

TYNWALD
STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES
COMMITTEE

First Report for the Session 2025-26

Conduct of Ms Lord-Brennan

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- 4.3 The Committee shall consider and may report on –
- (i) questions affecting the privileges of Tynwald referred to the Committee by the President under Standing Order 10.17;
 - (ii) specific matters relating to privileges referred to it by the Court or by a Member, including specific complaints in relation to (a) alleged contempts of Tynwald or a Branch and (b) alleged abuses of the privileges of Tynwald or a Branch;
 - (iii) any other matter relating to the conduct of a Member referred to it by the Court, or by a Member, or by any other person, including specific complaints in relation to alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 4.3A [...]
- 4.4 No matter shall be considered under paragraph 3(ii) above which concerns words used in proceedings in Tynwald or a Branch, or the meaning or implication of such words unless –
- (i) immediate objection to them has been taken by the Member about whom the words have been used, and
 - (ii) the President, after receiving a request from that Member, has decided in all the circumstances that it is appropriate exceptionally to bring the matter to the Committee's attention, or
 - (iii) the President, after receiving a request from that Member who was absent from the Chamber when the words in question were used and who could not have taken immediate objection to them, has decided in all the circumstances that it is appropriate exceptionally to bring the matter to the Committee's attention.
- 4.5 The Committee shall also consider and report on such standards and such privileges of the Court and of Members as have been, or in the future should be, recognised as necessary and desirable for the proper and effective discharge of the duties of the Court of Tynwald and its Members.

The powers, privileges and immunities relating to the work of a committee of Tynwald include those conferred by the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1876, the Privileges of Tynwald (Publications) Act 1973, the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1984 and by the Standing Orders of Tynwald Court.

Committee Membership

C A Corlett MHK (Douglas Central) (Vice Chair)

D H P Caine MHK (Garff)

G Clueit MLC

T M Crookall MHK (Glenfaba and Peel)

M E K Haywood MHK (Rushen)

R J Mercer MLC

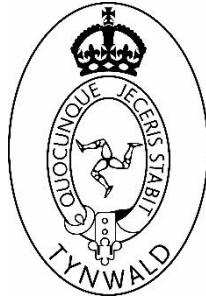
On 21st July 2026 Mr Speaker was appointed President and therefore ceased to be a member of the Committee.

Copies of this Report may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of Tynwald, Legislative Buildings, Finch Road, Douglas, IM1 3PW (Tel: 01624 685500) or may be consulted at www.tynwald.org.im.

All correspondence with regard to this Report should be addressed to the Clerk of Tynwald, Legislative Buildings, Finch Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3PW.

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To: The Hon Juan Paul Watterson MLC, President of Tynwald,
and the Hon Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled

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First Report for the Session 2025-26

Conduct of Ms Lord-Brennan

I. The Committee and the investigation

1. Previously the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee, this Committee was renamed the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee by resolution of Tynwald on 9th December 2025.
2. Dr Haywood has recused herself from the Committee for the purposes of this investigation. Mr Crookall queried whether he should recuse himself on the basis of investigating a constituency colleague. It was agreed that recusal was not necessary on those grounds.
3. We first met to consider the matter in this Report on 26th May 2026. We planned a second meeting for 17th June 2026 but this had to be postponed because of the late running of the Tynwald sitting on that day. This second meeting was rescheduled and took place on 7th July 2026.
4. In accordance with paragraph 25 of our published guidance we shared an earlier draft of this Report with Ms Lord-Brennan on 15th July 2026, inviting her to respond by noon on Monday 20th July 2026.
5. Ms Lord-Brennan sent us an initial response on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 14:24.¹ We arranged to meet to discuss this on Monday 20th July 2026 at 2pm. About an hour before

¹ Appendix 6.

our meeting, Ms Lord-Brennan issued a Facebook post about our investigation.² We discussed this and decided it merited further investigation, and informed Ms Lord-Brennan of this. On Tuesday 21st July 2026 she issued a further social media post.³ This led to an urgent motion in Tynwald Court and the following order of Tynwald made on Wednesday 22nd July 2026:

Tynwald requires the Standards Committee to bring forward, as intended, its motion and report to censure Kate Lord-Brennan MHK before the July 2026 sitting completes its business.

6. We are publishing this Report as required by Tynwald. Everything in this Report is the same as the draft sent to Ms Lord-Brennan on Wednesday 15th July 2026, with the exception of paragraphs 5 and 6 and Appendices 6, 7 and 8.

II. Complaints received

7. We have received two related complaints about the conduct of Ms Lord-Brennan. The first was submitted on 22nd May by Mr Hooper.⁴ The second was submitted on 25th June 2026 by Mrs Barber.⁵
8. The background to the complaints is a series of planning decisions made by Mr Hooper under delegated authority from Mrs Barber as Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture relating to proposed telegraph poles. Ms Lord-Brennan disagreed with the policy and legality of these decisions. She posted about them on social media. She also corresponded with the Minister and officers of the Department, wrote to the Isle of Man Examiner, and asked a series of written and oral parliamentary questions.
9. In a social media post of 22nd May 2026, reproduced in full within both complaints, Ms Lord-Brennan used the following expressions with reference to Mr Hooper:
 - ‘malevolent by action’
 - ‘his wicked hand’
 - ‘deviant decisions’
 - ‘weaponisation of planning applications, by one man’
 - ‘hijacked ... authority which was most certainly abused’

² Appendix 7.

³ Appendix 8.

⁴ Appendix 1

⁵ Appendix 2

10. Mr Hooper considers the language of the post ‘abhorrent’. He says that it contains serious and unfounded allegations and attacks on his character, as well as the character and actions of other Members.
11. In addition to the social media post, Mrs Barber also complains about a letter from Ms Lord-Brennan which appeared in the Isle of Man Examiner on 26th May 2026, an email she received from Ms Lord-Brennan on 27th May 2026, and the line of questioning and comment pursued by Ms Lord-Brennan in the House of Keys on 9th June 2026. She alleges breaches of the paragraphs 12, 18, 39 and 45 of the Tynwald Members’ Code of Conduct.

III. Responses received

12. We have received three submissions from Ms Lord-Brennan – a first in response to Mr Hooper’s complaint, a second in response to Mrs Barber’s complaint, and a third in response to a delay in our investigation.⁶
13. Part of Ms Lord-Brennan’s first response was a counter-complaint against Mr Hooper. We have considered the grounds for the counter-claim and unanimously dismissed this.⁷ We have therefore redacted it from Ms Lord-Brennan’s response for the purposes of this Report.

IV. Relevant Code provisions

14. We have assessed the conduct complained of with reference to the following provisions of the Tynwald Members’ Code of Conduct.

12. Members have a duty to uphold the law, including the general law against discrimination.

[...]

18. Members must never undertake any action which would cause significant damage to the reputation and integrity of Tynwald or its Branches as a whole, or of its Members generally.

[...]

38. It is fundamental to the art of politics that Members should be entitled to disagree, strongly and each with certainty as to their own rectitude and the other’s inaccuracy,

⁶ Appendices 3, 4 and 5.

⁷ Under paragraph 10 of our published Guidance a decision not to investigate is only made on the basis of unanimity.

without fear or favour. Nevertheless, Members should seek to maintain a constructive working relationship with other Members.

39. Members must:

- treat other Members of Tynwald as Honourable Members;
- attempt to resolve any difficulties by mutual agreement;
- not take a hostile or demeaning approach to other Members;
- not make unfounded allegations of misconduct;
- not bully or harass other Members, or continue with any kind of behaviour that is offensive to other Members.

[...]

45. Members must not use social media, email or any other online activity/forum to bully, harass or otherwise treat another person, including another Member, in a way that would breach workplace and community standards or the rules and practices of the chamber.

15. Paragraph 45 links expectations of Members' social media use to 'the rules and practices of the chamber'. The rules and practices relevant to the present complaints include in particular Tynwald Standing Order 3.30A(1), which says:

- (1) Unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion –
 - (a) no individual's character or conduct may be challenged;
 - (b) reflections may not be cast on any individual's character or conduct;
 - (c) no charge of a personal nature may be made or implied; and
 - (d) no imputation of improper motives may be made against any individual.

16. It is not within the scope of the Committee to determine the accuracy of allegations. Only Tynwald (or the Branches) can determine such matters, and even they can only do this on a substantive motion.

V. Analysis and conclusions

17. The majority of Ms Lord-Brennan's responses rehearse her policy and legal arguments against certain planning decisions made by Mr Hooper. These matters are of no concern to us as a Standards and Privileges Committee.

18. In terms of the alleged Code breaches which have been put to her, Ms Lord-Brennan has written:

I stand by that word [“malevolent”] and believe his decision making was carried out in that way.

A definition is

“Malevolent” is an adjective that describes having or showing a wish to do evil or cause harm to others. It implies a deliberate desire to inflict pain, injury, or misfortune, often driven by spite or malice.

[...]

The expressions used in the post are that – and they are appropriate. They are not banned words to write or convey. They may not be liked but the post was written in a pointed, sharp and humorous way. I am entitled to do this.

[...]

The expressions highlighted as being of concern by the Committee are clearly not abhorrent. They couldn’t even be said to be colourful. It is just impactful expression to convey valid points and a legitimate perspective.⁸

19. We do not agree with Ms Lord-Brennan. We are in no doubt that the social media post complained of by Mr Hooper and Mrs Barber breaches paragraph 45 of the Code. The basis of our opinion is that the post clearly breaches the rules of the Chamber. To call another Member ‘malevolent’ or ‘wicked’ is to cast a reflection on that Member’s character. To accuse another Member of weaponizing planning applications, or of hijacking and abusing authority, is an imputation of improper motives.
20. Nothing in Ms Lord-Brennan’s response has given us any reason to revise our opinion on this. The rights and wrongs of the substantive planning matter are not relevant to the Code provisions which are engaged. The legitimacy or otherwise of Ms Lord-Brennan’s perspective is of no relevance. Paragraph 45 of the Code has been breached.
21. Limitations on Members’ freedom of speech are rare but Standing Order 3.30A(1) is such a restriction. It is a rule agreed on by the Court as a self-denying ordinance and is one that Tynwald could collectively agree to change. Its purpose is to protect the character of parliamentary debate and to ensure that debate is focused on substantive matters of public interest and does not descend to an undignified squabble. The rule exists to protect the reputation of Tynwald. It is for the same reason that the rule has been extended, by

⁸ Appendix 3.

paragraph 45, to the social media environment. Accordingly we are of the view that paragraph 18 of the Code has also been breached.

22. We have considered also the other materials submitted by Mrs Barber – the newspaper article, the email to the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, and the line of parliamentary questioning. On these matters we do not consider that the Code has been breached.
23. Mrs Barber has referred to paragraph 12 of the Code and the duty to uphold the law. While we can see that Mrs Barber and Ms Lord-Brennan disagree on what the law requires, we do not think that Ms Lord-Brennan's comments undermine the law itself.
24. Paragraph 39 of the Code, which Mrs Barber has referred to, talks about attempting to resolve difficulties by mutual agreement, and not taking a hostile or demeaning approach to other Members. We can see why Mrs Barber considers this paragraph to have been engaged. However, paragraph 39 has to be read alongside paragraph 38, which emphasizes the importance of Members' right to disagree strongly without fear or favour. Again, it is not the function of this Committee to adjudicate on a particular issue of fact or policy. Members are entitled to be wrong.

We conclude that Ms Lord-Brennan's social media post of 22nd May 2026 about planning decisions taken by Mr Hooper breaches paragraphs 18 and 45 of the Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct.

VI. Recommendation

25. Having reached the conclusion that the Code had been breached, we consider it important that some sanction should be applied. Our judgment is that the gravity of this particular breach merits a censure by Tynwald. If supported by Tynwald this penalty would not result in any suspension or requirement to withdraw words or apologise for them. It would, however, signal Tynwald's support for its own Code and its disapproval of the conduct found to be in breach.

Recommendation

That, having been found in breach of the Code of Conduct, Ms Lord-Brennan be censured by Tynwald.

C A Corlett (Vice Chair)

D H P Caine

G Clueit

R Mercer

July 2026

Annex 1: Memorandum of dissent by Mr Crookall

When this complaint was first considered by the Committee, I did not agree with the decision to investigate. In my opinion Ms Lord-Brennan's social media post of 22nd May 2026 should not have been the subject of complaint.

Tim Crookall MHK

Written Evidence

Appendix 1: 22nd May 2026 – Submission from Mr Hooper

From: Hooper, Lawrie
Sent: 22 May 2026 11:32
To: Juan Watterson; Ann Corlett; Daphne Caine; Tim Crookall; Gary Clueit; Michelle Haywood; Rob Mercer
Cc: Jonathan King
Subject: Formal complaint / referral

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Committee Members

Please see the linked post published by Kate Lord-Brennan MHK which very clearly breaches a significant number of Members standards

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17dMRSmLQS/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

The post describes decision making as ‘malevolent’ and alleges abuse of process and properly delegated powers. These are serious and unfounded allegations and attacks on my character, as well as the character and actions of a number of Members of Tynwald Court.

As you know, I do not have all that much confidence that our standards process has any meaningful impact on the behaviour of certain members, however the language is abhorrent and accusations are serious and I expect firm action to be taken.

I have reproduced the full text below in case you can’t access the link

COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU! AN EYESORE!

Lawrie “Telecom” Hooper, MHK for Ramsey – antagonistic by nature, malevolent by action.

Not content with getting rid of the Bishop’s vote, Hooper has turned his wicked hand to something not quite as old, but still from the 1800’s: inflicting telegraph poles on residents.

Residents in three streets in Peel yesterday afternoon (BELLVUE PARK, CARMANE CLOSE AND CRONK REAYRT) received letters advising them that the MHK for Ramsey and declared Keys candidate and non-government (in fact anti-government) Member has acted to ensure they will have telegraph poles outside their homes.

This is inflicted by Lawrie Hooper. Who, has no role in government, or planning, by the way, having resigned in indignation over whatever it was last time, at that time declaring “ ***The Government has now become about doing what is expedient for the few, what is convenient for Ministers and not what is right for the island***’

Oh the irony.

Hooper has no business doing taking these deviant decisions, presumably nothing to gain (?) or lose, he just did it.

