

## Isle of Man Constitution Bill 2023

# democracy

---

*noun*

government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.

## The Bill and background

---

The Isle of Man Constitution Bill 2023 can be found at Appendix 1, or online at <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/bills>

---

The purpose of this Bill is to provide that the Lord Bishop shall remain a member of Tynwald and the Legislative Council but shall cease to have voting rights in Tynwald or in the Legislative Council

The Bill will retain the Bishop's right to speak and his seat in Tynwald. The Bill does not decide whether we should retain the role of the Bishop in Tynwald. The constitution of the Diocese of Sodor and Man is a matter for the Church.

---

## The consultation process

---

The Resolution of the House of Keys dated 19/12/2023 that I am obliged to comply with in respect of this consultation states:

***That consideration of the Bill be adjourned until the mover has consulted the public and has submitted to the House a report on the consultation***

In accordance with this limited scope this consultation is for the Manx Public only. Responses from outside the Isle of Man will be disregarded. Organisations are encouraged to promote this consultation amongst their members and to encourage their members to submit individual responses in their own right.

As the Bill is very short with a very narrow and very specific purpose this consultation is very short. Aside from being a Manx Resident, which is required in order to comply with the Resolution of the House of Keys, I don't believe any other demographic factors are relevant and so I am deliberately not collecting this data. I am asking you to include your name as an identifier only, no names will be published and all responses will be treated as anonymous.

There are four (4) questions and all questions are mandatory. Please only complete a single copy of a consultation response, whether that is online or in paper form.

---

**Please feel free to share this survey with any Manx residents you think might be interested**

---

**Paper responses should be submitted to:**

Isle of Man Constitution Bill Consultation, Clerk of Tynwald's Office, Legislative Buildings,  
Finch Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3PW

For ease and to save on printing, paper responses should contain only a properly completed copy of the consultation questions page and no further information.

**All responses must be received by the closing date, late responses will be disregarded.**

---

**The consultation runs for 8 weeks from the 4<sup>th</sup> January  
2024 and closes on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

---

Whilst the Bill only deals with the Bishop's vote in Tynwald and Legislative Council and this is covered by Question 2 it seemed sensible to take this opportunity to ask for views on two connected matters. These are whether the Bishop should retain his Membership of Tynwald at all and whether Prayers should continue to be read at the start of sittings of Tynwald and the Branches. **It is my intention that these matters would not form part of the current Bill, the questions are being asked for potential future use only.**

---

## What happens next

---

After the consultation closes, the voting results will be compiled into a report for the House of Keys. The report will be laid before the Keys at the sitting. The report will be published. The report will be published. The report will be published.

The report will produce statistical data only, no names will be published and the individual submissions will not be published.

Following submission of the report to the House of Keys the consultation data will be deleted and paper submissions will be destroyed. It is not my intention to keep hold of individual submissions.

**Questions Page – please only submit this page as your consultation response**

**General**

**What is your name?**

**Q1 – Are you a Manx Resident? *(Required)***

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Q2 - Should the Bishop have a vote in Tynwald and the Legislative Council? *(Required)***

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Q3 – Should the Bishop be a Member of Tynwald and the Legislative Council? *(Required)***

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Q4 - Should Prayers continue to be read at the start of sittings of Tynwald and its branches?  
*(Required)***

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Thank you for taking part in this consultation**

**Please return this page only to:**

**Isle of Man Constitution Bill Consultation  
Clerk of Tynwald's Office  
Legislative Buildings  
Finch Road  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 3PW**

## ISLE OF MAN CONSTITUTION BILL 2023

## Explanatory Memorandum

1. This Bill is promoted by Hon. Lawrie Hooper, MHK.
2. *Clause 1* provides for the short title of the Bill.
3. *Clause 2* provides for the Bill's construction as part of the canon of Isle of Man Constitution Acts. The Bill, if passed, will commence once it receives assent.
4. *Clause 3* provides that the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man while continuing to be a member of Tynwald and the Council will cease to be a voting member or be counted in the necessary quorum to validate proceedings in either body.
5. Statement of Financial Consequences: No financial consequences have been identified.
6. In the opinion of the member moving the Bill its provisions are compatible with the Convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 2001.
7. The long title of the Bill in Gaelg is:

*Billey ta kiarail nagh bee cair ec yn Aspick arragh dy votal Tinvaal ny ayns y Chooneil  
Slattyssagh agh dy jean eh yn olteymys echey jeu y reayll*



*Ellan Vannin*

## ISLE OF MAN CONSTITUTION BILL 2023

## Index

Section	Page
1 Short title .....	5
2 Citation and construction .....	5
3 Bishop not to vote in Tynwald or the Council.....	5

*Ellan Vannin*

## ISLE OF MAN CONSTITUTION BILL 2023

**A BILL** to provide that the Lord Bishop shall remain a member of Tynwald and the Council but shall cease to have voting rights in Tynwald or in the Council

**BE IT ENACTED** by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### **1 Short title**

The short title of this Act is the Isle of Man Constitution Act 2023.

### **2 Citation and construction**

This Act shall be construed as one with the Isle of Man Constitution Acts 1919 to 1971, and those Acts and this Act may together be cited as the Isle of Man Constitution Acts 1919 to 2023.

### **3 Bishop not to vote in Tynwald or the Council**

- (1) The Bishop shall cease to have the right to vote either in Tynwald or in the Council, but shall continue to be a member of both bodies with the same right to speak in both bodies as before this Act.
- (2) The presence of the Bishop at a sitting of Tynwald or of the Council shall not reckon towards the constitution of a quorum of either body.

IN THE KEYS

## ISLE OF MAN CONSTITUTION BILL 2023

**A BILL** to provide that the Lord Bishop shall remain a member of Tynwald and the Council but shall cease to have voting rights in Tynwald or in the Council

Introduced pursuant to leave granted  
by the Keys under Standing Order 4.4  
on 7 November 2023

MR HOOPER

NOVEMBER 2023

Published by Authority