

Information technology on a budget: A giant leap for the Isle of Man

Lucy Marsh-Smith¹ & Gordon Wright²

This paper describes the system used in the Isle of Man for drafting, storing and displaying Manx legislation prior to recent technological changes, the needs for change identified in the light of economic constraints, the solution adopted and why that particular solution was chosen.

Executive Summary

Legislative drafting offices need to move all activities in-house to cut costs and to provide a timely and quality product. All drafting needs to be template-based to ensure flexibility, consistency, longevity, interoperability, efficiency and accuracy.

Template-based systems that use PDF as the delivery medium can offer simple, flexible and universal access to the data. Legislation can then be presented in exactly the same way that it was created, and published to any type of output device. PDF files can be indexed and searched by most good search engines and are an international archive and document standard. The implementation of a template-based system will improve productivity but require minor restructuring to ensure the maximum return on investment.

The addition of a point-in-time web-based solution adds a plethora of revenue-raising possibilities and will ultimately raise the profile of the legislation produced.

The system should be implemented by a single company with a proven track record across all areas of expertise: legislative publishing, template production, scripting, PDF generation and manipulation, CMS development and modification, training and support. The system should be based upon open standards using open source software where possible.

The Isle of Man system was developed in Microsoft Word, their word-processing system of choice, and the total system, including work-flow, web site, data conversion, training, and support cost less than £60K. Due to existing expensive publishing contracts no longer being necessary and the raising of drafting efficiency, this cost was recouped in the first year. Through the use of Word, “well-formed” XML can be generated if needed.

Background

The Isle of Man is a jurisdiction of some 85,000 people on an Island 33 x 13 miles in the Irish Sea between Great Britain and Ireland. Like the Channel Islands it is a Crown Dependency, a possession of the Crown with autonomy in its domestic affairs. It has a diverse economy with a significant emphasis on financial services. The impact of the current global economic

¹ Chief Legislative Drafter, Attorney General's Chambers, Isle of Man and project sponsor for MAN/eX. Recognition for the implementation of the project must go to Howard Connell, legislative drafter and project leader.

² CEO of WW4 Pty/Ltd and designer of template and website solution for Isle of Man Government.

situation has been exacerbated by an unfavourable variation of its VAT-sharing agreement with the United Kingdom, placing significant economic constraints on its Government.

Legislative drafting in the Isle of Man is the responsibility of a division of the Attorney General's Chambers. A team of 4 drafters is aided by a legislation clerk. Their duties include drafting all the primary legislation and advising on the drafting of secondary legislation, the vast majority of which is drafted by departmental legislation officers.

Former drafting and legislative data systems

Before to the implementation of the current system in 2011-12, all drafting was done in MS Word by use of a crude template or effectively saving and over-writing an existing document. The standard layout of Bills was based on the one used in Westminster prior to the changes made at the beginning of the Millennium, with marginal notes and complex initial lettering. The Bills were typeset by commercial printers who were emailed the draft as prepared by the drafters with the formatting stripped out. One or, more often, 2 or more proofs were produced for checking within Chambers. Typically a completed Bill had to wait a month for first reading for the printing stage. Once a Bill completed its passage through the Branches of Tynwald (the Manx Parliament) any amendments were added to the version held by the printers who were then responsible for producing a Royal Assent copy for transmission to London, and ultimately the final Act, with proofing by Chambers at each stage. No electronic version of the text was held within Government though from 2001 a PDF version of each of the 16-20 new Acts each year was uploaded onto the Government information website. The system was expensive both from the point of view of costs of production and the time spent proof-reading.

Using powers in the 1981 Reprints Act a printed edition of the 800+ current Acts of Tynwald going back to 1417 in updated form was produced in bound volumes arranged according to subject matter by commercial publishers at significant cost to Government. The volumes were produced initially every 3 years, then latterly every 5 years, with a CD Rom available which was replaced every 6 months. The books and CD Roms were available to purchase by practitioners and the general public. In addition annual volumes of the Acts were produced and 4 copies kept up-to-date in Chambers with 'paste up', annotations being made with pen, paper and glue. Manx secondary legislation was available in paper form only with copies available to purchase from the Tynwald library. For a sophisticated jurisdiction like the Isle of Man looking to attract outside investment it was clearly unacceptable that Manx legislation was obtainable only by subscription and a trip to the Tynwald library. Moreover, the modern standard, as promoted by the Free Access to Law Movement, is for countries to have public legal information available to all free of charge.³

³ See <http://www.worldlii.org/worldlii/declaration/> accessed 21.3.13.

