

The Newsletter
of the Friends of
the Manx
Diabetic.
The diabetic
support Group
of the IOM

The Diabetic

All monies
collected are
spent on the Isle
of Man.
No monies are
sent
off Island

The Best and most Informative Diabetic Newsletter on the Isle of Man

Issue number 28

Date: March 2010



LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Caaryjn Lught Vannin yn Chingys Millish

A Charity registered in the Isle of Man. Charity number 894.

All monies collected from whatever source will only be used on the Isle of Man for the benefit of diabetics and their medical carers.

Remember as from 1st April you need travel and repatriation insurance if you go to the United Kingdom

The Group that fights on behalf of the Manx people without fear or favour

The Mutual Admiration Society

Minister wants to close what's not ESSENTIAL at the Manx Diabetes Centre.

The Manx Diabetic Centre and the consequences of not having proper preventative care.

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Mr Teare told us at the meeting on 14th December last, that he did not care what we said about him. So this issue of *The Diabetic* is dedicated to him

The Mutual Admiration Society.

The Chief Minister at the Instigation of Mr Houghton MHK released the Minutes of the Meeting between the Dynamic Duo and the Secretary of State for Health Mr Andy Burnham.

The Meeting it appears lasted a heart stopping 45 minutes, tea and cream cakes and or biscuits were served. They admired the pictures on the meeting room walls and the scene out of the windows, which had vistas of the London Eye.

The meeting went like this, according to The Chief Minister's press release.

Burnham's comments are on normal case, our Dynamic Duo's in Italics.

"The Secretary of State thanked the Chief Minister and Minister Teare for travelling to meet with him"

"The Chief Minister thanked the Secretary of State for taking the time to meet with the delegation"

**Feegans
Deli**

Food to eat in

Food to take away

Food for thought

Are all available at
Feegan's Internet Lounge
8 Victoria Street, Douglas

“The Secretary of State was interested to know why the issue had recently become more prominent, and asked if there had been any change in circumstances” **(One could say he cancelled the agreement, but according to the press release nobody mentioned this---- instead).**

“The Chief Minister indicated that these concerns had always been felt”

“He outlined how there was much concern and anger about the change”.

“The Secretary of State asked if the anger was particularly about the fact people would have to find insurance and this may be costly”

“The Chief Minister described how it was a deeper issue relating more to the Historical and cultural relationship”

“The Secretary of State described how the situation had changed since the agreement was first initiated”

*“The Chief Minister agreed that circumstances had changed over time”
“and were disappointed that the agreement was to end completely”*

“The Secretary of State asked about residents from The Isle of Man in order to access UK health services” **(He no doubt wanted assurance that this would continue to be the case, he didn't want to lose £8.9 million pounds in the North West).**

“The Chief Minister confirmed that over £8m of elective care was referred to the UK”.

“The Secretary of State hoped that the Isle of Man would continue to utilise NHS services in the North West” **(and spend the money there.....no flies on him)**

“The Chief Minister agreed, as he himself was first and foremost proud of being Manx and also proud of being British”.

“The Secretary of State emphasized he was most sympathetic to the points made by the Chief Minister and Mr Teare and hoped that they would continue to work together in the future”. **(So that the UK Government can continue to pluck the golden goose).**

“The Secretary of State thanked the Chief Minister and Mr Teare for their attendance”,

“for which the Chief Minister reciprocated”.

They were then shown the door, after presumably being given the kiss of life for their exhausting and heart breaking efforts on behalf of the Manx people.

Forty five minutes had elapsed for one of the most important meetings in the history of the Isle of Man and the future of its people.

As the Chief Minister himself said in Tynwald the next day, in his report on the meeting with the Secretary of State.

“We were very sympathetically received --- and he will see us in six months time”

So much for the mutual admiration society, but what about the Manx people?

The Minutes do not mention, not even once, any proposals that our Dynamic Duo put forward.

The version of the Minutes that the Chairman has acquired from the Secretary of State's Office does not mention any proposals put forward by the Dynamic Duo either.

The Diabetic cannot believe that they went for talks on behalf of the future of the Manx people, and they omitted to propose an alternate scheme that could have resolved the issue.

The minutes are silent on what the Dynamic Duo laid on the table on behalf of the Manx people.

The Diabetic is astonished that they went without any pre planned alternative to propose to the Secretary of State.

We hope to be corrected. Maybe they had run out of time or were overawed by the occasion.

However what their new found friend Burnham omitted to tell our Dynamic Duo was, that he might not be there in six months time.

If that is the case, they could always meet at Feegan's Lounge in Victoria Street or a café in Strand Street.

Good show boys!!!

Oh the wondrous tales we weave to stimulate the happiness of the political innocent.

Public Meeting

The Chairman, as a concerned private citizen and a Group of like minded people have called a Public Meeting at the Legion Hall, Market Hill, Douglas on Monday 8th March at 7.30.p.m.

The meeting is to discuss the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement, its implications on the Welfare of the Manx People, the repercussions on our Tourist industry, the views of the people of the Isle of Man and what the people at the meeting would like to see their Government do.

We believe that enough is enough and that most people of the Isle of Man see no strategy or performance from the majority of the elected members on their behalf.

The October Tynwald told the people of the Isle of Man that they were on their own, and had to get insurance themselves.

The Government in fact abandoned the people to their own devices. This has created problems for the Manx people who have been cast adrift in the insurance world, and after two years of inactivity the Isle of Man Government have provided no resolution for their problems.

The Legion Hall has a finite capacity and consequently it will be on first come first served basis.

We would like as many of you who can possibly attend to be there.

The Meeting will take the form of a briefing exercise, with it being thrown open for views from the public, and a final resolution by those present which will be presented to all members of Tynwald for action.

The organisers have invited all MHK's and MLC's to attend.

Everybody is welcome.

Meeting with Teare, Minister for Health on 14th December 2009.

On the 14th December last the Chairman accompanied by Mrs Jan Ramage the Group's secretary, and Mrs Edith Quaggin, a very concerned member of the Manx Public met with the Minister for Health. Present on the Minister's side was Mrs Leslie Keenan The Chief Operating Officer, she is also the Deputy Executive Officer, and the required secretary to take the appropriate minutes.

The meeting's main agenda was the Reciprocal Health Agreement, and various aspects of it were discussed that concerned the Manx people travelling to the UK as from 1st April 2010.

The attitude from the other side of the table was more negative and intransigent than usual, with the Minister telling the Chairman to moderate his tone and statements or he would leave the meeting. He did not like to hear what the Chairman was saying. The Chairman took no notice.

Mr Teare had a copy of the December issue of *The Diabetic* and he told the Chairman that *The Diabetic* was doing a disservice to the Isle of Man.

