



BUDGET BRIEF 2015 - 2016

Prepared for

The Hon. Sylvan D. Richards, JP MP

Junior Minister of Home Affairs

Registry General

Head 29

**Found on Pages B-310 through B-313 of the Approved
Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 2015/16.**

Madam Chair, the Registry General is a government facility responsible for maintaining civil registrations and providing public access to such records. Under the general direction and control of the Minister of Home Affairs, the Registrar General exercises his statutory functions and is assisted by such public officers as may from time to time be authorized by the Legislature.

Madam Chair, the mandate of the Registry General is:

1. to provide and maintain a reliable system for the storage of public records
2. to provide access services to those records and provide an efficient registry service which supports the registration of every birth, death, adoption and marriage in Bermuda
3. the performance of civil marriages
4. facilitating the registration of land and other property transactions

5. registration of professionals and organizations
6. granting of intellectual property rights such as trade and service marks, patents and designs
7. advising on copyright and related rights; as well as,
8. to assume all administrative responsibilities with respect to the registration of Country Code Top Level domain names for Bermuda (.BM).

The Department is able to achieve this mandate with existing resources.

Madam Chair, the Department is responsible for discharging duties conferred under a total of 54 Acts, Orders, Regulations and Rules which govern the operations of the Registry General.

CORE SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Madam Chair, the Registry General, consists of the following four (4)

Sections with a complement of 20 staff in total:

1. 39000 Administration (8 staff);
 2. 39010 Intellectual Property Registration (6 staff);
 3. 39020 Property, Professional and Organization Registration (2 staff); and
 4. 39030 Births, Marriages & Deaths (2 staff)
- The function of the ***Births, Marriages & Deaths Section*** is to register and issue certificates for all vital and general events including births, deaths and marriages that occur in Bermuda or on Bermuda registered ships.
 - The function of the ***Property, Professional and Organization Registrations Section*** is to register documents relating to land, deeds, and mortgages as well as professional registrations which include architects, charitable organizations, friendly

societies, marriage officers, pension trust funds, professional engineers, professional surveyors, psychological practitioners and trade unions.

- The function of the ***Intellectual Property Registrations Section*** is to provide a timely and efficient service for the granting of Intellectual Property rights, such as trade and service marks, patents and designs, and advising on copyright and related rights; as well as assume all the administrative responsibilities with regards to .BM (Country Code Top Level) domain name registration.
- The function of ***Administration*** is to ensure that the proper resources are made available to facilitate the efficient and timely processing of the registration process for all Vital and General Events occurring in Bermuda.

Madam Chair, In relation to births, the majority of babies are born at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital in Paget parish. However,

there is a trend on the Island in which more parents are opting to have home births with the assistance of a midwife and in some instances a doula. These persons are often flown in from overseas having first received approval from both Departments of Immigration and Health. The trend has also been recognized by some of the local insurance companies resulting in the provision of coverage for these midwifery services.

Madam Chair, there were six babies born outside of the hospital, in the homes of the parents in 2014 double the number born at home in 2013.

Madam Chair, the Registry General is notified of the births of children born at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital by the Medical Records Department on a weekly basis. On the occasion when a child is born at a location other than the hospital, notification is made by the person or persons who attended the birth. The Department issues a free birth certificate with respect to each newborn child.

The vital events provide a useful resource in that certificates issued by the Department are often used for multi-purposes. An important application is the use of a vital registration certificates to validate information when processing passports.

It is interesting to note that numerous persons have subsequently found that the name that they have been using for years is not actually the legal name that they were registered with at the time of birth. It is essential that when parents submit the newborn registration forms, they ensure that all of the information is correct and the birth registration form is fully completed.

Names of parents should be correctly recorded in the proper order as they appear on their own official birth certificate. This will prevent future problems and reduce costs associated with the correcting of inconsistencies within registrations. So for those listening by way of radio, I would encourage you to double check your documentation to ensure all is in order.

Madam Chair, statistical data gathered through the birth registration process, and the identification of certain trends is a useful resource for such agencies as the Department of Health, public and private Schools to Insurance companies as examples. The Department of Statistics also incorporates this data into their population figures and the production of numerous reports. It should be noted that in 2014 there were 575 births with 353 being born to parents who were married and 222 being born to single parents. This is a decrease of 65 from the 640 newborns in 2013.

