

## Bill Malarkey – Douglas South

### Political Questions (2016)

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

I have been directly involved in Manx Politics for nearly ten years – in both Local Government and Tynwald.

I believe I have a lot to offer, not just to my constituents, but to the whole Island on a National and International stage.

The next five years are going to be very challenging. I have both a proven track record and the passion for the job that is required.

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

To protect the future of our Island by promoting the opportunities we offer, as an Island, in order to grow our national income.

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

I have always considered myself to be a community MHK and will continue to deliver for my constituents.

Community also covers national and international matters and focus will have to be on the bigger issues which are challenging our Island.

**How well do you think the present**

The past eight years have been difficult

**administration has handled the major challenges of the past five years?**

times with the large reduction in VAT. Balancing the revenue budget was a major achievement but I believe the cost to our most vulnerable has been too high.

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

Our legacy pension debt, strategic sea services and Brexit are known challenges.

There will be many more trials ahead and we need knowledgeable and practiced politicians to deal with them.

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

If we are to ride the storms that are coming we need to sell our Island on the international stage.

Decisive leadership is needed now, more than ever.

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

I believe that the new Cost Envelope agreed by Tynwald in July will help to stop the over spend in public sector pensions.

It does not, however, deal with the legacy debt that we have inherited due to the inadequacies of past Governments to address the problem.

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

The only way that we can achieve this is with growth in our economy.

I would find it hard to find positives without remembering the pain that has been caused to many in achieving them.

One thing we should be thankful for is that we never went into recession and continued with good economic growth.

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

We are coming through a very difficult part of our history and still have a long way to go.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of pain and suffering for many of our residents. I believe they have suffered enough and should be protected from any further taxes, stealth taxes or price increases.

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

The Island has a diverse economy that many other jurisdictions are envious of.

We should always be looking for further opportunities.

The introduction of the £50million Enterprise Development Fund should

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

help us achieve this.

I believe we need to invest more in selling the Island on the International stage. The Government needs to place a determined focus on this.

Our strong private sector highlights the Island as a great place to do business and we should be working with them to promote this.

Tourism is a growing market that we must expand. With the pound at its low level and people becoming more cautious to travel abroad, we must grasp the opportunity to attract tourists.

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

I would always support greater autonomy but the Island could not survive without the support of the United Kingdom.

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

More freedom with legislation without being dependent on Westminster to "rubber stamp" it.

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

This box is not big enough for the debate on parliamentary reform, on which I have been very vocal over the years.

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

We are over governed, with too much bureaucracy and too many Tynwald Members. We also have a Legislative Council which has no public mandate.

See above

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

Certainly not the Legislative Council.

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

This is something that we need to give serious consideration to if we are going to develop our tourist industry on the Island.

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

Yes, but not at any price.

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

Yes, money is tight and we must ensure that what little we have goes to those who really need it.

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

All