39. There is no annual report to Tynwald on the performance of Children and Families Social Services. Tynwald is in receipt of annual reports from bodies like the Information Commissioner and the Surveillance Commissioner. Given the importance of child protection, an annual report from the Safeguarding Children Board and the Department should be a pre requisite. A statutory annual report to Tynwald and would add valuable transparency.
40. All of these issues and injustices flow from the original, apparently unaccountable, error of commissioning a policy without the vires. Departments in the Isle of Man, as in the UK, exist in statute. Therefore all that they do should be underpinned by statute. This is not an isolated case but it is a very significant one in that the policy touches every single family either because the family has been directly affected or because of the fear culture the policy engenders in the wider community. The Isle of Man is a highly networked society and there will be few who do not know of the difficulties caused by contact with Children and Families Social Services.
41. The difficulty with the political system in the Isle of Man is ensuring the available scrutiny systems work to the public good when these problems occur.
42. The SAPRC previously conducted an in depth inquiry into the legality of a centralised pupil information database operated by the Department for Education and Children.¹⁶ In April 2014 Tynwald passed a motion that regulations to make the database legal '*be brought forward without delay*'. By November 2015 it came to light that the database was still in operation – illegally – and that no attempt had been made to raise the required statute. In response to a Tynwald question by the Speaker the Minister apologised for this and, eventually, the required statute was raised.

16 Report: Social Affairs Policy Review Committee First Report 2012-2013: The Centralised Pupil Database - Feb 2013
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/pp/Reports/2013-PP-0016.pdf>

Second Report: The Centralised Pupil Database: Supplementary Report: Jul 2013
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/pp/Reports/2013-PP-0116.pdf>

43. This affair raises a key question about Tynwald's actual authority. What are the actual powers available to the Tynwald? Standing Order 3.11 (8) states that: 'A motion that a Report or other document be accepted and its recommendations approved indicates that its contents are acceptable to the Court and that its recommendations or conclusions are approved and **intended to be implemented.**'
44. An '*intention*' does not have legal force. The Department for Education and Children were found to have ignored a Tynwald motion that regulations '*be brought forward*' to ensure their centralised pupil database was legal. They were eventually forced to comply after political pressure but there was no actual legal compulsion or sanction available to Tynwald for a breach of the law.
45. As I mentioned in para 40 this is not an isolated case. Attached is a Tynwald written answer detailing all the personal information databases held across Government. Many are also non statutory. It took much effort to secure a statute for just one database. There is little likelihood of Government picking up the point that all its activities should be regulated by statute. This is an important issue as a 'Digital Strategy' is being proposed whereby all information is held centrally. Information that, in the first place, has no legal basis.
46. But it is the issue of ultra vires children's policy which is most problematical. There is clearly little will in Government to resolve this. The SAPRC inquiry has been extensive but the time-scale for acting on their findings has slipped until after the general election. If, and when, they bring a motion with recommendations to Tynwald that motion appears to lack legal force. E.g. Tynwald could endorse a recommendation to make the Safeguarding Children Board a statutory body but, if the Department obfuscates on the implementation then Tynwald has no actual power to force the issue. This applies equally to the Tynwald Commissioner for Administration. The Act was passed but never implemented. Where is the power in the Isle of Man to ensure that Government adheres to its own laws? Does Tynwald in fact have the authority to resolve a major problem within the public services?
47. I would be pleased to accept an invitation to give evidence in public on the raised in this paper.
48. In paragraphs 7 – 9 I alluded to the types of problems that families had encountered with Children & Families Social Services. I would not be able to discuss these in public because this a very small, close knit community, and any description of actual cases could very easily lead to individuals being identified. I would like the opportunity to explain the issues in a private meeting. Alternatively, you may like to discuss these with a member of the SAPRC. Committee member Geoffrey Boot MHK recently described the issues they had encountered as '*harrowing*'.¹⁷

Tristram C. Llewellyn Jones – 13th May 2016

17 **Geoffrey Boot MHK for Glenfaba, Children's Social Services, 27th April 2016**
<http://www.geoffreyboot.org/latest-news/>

As regular readers of my blog will know I have for the last five months been involved with the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee (SAPRC) which has been reviewing Children's Social Services in the Isle of Man. It has been a much needed inquiry especially after a few years ago when the new Safe Guarding Regulations were brought in. Referrals to Social Services were running at around 1,000 per year, a rough equivalent to the birth rate. If that had continued then nearly every child born in the Isle of Man would have at some stage been referred to Social Services and this is patently not necessary and very costly. That fortunately is history but there continue to be quite serious allegations against Social Services and the way in which they interact with families and their children.

We have taken evidence in confidence from 21 people over the last few months and some of it is fairly harrowing. I said at the recent oral hearing with Debbie Brayshaw, Director of Children's Social Services, that we have seen some very distressed, disturbed and often frightened people who instead of viewing Social Services as help and care feel intimidated and threatened.

I understand that Social Workers are in a difficult position, they're damned if they do and damned if they don't. I would like to think that the emphasis is now more on the family rather than just safe guarding. It's all very well being ultra cautious but when vulnerable people and children are involved there are often unforeseen consequences and a legacy of mistrust.

As a result of the Tynwald debate on Wednesday 20th April, the matter has once more come to the fore. It seems as though the task is nowhere near complete. We really need to get a handle on this and bottom it out as whilst some of the things that we have heard about are historic, I believe that some practices may still be ongoing.

Ms Brayshaw admitted that there has been a huge churn of staff particularly during the years I refer to earlier when there were simply not enough staff to cope. Staff have been and continue to be bought over from the UK with no or little knowledge of Manx Law and also the social fabric of the island.

Better training is required for new recruits, particularly from the UK and I do hope when we finalise our inquiry there will be some recommendations that the Health Department will be able to implement.

Just thought to update you.

Review of the Functioning of the Branches of Tynwald - Memorandum to Lord Lisvane
by Tristram C. Llewellyn Jones

1. In response to my submission to the Review the following comment was forward to me from the Lord Lisvane via the Attorney General's chambers in an email dated 20 May 2016: *'He has asked me to indicate that he has taken full note of those parts which relate to the way in which the branches of Tynwald function. The other issues which you raise, although serious, are outwith the scope of the Review.'*
2. The purpose of this short memorandum is to comment on *'those parts . . . '*etc.
3. The entire purpose of my submission was to draw attention to the complex range of issues that resulted from the failure of the political system in the Isle of Man to raise a single statute to legally create the Safeguarding Children Board. In para 40 I commented: *'All of these issues and injustices flow from the original, apparently unaccountable, error of commissioning a policy without the vires. Departments in the Isle of Man, as in the UK, exist in statute. Therefore all that they do should be underpinned by statute.'*
4. The lack of a statute for the Department for Education and Children's centralised pupil database also led to an extensive inquiry ¹ by the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee.
5. Attached with my submission was a Tynwald written answer detailing the range of non statutory personal information databases already held by Government. No attempt has been made to raise the statutes to legally underpin the data.
6. Additionally, the Isle of Man Government is developing a Digital Strategy ². Regarding legislation the Strategy comments on page 24:

'We need to think differently in the digital age, challenging historic, complex regulations and legislation.'

This political statement, indifferent to legal requirements, indicates an intent to continue the status quo of unregulated personal information.