Madam Chair, the Registrar General also receives notices of deaths occurring on the Island and within Bermuda's territorial waters from local funeral directors. In cases where inquests have been held into the causes of deaths, the notices of deaths are sent to the Registrar General by the Coroners' Office.

Data gathered through the death registration process are useful resources for various entities, such as Social Insurance and the Office of the Tax Commissioner who is responsible for administering

death tax pertaining to land. Issued death certificates are also useful for Life Insurance and banking purposes. The Parliamentary Registrar's Office also keeps their register current through the use of the death records.

In 2014, 492 deaths occurred in Bermuda. The death figure of 252 for males was higher than the death figure for females which was 239. The Coroner investigated 86 deaths in 2014 of which 6 related to visitors to the Island.

Madam Chair, local Marriage Officers are responsible for the majority of marriages that occur on the Island. Marriage Officer Licenses are granted to clergy, priests, ministers, and persons in equivalent positions, by the Minister responsible for the Registry General. It should be noted that marriages in Bermuda can only be performed by registered Marriage Officers who meet the requirements. Marriages **cannot** be performed by Justices of the Peace as in many other jurisdictions.

Civil marriages are performed in an attractive Marriage Room within the Department. These marriages prove quite popular with many overseas couples who desire to be married in Bermuda as well as with local residents. When necessary, witnesses are provided by the Department.

Madam Chair, all persons intending to be wed in Bermuda must submit a Notice of Intended Marriage Form to the Department, which is then posted within the Department for public viewing until the License is collected as well as published in the local newspaper on 2 separate occasions. This aids in the identification of persons who are marrying for convenience and fraud by interested third parties and the Department of Immigration Inspectorate. It is important to note that in addition to the marriage certificates issued at the time of marriage by the church, it is necessary to order official Marriage certificates from the Registry General. These documents are certified and can be used for legal applications such as changes of name and the issue of BOTC (Bermuda) and British passports.

Madam Chair, there were a total of 477 marriages performed locally in 2014. This figure represents an increase of 6 marriages over 2013. Out of this figure 381 were religious marriages taking place in churches, gardens and hotels. The remaining 96 civil marriages were conducted in the Registry General.

Bermuda continues to be a popular venue for marriage by overseas couples for they historically have comprised more than 50% of the marriages performed on the island. The data collected from marriage registrations is useful forecast information for the Department of Tourism, churches, hotels, marriage coordinators, Newspaper media and Department of Statistics etc.

Madam Chair, information in respect of Maritime marriages, which are marriages that occur on the high seas aboard Bermuda registered ships, is provided by the masters of these ships. A total of 569 Maritime marriages were conducted in 2014. The trend continues with the number of Maritime Marriages exceeding that of local

marriages. There are currently twenty seven cruise ships performing marriages under Bermuda's Maritime Marriage Act 1999.

The Registry General, **Madam Chair**, also registers mortgages, deeds, voluntary conveyances and land transfers. The law firms and or the banks submit the original mortgage documents, voluntary conveyance or land transfer notices and a memorandum to the office for registration. The date of deposit of these legal documents establishes priority in respect of liability and other legal issues.

The registration of the mortgage or chattel mortgage publicly establishes the lien the bank or a person may have on a particular piece of property. There have been a few instances where the bank has repossessed a car that the original owner had sold to another person. If the original owner did not repay the mortgage on the car, the bank has every right to take possession of the car even if it is owned by another person.

This year, **Madam Chair** there has been an increase in the number of mortgages and chattel mortgages registered. In 2014, 797 mortgages and 363 chattel mortgages were recorded. By comparison, there were 584 mortgages and 355 chattel mortgages recorded in 2013 and 853 mortgages and 460 chattel mortgages were recorded in 2012.

Any person, who becomes entitled to any land, must give written notice to the Registrar General. The transfer notices are registered and filed by parish and by the year of the actual transfer of the land. Persons are not able to search the land transfer notices with only the address of the property. The indices are kept by parish, year, owner and previous owner. Searches are more successful if the client has the name of a past or current owner. There were 297 land transfers in 2014, a decrease of 57 over the 354 transfers in 2013.