Most countries around the world have disjointed legislative publishing work-flows and rely on costly external agencies to manage legislation after it is drafted, so the Isle of Man was not alone. Now that publishing has ceased to be a specialist skill these agencies are no longer necessary. Re-keying and other labour-intensive tasks can cause errors to creep into the legislation, which is obviously unacceptable. When data is held in proprietary software applications by external sources it leads to jurisdictions being locked into contracts they cannot withdraw from easily. Legislative publication systems must be timely in their delivery, and above all, accurate.

In today's economic climate it is increasingly important to minimise costs wherever possible. Legislative publishing is one vital area where this can be achieved by establishing a streamlined work-flow, and moving the updating and publishing of legislation to an in-house operation. Doing so allows a more 'pro-active' capability for the government of the country, and makes possible huge cost savings and economic benefits, not only in the delivery of hard copy legislation, but in potential revenue streams that comes from full control over the electronic publishing models.

Preliminary changes

To facilitate the production of camera-ready copy and web publishing, the drafting division obtained approval to modify the layout of Bills to remove marginal and other side headings and make other improvements to the appearance of the text which the drafters recommended following a review of styles in many other jurisdictions. The secondary legislation was scanned and that made since 2000 was uploaded to the Tynwald website.

The drafters also discussed and agreed a house style for the future, the features they wished a drafting template to provide and how to cater for the various stages of the 'Bill to Act' procedure. Plans were made for a new dedicated legislation website to display updated Acts of Tynwald, links to applicable UK legislation and to the secondary legislation as made.

Challenges

There were 2 major hurdles to be overcome. Most importantly there needed to be a source of funding and the only realistic option was a fund held within Government as part of the change management programme designed to support IT projects. As the support had to be IT-related the drafters were not able to progress any plans they might have had for a whole scale law revision which would have enabled the updating of the secondary legislation, which would in any event have been very expensive, and arguably unnecessary bearing in mind the existing reprint powers which were already in established use. Because the production of the templates and website saved a large amount of direct costs it was in fact an easy win. Preliminary investigations indicated it was possible to achieve a workable system for a 5 figure sum. The cost of Bill production would go down from £17 a page to 3p a page saving in the order of £7,000 a year and the 5-year cost of another run of re-printed

books and CDs averaged out per year was in the order of 4 times this amount. Therefore the new system would pay for itself very quickly, even without taking account of the huge saving in drafters', proofers' and legislation officers' time which was estimated conservatively at over £70,000 a year.

The second hurdle was Isle of Man Government's own Information Systems Division. Drawing on experience gleaned from other jurisdictions it was strongly felt that the contract must go to someone who understood the needs of drafters, the level of accuracy required, the importance of even where on the page the text appeared. An in-house solution with assistance from the usual local contractor was therefore strongly resisted.

A third but smaller hurdle was the need to convert the data currently held as a single file in a CD Rom into the form of the Bill template for it to be uploaded onto the website. Some contingency funding was made available to achieve this.

Methodology

As part of the case to obtain the funding the drafters had to work up their ideas in some detail and various approaches were considered and discussions held with many people. The following is an analysis of the chosen methodology.

The key to a flexible, efficient, consistent, and simple work-flow is the use of document templates. However, when designing a good system it is important to look at the deliverables or client goals first, often referred to as the "start-at-the-end" methodology.

(a) PDF – our preferred delivery mechanism

We considered that the best delivery mechanism for legislation is the Portable Document Format (PDF). The same file that is sent out for printing can also be published on a web site. PDF is an international standard (ISO) archival and document format, and possibly more importantly, it is Open Source. Since the PDF standard does not belong to any one company it tends to have universal acceptance. What makes PDF better than other Open Source formats (such as XML, SGML in regard to legislation) is what-you-see-is-what-you-get. In other words the document can be viewed on a computer screen or printed on paper and it will always look the same. Text-based formats such as XML/SGML rely on some type of style-sheet for the presentation of data, and to print documents that retain the same style as current legislation requires a complex conversion tool. Publishing data in proprietary formats is merely a regression to the past with all the underlying issues that we have fought so hard to overcome.

