

## Jason Moorhouse – Arbory, Castletown and Malew

### Political Questions (2016)

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

I want to be able to play a part in helping the Island overcome some tremendous challenges.

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

I would be eager to call for a more prudent approach to spending. I am concerned by the plans to 'run-down' the reserves over the next 5 years.

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

Try to get more dynamism into Castletown. It would be great if companies like Marks and Spencer chose to locate here.

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

The financial challenges were partially tackled; more inroads need to be made in this area.

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

The financial challenges. Hopefully the UK will not cut their VAT rate

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

Big projects must be pushed out into the future. Small scale projects that would be relatively labour intensive, such as low level road improvements would help, also no further cuts should be made in the access the elderly have to public

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

transport.

The priority should be the preservation of the National Insurance fund, to reduce this by a further £137 million over the next 5 years is a worry. The reforms should stabilise the situation and a return of global growth will hopefully help.

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

The improved housing on Janet's Corner.

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

The pensioners – Restrictions on the buses and trains, loss of the TV licence for over 75s, cuts in the Christmas bonus.

The farmers – Increased uncertainty, issues with the meat plant, etc.

Government workers – Those providing the services appear to be under more pressure and have more managers

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

No, but finance has potentially become too regulated to flourish and there are questions about the continued growth of e-business

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

There needs to be an emphasis on the growth of small and middle size

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

businesses, there still appears to be a desire to 'land a whale!'

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

We are in a good position in terms of our ability to legislate and tax.

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

The continued existence of a Governor should be challenged

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

Evolution not revolution!

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

More co-operation at the lower levels. Members of the Legislative Council should not be in COMIN.

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

MHKs

No, but once the User Agreement is concluded operators should bid to operate the service and the quality of the provision should meet specific requirements.

For the government to become providers of air and sea services would

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

be an expensive option, I dare not imagine how much that would cost!

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

We need to be proactive in this area. We cannot spend any longer being held back by the issues which occurred at the MEA

Means testing creates more bureaucrats, cost and the proud elderly in need would not apply.

The existing Tax Returns form could be used to achieve better outcomes.

Simple additions such as:

1. All benefits received, related to a specific limit.
2. Checks to enable direct support for those individuals earning less than a specific amount (assuming a savings limit of less than £10k for example)

Similarly those in social housing could be asked:

1. Does your income exceed of the Island's average income?
2. Have you have assets of over £100k?
3. Do you own another property directly or in a limited company?

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

Those tenants in these categories could then pay higher rents and the money used for the further improvements in the housing stock. Alternatively a system of government support could be offered to encourage these individuals to purchase their own house and so free up more of the social housing stock.