To Head of Executive Office

You have asked my advice as to the appropriate means for an elected MHK to make representations to the Inquiry.

Subject to any overriding Manx law or protocol, it is my view and my experience that, strictly, a MHK (like an MP in the UK) is merely a respondent to the public consultation and the Inquiry and should register as such where there is an objection, such as to a new site in their constituency. The MHK could speak with or for, say, the Commissioners or in their own right. If supporting a site or proposal, a written representation would be more appropriate or their supporting views could be expressed as a witness if called by the CABO Policy Team.

As a concession to that generality, an MHK could be invited to join in discussion of matters and issues of concern to their constituents, given they are elected to represent the public in any event. They could be fitted into an appropriate session at a suitable time on request, even without prior registration, for example to make a short statement at the beginning of a session or to join in the discussion fully.

As a further rider to that, albeit not a matter for the Inspector, if a Minister is also the MHK expressing a view for or against the APNW as it affects their own constituency, it would be for local protocols to address any question of non-pecuniary interest when it comes to assessing the recommendations of the Inspector's Report.

I trust this response is sufficient to address your question.

Brian Sims Inspector