

	Question	Response	
1	What funding and resource are they putting behind the Economic aspects of A.I.?	The Department for Enterprise have been funded through the Economic Strategy Fund to lead on an ambitious AI programme https://iomdfenterprise.im/news-events/island-community-encouraged-to-activate-ai-as-part-of-new-programme-launched-by-digital-isle-of-man/	1
2	The Government keeps stating targets to grow the population, but with the upheaval and unrest currently going on in the UK, why did the Isle of Man not make any big policy changes to attract people/businesses over to the island?	The Isle of Man Tax Strategy 2024-26 set out clear statements regarding taxes on assets and wealth such as CGT and IHT; https://www.gov.im/media/1385057/isle-of-man-tax-strategy-2024-2026_compressed.pdf there has been targeted promotion of the island's offering in the UK. Subsequent to the UK White Paper "Restoring Control over the Immigration System" further work is underway to develop a clear migration strategy for the island to benefit its economy and society.	7
3	Why has the temporary health levy increase of 2% personal tax increase from the 24-25 not been fully removed? And why are you promoting the halving of this increase as a positive story when 2 years ago this money was in resident pockets	In the 2024 Budget there was a clear commitment to replace the 2% increase in the upper rate of Income Tax which was ring-fenced to provide extra funding to our NHS with a proposed NHS Levy. The consultation on this is currently underway and will help develop future fiscal policies https://consult.gov.im/treasury/nhs-levy-consultation/	5
4	The alignment of living wage and minimum wage could be achieved by reducing some costs on island residents the gov control, eg electricity & freight. Has any other mechanism being explored for wage parity apart from mandating an increase	In 2021 Tynwald approved a report from the Poverty Committee to merge the Minimum wage with the Living Wage within 5 years and this was incorporated within the Island Plan. MUA have produced a new pricing strategy to maintain low electricity, sewerage and water costs following the freezing of prices in 2022 and in October 2024 the IOMSPC presented a range of measures to provide more affordable and accessible travel for passengers and freight.	5
5	Can you confirm just how much funding in total is being budgeted for Manx Care and do you honestly think it will remain in budget?	The Funding for Manx Care was part of the 2025 Budget and is illustrated at https://www.gov.im/media/1387537/budget-in-brief-2025_compressed.pdf The ability for Manx Care to adhere to this budget is dependent on a series of necessary structural reforms outlined in their Mandate https://www.gov.im/media/1387741/mandate-to-manx-care-2025-26_compressed.pdf	0
6	Are we on the right path to economic sustainability? How do we get to a point where we can balance our books and start to put a surplus away for the next rainy day.	The Treasury medium term financial plan is outlined on page 5 of this year's Pink Book https://www.gov.im/media/1387536/pink-book-2025-26-final-v3_compressed.pdf	5
7	Have you sufficient reserves to cover a £90m court case? What projects will you sacrifice to fund this?	Government reserves are currently valued at over £1.8 Billion as outlined in the published dashboard https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/the-treasury/economic-advisory/	0
8	Why are we committed to a low tax economy?	The Isle of Man has always promoted itself as a well regulated and low tax jurisdiction. This was restated in the Tax Strategy 2024-26 https://www.gov.im/media/1385057/isle-of-man-tax-strategy-2024-2026_compressed.pdf	1
9	What extra cost is being incurred by Treasury to implement and monitor Pillar 2	Existing staff at the Income Tax Division have been tasked with overseeing the implementation of Pillar 2 with outreach work to those affected and legislation being compiled through the Attorney General's Chambers.	0
10	On immigration - what does it cost to attract skilled workers to the island. Would money be better spent supporting students at university and offering financial incentives for them to return to the island after completing their degrees?	The latest Population report stressed the need for net inward migration to sustain and grow the existing aging population of the island https://www.gov.im/media/1380987/isle-of-man-population-report-2023-updated-061123.pdf Work is underway to develop further incentives in addition to the NI Holiday offering for returning students.	0
11	Manx Care costs are rising due to an ageing population but another factor is that we have a very unhealthy population - adding to health costs. Walk around our streets and see how many obese people there are. What are we doing about this?	Public Health have previously developed Obesity strategies and the Introduction of the Soft Drinks Levy has had the effect of reducing the sugar content of the soft drinks consumed by most young people. The Sports strategy centred on improved access to fitness activities and these have all been included in the Island Plan objectives https://islandplan.im/priorities/an-island-of-health-wellbeing/	3
12	In the spirit of efficiency, would you be willing to streamline the household rates process? This must surely be a huge administrative burden adding cost to all of us tax payers and is a fundamentally unjust system from the 1970's.		1
13	Some easy cost cutting decisions needed on Local Authorities to help costs and efficiencies. Single IOM housing association, single refuse collection agency. Central government need to address this. We can't have all LAs doing everything	There has been a recent Tynwald debate on an all-island Housing Association and also the ability to legislate for local authorities to provide consistent services. Local Authority reform and Rates reform are longterm objectives of Government to enable the provision of more consistent, resilient and cost-effective services to residents across the island. At the start of this administration, as we came out of COVID and into a war in the Ukraine and the economic shocks it produced, it was not judged to be the right time to embark on these changes but some of the foundations have already been established for positive change.	5