And it can't be overturned.

This is despite, the Planning Committee, with its good sense, and the Planning Appeal Inspector (who I think visited the areas – I doubt Hooper would dare) both concluding, that the applications for these telegraph poles should be REJECTED.

This move is highly unusual. It amounts to weaponisation of planning applications, by one man, using executive power, from a Minister, Clare Barber, MHK for Douglas East who has shown astonishingly poor judgement in delegating this decision to him.

And no reason for it.

I am not alone in the Island in thinking “what is wrong with this man?”.

I am making people aware of this, because they need to know, and there are no other options left to me.

Hooper's leanings are well known, but there is no need to inflict big corporation infrastructure on certain areas that would look more suited to the USSR. That is not inclusive or fair.

What has happened with other applications, so far, is a reasonable question.

Well, the Appeal Inspector's recommendation, has been followed by the DEFA Minister or whoever they delegate to, whether for approval or refusal on these sorts of applications.

In times where discretion may have been helpful, like Newsons, like the swimming pool in the South, this political judgment, has not been exercised for the good, for investment.

In other areas, upon analysis, Manx Telecom Appeals seem to have mysteriously gone away....and the issue has been buried under the ground. That may well surface.

In the decision letters released only yesterday, as far as I can tell right now, all the rest followed the Inspectors Recommendation to REJECT poles.

The Minister made the decision for Sulby : REJECTED - good (why she isn't handling them all the same, is a mystery).

At least one decision for Ramsey was made, Hooper's home town, that Barber kindly delegated to Hooper's compatriot Michelle Haywood, which was of course REJECTED. (Dr Haywood MHK for Rushen is also not a member in DEFA – or government - though Barber does have two Tynwald Members in DEFA, if she can't be bothered to do these things herself, or is conflicted. In fact, she can delegate to anyone, as she has shown.)

I would like to thank Tim Cowsill, Chief Officer for DEFA, for outlining the deviation of the Hooper decision to residents so fully.

But he is wrong to advise people that if they want to complain, they should complain to their MHKs, as if that offers some remedy. I wish it did. I wish DEFA could now help us more on this, but this decision was political, by one man.

I am though fully prepared to represent and challenge the injustice and abuse of power in this.

The public, and impacted residents should take Hooper to task for it. And the Minister will need to explain herself.

As a note: when the National Broadband Plan and funding was passed (in the last administration, actually the former MHK for Peel who was also a Minister spoke to support it) Peel in its entirety was classed as a “non-intervention area”. This meant there was an anticipation that subsidy funding would not be required, as given the density and population of the town, it should be commercially viable to provide broadband (as compared to rural areas) which should of course be done properly. IE, Manx Telecom, not the taxpayer, should be paying, and investing, for their almost captive customer’s service, especially as they are owned now by an investment fund and Jersey.

The role of government and planning process should be uphold and prevent that aged technology and unsightly poles and wires from people’s houses aren’t permitted as a cheaper cop out. That planning process part was set to work for those areas – until that cop out was enabled by Hooper, under hijacked or stupidly given authority, which was most certainly abused.

Lawrie Hooper *MHK BSC (Hons) MRES FCA*

Member of the House of Keys for Ramsey

Leader of the Liberal Vannin Party

Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

Member of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice Committee

Legislative Buildings | Finch Road | Douglas | Isle of Man | IM1 3PW

[Contact details redacted]



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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-I shoh chammah's coadany'n erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-I shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydaghy ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-I er son Rheyenn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scrut leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyenn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

Appendix 2: 26th June 2026 – Submission from Mrs Barber

From: Barber, Clare
Sent: 25 June 2026 23:58
To: Jonathan King
Cc: Clare Barber
Subject: Raising a concern
Attachments: CB - raising a concern.docx

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Dear Jonathan,

I am writing to you as Clerk of Tynwald with a document for the attention of the Standing Committee on Standards and Privileges.

I would be grateful for their consideration.

Kind regards,

[Signed: Clare Barber]

Clare Barber MHK (she/her) (Mrs)
Member of the House of Keys – Douglas East
Minister – Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture



Phone: +44(0)7624 257947
Email: clare.barber@gov.im
Facebook: /ClareBarberDouglasEast
Address: Legislative Buildings, Finch Rd, Douglas, IM1 3PW

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadany'n erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydaghy ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-l er son Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scrutit leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

The role of the DEFA Minister in planning appeals is clearly laid down in statute in the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2019 at Article 13:

13 Determination by the Department

- This makes clear the scope of the Minister's powers and the manner in which an appeal must be presented.

[It is a matter of public record that there has been an administrative error in the framing of the delegated power stated within the delegations for some recent appeals. While this is regrettable it does not affect the inappropriateness of the comments made by Ms Lord-Brennan in relation to my making the delegations.]

On the 22nd May Ms Lord-Brennan posted the following on her Facebook page with the comments disabled. However, there was nothing prohibiting the post being reshared and the negativity continuing based on inaccurate information, meaning there was no right to reply.

I believe this post, and the manner in which it was presented, contravenes points 39 and 45 of the Code of Conduct for Members.

The contents of the post are as follows:

 **Kate Lord-Brennan for Glenfaba & Peel**
22 May at 08:45 · 🌐

COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU! AN EYESORE!

Lawrie "Telecom" Hooper, MHK for Ramsey – antagonistic by nature, malevolent by action.

Not content with getting rid of the Bishop's vote, Hooper has turned his wicked hand to something not quite as old, but still from the 1800's: inflicting telegraph poles on residents.

Residents in three streets in Peel yesterday afternoon (BELLVUE PARK, CARMANE CLOSE AND CRONK REAYRT) received letters advising them that the MHK for Ramsey and declared Keys candidate and non-government (in fact anti-government) Member has acted to ensure they will have telegraph poles outside their homes.

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Oh the irony.

Hooper has no business doing taking these deviant decisions, presumably nothing to gain (?) or lose, he just did it.

And it can't be overturned.

This is despite, the Planning Committee, with its good sense, and the Planning Appeal Inspector (who I think visited the areas – I doubt Hooper would dare) both concluding, that the applications for these telegraph poles should be REJECTED.

This move is highly unusual. It amounts to weaponisation of planning applications, by one man, using executive power, from a Minister, Clare Barber, MHK for Douglas East who has shown astonishingly poor judgement in delegating this decision to him.

And no reason for it.

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I am making people aware of this, because they need to know, and there are no other options left to me.

Hooper's leanings are well known, but there is no need to inflict big corporation infrastructure on certain areas that would look more suited to the USSR. That is not inclusive or fair.

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Well, the Appeal Inspector's recommendation, has been followed by the DEFA Minister or whoever they delegate to, whether for approval or refusal on these sorts of applications.

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Members in DEFA, if she can't be bothered to do these things herself, or is conflicted. In fact, she can delegate to anyone, as she has shown.)

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I am though fully prepared to represent and challenge the injustice and abuse of power in this.

The public, and impacted residents should take Hooper to task for it. And the Minister will need to explain herself.

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The role of government and planning process should be uphold and prevent that aged technology and unsightly poles and wires from people's houses aren't permitted as a cheaper cop out. That planning process part was set to work for those areas – until that cop out was enabled by Hooper, under hijacked or stupidly given authority, which was most certainly abused. See less

👍👍👍 Gerard Higgins, Andy Corrie and 65 others

28 shares

👍 Like ➦ Share

🗨 Kate Lord-Brennan for Glenfaba & Peel limited who can comment on this post.

Within the post you can see that Ms Lord-Brennan accuses Mr Hooper of being antagonistic by nature, malevolent by action, having a wicked hand, making deviant decisions, being anti-government, and weaponising planning applications.

The definitions of malevolent and deviant are both very strong and in my view grossly inappropriate to be used without any basis, especially with no right to reply.

malevolent

adjective - literary

UK ˈmɒləˈlev.ɪ.ənt/ US ˈmoʊləˈlev.ɪ.ənt/

causing or wanting to cause harm or evil:

deviant

adjective

UK ˈdiː.vi.ənt/ US ˈdiː.vi.ənt/

(US also deviate)

used to describe a person or behaviour that is not usual and is generally considered to be unacceptable

Within the same post, Ms Lord-Brennan accuses me of having astonishingly poor judgement, failing to exercise good political judgement, alleges that I can't be bothered to do these things myself, and refers to hijacked or stupidly given authority.

This narrative was shared further by Ms Lord-Brennan with a Letter to the Editor in the Isle of Man Examiner on Tuesday, May 26, 2026:

ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER

Letters to the Editor

email: opinions@mediaiom.im Please include your phone number

POLE PLANNING OUTRAGE

Lawrie 'Telecom' Hooper, MHK for Ramsey, antagonistic by nature, malevolent by action. Not content with getting rid of the Bishop's vote, Mr Hooper has turned his hand to something not quite as old, but still from the 1800s - inflicting telegraph poles on residents.

Residents in three streets in Peel - Bellevue Park, Carmine Close and Cronk Reayrt - received letters last week advising them that the MHK for Ramsey, declared Keys candidate and non-government member has acted to ensure they will have telegraph poles outside their homes.

This is being inflicted by Lawrie Hooper, who has no role in government or planning, by the way, having resigned in indignation over whatever it was last time, declaring at the time: 'The Government has now become about doing what is expedient for the few, what is convenient for Ministers and not what is right for the island.'

Oh, the irony.

Mr Hooper has no business taking these deviant decisions. Presumably with nothing to gain or lose, he just did it.

And it cannot be overturned. This is despite the Planning Committee, with its good sense, and the Planning Appeal Inspector - who I think visited the area, though I doubt Mr Hooper would dare - both concluding that the applications for these telegraph poles should be rejected.

This move is highly unusual. It amounts to the weaponisation of planning applications by one individual using executive power, delegated by a Minister, Clare Barber MHK, who has shown astonishingly poor judgement in handing this decision to him.

And for no reason.

I am making people aware of this because they need to know, and there are no other options left to me.

Mr Hooper's leanings are well known, but there is no need to inflict big corporation infrastructure on certain areas that would look more suited to the USSR. That is not inclusive or fair.

What has happened with other applications so far is a reasonable question.

Well, the Appeal Inspector's recommendation has generally been followed by the DEFA Minister, or whoever they delegate to, whether for approval or refusal on these sorts of applications.

In times where discretion may have been helpful - like Newsoms, like the swimming pool in the south - this political judgement has not been exercised for the good of investment.

In other areas, upon analysis, Manx Telecom appeals seem to have mysteriously gone away, and the issue has been buried underground. That may well surface.

In the decision letters released only last week, as far as I can tell, all the rest followed the inspector's recommendation to reject poles.

The Minister made the decision for Sully: rejected - good. Why she

...there is no need to inflict big corporation infrastructure on certain areas that would look more suited to the USSR'

is not handling them all the same is a mystery.

At least one decision for Ramsey was made in Mr Hooper's hometown.

The Minister kindly delegated it to Mr Hooper's compatriot Michelle Haywood, which was, of course, rejected.

Dr Haywood MHK for Rushen is also not a member of DEFA - or government - though Mrs Barber does have two Tynwald members in DEFA if she cannot be bothered to do these things herself, or is conflicted. In fact, she can delegate to anyone, as she has shown.

I would like to thank Tim Cow-

sill, chief officer for DEFA, for outlining the delegation of the Hooper decision to residents so fully.

But he is wrong to advise people that if they want to complain, they should complain to their MHKs, as if that offers some remedy.

I wish it did. I wish DEFA could now help us more on this, but this decision was political and made by one man.

I am, however, fully prepared to represent and challenge what I see as the injustice and abuse of power involved.

The public and impacted residents should take Mr Hooper to task for it. And the Minister will need to explain herself.

As a note, when the National Broadband Plan and funding was passed in the last administration - actually, the former MHK for Peel, who was also a Minister, spoke in support of it. Peel in its entirety was classed as a 'non-intervention area'.

This meant there was an expectation that subsidy funding would not be required because, given the density and population of the town, it should be commercially viable to provide broadband, as compared to rural areas, and that it should, of course, be done properly.

In other words, Manx Telecom, not the taxpayer, should be paying and investing for their almost captive customers' service, especially as they are now owned by an investment fund based in Jersey.

The role of government and the planning process should be to uphold standards and prevent aged technology and unsightly poles and wires from being installed outside people's homes as a cheaper cop-out.

That part of the planning process was working for those areas - until that cop-out was enabled by Mr Hooper under stupidly delegated authority.

Kate Lord-Brennan
MHK for Glenfaba and Peel

WELL DONE NOBLE'S

Recently, I had the misfortune to be struck down with a TIA (mini-stroke) which left me totally paralysed down my right side.

Very scary indeed.

Thankfully I have not died.

My wife and I have nothing to praise for the 999 service, the ambulance team and the doctors and nurses of the A&E department and stroke unit at Nobles Hospital.

Without exception they were brilliant. Professional care delivered with kindness and understanding.

Much appreciated in a stressful situation.

We on the island are very fortunate to have such dedicated people caring for us.

Note for politicians - spend less on vanity projects such as the horse trams and more supporting our Health Service and Hospice.