Madam Chair, the Department registers Professionals and Organizations to protect the various interests of members of the public and other interested parties. For example a member of the

public can conduct a search in the Registry General to ensure that someone they wish to hire to do architectural work is registered as a bona-fide, qualified registered architect. As part of the registration process for architects, professional surveyors, professional engineers and psychological practitioners the Registry General liaises closely with the governing bodies of the professional organizations that approve the applications for registration in accordance with legal and ethical requirements.

Madam Chair, organizations wishing to become registered charities or wishing to re-register as a charity must submit the appropriate application to the Registry General by the first Wednesday of the month. These applications should include either a copy of their constitution if they are first time applicants or financial statements signed by the treasurer and one other officer if they are seeking re registration. Under the Charities Act 2014, Charities Regulations 2014 and the Charities (Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Reporting) Regulations 2014, charities are now required to complete an annual report form on the activities of the

charity over the previous period. This form also includes a section on how the charity has complied with the requirements set out in the Charities (Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Reporting) Regulations 2014. It should be noted that this report along with signed financials must be provided also by those charities that have indefinite status on an annual basis. Charities are now required to pay an annual fee based on the income of the Charity. For charities with income under \$35,000, the fee is \$100. For charities with income over \$35,000 and under \$450,000, the fee is \$250. For charities with income over \$450,000, the fee is \$400. The fee is payable when the financial statements and annual report are submitted to the office of the Registrar General.

As of December 31st 2014, there were 344 charitable organizations on the Register; 3 more than in 2013. Eighty (80) of the currently registered charitable organizations have short-term registrations (i.e. duration of 1 year), with the remaining 264 having permanent registration status.

Madam Chair, any change in the officers of a charity should be reported to the Charity Commissioners within one (1) month of the change. Signed financial statements and the annual report should be received within six (6) months after the financial year end. Receiving this information provides protection to the public since the financial statements of any charity are available for the public to view. Much effort is made by the Department to ensure that registered charities are in compliance with the legislated requirements.

Madam Chair, the Registry General, is also responsible for the registration of Pension Trust Funds, in respect of non-Bermudians. This registration provides an avenue for non-Bermudian employees to receive retirement benefits. It is voluntary registration for such entities as overseas companies which are not permit companies; partnerships; or other unincorporated business entities established outside of Bermuda, if in each case, the trustees are resident in Bermuda. The role of the Registry General is to ensure that these

funds are compliant with the provisions of the Pension Trust Funds Act 1966.

Madam Chair, the registration of Trade Unions allows for local trade organizations to operate as Unions within a legal framework. Before registration, the unions must first qualify and meet the criteria for such with reference to the Trade Union Act 1965 and the Trade Union Amendment Act 2002.

There are currently 9 trade unions registered. Two (2) of the larger unions include the Bermuda Industrial Union and the Bermuda Public Services Union. The responsibility of the Registry General is to ensure that the registered Unions are in compliance with the Act. Trade Unions are required to submit a general audited statement of the receipts, funds, effects and expenditure as well as membership information each year. In addition, any change of officers, alteration of rules and new rules must be submitted to the Department.

It should be noted that an excessive amount of time and resources is spent in efforts to bring delinquent trade unions into compliance.

Madam Chair, the Registry General has a Search Room which affords the Public the opportunity to access the various registers under the Department's remit. These include not only births, deaths and marriage registers, but also those pertaining to Property Registrations and Professional Registrations.

Popular searches include those by banking institutions to verify whether or not there is a lien on property as well as chattels such as boats, cars and bikes; and to record whether or not a loan has been satisfied. There are numerous persons who also conduct genealogy searches. In fact the Department has overseas customers who visit the Department to conduct family searches. Historical researchers such as the Bermuda National Trust often utilize the Search Room.

As a result of ongoing research, the Bermuda National Trust has published its 'Bermuda's Architectural Heritage Series' which

consists of a number of books on different parishes, depicting local historical monuments. This is largely due to the efforts of Ms. Margaret Lloyd who heads the team of researchers.