7. I listened to the evidence given by HM Acting Attorney General to the Review and noted the discussion about the drafting of statutes. It should be fundamental to Government that all activity is covered by statutory regulation. However, this is not happening in the Isle of Man. The problem is that it is left to the Departments to raise the statutes and, often, they are not inclined to do so.
8. It makes perfect sense for the drafting of statutory regulation to be handed over to the Attorney General's chambers in the first instance. It would also make good sense for the Chambers to review the activities of the Departments in order to see where gaps in legislation exist.
9. The Chambers may need to take on more legislative drafters to undertake this task. This would be a worthwhile cost as the clear benefit would be increased transparency and accountability across Government.

Tristram C. Llewellyn Jones – 2nd June 2016

1 Report: Social Affairs Policy Review Committee First Report 2012-2013: The Centralised Pupil Database - Feb 2013
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/pp/Reports/2013-PP-0015.pdf>

Second Report: The Centralised Pupil Database: Supplementary Report: Jul 2013
<http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/pp/Reports/2013-PP-0116.pdf>

2 Isle of Man Digital Strategy, June 2015
<https://www.gov.im/media/1347695/digital-strategy-01.pdf>

Election of Legislative Council

Capt J S McKenzie

There has been much controversy but little resolution as to how the upper chamber of Tynwald should be elected. However, one clear objective is apparent in that it must be publicly elected in the future – the electoral college route being deemed as anachronistic.

Keys members are jealous of their primary legislative role and are reluctant to sanction any election procedure which lessens their primacy. Council members on the whole do not want constituencies as they feel that they might then become bogged down by local problems.

It might be thought that reform of the Council election procedure, and indeed reform of the Tynwald constitution and procedures as a whole, is unlikely to succeed with so many vested interests. The plethora of possibilities mitigates against progress. Thirty two seats with separation into two houses after the election? Island wide constituency for Council? Eight four seat constituencies with highest (lowest?) votes taking a Council position? etc, etc.

In my opinion there is a straightforward solution to this problem which recognises both the status quo and the desire for popular election and it simply builds on existing procedures.

Any candidate for the Keys has to be proposed, seconded and have a number of assentors to demonstrate that they are serious and have at least nominal support. Their 'paper' is rigorously validated by the Returning Officer before the nomination is accepted and they can move forward to the ballot paper.

What I propose is that any candidate for Council must be proposed, seconded and have a number of assentors from within the Keys before their name can go forward to a public election. The number of assentors would have to be debated and agreed in Tynwald but my feeling is that it should be at least two, making four in all as support for a candidate. Keys members should be able to support more than one candidate but not more than the number of vacancies available on the Council at any election.

The status quo should be maintained without change. The Council is, and should remain as, a revising chamber. The Keys primacy would remain inviolate. The essential change would be that candidates would need not only public support but also that of a proportion of the Keys members with whom they would have to work.

I leave the question of whether Council members should represent an area or the whole Island to others, but my only caveat is that any proposition should avoid a concentration of personnel from any one area of the Island.

Digital inclusion and voting for Legco

Capt Stuart McKenzie

If it is determined that the public should be involved in the election of the Legislative Council then the opportunity to move to on line voting should be seized. It is a stated objective of Tynwald that the future should include more use of IT facilities to enhance communication and lower cost. Of course not everybody is either willing or capable of using a computer for voting so any introduction must cater for what is assuredly now a minority in the Island.

There are many well developed on-line voting systems available and the wheel has very much been invented so it would be the task of ITD to select the best after detailed and destructive security testing. There would be a natural leaning towards the London based Electoral Reform Society but their prominent position attracts very significant fees and there are several other systems with equally strong experience and high security. For example examine the facilities available in the BigPulse.com application which cover the dissemination of manifestos, postal voting STV etc. The cost for 50,000 electors (current 48000+ say 2000 commissioners et al missed off) is only £7,000 for all elections held within 12 months.

Inevitably we would encounter problems but this is an excellent platform to create solutions leading perhaps to the adoption of similar voting opportunities for the Keys in the future. The substantial cost of bye elections, much less a general election, is one area where a substantially reduced cost would be very welcome.

I would be inclined to limit manifestos to a picture and up to two A4 pages of text and to deliver sufficient paper copies to every library and local authority offices on the Island so that those without access to the internet would not be particularly affected.

In respect of digital inclusion I suggest that free awareness classes along the same lines as those provided by the DTI when the internet was in its infancy on the Island should be provided. These were very successful and undoubtedly contributed to the digital take up by non business people. The classes could cover all elements of the on line voting process and familiarise those attending with the process.

It has been shown that the introduction of this revised electoral process has significantly increased turn out and involvement of the electorate – a spin off result to be welcomed.

Bill Malarkey MHK

Lord Lisvane - Review of the functions of Tynwald



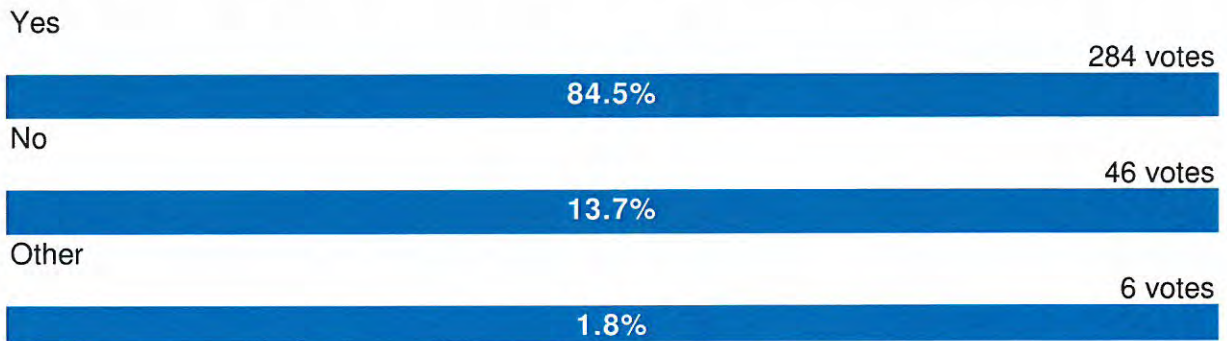
Polls for Pages

(Source: Facebook)

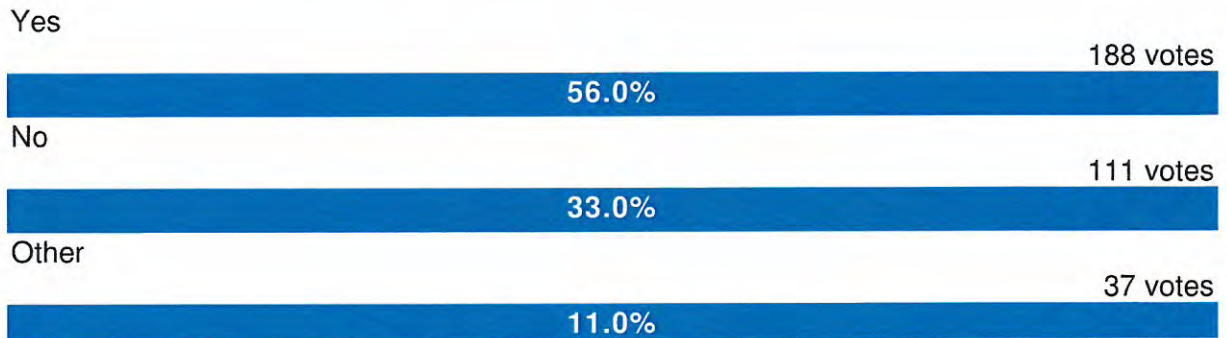
Results

Displaying all 336 answers.

