

## 2. Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill 2015 – Third Reading approved

Mr Coleman to move:

*That the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill 2015 be read a third time and do pass.*

**The President:** We move to Item 2, Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill for Third Reading. I call on the Hon. Member, Mr Coleman.

**Mr Coleman:** Thank you, Madam President.

In moving the Third Reading of this Bill, I remind Hon. Members that this Bill seeks to place the disclosure of unused material by the prosecution on a statutory footing. Furthermore, it provides a framework by which the prosecution, defence and the courts may be empowered to manage cases better because that framework is in place. The Department considers this Bill will lead to improvements in practice, not just by the Police and the prosecutors, vital though that is, but by all parties.

As Mr Turner noted in his comments last week it is important that there are no surprises and that everyone has a fair chance at putting their case forward. In order for that to happen there must be proper and relevant disclosure.

Mr Anderson asked about the information requested in the legislation concerning witnesses, and I would emphasise it is about sufficient information being provided so the witnesses may be correctly identified and, if necessary, interviewed. I would suggest that where a witness has a common name, details of his or her date of birth will help identify the right person.

In relation to Mr Turner's point about the approval process for police codes, I wish to assure Hon. Members the Department intends to consult interested parties such as the Attorney General's Chambers, the courts and the Law Society as to place such a consultation on the Government website. In a case such as this piece of legislation it is unlikely there will be much wider public interest. Regardless of the level of interest in any consultation, the Department will always consider most carefully what respondents to a consultation have to say, and take those views into consideration.

I would like to thank my seconder, Mr Henderson, for his help in the process of this Bill and I am grateful to Mr Acting Attorney General for his assistance in respect of questions about the rules of court and wasted cost.

I do not think there is anything further I can add, usefully. In the event this Bill receives Royal Assent, it is anticipated it will be brought into operation approximately six months thereafter.

Madam President, I beg to move that the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill 2015 be read a third time and do pass.

**The President:** The Hon. Member, Mr Henderson.

**Mr Henderson:** Gura mie eu, Eaghtyrane.

I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

**The President:** No Member wishes to comment. The motion is that the Bill be read a third time and do pass. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.