

21 Farrant Street

Douglas

IM2 3HF

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## OPEN LETTER TO THE CHIEF MINISTER

Dear Chief Minister,

As a former MHK I choose to not write or publicly comment on contemporary events without due cause. However, in this instance I feel compelled to write this open letter to you, copied to all Tynwald members and the media, as I believe your actions warrants it.

Whilst the presenting issue is the democratically supported progress of the Assisted Dying Bill, my specific instances of concern relate to your actions as Chief Minister. I will cite two (of several possible) examples of your behaviour which I believe to be both inappropriate and unworthy of any Chief Minister regardless of the presenting cause.

### PUBLICLY BELITTLING AND DEMEANING THE MANX PARLIAMENT.

Hansard records you describing your elected colleagues as 'third rate parliamentarians' promoting 'third-rate legislation'. You said this as you were belittling their support for the principle and practice of moving legislation through the branches of Tynwald. Whilst you have every right to oppose their actions it is, in my opinion, entirely wrong to do so on an inter-personal level. Furthermore, knowing the U.K. government monitor our Hansard and the local media, to demean Tynwald as a body harms the rights and interests of the Isle of Man. These are the very interests which you, along with all other Tynwald members, have sworn or affirmed to protect and promote. I assume your references to other parliamentary colleagues as 'third rate' suggests you regard yourself as a second or possibly even first-rate parliamentarian? On this basis I think you may need to reflect on these assumptions and, if on calm and balanced reflection, you decide an apology is appropriate then will you publicly make it at the next Tynwald sitting?

Upon the same theme....

### LACK OF CANDID LEADERSHIP OR ACCOUNTABILITY.

I understand from several reliable sources that in your role as Chief Minister you have unilaterally – and without reference to your COMIN colleagues - regularly contacted the UK government and parliamentary offices to request amendments to their legislation in respect of legal parameters for UK-based medical and other practitioners in the event of the long-delayed Royal Assent for our domestic legislation being granted by the UK government. You clearly have engaged in some involvement with like-minded UK politicians to oppose the progress of legislation promoting assisted dying. Possibly that explains, at least in part, the excessive and unexplained delay in managing the process of achieving Royal Assent for the Manx Bill. To do so in a personal constituency role is one thing. To do so as the Chief Minister, which I believe has been the case in this instance, is quite another – and important - matter.

As Chief Minister I am sure you support the principles of openness and candour and, if my understanding about your behaviour is accurate, you will want to settle this matter with a public statement including, if necessary, an appropriate apology. Similarly, if you have failed the COMIN duty of 'Collective Responsibility' and open respectful candour, then you should offer a public apology to your ministerial – and parliamentary - colleagues upon whom your office depends. It certainly appears to be a memorable way to repay your Tynwald – and particularly COMIN colleagues for their support of you during the No Confidence motion you faced in 2024.

If I – and my sources – are incorrect in our understanding then, of course, please disprove our suspicions by providing full and candid evidence of all communications and correspondence to support your position. In that case I undertake to apologise to you appropriately for any unintended unfairness around this issue. I await your response.

I am disappointed and saddened to have to write this letter as I have always valued the integrity and process of our political system of government and legislation. I have copied this to all Tynwald members for their consideration.

I expect that the minority of Tynwald members opposing the progression of Assisted Dying legislation will maintain their view and act appropriately and accordingly. I will respect them for doing so. Whatever the result of the motion to incorporate the requested amendments to the legislation I hope that all Tynwald members – including you - will accept and honour the democratic outcome.

In any case, this letter is about maintaining, promoting and protecting Manx rights and freedoms and ensuring these remain at the front and centre of all our politically elected representatives in all their actions and duties.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Gill