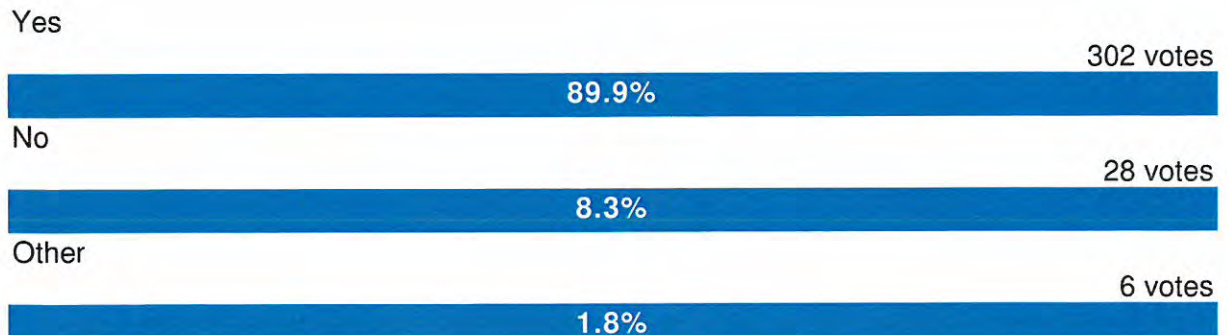
Do you think the present three chamber Tynwald parliament needs to be changed?



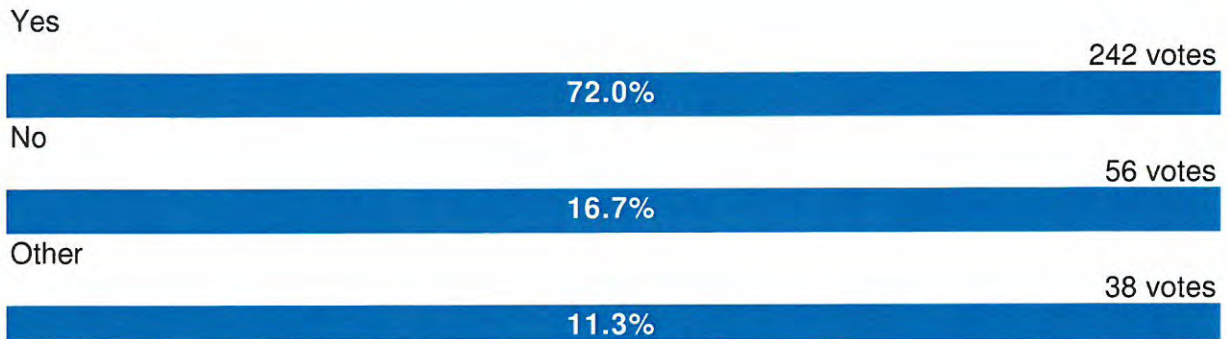
Do you think we should have a one chamber Tynwald parliament where House of Keys and Legislative Council sit together, as one, at all times?



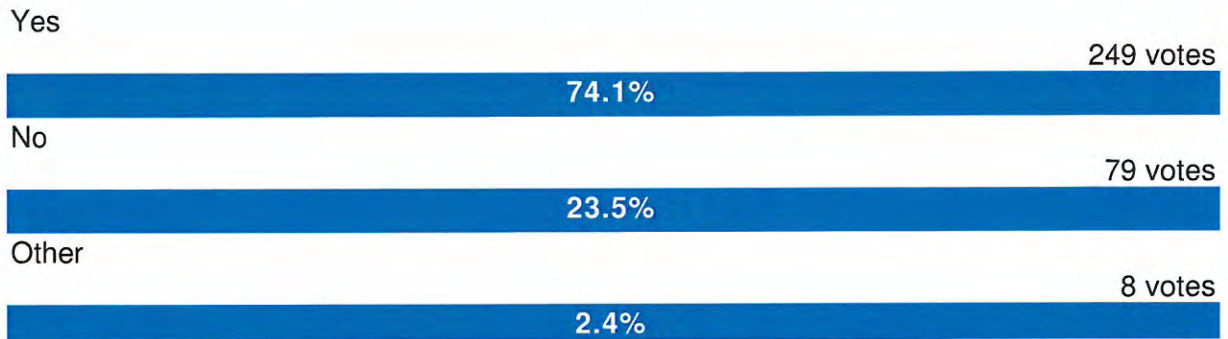
Do you think all members of Tynwald should be elected by the public?



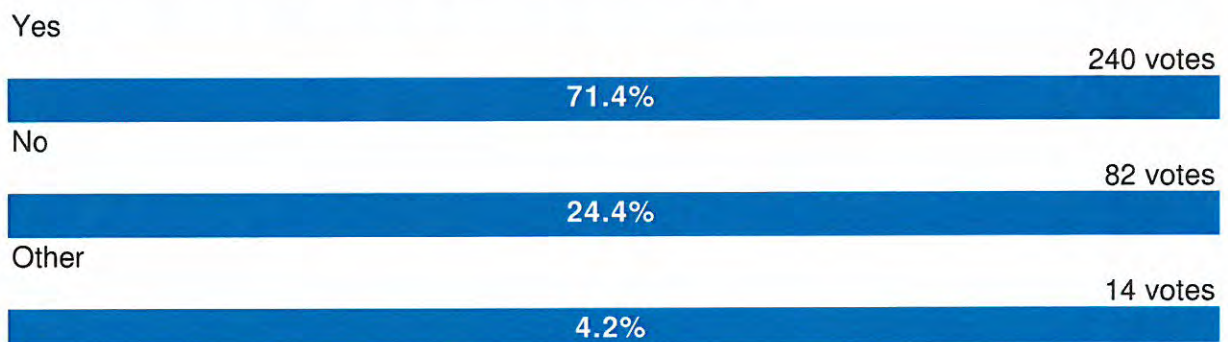
Do you think Legislative Council's role should be that of legislation revision only, without a vote in Tynwald?



Do you think the Chief Minister should be elected by the public?



Do you think there are too many Tynwald Members?