Madam Chair, as the historical registers are handled on a constant basis, it is imperative that the Registry General ensures that the records are preserved. Unfortunately again this year, due to budget restraints, the funds allocated for preservation were eliminated; however, we are optimistic, that we will be allowed to reintroduce this programme within the next budget period. It is crucial that the historical registers are preserved for access by future generations.

Madam Chair, the Intellectual Property (IP) Section of the Registry General manages the registration of Bermuda Country Code Top Level Domain Name [.BM]. A domain name allows people to identify websites by name rather than by number and a .BM web address directs users to a Bermuda homepage via the Internet.

Additionally, the IP Section maintains the protection of intellectual property rights to the highest international standard, so that Bermuda remains a place where creativity and talent can thrive. The aims of the IP Section is to ensure that the intellectual property system in Bermuda contributes not just to the local but global economy, encourages investment in innovation, and fosters an entrepreneurial spirit locally.

The IP Section promotes creativity and awareness of intellectual property rights of the individual, and a respect for the rights of others by administering the laws relating to trade/service marks (Trademark Act 1974; Trade Marks and Service Marks Regulations 1993), copyrights (Copyrights Act 2004), designs and patents (Patent and Design Act 1930; Patent and Design Rules 1903).

In February 2014 there was appointed for the first time a Copyright Tribunal, an independent tribunal established by the Copyright Act 2004, to adjudicate in commercial licensing disputes between collecting societies and users of copyright material in their businesses. Also, in February 2014, nine new statutory instruments

in relation to copyright administration matters were introduced. One of these was the Copyright (Educational Establishments) Order 2014 which exempts educational institutions, such as Bermuda's schools, to allow for the use of copyright materials to be used for educational purposes.

The IP Section provides a high quality and critical trademark, patent and design registration services to the public which is mandated by legislation in order to acquire protection. All intellectual property rights granted are recorded in Registers which are maintained by the Registrar General and are open to the public for inspection. The maintenance of these Registers is legislated by the various Acts.

Madam Chair, the Registry General has established measures to facilitate desired output levels for customer service. These include the following:-

- To maintain the registering of births to within 10 days of receipt of the Notice of Particulars of Birth in the office, from the

parents. This measure was achieved with respect to 90% of the notices received in the office in 2014.

- For the processing of Deaths - To maintain the registering of deaths to within 10 days of receipt of the Notice of Death forms within 10 days of receipt, from the undertakers or coroner's office. This measure was achieved with respect to 90% of the notices received in 2014.
- For the processing of marriages, the measure to register the Notice of Particulars of Marriage forms within 10 days of receipt from the Marriage Officers was achieved with respect to 80% of the notices in 2014.
- For the processing of deeds and other legal documents the measure to maintain the time registering and indexing of mortgages, deeds and other legal documents to 1 month, from the receipt of documents in the office, was achieved with respect to 95% of the documents for 2014.

- For the processing of Land Transfer Notices the measure to register the notices within 10 days of receipt, was achieved with respect to 100% of the notices in 2014.
- To maintain the registering of Trademark, Patent and Designs, to ensure that all applications are processed within 4 – 6 months of the date of receipt, was achieved with respect to 100% of the applications in 2014.
- To ensure that 100% of all correspondence with respect to applications, post registrations and the issue of certificates for all patents, trademarks and designs are processed and actioned within one month of the date of receipt, was achieved with respect to 100% of the correspondence received in 2014.
- To promote e-commerce by managing the registration of the Bermuda Country Code Top Level Domain Name [.BM]. The

Section ensures that all applications for registration or modification requiring completion within two days of receipt of application and request letter, was achieved with respect to 100% of the applications in 2014.

MAJOR PROJECTIONS/INITIATIVES

Madam Chair, the Vital and General Section will focus in this coming year on bringing amendments to the Friendly Societies Act 1868 and the Friendly Societies Act 1930 to enhance the regulation of Friendly Societies and improve their governance and accountability. A meeting was held on February 13, 2015 with representatives of the local Friendly Societies to discuss the proposed amendments. What was suggested and agreed at that meeting is that a working committee, composing of Registry General's staff and members of the Friendly Societies, be established to provide guidance as the Registry General develops the proposed amendments.