The cost of producing a PDF solution for legislation is far less expensive than XML/SGML systems. Many large jurisdictions have implemented valid XML/SGML based solutions, but because of their very technical nature, they had to employ specialist programming and

support staff, something that is beyond the reach of smaller countries or jurisdictions. Most IT departments embrace these complex systems as it is a form of job security.

Since most modern word-processors are embracing XML as an alternative output file format, solutions using PDF (as the main delivery mechanism) can now co-exist with output solutions based upon well-formed XML. The most common usage of this form of extra output is in the area of data exchange between jurisdictions. Essentially, by taking someone else's XML data and mapping it to your own template styles, you can convert the data into your own style with minimal effort.

One of the main reasons XML/SGML was adopted for legislation was to make possible point-in-time systems. Point-in-time XML/SGML systems generally rely on documents being prepared on-the-fly from various fragments in a back-end database. So relying on a single data source (the database) is inherently problematic, and when comparing file-based to normal relational databases the process can be very slow.

However the same can be achieved quickly and cost effectively using PDF files and a web-based point-in-time delivery mechanism. The PDF system still relies on a database, but the files themselves reside outside the database structure as stand-alone files. Here, if the database fails, reverting to a previous version will potentially lose the meta-data for the newly added files, not the files themselves. In the XML/SGML system the file and meta-data information is normally lost and must be restored, sometimes a difficult and time-consuming task. The perceived disadvantage with PDF delivery is that you have to produce a new PDF file for every change (not merely new fragments), but with the storage capabilities of modern hard drives this is not important.

Since PDF is an archival standard, it must (by definition) be backwardly compatible, so the files you produce today can be printed or searched well into the future. PDF documents produced in 1991 can be still opened, searched and printed using modern PDF tools. On the other hand databases are constantly evolving and periodically the XML/SGML data must be migrated to new database systems. XML/SGML systems also evolved because of the constant re-purposing of proprietary legislative data (e.g. Microsoft Word version 1.0 to 2.0). Every time you moved to a new version of the main drafting tool the data had to be converted and consequently has to be proof-read to ensure the quality of the legislation. XML/SGML text by itself is stable as it is only text with no formatting, but when divided up into thousands or millions of fragments, moving from one database system to another is still dangerous, though not as bad as the early days of word processing. PDF, because of its standalone nature, has much better longevity and no danger of being lost or corrupted.

The main consideration in developing a PDF-based delivery system is to ensure that your drafting tool seamlessly integrates with PDF and that the company developing and automating that process has a high level of expertise in PDF files and the printing of those files. The delivery of PDF as a point-in-time solution will require an intimate understanding

of the legislative publishing process and flexible database development and programming skills. Too many projects have failed where any one of these skills was missing.

(b) Templates

Templates are a simple way to ensure that legislation is drafted in a consistent manner. The template controls the look of the document via paragraph, character, table and even page styles. By utilising a template, periodic changes to the look-and-feel can be easily managed, and current documents easily updated.

To ensure that all document management is performed in a consistent manner, the templates also have a number of scripts or macros associated with them, so the complete work-flow can be micro-managed. The scripts are linked to dialog boxes, menu commands and even keyboard shortcuts, so the data structure of the file is consistent and the manual application of styles to text can be efficient and flexible. Even a keyboard matrix chart can be added to the keyboard shortcuts to assist the user to apply styles very rapidly. By linking a series of repetitive steps to one command via a script, the productivity of the user is enhanced and the overall accuracy is greatly improved.

There is also additional functionality that can be added to the template to improve the quality of the document. Legislative graphics such as the government crest can be converted to a typeface. A normal graphic of a crest can be around 300 Kbytes, and may be used a number of times in a document, thereby adding a considerable overhead to each file. A crest typeface is around 10 Kbytes in size and besides being a vector image (scalable and extremely high resolution), it can be used any number of times in a document without any addition to the file size. File size becomes extremely important in web delivery.

