

TravelWatch - **ISLE OF MAN**

Arrey Troait – Ellan Vannin

**Representing and promoting the interests of Isle of Man
Passengers**

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGULATION OF SEA AND AIR SERVICES??

The Autumn TravelWatch Public Meeting – to be held at the Villa Marina on Saturday 6th November at 10.00 am – will focus on the quite different policies for sea and air transport regulation pursued by the Manx Government in recent years.

Director of Harbours, Captain Michael Brew, will explain the **User Agreement** between the Department of Infrastructure and the Steam Packet Company for the use of the linkspans in Douglas Harbour – an agreement established in times very different from those we are now experiencing when the Steam Packet was still a stock-exchange listed company in which many IOM residents were shareholders.

At the airport an “**Open Skies**” policy has seen 13 different airlines serving the Island over the last 10 years. Mike Bathgate, who was Commercial Director of Manx Airlines until its purchase by British Airways, will examine the “Open Skies” policy and ask if there are alternatives.

Ian Longworth, Director of Public Transport, will again be with us to provide an update on the development of the **new bus network** in the light of the considerable feedback his organisation has received.

Time is always provided in these public meetings for questions from the floor and there are usually opportunities to exchange views informally with the speakers during the coffee break or at the end of the meeting.

Admission to the meeting is free – but donations for refreshments are welcomed. The meeting starts at 10.00 (doors open at 09.30) and the formal proceedings will be completed not later than 13.00.

Issued on behalf of:

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