

# JOHN HOUGHTON

## DOUGLAS NORTH

Dear Constituent

I have pleasure in offering you my manifesto in support of my candidature for a further term in the House of Keys.

I have outlined my views on many important issues of concern to people living in the Constituency and the Island.

There are many issues which need to be addressed in principle at national level and as always I am committed to assisting constituents with personal problems as they arise.

It is most regrettable that I have been treated inappropriately by a Tynwald Committee who saw fit to uphold spurious and untrue allegations made against me to which I have therefore been unable to apologise and which has led to my suspension. This has caused an unlawful and undemocratic hiatus.

However, at the June sitting of Tynwald a declaratory resolution was unanimously approved which calls for the Standing Order affecting me to be reviewed if I am returned, and will restore my ability to represent you in parliament.

I will continue to fight for a thorough independent review of any allegations against me in order to clear my name.

I thank you for your continued support and I pledge to continue to put 100% effort into representing your interests to the best of my ability at all times.

Yours sincerely



House of Keys  
General Election  
22 September 2016

Douglas North welcomes the residents of Tromode

## GROWING THE ECONOMY

### BREXIT

The single most important opportunity to grow the Island's economy must be centred around BREXIT. I envisage a number of financial industries and other companies will be displaced due to future uncertainty. The Isle of Man is able to quickly tailor legislation in order to attract high quality businesses and offer a shelter ideally situated between England and Dublin as a gateway to Europe. In addition, the Island has absorbed an enormous amount of European legislation over the years due to the Island being an associate member with Great Britain, which has led over time to substantial loss of revenue opportunities and businesses. Much of this legislation can be revoked thus saving significant administrative costs and provide additional opportunities for the economy in the future.

### TAXATION

I would support the status quo in relation to the current Taxation Policy at 10% and 20% respectively. However, I feel the personal allowance rates have fallen behind. They must at least be on a par with the UK Personal Allowance Rates and I would also support the reinstatement of the additional tax allowance for the elderly from £1,000 to £2,000 per annum. This unfair reduction has forced many of our elderly residents into the tax bracket, paying up to £200 more in tax each year.

Willaston Estate external refurbishment scheme underway



### WITHDRAWAL OF FREE TV LICENCES FOR THE OVER 75s

I pursued the Treasury Minister with parliamentary questions on this issue many months ago before the withdrawal of free TV licences for the over 75s was included in the 2016 budget in Tynwald. The saving to the Treasury is in the region of £700,000 – not a great deal of money when you compare other matters where large sums are repeatedly wasted on meaningless causes.

If elected, I will be pleased to support other like-minded members to reinstate this valuable privilege for the elderly.

### PENSIONS

#### STATE RETIREMENT PENSIONS: THE BASIC DETAILS

Tynwald has supported significant changes to the State Retirement Pension which is

due to commence in 2019 with a single rate basic pension which will be fixed at today's comparable rate of £170 per week. For those residents who are entitled to the Pension Supplement, those who begin to collect their pensions from 2019, will receive 95% of the value of the supplement which will be pegged for each successive year.

Newly entitled pensioners in 2020 will then be pegged at 90% of the value of the pension supplement and thereafter each year the value of the Pension Supplement will fall incrementally by 5%.

#### PUBLIC SECTOR PENSIONS

This controversial issue has not yet been settled due to complexities of issues facing our workforce.

Tynwald has referred this matter back to the Public Sector Pensions Authority and the Treasury to work up strategies based on high level principles and report back with recommendations early in 2017.



Hyperbaric Chamber : existing premises at Peel Road



Site of proposed sheltered housing complex in Snaefell Road, Willaston

There is much to do in this area and fair consultation must continue with all affected sectors of government's workforce.

We must protect the interest of our workforce to the best of our ability going forward as each and every one of them was not responsible for the dramatic under-estimation of the looming "black hole" which should have been addressed some three decades ago and so government is obliged to honour its commitments.