The creation of a crest typeface has a further advantage in the area of document authenticity. Without the typeface resident, the computer printing the file with the crest will print only the corresponding character in the default typeface (e.g. letter "C"). Therefore the concept of an authorised printing source can be realised. Many jurisdictions now operate an on-demand printing section for legislation using modern photocopier technology. Connected to the local network, or even automated via the internet, on-demand printing eliminates the costly storage of hardcopy legislation and provides a revenue stream for government.

Producing templates with all the required attributes requires specialist legislative publishing knowledge. The common mistake made in attempting to produce a Legislative Publishing Work-flow is the application becomes too specific. By over-doing the processes the system quickly becomes dated requiring more programming to alter the flow. Over a period of time this eventually fragments the system to the point it becomes unworkable, especially if there is a change of development staff.

The key to eliminating these problems is the knowledge of exactly how much to automate, and to provide adequate documentation of the flow, including the professional commenting of every line of code. Another good housekeeping process is for any variables (such as people's names, places etc.) to be kept outside the script in files that can be easily managed by internal administrative staff, or integrated with other office systems (e.g. email systems).

All modern word processing and page layout applications have the ability to be "extended" using some form of scripting or programming language. Moreover the scripting language can even interact with the host computer operating system. The real skill in the development of such systems comes in knowing when to apply automation techniques and when not to, knowing how documents are drafted and managed and applying techniques that will enhance the process rather than hindering it.

(c) The Conversion Process

Moving from a manual drafting system to an automated (template driven) work-flow based upon scripting and styles does create some hurdles to jump. Where jurisdictions out-source the publication of their legislation the external company is normally managing the legislation in a totally different application. The reason for doing so is sometimes justifiable but in most cases it is merely commercial. In extreme cases the drafting section cannot even re-use the data it is producing and has to rely heavily on the contracted resources to make any type of change to a document, in effect losing control of the quality and timeliness of their own legislation.

The only plausible and efficient outcome in the on-going management of legislation is to adopt an "in-house" policy. There are jurisdictions that believe that policy is outside their skills base or mandate. Given the number of small countries that have already achieved this goal, those fears are unfounded and so it was shown to be the case in the Isle of Man.

The first step is obviously to develop the templates that the office will use, train the staff and implement the system for the current documents. The next step is to address all the legacy data. In a worst-case scenario the hard copy may need to be scanned and converted to text, but in the case of the Isle of Man the data was already in a computer-based form; it was just the conversion that had to be catered for.

In other jurisdictions the extraction of the data has proved a major stumbling block. A real example of finding a way to overcome this hurdle involved a contractor's encrypted proprietary system where the files were unreadable outside the application. The documents were printed using a PDF driver and the PDF files were then converted to Rich Text Format (RTF) and then to plain text (ASCII). The text was flowed into the new template and styled one paragraph at a time. In another case the restyling was achieved using a pattern recognition script to convert 90% of each file automatically.

The best way to effect the conversion of the data is to establish a temporary section of administrative type personnel led by a technical co-ordinator. The whole process becomes an additional skills honing exercise for these operators. When the conversion task has been completed some of the staff can be utilised in a "reprints" type section (see (f) below).

In the Isle of Man no staff were available to effect the conversion which was therefore done as an add-on to the contract for the website with a programme being devised to convert the existing electronic data.

(d) Publishing the Legislation to PDF

Once the documents currently being drafted are in the new style and all legacy documents have been converted, the documents are ready for the publishing phase via traditional printing, on-demand printing or electronic distribution using CD-ROM or the internet.

The delivery system should be via PDF as the files can be used for all forms of output without modification. Here you simply make a script to convert the files, either individually or in a batch process. The real expertise here is populating those PDF files so that they become a rich and valuable tool for the people that will be viewing the document. For hard copy printing nothing really needs to be added but CD-ROM or internet files can have a great deal of value added to them in the output process.

First, information from the files themselves (document variables) can be added to the meta-data of the PDF file. Information such as short title, long title, author, commencement, Act number, copyright, etc. can be automatically inserted into the meta-data fields in the PDF file to enable flexible document management and present valuable results when indexed by a search engine.

