



Office of the  
Superintendent Registrar



10 Royal Square | St Helier  
Jersey | JE2 4WA

Katherine de Carteret  
Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel  
Scrutiny Office  
Morier House  
Halkett Place  
St Helier  
Jersey JE1 1DD

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Katherine

**RE: Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel – Comments on the draft  
Children and Civil Status (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 202-**

I write with reference to your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 inviting written submissions on the draft Children and Civil Status (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 202-.

Please find attached my written submissions to the questions posed.

Yours sincerely

  
Claire Follain  
Superintendent Registrar of Jersey

D +44 (0)1534 441335  
E [SIR@gov.je](mailto:SIR@gov.je)



**Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel**

**Draft Children and Civil Status (Amendment) Law 202-**

**Response from Claire Follain, Superintendent Registrar, February 2024**

**Q1 The implications of the draft Law on staff working within your organisation and training requirements. Furthermore, what do you perceive to be the financial implications for your organisation of waiving the fee for couples who did not have access to the draft Law historically.**

Operational staff within the Office of the Superintendent Registrar will be required to re-train in matters relating to the standard requirements for all applications for registration of birth, although such retraining is not anticipated to be onerous or complex. Staff will signpost re-registrations of birth to the Superintendent Registrar and Deputy Superintendent Registrar, as is standard practice. Operational staff will not manage applications or registrations of Parental Orders, again as is standard practice.

The implications for the Superintendent Registrar and Senior Deputy Superintendent Registrar are more onerous in relation to the preparations required to be made within the service if the Law is approved by the Assembly and before the Law comes into force. The Superintendent Registrar and Senior Deputy Superintendent Registrar will be responsible for matters relating to the redesign, development and sourcing of all documents, registers, forms, digital resources and systems and training manuals as well as paper and digital customer resources relating to birth and parental order registrations according to the requirements of the Orders and Regulations. The requirements for this work have been taken into account of and form part of the plan of works for both members of staff. When the Law comes into force, the Superintendent Registrar and Senior Deputy Superintendent Registrar will be responsible for the operational registration of all Parental Orders and for the re-registration of historic cases. It is anticipated that this will result in an initial and short-term surge in demand which will be planned for and managed as part of day to day activities.

Civil registration of birth is a fundamental human right and therefore no fee may be charged. Parental Order registrations by the Superintendent Registrar (whether historic or contemporary) will therefore be registered without a fee. A copy of a Parental Order registration (ie a birth certificate relating to a registration in the Parental Order Register) will be charged at the standard rate for a copy certificate except in historic cases where the fee for one certificate will be waived.

The fee relating to the re-registration of birth for same sex parents with historic birth registrations of a child will be waived as will the fee for a birth certificate.

The number of parents who hold historic Parental Orders relating to Jersey born children are known and quantifiable, numbering less than 10 children. It is not known or possible to quantify the number of same sex parents who would wish to re-register their child/children to add a second parent, although the number is not anticipated to be high.

The financial implications to the Superintendent Registrar of waiving the fees in historic cases have been weighed against the inequity of the circumstances experienced by the affected parents and children.

**Q2 How the changes proposed under the draft Law will be communicated to parents and Government Departments, charities and arms-length organisations that work with children and support parents.**

A communications plan will be developed and coordinated across GOJ departments, led by the Government Communication Unit targeting affected parents and stakeholder groups and to assist public understanding of the changes to the law.

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