Jim Couzell
Address supplied

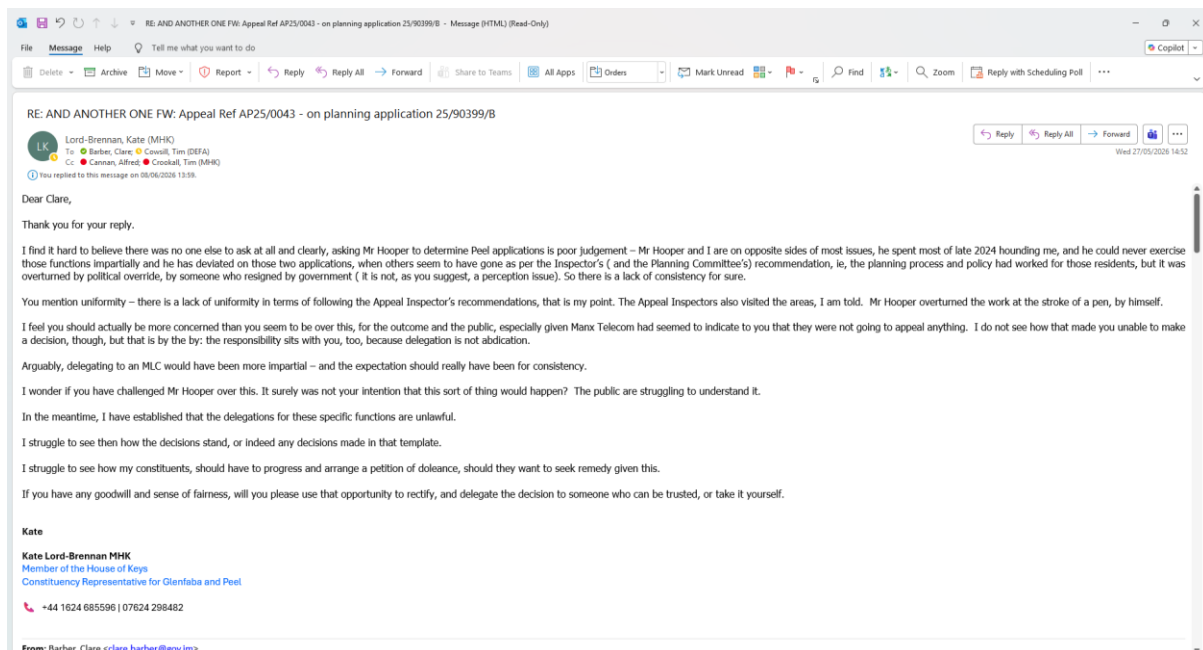
READER'S PICTURE: Castletown by Janette Phair

Both the letter and the Facebook post contain the statement that, “The Minister made the decision for Sulby: rejected – good.” Interestingly no such decision was ever made but it does appear that this false narrative has been used to enhance the case that there is inconsistency in the decision-making.

Once again there is no *immediate* right to reply and I believe the comments relating to both me and Mr Hooper far exceed the standard of debate expected on traditional or social media in the [Tynwald Members’ Code of Conduct: Part V](#) and demonstrate a discourse that would not be acceptable in the Chamber.

Between the 21st May and the 8th June a series of emails passed between Ms Lord-Brennan, myself and Mr Cowsill, with the Chief Minister and Minister Crookall copied in.

I attach the email to which I take most exception here but can provide the others if the Committee wishes.



The email above contains the suggestion that Mr Hooper could not act impartially and more worryingly suggests that when the decisions go as per the Inspector’s (and the Planning Committee’s) recommendations, then the planning policy and process can be deemed to have worked for those residents.

This is an interesting approach to take given the table below from [written answer](#):

Table 1: Decisions made by the Department which did not follow the recommendation of the appointed Appeal Inspector

Appeal ref	Date Appeal Lodged	DC Ref	Address	Proposal	Officer Rec	Decision Type	Decision	Decision date	Inspector rec	Minister Decision	Minister delegation
AP22/0007	18-Feb-22	21/01343/C	Garage Adjacent To 4 Windsor Terrace Douglas Isle Of Man IM1 3LU	Change of use of garage to a gym business	PER	NCOMM	PER	03-Feb-22	Allow appeal PA REFUSED	Planning approval granted, departing from the Inspector's recommendation.	Dr Haywood
AP24/0043	15-Aug-24	23/00958/B	Erin House Athol Park Port Erin Isle Of Man IM9 6EX	Conversion of existing guest house and apartment to eight apartments with alterations and extensions and new vehicular access	REF	NCOMM	REF	06-Aug-24	Allow appeal PA APPROVED	Planning approval granted, departing from the Inspector's recommendation. *	Minister Barber
AP25/0042	28-Nov-25	25/90398/B	Cronk Reayrt Peel IM5 1DB	Installation of 1 telegraph pole to provide fibre optic connectivity to 2 & 10-18 & Fresh Breezes, Cronk Reayrt.	PER	NCOMM	REF	11-Nov-25	Dismiss Appeal PA REFUSED	Planning approval granted, departing from the Inspector's recommendation.	Mr Hooper
AP25/0043	28-Nov-25	25/90399/B	Bellevue Park Peel IM5 1UF	Installation of 8 telegraph poles to provide fibre optic connectivity to 1-41 Bellevue Park and 1-17 Carmine Close	PER	NCOMM	REF	11-Nov-25	Dismiss Appeal PA REFUSED	Planning approval granted, departing from the Inspector's recommendation.	Mr Hooper

*While both the Inspector and the Minister agreed that the application should be approved, the Minister disagreed with the Inspector's conclusion that Housing Policy 5 did not apply. As a result, the final decision departed from the Inspector's recommendation in relation to affordable housing provision.

Key:
REF – refused
NCOMM – Planning Committee
WDN – withdrawn
PER – permitted

Both of the decisions taken by Mr Hooper as per the table above, show the Planning Officer recommending permission be granted, the Planning Committee refusing permission, and the Planning Inspector recommending refusal. The [narrative provided by the Inspector](#) provides an alternate route for determination should the Minister (or whoever is delegated to the role for the purpose of the decision) feel it appropriate to disagree:

66. For the reasons set out above, **I therefore recommend that the appeal should be dismissed.** If the Minister agrees, that would have the effect of upholding the Authority's decision to refuse permission.

Reason: *Whilst there would be no harm in terms of highway safety, there would be some harm in terms of impact on the character and appearance of the area, and material harm to the living conditions of some local residents in terms of their outlook. On balance, those harms are not outweighed by national need and the Government's goal to provide Island-wide ultra-fast broadband for the public benefit of the population as a whole, both now and going forward, or the potential added expense of undergrounding the service here.*

67. Should the Minister disagree and grant planning permission, recommended conditions and the reasons for them are set out at Annex B. I have amended the suggested wording of condition 1, removing references to telecommunications cabinets etc, since none are included as part of the development for which permission is sought.

Jennifer A Vyse
Independent Inspector

2 February 2026

I believe that the position taken is in contravention of clauses 12 and 18 of the Code of Conduct for Tynwald Members as it fails to uphold the laws as laid down in statute, and

has the potential to undermine the reputation and integrity of the Planning Committee as constituted by legislation of Tynwald.

On the 9th June a series of questions were fielded to me by Ms Lord-Brennan as it is her absolute right to do. The [Hansard of Tynwald Questions - 9th June 2026](#) shows the line of questioning and the responses given.

I would draw the Committee's attention to the responses to Q10 and Q12 – relevant extracts I have reproduced below, with my commentary interleaved in red:

Q10

1169 - 1171 – The Minister talks about the time it takes to make these decisions but actually, Madam Deputy Speaker, most of these decisions are effectively administrative after an appeal process which people engage with earnest.

I reject this assertion as it diminishes the important role of considering appeals and seeks to undermine a formal process in which many people contribute significant time. To suggest it is purely administrative suggests that Ms Lord-Brennan believes her colleagues are not fulfilling their roles responsibly.

1178-1183 – The Minister seems not to care why. Why does she show no concern that Mr Hooper has single-handedly gone against the appeal inspector recommendations? This is in the interest of Manx Telecom, not the public, not the planning policy she purports to protect, not the process she purports to uphold. (Interjection) So what good sense would lead her to delegate to Mr Hooper after his Government resignation when she had other people she could ask?

There is no restriction on who the Minister can delegate appeals to, with examples in the past of delegations to civil servants. The resignation of someone from Government can not, and must not, in and of itself be seen as a reason to distrust someone's judgement.

1213-1216 – Because effectively it has become political because there are decisions being made in a way that are different to how they are being handled elsewhere. Some of that will come out today and some of it will come out at a later date.

There is a suggestion of inconsistency that again seeks to undermine the process irresponsibly and without any evidence.

1217-1223 – So how can she think that she has used her good judgement in this way? Why is she not concerned at how those decisions have been taken, because I would say to this Minister that Mr Hooper has misused her power. It is on shaky ground. It has set a precedent (Interjection) and that should concern others too because when it comes to it and it starts to happen in their areas, they too will wonder why decisions have been made at odds with what a planning appeal inspector has recommended.

No evidence was presented to suggest a misuse of power, and no precedent was set – this was simply a case of using powers that exist within legislation for the Minister (or a person to whom those powers are delegated) to either accept, reject or vary the Inspector's decision.

Interestingly in Ms Lord-Brennan's facebook post and letter to the newspaper she indicates there are circumstances wherein I should have overturned the Appeal Inspector's decision – a curious position to take, and I would argue one at odds with her assertions to the House of Keys when seeking to discredit myself and Mr Hooper.

Q12

1494 - 1495 – The circumstances of these instances are that the process has failed. It has failed because of political decisions at the end.

The legislation clearly allows for a political decision at the end – the process has not failed. This is an incorrect statement.

I believe that overall the actions of Ms Lord-Brennan have stepped past the position of robust disagreement and in line with the expectations about [38-40 Relations with other members](#), I believe they constitute a hostile and demeaning approach, as well as being unfounded allegations of misconduct, and being offensive to other Members.

I respectfully request that the Committee review accordingly as I am concerned that the broader process relating to Planning Appeals risks being undermined by conjecture and vested constituency interests.

Yours sincerely

[Signed: Clare Barber]

Clare Barber

Appendix 3: 8th June 2026 – Submission from Ms Lord-Brennan

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 08 June 2026 13:55
To: Jonathan King
Subject: FW: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation
Attachments: 26.06.08 Full and final submission to committee.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Jonathan

Please see attached following to other replies on 27th May and our subsequent call. I had hoped to get it to you sooner, but it took some time to put a full response together.

I would be grateful to hear soonest, as to what the Committee intends to do, and how they intend to handle the original complaint and the attached, if at all.

Best wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
Member of the House of Keys

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 27 May 2026 18:30
To: Jonathan King
Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Jonathan,

I do have some further points to add – specifically in connection with Lawrie’s email to the committee. I will deal with those quick and specific points tomorrow.

I would also stress that I have established that the delegations do not give the correct powers and are probably unlawful. The AG has confirmed they refer to inaccurate references. You were copied into my original email querying this I think, as I am trying to stand up for and assist my constituents, following these decisions taken by Lawrie Hooper, which sit at odds with all others I have seen.

The delegations include citation of law that does not exist, and so the functions exercised, are simply not delegated. Which is why I use the word unlawful.

On wider points – and I expect to write further on this and related points as well – since I am being investigated for the matters cited by the committee, just in the first instance, please see below.

<https://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/clowngate-mhks-start-2026-with-a-war-of-words/>

Just this in itself brings Tynwald into disrepute. It cannot be one set of rules for one and not for another.

But since it has started, and since Lawrie Hooper MHK has complained, then perhaps the committee should be asked to examine his extensive social media record, in the same light.

I will consider that overnight.

Also, who do I write to please, to see how many complaints Mr Hooper has submitted to the committee, in the past 5 years?

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK

[Member of the House of Keys](#)

[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)

 +44 1624 685596 | 07624 298482

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

Sent: 27 May 2026 10:28

To: 'Jonathan King'

Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Jonathan,

I am entitled to my expression of view, use of words / language and nothing I have stated is inaccurate. Nor has it been said within Tynwald Court.

I am entitled to do so without fear or favour.

Mr Hooper complains regularly and instantly about Members - it is his "go to" (I would be interested on how many occasions Mr Hooper has submitted complaints to the committee overall, in the past 5 years?).

Mr Hooper is also a regular on social media criticising and maligning all and sundry – the Committee needs only check his own social media including twitter, for that.

As I have stated before, process and behaviour is, in effect tantamount to "it is alright for some and not for others". People are so used to Mr Hooper's attacks, they don't run off complaining.

They just have to take it. Everyone accepts it, as it is Lawrie. However, Mr Hooper is off complaining at the first whiff of any criticism, or hostility.

The committee needs only check their own records for that.

He simply doesn't like being called out, but is happy to go very far against others, both inside and outside parliament. This is well known. And also documented. But as I say, he is practiced at getting his complaint in first / immediately. He probably has a template for it.

It is clear I have not "bullied" or "harassed" Mr Hooper with one post, in reaction to two decisions, he has chosen to make. That is on him and he has to own that. That assertion is frankly pathetic.

Also the fact that a complaint has been put in, which effectively gags things, until October, at least is also tactical. I would suggest.

It reflects more on the Committee, than it does me, that they have decided to pursue this, on a "bullying and harassment " basis. It amounts to policing expression in a one sided way, and making it to be something it simply is not.

Mr Hooper is just annoyed at my post – that is it.

I am annoyed and confused by his decision, on behalf of my constituents. That is it.

I should add that I have subsequently found out that the decisions in question appear unlawful.

So, not only has Mr Hooper gone against the planning inspector, strangely and exceptionally on these applications, in what should have been a basic matter, and not only has the Minister exhibited poor judgement, in my view, in delegating these matters to Mr Hooper, for controversial issues in my constituency that have an impact on constituents, and the enjoyment of their homes, when they were due to be served properly by the process, but this decision was entrusted to Mr Hooper when it is well known we are on the opposite sides of arguments frequently, and now the delegations, it appears, and therefore the decisions, are unlawful.

Mr Hooper has taken the opportunity, and I have responded is all, unless he has some burning justification for what he has done?

I didn't complain about the decision initially as I was advised the decision was final, and that my constituents had to go to court and that was the only option!!

I have however, called it out, which is right and which I stand by. That isn't bullying, even if someone doesn't like the expressions used. It isn't bullying to call someone out for their decisions, explain to the public and express things as I have done.

The facts remain true.

His decisions deviated from what the inspector said.

They has been no explanation as to why he went out of his way to do that.

I have nothing left to add and you can give this to the committee, now or in the future.

Mr Hooper is not my work colleague; we are not employees. This is politics and people need to speak their mind- as he always does.

I am aware I have no chance of a counter-complaint, which is a shame, as arguably, Mr Hooper in his decisions, has caused damage to the integrity of Tynwald in acting as he has.

That is why people are outraged- and I have merely reflected that.

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK

[Member of the House of Keys](#)

[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)

 +44 1624 685596 | 07624 298482

From: Jonathan King

Sent: 27 May 2026 09:35

To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

Subject: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan

I am writing in my capacity as Clerk of the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee. The Committee has recently received the attached complaint about your conduct and has decided to investigate.

Dr Haywood has decided to recuse herself from the Committee for the purposes of this investigation.

