



Terms of Reference

Legislative Committee

Purpose and Role

1. The Legislative Committee has been established, at the request of the Council of Ministers, to:
 - Consider the legislative priorities of Government and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers in respect of the programme for each legislative session of the administration;
 - Monitor and review the progress of priority Bills within the programme on a monthly basis or as the Chair decides, and submit, on a monthly basis, a report to the Council of Ministers for noting; and
 - Consider requests by Departments for the inclusion of additional Bills on the programme and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers in respect of reprioritisation when necessary to do so.

Governance and Constitution

1. The Legislative Committee was established by the Chief Minister and its constitution was formalised as a Committee of the Council of Ministers on 24 March 2022 [292/2022].
2. The quorum for a Committee meeting is two of the committee's political membership (comprising three Ministers and one Departmental Member).
3. All documentation pertaining to the Committee including the Terms of Reference, proceedings and papers shall be considered to be confidential and should not be circulated for wider distribution without first seeking the necessary permission of the Chair.
4. The terms of reference were approved by Council of Ministers on 24 March 2022
5. Meetings will take place on a monthly basis with option to review

6. Agenda and minutes will be prepared and compiled in line with best practice as set out in the Government Code.
7. 6.2 Minutes will be issued to attendees as soon as possible following the meeting, and no later than five working days following the meeting
8. 6.3 Agendas for meetings to be agreed in advance by the Chair, who will approve any papers or documents to be distributed to members in advance of the meeting, at least five days before each meeting by the Secretariat.
9. 6.4 Documents should not be circulated for wider distribution other than to nominated officers without the necessary permission, which will be agreed by the Chair.

Membership and Chair

1. The membership of the Legislative Committee is as follows:
 - Minister for Cabinet Office (**Chair**), Kate Lord-Brennan MHK
 - Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, Jane Poole Wilson MHK
 - Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Clare Barber MHK
 - Member for Department of Health and Social Care, Tanya August-Hanson MLC
2. The committee will be supported by:
 - Her Majesty's Solicitor General, Walter Wannenburg
 - Chief Legislative Drafter, Attorney General's Chambers
 - Executive Director of Policy, Cabinet Office – Kirsty Hemsley
 - Head of Executive Office – Marian Kenny
 - Secretariat will be provided by the Executive Office, Cabinet Office
3. Additional officer support may be requested from time to time
4. The committee will work with Departments to monitor the progress of proposed bills, establishing effective working relationships with officers in order to do so.
5. The committee may request the attendance of Departmental Members or representatives where an update is required on progress towards the development of identified draft Bills, or where there is a concern.
6. The committee will engage with the Island Plan Delivery Committee in respect of any review or reprioritisation of key objectives, to consider their impact on the progression of legislation.

Links to Island Plan

1. The Government Code states that following a General Election, the Council of Ministers agrees a five year legislative programme which may be updated during an administration. See paragraph 1.19(v) of the Code.
2. Our Island Plan sets out Government's vision to build a secure, vibrant and sustainable Island and identifies key objectives across five spheres: communities, health and wellbeing, the economy, the environment and learning opportunities.
3. A Legislative Programme for the current parliamentary session, contained within the Island Plan, commits to a review of Bills proposed for this administration.
4. The Legislative Programme further commits, through progressing secondary legislation, to give effect to Bills passed during the previous administration.
5. Our Island Plan received Tynwald approval on 1 February 2022.

Work Programme and Timescale

1. Commitment has been made to publication of an up-to-date Legislative Programme for consideration at least once each year during the administration.
2. The Legislative Committee will conduct an ongoing review of legislative priorities to support both the Island Plan and other Government commitments. The committee will make recommendations to Council of Ministers accordingly, during the course of the administration.

Outcomes

1. The committee will progress an appropriate, balanced and timely legislative programme to provide fit-for-purpose legislation for the benefit of the Island community, its residents, businesses and institutions.
2. The legislative programme will reflect the desired outcomes of the Island Plan through prioritisation of relevant Bills, cognisant that not all outcomes will be achieved through legislation.
3. The programme will address Government obligations and matters of international importance and national security outside the scope of the Island Plan, including where an emergency response is needed.

4. In addition to progressing new legislation, the committee is mindful of the need to modernise existing legislation and this will be reflected in the categorisation of Bills, so that where necessary, legislation is updated in order of priority.
5. The committee welcomes input from external sources such as professional bodies that wish to propose areas for potential new legislation or amendments to existing legislation. This feedback will be captured to inform future decisions.