

28 July 2026

Incident at Local Authority Meeting – Statement from David Quirk

I wish to set the record straight and share my concerns regarding an incident that occurred following the close of the public session of the Onchan Commissioners Board meeting on the evening of 27 July 2026.

As is normal procedure, the meeting ran in two parts: a public session (during which members of the public may attend as observers) and a private session (during which the public are required to leave the meeting room).

Following the close of the public session and before the private session started, a member of the public (and former Onchan Commissioner), approached me aggressively as I stood at the Board table.

This person came extremely close to my face, effectively nose to nose with me, and started shouting abuse at me in a threatening manner. I considered the behaviour to be aggressive and very intimidating.

In an act of self-protection, I put up my hand in a defensive manner to try and gain safe distance. I told the person to ‘back off’ and said words like; ‘if they wished to raise concerns or ask me questions, they should do so in writing or contact me by phone to discuss matters appropriately.’

My action was solely to create a safe personal space and de-escalate the situation, in what I considered to be a verbal assault on me with aggressive, threatening, and intimidating behaviour.

This was not normal nor acceptable conduct from anyone, let alone within a public authority meeting. I did not assault, nor make intentional contact with the person.

This incident raises serious concerns about the safety and security of elected representatives. This kind of behaviour should never be regarded as something acceptable in public service.

Members of the public are required to leave the meeting room promptly before private sessions begin. Allowing the public to approach the Board table creates more risk that an incident like this will occur. Any elected representative should be able to perform their duties without fear of threat, intimidation, harassment, or aggressive behaviour.

This member of the public is well known to regularly make audible comments throughout Board meetings, despite the rule that public observers are not being permitted to participate in meetings.

I will request the Local Authority Chief Executive, to review procedures and security arrangements for meetings; including ensuring members of the public leave the meeting room immediately after a public session concludes.

It is the Local Authority's responsibility to ensure meetings are conducted in a safe environment. Elected members have the right to perform their public duties without being subjected to abuse or intimidation.