

PREFACE

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO MOUNT MURRAY

PART ONE REPORT

The Commission started its work in April 2002, fully conscious of the importance of the task which had been set by Tynwald, and with the objective of producing an in- depth and comprehensive report so as to remove any outstanding uncertainties in relation to the matters which we had been asked to investigate. It was a further objective to produce this report within a reasonably early timescale.

We believe that we have achieved the first of these objectives within the parameters which have been set for this Part One Report, but, for reasons of litigation which are explained in the body of this report, we have been delayed generally in our efforts to achieve the second objective. We have therefore concluded that it is in the public interest that the report should be divided into two parts, so that the government and the public can take such benefit as our report is considered to provide from reporting as early as is feasible those parts of our investigations which are not the subject of litigation.

The Part One Report is not an interim report and its conclusions and recommendations are to be taken as final on those matters within its compass. This is notwithstanding that the matters which are the subject of litigation are important and concern the public interest. These matters will be investigated and reported upon at such time and in such manner as is appropriate in the light of the current or any other litigation.

We have been assisted considerably by a number of persons or bodies, and while some are recognised within the report, it is appropriate to make due recognition and express our gratitude here also. Government departments from which we have frequently sought, and almost always obtained, detailed information have provided considerable assistance. Particularly, but not only, these are the Department of Local Government and the Environment and the Department of Transport. We have also had invaluable assistance from Mr C S Lewsley, Advocate to the Inquiry, Mr Laurance O'Dea of the Treasury Solicitors Department, London, Ms Shelley Walker, Tynwald Library Assistant, and Ms Kay Heward-Meadow, Secretary to the Inquiry at the time of final preparation and publication of this report and from the other staff of the Secretariat as well as from the many witnesses and members of the public who have provided us with invaluable information. We are much indebted and express our gratitude. The contents of this report are however entirely of our own making and responsibility.