It appears to the Committee that the following provisions of the Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct may have been breached:

18. Members must never undertake any action which would cause significant damage to the reputation and integrity of Tynwald or its Branches as a whole, or of its Members generally.

45. Members must not use social media, email or any other online activity/forum to bully, harass or otherwise treat another person, including another Member, in a way that would breach workplace and community standards or the rules and practices of the chamber.

At this stage the Committee is particularly concerned about your use of the expressions –

- malevolent by action
- his wicked hand
- deviant decisions
- weaponisation of planning applications, by one man

- hijacked ... authority which was most certainly abused

These appear to cast reflections on the character of another Member of Tynwald or to impute improper motives on the part of another Member of Tynwald.

At this stage the Committee would like to give you the opportunity to submit any response to these particular elements or to any other aspect of the complaint. Please would you send your response to me in writing by noon on Wednesday 10th June 2026.

Please note that under paragraph 53 of the Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct no comment should be made in public until the investigation has been completed and its outcome is known.

The Committee recognises that participating in a standards investigation is a stressful experience for complainants, respondents and witnesses. While every case is unique, it may in general be expected that –

- an email which is sent to the Committee through its clerk will receive a substantive answer within 10 working days, or, where that is not the case, at the very least a holding response advising of progress.
- if a matter requires the Committee to meet, the Committee will aim to do so within a month (excluding August).

As we are in a General Election year the Committee will be unable to act from the Dissolution of the House of Keys (13th August 2026) until the election of new Members to the Committee (tentatively scheduled for 17 November 2026).

Further information about the Committee and its procedures can be found on the Committee's website here:

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/committee/TSMI>

The Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct can be found at Annex 6 to the Standing Orders of Tynwald Court here:

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/sto/Documents/2026-PP-0009.pdf#page=117>

If you would have any questions about the process or would like to discuss it please do not hesitate to contact me.

With all best wishes

Jonathan

Jonathan King

Clerk of the Tynwald Standards and Members' Privileges Committee

Legislative Buildings, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3PW

01624 685500

www.tynwald.org.im

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

To Clerk and Members of the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee

Following complaint made by Mr Hooper

Chair: Hon Juan Watterson SHK

Vice Chair: Ann Corlett MHK, Deputy Speaker

Members: Hon Daphne Caine MHK , Hon Tim Crookall MHK, Gary Clueit MLC, Rob Mercer MLC

8th June 2026

Dear Jonathan,

My further input (including counter-complaints) are included alongside this response document. I request all this to be published. The majority of it, including references, is published in any case or a matter of public record already.

Context

I am led to understand that it is not the role of the Committee to look at facts per se, in this instance these would relate to planning applications in Peel for telegraph poles and political handling after the appeal process.

I would though suggest to the Committee that the facts and circumstances of this issue is clearly relevant, not only in terms of what I have written in my post / letter / opinion piece ("the post") but also in terms of Mr Hooper's specifically worded complaint, which the Committee have decided to look into.

I will therefore summarise the facts and circumstances below and in reference to the post.

The Committee should be made aware that the two Planning Appeal decisions referred to and taken by Mr Hooper MHK, are at variance with all other post appeal decisions made in connection with telegraph poles, amongst a great number across the Island. Clearly such applications are controversial as they cause great concern and resentment for people in circumstances where they have to have large poles installed in their streets and wires connected to the gable ends of their homes. Where these are rejected, or have been funded, or the appeals have been withdrawn, obviously the infrastructure ends up being "ducted" under the ground.

What I am saying is, in **all other instances**, in terms of these applications from Manx Telecom, the politician making the decision, as delegated, **has simply followed the recommendation of the Planning Inspector handling the appeal.**

Given there is no obvious benefit that I am aware of, in terms of Mr Hooper doing this (no benefit to the public (my constituents) and no benefit to the government) unless there is something I do not know, stemming from Mr Hooper's DFE role during the time of the National Broadband Strategy, and given that there is clearly detriment to Peel residents in these decisions, which is difficult to accept given the

difference to how things have been handled otherwise, yes I do think these decisions have been made maliciously.

It is simply not the case that established process would have brought about this situation without this political deviation.

Given the detriment, and lack of benefit, why would a Member trusted in this role, go out of their way to approve?

The Committee should also be aware that there is only the planning process to protect Peel residents, or indeed Island residents generally in the matter of telegraph pole planning applications and subsequent installation. That process had been engaged with in good faith by my constituents, over a period of around two years and indeed, that very same process - would have worked for them, but it was overturned by Mr Hooper – who decided personally to approve the applications by Manx Telecom.

As such, they are the only applications where a) the final political decisions sits at odds with what the Planning Inspector recommended and b) where telegraph poles will now likely go up, despite the conclusion of both the Planning Committee in the first instance, who have been consistent in rejecting and despite the recommendation of the relevant Appeal Inspector.

That is highly significant, sets a concerning precedent for the handling of these matters which may be relevant, in time for other areas, now Manx Telecom will be aware that the potential and convenience of a single handed political override may potentially be given. That is a serious misjudgement and vulnerability.

Some of my constituents have come to understand from Manx Telecom that the poles are going up after TT, swiftly after these decisions by Mr Hooper.

So yes, I feel Mr Hooper has targeted some areas in Peel because of the power given to him -as otherwise there is simply no explanation.

Elsewhere, where rejected (or where the Appeals have been withdrawn) the infrastructure has been put under the ground. In addition Peel is considered commercially viable for this roll out, under the strategy, so it is really just about money, and considering Manx Telecom's ownership, they are able to attend to this – they would just prefer not to. So what is the role of executive power to be here? For the corporate interest or on the side of the public or rightful process, which has itself incurred taxpayer expense?

In terms of recourse, the Committee should understand that powerful words and raising awareness were my only recourse on this frankly outrageous decision, having been advised by DEFA that the decisions were final, and that applications for Petitions of Doleance is the only course of action my constituents, who are both confused and angry, could take.

That costs time and money, is not quick and many are worried about the potential to stand the costs of court expenses in various ways.

So to reiterate, because of what Mr Hooper MHK decided, which is for no conceivable reason or benefit than to inflict this outcome on Peel residents (or I suppose, to assist Manx Telecom, I have no idea) my constituents are set to have telegraph poles in their streets and related wires attached to their homes, and if they want to fight it, they will have to stand legal costs. That is manifestly unfair.

The Delegation

It was odd to me, and very poor judgement that Minister Barber, DEFA Minister, decided to delegate controversial planning decisions to Mr Hooper MHK in the constituency area of someone he probably considers a political enemy and someone who he has certainly given a hard time in that past, in late 2024 especially, which is documented. It is no secret that Mr Hooper and I are most ordinarily politically opposed, and there is nothing wrong with that in itself of course. I simply try to avoid him generally and stay out of his way. Something like this – using such decisions, in an election year, should have been foreseeable by the Minister.

Mr Hooper was not capable of handling these matters impartially. This is strengthened by his view on telegraph poles anyway (email attached relates) although, his constituents are not having to suffer this blight (see the analysis of applications and decisions).

I believe he was given an opportunity, and took it. He probably thought it wouldn't be called out as it was.

In terms of the delegation of the decision – my starting point for this was as above.

Mr Hooper in his complaint states:

“The post describes decision making as ‘malevolent’ and alleges abuse of process and properly delegated powers.”

Firstly, I stand by that word, and believe his decision making has been carried out in that way

A definition is

Malevolent is an adjective that describes having or showing a wish to do evil or cause harm to others. It implies a deliberate desire to inflict pain, injury, or misfortune, often driven by spite or malice.

The Committee should note how, in his wording, he tries to disassociate the decision making from himself. He has done the same to constituents who have contacted him – simply referring them to DEFA. But he made those decisions, solely. As the correspondence shows (attached).

Mr Hooper asserts to the Committee that I “allege(s) abuse of process”. Indeed- and I challenge it and I call it out.

Mr Hooper asserts to the Committee that I allege “abuse of properly delegated powers” – I do think that has happened, for the reasons stated.

It was questionable for the Minister to Delegate to Mr Hooper for planning applications in Peel, and indeed, Mr Hooper should not have accepted that if asked.

In addition I have also established that, the delegated powers were not in fact “properly” delegated, but were unlawful, as the powers exercised were not given under the appropriate legal reference. The AG has confirmed this to me and I enclose the same.

So we have decisions designed to anger under improperly delegated and in my view unlawful powers.

I would also suggest to the Committee, that even if I had done what Mr Hooper states, it would not be a “breach of standards” to allege or call these things out.

It is my job to do this.

Notably, Mr Hooper does not substantiate much of what he says and talks in generalities about my post “breaching significant number of members standards”.

It didn’t – I just said it like it is.

I did this in the interests of my constituents who have been demonstrably wronged, will have to live with that in their neighbourhoods, based on decisions that were ill judged, inexplicable other than to cause harm or out of spite, and who have no political or process recourse outside of the courts.

When they contact DEFA, they are told to pursue via the courts.

When they write to Mr Hooper, Mr Hooper acts like it is nothing to do with him, stating there has been so many, and tells them to contact DEFA.

So absolutely I am calling this out. The public and my constituents should not have to put up with this treatment.

I did this also for awareness and accountability as who is to say this won’t happen again? Members should consider that this handling, this deviation has now set a precedent convenient for corporate over public interest, which will not be in the interests of their constituents either.

A further issue as to Mr Hooper’s suitability, in the Minister having some reason to delegate, is that previous correspondence to members of the public from Mr Hooper (from a couple of years ago, and forwarded to me) indicates Mr Hooper to be very accepting of telegraph poles. So again, was a misstep or misjudgement and further conflict to give that decision to him and for him to accept it, unless he was going to do so in a consistent way, in line with appeal report outcomes.

My post / letter to the paper/ opinion piece

It is probably because Mr Hooper doesn’t substantiate what he says, but rapidly and generally complains, that the Committee itself has honed in on “expressions” and has written to me on the basis of the following (extracted).

“ It appears to the Committee that the following provisions of the Tynwald Members’ Code of Conduct may have been breached:

18. Members must never undertake any action which would cause significant damage to the reputation and integrity of Tynwald or its Branches as a whole, or of its Members generally.

45. Members must not use social media, email or any other online activity/forum to bully, harass or otherwise treat another person, including another Member, in a way that would breach workplace and community standards or the rules and practices of the chamber.

At this stage the Committee is particularly concerned about your use of the expressions –

- *malevolent by action*
- *his wicked hand*
- *deviant decisions*
- *weaponisation of planning applications, by one man*
- *hijacked ... authority which was most certainly abused*

These appear to cast reflections on the character of another Member of Tynwald or to impute improper motives on the part of another Member of Tynwald. “

I take this as the Committee wishing to examine or having concerns about powerful or provocative language, occurring in a single post (as oppose to necessarily dealing with facts on this).

To that end, and since we are dealing these matters and the Committee is intent on examining these (and should do so in a balanced way) I have a number of counter complaints, which also serve to make a point.

Ahead of that, I must be clear with the Committee that the complaint is about one single article / post. There isn’t a series of campaigns against him from me. It is one opinion piece. Calling him out for his actions under (as it turns out) improperly delegated powers, with decisions he should never have taken.

I rarely interact with or about Mr Hooper online or offline. I avoid him because I know what he is like. So it is a stretch to conclude that one post, together with one letter to the paper of the same content, is a breach of the first part of 45. Bullying and harassment, is a sustained course of action. I am largely indifferent to Mr Hooper, but this time, yes I took a stance which I published. And rightly so.

In terms of use of expressions, I note the concern but yes I am saying these decisions were taken improperly, and have explained why.

The expressions used in the post are that- and they are appropriate. They are not banned words to write or convey. They may not be liked but the post was written in a pointed, sharp and humorous way. I am entitled to do this. For most people who read it, their first reaction was to laugh, the second was to be informed about what had actually happened. Good.

Mr Hooper obviously does not like it – of course not – and he is cross about it, hence leaping to report me, but that does not make for a breach of standards in a world of political expression and representation.

In terms of the points made in my post (he frames them as “accusations”- which Mr Hooper takes exception to as being “serious” – yes indeed they are – not only are they serious but they are substantiated. I haven’t just said these things for no reason, but I also don’t think the Committee will investigate or consider all that. I have provided this to you anyway.

However, I don’t think there is much that can be done, on that front, unless residents test in a court, as I said, because the decision is apparently viewed as final, if flawed.

Language, Standards & Rules

I welcome the Committee indicating that they are willing to look at language, especially that which

“would breach workplace and community standards or the rules and practices of the chamber” (from 45)

And

Members must never undertake any action which would cause significant damage to the reputation and integrity of Tynwald or its Branches as a whole, or of its Members generally. (from 18)

Starting with Mr Hooper’s complaint, he uses the word “abhorrent” stating

“the language is abhorrent and accusations are serious and I expect firm action to be taken.”

(I have dealt with the accusations point above.)

Looking at the definition, the conclusion to draw really, is that the language isn’t agreeable because he doesn’t like it and he is offended. So, he may find it “abhorrent” but it doesn’t mean it catches some kind of breach of standards, or demands “strong action”.

Abhorrent is an adjective used to describe something that causes disgust, detestation, or strong moral opposition. It refers to actions, behaviours, or ideas that are deeply offensive or contrary to one’s core beliefs.

The expressions highlighted as being of concern by the Committee are clearly not abhorrent. They couldn’t even be said to be colourful. It is just impactful expression to convey valid points and a legitimate perspective.

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

I request and expect my full submissions to be published.

As a final note, and given I am standing by my main points, my freedom of expression to do so, and given I am substantiating various context to the committee, I do admit to one error in my post, that is regarding a Ministerial planning appeal decision and Sulby. That decision was not in fact related to telegraph poles, but was in the same batch of paperwork. I have deleted that point. All the same, it was an appeal decision taken, and was in line with the recommendation, a point which I understand to be very important to Mrs Barber, as is robust planning policy and process.

List of Appendices

1. Analysis of outcomes of telegraph pole applications and appeal decisions, showing variance for Peel based on Mr Hooper's decisions, showing how these stand at odds from other applications
2. Correspondence with the AG confirming the error in delegation document – it references law that does not exist
3. Correspondence to my constituents from DEFA outlining direction from Mr Hooper to approve applications
4. Correspondence forwarded from Mr Hooper re Telegraph poles.

