



## **ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*These notes have been produced for the assistance of Members with the approval of the Member in charge of the Bill the Hon P. A. Gawne MHK*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. These explanatory notes relate to the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2014. They have been prepared by the Department of Infrastructure in order to assist readers of the Bill. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by the House of Keys.
2. The notes need to be read in conjunction with the Bill. They are not, and are not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill. So where a clause or part of a clause does not seem to require any explanation or comment, none is given.

#### **SUMMARY**

3. This short Bill is promoted by the Department of Infrastructure and its main purpose is to amend the Road Traffic Act 1985 and the Building Control Act 1991.

#### **THE BILL**

##### **COMMENTARY ON CLAUSES**

4. The Bill contains five Clauses.

##### **Clause 1: Title**

5. This Clause gives the Act resulting from the Bill its short title

##### **Clause 2: Commencement**

6. This Clause sets out that the provisions of the Bill will come into force on such day or days as appointed by the Department of Infrastructure.

### **Clause 3: Expiry**

7. This Clause provides that the Act expires on the day after its promulgation or, if its provisions are not all in force at that time, the day following that on which all its provisions are in operation.

### **Clause 4: Road Traffic Act 1985 is amended**

8. This Clause amends the provisions relating to the granting of driving licences specified in Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1985.

9. The current driving licence is in 2 parts: a plastic card of the size of a credit card and a sheet of paper known as a "counterpart". The Bill will enable the Department to do away with the counterpart and rely on the card only, although the latter will contain, or be logically associated with all of the information presently contained in a counterpart as well as that currently on the card.

10. The new form of licence will mirror that in use throughout the European Union. In this way it will facilitate road travel abroad by Manx residents, whose licences will be in a format familiar to overseas police and officials.

11. At present the licence consists partly of a printed card which is then laminated to make it more durable. By contrast the proposed licence will consist of an engraved card providing a less expensive alternative which is both more hardwearing and -resistant to tampering.

### **Clause 5: Building Control Act 1991 is amended**

12. This Clause amends section 25 of the Building Control Act 1991 by reinstating provisions that were inadvertently repealed during the restructure of Government Departments in 2010. These provisions will enable the Department of Infrastructure as the highway authority to exercise certain enforcement powers (which are already exercisable by DEFA and local authorities) if buildings or structures are in such a condition as to represent a danger to the public on roads.