14	IOM has recently suffered a reputational crisis (pig butchering gangs). National news picked up on our lead on removing triple lock; should we not look to boost our reputation by being a leader, not follower, in fixing the broken NHS model?		5
15	The projections for use of reserves in this years 5 year forecast Vs the 5 year forecast from last year show a dramatic worsening of position- why aren't you promoting or backing major changes to address this? It's selling young people out	The use of reserves and their increasing value is demonstrated on pages 12 and 17 of the 2025 Pink Book https://www.gov.im/media/1387536/pink-book-2025-26-final-v3_compressed.pdf major policy changes to drive efficiencies across Government and maximise investment income have already been announced and are being implemented.	5
16	What is the timeframe for the healthcare levy?	This is set out in the current consultation https://consult.gov.im/treasury/nhs-levy-consultation/	0
17	Is the long term financial strategy basically to run down reserves? And then what?	No. The Medium Term Financial plan as outlined in the Pink Book shows a gradual reduction in the necessary use of reserves whilst the Island Plan looks to incentivise economic development and growth https://islandplan.im/priorities/a-strong-and-diverse-economy/	0
18	Do you have a high tax or low tax ethos?	The 2024-26 Tax Strategy looks to maintain the Isle of Man as a low tax jurisdiction https://www.gov.im/media/1385057/isle-of-man-tax-strategy-2024-2026_compressed.pdf	0
19	What's your view as to what a business friendly environment should look like?	This is outlined in the Island Plan https://islandplan.im/priorities/a-strong-and-diverse-economy/ and reinforced by the recently published Local economy Strategy https://www.businessisleofman.com/localeconomystrategy	3
20	It's all very well focusing on benefits etc - but what are treasury doing to bring things under control?	There are a range of changes to be announced regarding benefit eligibility whilst maintaining support for those vulnerable members of our community. Enhanced scrutiny of applications through digitalisation and better investigation and enforcement of potential fraud have also been brought in https://www.gov.im/categories/benefits-and-financial-support/managing-your-benefits-service/benefit-fraud/	0

21	£360m is withdrawn from Reserves over next 5 years, the value of Reserves increases over same period from £1.85bn to £2bn. What annual return are you expecting from your investment managers, to deliver that growth, and how realistic is it?	There has been a recent change to the Investment Mandate towards segmented allocations with an expected target return of Base rate plus 3% based on a cautious risk appetite.	4
22	When people retire early, say at 55 in public sector , why can't they continue to pay into NI fund towards healthcare until state retirement age ?	If people work they will be paying NI up to state retirement age. The Healthcare Levy Consultation includes ways of raising extra income ring-fenced for the NHS https://consult.gov.im/treasury/nhs-levy-consultation/ Treasury will be launching a separate consultation on whether all working people, regardless of their age, should be contributing to the NI scheme.	6
23	Childcare costs are significant for young children below school age. Other jurisdictions e.g. Scotland provide childcare credits for nursery. Has this been considered as part of child benefits?	As part of the Childcare Strategy Childcare credits have been extended to 3-4 and 4-5 year olds and their value increased https://consult.gov.im/education-and-children/draft-isle-of-man-government-childcare-strategy/supporting_documents/Childcare%20Strategy%20%20180322_compressed.pdf	1
24	How can we remove Government red tape. Not only is it contributing significantly to the running costs of government, it is also stifling private sector investment	The Chief Minister outlined the move to improve the efficiencies across Government in January 2025 https://www.gov.im/news/2025/jan/21/chief-ministers-statement-to-tyrwald-on-government-efficiencies/ and this has been expanded to include a broad number of services https://www.iomdfenterprise.im/news-events/central-registry-leverages-digitisation-of-services-for-greater-operational-efficiency/	2
25	With an aging population and decreasing birth rate, is it truly beneficial to increase the population from overseas and therefore increase the problem in the future, ie even more people to draw on services in older age/ill health?	The latest population report highlighted the benefits of migration given our ageing population and the need for skilled workers and staff especially in the fields of health care and education https://www.gov.im/media/1380987/isle-of-man-population-report-2023-updated-061123.pdf	1
26	What's your view on the size and expense of government itself?	Government needs to be driven to provide more efficient and cost-effective services through increased productivity. Quarterly reports are now available to ensure the recruitment control mechanisms are effective https://www.gov.im/news/2025/jan/17/new-report-on-size-and-shape-of-public-service-workforce-improves-transparency/#:~:text=Covering%20the%20final%20quarter%20of,offices%20have%20increased%20by%2030.	3
27	How is budgeting for 2% pay realistic given the pay awards seen everywhere in public service?	It is essential that individual Departments drive better productivity and efficiencies. Any increase in staff costs should be balanced by savings in other areas wherever possible.	0
28	How do you stop the system just being there for itself? A choice between pay awards and cutting services is a conflict	It is a political conflict which we have seen with the recent debates on the Manx Care Mandate for 2025 but budgetary control and financial discipline are essential to preserve and enhance our Island economy.	0