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

Regards,

Kate Lord-Brennan

Member of the House of Keys for Glenfaba & Peel

Applications from Manx Telecom for Telegraph Poles: Analysis

*Info summarised from Planning Applications Online Search

Submitted 8th June 2026, prepared w/c 1 June

Address / Area	Decision at Appeal	Decision In line with Appeal Inspectors Recommendation?	Who ?
Barrule Park Ramsey IM8 2BN	Refused	Yes	MH
PEEL: Links Close & North View Peel	Approved	Yes	LH
PEEL: 1-41 Bellevue Park & 1-17 Carmane Close	Approved	No	LH
PEEL: 2 & 10-18 & Fresh Breezes, Cronk Reayrt	Approved	No	LH
PEEL: 3-6 & 41-48 Ballaquane Park	Refused	Yes	MH
PEEL: 7-13 & 21-39 Ballaquane Park	Refused	Yes	LH
PEEL: 1-19 Corrans Way & 1-27 Creggans Avenue	Approved	YES	LH
GLEN VINE: 82, 80 Ballagarey Rd & 1, 3 Alexander Road.	Refused	YES	LH
PEEL: 1-6 Rheast Bridson	Approved	YES	LH
TROMODE: 77-87 Eary Veg and 88, 97, 98 and 99 Cronk Liauyr	Refused	YES	LH
TROMODE 115-119, 123-125 and 43-51 Slieau Dhoo	Refused	YES	LH
Other applications			
ONCHAN Howe Road Onchan Isle Of Man	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
BALLAUGH Ballaterson Fields Ballaugh IM7 5AW	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
RAMSEY - Claghbane Estate Ramsey IM8 2BH	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
RAMSEY - Fairways Drive, Ramsey IM8 2BA	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
RAMSEY - Marlborough Crescent Ramsey Isle Of Man	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
ANDREAS - Larivane Close Andreas	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
ANDREAS - Ballalough Estate Andreas	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		
RAMSEY - Thornhill Park Ramsey Isle Of Man	APPEAL WITHDRAWN		

** A parliamentary question asking for this info has so far not been accepted due to the info being available online. It is , but not in a summarised and accessible way when looking at multiple questions. I am still seeking an official answer, but the above is all accurate and published info within*

Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 27 May 2026 14:54
To: Wannenburgh, Walter
Subject: RE: VALIDITY OF DECISIONS MADE- Query re Drafting of delegations. FW: Appeal Ref AP25/0043 - on planning application 25/90399/B

Dear Walter

Thank you very much indeed, I do appreciate you looking at this and for confirming that the reference to article 8(8) in the delegation is incorrect.

I am of course clear and aware that a Minister has the powers to delegate under the 1987 Act, but the references under which the specific powers / functions are conferred are indeed inaccurate so surely the decision must be invalid – and unlawful- as the delegation, in terms of that specific function, was never able to be made in first place, because of this error.

Surely that makes the decision unlawful, as specific powers to exercise the functions necessary, was not correct.

This is particularly important given that the decision is deemed final and there is no recourse (apart from Court).

But actually, the decision was not lawfully taken, so as to be so absolute.

I am happy for you to forward the below to Mr Cowsill, but would ask that you flag and also send my original email.

It would be a shame if all this had to be played out on all these counts, when the unlawful order is an opportunity to rectify.

There are surely many other appeal decisions that this error applies to, I suppose.

I will write shortly to the Minister.

Thank you.

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
[Member of the House of Keys](#)
[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)

From: Wannenburgh, Walter <Walter.Wannenburgh@attgen.gov.im>

Sent: 27 May 2026 13:37

To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK) <Kate.Lord-Brennan@gov.im>

Subject: FW: VALIDITY OF DECISIONS MADE- Query re Drafting of delegations. FW: Appeal Ref AP25/0043 - on planning application 25/90399/B

Importance: High

Dear Kate

Thank you for your email below.

You have raised a few issues which I will address separately:

As you know, Ministers are able to delegate to another the exercise of particular functions. The power to delegate (s3 [Government Departments Act 1987](#)) is wide (and does not depend upon the delegating Minister being conflicted) – a Minister may delegate to “*any member or officer of the Department, or any other person..*” If a challenge were to be made to the appointment of Mr Hooper it would, as you say, be by way of doleance.

I have looked at the copy delegation which you forwarded – it correctly references the Minister making the delegation pursuant to s3(2) of the 1987 Act. The delegation then refers to the functions delegated as being those “*of the Department relating to appeals to the Department specified in article 8(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2019...*” . As you have identified, the reference to article 8(8) is an error in that the 2019 Order has no article 8(8) – the reference seems to be a carry over from the predecessor to the 2019 Order (the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order **2013**), article 8(8) of which contained the relevant provision but which is now accommodated in article 13(1) of the 2019 Order.

The reference to article 8(8) in the delegation is therefore incorrect – but that part of the delegation which specifies the actual functions to be exercised by the delegate is accurate.

What then is the effect of the error? I am afraid that one cannot be categoric in predicting how the Court might rule if invited so to do (also by way of doleance): on the one hand it could regard the error as fatally undermining the decisions of the delegatee relying upon the delegation so that the decisions made are void – but on the other it could take the view that no matter the error in reciting the precise article, the delegation nonetheless accurately recorded the actual functions which were being conferred so that there could be no doubt as the purpose of the delegation.

I do not make comment as to the decisions made by Mr Hooper in determination of the appeals – but as a general principle such decisions (which should always be made on the merits of the individual case) are amenable to review (again, by way of doleance).

If you are content, I would be happy to forward a copy of this email to Tim Cowsill for him to consider (please let me know).

Regards

Walter



Walter H Wannenburgh KC, MLC
H.M. Attorney General

Attorney General's Chambers
Personal Assistant: 01624 685585
General Office: 01624 685452
Email: [Walter.Wannenburgh@gov.im]

Attorney General's Chambers | Belgravia House | 34-44 Circular Road | Douglas | Isle of Man | IM1 1AE

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From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK) [Kate.Lord-Brennan@gov.im]

Sent: 26 May 2026 12:37

To: Wannenburgh, Walter [Walter.Wannenburgh@gov.im]

Cc: King, Jonathan [J.King@tynwald.org.im]

Subject: VALIDITY OF DECISIONS MADE- Query re Drafting of delegations. FW: Appeal Ref AP25/0043 - on planning application 25/90399/B

Importance: High

Dear Walter,

I do hope you had a lovely weekend.

As you may have seen, I have taken issue with two decisions made under delegation regarding to two planning appeals re telegraph poles.

I have also queried the basis for the delegations overall, and await fuller answers on this. On a political level, I will clearly not be letting this go. Mr Hooper should never have been given this delegation, especially after resignation, and definitely not been given a power to vary. He has been given delegations only for Peel appeal decisions (!) and has clearly used that power and decided to go beyond what is legitimate or reasonable in the exercise of it. But that decision to delegate is a matter of judgement, warranting explanation, I know (I don't expect you to advise me on that).

From my initial assessment, although there are many applications for telegraph poles in different parts of the island, it is only these two applications, where, under political sign off, the decisions have been at variance with the appeal Inspector recommendations (and indeed the planning committee).

I have constituents ready to file for Petitions of Doleance and they are already taking advice to that effect. I am also aware of the Corner House Principle, following information provided by a former Litigation Advocate at the AGs, who is now in private practice.

My interest is resolving the injustice of the two decisions, but clearly I will pursue this in whatever means available to me.

The decision is “final” apparently, as per the letters (attached), and Tim Cowsill has pointed me and constituents that recourse is only by a Petition of Doleance.

However, upon closer inspection of the delegations, **they do not seem in order.**

They refer to a power under **article 8(8)** in the Development Procedure Order that do not exist – in either version.

<https://pabc.gov.im/media/iijm2imb/document-1-townandcountryplanning-developmentprocedure-order2019.pdf>

https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2019/2019-0423/2019-0423_2.pdf

<https://pabc.gov.im/legislation/>

To me this makes the decisions made invalid.

Is that your reading?

If that is the case, given this mess, it is arguably helpful and the best outcome for both sides.

It would give a chance to rectify.

If your reading is that the delegations contain an error and do not provide the relevant authority, I will point this flaw out to the Minister and the Chief Officer, and suggest she makes the decision herself, in line with the planning inspector’s recs, IE not in the form that Hooper has done. If she is genuinely unable to do so, because of an actual conflict, which I will establish and unearth one way or the other, I will be seeking that she gives the delegation to a member or Minister who is more appropriate to exercise what ought to be a straightforward decision.

I would be seeking consistency of decisions in that respect, and that is hard to argue against.

If the delegations are faulty, and do not hold, it presents a chance to keep a consistency as per other applications, and to avoid legal action (which would undoubtedly uncover any fault, any illegality and any misfeasance in public office).

Are the delegations in order (attached from DEFA)?

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK

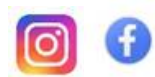
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Representing the constituency of [Glenfaba and Peel](#) – I care and I challenge



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmytaght, Bee as Eirynys

Ms Kate Lord-Brennan
Legislative Buildings
Fincha Road
Douglas
IM1 3PW

Telephone (01624) 685958
Email: tim.cowsill2@gov.im
Contact: Mr T Cowsill
Our Ref: MEC/AP25/0043DCnei

21st May 2026

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan,

ON APPEAL: Appeal Ref AP25/0043

Planning Application No: 25/90399/B

Proposal: Installation of 8 telegraph poles to provide fibre optic connectivity to 1-41 Bellevue Park and 1-17 Carmane Close

Address: Bellevue Park Peel IM5 1UF

I refer to the appeal in respect of the above planning application.

I am directed to advise you that the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, in pursuance of section 3(2) of the Government Departments Act 1987, has delegated responsibility for the determination of this appeal to Mr L Hooper, MHK.

In accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2019, I give notice of the appeal decision.

In assessing the merits of this appeal proposal, Mr Hooper, MHK would state at the outset that it is a well-established principle that every planning application should be assessed on its own individual merits.

In light of the foregoing, therefore, I confirm that Mr Hooper agrees with the Inspector that the main issues for assessment relates to the effect on the character and appearance of the area, on the living conditions of local residents, particularly in terms of outlook; and the effect on highway safety.

Mr Hooper concurs with the Inspector's conclusions in relation to highway safety, namely that the development would not give rise to any material harm in this regard.

However, it is in relation to the overall planning balance, including the weight to be afforded to identified harm and the need for telecommunications infrastructure, that Mr Hooper disagrees with the Inspector's conclusions.

Character and appearance

The Inspector concludes that the proposal would result in material harm to the character and appearance of the area due to the number of poles and the associated overhead cabling.

Mr Hooper accepts that the proposal would introduce multiple vertical elements into the street scene and that this would result in some degree of harm.

In this case, Mr Hooper noted that the area is not characterised by a single uniform form of development. Belle Vue Park and Carmane Close comprise a mix of detached bungalows, chalet-style dwellings and two-storey terraced properties arranged around areas of open space, which results in a more varied and less tightly defined street scene than in other comparable locations.

The presence of open green space, variation in building height, plot layout and orientation of properties reduces the consistency and uniformity of the built form, and correspondingly it is Mr Hooper's opinion that this lessens the extent to which new vertical elements would appear incongruous or dominant when viewed in the wider context, coupled with their dispersal across the estate.

Taking these factors together, Mr Hooper considered that, while the proposal would result in some harm to the character and appearance of the area, he did not consider that the resulting harm is so significant as to decisively outweigh all other material considerations.

Accordingly, Mr Hooper did not consider that the proposal would give rise to an unacceptable impact on the character and appearance of the area when assessed in the round.

Living conditions

The Inspector finds that the development would give rise to material harm to the outlook of nearby residents, including overbearing impacts in certain locations.

Mr Hooper accepts that there would be some adverse impact on outlook, which attracts weight against the proposal.

However, the poles would be largely positioned within the public highway, often on boundaries between properties, and would not generally sit directly in front of principal elevations. Impacts would vary across the site rather than result in uniform harm.

Mr Hooper does not consider that the impacts, either individually or cumulatively, would be so oppressive as to amount to an unacceptable impact on residential amenity when assessed in the round.

Need for telecommunications infrastructure and planning balance

Infrastructure Policy 3 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan requires a balanced judgement between the need for new communications infrastructure and its environmental effects.

Mr Hooper concurs with the Inspector that the proposal would contribute to the rollout of fibre broadband infrastructure and that there is strong Government support for enhanced digital connectivity through the National Telecommunications Strategy, the National Broadband Plan and Our Island Plan and that these considerations carry considerable weight in favour of the proposal.

While the Inspector concludes that the identified harm outweighs these benefits, Mr Hooper reaches a different conclusion. Mr Hooper considers that the proposal represents an acceptable compromise between environmental considerations and infrastructure need, consistent with Infrastructure Policy 3.

When balanced against the limited harm to character and appearance and the identified, but localised, harm to residential outlook, Mr Hooper is satisfied that the planning balance falls in favour of the proposal. The development represents an acceptable compromise between environmental considerations and infrastructure need, consistent with the proper application of Infrastructure Policy 3.

Comparison with Ballaquane Park Appeal (AP25/0036)

Mr Hooper also had regard to the decision at Ballaquane Park (Appeal Ref: AP25/0036), where he accepted the Inspector's recommendation to dismiss the appeal due to significant harm to character and appearance and material harm to residential outlook arising from the scale, prominence and cumulative effect of the poles and associated cabling.

He noted that while there are similarities in the nature of the development proposed there and, in this appeal, that case turned on its specific site context and degree of impact. In particular, the harm identified arose from the uniform single-storey character, absence of vertical features, and the dominance of the poles and associated cabling within an otherwise open and uncluttered streetscape, together with widespread and overbearing effects on outlook.

In contrast, Mr Hooper is satisfied that the present appeal gives rise to a lesser degree and extent of harm, having regard to differences in spatial context, distribution and cumulative impact of the infrastructure, and its relationship to surrounding properties.