Also, it is the Department's intention to continue work in the legal and compliance area within the upcoming fiscal period, with the view of updating the Trade Union Act 1965. It is envisioned that stronger penalties will be implemented to ensure compliance with legislative requirements as well as ensure that filings are received in the appropriate timeframes. Once the amendments have been legislated, it is expected that at least 90% of the trade unions will be in compliance.

Madam Chair, the IP Section has identified key initiatives and projects for the upcoming fiscal year. These initiatives and projects are achievable and will benefit not only the operations of the Department but Bermuda as well.

At the forefront of the IP Section's agenda is to acquire a new domain name registration system and introduce registration fees for .BM domain names. The current system is fragile and inadequate, and has limited searching capability. The existing system needs to be replaced with a streamlined, fully integrated and automated

system which allows for a smoother registration process of the .BM Country Code Top Level Domain names (CCTLD). Benefits of a new system are a) improve the level of service to clients; b) improve job satisfaction for staff; and c) the IP Section can charge registration/renewal fees therefore create a new revenue stream. In the fiscal year 2014/2015 funds in the amount of \$70,000 were carried forwarded from the 2013/14 budget for a new replacement system. A RFP for the new system was published in November 2014 and a vendor has been selected. It is anticipated that the new system will be installed by June of this year.

Further, the IP Section would like to fully exploit the potential of the .BM domain name by relaxing the requirements and expanding eligibility for registration to include individuals who live in Bermuda, and allow for the use of .BM to no longer be restricted to commercial use. Also, market the .BM as the domain name of choice for entrepreneurs and international businesses in Bermuda. A successful marketing drive will serve not only to ensure that Government's plan of business development will be fulfilled, but

more importantly to promote .BM as a national resource that can contribute to Government revenue. I am pleased to advise that already on our Register are over 9,300 .BM domain names.

Madam Chair, another initiative on the IP Section's agenda is that of legislative review of the Trademarks Act 1974. This Act was first enacted in 1938 and has not had any significant amendments since 1993 when the Act was updated. It is in keeping with the objective of the IP Section to bring the intellectual property laws in line with international trends and treaties thus creating a proper environment for the protection of the intellectual property assets of residents and businesses both locally and internationally.

Such review will bring Bermuda's Trademark Act and Regulations in compliance with the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) which is an international agreement administered by the World Trade Organization that sets minimum standards for different forms on intellectual property regulations and the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial

property, which includes trade and service marks, in respect to the principles of national treatment, right of priority and common rules and the Madrid Protocol for the international filing and registration of trademarks via a single application administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Most nations, whether party to the TRIPS Agreement or not, have complied with the requirements and therefore the Bermuda IP Section is committed to keep abreast with its international counterparts and has deemed this review urgent at this time. Also, alignment with the requirements of the Madrid Protocol for international filing is necessary to bring Bermuda Trademark practice in common parlance to the international standard, and would further strengthen the Registry General's strides for excellence in the intellectual registration.

The introduction of the Madrid Protocol in Bermuda, would mean an increase of trademark filings and potential increase in revenue for the Registry General. Research has shown that an effective Trademark

registration and protection system in any country encourages trade and investment.

Madam Chair, another initiative on the IP Section is the legislative review of the Patent and Design Act 1930. This Act is an old piece of legislation modelled significantly after the UK Patent and Design Act 1907, a consolidation act, which itself has been repealed by two separate legislations, the UK Registered Design Act 1949 and the Patent Act 2004. This means that the current Bermuda case law is outdated and does not reflect modern practice and procedure internationally. For example, a major issue with the Bermuda Patent and Design Act 1930 is that it does not have the relevant criteria for what constitutes a patent or what is able to be patented, e.g. an invention must be new (novel), have an inventive step that is not obvious to someone with knowledge in the subject, and must be capable of industrial application (being made or used in some kind of industry).

The main objective of the IP Section is to ensure that the Bermuda patent and design legislations are brought in line with international treaties and best practices of a global standard for patent and design protection, for residents and businesses both locally and internationally.