Any other comments

116 answers

- The present system has served the island well for many years. Meddling can have unintended consequences. If it ain't broke don't try to fix it.
- Legco in the present form is morally bankrupt as its anescape route for MHKs who would struggle to be re elected and also serves only as an extended power base for the chief minister
- Local authority reform is also essential . Too many councilors for a small island. Leg co should be advisory only. The Bishop should not have a vote. At the moment the island is run by 9 people who all have to vote the same, dictated to by the chief minister . This is wrong. We can't even have a vote on Europe even though we have to obey all it's rules and regulations . This is due to the arrogance of the chief minister. He is retiring and probably moving off island, so is not bothered!
- I do not believe that any member of any religious denomination should be represented in any of them as they are not elected , as there is a diversity of religions on the Island it is discriminatory to have any religion represented ,if they wish to swear to anything it should be to do the best for the Island and it's people
- I believe the ministerial system should be scrapped to avoid too much power in too few hands. A gang of 5/6. advised by uk heads of departments .NOW!. look up European Communities (Isle of Man Act 1973) implications ! this Government ignores agreements .so the future candidates, from MHK.s to imported UK Civil Servants who have no cultural attachment You can feel the discontent....
- Chief Minister has too much power and can freeze out any MHK who does not tow the line in terms of MINISTERIAL POSITIONS ect.
- I support the abolition of the Legislative Council, and therefore the creation of a unicameral system. While the inclusion of an unelected 'upper house' has a strong historical precedent, many states around the world function without an separate scrutiny chamber and an increasing number have abolished their second chamber in recent years. While the unelected nature of the Legislative Council does allow for certain politically sensitive decisions to be taken during the scrutiny of legislation free from the fear of electoral reprisals, its existence has continually been a source of contention. We have the ability to reform Tynwald in order to suit the needs of the Island and I believe that a unicameral system is our best interests moving forward. With that in mind, I do not believe that there are too many MHKs, as similarly sized jurisdictions operate with a greater number of representatives. That is why I would favour increasing the number of MHKs, perhaps to 30. Members of the public are often against increasing the number of elected officials, but in reality the additional cost would be minimal when compared to overall government expenditure and a small price to pay for effective scrutiny of government policy. If we were to reduce the number of members to 30, the Island would stand to save around £182,000 per annum. We can see in both the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly that the ability of members to provide effective scrutiny is limited by time and workload constraints, particularly in light of the new powers which they have been awarded in recent years. The increased number of MHKs would also allow for a more diverse Committee system, which could be modelled upon those currently in operation in the devolved assemblies of the UK, and would be essential in a unicameral system.

In front loading scrutiny into the legislative process, there will be a greater opportunity for the public to become engaged with legislation and to steer its direction as it moves through the chamber. I believe that the Chief Minister should be elected by the MHKs following an election, rather than elected directly by the public. If the CM was elected by the general public then their mandate would be so great that it would have the potential to detrimentally affect our system of consensus government and create a more 'presidential system'. I would also support reform of the electoral system; it is evident from the disparity in results that our current use of 'First Past the Post' is unstable for multi-member constituencies. I would favour the introduction of Single Transferable Vote (STV) as used in Northern Ireland and the ROI. While the Island did attempt to implement STV during the 1980s and 1990s, miscommunication by the Government and general apathy towards the system by Members saw us move back to FPTP in 1996. However, as we have seen in the devolved assemblies and local government the use of STV does not 'confuse' voters and provides the most proportional and therefore democratic results.

- To many MHK for the size of the island. Think of the saving the island could make by not paying them or their pensions!! Also Make them pay full amounts into their pensions to get full pensions out like everyone else!!
- The Island is "over governed" with too many local councils and MHK's to fit the population.
- Comin needs to be reviewed in particular the collective responsibility and how that translates into votes. In Jan 2016 the quorum of Comin moved from the figure of 6 to "a majority" which means in effect 5 to be quorate. So as few as 3 members could vote in favour and the collective responsibility of ministers and their members means it would have a majority in the house. That in my opinion is not a democracy.
- This was attempted a few weeks ago and failed. This will probably fail as well. Therefore, pointless exercise.
- The amount of MHK's should be down graded to at least half who only deal with local issues. Get rid of MLC s completely and employ TOP international people to make the island desirable to company's around the world and people. We badly need to increase the population to at least 200,000 people living and working here .
- About ten seat government would suffice with modern communication methods.
- With the current and probable future financial problems we can't afford so many layers of government for our population.
- I totally fail to see why the Lord Bishop should be in tynwald at all let alone have a vote
- I support the abolition of the Legislative Council, and therefore the creation of a unicameral system where only the 24 elected MHKs can vote on legislation. I do not think there are too many MHKs, in fact I would favour increasing the number of MHKs, perhaps to 30. People are quick to bemoan the additional cost of extra politician's salaries, but these are a tiny fraction of overall government expenditure and a small price to pay for effective scrutiny of government decisions and well-considered legislation. I think the Chief Minister should be elected by the MHKs following an election, rather than elected directly by the public. I would also support reform of the electoral system. The current First Past the Post system should not really be used in multi-seat constituencies. I would favour the introduction of Single Transferable Vote (STV) as is used in Northern Ireland and the ROI.

- At least half the members, and at least double the pay. This will improve the quality of those standing considerably. One set of commissioners for the public to complain about dog mess to. Don't let mhks get caught up in local complaints.
- Why change what, in the past with the right level headed people has worked perfectly well.. Trouble is getting people to the polls, we have not the closely knit community we once had.
- Thanks to Bill for taking the initiative and trying to sort out this costly outdated mess!
- Party politics should be banned
- The number of candidates for any one constituency should be limited. Tired of being door stepped and bombarded with poorly written manifestos! (Douglas East)
- Too many Tynwald Members, no need for LegCo, no need for local authorities. Far too much 'government' for a population of this size.
- Is it an end to Oral Questions when Peter Karran leaves. ???
- The role and election of MLCs should be a priority.
- There is little confidence in the system at present but I believe we are privileged to have such a system. The good work that the government does is drowned out by corruption and cronyism that has always been a part of the Manx system. I am not just repeating gossip here. The government and civil service is too large for an the population.
- If we are cutting costs and want better team working and less silos need a smaller but more effective team.
- The Isle of Man needs direct democracy, too many Tynwald members, legislative council needs reforming, too many unintelligent MHKs, needs a big reshuffle in September 2016,
- Too many people helping wrong people , they should help manx people
- President of Tynwald role needs modified in some way to represent public accountability. Clare Christian for example was given a tremendous vote of no confidence by the electorate, yet has somehow become President of Tynwald with responsibility over elected members.
- Remove the vote from the bishop and make prayers before politics a private affair only for those who need special assistance from an imaginary friend to carry out their job.
- This Government needs a 100% change.. There is no trust , we do not know where our taxes are spent until after they have decided,the islands future and heritage is not taken care of. We need them to be more transparent.. and be open for questioning instead of hiding behind smoke screens. I fear for the island as the future, ie pensions, university grants, general education from tots to college pupils and the health service. They need to be held accountable for the choices they make !,
- it's inconceivable that we/ I can vote for one MHK and the. get a rotten Cheif Minister who does deals with other MHK s to get himself the top job. Which then goes against why I voted for my MHK in the first place.

We need a Chief Minister to stand on a set of policy's accountable to the voters not to back room deals of who gets the the best ministers job if you vote for me! We would then get a whole new set of priorities.