Accordingly, while AP25/0036 demonstrates that proposals of this type may be unacceptable in certain circumstances, it is not determinative in this case. The present appeal falls to be determined on its own merits, and Mr Hooper reached a different conclusion on the planning balance.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, Mr Hooper's decision was finely balanced, having weighed all the matters, Mr Hooper has directed that he does not agree with the Inspector's recommendation to dismiss the appeal. Accordingly, he has directed that the Departments decision to refuse the application should be reversed, and that the application should be approved subject to the following condition(s):

1. The development hereby approved shall begin before the expiration of four years from the date of this decision notice.

Reason: To comply with Article 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2019 and to avoid the accumulation of unimplemented planning approvals.

2. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by DEFA Planning, the telegraph poles hereby approved shall be removed within six months of them no longer being required for telecommunications purposes, and the land restored to its condition before the development took place, so far as is practicable.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity and to comply with Infrastructure Policy 3 of the Strategic Plan.

This approval relates to drawing number(s):

Wooden Pole Measurements and Furniture

2023P-0-0

Red Line Plan	2025P-7-1
Cable Plan	2025P-7-2
Pole 1 Site Plan	2025P-7-3
Aerial photo Pole 1 Location	2025P-7-4
Photomontage Pole 1	2025P-7-5
Pole 2 Site Plan	2025P-7-6
Aerial photo Pole 2 Location	2025P-7-7
Photomontage Pole 2	2025P-7-8
Pole 3 Site Plan	2025P-7-9
Aerial photo Pole 3 Location	2025P-7-10
Photomontage Pole 3	2025P-7-11
Pole 4 Site Plan	2025P-7-12
Aerial photo Pole 4 Location	2025P-7-13
Photomontage Pole 4	2025P-7-14
Pole 5 Site Plan	2025P-7-15
Aerial photo Pole 5 Location	2025P-7-16
Photomontage Pole 5	2025P-7-17
Pole 6 Site Plan	2025P-7-18
Aerial photo Pole 6 Location	2025P-7-19
Photomontage Pole 6	2025P-7-20
Pole 7 Site Plan	2025P-7-21
Aerial photo Pole 7 Location	2025P-7-22
Photomontage Pole 7	2025P-7-23
Pole 8 Site Plan	2025P-7-24
Aerial photo Pole 8 Location	2025P-7-25
Photomontage Pole 8	2025P-7-26

While the proposed development would result in some harm to the character and appearance of the area, and a degree of impact on the outlook of nearby residents, these harms are not considered to amount to an unacceptable level when assessed in the round. In accordance with Infrastructure Policy 3 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan, a balanced judgement is required between environmental considerations and the need for new and evolving communications infrastructure. In this instance, substantial weight is afforded to the delivery of essential fibre broadband infrastructure, supporting the Island's strategic objectives for modern, reliable digital connectivity as set out in the National Telecommunications Strategy, the National Broadband Plan and Our Island Plan. On balance, the development represents an acceptable compromise between environmental considerations and infrastructure need, consistent with the application of Infrastructure Policy 3 and the proposal is therefore acceptable.

A copy of the Planning Inspectors report, upon which the decision was considered, is available via our website where the detail may be viewed on the working day following the issue of this letter.

All contributors should note that there is no prescribed right of appeal relevant to the Minister's decision herein and accordingly the only right of challenge is by a petition of doleance brought to the High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man. Such doleance proceedings required to be issued promptly and in any event within 3 months.

Yours sincerely

T COWSILL

Mr T Cowsill
Chief Officer



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirynys

Ms Kate Lord- Brennan
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IM1 3PW

Telephone (01624) 685958
Email: tim.cowsill2@gov.im
Contact: Mr T Cowsill
Our Ref: MEC/AP25/0042DCnei

21st May 2026

Dear Ms Lord- Brennan,

ON APPEAL: Appeal Ref AP25/0042

Planning Application No: 25/90398/B

Proposal: Installation of 1 telegraph pole to provide fibre optic connectivity to 2 & 10-18 & Fresh Breezes, Cronk Reayrt.

Address: Cronk Reayrt Peel IM5 1DB

I refer to the appeal in respect of the above planning application.

I am directed to advise you that the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, in pursuance of section 3(2) of the Government Departments Act 1987, has delegated responsibility for the determination of this appeal to Mr L Hooper, MHK.

In accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2019, I give notice of the appeal decision.

In assessing the merits of this appeal proposal, Mr Hooper, MHK would state at the outset that it is a well-established principle that every planning application should be assessed on its own individual merits.

In light of the foregoing, therefore, I confirm that Mr Hooper agrees with the Inspector that the main issues for assessment relates to the effect on the character and appearance of the area, the effect on the living conditions of local residents, particularly in terms of outlook; and the effect on highway safety.

Mr Hooper concurs with the Inspector's conclusions in relation to highway safety, namely that the development would not give rise to any material harm in this regard.

However, it is in relation to the overall planning balance, including the weight to be afforded to identified harm and the need for telecommunications infrastructure, that Mr Hooper disagrees with the Inspector's conclusions.

Character and appearance

The Inspector concludes that the proposal would result in some harm (paragraph 66) to the open and uncluttered character of the street due to the introduction of a pole and associated cabling (paragraph 48).

While Mr Hooper concurs with the Inspector's conclusion that there would be some harm, he considers that any resulting harm to character and appearance would be limited and localised, and does not give rise to a level of visual harm sufficient to justify refusal.

Living conditions

The Inspector finds that there would be material harm to the outlook of nearby residents, particularly Nos. 10 and 12 Cronk Reayrt, owing to the proximity, height and associated cabling of the proposed pole (paragraph 52).

Mr Hooper accepts that there would be some impact on outlook, and that this is a material consideration attracting weight against the proposal.

However, Mr Hooper notes that the structure would be located within the public highway, would not be directly in front of principal elevations, and would affect a limited number of properties.

Taking these factors into account, Mr Hooper does not consider that the impact would be so harmful as to amount to an unacceptable impact on residential amenity in isolation, to justify refusal.

Need for telecommunications infrastructure and planning balance

Infrastructure Policy 3 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan requires a balanced judgement between the need for evolving communications systems and their environmental effects.

Mr Hooper concurs with the Inspector that the proposal would contribute to the rollout of fibre broadband infrastructure and that there is strong Government support for enhanced digital connectivity through the National Telecommunications Strategy, the National Broadband Plan and Our Island Plan and that these considerations carry considerable weight in favour of the proposal.

While the Inspector concludes that the identified harm outweighs these benefits, Mr Hooper reaches a different conclusion. Mr Hooper considers that the proposal represents an acceptable compromise between environmental considerations and infrastructure need, consistent with Infrastructure Policy 3.

When balanced against the limited harm to character and appearance and the identified, but localised, harm to residential outlook, Mr Hooper is satisfied that the planning balance falls in favour of the proposal. The development represents an acceptable compromise between environmental considerations and infrastructure need, consistent with the proper application of Infrastructure Policy 3.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, Mr Hooper's decision was finely balanced, having weighed all the matters, Mr Hooper has directed that he does not agree with the Inspector's recommendation to dismiss the appeal. Accordingly, he has directed that the Departments decision to refuse the application should be reversed, and that the application should be approved subject to the following condition(s):

1. The development hereby approved shall begin before the expiration of four years from the date of this decision notice.

Reason: To comply with Article 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Procedure) Order 2019 and to avoid the accumulation of unimplemented planning approvals.

2. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by DEFA Planning, the telegraph pole hereby approved shall be removed within six months of it no longer being required for telecommunications purposes, and the land restored to its condition before the development took place, so far as is practicable.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity and to comply with Infrastructure Policy 3 of the Strategic Plan.

NOTE: This approval relates to drawing no(s):

Wooden Pole Measurements and Furniture	2023P-0-0
Red Line Plan	2025P-6-1
Cable Plan	2025P-6-2
Pole 1 Site Plan	2025P-6-3
Aerial photo Pole 1 Location	2025P-6-4
Photomontage Pole 1	2025P-6-5

Reason for approval:

The proposed development would not result in harm to highway safety and, while it would introduce a new vertical element into the street scene, the impact on the character and appearance of the area would be limited given that the proposal involves a single telegraph pole only. Some harm to the living conditions of nearby residents, particularly in relation to outlook, is acknowledged and attracts weight against the proposal. However, Infrastructure Policy 3 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan requires a balanced judgement between environmental effects and the need for new and evolving communications infrastructure.

In this instance, considerable weight is afforded to the benefits arising from the delivery of essential telecommunications infrastructure, supporting the transition away from legacy copper networks and the Government's objective of providing Island wide ultra fast broadband in accordance with the National Telecommunications Strategy, the National Broadband Plan and Our Island Plan. On balance, the development represents an acceptable compromise between environmental considerations and infrastructure need, consistent with the application of Infrastructure Policy 3 and the proposal is therefore acceptable.

A copy of the Planning Inspectors report, upon which the decision was considered, is available via our website where the detail may be viewed on the working day following the issue of this letter.

All contributors should note that there is no prescribed right of appeal relevant to the Minister's decision herein and accordingly the only right of challenge is by a petition of doleance brought to the High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man. Such doleance proceedings required to be issued promptly and in any event within 3 months.

Yours sincerely

T COWSILL

Mr T Cowsill
Chief Officer

Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2026 15:56
To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Hi Kate -

Not sure of your response to the overruling by Mr Hooper of the refusal to erect telegraph poles in Peel?

I see that the final Ministerial approval was not take by the Minister but she delegated it to Mr Hooper. Did she have a conflict of interest?

If she did, perhaps not as conflicting as Mr Hooper's!

Someone has just sent me an email they received from him in 2024 after they had expressed concern about such poles.

He said:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your e-mail

I would suggest you contact your own MHKs with your concerns. Telephone poles and overhead cables are very much "the norm" all over the Island and so your concerns about "precedent" being set are perhaps a little late.

Kind regards

Lawrie

So I think the Peel approval was a forgone conclusion!

[REDACTED]

Appendix – Social media extracts

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

[Counter complaint redacted by the Committee]

Appendix 4: 29th June 2026 – Submission from Ms Lord-Brennan

From: Jonathan King
Sent: 03 July 2026 16:11
To: Ann Corlett; Daphne Caine; Gary Clueit; Juan Watterson; Rob Mercer; Tim Crookall
Cc: Joann Corkish
Subject: TSPC 2026/05: Ms Lord-Brennan's response to Mrs Barber's complaint

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 29 June 2026 20:16
To: Jonathan King
Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you for the email.

I am afraid that I have done nothing wrong except accuse the Minister of poor judgement. If a backbench MHK cannot call out Ministerial incompetence, then we will have reached a low point in Manx Politics. In fact I would struggle to believe that the description I have used would even have raised an eyebrow on the floor of Tynwald.

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
[Member of the House of Keys](#)
[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)

 +44 1624 685596 | 07624 298482

From: Jonathan King
Sent: 29 June 2026 09:47
To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Subject: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan

The Committee is still considering the complaint against you submitted by Mr Hooper on 22nd May 2026 and your responses of 27th May 2026 (morning), 27th May 2026 (evening) and 8th June 2026. As you will recall, I wrote to you on 24th June 2026 saying I was hoping to be in a position to provide you with a further update by Friday 10th July 2026.

On 25th June 2026 the Committee received from Mrs Barber another complaint about your conduct, attached. Some of the matters complained of by Mrs Barber are the same as those complained of by Mr

Hooper but there are some additional matters. Therefore the Committee would like to give you the opportunity to respond again. If your response could be sent to me by 4pm this Friday (3rd July 2026) the Committee would be most grateful.

May I remind you that under paragraph 53 of the Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct no comment should be made in public until the investigation has been completed and its outcome is known.

Many thanks.

Jonathan

From: Barber, Clare
Sent: 25 June 2026 23:58
To: Jonathan King
Cc: Clare Barber
Subject: Raising a concern

Dear Jonathan,

I am writing to you as Clerk of Tynwald with a document for the attention of the Standing Committee on Standards and Privileges.

I would be grateful for their consideration.

Kind regards,

[Signed: Clare Barber]

Clare Barber MHK (she/her) (Mrs)
Member of the House of Keys – Douglas East
Minister – Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture



Phone: +44(0)7624 257947
Email: clare.barber@gov.im
Facebook: /ClareBarberDouglasEast
Address: Legislative Buildings, Finch Rd, Douglas, IM1 3PW

[Why do I use pronouns in my signature?](#)

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[Clare Barber MHK Privacy Policy](#)

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Appendix 5: 8th July 2026 – Submission from Ms Lord-Brennan

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 08 July 2026 15:06
To: Jonathan King
Cc: Juan Watterson; Ann Corlett; Tim Crookall; Diane Kelsey; Rob Mercer; Daphne Caine; Gary Clueit
Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation
Attachments: 26.06.08 Full and final submission to committee.pdf; Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

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To: Clerk, Chair & Members of Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: re complaint and investigation

Good Afternoon Jonathan,

Thank you for your update of 24th June (below) on behalf of the House of Keys Management and Members' Standards Committee.

You mentioned in that correspondence that the Committee may be in a position to respond by 10 July 2026. Initially this was expected on 25th June, after (I understand) the committee decided to investigate (in May?) and I duly provided a response over TT (attached again).

Therefore, this has been dragging on a number of weeks and has been hanging over me. In addition, a number of additional facts were drawn out in the Keys' sitting of 9th June.

Given that the current House of Keys is due to be dissolved on 13 August 2026, I would respectfully ask the Committee to seriously consider dismissing this investigation. To do otherwise at this stage would be wholly unreasonable for the following reasons:

- 1) Given the timing at this stage, it is impossible for me to respond in any Tynwald sitting in a fair and timely way. The submission date for the scheduled July sitting will have passed and there will not be another sitting for Tynwald until late October, after a General Election.
- 2) There is a reason why parliaments go into purdah over an election period. The reason for that is to remove a political dimension to proceedings, which is the whole point.
- 3) If the committee determines to proceed at this stage and given the above, holding over matters over an election period, or reporting prior to dissolution, but after the July business deadline, it would be a demonstration of the committee acting in an overly political way.
- 4) I have more information to add, and I am also concerned about the potential bias of the committee, and the reputational damage that can come from the ability of a committee to be able to act but leave things hanging over many months, in a critical period, regardless of intentions, without an ability to publicly counter, or address in a timely way in the Court as part of the political process and effective right to reply.