Next, extra links can be inserted into the PDF file to enable efficient navigation of the document. The Table of Contents (TOC) items, which are automatically generated within the template based upon styles, can be converted into links in the PDF file. Clicking on a topic in the TOC will take you to the corresponding text. Also the document styles (e.g. section headings) can be mapped to a series of bookmarks in the PDF file to allow all section headings (and any nested child headings) to be viewed in a navigation window (bookmarks view) alongside the main text window. Again clicking on a topic in the bookmarks will take you to the corresponding text in the main window.

Finally, other internal links in the drafted document can be converted to links in the PDF. These links can include footnotes and endnotes, but through the combination of scripting and a back-end database all cross-references can be dynamically linked to external files. The link can even take you to the appropriate page (section) in the linked file.

So it is extremely important that the company developing the template should also be deeply involved in the conversion to PDF as both processes need to be fused together to provide a valuable outcome.

(e) Making the information available on the Internet

Once fully populated PDF files are available the next stage is to consider how to deliver those files in the most efficient way. Traditionally the files were arranged alphabetically or by year (passed or made). The display of those files was via HTML and required a sound knowledge of that mark-up language. The main disadvantage was that the pages were static and required to be manually prepared or updated.

The next generation of web technologies saw the adoption of a Content Management System (CMS) for the display of data on the web. Here there was a single template and each page was prepared by storing the data in a back-end database and dynamically presenting the data on screen when requested. The advantage here was the management of the data could be accomplished by anyone with word-processing skills. However, to build a CMS required high-level programming skills.

Fortunately, with the emergence of Open Source technology, a number of very capable and well written CMSs have emerged, such as Drupal, Joomla, WordPress, etc. Open Source requires no costly licences and is free and open. The difficult part comes when you want to integrate a Legislative Publishing System (LPS) into a CMS. You can create a stand-alone application and use an i-Frame in the CMS to display the data. However, to leverage a very stable and secure administration system within the CMS, the LPS really needs to be fully integrated into the CMS. In such a system the secure management of the legislative data is possible, but more importantly, the input of a new piece of legislation can even be performed during the conversion to PDF by the script in the template. The obvious scenario is there would be a menu command such as "Convert and Publish." Here the file is converted to PDF, emailed to the printer, a new record created in the web site from the meta-data and the file uploaded to the web site and placed in the correct directory. The process is not only feasible, it is possible now.

An extra bonus of a CMS is that you are able to display related information alongside the legislation, and the web site becomes a valuable information dissemination tool that can be managed securely by any number of authors. Content can include news, important events, legislative guides and links to government agencies etc.

The semi-automated process of publishing PDF files on the internet becomes an integral part of the whole legislative work-flow and therefore it is only logical that it should developed by a single contractor.

(f) Consolidation and Reprints.

Most legislation that is produced today will be amended many times throughout its life-cycle. Normally those amendments build up over time and make the reading and interpretation of the current law sometimes difficult and time-consuming. Periodically the legislation is consolidated and sometimes revised, generally by external contracted resources. The process is very costly and quickly becomes out-of-date.

The solution to this legislative roller coaster (given current technology) is to do it in-house. Combine a drafting system based upon templates, the use of PDF as a delivery mechanism, and an internet based legislative publishing web site that is geared to presenting different versions of files based upon time and you have all the necessary tools to indeed do it in-house without the need for specialist staff.

The first phase of the project involves converting to a template based system. Publishing those files can be achieved fairly quickly. The website will carry the current files and amendments so it is important that the web site is able to present the data in this way and provide a path to a complete point-in-time system when needed.

To provide a flexible and modern point-in-time delivery system you still need to start with a complete and up-to-date statute book. In other words the data still needs a complete consolidation, but if you wish to ensure that the content is accurate and conforms to current best practice standards, including plain English, a Law Revision is necessary.

Next a Reprints Section needs to be established. Most jurisdictions find that when they adopt a template based drafting environment there is a real and measurable improvement in efficiency. Generally the establishment of a Reprints Section does not change the existing resources, it just rearranges them. The bottom line is you end up with a more efficient workflow, by taking control over the timeliness and quality of the legislation. Ultimately this leads to a better and more flexible product that is more attractive to businesses should you desire to create an income stream.

