

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 Where these are rejected, or have been funded, or the appeals have been withdrawn, obviously the infrastructure ends up being "ducted" under the ground.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.

There are examples, not least from Mr Hooper that I think some people would find abhorrent and also offensive and indeed also would breach 18.

Since the Committee is examining my “use of expression” and concerned about that, I would like the Committee to examine Mr Hooper’s online activities and at least one in Tynwald Court.

Counter-complaints

My first counter-complaint relates to Mr Hooper’s Budget contribution in Tynwald, this year, in [February 2026 – page 41](#).

If the Committee wishes to examine and take action on something, examine this

Mr Hooper: “The Hon. Member for Douglas Central is probably the first Treasury Minister of the modern age to be able to confidently assert that he has screwed thousands of women across the Island”.

TYNWALD COURT, TUESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY 2026

1690 70% of the part-time workforce. (Interjection) The Hon. Member for Douglas Central is probably the first Treasury Minister of the modern age to be able to confidently assert that he has screwed thousands of women across the Island. (Several Members: Oh!)

Turning to pensioners, Eaghtyrane. The Manx state pension works out at roughly £13,000 a year –

1695

The President: Hon. Member, I think that has a potential different meaning, so would you like to clarify that point?

Mr Hooper: Yes, Mr President, I am happy to. The Hon. Member has taken money primarily

1700 off low-earning women.

Ms Lord-Brennan: Mr President, he should withdraw those remarks –

The President: Just be careful with language.

1705

Ms Lord-Brennan: – because he has (Several Members: Hear, hear.) been offensive for about the fourth time today.

The President: Hon. Member, there is a request to remove the remark.

1710

Mr Hooper: I am happy to do so, Mr President. I would not like my remarks to be misinterpreted. (The President: Thank you.)

Anwaw. turning to pensioners. the Manx state pension works out. like I said. at roughlv

I called for Mr Hooper to withdraw this (bad taste and offensive remark) at the time, but in doing so, he somewhat attempted to justify its usage, as if the double meaning was not intentional, or misunderstood, as a get out. It was a weak deflection against something intentional.

There never was any apology or sanction, but I am pursuing this now.

I am therefore submitting a formal complaint and ask the Committee to take action on this on the following grounds (As well as any Standing Orders or other Codes etc.)

“ 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)

“Clowngate”

Just over a month or so prior to the above, Mr Hooper called everyone in Tynwald “Clowns”, in a now deleted social media post.

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

Mr Hooper did a subsequent post, in a lengthy way saying it referred to some article in the press from years ago. Clearly that was backtracking.

There never was any sanction, or apology. I am therefore submitting a formal complaint and ask the Committee to take action on this on the following grounds

“ 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)

Finally, the document also submitted is just a selection of posts and tweets from Mr Hooper’s own social media. Just a quick sample, as opposed to my single post.

I would like to report these, so the Committee as a whole can weigh the approach, tone and language of this Member, and consider whether that is ok and justified.

I am also submitting a formal complaint regarding these and ask the Committee to take action on this on the following grounds

“ 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)

I am submitting it also on the grounds that Tynwald members should treat each other as Honourable Members. I have raised this before, to Presiding Officers, and to Clerks, but it seems to not mean anything. I have simply stopped raising it.

I expect the committee to take strong action, or if not, to consider that they cannot be selective in their action, or policing of language.

The man or woman on the street would simply conclude that Mr Hooper can give it but he can't take it. It is rare that anyone calls him out. I have done so, but in doing so, given his track record, given his general disposition and the fact that we are often on opposite sides of the argument or vote, it is no surprise to me that he has reported me to your 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.
5. Extracts of Mr Hooper's various social media

References:

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t260217.pdf#search=%22screwed%22> Feb 2026 Tynwald – page 41 - Mr Hooper does not apologise.

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

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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@attgen.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/ijm2imb/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

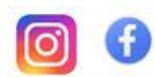
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Representing the constituency of [Glenfaba and Peel](#) – I care and I challenge



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmytaght, Bee as Eirynys

Ms Kate Lord-Brennan
Legislative Buildings
Fincha Road
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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):

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
Legislative Buildings
Finch Road
Douglas
Isle Of Man
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]

Extract 1

**Lawrie Hooper MHK**

20 Jan · 🌐

This approach is taking money out of the pockets of the lowest paid on our Island - and the government has refused to tell us what their personal allowance increase is going to cost taxpayers

People are getting screwed on both ends here and it's shameful Tynwald supported this today

**BBC Isle of Man** ✓

20 Jan · 🌐

A proposal to roll back on a 9.9% minimum wage rise pledge but "significantly increase" person... more



Extract 2

**Lawrie Hooper MHK**

28 Apr · 🌐

Pretty disappointing u-turn from the government but no more than I've come to expect, they seem to have a complete inability to take difficult decisions or to deal effectively with any sort of criticism. The amount of misinformation spread (including by Ministers!) has been astonishing.

