

The Liberal Vannin Party

Bringing Politics Back To The People

The Block Vote and the “one Party state by patronage” explained

The House of Keys (Keys) is made up of 24 elected MHKs

Legislative Council (LegCo) has 11 unelected members. 8 of these are elected by Keys with the other 3 automatically being the President of Tynwald, the Bishop and the Attorney General.

Keys and LegCo sit together monthly and form Tynwald.

When there is a general election the Island votes for 24 MHKs based on their individual manifestos. When casting their votes, no-one is aware of who is going to be Chief Minister so have no idea of what government policy is likely to be.

At the first sitting of Keys the elected MHKs vote for one of their number to be Chief Minister. The Chief Minister then appoints 9 Ministers. He can fire any of these Ministers at any time. Government (CoMin) is now formed. They all then sign to agree abide by Collective Responsibility.

Collective Responsibility – The Council of Ministers meet to discuss and vote on issues. The vote of the majority carries and then **all** Ministers then have to support the issue, whether they agree with it or not, or resign.

The Ministers then appoint the Departmental Members from the remaining MHKs. The number varies dependent on the Ministry but the total of Departmental Members is 11. The Ministers can fire a Departmental Member at any time.

All MHKs receive a salary of £36,441 plus an expenses allowance of £6,178. The salary is increased if an MHK becomes a Minister or Departmental Member.

A summary of the current **gross** salaries is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Chief Minister | £71,772 |
| Minister | £60,840 |
| Departmental Member | £53,551 |
| MHK | £42,619 |

In addition there are various positions on Boards that will enhance the salary of an MHK.

Party Leader, Peter Karran MHK, is the only MHK that has no other position and is the only MHK that receives no increase in salary. That is why he can speak out without financial risk and why he refers to the “one Party state by patronage”. He who pays the piper calls the tune – and the only piper in town is the Chief Minister.

A picture paints a thousand words. The attached paper shows the Block Vote in action.