



Vote for  
**GERALDINE O'NEILL**  
Douglas East  
By-Election  
Thursday 12th November 2015

**GERALDINE**

**O'NEILL** 

## PROFILE

- Manx, born in Douglas East
- Widowed, aged 57, with a 20 year old daughter studying at University
- Grandparents had a Boarding House in East Douglas
- Grandfather fought for the Manx Regiment
- Profession, teacher at St. Ninian's High School
- Linguist, Fluent French Speaker
- Teaching English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- 2000-2004 Recruitment Consultant for the DEC (IOM) Recruited teachers, in Maths, Science and Languages.
- Branch Secretary for the NASUWT Teachers Union
- Founding member and director of the Archibald Knox Society.
- Prior to returning to the Island became chairperson of the Irish/Turkish business association. Organised the first Trading Mission to Ireland

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- B A French, History and Sociology (National University of Ireland)
- H.Dip (Higher Diploma in Education teaching practice and theory qualification)
- TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)

Constituency of  
**DOUGLAS  
EAST**

**O'NEILL** GERALDINE

**Dear Voter**

**I believe the role of an MHK should consist of Constituency,  
National/Parliament and International Issues.**

**These are some of the policies I would pursue:**

## Constituency

- The completion of the regeneration project to make Douglas a more attractive place to live, work and visit. Douglas Promenade is an important gateway to the Isle of Man, this needs prioritising to finish the project within a realistic time framework.
- Affordable Housing for first time buyers. Public housing needs more investment. Much of the property on the market is out of the price range of many first time buyers. Landlord and Tenant Bill requires progression to legislation to protect both sides.
- Rent restrictions and inspections by local authorities to prevent overcharging for substandard accommodation.
- Environmental health concerns such as, the proper maintenance of the IRIS sewage system.
- Parking in Douglas continues to be a major problem both for residents and businesses. Initiatives between local and central government must help to form the basis to endeavour to tackle this.

## National

- Economy: Balance the budget i.e. capital/revenue spending in order to deliver the educational, health and energy requirements of our nation.
- Providing Health care that caters for the fundamental needs of our community. Reducing waiting lists, early diagnosis in potentially terminal diseases, proper follow up procedures after operations. This will equate to substantial long-term savings.
- Continued and sustained investment in Education to provide all our young people with the necessary qualifications and skills to compete in the job market.
- Minimum wages must be enforced and "zero hour contracts" which undermine the confidence of the working population firmly resisted.
- Reform of the Welfare system must be fair and equitable, not penalising the vulnerable to save very small sums of money. Our welfare and tax system should reflect the ability and income of all its citizens to contribute according to their means.
- From working closely with the Pensions Authority regarding changes to the Teachers Pension Scheme, it is apparent that long term solutions must be negotiated. This may offset any unfairness to future generations for all Isle of Man potential pension contributors.
- A Manx Credit Union should be allowed to have legislation passed to enable it to offer fair and affordable finance for many sections of our Society. The basis of a Credit Union facilitates all members to save and borrow within their own financial constraints, thereby contributing to the local economy.
- Transport Links need to reflect the Island's requirements both for personal travel and to secure our trade routes to continue to sustain our economy. This needs a complete review and public discussion as to how our Island addresses these issues.

## International

- Explore new methods of generating wealth growth to offset decreasing tax revenue returns.
- Expand Cultural Tourism. Examine the niche markets worldwide. Build on the Island's natural assets.
- Increase our bilateral relations beyond the UK with strong European economies.
- Elect politicians who can deliver both nationally and internationally.

## My Priorities if elected for this short term

The constituents of Douglas East will get a committed, pragmatic and honest MHK who will not be afraid to object and say no to any policies that conflict with the fundamental needs of those that elect me.

I will table appropriate questions on the issues I have outlined.

I will analyse the day to day workings of Government in order to present the Douglas East electorate with in depth knowledge before the 2016 General Election.

As I will be living within the new Douglas East constituency for the 2016 General Election (due to the boundary changes) this will further enhance my ability to contribute to both the local and national issues.

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*Geraldine O'Neill*