- Legislative council should be done away with. It really has no place in Manx politics any more. NONE
- Needs reform urgently , start at the top 🇮🇲
- It's 2016 not 1914
- why have commissioners also
- I think the Isle of Man should become a modern democracy where all the members making decisions should be answerable to the electorate. The only way to achieve this is to remove the Legislative Council from the change process as it will never agree to any change that affects their current position.
- 24 MHKs needed for an effective opposition
- General Election voting to be legally binding, all eligible voters will have to by IOM law vote in postal ballot. Example: Electoral system used in Australia. Reason: Far too many parish elections having a poor turnout (30-40%) with present system, not true broad picture of democracy.
- MHKs, MLCs and Chief Minister should all be chosen by the electorate and we should know what post(s) the candidates are standing for at the time.
- A change would be nice so that the people of the Isle of Man are looked after and not taxed to the hilt. In Europe non-residents pay more taxes than residents and it's the opposite here. Still very lucky to reside here. We should be classed as Manx. We should have the same medical rights that Europeans enjoy whilst in the Isle of Man when we travel to Europe, without fully joining. Well done Bill for standing up for the little people. 🇮🇲
- The Chief Minister should be a standing MHK before standing for election by the Public.
- I think there should be a full scale year long consultation with the public about Tynwald reform, conducted by an independent body (we have a civil service for example!) and then a referendum on the outcome
- piecemeal reform would be an easily rejected method. Need a overall strategy from the beginning.
- The Bishop should not have a vote. We're not even an Anglican Island.
- Good luck - Let's hope we get a say in the future of our representatives.
- All members should be elected by public. The public should have the right to remove any member if they lose trust in them.
- The current situation is farcical and it has gone on far too long. The stick-in-the-muds that 'govern' the island need a severe kicking in order to understand the wishes of the people which they rarely do.

- Get rid of the Bishop
- Reduce role of MLCs - they should not go on departments and they should only receive an emolument egsimilar to a director of a company, say £15000 pa and no pension rights. It is time to change this ancient hierarchy who have no mandate from the people. I think the Bishop has no role in any assembly.
- Mlc's should be part time and paid as such for revision purposes only. Why should 2000ish persons in Ramsey have more voting power than me in Onchan
- Your all a disgrace to the Isle of man
- The automatic voting rights of the Bishop should be abolished.
- Reform must include impeachment, and regulatory oversight by independent ad hoc committees of ley persons and professional lawmakers/silicitors.
- I believe that it should be one man one vote, not having a block vote like coman, I think there should be an independent police complaints commission using the u.k. Because the island is too small, and incestuous to ever get an unbiased result.
- I believe that we are over governed in as much as I don't believe that we need 150 local authority members, different rate structures, separate housing authorities etc for a population of c.85,000 people!
- Should be a Swiss democracy
- Too many mhks? No think the numbers are probably about right. Theete needs to be enough to have a wide range of knowledge and experience to inform debate. Too few risks biased own agenda politics.
- LEGCO & COMIN should be abolished, period. Outdated & undemocratic block vote artists
- Leg co to have a vote only if they are elected by the public.
- Too many bad decisions have been made by Tynwald. (ie. Iris, Abattoir, MEA, to name but a few) Decisions about Public Service Pensions should have been settled during this parliament. To sum up the island should be in a much stronger position that it is now due to the past incompetence of our elected representitives.
- The general public have no idea of the capacity, work or brain related of MHKs imagine some of the populist members as Chief Minister...you see an instance now with support !!! for the appalling behaviour of one member.
- Sitting MHK's should not be allowed to become MLC's during their term of office. There should be some form of pre qualification to become an MHK as many of our current MHK's would not have sufficient qualification to even join the Civil Service. Ministers should not be involved in any way in the Civil Service recruitment process. We can keep the current number of MHK's as volunteers for ceremonial purposes only and could employ 3 to 5 people with proven business acumen on good salaries to run the Isle of Man as a business

There should be stated objectives at the start of a governmental term that must be achieved to prevent the difficult issues being put off time and time again because our political leaders are either not capable or wanting to tackle them. Examples include the public sector pensions and all island rating

- Nobody but nobody should be a Tynwald member unless they are elected by the public
- Totally ridiculous numbers of members for 85000 people. Over governed to an unbelievable extent and leg co being an unelected gravy train for the old boy network. It could only happen here on the IOM!
- Election to Legco by the keys is sometimes useful (e.g. It brought the talents of Clare Christian back after she lost her seat). However, when there is no agreement on obvious candidates this system is potentially corrupt. Duties restricted to revision; salary reduced to part time please.
- The legislative council members should only be selected by a public vote
- There should be 12 MHK's. All Island to vote numbering their choice from 1 to 12. The 6 with the highest number of votes are elected for 10 years, the other 6 for 5 years. The next election held in five years time, again would be all Island number 1 to 6, would be for 6 MHK's for a 10 year tenure. This would give an overlap of 5 years ensuring we never have all new MHK's at future elections. Those elected would be designated to a Sheading in pairs, there being 6 Sheadings in the Island.
- There is too many government officials etc for a island this size
- I'd like to see a single transferable voting system across the whole Island. I'd also like to see voting on general policies perhaps at the same time as the general election in order to give further voice to the wishes of the electorate. I would like our government to become secular - with no religious affiliation in its workings and no unelected religious members. Why is this poll being carried out by you as an individual and not by govt consultation or such? How can we be assured that the data isn't misrepresented?
- Reduce the numbers of MHKs & Leg Co. Hand over more power to (streamlined) Local Authorities. Joined up thinking please! System and Politicians seem in disarray, left hand not knowing what right hand is doing etc. Maybe a 'Voluntary Public Think Tank' (we have a vast wealth of knowledge available from some good old timers with local knowledge about the island who may not want to stand for election, but may be willing to offer local skills and wisdom) to bring them all on to the same page. Too much money being spent by gov't on 'off island' companies whether for consultations, Promenade plans, etc and not enough on boosting / promoting local business. Need to progress investment on Tourism so economy is not so dependent on the finance and gaming sectors, which could disappear overnight. The Crow's Nest should be returned to a Maritime Gateway 5 star restaurant promoting Manx Food & Drink (especially with the current obsession on TV with cooking, competitions, Master Chef Judge Greg Wallace has already been top the IOM) not taken over by gov't offices! Move gov't offices out of town, Douglas is already at breaking point under the pressure of too much traffic, the roads are a disgrace - and will continue to need constant repair work with the weight & volume allowed, especially the prom. Years ago there were restrictions on the weight of vehicles allowed on the island, and the roads were a lot easier and cheaper to maintain then. Thanks for trying Bill :)
- Tynwald should act more like the town council that, realistically, it is. Leave the pomp, ceremony and historic pride of being a true national government to Tynwald Day only.

- I do not believe that a Legislative Council is a necessity.
- I have the view that this chief minister has behaved like a dictator. Members of Tynwald should have a free vote without being penalised when voting against his views.
- 1 manager to 2.5 staff mentioned in the news.. An island of 85,000. 40,000 voters. how many representatives to each resident?
- SCRAP THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
- The Bishop should not sit and vote unless he is elected. The present system is undemocratic
- I feel majority are now in favour of abolition of LegCo
- No more unelected MLC'S If you keep the Legislative Council no current MHK should be allowed to stand for election. After over 30 years of voting I will no longer vote until this unelected body is abolished or we the people have a say and elect them
- hope you win
- The Bishop is the only person who is completely independent and as such his input is impartial. (b) Publically elected members should carry more weight than the old pals vote to the Upper House.
- No comment it won't happen people think this government is like any other government corrupt when you get a body of men making laws for others to abide by they can make it up as they go along all these government officials when they get into the government how many of them do you see out and about earning there money how many do you see go into there areas asking there people what they think about certain things none there paid to sit and argue and get nothing done the money that is wasted over here on this island is disgusting there are people here that could use that money to make ends meet but our government just keeps wasting it the promenade is a fiasco get an English firm in to carry out the work not the Manx or should I say English cos there's no Manx anymore is there seeing we have to put British on the census form a lot of the Manx people are not happy the way the island is ran I think there should also be a private investigation as to where all the debt has come from what the extent of the debt is and why all our money is being wasted on the promenade and why it's come to a standstill one more time
- When you consider how many MHK's we have per head of population here and compare that to a town of similar proportion it's a joke . Compared to the uk and Ireland there are far too many government employees no wonder we have problems.
- Potential MHKs aspiring to be Chief Minister should have clear National policies prior to the election, and make it known that, if elected, they would wish to be considered for that position.
- I don't think that the non elected MLCs should be able to overrule elected MHKs
- Too many layer of government, to great a cost to the taxpayer
- A maximum term would be a good idea for any member of tyndall. Let other people have a go at fixing the mess that has been made.