29	Why have we gone from a £30m structural surplus in 2020 to a £60m structural deficit in 25/26 and why is the Treasury Minister seemingly doing nothing about it except increasing Government costs ?	A range of factors have effected our economic planning especially the cost of supporting our community through the pandemic and economic shocks following the war in Ukraine. The medium term financial plan updated in this year's Pink Book signals a reduction on the need for drawdowns on reserves achieved by enhanced fiscal discipline https://www.gov.im/media/1387536/pink-book-2025-26-final-v3_compressed.pdf	4
30	When the budget was prepared, to what extent were initiatives run by other jurisdictions e.g. Jersey, Guernsey explored as solutions to common problems? Is current collaboration and communication between jurisdictions sufficient?	Trasury studied the content and presentation of the Budgets of the other Crown dependencies and there are regular meetings on a range of shared issues such as taxation especially with regard to the OECD Pillar 2 proposals and regulation with respect to interactions with HM treasury on beneficial ownership and BEPS.	2
31	How do you plan to keep IOM a competitive jurisdiction in the finance sector when compared to Guernsey and Jersey? They have no VAT on fees etc	There are a range of benefits of operating CSPs on the Isle of Man especially the cost of registration and compliance as well as our closer links with the UK which offset the changing of VAT on services.	2
32	Can you see a point where capital taxes will have to come in if income taxes don't cover outgoings?	The absence of CGT and IHT are some of the main attractions of living and doing business in the Isle of Man and their erosion could significantly affect our attraction as a well regulated and safe low tax jurisdiction.	1
33	It seems to be a general consensus that the 1st time buyer scheme is still unfit for purpose. What is being considered, from a budgetary perspective, to readdress this and create a more real world solution?	There is a review of the first time buyer scheme as well as initiatives stemming from the Housing and Communities Board and Objective Assessment of Housing Need https://www.gov.im/news/2024/may/20/first-assessment-of-island-housing-needs-published-today/ to develop a range of initiatives including rent-to-buy schemes and mortgage deposit guarantee schemes to enable more younger people to access affordable accommodation.	1
34	Why is the tax relief on PMI premiums not available to the working age residents?	In the Isle of Man, private medical insurance premiums can qualify for tax relief if certain criteria are met. Here are the key points:	0
35	How can you say you are trying to increase housing when your planning department does everything it can to prevent development?	Planning reform is already underway https://www.gov.im/media/1377118/bg-built-environment-final-1.pdf and a number of legislative changes have already taken place.	1
36	Should Government be eliminating the future capital spend on onshore wind turbines so as to reflect growing global concerns about the cost/benefits of this technology?	The development of on-shore renewable energy production as part of climate change mitigations is well established https://www.gov.im/media/1368097/gd20190102_james-curran-report.pdf and will provide for extra resilience and energy security. The economic basis of the proposed wind and solar developments have been reviewed in light of increased supply chain costs and sustained rises in the price of imported natural gas.	1
37	Has independent organisational design expertise been engaged at the highest level of government to ensure efficient operating structure and cost saving. Much like the forensic analysis inside Manx care.	Answered live at the event	10
38	What steps have you taken to consider alternative methods of funding Manx Care, such as the statutory healthcare Insurance models used in France and Germany?	Answered live at the event	19
39	Is it not time to bring in a Manx equivalent of the US Department of Government Efficiency?	Answered live at the event	11
40	What do you say to the squeezed middle who still have no relief from this budget? You continue to increase support for the unemployed, low income and retired but your making it pointless to aim for a middle income wage with home ownership	Answered live at the event	19

41	Will the £5.3m committed to Digitising/automating processes across Isle of Man Government be spent on expertise from the Private sector? Or is this internal cross-charging value that will not lead to economic stimulation?	Answered live at the event	8
42	How can the IOM government continue to offer pension schemes to current and new staff members that far outstrips that being paid by the private sector. This leads to govt competing against the private sector for staff.	Answered live at the event	15
43	A declining birth rate is a critical issue that is facing all western economies. What more can be done to support young families financially so that they are encouraged to have children?	Answered live at the event	9
44	What ever happened to the pledge made by many new MHKs (in the Examiner just before the last election) to consolidate and rationlise the local authorities. Almost everyone agrees that there are far too many, but nobody has done anything	Answered live at the event	14
45	It's reported that the National Insurance fund will fully expire by 2048. What assurances can you give to young professionals contributing to the fund who are concerned that there will be no state pension available in retirement?	Answered live at the event	28
46	based on your budget what is enticing 20/30 year old adults with education behind them to stay on the island rather than leave for the UK?	Answered live at the event	2
47	How will the first time buyers scheme be supported by the budget and be kept relevant to the needs of residents and the ever increasing pricing of the housing market?	Answered live at the event	2
48	Are there plans to privatise health services to reduce tax burden? If not, will private healthcare options be supported by government to reduce Manx care pressure? Talks of a private hospital being built.	Answered live at the event	8