

Guardians of Truth?



Every year, *Manx Radio*, a radio station on the Isle of Man, receives a very substantial subsidy from the Manx Government. For the financial year 2021-2022, it received a taxpayers' grant of £1,078,722.00 (in addition to commercial advertising revenue). Subsidies of around £1 million per annum have been typical. Because it receives this money it is known as the Island's public service broadcaster and is accountable to the Manx Parliament, *Tynwald*.

However, concerns have persistently been expressed by some people about the quality of news output at the station, which was particularly evident in relation to its coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic, although to be fair, similar misgivings about Covid coverage apply to most other mainstream UK and international news outlets.

In this context of concern, we recently submitted a Freedom of Information query to *Manx Radio* asking straightforward questions about its staff numbers and associated costs. The gist of the enquiry being to establish whether *Manx Radio* was overstaffed but underperforming.

Regrettably, *Manx Radio* refused to answer any of the questions.

See Freedom of Information reply dated 10th October 2022.

The Station's reluctance to give any details with respect to staff numbers is a little curious when even a cursory look at its own website plainly reveals the photographs and profile details of 33 presenters and 14 news journalists.

This is a total of **47** on-air presenters, for a station live broadcasting just 19 hours a day to an Island with a population of approximately only 84,000 people.

Clearly, such total does *not* include those who work behind the scenes in administration, secretarial, advertising, accounts and managerial roles.



Manx Radio, Broadcasting House, Head Road, Douglas.

If the Station was a fully private business none of this would be of particular concern. But as a body receiving over **£1 million** of public money each year, should the Station be properly transparent and accountable in all financial matters? Should it offer value for money to the taxpayer and aspire to the highest standards of professional performance? And shouldn't the public have right to expect robust political reporting and serious investigative journalism from such a generously funded organisation?

The Covid lockdown of UK and Manx society was a time of unprecedented curtailment of civil liberties. People were ordered to stay at home. Schools and many businesses closed. It became a crime to do many ordinary everyday activities such as visiting family. Normal parliamentary scrutiny of legislation was suspended and far-reaching government decisions were being made on a daily basis by only a handful of senior ministers.

This was the perfect opportunity, need even, for the media to step up to the mark, to act as a check and balance in the political vacuum and hold the executive to account. People turned to *Sky*, *Capital Radio*, *the Daily Mail* and *Instagram* amongst other sources for urgent updates, desperately seeking information and answers.

In that prolonged period of emergency and chaos:-

1. Did any correspondents thoroughly investigate Covid science and satisfy themselves that the medical premise upon which restrictions were introduced was sound?
2. Did they ever publicise opposing scientific views on the merits of locking down society for example the expert opinion expressed by thousands of international doctors and medical scientists who were signatories to *The Great Barrington Declaration*?
3. In particular, did they test the *SAGE* scientific advice given to policy makers?
4. Did any UK journalists put their hands up and ask whether the statistical modelling of Professor Neil Ferguson was alarmist speculation?
5. Did they confront decision makers about the closures of all Primary and Secondary schools as being disproportionate?
6. Did they ever doubt whether the shutting of hospitality businesses was necessary and appropriate and contrast this to the position in Sweden where cafes, pubs and restaurants remained open?
7. Did they raise empirical concerns about the reliability and accuracy of lateral flow tests?
8. Did they query the validity of PCR testing for Covid and why it was referred to as the "**gold standard**" when in fact the inventor of the PCR test Dr Kary Mullis, who sadly died in August 2019, regarded such test as unsuitable for detecting a viral infection (such as Covid-19)?
9. Did they make known the Lisbon Court of Appeal case in September 2020 where it was ruled that a German national ordered to quarantine on the Portuguese Azores Islands had been unlawfully requested to self-isolate after testing positive with a PCR test, with the Court stating that given there was such scientific doubt about the reliability of PCR tests there was no way in which the Court would ever be able to determine whether an individual was indeed a carrier of the virus?

10. Did any Manx journalists mention that Dr Anthony Fauci (Chief Medical Advisor to US President), stated significantly in July 2020 that the PCR test was inaccurate over 35 cycles and yet the Isle of Man Public Health Directorate was carrying out PCR tests on the basis of 45 cycles?
11. Did UK news editors give airtime to those expressing genuine concerns about the medical ethics issues associated Covid vaccines?
12. Were they ashamed of their cowardly and discriminatory reporting against the unvaccinated?
13. Did they critically examine the ingredients of Covid vaccines?
14. Did they bring to public attention the startling truth that the *AstraZeneca* vaccine has as its main or active ingredient a genetically modified **chimpanzee** cold virus?
15. Did they broadcast that the *AstraZeneca* Covid vaccine uses a host cell line called HEK293 to produce this modified virus and that such HEK293 cells are clones of cells taken from the kidney of a legally **aborted female human foetus**?
16. Did any correspondents candidly expose the fact that the *Pfizer* vaccine was tested on Macaque monkeys?
17. Were they horrified about the segregation in society caused by vaccine passports, for example the compulsory proof of Covid vaccination required to gain access to large sporting events and hospitality venues in Scotland during October and November 2021?
18. Do they admit to consciously concealing the crucial research published by the **Lancet Infectious Diseases** journal in October 2021 that double vaccinated persons could transmit the Covid virus just as much as the unvaccinated?
19. Did they express any disquiet about the conspicuous paucity of information on the *Patient Information Letter* sent to intended recipients of Covid vaccines (such as the lack of detail about the ingredients in the vaccines), which is relevant to the crucial issue of *informed patient consent*?