The Reprints Section is responsible for incorporating amendments, checking the files, applying new versions based upon commencement dates and updating the in-house database and website. The files can also be accessed via an on-demand based printing system. Users of the web site are then given the option of viewing the current legislation or selecting a point-in-time version. To most legal practices this functionality is something they will and do subscribe to. The CMS is the perfect vehicle for delivery in this case as the additional point-in-time functionality can be easily controlled via a secure log-in process. Most countries feel they have an obligation to publish the legislation to the general public. However, access to other valuable (value added) forms of legislation can be strictly controlled, and used to generate revenue such as Acts as passed, subordinate legislation as made, Gazettes, recent changes, - including email notifications of changes, repealed legislation, legislation by category, legislation in a parent/child relationship, Bills in the House, printable indices, links to case law (requires additional resources) and even a

mechanism whereby certain portions of your legislation can be displayed inside a frame on another website. This feature is particularly useful to government departments as they can display only their sponsored legislation, and when changes are made to the central repository, those changes are instantly reflected in the linked sites.

Therefore a Reprints Section opens a whole new chapter in potential revenue which more than justifies its existence. Most current drafting sections pay large amounts for external agencies to manage and publish their legislation. The published products are then used by the external company as a revenue stream with very little (if any) of the profits coming back to the owners of the information.

(g) Implementation

The development of a template based legislative publishing system should be done in close co-operation with all stake-holders. The keys to the success of this type of project are training and support. Besides producing an extensive set of training manuals, code explanations and documentation, the development company needs to be deeply involved in the day-to-day operations of the office for an initial period after commissioning. Once the staff have achieved a level of autonomy the support should retract to an internet-based incident reporting system. Periodically, especially when updates to the system are required, on-site visits should be scheduled and time allowed during those visits for new issues to be resolved. Therefore any contract should cover on-going support on a yearly basis.

Isle of Man solution: project MANleX

A detailed specification was produced which proved that this was a specialist job and following a tendering process Gordon Wright was engaged to design the templates, one for primary legislation, one for secondary legislation, and the website.

The essential features needed for the templates, which were to be in MS Word, were auto-numbering, auto cross-referencing, a recognised style for each portion of text and an auto-generated index. The drafters wanted any text in amending legislation to be inserted into primary legislation to be marked up in a way that would make it easy to identify for adding to it for the website version. In the case of the secondary legislation website they wanted auto-prompts to ensure that the powers, making body and Tynwald procedure, ie whether the document required approval by Tynwald, laying before Tynwald, etc. were identified by the legislation officer. Also part of what became known as project MANleX, were steps to convert the document to each of its subsequent stages. In the case of primary legislation, a Bill for introduction with the name of the mover and line numbering inserted, then a version for transmission to the UK Ministry of Justice to advise on Royal Assent, which inserted different text at the top and removed the line numbering, and finally the final Act version. Printing only, with no manipulation of the text, was to become the responsibility of Isle of Man Post as the Government printer. Drafts were stored on the Government network

and backup up locally. The network would facilitate the drafters being able to view and mark-up changes to the secondary legislation they reviewed.

The new website was to contain the Acts of Tynwald in PDF format and would be kept up to date in-house using existing resources, time having been saved from the removal of the need for proofing and paste-up tasks. The Acts would be available alphabetically, by year and by subject matter and kept up to date to the beginning of the previous month. Essential was an advanced search engine and a 'point in time' facility going forward, enabling search of the law at a given date. These features were to be available to subscribers only, thereby generating an income stream to defray the cost of website maintenance and the search engine licence, and provision was to be made to enable other entities to display sections of the website on their own websites in a way that the updates would apply automatically. However, the display of current law, legislation as enacted and a Google search engine were to be available to all. It was intended to provide links to the secondary legislation as made⁴ and UK Acts and Orders in Council applicable to the Island. There were also further opportunities to use the website to create an on-line Gazette.