It is also concerning to me, that Minister Barber has decided on a recent late-in-the-day (and indeed hour of day) complaint, due to me saying many weeks ago that she had demonstrated incredibly poor judgement, after I was speaking up for constituents who had engaged with process in good faith, only to have it politically overturned by one man, after she delegated her powers to him. This statement hardly warrants complaint or investigation, simply because a Minister has been challenged or criticised. The anger on the ground over this is palpable and understandable. One lady has honestly feared she might have a further heart attack and is still asking why Mr Hooper did what he did. I was placed in a position, after Mr Hooper's decisions, where the DEFA Chief Officer was telling people to contact their constituency MHKS if they have an issue, either that or go to court. I also had to wait many weeks for any significant response from Minister Barber.

The whole thing is outrageous, but I would wish to see the matter closed if the committee cannot conclude its work in fair time for the July sitting and a fair hearing and will consider other action if the committee does decide to progress or release any report in a way where it cannot be considered in July Tynwald and most especially if they choose to release a report after that, whether in purdah or not.

Any outcome reached so close to a House of Keys General Election could potentially impact any election campaign, both for Mr Hooper and for myself, should I choose to seek re-election, or indeed reputational impact in spite of no longer holding the role as MHK, because in practice the political process has, timed out.

Furthermore, I am concerned that if the Committee is unable to fully conclude its investigation by 10 July, it calls into question the robustness of the process. I must also be afforded a fair opportunity to respond to any findings, particularly where I may not agree with the conclusions reached.

In addition, the current Chair of the Committee is also contending for the position of President.

As outlined in previous investigations, I would also expect to have the opportunity to pursue an appeal should I disagree with the Committee's final determination.

Given the proximity to the dissolution of the House of Keys, I would therefore respectfully ask the Committee to give serious consideration to halting this investigation and letting it go in the best interests of all parties concerned.

Over the past five years, Mr Hooper has made a number of allegations against other members. While relatively few formal complaints have been submitted to the Committee, there have been occasions where, when challenged on his behaviour, language, or comments, he has responded by submitting multiple complaints against individuals.

I would draw your attention to the formal investigation involving my colleague Rob Callister MHK, which followed his challenge of certain statements made by Mr Hooper both in Tynwald and on social media.

In light of the above, I again encourage the Committee to end and dismiss this investigation in the interests of fairness to everyone involved.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, so this unpleasantness can be left behind in the final weeks. It is already been stressful enough, and I am struggling to even bring myself to engage with some Members, given this investigation, which is partly why I have responded after Tynwald Day ceremonies and formalities.

I am also curious please, to know, when the committee met to decide to investigate me, and when they decided that their business was so busy that they would have to push back the date at which they would let me know any outcome (therefore missing any chance of timely conclusion for anything progressed / concluded) and if, when and why they decided to have the section re bullying and harassment highlighted to me, as they decided, I am led to believe, to investigate the expressions used.

For the ease and benefit of the committee, here is the email I received on 27th May, notifying me of the complaint and investigation, to which I duly responded fully (the main submission is attached).

Regards,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
Member of the House of Keys

From: Jonathan King
Sent: 24 June 2026 11:30
To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan

I am afraid that as a result of pressure of other business the consideration of this matter by the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee has been delayed. I now hope to be in a position to provide you with a further update by Friday 10th July 2026.

Jonathan

From: Jonathan King
Sent: 09 June 2026 15:06
To: 'Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)'
Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan

Thank you for this further submission, which will be placed before the Committee. I hope to be in a position by Friday 26 June 2026 to let you know the outcome of the Committee's consideration of your submissions.

Jonathan

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 08 June 2026 13:55
To: Jonathan King
Subject: FW: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

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Dear Jonathan

Please see attached following to other replies on 27th May and our subsequent call. I had hoped to get it to you sooner, but it took some time to put a full response together.

I would be grateful to hear soonest, as to what the Committee intends to do, and how they intend to handle the original complaint and the attached, if at all.

Best wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
Member of the House of Keys

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)
Sent: 27 May 2026 18:30

To: Jonathan King

Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Jonathan,

I do have some further points to add – specifically in connection with Lawrie’s email to the committee. I will deal with those quick and specific points tomorrow.

I would also stress that I have established that the delegations do not give the correct powers and are probably unlawful. The AG has confirmed they refer to inaccurate references. You were copied into my original email querying this I think, as I am trying to stand up for and assist my constituents, following these decisions taken by Lawrie Hooper, which sit at odds with all others I have seen.

The delegations include citation of law that does not exist, and so the functions exercised, are simply not delegated. Which is why I use the word unlawful.

On wider points – and I expect to write further on this and related points as well – since I am being investigated for the matters cited by the committee, just in the first instance, please see below.

<https://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/clowngate-mhks-start-2026-with-a-war-of-words/>

Just this in itself brings Tynwald into disrepute. It cannot be one set of rules for one and not for another.

But since it has started, and since Lawrie Hooper MHK has complained, then perhaps the committee should be asked to examine his extensive social media record, in the same light.

I will consider that overnight.

Also, who do I write to please, to see how many complaints Mr Hooper has submitted to the committee, in the past 5 years?

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK

[Member of the House of Keys](#)

[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)



+44 1624 685596 | 07624 298482

From: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

Sent: 27 May 2026 10:28

To: 'Jonathan King'

Subject: RE: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Dear Jonathan,

I am entitled to my expression of view, use of words / language and nothing I have stated is inaccurate. Nor has it been said within Tynwald Court.

I am entitled to do so without fear or favour.

Mr Hooper complains regularly and instantly about Members - it is his "go to" (I would be interested on how many occasions Mr Hooper has submitted complaints to the committee overall, in the past 5 years?).

Mr Hooper is also a regular on social media criticising and maligning all and sundry – the Committee needs only check his own social media including twitter, for that.

As I have stated before, process and behaviour is, in effect tantamount to "it is alright for some and not for others". People are so used to Mr Hooper's attacks, they don't run off complaining. They just have to take it. Everyone accepts it, as it is Lawrie. However, Mr Hooper is off complaining at the first whiff of any criticism, or hostility.

The committee needs only check their own records for that.

He simply doesn't like being called out, but is happy to go very far against others, both inside and outside parliament. This is well known. And also documented. But as I say, he is practiced at getting his complaint in first / immediately. He probably has a template for it.

It is clear I have not "bullied" or "harassed" Mr Hooper with one post, in reaction to two decisions, he has chosen to make. That is on him and he has to own that. That assertion is frankly pathetic.

Also the fact that a complaint has been put in, which effectively gags things, until October, at least is also tactical. I would suggest.

It reflects more on the Committee, than it does me, that they have decided to pursue this, on a "bullying and harassment " basis. It amounts to policing expression in a one sided way, and making it to be something it simply is not.

Mr Hooper is just annoyed at my post – that is it.

I am annoyed and confused by his decision, on behalf of my constituents. That is it.

I should add that I have subsequently found out that the decisions in question appear unlawful.

So, not only has Mr Hooper gone against the planning inspector, strangely and exceptionally on these applications, in what should have been a basic matter, and not only has the Minister exhibited poor judgement, in my view, in delegating these matters to Mr Hooper, for controversial issues in my constituency that have an impact on constituents, and the enjoyment of their homes, when they were due to be served properly by the process, but this decision was entrusted to Mr Hooper when it is well known we are on the opposite sides of arguments frequently, and now the delegations, it appears, and therefore the decisions, are unlawful.

Mr Hooper has taken the opportunity, and I have responded is all, unless he has some burning justification for what he has done?

I didn't complain about the decision initially as I was advised the decision was final, and that my constituents had to go to court and that was the only option!!

I have however, called it out, which is right and which I stand by. That isn't bullying, even if someone doesn't like the expressions used. It isn't bullying to call someone out for their decisions, explain to the public and express things as I have done.

The facts remain true.

His decisions deviated from what the inspector said.

They has been no explanation as to why he went out of his way to do that.

I have nothing left to add and you can give this to the committee, now or in the future.

Mr Hooper is not my work colleague; we are not employees. This is politics and people need to speak their mind- as he always does.

I am aware I have no chance of a counter-complaint, which is a shame, as arguably, Mr Hooper in his decisions, has caused damage to the integrity of Tynwald in acting as he has.

That is why people are outraged- and I have merely reflected that.

Kind wishes,

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK

[Member of the House of Keys](#)

[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)

 +44 1624 685596 | 07624 298482

From: Jonathan King

Sent: 27 May 2026 09:35

To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

Subject: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee: complaint and investigation

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan

I am writing in my capacity as Clerk of the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee. The Committee has recently received the attached complaint about your conduct and has decided to investigate.

Dr Haywood has decided to recuse herself from the Committee for the purposes of this investigation.

It appears to the Committee that the following provisions of the Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct may have been breached:

18. Members must never undertake any action which would cause significant damage to the reputation and integrity of Tynwald or its Branches as a whole, or of its Members generally.

45. Members must not use social media, email or any other online activity/forum to bully, harass or otherwise treat another person, including another Member, in a way that would breach workplace and community standards or the rules and practices of the chamber.

At this stage the Committee is particularly concerned about your use of the expressions –

- malevolent by action
- his wicked hand
- deviant decisions
- weaponisation of planning applications, by one man
- hijacked ... authority which was most certainly abused

These appear to cast reflections on the character of another Member of Tynwald or to impute improper motives on the part of another Member of Tynwald.

At this stage the Committee would like to give you the opportunity to submit any response to these particular elements or to any other aspect of the complaint. Please would you send your response to me in writing by noon on Wednesday 10th June 2026.

Please note that under paragraph 53 of the Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct no comment should be made in public until the investigation has been completed and its outcome is known.

The Committee recognises that participating in a standards investigation is a stressful experience for complainants, respondents and witnesses. While every case is unique, it may in general be expected that –

- an email which is sent to the Committee through its clerk will receive a substantive answer within 10 working days, or, where that is not the case, at the very least a holding response advising of progress.
- if a matter requires the Committee to meet, the Committee will aim to do so within a month (excluding August).

As we are in a General Election year the Committee will be unable to act from the Dissolution of the House of Keys (13th August 2026) until the election of new Members to the Committee (tentatively scheduled for 17 November 2026).

Further information about the Committee and its procedures can be found on the Committee's website here:

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/committee/TSMI>

The Tynwald Members' Code of Conduct can be found at Annex 6 to the Standing Orders of Tynwald Court here:

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/sto/Documents/2026-PP-0009.pdf#page=117>

If you would have any questions about the process or would like to discuss it please do not hesitate to contact me.

With all best wishes

Jonathan

Jonathan King

Clerk of the Tynwald Standards and Members' Privileges Committee

Legislative Buildings, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3PW

01624 685500

www.tynwald.org.im

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiart jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydagh ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-l er son Rheyenn ny Boayrd Slatyysagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scruiit leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyenn ny Boayrd Slatyysagh t'eh bentyn rish.

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiart jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydagh ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-l er son Rheyenn ny Boayrd Slatyysagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scruiit leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyenn ny Boayrd Slatyysagh t'eh bentyn rish.

Appendix 6: 16th July 2026 – Submission from Ms Lord-Brennan

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Archived: 22 July 2026 10:26:19

From: [Lord-Brennan, Kate MHK]

Sent: 16 July 2026 14:24:05

To: [Jonathan King]

Subject: RE: Complaint to the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee

Sensitivity: Normal

Dear Jonathan

An initial response then, as I have not read this as yet, and I will respond further, with considerable concerns on a procedural basis and other points.

1. What is the point in me commenting on the report? There is no point – the committee is doing as it wishes. I'm not editing or endorsing any aspect.
2. In terms of counter complaints, you did not give me that advice at the time. It is not reasonable for me to expect that I would have to expressly have to make a case for "countering that presumption". I have pointed out the obvious in my submission.

Kate

Kate Lord-Brennan MHK

[Member of the House of Keys](#)

[Constituency Representative for Glenfaba and Peel](#)

☎ +44 1624 685596 | 07624 298482

From: Jonathan King

Sent: 15 July 2026 17:09

To: Lord-Brennan, Kate (MHK)

Subject: Complaint to the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee

Caution: This email is from an external sender. Please take care before opening any attachments or following any links.

Dear Ms Lord-Brennan

I refer to the complaint about your conduct about which you were notified on 27th May 2026.

As I mentioned to in an email on 10th July 2026, the Committee has decided to make a report to Tynwald about this matter. In accordance with paragraph 25 of the Committee's guidance I am now sending you a draft of the Committee's report and would invite your comment by 12 noon on Monday 20th July 2026.

If having considered your comments the Committee is still minded to make a report, the Committee

intends to publish its report before the end of next week's sitting and to seek a suspension of Standing Orders to debate it at that sitting. This suspension and the motion on the report would be placed on a Supplementary Order Paper.

As you will see from the draft, the Committee's decision in this matter has not been unanimous. Mr Crookall intends to exercise his right to append a memorandum of dissent to the report.

The Committee has also considered the counter-complaints against Mr Hooper which you made within your submission of 26th June 2026. Under paragraph 9 of its published guidance the Committee has taken into account the gravity of the alleged misconduct and the time that has elapsed between the conduct complained of and the making of the complaint, with a rebuttable presumption against entertaining any complaint made more than three months after the event. You have not made any case for rebutting that presumption and the Committee has therefore decided not to entertain your complaints about any social media post issued by Mr Hooper before 26th March 2026. The Committee has examined the social media posts you submitted which had been issued since that date and concluded that none of them reach the threshold required to merit investigation. Both of these decisions in relation to your counter-complaints were reached unanimously by the Committee.

In an email of 8th July 2026 you asked the following questions and in an email of 11th July 2026 you said you would like answers to these directly:

"I am also curious please, to know, when the committee met to decide to investigate me, and when they decided that their business was so busy that they would have to push back the date at which they would let me know any outcome (therefore missing any chance of timely conclusion for anything progressed / concluded) and if, when and why they decided to have the section re bullying and harassment highlighted to me, as they decided, I am led to believe, to investigate the expressions used."

The answers to these are given within the draft report, but for completeness: the Committee first met to consider the complaint against you on 26th May 2026 and decided on that day to investigate. It was also on that day that the Committee agreed that paragraph 45 of the Code was relevant. This paragraph does refer to bullying and harassment via social media but also to other treatment which would breach the rules and practices of the Chamber. As the draft report makes clear it is under this "other treatment" heading that the Committee believes paragraph 45 has been breached.