20. Did they ridicule the half-baked logic of Covid Regulations which banned individuals from fishing in reservoirs or playing golf alone?
21. Did they investigate the potential physical and mental harm caused by wearing facemasks?
22. Did they stress the fact that the risk of death and serious harm to children from Covid-19 was extremely low?
23. Did contributors investigate the potential detrimental impact on children's linguistic development caused by facemask wearing?
24. Did they probe the risk of emotional harm to children caused by facemask wearing?
25. Did they grill the Bishop of Sodor and Mann as to why churches and especially churchyards on the Isle of Man were closed during the first lockdown in 2020, when there was no legal requirement to be shut?
26. Were they perturbed by the extraordinary financial cost of Covid restrictions and financial support (on the Isle of Man approximately £230 million)?
27. Did anyone question Manx politicians as to whether they had a personal financial interest in the Coronavirus monetary support schemes they themselves were legislating on?
28. Did columnists lampoon the silly imposition during the first lockdown of a maximum **40 mph** speed limit on the Isle of Man?
29. Did they carefully weigh and balance the health risks associated with Covid against the colossal indirect consequences arising from lockdown restrictions including delay, diagnosis and treatment of a range of illnesses such as diabetes and dementia, the serious disruption to schooling, the rise in domestic violence and house evictions and the permanent closure of many businesses?
30. Did they explore issues around the **treatment** of respiratory illness such as Covid, for instance the *Early Treatment Protocol* of Dr Peter McCullough (which includes a multi drug anti-viral therapy incorporating vitamin C, vitamin D, Zinc and Quercetin) and whether vaccines were even necessary?

31. Did they focus on the key issue of **prevention** and relevant lifestyle factors such as smoking and obesity?
32. In relation to vaccine safety, did they not consider it important and necessary to prominently publicise details of the adverse reactions (such as stroke, severe allergic reactions and menstrual disorders) to Covid vaccines as contained in the Government's **Yellow Card** Reporting Scheme (an astonishing **464,072** Yellow Cards in the UK up to 23rd September 2022 including **2,272** suspected adverse reactions in which the patient died shortly after Covid vaccination)?
33. Have they further analysed those 464,072 individual **Yellow Cards** and discovered that the total number of suspected adverse reactions in the UK is in fact an astronomical **1,511,994** (because a single **Yellow Card** often contains more than one symptom)?
34. Did British newscasters stress that Covid vaccines initially received only *emergency use authorisation*?



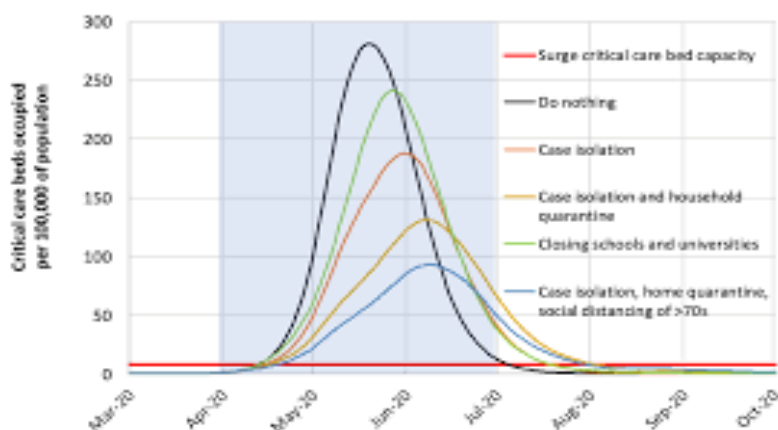
BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London.

