

Explanatory Memorandum to Tynwald Members

Issued by the Treasury

To the Hon Clare Christian, President of Tynwald and the Hon Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled

1. Title of measure

Civil Partnership (Fees) Order 2016 – SD No. 2016/0204

2. Changes in policy

None

3. Effects of the measure

The Order, which prescribes the fees payable in respect of civil partnerships, has been reviewed to keep fees in line with inflation.

The fees currently in force were last reviewed in 2013. The increase in inflation, as measured by the Retail Price Index, since the fees were last reviewed in 2013 has been 8.72%.

The only other change made during the review sees the fee for correcting an error in a register being omitted. The fee, which is currently set at £15, is prescribed in both the Civil Partnership (Fees) Order 2013 and the Registration of Births and Deaths (Fees) Regulations 2013 but not the Registration of Marriages (Fees) Regulations 2013.

Aside from addressing the inconsistency referred to above, this aligns with the Department's aim to have information recorded accurately in the registers – any charge, no matter how small, acts as a deterrent to persons seeking to correct an error made in a register. The impact on income from omitting the fee from both this Order and the Registration of Births and Deaths (Fees) Regulations 2016 is, combined, unlikely to exceed £60 per annum, the figure being calculated based on experience of receiving a maximum of 4 applications per year over the past 3 years.

The fees have been set at a round figure for ease of administration, from both a customer and staff perspective. It should be borne in mind that the fees do not cover services for everyday events but rather, in most cases, what could be deemed as one-off events.

4. Reasons for the measure

The Order has been reviewed to keep fees in line with inflation.

5. Resource implications

There are no cost or personnel implications.

6. Tynwald procedure

Tynwald approval is required for this Order by Section 106(1) of the Civil Partnership Act 2001.