

Do we have democracy?

The majority of people in the Isle of Man would say that we have democracy here, but do we? Most of our politicians are independents, they produce their own personal manifestos and we, the public, cast our votes dependant on whose manifesto and personality resonates with us. We believe that when elected, our MHKs will adhere to the manifestos that we voted on. The reality is rather different. Once elected our MHKs are virtually powerless to carry out their election promises when confronted with the block vote of the Council of Ministers.

We have no say as to who will be governing us as the Chief Minister chooses the Council of Ministers and they form the government. We have no choice as to whom we want as Chief Minister as this is not decided until after the election. We do not know what the government's policies will be when we cast our votes as we do not know who will be in government.

Just as concerning is the fact that when the Council of Ministers is formed they sign a "Code of Conduct" which effectively removes their right to speak against any government decision.

"A Minister may speak against any proposal in the Council of Ministers, but he must subsequently either support the policy decided upon or resign."

There are some exceptions, one of which is below:

"A personal or political dislike of a Council of Ministers' decision is not in itself a sufficient justification for an exemption from collective responsibility. In cases where a Minister feels personally or politically unhappy with a particular policy or Council decision, the proper forum for discussion of the matter is the Council of Ministers.

If the Minister is unable to persuade Council to accept his thinking after full and frank discussion, he must accept the decision reached by Council. Any subsequent public dissent must be regarded as an unacceptable indulgence."

Can we really feel that we have independent political representation when to speak out against what they feel is wrong is classed an "unacceptable indulgence" and they have to resign?

This system of government is out dated, requires reform and is costing you, the taxpayer millions of pounds. Changes can only happen if you vote Liberal Vannin

Liberal Vannin supports democracy. We state our policies in our manifesto and these do not change after we are elected. When voting for us you will know who the Chief Minister will be provided we get sufficient parliamentary members elected.

Do you still feel that we have democracy now? If not, vote Liberal Vannin at the next elections.