

6. Terrorism and Other Crime (Financial Restrictions) Bill 2014 – First Reading approved

Mr Coleman to move:

That the Terrorism and Other Crime (Financial Restrictions) Bill 2014 be read a first time.

The President: So we move now to the Terrorism and Other Crime (Financial Restrictions) Bill 2014.

I call upon Mr Coleman to move the First Reading.

Mr Coleman: Thank you, Madam President.

In moving the First Reading, there are three main reasons the Department promotes this Bill.

Firstly, when the Order in Council applying the UK's Terrorist Asset-Freezing Act 2010 was brought to Tynwald the then Chief Minister gave a commitment that matters contained within the Order in Council would be translated into Manx legislation after the General Election in 2011.

Secondly, through its various bodies, such as the United Nations, the Financial Action Task Force, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and MONEYVAL, the international community maintains a watching brief on the work the countries of the world undertake to combat terrorism and comply with international conventions in this matter.

Indeed, the Island was recently inspected by MONEYVAL and its report was published in September 2013. The report made some recommendations to further improve the Island's anti-terrorism legislation in relation to the countering of terrorist financing, proliferation and money laundering. So this Bill addresses those issues.

The third reason behind this Bill is that it seems sensible to draw all the measures designed to counter the financing of terrorism together in one Act, with similar procedures and penalties.

Schedule 4 to the Act sets out the repeals, which include repealing part 7 of the Anti-Terrorism and Crime Act 2003 which deals with freezing orders, and the Terrorism Finance Act 2009 will be repealed entirely.

In the event this Bill is passed and receives Royal Assent, the intention will then be to seek the removal of the Order-in-Council. The aim is to have two items of legislation dealing with terrorism rather than three, as is currently the case.

Madam President, Hon. Members will recall the Criminal Justice, Police Powers and Other Amendments Bill 2013 was passed with amendments from this branch, towards the end of last year. Regrettably, a minor but important drafting error was subsequently discovered in relation to the drafting terminology applicable to bail. In order to deal with this, the long title of this Bill was amended so an amendment could be inserted into the Bail Act 1952 and the Police Powers and Procedures Act 1998 in due course. Further Government amendments will be brought forward at the clauses stage in a few weeks' time and the Department is grateful to Mr Downie for agreeing to move those.

One will deal with an issue in relation to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2008, another with the collection and enforcement of fines and, finally, the opportunity has been taken to propose the removal of the last vestiges of legislation in sexual offences legislation concerning the prohibition of homosexual activity on merchant vessels.

Madam President, with that, I beg to move that the First Reading of this Bill be approved.

Mr Downie: I beg to second, Madam President, and reserve my remarks.

The President: The motion is that the Bill be read a first time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.