- There should also be an independent Public Accounts Committee and an Auditor General.
- a) MHKs should be elected on an all-island basis. b) Candidates should declare interests/membership of organisations/ etc before elections. c) MLCs should not be Ministers. d) Collective responsibility should be scrapped. e) Compulsory voting in elections (with opt-outs) should be considered.
- None
- The Bishop should be excluded from our parliament, unless of course he is popularly elected. MLCs if not elected by the public, ought to deal only with legislation and NOT serve in any Government role. LegCo could be a Legislative Committee. Talk to any MLC and he/she will say how busy they are. Well in the whole of 2015 Legislative Council sat as a collective body considering legislation for 17 hours only! In previous years the average was about 21 hours per annum. This analysis shows that an MLC's time is mainly spent in a governmental capacity. They are not elected by the public. This cannot be justified. Remember that an MLC, without constituency responsibility, gets the same remuneration as an MHK. There is a possibility to make a saving by restricting the role of an MLC.
- We should adopt the Swiss system which is based on direct democracy.
- There is an urgent need to change the system. The current government is perceived by the voting public as the least trustworthy in recent times, and for good reason!
- Leg-Co is a purely unneeded chamber and should be phased out
- Too many layers of Government & too many MHKs. We've needed to make cost savings all these years and I don't see anyone looking to make any real savings within Government
- Everyone should be elected on an Island Wide vote.
- IF we have to have MLC's they should be voted in after the general election and should only serve till the next GE. Also NO NO jumping ship ie MHK's standing for MLC's
- The bishop should not be in LegCo.
- The reason I put no to Q2, is that I believe LegCo. should be done away with. It is nothing but an old boys' club and at times a hindrance to The Isle Of Man moving forward.
- People without qualifications and something to offer business wise should definitely not be able to stand. To many postmen/taxi drivers/shop boys etc in right now who whilst being pleasant just are in because they are nice lads who won the popularity vote but nothing between the ears. Times are tough we need brains not a boys club! We need to move with the times.
- Think tynwald is hundreds of years out of date gotta move with the times
- IOM has far too many politicians for our small population. We should remove both Legco and local government, leaving us with one chamber and one government. That is all 85,000 require.

- Most people think LC is a nice little earner for mhc s mates voted out at election time- unelected politicians have no place in running the government as we have mhc for that
- Increase the pay of politicians as an incentive to the prospective candidates.
- The Chief Ministers role is necessarily complex. Alas, the general electorate may not be sufficiently educated to determine the 'best of island' candidate out of an array of candidates. This may lead to deleterious circumstances whereby the 'worst case' candidate could be elected based on incorrect voters perceptions.
- LegCo shouldn't vote for CM
- Toomany MHKs and too many local authorities as well
- Revolutionary thinking required. Rip it all up and start again.
- MHKs and department chiefs using evidence based rather than personal opinion when coming to descisions. This applies to the honorable Mr Malarkey as well...!
- My only concern is that if the people vote for a Chief Minister then he/she could be percieved as a president which is not what we need!
- There should be an all Island vote for 10 MHKs, 2 North, 2 South, 2 West, 2 East and 2 Central.
- Reduce EU lead regulation, and stop Tynwald passing secondary legislation powers onto over paid regulators.
- Don't think members of public should be involved or get paid for sitting on committees. All members should be on fixed income and should not get paid for being a minister or extra for any committee. Anyone who is voted into Tynwald with less than 300 votes should not be on any committee.
- I question the need for the Legislative Council, I consider the Bishop to have no place in politics, the Governor is irrelevant, we need only maybe a half or a third of the current number of MHK's at most, and there are far too many Civil Servants especially at the most senior levels and too many levels of management
- The bishop should not be included in Tynwald - Religion has no place in modern politics. In this fat and aged not everyone has a religion, and those that do are not necessarily the same religion as the bishop. As all faiths are not represented, none should be. Whilst there needs to be a system of checking in place, the recent situation where the legislative council was able to veto proposed changes to be imposed on themselves shows the conflict of interest here. We should be able to elect those in power - and therefore be able to vote them out again. Maybe there could be a panel of properly qualified legal minds to review proposed legislation etc. in place of the LegCo; this panel can advise and return items to the Keys to be reviewed and revised. If this was the case, I should be under no circumstances a political appointment, and should not be a position for life. Whatever the best option is, things MUST change.
- Members of Tynwald are not transparent enough

MANX LABOUR PARTY

CHAIRMAN : DAVID CRETNEY MHK, 12 MANOR DRIVE, DOUGLAS

27th May 2016

Michelle Norman
Secretary to Lord Lisvane's Review
Third Floor, St Mary's Court
Hill Street, Douglas
Isle of Man

Dear Lord Lisvane

The Manx Labour Party (MLP) embraces a range of views on certain issues which we believe replicates the position of the people of the Isle of Man. Our policies are developed through input from all party members, not handed down to them.

One such example is the matter which is the subject of your review. As a Tynwald Member in my own right, I will be offering my views but this document represents the collective view of the MLP.

Firstly, we wish to make the point that stability is very important for business confidence.

Our priorities are of course that the economy and business is successful and that employment opportunities are available. There is much uncertainty presently for many people in employment regarding matters such as pension arrangements. With a successful economy Government can assure the people that essential services for the community will be available. We would not wish to jeopardise such important matters by extended navel gazing, but believe the time is right for a move towards a more democratic outcome on the matter in hand.

If Tynwald is to become directly elected we would favour the retention of two branches to enable parliamentary scrutiny. One would be the present House of Keys consisting of 12 x 2 seat constituencies and one of 8 members in a Senate elected by postal ballot on an all island basis or of larger constituencies. We believe this would be of benefit in terms of the "big issues" facing the Island as opposed to the sometimes more parochial approach given constituency size. Both branches would come together in a Tynwald setting for consideration of financial and policy matters. This would inevitably mean that the Senate with a larger constituency becomes the dominant branch and that for some this would be a concern, but we believe the democratic advancement makes this an attractive option.

In the event that all of Tynwald is not directly elected and the Legislative Council (LC) remains to be elected by the House of Keys (HOK), we believe that the current powers of LC should be reduced and they should be purely a revising chamber with the HOK having the final say on all matters.

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MANX LABOUR PARTY

CHAIRMAN : DAVID CRETNEY MHK, 12 MANOR DRIVE, DOUGLAS

They should not:

1. Have any input into the election of Chief Minister.
2. Be involved in the allocation or imposition of financial resources, charges or taxation.
3. Be Ministers.