35. Did they make the crucial distinction between death from Covid as opposed to death with Covid?
36. Did Breakfast TV presenters not consider it lazy and misleading to continually refer to death **from** Covid, even though official statistics recorded a Covid death as simply one within 28 days of a positive test (even if for example the person had subsequently been run over by a bus)?
37. Do they now feel guilty about sustaining such significant deception?
38. Did they take the initiative and attend Government Registries to check death certificates so as to establish whether so-called Covid deaths were recorded as the *main* cause of death or whether the principle cause of death was something else, such as a chronic pre-existing disease?
39. Did they provide appropriate context to the risk of Covid-19 to the general population for example that the average age of death of a person recorded as dying with Covid was **82**?
40. Did they make plain the truth that many patients hospitalised with Covid were *already* suffering from other serious illnesses?
41. Did they draw attention to the official statistics showing many patients in hospital with Covid had actually contracted the illness after arriving in hospital, having attended for other reasons?
42. Were editors transparent that for most citizens Covid-19 presented with no more than temporary flu like symptoms?
43. Did they make evident the fundamental reality that the vast majority of the population recovered from Covid with no long lasting health issues?
44. Did any commentators take into account the significant mental and emotional harm caused by loneliness arising from lockdown restrictions?
45. Did journalists cross-examine the Manx Police over the necessity to arrest, detain and interview **children** for breaching Covid Regulations?
46. Were they puzzled why 248 arrests were made for Covid breaches on the Isle of Man whereas in England all similar breaches were dealt with by on the spot fines (Fixed Penalty Notices)?

47. Did they contrast and bring to the fore that no person was jailed in the UK for breach of Covid Regulations whereas 70 different persons in the Isle of Man received custodial sentences?
48. Did any political journalist put to the IOM Minister for Home Affairs why **3 month's custody** (instead of just a fine) as a punishment was inserted into the Covid Regulations on the Island and why this was considered proportionate?
49. Did they ask themselves why Covid Regulations on the Isle of Man applied to children and adults whereas identical Covid Regulations in the UK only applied to persons aged 18 or over?
50. When protests, marches and demonstrations (such as for Black Lives Matter) were initially banned by Government, did international reporters give even a passing thought to citizens' rights under the **European Convention on Human Rights** such as Article 8, "*Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence*", Article 9, "*Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion*", Article 10, "*Everyone has the right to freedom of expression*" and Article 11, "*Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association with others*".
51. Did broadcasters not care or appreciate that their selective and unbalanced reporting was causing panic and dread in the community?
52. Are they contrite for setting themselves up as censors, knowingly selecting which articles, features and letters were deemed too subversive for publication?
53. Did they realise how harmful fear is to physical and mental wellbeing?
54. Have they now explored whether autumn Covid boosters are in fact necessary, properly tested and safe?
55. Did they have any scruple about accepting government money for Covid advertising and public health messaging?
56. And have they really been **Guardians of the Truth?**

Regrettably, the answer to most of the above questions is no.

In fact, instead of asking those questions, some TV channels and newspapers purposefully chose to make sensational headlines about an apparent sharp rise in daily infections or create emotive lead stories about the tragic death of this child or that celebrity from Covid or to publish scary graphs and colourful charts wildly projecting untold harm from a so-called invisible killer disease.



Speculative projections of Covid hospitalisations.

Complicity

While some elements of the UK media meekly accepted the government narrative and uncritically promoted its policies, there were exceptions such as *GB News* or *LBC Radio*, *UK Column News* and *The Informed Parent*, where a diverse range of opinions and dissenting views were freely allowed a platform in relation to Covid science, lockdowns, facemasks and vaccination.

However, the truth is that many in the worldwide media can rightly be accused of being personally complicit in engendering needless consternation and hysteria in society, complicit in deliberately turning a health crisis into a horror movie, complicit in disgracefully demonising reasonable persons for choosing not to be vaccinated, complicit in perpetuating draconian lockdown restrictions and therefore partly responsible for every heart-breaking instance of suicide, home eviction, business bankruptcy, school absence, domestic violence and delayed cancer treatment arising from such restrictions.

Where does *Manx Radio* sit in all this?

Certainly, it has the wealth of resources to undertake in-depth investigative journalism, unlike say *3FM* radio station with just a couple of news journalists.

Certainly, it is easier to simply regurgitate the Police *Twitter* feed than to challenge its content. And certainly it is a lot easier to cut and paste postings from the *Facebook* page of the *Douglas Baton Twirlers* than to undertake time-consuming explorations into who made money from the lucrative supply contracts of PPE on the Island.

If it is the case that *Manx Radio* is fundamentally failing in its duty to fearlessly expose and uncover the truth, the legitimate public interest question that follows is does it deserve to continue to receive all or part of £1 million of taxpayers' money each year?

Conclusion

Despite receiving over £1 million each year from the Isle of Man Government and in spite of having so many presenters and newsroom staff, would it be reasonable for a person to conclude that *Manx Radio* has consistently failed to properly investigate abuse of process, vested interests, political corruption, conflict of interests and executive malpractice?

And if so, is this because it receives over £1 million each year from the Isle of Man Government?



**Manx Radio, “the nation’s station” or should this more aptly be
Manx Radio, “the cuddly manx kitten?”**

See our Freedom of Information page for the reply dated 10th October 2022 from Manx Radio.