

## Jon Joughin – Douglas East

### Political Questions (2016)

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

I have always been politically motivated and I feel I have the right public service skills for the job. Respect for politicians is at an all-time low and I believe that this can only be changed by having members of the House of Keys that are there to do what they should be doing , connecting with and representing the people.

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

Because of the Brexit vote we need to forge stronger alliances with the Crown Dependencies and maintain strong links with Westminster. Renegotiating some new form of a Protocol 3 agreement is paramount for the sake of long term stability.

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

East Douglas is probably the most diverse and cosmopolitan constituency of our island and as the islands capital and gateway it is important that Douglas looks its best at all times. Regeneration schemes and Douglas Promenade must be made a priority of the next Government. Long term parking solutions are desperately needed to stimulate business in our town.

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

The past five years have been extremely difficult it began with the VAT bombshell and then the UK recession. Yet considering everything I feel Government has performed reasonably well. But saying that there is

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

always room for improvement.

Political reform and protecting our vulnerable particularly our young and elderly. More protection for those on low incomes and more recognition of that within the tax and benefit system.

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

We need to push for Government reform for example more electoral accountability, a smaller smarter Government and the end of silo governing mentality. Our main social issues should be providing better care for our ageing population, providing quality sheltered, residential and nursing homes. We should work closer with the third sector for example the live at home scheme helping the elderly stay in their own homes for as long as it is possible. We need to invest in our young people helping them obtain further education for the ever more demanding jobs market, encourage home ownership with more first time buyer options and the building of more social housing.

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

I supported the new Public Sector Pension Reform. This is not a final solution but it is a step in the right direction. Government are now facing up to their financial liabilities. The Government have worked very hard with all parties and the unions. To get them all in agreement is a major achievement in its self. This agreement will be revisited by both sides periodically to allow any adjustments in the

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

future.

The rebalancing of the books has begun and the revenue budget is now balanced, although there is still more to be done. We still have economic growth and have had for the longest continuous period of a modern western economy. The public pensions issue is finally being recognised. We have maintained low unemployment and continue to have the lowest crime rate in the UK.

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

Too much indecision has led to decisions being put off until the next House. Our people are feeling costs going up quicker than wages. Government bureaucracy has not been trimmed as much as it could be. Reserve spending is still continuing.

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

In the past the Government focused on the finance sector only and turned its back on the old industries. Thankfully now we do have a more diverse economy such as Egaming, Shipping and Aircraft registration companies and a strong Insurance sector.

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

I would like to support the export of our local homemade and grown produce and increase the sale of such in all our local retail outlets. We should encourage new manufacturing and tourism. Also I would encourage the development of the P50 gas

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

field in Ramsey bay.

I do not want independence for independence sake. I would welcome a debate in which all aspects are discussed and the possible implications independence would bring. We do not want to duplicate what has happened in the UK and not have a plan B.

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

I would welcome more autonomy for the Isle of Man but not at the detriment of the island's residents.

**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?**

An elected upper house by the people. Less ministerial departments.

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

The Keys members only.

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

I support open sky's policy and a free market. It has been proven in the past there is only ever enough work for one operator to provide sea services to the Isle of Man and as there is still 10 years left on the user agreement it is not financially viable to nationalise at this time.

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

I would welcome further exploration into tidal, wind and solar power. Every project would have to be judged on its own merit.

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

It has been proven in the past that the cost of means testing would be more expensive than the savings recovered.

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

As in all agreements they have to be periodically visited and adjustments made.