The unfortunate reality is this is likely to be bad news for Ramsey ratepayers and taxpayers once again.

As an aside, it does mean that this government will be ending its term with more local authorities than they started with! So much for slimming down government 😂

**Energy FM Isle of Man**

28 Apr · 🌐

The House of Keys has voted to



Extract 3



Lawrie Hooper MHK

6 Feb · 🌐

Sounds like more than a full time job for this govt



3FM Isle of Man

6 Feb · ⚙️

Gov't wants PR director for 'crisis communications' and 'reputation management'



three.fm

Gov't PR director needed for 'crisis communications' and 'reputation m...



2



4



1



Extract 4

All

Photos

Reels

More ▼



Lawrie Hooper MHK

21 Jan · 🌐

Not everyone will benefit - this is just a straight up lie from the Chief Minister

Specifically the lowest earners - they won't benefit at all from this new approach, the government has just taken hundreds of pounds out of their pockets

This government has just screwed over the thousands of people earning below the tax threshold and all those earning just above it too

And they did it with a smile on their faces

It's disgraceful and every Tynwald member who voted for this should be ashamed of themselves

Liberal Vannin will keep fighting for fair wages to ensure that work really does pay even if this government has made it clear they couldn't care less about the

Extract 5

← **Post** ↻ ...

 **Lawrie Hooper MHK**
@LawrieHooper

It's not nine months - the last sitting of Tynwald is in July

Chamber really are useless

 **Energy FM News** @EnergyFMNe... · 19/01/2026
Chamber describes the reshuffle as a positive and timely step to sharpen its focus in the last nine months of the current administration.
[#isleofman](#)
[manx.news/chamber-welcom...](#)

15:08 · 19/01/2026 · **894** Views

💬 4 ↺ ❤️ 5 📌 ⬆

Extract 6

← **Post** ↻ ...

 **Lawrie Hooper MHK**
@LawrieHooper

It is especially important to be vigilant if any of the Council of Ministers send you anything in the post asking you for your vote in exchange for some vaguely worded promises

Do not fall for it - it's a scam

 **Energy FM News** @EnergyFMNe... · 21/01/2026
The Government is urging the public to remain vigilant amid a rise in social media scams using the names and images of Ministers.
[#isleofman](#)
[manx.news/public-warned-...](#)

20:16 · 21/01/2026 · **546** Views

💬 2 ↺ ❤️ 2 📌 ⬆

Extract 7



Extract 8



Extract 9



But Ministers were telling Tynwald everything was fine?

Surely our erstwhile leaders wouldn't be disassociated from reality?

 **Energy FM News** @EnergyFMN... · 20/02/2026

The eGaming sector is continuing to shed jobs, according to the latest economic assessment published in the 2026-27 budget [#isleofman](#) manx.news/the-decline-of...

17:39 · 20/02/2026 · 524 Views



Extract 10



Captain U-Turn strikes again

 **Isle of Man Government** @I... · 23/02/2026

The Department of Infrastructure is to withdraw its planning application for new flood defences and highway improvements along West Quay in Ramsey.

ow.ly/7w9V50YkcIS



14:32 · 23/02/2026 · 532 Views



Extract 11



Extract 12



← **Post** ...

 **Lawrie Hooper MHK**
@LawrieHooper X.com

It turns out the Treasury Minister doesn't understand the structural deficit

This bodes well

Manx Radio @ManxRadio · 13/04/2026

The Public Accounts Committee heard from the Treasury Minister about the structural deficit in the budget, the sustainability of ever increasing health spending, government pay and the triple lock pension guarantee. Hear the highlights on Agenda...

18:17 · 13/04/2026 · **353** Views

💬 ↺ 1 ❤️ 2 📌 ⬆

← **Post** ...

 **Lawrie Hooper MHK**
@LawrieHooper X.com

What was really worrying was when asked if he would stand up for the Island if this did become more evidently a constitutional conflict his answer wasn't "yes"

So we have a Chief Minister who won't put the Island first

3FM @3FMradio · 23/04/2026

Assisted dying bill hurdle isn't constitutional issue, says Cannan.
Chief Minister Alf Cannan faced questions in Tynwald over the UK's refusal to give the law Royal Assent at this time. three.fm/news/isle-of-m...

12:02 · 23/04/2026 · **551** Views

**Post**

Lawrie Hooper MHK
@LawrieHooper

X.com

Luckily the Chief Minister often doesn't know what he's talking about

Which is a relief - otherwise we'd all be very worried by his failure to stand up for the Island



Manx Radio @ManxRadio · 06/05/2026

The chief minister has told Manx Radio he believes the Assisted Dying Bill will fail the people of the Isle of Man.

Alfred Cannan says it could cause a 'constitutiona...

14:44 · 06/05/2026 · **572** Views



2



1



1