The Chairman explained that there was no disservice to the Isle of Man on our part, and that all *The Diabetic* was doing was reporting on the disservice that the MHK's were doing to the Manx people, and that the Manx people should not vote them in at the next election.

The Minister then told us he did not care whether he was voted in or not at the next election, all he was concerned about is doing right by the DHSS.

The Chairman reminded the Minister that he was elected by the people and not the DHSS and therefore his responsibility was primarily to the people that elected him, and not the DHSS.

The Chairman presented the Minister with a written briefing on what steps he had to take to achieve the reinstating of the reciprocal health agreement, albeit under a different name if necessary.

He also gave him sight of his correspondence with the Secretary Of State for Health Mr Andy Burnham.

The Chairman asked the Minister what had become of the people's petition with

over 900 signatures in addition to the many Groups and their members that backed it, which would take it to well over 1,500.

The Minister, once again in his negative mode, said that it had been filed, because as with all petitions this did not represent the will of the people. In all petitions he emphasised, the people are coerced into signing, as they may not want to sign what is at the top of the petition, and are forced and feel compelled into signing.

The Chairman pointed out that he sat in Strand Street and people came to him from all over the Island to sign, and that he did not go into their houses, consequently he had not coerced anyone.

There were many other points that were brought up, in particular by Mrs Quaggin who asked detailed questions on insurance, but these were dismissed and met from the same intransigent position.

However there were two salient arguments that cannot remain unreported.

In the first instance the Minister told the Chairman that the DHSS had to save monies because he was running at a considerable deficit, (the Chairman knew that Mr Teare had already met the top echelon at the hospital and had told them they must reduce staff and reduce facilities). He wanted to close certain aspects of the Manx Diabetes Centre but what he required was for the Chairman to indicate **“what existing services do you and your colleagues regard as essential”**. So that he could close what wasn't essential.

He was told by the Chairman that he would have to think about this and come back to him.

The Chairman also explained that if the Government wanted to slim down departments, they could not touch the Hospitals, as people need health services, they could not touch the Education Department, because we need our children properly educated, and they could not touch the Police, because we need Law and Order.

However the Chairman recommended he should cut the many managers and civil servants who were doing nothing except going aimlessly around with papers in their hands attending meetings.

The next article in this issue of *The Diabetic* is the position of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic Group as regards the Manx Diabetes Centre.

We also comment on our exchange of correspondence so that we have no misunderstandings, as to what would happen if he downgrades anything at the Manx Diabetes Centre.

We then got into a hypothetical argument, and we would ask you all to write to the Minister with the same question we put to him, as for his answer to us, he should be made to resign as it showed a Government without compassion. Let us see what he says to you. Nevertheless this is the question.

“Let us suppose that one of our Manx young men in the British Army is on patrol in Afghanistan and is blown up. He loses both his legs and is in very bad shape. He is flown to a UK Hospital and the surgeons say that because of his internal injuries they can't do anything for him and he has two days to live.

He wants to see his Mother, Father and Grandmother, but they can't get any insurance to go across, the British Government won't take them over, what will your Government do to help them?”

Supplementary if you need it, “You mean you would let him die alone?”

We hope he doesn't tell you what he told us, because as we have said before, his answer was a resigning issue.

We would like to thank Minister Teare for granting us the courtesy of meeting with us, but if he hadn't been there we would have achieved the same result.

The Manx Diabetes Centre

As we have mentioned above the Minister for Health and Social Security asked the Friends of the Manx Diabetic at the meeting of 14th December last to give him an idea as to **“what existing**

services do you and your colleagues regard as essential”

As you can appreciate, where the Chairman comes from, before you can suggest any cuts in any organisation, private or governmental you really have to find out how much it is costing. This is the logical way to go about it.

In an endeavour to do this the Chairman wrote to the Minister with a 26 point questionnaire asking what each item costs, from salaries, cost of implementing services in the different departments of the Centre, and in the community, Number of diabetics on the Island, etc., and “other expenditure you may care to impart so as to make the above complete”.

The Minister replied: -

“I am afraid I am unable to give you answers to your detailed questions as to do so would absorb a disproportionate cost to the Department”. (*Does he mean that it would cost more for the DHSS to produce the figures than they would save in closing down what he may consider non essential parts of the Manx Diabetes Centre?*) he continued;

The principle, he emphasised, is simple, **“what existing services do you and your colleagues regard as ESSENTIAL.** Once we have this information from you we will then be able to commence with our planning”.

The Chairman replied: -

“I am afraid Minister, that without knowing the implications of the costs of running a Department it is impossible to be able to ascertain where savings can be made. I can now well understand why the DHSS is in deficit by between 7 and 9 million pounds on your current budget, because you don't know and cannot control your spending.

So far as the Friends of the Manx Diabetic are concerned, the reply to your modified question **“what existing services do you and your colleagues regard as ESSENTIAL”** the answer is, **EVERYTHING IS ESSENTIAL.**

In fact we need more personnel at the Manx Diabetes Centre and more clinic

time as at present we have over a year's waiting list at the Centre.

The Minister's last letter by return stated: -

“As it would appear that you cannot assist us with what are “essential” services for your colleagues and bring these to the table, then I am content that the Department and clinicians will make decisions which they feel are appropriate”

So there you have it, his intransigence knows no bounds and so as to inform him of the true situation and why he cannot cut any facilities at the Manx Diabetic Centre, we publish below, the consequence of cutting preventative care at the Centre and not increasing the facilities.

If the Minister thinks the Chairman is stupid enough to recommend any closure or any tampering with any part of the Manx Diabetes Centre after it took him over 20 years to set up, whilst the Minister was doing nothing for the Manx Diabetic or the Manx people, he is living in cloud cuckoo land.

It is time that all diabetics got together and demanded Mr Teare's resignation.

Mr Teare, these are the consequences of not having proper preventative care on the Isle of Man for Diabetics.

The Diabetic is pleased to bring our readers and him the consequences of what is happening in the UK on the diabetic front.

If we persist in doing what the Minister wants to implement in cutting what is not “ESSENTIAL” he shall not get away with it, and what he might, might, save at present, will cost him dear in the long run, not to mention the pain and suffering to the diabetic patients in complications and amputations in the future.

Here are the salient points of a report as published in the UK recently on the realities of diabetes there. (*Any comments on our part are in italics*)

DIABETES IN UK AND THE ISLE OF MAN

The DHSS Isle of Man according to Mr Teare, as usual, has no expenditure figures on Diabetes for the Island.

This he has confirmed in a question in the House to Mr Houghton, and in a letter to the Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic. The DHSS just doesn't know what the DHSS is spending.