Conclusion

The Isle of Man now has a highly workable system of drafting templates, storage and website at a price that is within the grasp of most jurisdictions. A new Interpretation Act and a Legislation Act to strengthen revision powers and enable authentication of the website version or legislation are intended to be brought forward shortly. The level of sophistication of the new system relative to its cost may encourage other small jurisdictions to seek a similar system. This small Island, the fifth nation most likely to land a man on the moon⁵ and famous for its high speed TT races, has taken a giant leap forward in terms of the efficiency of drafting, appearance and accessibility of its legislation. The winds of change may be blowing through legislative drafting as we all harness technology to transform our working practices, but the Isle of Man has not forgotten either the importance of history or the need to serve the public, to whom access to the law is a basic right. For the front of the website there was chosen a picture of the annual Tynwald ceremony, the Island's ancient Parliament said to date back to 979. On it was added these words from the preface to the 'Lex scripta of the Isle of Man comprehending the ancient Ordinances and Statute Laws from the earliest to the present date, a new edition, 1819':

The laws are plain, simple, summary, - to all capacities intelligible...so...that the door of justice is open to the poor and the rich.

⁴ The ultimate aim is to include the secondary legislation as amended when funding allows, but a preliminary stage was to reduce the volume – over 1,000 a year – by changes to the powers in primary legislation.

⁵ According to industry analyst Ascend – see http://www.ascendworldwide.com/nextspacepn_07-09-10.pdf accessed 2.3.13.

Thanks to the recent reforms these words can but be truer for the Island today.



Isle of Man } Signed in Tynwald: 15th March 2011
to the } Received Royal Assent: 15th March 2011
 } Announced to Tynwald: 15th March 2011

AN ACT

to make provision for civil partnership; to make minor amendments in respect of adoption; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. (1) A civil partnership is a relationship between two people of the same sex ("civil partners") — *Civil partnership*
FORMULA

- (a) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other in the Island under Part 2;
- (b) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other in any part of the United Kingdom in accordance with CPA 2004;
- (c) which is formed in any of the Channel Islands in accordance with a law having a corresponding effect to this Act; or
- (d) which they are treated under Part 3 as having formed (at the time determined under that Part) by virtue of having registered an overseas relationship.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to the provisions of this Act under or by virtue of which a civil partnership is void.

APPENDIX 2— NEW STYLE



CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2011

<i>Received Royal Assent:</i>	<i>15 March 2011</i>
<i>Announced to Tynwald:</i>	<i>15 March 2011</i>
<i>Commenced:</i>	<i>15 March 2011</i>

AN ACT to make provision for civil partnership; to make minor amendments in respect of adoption; and for connected purposes.

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

1 Civil partnership

[P2004/33/1]

- (1) A civil partnership is a relationship between two people of the same sex ('civil partners') —
 - (a) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other in the Island under Part 2;
 - (b) which is formed when they register as civil partners of each other in any part of the United Kingdom in accordance with CPA 2004;
 - (c) which is formed in any of the Channel Islands in accordance with a law having a corresponding effect to this Act; or
 - (d) which they are treated under Part 3 as having formed (at the time determined under that Part) by virtue of having registered an overseas relationship.
- (2) Subsection (1) is subject to the provisions of this Act under or by virtue of which a civil partnership is void.
- (3) A civil partnership ends only on death, dissolution or annulment.
- (4) The references in subsection (3) to dissolution and annulment are to dissolution and annulment having effect under, or recognised in accordance with, this Act.
- (5) References in this Act to a relevant relationship are to be read in accordance with Part 3.

APPENDIX 3 — WEBSITE

Welcome to the Isle of Man Legislation Web Site - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.legislation.gov.im/cms/

Isle of Man Government
Reliys Eilan Vannin

Attorney General's Chambers
Legislation On-Line

Google™ Custom Search SEARCH SITE LEGISLATION

LEGISLATION MENU

- Home
- Advanced Search
- Uncommenced
- Current Acts of Tynwald
 - By Title
 - By Year
 - By Subject
- Acts of Tynwald as Enacted
- Current Orders in Council
- Secondary
- Links
- Manx Law Newsletter
- Contact Us

SUBSCRIBER LOGIN

Username

Password

Remember Me

LOGIN

• [Forgot your password?](#)

Welcome to the Isle of Man Legislation Web Site



"The Laws are plain, simple, summary - to all capacities intelligible ... so... that the door of justice is open equally to the poor and the rich."

From the preface of the Lex Scripta of the Isle of Man comprehending the ancient Ordinances and Statute Laws from the earliest to the present date, a new edition. Douglas, February 1819.

Tynwald day, when the Acts of Tynwald are promulgated to the people.

Done Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%