

**Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2015 –
First Reading approved**

The Acting Attorney General to move:

That the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2015 be read a first time.

The President: On that basis, we will proceed to the First Reading of the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2015.

The Acting Attorney General: Thank you, Madam President.

I am very grateful to Hon. Members for agreeing to suspend Standing Orders in order to progress this matter.

As I have mentioned, the purpose of this Bill is to rectify a situation that has occurred due to an amendment brought about by the Law Officers Act 2014.

I would I beg to move the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2015 be read for a first time.

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

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Crowe.

Mr Crowe: Thank you, Madam President.

Could the learned Acting Attorney just expand on the interpretation of ‘judicial officer’ – what that actually includes?

The President: The learned Acting Attorney General to reply.

The Acting Attorney General: I thank, firstly, Hon. Members for their support, and the Hon. Member, Mr Crowe, for his question.

I do not actually have the definition of judicial officer in front of me, but what I can say is it does not include the Attorney General, I can assure you of that because that was certainly looked at. It would be the likes of the Deemsters.

Mr Crowe: That is what I was thinking.

The Acting Attorney General: Yes, certainly the Deemsters. I am actually asking myself whether it includes the High Bailiff, but certainly the Deemsters would fall within that definition.

Mr Crowe: Right.

The President: The Clerk may be able to attest in a moment.

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