

2. Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill 2014 – First Reading approved

Mr Wild to move:

That the Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill 2014 be read a first time.

The President: We turn now to Item 2 and I understood that in the absence of Mr Wild, Her Majesty's Acting Attorney General is prepared to take the First Reading of the Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill.

The Acting Attorney General: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

I am pleased to be able to move the First Reading of the Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

This is a short technical Bill resulting from the Modernisation of Ministerial Government proposals which were approved at the January sitting of Tynwald, and is the result of one of the Report's recommendations relating to the creation of a Cabinet Office which came into being on 1st April 2014, consisting of the former Chief Secretary's Office, the Economic Affairs Division of Treasury, the Information Systems Division of the Department of Economic Development, and the Office of Human Resources.

The creation of the Cabinet Office is intended to bolster Government strategic long-term planning, giving central direction to the work of Government by driving forward interdepartmental policy development, service delivery and the co-ordination of the departmental work programmes.

This Bill is *only* concerned, however, with references to the Chief Secretary's Office in Manx enactments which require primary legislation to amend. The Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill 2014 therefore amends other enactments to substitute references to the Chief Secretary's Office for references to the Cabinet Office.

The Bill also deals with references, where applicable, to the Chief Secretary's Office in other legislation, for example, secondary legislation and UK legislation applied to the Island. Any such references are to be read as a reference to the Cabinet Office.

Given the short technical nature of the Bill arising from the proposals which were approved by Tynwald and which had previously been subject to consultation with Tynwald Members, the Council of Ministers decided not to release this Bill for public consultation in the usual manner.

Madam President, I beg to move the First Reading of the Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill 2014.

The President: The Hon Member, Mr Downie.

Mr Downie: I am pleased to second, Madam President, and reserve my remarks.

The President: The Hon Member, Mr Butt.

Mr Butt: Thank you, Madam President.

I will support this Bill, but I do wonder what is in a name? Why did we need to change the name and then have the expense of having to have legislation to make the name change fit in with other legislation?

It could have still been called the Chief Secretary's Office because there is not actually a Cabinet, and a Cabinet Office to have, so I do think maybe by changing a name we have incurred expense and time that need not have been incurred.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: The mover to reply.

The Acting Attorney General: Yes, I thank the Hon. Mr Downie for his seconding the First Reading of the Bill, and also Mr Butt for his support.

What is in a name? I think that is a political issue, Madam President, which with your permission I will avoid. *(Laughter)*

I move the First Reading of the Cabinet Office (Legislative Amendments) Bill 2014.

The President: The motion is that the Bill be read a first time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.