*So in the absence of the head of our DHSS not knowing what Diabetes costs are in the Isle of Man, we must depend on the UK Government, who understands the complexities and expenditure required to keep the UK Diabetic **alive**, and use their figures to extrapolate what it would cost Mr Teare here.*

In the UK the NHS at present spends 10% of their annual budget on Diabetes in a calendar year.

There is therefore no reason not to suppose that in the Isle of Man Mr Teare has a similar expenditure.

The expenses for the UK are as follows as compared to that of the Isle of Man, taking the 10% expenditure as a rule of thumb.

The 10% total UK NHS Budget for Diabetes is approx 8 Billion 736 Million pounds per annum.

The Total expenditure budget for Health of the Isle of Man is 145 Million pounds in the present budget.

Therefore the 10% for the Isle of Man would equate to 14 million 500 thousand pounds per annum that the DHSS would spend on diabetics on the Island.

This equates to expenditure on diabetes in a calendar year as follows: -.

UK Expenditure.

8 billion 736 million pounds p.a.

728 million pounds per month

168 million pounds per week

1 million pounds per hour

16,666 pounds per minute

278 pounds per minute

IOM projected Expenditure

14 Million 500 thousand p.a.

1 million 208 thousand 833 pounds per month.

278 thousand 846 pounds per week.

1,660 pounds per hour

27.66 pounds per minute

46 pence per second.

The UK NHS spends £750 million on drugs to keep their diabetics alive.

There were 4.7 million items dispensed in the UK in the first quarter of 2002 for diabetics as compared to 8.2 million in the third quarter of 2008.

Mr Teare has no figures for drugs dispensed to diabetics on the Island. In fact they don't even know, according to Mr Teare in the House, again to another of Mr Houghton's question, what one diabetic patient costs them in drugs over a period of one year.

At present there are some 2.6 million people in the UK who are diabetic and it is estimated that by the year 2025 there will be 4 million people diagnosed with diabetes.

We must bring to the notice of Mr Teare that there is no reason to suppose that the same proportional increase on Manx figures will not happen in the Isle of Man.

In any event he won't be in office by then.

It is estimated that by the year 2020, diabetes in children in the UK will have increased by 70%.

*Mr Teare, if we do not do anything to overcome obesity in children, and put in place preventative measures, this will also happen here and **you and your successors will pay.***

The Heart Research foundation in the UK says "The cost of treating Type 2 diabetes is staggering and the current trend shows that it will only get worse"

Mr Teare do you really understand this, or would you like us to spell it out in big letters or in a more simple language? Spanish maybe, or a plane pulling a banner over Douglas Prom?

According to reports 500,000 people in the UK have undiagnosed diabetes. By the time they are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes **50% already have complications.**

*We must also have preventative care to ensure that this does not happen to us on the Island, and we keep costs down. **Mr Teare everything is ESSENTIAL at the Manx Diabetic Centre. The more facilities you close the more it is going to cost you and the patients.***

Again there is no reason to suggest that if our DHSS puts their heads in the sand the happenings in the UK will pass us by.

We shall be hit in proportion to the number of diabetics on the Island similarly to what is happening in the UK, and it is essential that we have preventative care in place to deal with these eventualities.

Mr Teare if we don't, and the diabetic situation continues to escalate, then the Isle of Man DHSS will go bankrupt.

*This kind of expenditure will not go away it will only increase, the DHSS will have to pay to keep Island diabetics **alive.***

*If you cut budgets on preventative care on diabetes, if you tamper with the Diabetes Centre people will **die prematurely.***

In the UK one in every 5 patients in hospital now has diabetes, and 60% of inpatients with diabetes are admitted as emergencies.

What is going to happen here and where is the money going to come from if we don't have preventative care. Mr Teare your 9 million deficit will double, treble, and as we have said before you will go bankrupt.

We must keep up with what improvements are implemented world wide, and we must get them implemented on the Isle of Man, not as a concession but as of right.

If we are a Nation we must have National Facilities, either here, which is cheaper, or in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

Any cuts in the Manx Diabetes Centre which Mr Teare is contemplating, and which at present has a waiting list of over a year, will only exacerbate waiting lists, and serve to increase the costs to the

*DHSS in the long run, and the patient **will be put at risk to complications, including amputation and even death.***

The financial resources that Governments have to set aside for the managing of diabetes within their health budgets as shown in the UK figures is now becoming critical.

It is the paramount concern of all Members of the Keys and Tynwald to look after their own people. They have a duty of care to the Manx people, and Mr Teare or anyone else cannot abrogate that duty of care.

Therefore if proper preventative care is not in place, we ignore this at our peril, both financially and in our duty to the diabetic patient, our own people.

So the message for Mr Teare is:

“One in every five Hospital patients is battling diabetes”.

Professor Anthony Barnett at Heart of England NHS foundation trust said “The situation we are facing as a community is absolutely terrifying, the numbers with diabetes keeps mushrooming, and given that these people are prone to a whole range of serious medical conditions, it has enormous impact on NHS resources.”

“If cases of diabetes continue to rise”, says the report, “their treatment will take up 25% of the total DHS budget”.

ARE YOU LISTENING MR TEARE?

It will also happen here. It will happen to you, and your precious DHSS Administration will be paying through the nose and your Manx people suffering all kinds of complications and death.

The British Government's diabetes Czar Dr Rowan Hillson said “All patients with diabetes should be given access to specialist advice to ensure potentially lethal complications were not missed”

“There is evidence that the appointment of specialist nurses can reduce re-admission of patients with diabetes and their length of stay”.

SO MR TEARE WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO CUT DOWN WHEN EVERYONE SAYS INCREASE?

Who is advising you? Or do you know better than the experts?

Vascular surgeon Professor Roger Greenhalgh said “5,000 people a year have had to have their lower leg amputated because of diabetes”

He continued, “The number of amputations are going up—partly because of the increased prevalence of diabetes, **but also too many cases are not referred to specialists early enough**”.



Mr Teare diabetic foot problems that end in amputations



MR TEARE IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT TO HAPPEN TO YOUR MANX PEOPLE WITH UNWARRANTED CUTS AT THE MANX DIABETES CENTRE?

WAKE UP TO REALITY MAN, WE NEED MORE FACILITIES NOT LESS.

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT DISHING OUT MORTGAGES HERE, YOU ARE DEALING WITH LIFE AND DEATH.

You yourself have said to us you don't care whether you are re-elected or not.

But the people of the Isle of Man deeply care about their health, and the complications and suffering that indiscriminate cuts will inflict on them.

The above speaks for itself, **so leave the Centre alone, you know nothing about diabetes and it appears neither do your advisers.**

If you cannot get your head round it, it is time for you to go.

RESIGN NOW DON'T WAIT TO BE SACKED.

