

2. Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Third Reading approved

Mr Corkish to move:

That the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2013 be read a third time and do pass.

The President: We turn to Item 2 on our Order Paper, Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2013.

I call on Mr Corkish to take the Third Reading.

Mr Corkish: Thank you, Madam President.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill has two main purposes. Firstly, it puts into legislative form resolutions made by Tynwald for the 24 seats in the House of Keys to be divided into 12 constituencies of two Members each. This provides equality of voting for and representation in the House of Keys. The Third Report of the Boundary Review Committee includes maps which set out the new boundaries of the constituencies, and this report was approved by Tynwald on 18th June 2013. Secondly, the Bill also ensures that there will be a regular review of the number and boundaries of constituencies in the future, through the appointment from 2021 and every second election thereafter of an electoral commission. The electoral commission will also be able to consider such other matters relating to elections as Tynwald may by resolution direct.

This Bill will come into effect in time for the General Election of 2016 and not before.

A lot of time and thought have been invested over the past three years in a sincere attempt to end inequalities in elections to the House of Keys and in the levels of representation of the House. Madam President, this Bill, if enacted, will result in the most far-reaching constitutional change our parliamentary system has achieved in decades.

Madam President, I thank Hon. Members for their support given so far and beg to move that the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2013 be read a third time.

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

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