

Order of the Day

1. Limitation (Childhood Abuse) Bill 2019 – Third Reading approved

Mrs Sharpe to move:

That the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) Bill 2019 be read a third time.

The President: Now, Hon. Members, Item 1 on our Order Paper is the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) Bill, which is in the hands of Hon. Member of Council, Mrs Sharpe, for the Third Reading.

Mrs Sharpe: Thank you, Mr President.

Mr President and Hon. Members of Council, in moving the Third Reading of this Bill, I would simply like to stress the importance of the Bill, which, while very specific in scope, will facilitate access to justice for a certain, vulnerable group of people within our community.

The Bill recognises the impact of historic childhood abuse on the victims of such abuse by removing the limitation period, which acts as an additional hurdle to overcome when making a claim for damages for personal injury caused by such abuse.

The burden shifts to the defendant in these special cases to show why the claim should not proceed.

The Bill aims to strike a fair balance between pursuing its purpose and safeguarding the rights of defendants to a fair trial.

I would like to thank Hon. Members for their understanding and for their support during the passage of this Bill and, in particular, I would like to thank Mr Crookall for seconding the Bill during its First Reading and Mr Henderson for seconding the Bill on its Second Reading and at the clauses stage.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the officers in the Attorney General's Chambers for all their hard work on this Bill.

Mr President, I beg to move that the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) Bill 2019 be read for a third time.

The President: Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: I beg to second, sir, and reserve my remarks.

The President: I put the question that the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) Bill 2019 be read for the third time. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.