

House of Keys General Election 23rd September 2021



VOTE CHRISTINE URQUHART
for Douglas East

PUTTING THE PEOPLE
BACK INTO POLITICS

A vote for **Christine** is a vote for **YOU**

To register to vote: <https://www.gov.im/register tovote>

VOTE CHRISTINE
FOR KEYS

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Introduction:

I am a Douglas girl who spent nine years of my childhood growing up in Glasgow, before returning to the Island in 1991.

My interest in current and political affairs has been with me my whole life. However, over the past 5 years this interest has transformed into an appetite to help create much needed change within a system I personally feel requires a major overhaul.

Some of you may be aware that I am an avid advocate and supporter of Victims' Rights on the Island whether you discovered this via my talk at the Safeguarding Conference in 2017; representing victims of Knottfield Children's Home in May 2018 to the SAPRC; or most recently, from the protest outside Douglas Courthouse in August 2020. This is a matter that is close to my heart and something I will continue to support, drive forward, and seek change for.

I am stepping directly into Manx Politics now to help create the transformation I feel it requires. I love this island we live on, and I wish it to be the best little Island in the world, with a government that affords the public full transparency and respect. Where your voices are not only heard but actioned upon. Where you are at the forefront of government decisions and policy. Where you get your say when it needs to be said, not when the government feels it has time to listen.

In representing you it will be your voices, thoughts, and concerns in that seat, not mine.

Putting the people back into politics:

- Public consultations that are held in public, allowing you to share your views, concerns, praise for any major projects.
- Introducing a petition process that is linked directly to government so that your voice can be heard and actioned upon.
- To maintain an open-door policy for all constituents.
- That your queries and concerns that be heard in the House of Keys.

My Top Three Priorities

Transparency and Accountability:

Transparency is a word that has been bandied about an awful lot over the past 5 years, and more importantly, how people feel there has been a lack of transparency from government and their departments.

I feel it is time now for the CEO's of said departments to step forward publicly to provide this much needed transparency, and to be held to account when errors are made, and projects going over budget, providing clear and concise explanations.

Health and Social Care:

- Five year waiting lists can NEVER be acceptable!
- Two year waiting lists for Mental Health Care
- Integrated services with Silo mentalities

The top three are only a few examples of what is lacking within our health services. The changes I wish to implement are ensuring that every GP surgery has its own dedicated Physiotherapist and Mental Health Nurse in the practice. This will ease pressure on the GP's, bring down waiting lists, and ensure the public have quicker access to care and support.

The Economy:

- Local Business Support – Local business built the Isle of Man; it will be local business that sustains it.
- More employment, training and educational diversity are required in keeping with our modern times.
- Support the for the governments Living Wage Scheme to ensure that people earn a wage that is in keeping with inflation.
- Affordable Housing – I do believe that the social housing stock must be expanded, building new homes for our ever-growing community, and for those who cannot afford to get onto the property ladder.
- A Rent-to-Buy scheme be opened for a period for those who have invested into their social housing and wish to buy the property if their financial situation allows them to do so.
- A Minister for Housing to be introduced to Government to ensure regulation is implemented and process is followed regarding the larger property developers on the island.
- Zero Hours Contracts – Regulation MUST be put in place to ensure that anyone within a Zero Hours Contract role beyond 12 months be offered the position permanently to provide them, and their family, the security they require.

My Promise to You:

- I promise that you, the constituents of Douglas East, will be my first and main priority.
- I will maintain contact with all constituents throughout my term in office.
- I will always be open, honest, and transparent with you.
- I will endeavour to provide you with answers to any queries raised.

My ambition for the House of Keys is to have politicians within it who put people before politics.

Where your quality of life is considered before implementation of major projects, policy, and put above and beyond everything else.

A government that listens to the people it represents, with an open-door policy.

Public consultations on major projects and spending are more accessible.

A Thriving community supports those who are Surviving.

A supportive government recognises the difference

Changes I wish to implement:

A few brief outlines of what I will be seeking change for and of which I would be more than happy to discuss further:

Mental Health and service provision:

- Mental Health Nurses in every GP surgery.
- A dedicated therapy centre for those transitioning from an acute episode before returning to the community.
- Virtual clinics to allow for capacity and to bring waiting lists down.

Health and Social Care:

- Physiotherapists in every GP surgery.
- Virtual Hospital - for appointments that require no physical exam.

Education:

- To establish a PE Passport for all high school pupils, to build resilience and freedom of choice.
- Self-defence classes to become part of the school curriculum.
- Rates of pay that acknowledge the staff's undertakings within their roles.
- Affordable childcare provided during term breaks.
- Summer school hubs.

Affordable Housing:

- Broadening the remit of Employed Person's Allowance (EPA) for single people with no dependents, to afford living on their own.
- Regulations implemented regarding house prices and rent.
- Social housing stock - this must be expanded to accommodate our growing population and the rising house prices.

Sexual Offences (SOOP) and Domestic Abuse Bills:

- Both Bills to be actioned and implemented into Manx law ASAP.
- Victims' Commissioner for the Island

Other Topics:

- Full staff audit of all government departments
- Children's Commissioner
- Animal Welfare Bill
- Cannabis Bill
- Climate Change
- Affordable Housing and Residential Care for our Elderly
- An Older Persons Champion in Tynwald

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