

John Houghton – Douglas North

Political Questions (2016)

Why do you want to be a member of the House of Keys?

To continue my work supporting constituents and bringing forward legislation.

If you were elected, what would your priorities be on a national level?

Looking towards opportunities for the Island to grow the economy after Brexit.

If you were elected, what would your priorities be on a constituency level?

I am the lead politician overseeing the move to Noble's Hospital of the Hyperbaric Chamber.

How well do you think the present administration has handled the major challenges of the past five years?

Poor and lacklustre. There has been no real assertion on the Council of Ministers.

What are the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next five years?

Brexit, the economy, pensions, VAT agreement, health, and social care.

How would you deal with the challenges referred to in the previous answer?

With dynamism, good governance, careful negotiation, and caring for our people.

How would you deal with the issue of public sector pension reform and the

This has already been decided by Tynwald but it will likely require continued

public sector pension deficit?

scrutiny.

What has changed in the past five years for Isle of Man residents for the better? (Please give examples)

Improved health strategies such as treatment for macular degeneration.

What has changed in the past five years for Isle of Man residents for the worse? (Please give examples)

Higher costs for almost everything due to reduction in VAT income.

Is the Isle of Man too reliant on any one sector of its economy?

Less and less due to diversification but much more needs to be done.

If you feel it is, how would you further diversify the Manx economy?

A careful but thorough examination of business/legislative changes following Brexit.

Are you in favour of increased independence from the United Kingdom?

Partial changes – improvements, not major changes without careful consideration.

If you are, in which areas?

Increase 5% VAT imposition for improving economy (possible following Brexit).

Are you in favour of parliamentary reform in the Isle of Man?

Yes

If you are, which aspects of the parliamentary system would you change?

Legislative Council to a revising committee, but await the report of the present review.

Who should have the responsibility of electing the Chief Minister?

Members of the Keys only (not Tynwald).

Are you in favour of the nationalisation of air and/or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?

No. Unless really necessary (sea services).

Are you in favour of renewable energy projects in Manx territorial waters?

Yes! Tidal energy.

Are you in favour of an increase in means testing for financial support and/or services provided by Government?

Yes. But only in appropriate areas following a thorough review of any particular subject.

If you are, in which areas?