

Declaration of Intent to Stand for Election as a Member of the House of Keys for Onchan – General Election 2026

I am writing to formally declare my intention to stand as a candidate for election to the House of Keys, representing the constituency of Onchan, in the forthcoming Isle of Man General Election 2026.

I am aware that some have questioned my age and level of experience. That scrutiny is expected. However, experience should be judged by evidence of delivery, not by assumption or length of service alone. In a relatively short period with the Onchan District Commissioners, I have led and contributed to decisions and motions that have delivered tangible improvements for residents and strengthened local accountability. That record demonstrates both capability and intent, and it is an approach I will bring to the House of Keys if elected.

This decision follows careful consideration of the current state of public services, governance, and the level of accountability being demonstrated across government. There is an increasing expectation from the public that those entrusted with responsibility will not only set direction, but will ensure that it is properly delivered. At present, there is a growing concern that this standard is not consistently being met.

Too often, policies are introduced with assurance, yet the outcomes fall short. Processes that should provide transparency and confidence can appear unclear or inconsistently applied. This has contributed to a wider sense of frustration and, in some cases, a loss of trust.

I believe that representation must go beyond endorsement. It requires scrutiny, challenge, and a willingness to question decisions where they do not meet the standard that the public is entitled to expect. That is the approach I intend to take.

A key priority for me is to advocate for a more open, transparent, and accountable approach to Health and Social Care. There remains a clear need for services to work more effectively together, rather than operating in isolation. Where integration is weak, outcomes suffer, and service users are left navigating a system that should be working on their behalf.

Improving coordination between health and social care is not simply an operational preference. It is essential to delivering timely, consistent, and safe services. Greater alignment, supported by clear accountability and oversight, will help ensure that resources are used effectively and that unnecessary delays are reduced.

If this is approached with discipline and intent, it has the potential to improve access to services, ease pressure on waiting lists, and create a system that is not only more efficient, but more responsive to the needs of those who rely on it. There is no

reason why our Health and Social Care system should not aspire to be among the strongest and most effective across comparable small island jurisdictions. At present, however, that ambition is not being realised.

If elected, my focus will be on:

- Promoting greater accountability in decision making, ensuring that policies are realistic, evidence based, and deliverable
- Strengthening transparency so that the public can have confidence in how decisions are made and implemented
- Supporting public services to operate effectively within clear and consistent frameworks, particularly where they impact on individuals and families
- Strengthening services and inclusion for children and vulnerable adults, ensuring that support is accessible, consistent, and delivered within clear safeguarding and accountability frameworks. There is a growing concern that, despite policy commitments, delivery is uneven and, at times, falls short of what individuals and families require
- Supporting the development of tourism by reviewing the cost and accessibility of travel to and from the Island. High travel costs continue to act as a barrier, limiting both visitor numbers and economic opportunity. A more strategic and transparent approach is needed if tourism is to reach its full potential
- Protecting the principles of the triple lock pension, recognising that those who have contributed over a lifetime should have confidence in a stable and fair retirement. This must remain a priority rather than a point of uncertainty
- Maintaining Winter Fuel support for those who genuinely rely upon it, ensuring that assistance is appropriately targeted. At a time when energy costs continue to place pressure on households, it is difficult to justify any approach that risks leaving vulnerable individuals unable to heat their homes adequately
- Improving education provision so that it is genuinely inclusive and capable of meeting a wide range of needs, while maintaining a consistently high standard. There is an increasing expectation that education systems should not only set policy, but demonstrate measurable outcomes for all learners, including those who require additional support
- Strengthening working relationships between central government and local authorities. Too often, coordination appears fragmented, which undermines effective delivery at a local level. A more coherent and accountable approach

is required to ensure that decisions made centrally are supported and implemented effectively within communities

- Investing in infrastructure, including roads and essential public services, through a more transparent and planned approach. Infrastructure underpins economic activity and daily life, yet there is a growing perception that maintenance and long term planning have not kept pace with demand
- Promoting food security by supporting local production and reducing reliance on external supply. This includes providing appropriate incentives for farmers and encouraging landowners to make productive use of land. However, this must be coupled with a clear focus on affordability, ensuring that locally produced food remains accessible rather than becoming a premium option beyond the reach of many residents

This is not about broad or unrealistic commitments. It is about recognising where improvements are required and approaching those challenges with clarity and determination.

The people of Onchan deserve representation that is prepared to ask questions, challenge where necessary, and contribute constructively to improving outcomes. I intend to provide that representation.

Further details will be shared in due course.

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Isle of Man General Election 2026

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