As to when the Committee decided to delay the investigation, this decision was made on 17th June 2026 when it proved impossible to hold a meeting. The next available meeting date was 7th July 2026.

With all best wishes

Jonathan

Jonathan King
Clerk of Tynwald
Legislative Buildings, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3PW
01624 685500
www.tynwald.org.im

Tynwald – the parliament of the Isle of Man
Tinvaal – quaiyl lattyssagh Ellan Vannin

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RAAUE: S'preevaadjagh yn çhaghteraght post-l shoh chammah's coadanyn erbee currit marish as ta shoh coadit ec y leigh. Cha nhegin diu coipal ny cur eh da peiagh erbee elley ny ymmydey yn chooid t'ayn er aght erbee dyn kied leayr veih'n choyrtagh. Mannagh nee shiu yn enmyssagh kiarit jeh'n phost-l shoh, doll-shiu magh eh, my sailliu, as cur-shiu fys da'n choyrtagh cha leah as oddys shiu.

Cha nel kied currit da failleydaghy ny jantagh erbee conaant y yannoo rish peiagh ny possan erbee lesh post-l er son Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh erbee jeh Reiltys Ellan Vannin dyn co-niartaghey scrut leayr veih Reireyder y Rheyynn ny Boayrd Slattyssagh t'eh bentyn rish.

Appendix 7: 20th July 2026 – Facebook post by Ms Lord-Brennan

Archived: 22 July 2026 10:27:06

From: [Jonathan King]

Sent: 20 July 2026 13:51:00

To: [Ann Corlett] [Daphne Caine] [Gary Clueit] [Juan Watterson] [Rob Mercer] [Tim Crookall]

Cc: [Joann Corkish]

Subject: Public statement by Ms Lord-Brennan

Sensitivity: Normal

To: Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee

I wrote to Ms Lord-Brennan last Wednesday, 15th July 2026 at 17:11 attaching a draft report and asking for comments by 12 noon today. She acknowledged the email and said she would reply further. She then sent me a series of procedural questions which I answered. But no further reply addressed to the Committee was submitted by the 12 noon deadline.

The text below was posted 52 minutes ago on “Kate Lord-Brennan for Glenfaba and Peel” on Facebook.

Jonathan

Statement to constituents

Expected Censure Motion following complaints from Mr Hooper and Mrs Barber

This week I am expecting to be subject to a motion of censure from the Tynwald Standards Committee, following a complaint from Mr Hooper.

Constituents and others will recall that in May this year, I took a robust position following Mr Hooper’s unwarranted and unjustified decisions regarding telegraph pole applications, which unfairly impacted my constituents and caused them great stress and anger.

This took the form of a single powerfully written social media post, and a letter to the paper, with the same content, to raise awareness and expose what was going on, and to call it out. In this I have challenged the use of executive power, and questioned big corporate vs public interests.

The assertions I made, and the concerns I have had, have also been validated and evidenced in answers to parliamentary questions, on 9th June in Keys and in answers to written questions evidencing far too much for me to cover here.

I was made aware in late May that Mr Hooper MHK for Ramsey, had submitted a complaint about my social media post to the political committee, the Tynwald Standards and Privileges Committee. The actual alleged breach was unspecified.

Many weeks later, Minister Barber supplemented this with her own set of complaints about me. The main take away or basis for complaint was that she was unhappy as I had called her judgement into question, in that post, in terms of her delegating planning decisions to Mr Hooper. I understand most of Minister Barber’s complaints have ultimately been dismissed.

The Committee, by then had already decided to investigate me based on concerns about “the expressions used” in that post / opinion piece.

This takes parliamentary committees into new terrain.

On the basis that this is a pre-election period, and that it is clearly wrong for a political committee to start subjectively policing language and expressions, especially for phrasing and rhetoric used outside parliament, which should just be subject to ordinary law, I have appealed to the committee that they simply let the issue drop, because there is no way

to handle it fairly.

Because of how the Committee intend to handle this, given the context, and because the principle of this should be a concern for us all, and what it means for elected representation, I have decided today to speak up as to what is going on and about timing.

Last Thursday, in preparing for the busy Tynwald sitting, I opened an email from the Clerk of the Committee which provided me with the Committee's report together with their Recommendation that I am censured by Tynwald, for that single content. There are a range of issues with the report, and the handling by the Committee of fellow politicians. Parliamentary censure is an extreme reaction to me simply standing up robustly for my constituents, and incredible, considering Mr Hooper's own record for being aggressive and abrasive, inside and outside the Court. The Committee, also decided not to take into account, a number of counter complaints against Mr Hooper, and his language and expressions. His approach has a pattern over years, and I am not the only one to be subjected to it.

The public at large should be concerned about what the Committee's conclusion and approach means for freedom of expression and strong representation on this Island, and fear of reprisal.

We are heading towards censorship and cancel culture and already experiencing selective and subjective determination as to what is ok to say and what isn't, and who is first or is motivated to complain. Now, this is happening, not only in Tynwald, but outside the Court sittings. It will blunt political representation and voice if left unchecked.

To make matters worse, and the reason I have decided to speak up today, is because the Committee intends to land this report, and the proposal for my "censure" over "expressions used" this week, in this sitting, at short notice, in a surprise Supplementary Order paper to be released "at some point before the end of the sitting" in what can only be described as a political hijack as an attempt to discredit someone for doing their job, and somehow prove Mr Hooper as being right or a victim.

To be clear, I would have no way of knowing when this would be and the Members who would vote on it, would have very little time to take in and consider fairly, amongst everything else, in a heavy final sitting which is usually a bun fight anyway, with tempers running high. There would also be no time for the public to understand.

So, why and how is this happening?

It is rare to have Supplementary Order papers for Tynwald, especially last minute ones and they need to be justified – and permitted (by the President).

This is only happening to me – a last minute, final sitting censure prospect in Tynwald – because the current Chair of the Committee is likely to be the new President of Tynwald (the vote is tomorrow (Tuesday) morning) and so he and the Committee are anticipating that new power, in order to bank on / use that to get a new item of business on the agenda, last minute, at a time of choosing by the new President, in a way that otherwise would have been unlikely to be facilitated for something of this nature.

The Public and Members can draw their own conclusions on this approach.

I will not hold it against anyone for voting for Mr Watterson, but this tactic is wrong.

It is manifestly unfair, as there is simply no time for understanding, or legal or other advice. There has been no impartiality to any of it, it is clearly politically led, driven by people who are politically sympathetic with each other, right before an election period.

When you get elected, you pledge to deliver your opinion, without fear or favour.

This is what I have done. I have stood up for people who have been let down, and called it out in no uncertain terms, to hopefully ward off similar things happening again.

Political expression, and calling out of mishandling, should not be curtailed by political committees.

This leads to censorship and fear of reprisal.

This latest move from the Committee and their expected report is just another example, symptomatic of structural issues with this particular committee, and in this way, I am just the latest Member to be on the receiving end of that and Mr Hooper's complaints.

The only wrongdoing here, was the original decision and defence of it.

If Tynwald censures me for speaking up on this and use of language – given the way it is being handled by the committee, so be it.

I would do the same for my constituents tomorrow and on this issue, I would wear it like a badge of honour.

My submission to the committee in May is linked in the comments, and picks apart their arguments, as well as outlines

counter complaints the Committee is not interested in.

The Members of the Committee, who have unanimously supported this investigation, course of action, handling and recommendation that I be censured by Tynwald (although Mr Crookall is due to dissent from the report I am advised) are

Mr Watterson Speaker of the House of Keys (Chair), MHK for Rushen

Mrs Ann Corlett, Vice Chair, and MHK for Douglas Central

Mrs Daphne Caine, MHK for Garff

Mr Rob Mercer MLC

Mr Clueit MLC

Mrs Michelle Hayward, MHK for Rushen (who recused herself, but I am aware she has been involved in the background).

Mr Tim Crookall MHK

<https://tynwald.org.im/committee/TSMI>

The Committee and its approach needs a rethink – this is bigger than a political spat about telegraph poles.

(ends)

Kate Lord-Brennan for Glenfaba & Peel's post



Kate Lord-Brennan for Glenfaba & Peel

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Statement to constituents -
Expected censure motion following complaints from Mr Hooper and Mrs Barber.
Full text and links in comments.
The Committee and its approach needs a rethink – this is bigger than a political spat about telegraph poles.

to a motion of censure from the Tynwald Standards Committee, following a complaint from Mr Hooper.

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Parliamentary censure is an extreme reaction to me simply standing up robustly for my constituents, and

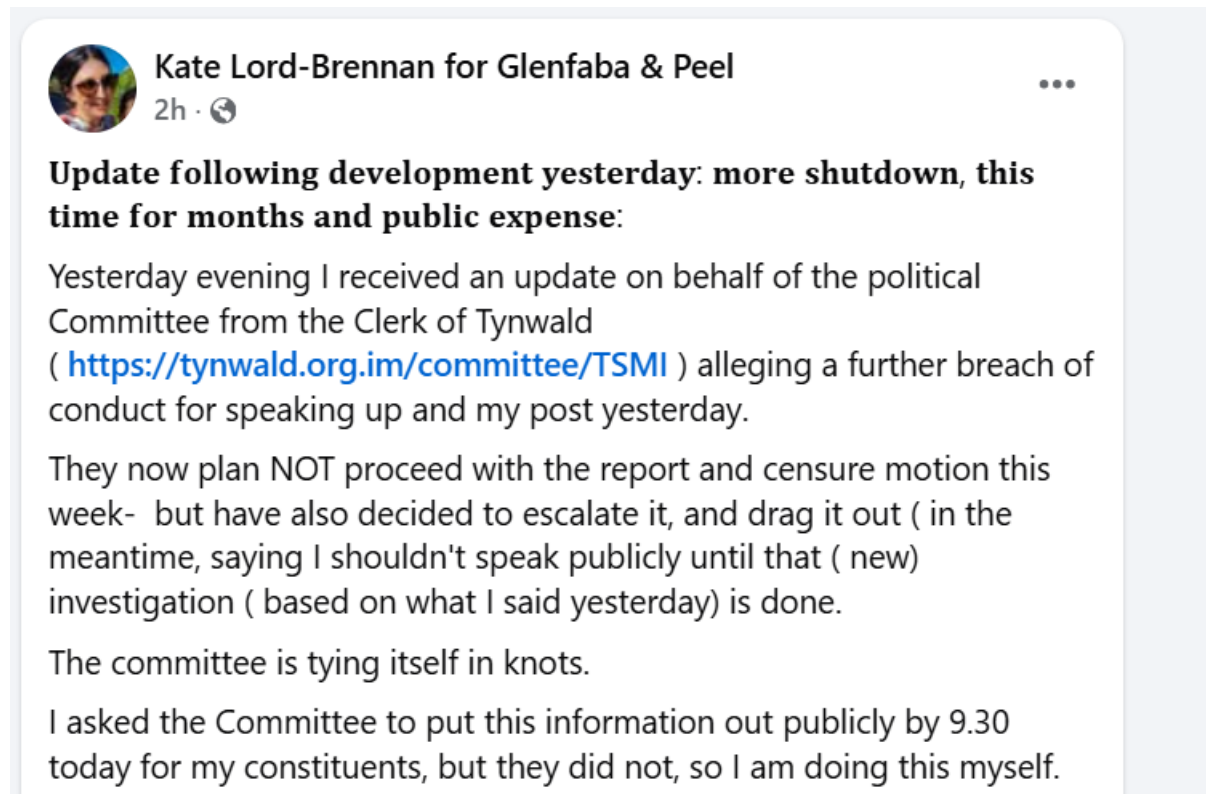
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Appendix 8: 21st July 2026 – Facebook post by Ms Lord-Brennan

Kate Lord-Brennan for Glenfaba and Peel

Tuesday 21 October 2026

around 10.45am



Update following development yesterday: more shutdown, this time for months and public expense:

Yesterday evening I received an update on behalf of the political Committee from the Clerk of Tynwald

(<https://tynwald.org.im/committee/TSMI>) alleging a further breach of conduct for speaking up and my post yesterday.

They now plan NOT proceed with the report and censure motion this week- but have also decided to escalate it, and drag it out (in the meantime, saying I shouldn't speak publicly until that (new) investigation (based on what I said yesterday) is done.

The committee is tying itself in knots.

I asked the Committee to put this information out publicly by 9.30 today for my constituents, but they did not, so I am doing this myself.

The update yesterday (Email from the Clerk of Tynwald: 17.49 20th July) was as follows

“The Committee is concerned that your Facebook post of today’s date could be a contempt of Tynwald and a breach of paragraphs 45 and 53 of the Code of Conduct. The Committee has

decided that these concerns need to be investigated before any report is made to Tynwald. As today's post includes allegations against the Committee itself, the Committee has decided that it will be necessary to refer the entire matter to a politically impartial acting Commissioner for Standards to report after the General Election. Accordingly no report will be published until then.

Under paragraph 53 of the Code no comment should be made in public until the Commissioner's investigation has been completed and its outcome is known."

Of course, this is a further silencing move, both for now, and over an election period and a period where no one holds the role of MHK.

It also does not bode well for openness of process or political expression and communication.

Also, the rule is not being applied fairly, as the Committee's investigation had already been completed and I was already aware of the outcome: a last minute move for a parliamentary censure, facilitated and planned due to certain votes and roles in play.

It is the Committee itself that should be scrutinised, not me, for single post and letter and "expressions used" in them.

My full submission to the Committee is below, a submission which was due to be redacted, due to the dismissal of counter complaints against Mr Hooper by the committee which is outlined from page 7 and screenshots at page 25. These provided vital context.

<https://katelordbrennan.com/.../26.06.08-Full-and-final...>

My reply to the Clerk of Tynwald last night:

"Thank you for your email. That is fine, but please then arrange for the Committee to issue a full public statement as to the Committee's intent by 9.30 am tomorrow morning so that my constituents are fully informed.

I am not going to be shut down by Tynwald process, political shenanigans and a process that leaves me defenceless.

As I indicated to you, there was clearly no point in responding in writing to the Committee regarding their report, as the Committee had already decided its course of action."

See less

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July 2026