



Isle of Man
Government

Reilrys Ellan Vannin



Central Registry Bill 2017: Consultation

**Department of Economic Development
May 2017**

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1. About the Bill

Following a report by the General Registry and its subsequent approval by the Government Reform Group the General Registry was restructured on 1st April 2015 as part of Government's ongoing programme to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to the public.

The changes included the transfer of the Land, Deeds and Probate, and Civil Registries, Charities Register and the Public Record Office to the Department of Economic Development (DED), where they were merged with the Companies Registry to form the new Central Registry.

The Central Registry is currently performing the transferred functions via delegated authority from the Chief Registrar as statutory transfer of those functions requires primary legislation; it is not possible for the functions to be transferred by secondary legislation as would generally be the case for other government departments. The Bill that is the subject of this consultation therefore simply gives legislative effect to the restructuring changes that have already been made.

The Bill also includes a number of minor amendments to legislation to ensure that it reflects changes in practice which have occurred as a result of other governmental restructuring and changes in working practices, especially those driven by technological change. However the Bill does not make any major changes to the way in which the Lands, Deeds and Probate, and Civil Registries, the Public Record Office and the Charities Register operate.

The remaining General Registry is now a focused Courts and Tribunals Service primarily concerned with supporting the independent judicial process and enhancing the high international reputation of the Island's courts. It is envisioned that the General Registry name and the job titles within the organisation will be revised in due course to better reflect this and avoid confusion with the new Central Registry.

A copy of the draft Bill is appended to this paper. The Bill's Explanatory Memorandum includes further detail about the proposed changes.

Subsequent to the drafting of this Bill, DED has published a high level strategic review of the Department to establish how it can effectively support the Government's ambition for economic growth. Among other recommendations the review proposes that the Central Registry remains part of the refocused Department which will be renamed the Department for Enterprise.

Subject to acceptance of the recommendations in the review, references to the Department of Economic Development in the Central Registry Bill will be changed to Department for Enterprise.

The Department would be grateful for any comments on the changes and on the draft Bill itself. The next section lets you know where to send your response.

2. About the consultation

This document contains proposals for a Central Registry Bill which will transfer certain functions from the Chief Registrar and General Registry and create a new role of Registrar General and established a Central Registry under the auspices of the Department of Economic Development.

Submissions regarding the proposals should be sent by post or email to:

Edward Clague,
Deputy Director,
Central Registry,
The Registries,
Deemsters Walk,
Bucks Road,
Douglas.
IM1 3AR

Email: ed.clague@gov.im

Unless you tell us otherwise, the Department will assume that you do not object to your response or the name of your organisation (or your own name if you are responding as an individual) being made public. If you want all or any part of your reply to be treated as confidential, then please indicate this clearly in your response.

A response to the consultation does not guarantee a change to that which is proposed.

The consultation period ends on 15.09.2017

2.1 List of persons and organisations to be consulted

The list includes the following:

- Tynwald Members
- Attorney General
- Local Authorities
- Chief Officers of Government Departments
- Chamber of Commerce
- The IOM Law Society
- Sodor and Man Diocesan Registry

2.2 Steps to be taken following consultation

Following consultation, the next steps in the process will be as follows.

The Department will:

- review comments received from consultees;
- publish a document on the DED website summarising the main points made and setting out any changes to the proposals; and

- prepare the Bill for introduction into the Legislative Branches.

2.3 The Consultation Code of Practice Criteria

This consultation is being carried out in accordance with the Isle of Man Government Code of Practice on Consultation. The Code sets out the following six principles:

- Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 6 weeks for a minimum of one written consultation at least once during the development of the legislation or policy.
- Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
- Ensure your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
- Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
- Monitor your Department's effectiveness at consultation.
- Ensure your consultation follows best practice, including carrying out an Impact Assessment if appropriate.

2.4 Comments or complaints

If you wish to comment on the conduct of this consultation or make a complaint about the way the consultation has been carried out please write to:

The Chief Executive Office
Department of Economic Development
St George's Court
Upper Church Street
Douglas
IM1 2SG