

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

LESLIE MOUNTAIN ROAD,
ST. JOHN'S,
ANGUILLA

7 October 2008

Ms A Moffatt,
Social Legislation Officer,
Isle of Man Trade Union Council
c/o Transport House,
25, Fort St.,
Douglas
IM1 2LJ

Dear Ms Moffatt,

Public Sector Pension Proposals

I thank you for your letter of 9th September together with an invitation to attend a briefing and discussion to be held on Thursday 9th October at Transport House.

Over the last few weeks, much has been written and said regarding the above proposals, a lot of which has been less than accurate. To address the situation, I note the Chief Minister has written to you and also circulated a very clear message of re-assurance to employees of Government.

From my observations, this seems to have been helpful and welcomed and as you have stated in your letter---- "we do recognise that there is a need to consider future pension liability and to proactively address issues". ----You furthermore, in the same paragraph state your belief that this is a responsible approach and support the Governments aim of working towards a sustainable future for the Island and indicate your total commitment to working with Government towards appropriate and reasonable solutions.

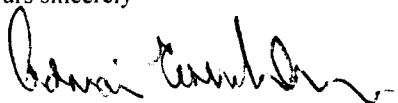
I welcome these comments and following the decision of Tynwald to have a report produced, the process is now fully underway. The doubts and concerns you have expressed in paragraphs four to ten have been addressed by the Chief Minister and I am sure you will have carefully read the facts he states. At this stage the Hymans Robertson Report is seen as an "issues and options" document providing information to readers and no decisions have been made.

Although I am unable to accept your invitation to attend Thursday's meeting due to being "off-island" for a funeral, the exercise seems to me, in the circumstances, to be premature until further developments have taken place.

Should you decide to proceed however, I note that you will be asking those in attendance to state their views with the intention to release the results to members of your Union and their families. Should you wish to state mine, I am content for you to convey the opinion appearing above.

I would furthermore advise that I have received fourteen letters from employees who reside in Onchan, all but one of which have been signed by workers in health services. All have, of course been answered and I welcome contact from constituents affected, who reside in Onchan, who continue to feel concern and will appreciate you also conveying this.

Yours sincerely



AJ Earnshaw MHK