The AGM

It is that time in our calendar year once again, and the AGM of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic will take place on Tuesday 23rd March at Saint Andrews Church Hall, Glencrutchery Road, Douglas at 7.30 pm. (By St Ninians Traffic Lights). Everybody is welcome.

Because of the problems that exists with the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement, and because the DHSS has been devoid of strategy and forward planning, the fight that your Group has been putting up, with the Government's inactivity in not trying to resolve the matter for the Manx people, it is important that you all attend.

We have already lost six members from our Group who, because of their insurance problems and those of their families across, have returned to the United Kingdom.

We have also just learned that another couple from our Group have also put their house on the market and as soon as they sell they shall be moving over. In fact they have already bought a place across.

We have been advised by other members that they are contemplating moves across the water and are consulting Estate Agents.

Therefore this is the time that we should be more together than ever, as we depend on each other to motivate the Government.

We shall be sending you all the necessary documentation in due course.

We look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it there on Tuesday 23rd March next.

Many thanks to you all.

Mr Karran's proposal gets temporary reprieve in the House.

Mr Karran's proposal for a travel levy bill won unanimous support in the House of Keys on 2nd February last. This vote enables Mr Karran the representative of the Liberal Vannin Party in the House, for leave to introduce a Private Members Bill.

The Bill will propose that a levy of £1.70 be charged to every traveller boarding a plane or boat to the UK.

This travel insurance would provide cover for medical expenses when the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement comes to an end as from April fools day next.

The Members of the Government had to appear to bow to public anger, hence the vote, but for how long?

The Minister for Health has already indicated in the Key's that he is drawing up plans for a safety net, (any safety net as we all know has a lot of holes), for those unable to obtain or afford private health insurance, which he proposes to bring forward to the March Tynwald.

This will create a two 'Teare' system, (excuse the pun), with Mr Teare or someone else deciding if you can be refunded or not.

This means that Mr Karran's proposal will be dead in the water, as the Ministers with their block vote will implement Mr Teare's proposals, irrespective of what they are, good, bad or indifferent, and dump Mr Karran's proposal which will give the Island, not a safety net but blanket cover.

This has been their aim all along, by the initial unanimous vote to appease the public.

The night before, the Chairman attending a public meeting, was taken aside by a Government MHK and told that he should wait for the announcement the next day in the Keys by Mr Teare the Minister for Health, which would make Mr Karran's proposal irrelevant.

He was ecstatic in the praises of what Mr Teare was going to propose, but when pressed by the Chairman the MHK confessed he didn't know what it was.

So the Government and its block vote had already plotted the outcome to Mr Karran's proposals before it was even presented in the Keys.

That is why the Government through Mr Teare, only brought his suggestion up at the eleventh hour, because the intention is that they had decided to go ahead with the proposal to let Mr Karran have permission to proceed with his Private Member's Bill, and then kill it under some pretext or other when the actual Bill is presented. A waste of time and effort.

So much for democracy on our beautiful Island and for our good people.

In the meantime as Mr Karran's Bill would take time to be implemented it was suggested by Mr Cannan that this should be accelerated through the House as the normal process for its implementation would take it past the 1st April deadline, but not Mr Teare's proposals. On the other hand Mr Teare's proposals irrespective of what they are, they will be automatically passed with the block vote prior to Mr Karran's Bill.

For the sake of all the people on the Isle of Man and to save our tourist industry, we hope that we are wrong, and somehow or other the Minister provides proper proposals for a blanket cover, to and from the Isle of Man and not an inadequate safety net, which from what *The Diabetic* understands it will not work.

Maybe the Chairman is wrong, but so far since his comments at the AGM on 16th October 2008 as published in *The Diabetic* of December 2008, he has not been proved wrong. But time will tell.

Relocation of some DHSS services.

Some of the Services currently based at Westmoreland Road have transferred to the Central Community Health Centre, at the opposite end of the old Noble's hospital site from their present location.

Outpatients Physiotherapy, telephone No. 642158 and the Orthotic and Prosthetic Clinics Telephone No. 642243

have already moved to their new accommodation.

Community Occupational Therapy telephone No. 642511, Paediatric Occupational Therapy Tel No. 650320, Community Physiotherapy and the Wheelchair Services Telephone No 642147, have also relocated.

However Breast Screening will still be operational from Westmoreland Health Centre until further notice.

All telephone numbers remain unchanged.

Car parking facilities for patients attending these clinics is available in the car park adjacent to the nurse's home which can be accessed from Ballakermeen Road.

Any patients attending these clinics that require disabled parking facilities can park in the spaces allocated.

God, Noah's Ark and the Isle of Man.

In the year 2010, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in the Isle of Man, and said, once again unto him.

"The earth has become a place where people don't look after the welfare of each other, and don't care for one another, and I see the end of all flesh before me"

"Build another Ark" he commanded Noah, "and save two of every living things along with a few humans of your choice, but no MHK's or MLC's"

He gave Noah the plans saying "You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights".

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping at Onchan Head--but no Ark.

"Forgive me Lord" begged Noah "but things have changed, they are not what they were when I built the original ARK.

I have been refused a building permit by the Isle of Man Planning Committee.

I have been arguing with the Planning Officers, but they insist I must have proper cabins, proper stabling, and

wooden shutters and will not authorise the colour scheme.

Also Building Control say the plans you gave me do not guarantee the Ark is structurally safe.

The New Department of Health says the conditions on board would be unhygienic.

My neighbours claim that I would violate their right to light laws by building the Ark in my back garden and exceeding the height limitations.

We now have to go to the Development Appeals Tribunal for a decision.

The Manx Electricity Authority demand a large deposit to cover the future costs of moving power lines and overhead obstructions, to clear a passage for the Ark's move to the sea.

I have told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood is another problem as there is now no Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry Department. But the Government has complicated the issue with a U-turn. They have now split the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure, into the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, which now does not includes trains, buses, swimming pools and the protection of the countryside, as these are now in the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure. So with all these complications everything is on hold, and it is a no no getting the required wood.

In any event Lord, the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture say cutting tress for wood for the Ark will upset the balance of the local ecological system.

I cannot import any wood from across the water as the price is prohibitive.

I tried to convince them that I need the wood to save us all from extinction, but no joy.

Because the Government has reinvented itself, and everything is topsy-turvy, implemented with indecent haste and at great expense, to draw attention away from their inactivity on the

Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement, I was unable to gather the animals, so I only have gulls, pigeons, goats, and a couple of sheep and cows I bought at the Market.

The Manx MSPCA prosecuted me.

They insisted that I was confining animals against their will. They argued the accommodation in the plans of the Ark was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put animals in a confined space.

