

£28.7 million increase in Government salaries last year.



A secret grove of money trees has been discovered growing in Ballaugh Curraghs!

Last year we submitted a Freedom of Information request seeking to find out how many persons worked for the Isle of Man Government and what was the total salaries paid.

We repeated the same questions again this year.

The answers to our FOI requests were as follows:-

- i) For the year 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022, the total number of IOM Government employees was 8,380. The total salaries paid to IOM Government employees was £344,046,937.21.
- ii) For the year 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023, the total number of IOM Government employees was 8,324. The total salaries paid to IOM Government employees was £372,820,536.07.

In other words, last year the government salary bill rose by £28.7 million.

It is also interesting to note that this £28.7 million increase was despite the overall head count actually falling by 56.

Questions

- a) Why did Government salaries increase by £28.7 million last year?
- b) How was this paid for?
- c) Was this part of the reason why £152 million had to be withdrawn from Treasury reserves this year?
- d) Is this a prudent use of the Island's financial reserves?
- e) Why is the public sector so large on the Isle of Man?

See link below to the Cabinet Office's responses dated 20th April 2022 and 10th November 2023 to our FOI requests:-

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20.04.22-Increase-in-number-of-IOM-Government-Employees.pdf>

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/10.11.23-Salaries-paid-to-Government-employees.pdf>