

## **Laurence Skelly – Rushen**

### **Political Questions (2016)**

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

Continue the work started. Challenging last 5 years but even more so next 5 years. Believe my proactive approach and contribution has been positive and experienced gained will be beneficial for next administration.

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

Maintain a diversified growing economy that supports our high level social welfare including health, education and balanced society. Promote culture of national pride in all that we do and help make our Island great place to live, work, visit and invest.

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

Develop a National Marine Centre celebrating UNESCO accreditation, wider use of Southlands old and new for health and social care services in our community, realise sports and recreational facilities at Ballakilley, revisit Marina options, encourage more jobs and businesses and relaunch Queenie Festival.

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

Worth pointing out this has been most challenging for decades. Difficult and unwelcome decisions have been made

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

in order to rebalance revenue budget but kept a positive growing economy with low unemployment - so overall the performance has been satisfactory.

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

Fall out of Brexit, positioning the IOM economy, maintaining balanced society and planning for ageing demographic.

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

Brexit will take time to unfold and fully understand implications but we must comprehensively review all options and be ready to adapt what is in best interests of IOM. Maintaining political autonomy and ensuring we have a strong diversified economy is vital. Balanced society requires constant attention to ensure we help, care and enable those less fortunate and vulnerable. Ageing demographic is a global issue that we must start planning now. Greater care in the community, more sheltered housing and continue to develop bio-med industry to help solve future challenges through innovation.

Already begun and result of motion I seconded 2 years ago. Decades to build up and decades to balance. Constant review, as agreed every 3 years, is essential to ensure it is

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

sustainable.

IOM on better financial foundation as this govt has rebalanced revenue budget and prepared to tackle big issues to make our Island more sustainable in the future. All whilst keeping a growing economy, greater employment opportunities for our people and maintain good level of public services.

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

The new and increased charges for various services. Unwelcome but necessary to help balance our revenue budget.

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

No. Finance and professional services still backbone but e-business fastest growing sector and overall our economy is dynamic and well diversified with over 20 sectors represented. Governments role in providing right environment for enterprise and innovation must be supported as this will bolster our economic resilience against external factors and give wider employment opportunities for our people.

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

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

Important we remain vigilant and do all we can to ensure we maintain political autonomy. Recent external factors have demonstrated the need for an updated constitutional review and all options must be considered to protect and promote best interests of the Island, it's economy and all our residents.

**If you are, in which areas?**

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

Still reading Lord Lisvane report and look forward to debate in Tynwald.

Principally I believe tricameral system works well and support the work of the upper house in terms of revising chamber but feel equality between MHKs and MLCs is no longer acceptable.

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

**Who should have the responsibility of electing the Chief Minister?**

Tynwald members with primacy given to MHK's.

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

Open skies has served us well with wide choice of airports and average airfares lower due to this policy. However, sea services is different and greater control is required to ensure future affordability, reliability and sustainability.

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

Yes and have supported both wind and tidal projects in our waters to generate revenue, jobs, potential energy security and improve our environmental credentials.

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

Agree with principle of means testing but not if system is over bureaucratic and can't demonstrate real savings

**If you are, in which areas?**