The Isle of Man Traffic Commission say the Ark must have working front and rear lights not to mention port and starboard lights to use the roads and then launch.

They said it would take six months after completion of an Ark to plan a route to the sea. I have again told them till I'm blue in the face, that the sea would be coming to my back garden.

They threatened to have me sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Air Traffic Control and the Port Authority who now come under the Department of the Infrastructure, want to know the date of the launch 6 months in advance, so that they can put out notices to shipping on floating pontoons and aircraft on cloud nine to ensure shipping and air lanes are clear.

The Captain of the Port insists, I must have a qualified navigator on board.

The Douglas Fire Brigade who are now under Home Affairs says the Ark is a fire risk and I must install an automatic sprinkler system, fire extinguishers at strategic points, fire alarms, fire exits properly marked, and 30 minute fire resistant doors.

Then the new Department of the Environment rules that I couldn't build the Ark until I had arranged, conducted and submitted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

The Minister also insists the Ark must be energy re-generative.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint by the MHK's in Tynwald on the ratio as to how many other nationalities to Manx

born personnel, I can hire for my building crew.

The new Department of Social Care has insisted that I provide them with a list of the people who want to work, so that they can check that they are not illegal immigrants and have proper documentation, so that they can agree or veto if necessary.

I am also having problems with the Health and Safety Department that now comes under the New Department of Infrastructure, who also look after the meat plant and animal waste.

They are demanding that everyone must have proper safety hats, goggles, boots and they must be regulation attired.

To deal with the different animals they must be properly protected and must have the proper insurance, not to mention the fact they want me to do a Risk Assessment Study, before I lift a plank or hammer a nail.

The Unions on the other hand say I can't use my sons and my family like in the old days. They insist I have to hire union workers with Ark-building experience.

The Heritage people, to make matters worse, are insisting that the Ark must mirror the original in every detail, and are campaigning so that all my assets are seized by the Courts, claiming I'm trying to leave the Island illegally with endangered species.

Manx Heritage are also insisting that I should fly the Manx Flag and that all the crew must be able to sing Ellan Vannin.

So forgive me Lord, but it would take at least 25 years if not more, for me to finish the Ark".

All of a sudden the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across Onchan Head.

Noah looked up in wonder and asked. "You mean Lord, you're not going to destroy the world?"

A voice boomed from the Heavens, "No Noah, there is no need" said the Lord

**“THE ISLE OF MAN
BUREAUCRATS HAVE
BEATEN ME TO IT”**

As someone said **ARK** stands for

(A) Act, of

(R) Random,

(K) Kindness.

Which is what the Isle of Man people live in fervent expectation from their Government.

Letter from Chairman to Mr Teare setting out how to get Agreement back, dated 14th December 2009, before he did the U Turn.

Dear Mr Teare

14th December 2009.

Please understand that I am now 75 years old and that I do not want any remuneration or grants, all I am interested in is the Manx people.

Therefore the advice that I am about to give you is free, gratis, and for nothing, because I have lived through it during the Gibraltar/Spanish crisis, I have done it, and I know how to go about it.

I have sat across a table and debated issues with Secretaries of State, with Prime Ministers, with Leaders of Opposition, the Foreign Office etc, not only in the UK but in Spain, and all over the world, and with all of them, arrived at deals.

I used to run a Television and Radio Station at the height of the problematic days of the troubles with Spain and had to constantly deal and enter into agreements with the UK Foreign Minister and his Foreign Office officials.

So I know my way around negotiating tables.

Nevertheless who am I, as a Come Over to argue for the Manx people, which I have done for 31 years, when their own people are not interested in them.

So this is how I believe you should now pursue it which is what I would have done.

Let me tell you straight away, it is impossible for you to revert to the old system and you can say goodbye to the £2.9 million pounds and the sooner you realise this the better. What you have to fight for now is your people.

The Secretary of State has already told you that they will not “revisit the decision to cease the agreement, nor does it plan to seek a replacement agreement” therefore going down that route is a none starter.

We therefore have to dress it in a different way to enable them to save face, so I have called my proposal to him an ‘understanding’ between our two jurisdictions.

1) In the first instance, after you have officially exhausted the Secretary of State route, you go to his constituency surgery office and wait for him on the day he does his surgery. If this meeting fails then you write to the Queen. Remember we are in the Commonwealth and she is the Lord of Man. We have her representative on the Island. My second letter to the Secretary of State hints at this. You also send copies to the Prime Minister and copies to all members of the Cabinet, and the opposition.

2) You inform the UK Press of the situation, at a Press Conference **IN THE UK**, and give them copies of the letter you have sent to her Majesty. This on the day after you send the letter to her, but on the same day you send the copy letters to everyone else, so that you bring pressure to bear on the UK Government.

3) Then if you do not get satisfaction, you write to everyone in the House of Parliament, and the Lords, and then you go down there for days on end, and talk to each and everyone of them if need be, like I used to do when I wanted something for Gibraltar, or there were debates on Gibraltar.

4) In those days they knew who I was, from the Prime Minister down to the Leader of the Opposition and everyone in the House listened to me. You have to do the same. By being there they will know who you are and what you are there for.

5) You must also be a pain in the neck and they will listen to you, because you are fighting for your people, you are in the right, and you will not let go. You do not give up like Tynwald and the DHSS has already done.

6) There is nothing like face to face arguments.

7) Everyone I wanted to see in Parliament saw me, and we discussed the Gibraltar/Spanish problem. They then went back and put questions in Parliament, and harassed the appropriate departments. You must get them to do the same.

8) You must have UK correspondents in Parliament to co-ordinate this task, use the correspondents already representing one or two of the major papers, and let them become the common denominator, you bring them and their partners to the Island for discussions which is mainly a holiday for them. They will not forget you.

9) They will report back to you anything and everything that happens in Parliament or the Lords on the same day in respect of any mention of the Island, which is what they used to do for me, so my news bulletins on Television and Radio were up to date and before anything appeared in the local press.

In the case of the Isle of Man you immediately issue everything as a press release on the same day to the Media on the Island, which gives you publicity and gets the people off your back. In the old days it was called being on the ball, now it is called spin.

10) You must find those that will back you not only in Parliament but also in the Lords and use them as another foil to argue your case.

11) If nothing happens then you wait for the election, but keep the press going with press releases and inviting correspondents from the major papers to the Island. You look after them properly and they will look after you. The press on your side is of paramount importance, and 90% of the battle won.

12) Incidentally you will have already written with the problem to the Shadow Secretary of State and other members of the Tory party, and Liberal Party, which you have identified as potential allies to your cause.

13) If the Tories get in, you must be ready with all material to steam in immediately they take office. You write to The New Secretary of State, and ask for a meeting **in the House**, not his office, and you go down there and sit in the Lobby until he sees you, even if you have to stay there overnight. MP's will come to talk to you wanting to know what's happening, whilst you are in the Lobby, because you have already made contact with them.

