

3. BILL FOR THIRD READING

**3.1. Safeguarding Bill 2017 –
Third Reading approved**

Mr Thomas to move:

That the Safeguarding Bill 2017 be read a third time.

The Speaker: We turn to Item 3, Bill for Third Reading, Safeguarding Bill 2017. I call on Mr Thomas to move.

Mr Thomas: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

5 Hon. Members, I am pleased to move the Third Reading of the Safeguarding Bill 2017.

I am grateful to Hon. Members for supporting this Bill today and also for supporting the important amendments brought forward by the Hon. Member for Ayre and Michael, Mr Baker, and the Hon. Member for Douglas North, Mr Ashford.

10 To recap briefly, the Bill has two main purposes: (1) to establish a single Safeguarding Board with responsibility for the comprehensive and strategic review of safeguarding practice in our Island; and (2) to create a safeguarding duty and in doing so place a duty on those who work with children or vulnerable adults to make arrangements to ensure they have due regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and safeguard and protect vulnerable adults.

15 During the consideration of clauses, I provided Hon. Members with an outline of the intended regulations which are required under the Bill. I wish to emphasise that the Act and the regulations are a legislative package, and as such, the provisions within the Act will not commence without the network of subordinate legislation which will support it. It is anticipated that the Act and the regulations will come into operation within six to nine months from the date the Bill receives Royal Assent.

20 This Bill represents the importance that this Government places safeguarding by establishing in statute a single Safeguarding Board and the legal framework within which it will operate.

Mr Speaker, Hon. Members, I beg to move that the Safeguarding Bill 2017 be read for a third time.

25

The Speaker: I call on Miss Bettison. Oh, sorry – Mrs Corlett.

Mrs Corlett: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

30 On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, I am pleased that the Safeguarding Bill has reached the Third Reading. The new measures provided for by this Bill are a most important step forward in strengthening and safeguarding arrangements with children and vulnerable adults on the Island.

35 This Bill will create a new single Safeguarding Board, replacing the existing Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adult Partnership. Furthermore this Bill sets out clearly what the objectives of the Safeguarding Board will be and gives the Board the necessary powers to achieve those objectives.

40 Significantly, as Minister Thomas has said, it introduces a statutory duty requiring those who work with children and vulnerable adults to co-operate with the Board and places a duty upon them to consciously consider the need to safeguard children and vulnerable adults when carrying out their functions.

With this I beg to second.

The Speaker: The question is that the Safeguarding Bill 2017 be read for a third time. Those in favour, please say aye; those against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

45 Hon. Members, that concludes the business before the House this morning. We will now stand adjourned until 10.30, Tuesday, 12th December in Tynwald Court.

The House adjourned at 10.34 a.m.