

**2. Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 –
Third Reading approved; Bill passed**

HM Attorney General to move:

That the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read a third time and do pass.

The President: We turn now to the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill Third Reading.
I call on the learned Attorney.

The Attorney General: Thank you, Mr President.

If I could firstly express my gratitude to Hon. Members for their support through the previous stages of the Bill.

Briefly, the aim of the Bill has been to establish in the law of the Island the constitutional principles of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Having established those principles, the Bill then places responsibility for upholding and supporting those principles upon the Council of Ministers through the insertion of a new section 6A and 6B into the Council of Ministers Act 1990.

Mr President, Hon. Members, the Bill before this Chamber is very short. However, that does not mean that it is insignificant. The principles of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary lie at the heart of our democracy and underpin our freedom to enjoy our Island as a special place in which to live.

The Bill also – and this is very important – represents another step in our constitutional development as a responsible and mature jurisdiction that takes very seriously its own responsibility for its good and peaceful government.

I would like to record my thanks to my hon. colleague, Mrs Poole-Wilson, for her contribution in the passing of this Bill and to the Hon. Mr Cretney for his seconding the Bill at its various stages.

Mr President, I commend this Bill to Hon. Members and beg to move that the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read for a third time and do pass.

The President: Mr Cretney.

Mr Cretney: Mr President, I am happy to second that.

The President: I put the motion that the Council of Ministers (Amendment) Bill be read for the third time. Those in favour say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.