14) You will find that the press will be there with you, they will be good publicity and the Secretary of State will eventually have to see you.

It's a case of who blinks first. At present you have already blinked first, and the UK Government knows it, that is why they keep using you and the Isle of Man Government as the whipping boy.

15) I have not blinked, I am after him again.

16) The press will be behind you because you have brought them to the Island, and they will remember how well you looked after them. You have to make them beholden to you.

17) I would have done all this at my expense, but unfortunately, I have been barred by the family for taking this further myself or anything else, so it's up to you now to fight for your people. I can only give you advice. Advice from long years of experience.

18) Remember I am now 75 years old and I don't and do not want to get paid, so my advice to you is genuine and in the interest of the Manx people.

19) I have been in the Civil Service and I know how it works. I know how to interpret their jargon and yours and those of Governments.

20) By all means take advice from your department, but when push comes to shove, you have to stand up for your own

people who voted you in, and not your department, and what I have just told you is what you must do if you want to have a result.

It is demanding and it takes time but if you inform the people at each step of the way, you will find that they will be behind you. As it is today because of the inactivity of the Government and the way they have been treated, they all want you out.

You now have to find a solution to this impasse, and at the same time come out smelling of roses, on the high moral ground and with compassion for all our people. What I have proposed to the Secretary of State is the true way forward.

I thank God that we didn't, and do not have, an Isle of Man type Government in Gibraltar, as otherwise we would have handed Gibraltar over to Spain a long time ago and we would be all Spaniards today, perish the thought.

In the spirit that it is given and in the interest of the Manx people.

Yours sincerely
Henry Ramagge
Chairman

Friends of the Manx Diabetic.

This written briefing was handed personally to the Minister on 14th December at the meeting. The Chief Minister also has a copy as have all members of Tynwald.

Is it a coincidence that the DHSS wrote to the Secretary of Health on 21st December, one week later requesting an interview after his intransigent and defeatist stance?

You make up your mind, but let him take the Kudos.

Mr Teare must be commended for summoning the courage to ask for a meeting at the eleventh hour, even though he persisted with his defeatist attitude.

Correspondence with Labour and the Tory Party.

On the 7th December last the Chairman wrote a second letter to Mr Burnham

regarding the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement.

But this time the Chairman wrote him to his private address.

He started by apologising for writing to his private address, but felt that this was the only way of getting thought to him personally bypassing bureaucracy.

He explained that it was never his intention to "revisit the decision" which he had taken solely for saving monies without any consideration for our two peoples.

The Chairman pointed out that he should not be afraid or adverse to discussing anything that will cost him no money, yet simplify the lives of all concerned, which should be both our Governments paramount objectives.

He then explained what his proposal was and enclosed it, which if worked properly, he said, would not cost the UK Government or the Isle of Man anything, but would maintain the moral and compassionate understanding between our two Governments. Which was tantamount to X equalling 0.

The object of the exercise was to do away with the anomalies and problems that had arisen between our two jurisdictions and try to resolve and simplify these anomalies in the interest of all concerned.

He emphasised that his proposal would not cost them any monies, and he certainly was not going to ask him to put up any money.

The Chairman emphasised that Mr Burnham was saying that his Government does not plan to seek a replacement agreement, and neither did the Chairman want to or involve him in any expenses.

The Chairman pointed out he only sought a humane understanding, that would ensure that the fallen Manx soldiers of the Isle of Man in two World Wars had not died in vain, or can be brushed aside for a whim of his Government.

The letter under reply, explained that the Secretary of State for Health just appeared to show the contempt that the

Labour Government has for the people of the Isle of Man and for those of his citizens that are blood related to ours.

So once again, he respectfully asked for a meeting to discuss the enclosed proposal, and a possible understanding to ensure that the irregular ambiguity as to what, where and when, people can be looked after or how, that the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement has inadvertently imposed on both our peoples, and which not even our Minister or anyone else appears to understand or can explain the conditions under which you are entitled to free hospitalization in the UK.

The letter detailed arguments for an understanding between our two jurisdiction and ended by saying:

“Please remember that we are part of the Commonwealth, and your Queen is also our Queen.

We therefore respectfully propose an understanding that is without expenditure on your part or that of the Government of the Isle of Man, for your consideration and the proposal was enclosed”.

His reply was that everything should stay on hold as he was going to have a meeting with our Dynamic Duo.

But since then The Chairman has written once again to him asking for his Department of Health’s version of the minutes of the meeting, which have just arrived.

In the meantime a friend of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic wrote to the Conservative Party asking them for their help.

Here is an extract of the verbatim answer from the Office of the Shadow Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley.

“I’m Afraid that we are not in a position to give the promise you are looking for---that a Conservative Government will reverse the revocation of the reciprocal health agreement.

It would be a spending commitment, and with the UK’s public finances in the dire state that they are, we cannot make

any commitments without clarity over where the money would come from.

Furthermore, it is as yet unclear why Jersey seems to be accepting this arrangement while the Isle of Man is not”

So there you are, if however they are returned, there would be no review because Burnham would still be in and he has already told our Dynamic Duo on your bike.

So we need our Government to resolve the situation for it’s own people now before April Fools Day.

Interpretation of letter from Minister of State to Teare for the Chief Minister.

As no one seemed to be able to interpret the contents of Mr Burnham’s, letter, and Mr Teare was wallowing in alarm and despondency saying nothing would come from the meeting before it even started.

The Chairman who has experience in these matters wrote to the Chief Minister to explain what the letter actually said.

10th January 2010

Dear Chief Minister

Please forgive me for writing you again, but I have just had sight of the letter to Mr Teare from the Secretary of State for Health. I have not written to Mr Teare on this, as I don’t believe he will understand or grasp what I have to say, hence my writing to you with a courtesy copy to him.

I am afraid that the reaction from the media and that of your Ministers, in particular the Minister for Health, has no bearing as to the real contents of the letter.

There appears not to be anyone in your Government or advisors who can interpret the contents of the letter and everyone has received it with doom and gloom, except me.

Your Mr Teare is already crying in his soup that nothing will come out of the meeting, so leave him behind, he is not

worth dragging along with his defeatist attitude.

Please understand that I am not the troublemaker that the DHSS makes me out to be, but someone who is interested in the welfare of the Manx people. If this is trouble making, so be it.

Because of this I will interpret the real meaning of the Secretary of State's letter for you.

1) **"I would be very happy to meet with you to discuss our respective plans for the future"** he is leaving the door open for you to discuss with him what your thoughts for the future may be, and what you may feel could be the basis of some sort of arrangements outside the Bilateral Health Agreement.

