

**3.3. Central Registry Bill 2018 –
Second Reading approved**

Mr Skelly to move:

That the Central Registry Bill 2018 be read a second time.

The Speaker: The next Item is the Central Registry Bill 2018, and I again call on Mr Skelly to move.

Mr Skelly: Gura mie eu, Loayreyder.

5 In 2014 the Government's Business Change Steering Group accepted proposals from the General Registry to restructure the General Registry by splitting its Courts and Tribunal Services from its Registry functions. The intention was to enable a strategic approach to Registry functions which are clearly separate from the administration for Justice functions, which rest with the judiciary.

10 It was agreed by the Business Change Steering Group that the Registry functions be transferred to the Department of Economic Development where they could be combined with Companies Registry. The transfer of functions from one Government Department to another is normally achieved through secondary legislation. However, as the General Registry is not established by the Government Departments Act 1987 these functions can only be transferred
15 via primary legislation.

While appropriate primary legislation was drafted and a slot was found in the legislative programme, the Business Change Steering Group recommended that in the meantime the Department assume responsibility for the functions from April 2015 by delegation from the General Registry. Since then the Department has had operational responsibility for the Lands
20 Registry, Deeds and Probate Registry, Civil Registry, Public Record Office and for a number of other functions previously carried out by the General Registry

The principal purpose of the Central Registry Bill 2018 is to put the Department for Enterprise responsibility for these functions on a statutory footing. It provides for the creation of a Central Registry as part of the Department for Enterprise comprising the Land Registry, Deeds and
25 Probate Registry, Civil Registry and Public Record Office. In addition it transfers a number of other functions such as the responsibility for the Charities Register and a Register of Political Parties.

The Bill also includes a number of minor amendments to legislation to ensure it reflects changes in practice which have occurred as a result of other governmental restructuring and
30 changes in working practices, especially those driven by technological change.

The Bill established the Office of the Registrar General. This officer, who will be a member of staff of the Department for Enterprise, will be responsible for managing the functions of Central Registry, an office of the Government separate from the General Registry. The Central Registry's main premises are referred to in the Bill as the Principal Registry. Information for which the
35 Registrar General is responsible is to be accessible there either in physical or electronic format. It should be noted, however, this does not override any particular requirement that information held by the Registrar General is only accessible to particular people or in particular circumstances.

The General Registry retains its functions in respect of the Courts and Tribunals. It is understood that on completion of the transfer, the General Registry will look to bring forward
40 further legislation to address issues with the General Registry Act 1965 and its remaining functions associated with the Courts and Tribunals.

Loayreyder, Hon. Members, I beg to move the Central Registry Bill 2018 be read for the second time.

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The Speaker: Hon. Member, Mr Perkins.

Mr Perkins: I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

50 **The Speaker:** I think Dr Allinson has worn everyone out today! *(Laughter)*

The question I put to the House is that the Central Registry Bill 2018 be read for a second time. Those in favour, please say aye; those against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

55 Before adjourning the House, I will remind those Members concerned that there is a meeting of the House of Keys Standing Orders Committee in Committee Room 1 immediately after the sitting. And, with that, the House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock on 6th February in our own Chamber.

Thank you.

The House adjourned at 4.39 p.m.