However, those commitments will be coupled with any increases to contributions and benefits being set henceforth. This will mean Government will have no option but to meet any shortfall at great cost over future years with those members of our workforce being obliged to pay more in contributions for a longer period in service but for less reward.

## HEALTH

➤ There has been a considerable loss of highly experienced and qualified medical practitioners at Nobles Hospital over recent years, leaving a hiatus of skills within our valuable workforce. Many new replacements have been engaged but some have since departed from the Island. We need to plug this important gap and raise the bar on opportunities to attract more quality staff at every level.

➤ There are serious problems relating to clinical appointments which require urgent resolution to improve services and I am receiving a number of disturbing complaints regarding patients attending clinics and for operations in specialist hospitals in the UK, which have been postponed due to the absence of medical records when the patient arrives for treatment in the UK only to be turned away without treatment.

➤ I am proud to have been associated with the campaign to treat patients suffering from Wet Macular Degeneration on the Island which has now commenced. Before he become Minister, Mr Howard Quayle MHK and I met with representatives of the Macular Society and the Manx Blind Welfare Society to forge ahead with this initiative and when he became Minister, Mr Quayle brought about a swift and successful conclusion.

➤ **HYPERBARIC CHAMBER** – I have been the lead politician in support of the hyperbaric chamber for many years. With around 90 treatments per day, this wonderful facility has outgrown its existing premises situated behind the fire station on Peel Road, Douglas. An additional full sized chamber urgently needs to be brought into use on a larger site at the rear of Noble's hospital

A committed team of professionals are assisting the Kevin Gray Memorial Charity to make this happen and are supported by David Downie and his committed staff who together with officials of the Charity, doctors and the Minister for Health and Social Care are working closely to achieve an imminent result.

## BILLS

As a member of the Department of Infrastructure I was privileged to move the Road Races Bill through its stages in the House of Keys. The Act will come into operation in time for TT 2017.

This Act will improve many aspects of safety and will also provide marshals with better powers of enforcement in future road racing events.

## PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

I have worked up an amendment Bill to compliment an Act I have previously brought forward known as the Debt Recovery and Enforcement Act. This Bill is complete and ready to go into the House of Keys if I am re-elected.

## IN THE CONSTITUENCY

### DOUGLAS LIVE AT HOME SCHEME

This established scheme, chaired by Mr Anthony Hamilton and operated by high quality staff based at the Willaston Methodist Church, provides a much needed and valued social inclusion for the elderly within our community. It is going from strength to strength providing help and assistance to many of those who live at home alone and who are regularly taken out to lunch, with transport being provided by the charity's own mini-buses which collect and return people direct to their front doors.

## CONSTITUENCY SURGERY

I operate a surgery at the Willaston Methodist Church on most Wednesdays from 12.30 to 1.30pm, where you are welcome to discuss anything in a private and friendly environment, or to have a passport or driving licence application form signed etc.

## OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- I am Chairman of the Willaston Refurbishment Steering Committee.  
This scheme is currently commencing Phase 4 and will continue throughout the estate in phases until completion. I would like to thank all the residents of Willaston for their patience and understanding whilst this vital project continues.
- I have been a karate instructor for 43 years at the Isle of Man Karate Club which is based at the Glencrutchery School gymnasium, where I am the Club's Administrator and Treasurer. Training times for our beginners' class is 6.30 to 7.30pm on Mondays and 6.30 to 8pm on Fridays. Adults and children aged 7 years upwards are welcome.
- I am Chairman of the Martial Arts Association.
- I am a Trustee and keen supporter of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic.
- I am a voluntary driving instructor.

**If you require transport to the Polling Station on  
THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2016  
please telephone 628397**

**Can you help with the election on 22 September?**

If so, please ring 628397 or email [johnhoughton0101@gmail.com](mailto:johnhoughton0101@gmail.com) Thank you.

At the election you have two votes

Please vote for **John Houghton**



*Your independent candidate for Douglas North*

*for proven ability and commitment.*