

Classification Level

None.

Freedom of Information Exemption(s)

Decision Summary:	None.
Written Report:	None.
Supporting Document(s):	N/A - There are no supporting documents.

Reason for the application of a Freedom of Information Exemption(s)

Decision Summary:	N/A - There are no exemptions being applied.
Written Report:	N/A - There are no exemptions being applied.
Supporting Document(s):	N/A - There are no supporting documents.

Data Protection

[Data Protection principles](#) have been applied to this Written Report and the Supporting Document(s), if any. The following can be shared with Scrutiny and/or published:

Decision Summary:	Yes - redaction(s)/pseudonymization is not required.
Written Report:	Yes - redaction(s)/pseudonymization is not required.
Supporting Document(s):	N/A - There are no supporting documents.

Legal Advice

In accordance with the [Ministerial Code](#), its supplementary guidance on [Ministerial Decisions](#), and legal privilege principles: no verbatim legal advice, nor any text alluding to legal advice having been sought, is found in any of the documentation supporting the Ministerial Decision.

Preparatory Information

Ministerial Decision Type:	Significant Matters
Ministerial Office:	Social Security
Signatory:	Minister
Lead Department:	Customer and Local Services
Lead Directorate:	Local Services (CLS)
Lead Officer:	Interim Chief Officer

Required for the States Assembly:	No - the document(s) supporting this Ministerial Decision DO NOT require presenting/lodging with the States Assembly.
Children’s Rights Impact Assessment:	Yes, the decision-maker gave due regard and determined that neither a CRIA Screener nor Full Assessment were required.
Human Rights Impact Assessment:	A Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required as part of this decision.

‘Customer and Local Services’ Department to Become ‘Employment, Social Security, and Housing’ Department

Introduction

This is a written report to support a Ministerial Decision and is to be read alongside the supporting documents, if any. This report has been prepared by officers and is viewed to be in accordance with the [Ministerial Code](#), supplementary guidance on [Ministerial Decisions](#), appropriate [Freedom of Information exemptions](#), and with consideration of [Data Protection Principles](#).

Supporting Documents

There are no other documents supporting this Ministerial Decision.

Reason for the Decision

The Minister for Social Security decided that the ‘Customer and Local Services’ (“CLS”) Department should be renamed the ‘Employment, Social Security, and Housing’ (“ESSH”) Department. The Minister, in consultation with those Ministers for whom some of their services are delivered by the department, believes that this more accurately represents the services provided by the department, and would like to take the opportunity of the department moving into the new Government headquarters to make this change. This change will be effective from the 9th December 2024.

This change in name does not require any changes to the functions being discharged by the Minister, nor any other Minister who’s services are delivered by the Department, as detailed in the Article 30A report ([R.118/2024 refers](#)); other than any references to CLS should now be read as ESSH. For avoidance of doubt, the Minister for Social Security and any other Ministers concerned remain corporation sole for their services as was the case prior to any change in name or departmental structures.

In so far as required by the Ministerial Code ([paragraph 11 of R.31/2024 refers](#)) and to ensure subsequent incorporation into the next lodged Budget (Government Plan) the Minister has consulted with the Chief Minister (both as Chair of the Council of Ministers and the States Employment Board) and the wider Council of Ministers. The Minister has also consulted with the relevant Chief Officers and the Chief Executive Officer for their thoughts.

Where their roles and responsibilities remain the same, except for any resultant changes in the name of their respective departments and/or teams, delegations to public servants within CLS remain in place until such time they are replaced by the appropriate Minister via a new and published scheme of delegations.

The necessary changes to Heads of Expenditure to effect this change in subsequent Budgets (Government Plans) will also be proposed to the Council of Ministers when next lodged, following the above-mentioned consultation.

For the sake of clarity, any agreements or contracts entered into by CLS should now be taken to be the responsibility of the Chief Officer for ESSH and the ESSH department more generally, unless otherwise explicitly stated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Minister record their decision to change the name of the department in the form a Ministerial Decision so there is a public record of the change, what it entails, and for posterity.

Action Required if the Recommendation is Adopted

The department and/or Ministerial Office to update relevant parties of the decision.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this decision. Any required changes to signage, communications, documentation, etc. will be updated as and when required as part of normal maintenance and publication arrangements.

Conflict of Interest

The decision-maker does not have an actual or perceived conflict of interest as relates to this decision.