2) **"I should point out however, that I am not minded to reconsider our position in relation to the termination:"**

This is a categorical no to a reinstatement of the old Reciprocal Health Agreement and the payment by them of £2.9 million pounds, which is what I have been telling your Minister for Health for months now, but he does not appear to hoist it. Let me repeat there is no way of getting the old system back and if you try to propose this across the table you will be shown the door.

The last paragraph of your press release says you are going to try to persuade the United Kingdom Government to change its mind. This is a lot of tosh, because you don't understand the contents of his letter and no one has explained it to you. He is telling you he will not agree to a reinstatement before you even sit around the table, but may be open to other suggestion.

3) **"Look forward to meeting you"** He is extending his hand of friendship so you should go there with hope and not the negative attitude that your Minister for Health persists in fronting to the media.

4) **"Whilst the termination of the agreement does mark the end of an era"** I presume you have heard of the saying, 'The King is dead, long live the King'. So whenever an era ends another one begins. This means that they are

receptive to suggestions for a future partnership outside a Bilateral Health Agreement. They do not want to lose the partnership with the Isle of Man, because they will want to squeeze you, and will continue to do so, but not throttle you.

5) **"It is vital that we continue to work together within an environment of cooperation"** What he is saying is please don't rock the boat. From his point of view he cannot have the hassle if a lot of MP's or Parliament on his back, in particular in election year. That is why I told your Minister for Health in my written briefing, handed to him on the 14th December, before he wrote to the Secretary of State, that now was the time to act and bring pressure through MP's and Parliament.

The Secretary of State is telling you that if you behave there could be some crumbs on the table, so toe the line. He is hoping that you will go there with Mr Teare's defeatist attitude and surrender before the first shot is fired. The Isle of Man is a Nation and you must go there and behave like National representatives.

6) He then tells you the most important statement you want to hear **"Albeit outside of any bilateral agreement"**. This means he is prepared to listen to proposals that would benefit our two jurisdictions without expenditure on either part, but outside of the Bilateral Agreement. This I have been telling your Minister all along. My proposal reflects this. The cat may be black, but you can also present it in another way and say that the cat is not white, and no one loses face.

From the onset my proposal to the Secretary of State for Health said let us have **"an 'understanding' between our two jurisdictions"** not a **"reinstating of the reciprocal agreement"** as from years of experience in dealing with Governments all over the world, I know this will not happen.

So you must take with you concrete proposals to put before the Secretary of State and don't be intimidated.

He is inviting you to do this, but outside **'any Bilateral agreement'**. Do not miss this opportunity. Mr Teare is a non starter. Forget the Bilateral Agreement, that is now a dead duck.

Chief Minister, with all due respect, this letter is good for the Isle of Man, and not as bad as your people make it out to be, that is because they don't know how to read what Government jargon means.

Governments have special people to draft these kind of letters and the British Government is no exception. I have been brought up in this jargon and I know what the Secretary of State means.

The letter has been very well and carefully couched, all you have to do is read it properly. It appears you don't have the proper people to do this. I for one would not have let you put out that press release with the last statement. I would have set it out in another way so that you would be off the hook.

I have already put this point of view to some MHK's and they now see the letter in a different perspective.

Please understand that all I am doing is trying to help. Advice costs nothing, unless you are an overpaid civil servant.

Please read the letter again with my comments and I hope you can act accordingly.

What is at stake is too important to play about with, this is the future of the Manx people that your Government will be representing, and it is in their interest that you send the right people to ensure a successful outcome to any agreement.

Once again may I respectfully suggest that in the interest of the Isle of Man and the Manx people you send Mr Rodan and Mrs Christian and leave Mr Teare behind.

That is what I would do if I were Chief Minister, or for that matter advising the Chief Minister.

In the spirit it has been given and wishing you all the luck at the proposed meeting.

Yours sincerely
Henry J Ramagge
Chairman
Friends of the Manx Diabetic

The Chief Minister replied on 15th January saying: -

"Thank you for your letter dated 10th January 2010 outlining your interpretation of the letter which the Minister for Health received from the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Health, which I have read with interest and noted its contents"

Exchange of e-mails with the Chief Minister.

Because of the shortage of time for their meeting across, it was necessary to send this exchange by e-mail.

E-mail to Chief Minister dated 18th January 2010

Dear Chief Minister

Once again with apologies, but I have received a communication to my second letter from the Office of the Secretary of State for Health, which I think you should know about for your visit.

The relevant paragraph reads. "However, things have moved on slightly since my last letter. Although the department of Health has no current plans to revisit the decision to cease the agreement, or introduce a new agreement, The Secretary of State for Health has agreed to meet with his Isle of Man counterpart to listen to his concerns and to consider how best to work together in the future"

He still does not want to rock the boat and this is what you must do, rock it violently.

What he is saying, as I told Mr Houghton to tell you, that what the Minister of State does not want to do, is for you to go to another jurisdiction with your £8.9 million pounds that you spend on sending patients to north-west hospitals.

In an answer to a question in Parliament he said quote, "As a north-west MP, I know that the Island has a long relationship with the Northwest of England and its Health Service, and I will commission the work that my Hon Friend mentions on the potential effect of

purchasing being switched. I AM NOT MINDED AT PRESENT TO CHANGE OUR POSITION BUT I WILL OF COURSE, LISTEN TO WHAT THE MINISTER HAS TO SAY. (My capitals.)

This is a very strong bargaining counter. You hold the Ace and “what the Minister has to say” should be we are going to change from the North-West to Dublin. Don’t mention Scotland etc because he may be able to veto it, but he can’t do anything about Ireland. Tell him that the Irish Government in their dire financial position might even be prepared to enter into a reciprocal health agreement between our two jurisdictions. Lets see what he says if he wants to hold onto his £8.9 million for his North-West.

This is your outlet. He doesn’t want to loose £8.9 million for his north-west. You on the other hand now have a lever to prise them open.

Sorry about this but I felt you ought to know.

All the best with the meeting.

Henry J Ramagge

Chairman

Friends of the Manx Diabetic.

The Chief Minister replied: -

18th January

Dear Mr Ramagge

Thank your e-mail and the information therein.

We are very conscious that we presently choose to expend some £8+m per year with the UK NHS for referrals, and that there may well be other options open to the Island regarding how and where we expend our finances in the future to provide such services for our residents who are referred to NHS treatment. It is important, however, that we retain quality of Island health care for our residents who are referred.

Regards

Tony Brown Chief Minister

The Chairman immediately shot back an e-mail saying.

18th January 2010

Dear Chief Minister

I am in receipt of your e-mail and we appear to be at sixes and sevens.

