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Dear

You will now be aware following recent press coverage, that The Family Library is now finding itself in a position where it is being forced to review the viability of its services, which could ultimately result in its closure.

I understand that a contributory factor to this is as a result of the Government allowing its direct financial support to expire in April 2020, as well as the consequences of the financial impacts of Covid.

As a user of The Family Library’s services, I have seen first-hand how it is an inclusive and supportive hub for all aspects of the Island’s community. By engaging with the services, you witness how the organisation’s passion, kindness and caring is at the heart of everything they do. It is so much more than a building full of books, as it also provides mobile library, school, home delivery and bibliotherapy services.

These services have an extensive impact on the Island, and it is unique in supporting thousands of its residents by providing affordable, educational, and creative activities, in a warm, welcoming, and safe environment. Children are encouraged and given the opportunity to develop their skills and talents via the many classes and workshops run by the library. This reaches even further into their school settings, as the library’s School Service delivers resources to enrich their studies to many of the Island’s primary schools free of charge. Additionally, our growing elderly generation are given a lifeline and the social contact they need to encourage good mental health through sociability and communication by means of the mobile library, bibliotherapy and home delivery services.

As you can see, The Family Library is a vital, well-loved, and integral part of this Island’s community, and I write to you as my potential constituency representative following the next election, to express my concern about the potential loss of this service. Due to there not being a party-based parliamentary system on the Isle of Man, I vote for my MHK based on my assessment of an individual’s values. I understand The Family Library was not given any financial priority from the Government last year, which leads it to now consider its future, all the while striving to find ways to maintain its essential services. If you, as an MHK, were part of this prioritisation, how will you justify getting my vote if your priorities are different to mine? These considerations will inform me when voting in this year’s general election. This is because the matter reaches beyond The Family Library, as it is also a matter of compassion and support for things that genuinely make a difference on the Island.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to hearing your opinions on this issue. Any support you can give to the library will be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,