We believe, as with the elected HOK, the LC should consist of a range of persons representing society on the Isle of Man. They should not just comprise all Lawyers, business people, parliamentarians and middle aged male persons but a mix of talents and expertise representing both sexes.

We believe consideration could be given to ensure that such a range of persons are available to serve on the Legislative Council that names could be forwarded to a body such as the Appointments Commission for interview and selection.

Scrutiny of the executive arm of Government has improved substantially of late with the development of scrutiny committees monitoring activities. There is an argument that if LC remains to be elected by HOK that members of LC should take on the scrutiny role without being members of Departments and this could extend to the Public Accounts Committee without there being any cause for concern about any potential conflicts of interest. They would, as is now the case, report to Tynwald and presently myself and other LC Members have been elected by Tynwald to Chair such committees so this would not represent such a radical departure. Scrutiny of other matters could be extended to LC.

As a general point, MLP would favour a committee which may consist of LC, or others, of a pre-introduction stage to the branches of proposed new legislation. They would ensure better consultation and more considered legislation. This committee would engage with the public, business and other interests in advance of introduction.

The MLP considered the position of the Bishop in Tynwald and LC with full voting power, whilst being unelected and being in position by virtue of his office and wondered whether a position whereby the Bishop were a member, free to speak on appropriate issues, but without a vote, would be preferable in terms of democratic advancement.

The MLP have long believed a more radical reform of the Local Authority structure on the Isle of Man would lead to significant savings and efficiencies. Twenty two Local Authorities for a population in the region of 85,000 certainly indicates the people are over governed. More powers taken on by Local Authorities at a more local level would again have the effect of the National Government concentrating on national and international issues.

As a final but vital point we believe proper public engagement and participation with politics to be of paramount importance. There seems in many jurisdictions to be something of a disengagement presently. Clearly those seeking election and those elected have it in their hands to improve this position substantially. Trust and communication between the electorate and the member or Parliament representing them is most important in order to make the progress in a democratic manner which is what MLP seek.

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MANX LABOUR PARTY

CHAIRMAN : DAVID CRETNEY MHK, 12 MANOR DRIVE, DOUGLAS

We wish to thank you for the opportunity to share our ideas and wish you well with your work.

Yours sincerely

David Cretney.

David Cretney MLC
Chairman Manx Labour Party

000231

Dear Lord Lisvane,

It was announced in the Manx Independent, Friday 29 April 2016 that you are to conduct an external review of the Government of the Isle of Man (<http://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/external-review-of-tyrwald-structure-could-lead-to-reform-of-manx-parliament-1-7883678>).

The Chief Minister is reported to favour a unicameral government. Written submissions are due by May 15th from ordinary Manx resident British Subjects. However, no communication method was given for submissions. This email and references therein is intended to aid your review.

Some Manx residents are concerned that the autocratic Chief Minister and Council of Minister have taken control of levers of power, created unnecessary layers of government with large pension liabilities, run up huge deficits, made unwise investments in private businesses, and suffered the UK to charge tertiary education fees at non-UK non-EU rates to British born Manx resident citizens. Our plea to claim back fees with interest has been ignored.

Our son (born Watford), a full fee Manx resident first class graduate in geophysics and climate change, was not even eligible for a UK or EU research grant for his PhD. This applies uniquely to Manx students not to Channel Islanders. He continued the Brain Drain to North America in the footsteps of his Lancashire-born Imperial College physicist father 50 years earlier. Our Manx full fee graduate London-born daughter is in NHS service London.

There are no checks and balances and no representation at Westminster unlike other territories of the United Kingdom (e.g. Scotland and Wales). A unicameral system would reduce unnecessary expense of managing an infrastructure, economic, fiscal and taxation policy suitable to an island community of 80,000 people. Indeed it was proposed by the only Balliol educated MHK Chris Thomas in his manifesto at the last election. The Chief Minister dismissed this as nonsense at the time. It is necessary but by no means sufficient.

UK governments, Lt Governor and the Chief Minister encouraged the mistaken idea that Isle of Man is a separate Country. On this basis 'Council of Ministers' was set up to deal directly with Westminster cabinet members as equals. The result is that 'ministers' consult in Westminster, Scotland, China, Brussels at taxpayers expense while neglecting domestic matters for which they were elected.

The fundamental problem with democracy in a small community is that difficult decisions cannot be made in face of vested interests if one seeks re-election. We have been resident for 25 years and noted the growth of the dependency culture during the boom times. Now no one is willing to make the difficult choices. Manx citizens have been told they are a separate Country and a Crown Dependency. This encourages a dependency culture and apathy towards elected representatives. They see secretive multimillionaires treating the Island as a plaything for £120,000 per year while they are charged toilet taxes and refused free half hour parking at the Airport.

When IOM is declared bankrupt, the UK government will be responsible for sorting out the mess. Your appointment is timely.

Every major decision has been deferred after endless political arguments, then after a new election, bad decisions made.

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We have a sewage plant at the top of the hill costing over £1 million per year in pumping costs whereas elsewhere sewage flows downhill under gravity. Our incinerator plant is upwind of the population centre. Our jail is as far as possible from the mass of people causing ongoing expenses. Four bed council houses are let at peppercorn rents to tenants who own large rental properties on the island and elsewhere. Even an MHK has such an arrangement. Protests after a former businessman MHK attempted charge commercial rents caused his resignation in despair. Politicians make decisions on matters that should be the province of qualified indemnified professionals. Our hospital cost twice that of an identical one in UK paid out of the Social Security fund. Investments, fund management, utilities and transport decisions are subject to political manipulation. Investment in Pinewood Studios seems unlikely for a long term pension or government reserve fund The community is small enough that one well-qualified and experienced chief executive manager could advise on and implement democratically agreed policies. Appointment from Westminster could possibly improve transparency and accountability. This is preferable to a Governor. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have elected representatives at Westminster. There is no reason this should be denied Islanders. Residents' rights on small islands need protection for example, with a work permit system, which we have. The Channel Islands have their own residency restrictions. We have a Freeport so exports can and are made worldwide free of UK or EU taxes. However, residences should be only for full-time tax-paying residents. House prices are at London levels because non-residents without restrictions buy properties as capital shelters. There are many properties empty for much of the year. Professionals, teachers, nurses, and ordinary citizens are priced out of the market while unoccupied properties abound. Helicopter residents use the island without contributing to the community on payment of a mere £120,000 per year. Meanwhile ordinary citizens are charged toilet taxes, excessive daily fees to a monopoly private company with guaranteed 10% returns for connection to a tax-payer paid pipeline whether they use gas or not. No attempt has been made to become self sufficient in energy or food despite repeated warnings. We are dependent on UK interconnectors for gas, electricity, and Internet leaving us vulnerable to inevitable problems in the co-operatively managed post-Paris Accord carbon-free world. Every home could be self sufficient with solar, wind or tidal power. Our fisheries are a rare example of good management, but are under-funded and under-researched with closure of the 110 year old Marine Station with its unique scientific contributions. Isle of Man scientists proved fossil carbon-driven runaway ocean warming and made major advances on Darwin's evolution. Biodiversity comparable to the Galapagos contributes to our World heritage status. We are subject to all UK and EU regulations and pay UK VAT. Government propaganda states the Island is not part of UK nor of the EU. This has contributed to the dire straits of Manx budgets and a generally apathetic public. Manx citizens make distinguished contributions to every part of UK life including Olympic sports, military, medical, entertainment, film, drama, music etc. They suffer discrimination and disenfranchisement without means of redress. Manx-born residents have UK EU British Islands passports with the addition of the observation "THE HOLDER IS NOT ENTITLED TO BENEFIT FROM EC PROVISIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OR ESTABLISHMENT". This has resulted in Manx graduates after expensive UK education banned from EU jobs. For example, one graduate linguist teaching in an Italian school, after 3 months she was arrested in class and deported. Even holders of Manx-issued passports

without the notation have been refused payment for work at the end of the month in Netherlands on submission of a Manx UK passport. They rushed to Liverpool to get a UK passport to which they are of course entitled by birthright.

The Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister stated that the Isle of Man is not part of the United Kingdom and therefore Islanders will have no vote in the UK-EU referendum. The Chief Minister is actively campaigning with the Scottish UK MPs and Cabinet Ministers for a NO Brexit vote without consultation of Manx citizens.

(<http://manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/76824/chief-minister-on-eu-vote-allegation>)

Long-term fellow Manx resident Welsh-born actor John Rhys-Davies initiated Petition 118467 to request Isle of Man and Channel Islands voting rights be discussed before Parliament; neither the Isle of Man nor Channel Islands are on the Petition website map. Anthony Webber a Guernsey legislator supports this initiative. They were dismissed as well-intentioned but wrong by the Chief Minister (<http://manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/76747/eu-referendum-vote>).

Gibraltar, not part of the UK, achieved a vote only after a court battle.

This is likely to be challenged as discriminatory and non-representative as in the Zanzibar vote.

My letter to Isle of Man Examiner 1 March www.iomtoday.co.uk spelled out the UK-USA tax agreements of 1985 later extended to all taxes in 2002:

"the Tax Treaty regulating the relationship between these Two Countries in the field of Social Security ratified in 1985. The full Treaty is online in Internal Revenue Service (IRS) publications. Here are Treaty details verbatim.

Under the Treaty Article 1.1 "Territory" means as regards the United States, the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and as regards the United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and also the Isle of Man, the Island of Jersey, and the Islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Jethou; and references to the "United Kingdom" or to "territory" in relation to the United Kingdom shall include the Isle of Man, the Island of Jersey, and the Islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Jethou where appropriate; The "Competent Authority" as per Article 1.3 enforces laws under the Treaty:

as regards the United States, the Commissioner of Social Security, and as regards the United Kingdom, the Department of Social Security for Great Britain, the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland, the Department of Health and Social Security of the Isle of Man, the Employment and Social Security Committee of the States of the Island of Jersey or the Guernsey Social Security Authority as the case may require; These are legally binding Treaties defensible in any Court as irrefutable evidence-based proof that we are UK citizens and not another Country. The Monarch installed the Lieutenant Governor in lieu of representatives at Westminster.

The UK treated Manx UK students as `non-resident aliens (see IRS Form 1040-NR) in their own country! That is why I demanded the Isle of Man government enforce the Treaty rights to obtain a refund of all such fees with interest charged to Manx students at UK Universities.

Isle of Man should not be punished for continuing the grammar school system to obtain the best possible education for all its students."

My wife and I believe this is the ideal time after the Panama papers to sort out, once and for all, the relationship between the Crown Dependencies and Territories.

000234

President Obama considers these Territories to be the cornerstone of international tax avoidance and evasion with Executive action to follow and increase. He needs to fund his deficit increasing at \$33,000 per second. Action will be aggressive. The 14 Overseas Dependencies comprise the largest ocean conservation areas on the planet. The 350,000 residents chose to be part of the United Kingdom. UK is a great maritime nation and should take a leadership role in ocean, coastal and estuarine oceanography and management around our vast ocean holdings. They need to be brought under a fully democratic accountable system.

UK will need to play a major part in global management of resources in partnership with the UN after ratification of the Paris Accord. All parts of our Territories should be active players.

Tikopia showed how Drucker's co-operative management principles operated successfully for over 800 years on a tiny Pacific island. Germany's Energiewende is the same principle applied to renewable energy. The present crisis is a huge opportunity.

First examine Isle of Man and Channel Islands that are recognised as part of UK. Isle of Man's allegiance to the crown was proclaimed with full ceremony and recorded in every parish register on May 29-30th 1660.

The 1765 revestment of regalities, sold for £70,000 to the Crown, followed imposition of the Tea Tax and threat of military enforcement (Athol Papers IOM Nobles Library).

By 1776 Ben Franklin fought against the same Tea Tax on behalf of the Assemblies and Proprietor of Pennsylvania and Governor of Massachusetts.

The Treaty of Independence ratified the USA-UK relationship in the September 1783 Treaty of Paris This is the basis of current active arrangements. The Isle of Man is still governed under the old patronage system of taxation without representation.

The Isle of Man is no different from Scotland in being part of the United Kingdom with separate legal, judicial fiscal arrangements and assemblies. But unlike Scotland, have no Westminster representation and no democratic oversight. The Governor and Chief Minister act as one and the website states we are not part of the UK. HM Queen has no role for ordinary citizens.

This leaves citizens to suffer discrimination, loss of democratic accountability, loss of universal suffrage that the Pankhursts with Manx connections fought for a century ago.

I report confidential calls after my newspaper articles from residents too afraid to speak out We urge you to consider redressing these problems in your review.

Wall Street Journalists contacted me after my Guardian letter.

The fear is that this and your review will be too late for the UK EU referendum or IOM elections.

However, democratic human rights are not time dependent. We wish you success in forging a new modern system of government for UK small self-governing vulnerable communities of loyal British citizens.

Yours sincerely,

J. Brian Matthews, PhD. DIC ARCS

000235

Dear Lord Lisvane,
On the external review of the Government of the Isle of Man.

There is no clear outside qualified scrutiny of our Ministers' imprudence and Manx British have no financially qualified and readily visible person to turn to for redress.

Our Ministers are elected to manage our local funds and issues. Think of them as small town counsellors. Increasingly they jet off island from China to UK which diverts attention from their bad internal management, redefines our Crown Dependency position and adds to internal budget pressures.

We are British and yet are denied the EU Referendum vote.

Heading a little fiefdom, our Chief Minister behaves as though he is a qualified financial analyst. He has invested government funds in a risky Pinewood Studio. He won't say whether our pension funds are managed according to international standards, separate from his government manipulation and interference. Minister Clare Christian redirected NHS funds to bail out their badly managed hospital building project. Hospital total was twice that of an equivalent one build in England. Chief Minister Gelling chose a sewage system that now saddles us with over £1 million yearly expenditure to pump (rather unsatisfactorily) sewage uphill. Our Victorian still workable one at the bottom of Crellin Hill let gravity do the job for free. Untold millions have been wasted on unused consultation reports. Follow the money.

We need outside supervision, and job descriptions for all involved.

The unelected and unidentifiable Privy Council members' and the lieutenant governor's roles do nothing. Please rein in our Ministers' profligacy, keep their focus on internal issues and direct here external guidance and scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,

Nina Matthews

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