I do not want you to go to Dublin for medical care, all I was suggesting you do is threaten him with the prospect that you will go there.

He may be saving £2.9 million pounds by withdrawing the Reciprocal Health Agreement but tell him he will loose £8.9 million for his northwest hospitals because you are going to Dublin.

I was only telling you to use this as a bargaining counter.

The essence of negotiating is he won’t know whether you are telling the truth or not, but you must maximise your advantage when sitting round the table.

Remember you will only get this one chance, so make the best of it.

With this argument you hold the upper hand.

All the best

Yours

Henry Ramagge

Chairman Friends of the Manx Diabetic.

Unfortunately he came back imitating Neville Chamberland with a paper in his hand saying if you are good boys I shall review the situation in six months. Dosen’t Mr Teare and Mr Brown know that there is going to be a general election and in six months Burnham might not be there.

If he is he will tell Brown and Co that he has already told them no. On the other hand the Conservatives will do nothing for two years until they are bedded in.

So once again, see my written briefing, the only hope now that they have blown it, is Parliament and the Lords.

The Chief Minister however doesn’t want to go down this route he doesn’t want this, he has said in the House this is “a question of Government to Government and not Parliament to Parliament”, and a motion on the issue was lost with the block vote. So he cannot now approach MP’s unless he makes his policies on the hoof.

What he does not realise is that the UK have a Government and he has not.

As usual they went and made a pigs ear of it.

The Early Day Motion

Andrew Mackinley MP has tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Parliament which already has the backing of over 54 MP's who have signed up to it.

Chief Minister alight from your high horse, it is the welfare of the people that is at stake here.

The Chairman will be sending you a bucket of sand, so that you won't miss out, and so that you can carry it with you wherever you go, and put your head in the sand every time something you don't like comes up and you are not near a fire hydrant.

Chief Minister this is the time to strike, see my briefing of the 14th December to the Minister for Health and Social Security.

It's quite simple.

News in Brief

The obesity Benefits

Benefit claims by obese people too fat to work have soared under Labour. Obese Benefit claimants who are officially too fat to work are now costing the UK Taxpayer £80 million per year.

The number of people claiming benefits since 1997 has doubled as Ministers moved people off the dole queues and onto sickness benefits. It appears that obese people are £25 better off if they claim incapacity benefits rather than job seekers allowance.

Is this happening here? Or does the DHSS once again don't know?

Eating together cuts child obesity.

A study claims that eating together could stop children becoming obese.

They have found that going back to the old days when every member of the family eat at the same time could cut the risk of obesity in children by 40 %. Experts say that running the clock back would help turn back obesity. Eating with

the family is very important because you talk, you eat more slowly and less.

Children need to eat a healthy diet to reverse these trends.

The Fat Chair Boom

The only people making a profit from the Obesity boom appears to be the makers of chairs. The huge 'rise and recline' chairs are being snapped up by obsess customers weighing up to 50 stone. One specialist firm has sold 146 chairs this year more than double the 61 it sold last year.

Breastfeeding

Researchers are now suggesting that mothers who breastfeed could be protecting themselves against diabetes later in life. A 20 years study found that mothers who did so had healthier levels of blood fats and glucose than those who were bottle feeding.

Dr Erica Gunderson of the Kaiser Permanente Care Organisation in California, said it was unclear exactly how breastfeeding affects the diabetes risk factor.

Mr Cannan's motion thrown out by the block vote.

As usual our democratic Government throws out Mr Cannan's Motion with their block voting.

Mr Cannan's motion was the only practical option considering the circumstance, but the Government backed by the block vote are more interested in cutting their noses to spite their faces.

However well done to those that backed Mr Cannan who are the real Champions of the Manx people.

We should not vote the Ministers and their block voters in at the Next elections.

The Last Laugh

This quarter's last laugh is that we have no money and must tighten our belts.

According to the Government and the DHSS it would cost 3 million to cover

everyone for hospitalisation, and they haven't got the money.

But, they are going to reinvent themselves and play musical chairs at great expense to the Isle of Man.

This they have set for implementation on the same day as the Reciprocal Health Agreement ends so they can use it as a smoke screen and take our minds off our insurance problems.

They have to reallocate most of the people, get all new stationary printed, get all new logos, reprint all leaflets of all departments, repaint all the motor transport with new Department logo headings etc etc., and of course the millions and millions of calling cards for the new heads of departments and their staff under new titles. We have 7,500 civil servants as compared to 4, 500 in one of the Channel Islands. Not to mention other hidden extras.

This they really do not need to do just yet as they could have left all departments as they are until they are back on their feet again.

However if they want to spend money they could have put it towards the 3 million pounds they say it would cost to cover every one on the Island.

In fact a £3 travel levy would cover the £3 million pounds.

In the meantime we continue to spend money on roads, bowls and God know what as if there was no tomorrow. Yet Mr Teare wants to reduce hospital facilities.

Just analyse the Millions upon Millions of pounds being voted through Tynwald since they have been told by the British Government that they are taking more Millions from us.

In the February Tynwald alone they voted over 12 million pounds in expenditure, and this does not include the reshuffle of departments. But they have no money to help their own people.

It maybe that some of the MHK's now in the Keys are not going to stand for election next time round, or are not going to be re-elected and will leave the almighty mess for someone else to clean

up. This unfortunately is their Last Laugh.

The Chief Minister in Tynwald said that we should all buy locally to help the Manx economy.

Yet the Government sacks the local air ambulance provider and employs one from the UK.

**This message from the Government is clear, "if its cheaper in the UK do like we do, buy from there and not locally".
Another contradiction.**

The MHK's that voted against you at the October Tynwald.

The following MHK's voted against you and for the Teare proposal for you to go it alone. **Cut this out and put it on your fridge door and when they come to your door tell them you are not voting for them anymore.**

Mr Brown MHK	Castletown
Mr Teare MHK	Ayre
Mr Quirk MHK	Onchan
Mr Earnshaw MHK	Onchan
Mr Crookall MHK	Onchan
Mr Anderson MHK	Glenfaba
Mrs Craine MHK	Ramsey
Mr Bell MHK	Ramsey
Mr Qualye MHK	Middle
Mr Marlarkey MHK	Douglas South
Mr Cretney MHK	Douglas South
Mr Braidwood MHK	Douglas East
Mr Corkish MHK	Douglas West
Mr Shimmin MHK	Douglas West
Mr Watterson MHK	Rushen
Mr Gawne MHK	Rushen

Mr Bill Henderson MHK left the chamber so as not to vote. So he did not vote for you either.

Whatever they tell you take it with a pinch of salt, this is the vote that the Chief Minister proud of and keeps on Quoting as Authority.

So Remember them at the Ballot Box and don't vote them in again.