A review will afford the IP Section the opportunity to bring Bermuda's Patent and Design Act and Rules in compliance with international treaties, such as the Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT") for patents and the Hague Agreement for industrial designs, that have potential revenue benefits for the Registry General. Both the PCT and Hague Agreement provides for the international filing and registrations via a single application which is administered by WIPO. If Bermuda patent and design legislation is aligned with the requirements of the PCT or Hague Agreement, the potential benefit would be an increase of application filings and revenue to the Registry General.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Madam Chair, the current account estimates for Head 29, Registry General, can be found on page B-310.

The Registry General has been allocated a total of One Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,840,000). This represents a *net* decrease of One Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Dollars (\$126,000) or 6% from the amount allocated for the financial year 2014/2015, which was One Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Dollars (\$1,966,000).

The decrease consists of a 2% or Twenty Thousand Dollar (\$20,000) increase in the Administration Section; a 6% or Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) decrease for the Intellectual Property Registration Section; a 34% or a Fifty Seven Thousand Dollar (\$57,000) decrease in the Property, Professional & Organization

Registration Section; and a 13% or Fifty Six Thousand Dollar (\$56,000) decrease in the Birth, Marriages & Deaths Section.

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Cost Centre 39000 - Administration - Variance 2014/15vs2015/16

	\$	Employees
Original Estimate for 2014/15	\$802,000	8
Estimate for 2015/16	\$821,000	8
Increase	\$18,000	0
Increase %	2.2%	0%

Madam Chair, the variance represents an increase of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000) or 2.2% from the 2014-2015 budget years.

The increase is as a result of the 4.6% increase in salaries of \$34,000 for furlough days. There is a savings of \$16,000 or

2.4% which comes from reductions in training expenses, software maintenance, office supplies, travel expenses, telephone expenses and no funding to hire temporary staff if someone is out for extended periods of time.

Cost Centre 39010 – Intellectual Property - Variance 2014/15 vs 2015/16

	\$	Employees
Original Estimate for 2014/15	\$574,000	6
Estimate for 2015/16	\$541,000	6
Decrease	\$33,000	0
Decrease %	(6%)	0%

Madam Chair, the decrease of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) is provided for by:

1. a \$16,000 increase from furlough days and a \$15,000 increase in salaries that was not budgeted for in the last fiscal period;
2. a reduction of \$14,000 to funds allocated for the Copyright Tribunal;
3. a reduction of \$10,000 to funds allocated for Opposition Hearings
4. office supplies were reduced by \$5,000;
5. airfare by \$6,000;
6. subsistence by \$3,000,
7. software maintenance by \$10,000
8. a reduction of \$13,000 to provide the Examiner with training overseas
9. books and periodicals were reduced by \$2,500.

Cost Centre 39020 – Property, Professional & Organizational

Registration - Variance 2014/15vs 2015/16

	\$	Employees
Original Estimate for 2014/15	\$167,000	3
Estimate for 2015/16	\$110,000	2
Decrease	(\$57,000)	1
Decrease %	(34%)	33%

Madam Chair, the variance represents a decrease of Fifty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$57,000) or 34% less than the 2014/2015 budget year. The cost savings will be realized as a result of not replacing a member of staff who retired in 2014.

Cost Centre 39000 – Births, Marriages & Death Registrations -
Variance 2014/15vs 2015/16

	\$	Employees
Original Estimate for 2014/15	\$423,000	5
Estimate for 2015/16	\$367,000	4
Decrease	(\$56,000)	1
Decrease %	(13%)	20%

Madam Chair, the variance represents a decrease of Fifty Six Thousand Dollars (\$56,000) or 13% less than the 2014/2015 budget year.

The cost savings will be realized as a result of not replacing a member of staff who retired in 2015.

Madam Chair, \$55,000 as found on **page C-15** of the Budget Book has been allocated under Capital Acquisitions for the upgrading of the Country Code Top Level Domain Name (.BM) registration system. As previously mentioned, the current system is old and fragile with limited search capability. An upgrade will introduce a more robust and user-friendly domain name registration system.

REVENUE

Madam Chair, on the revenue side, **page B-312**, the Registry General expects to realize Two Million, Four Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Dollars (\$2,491,000) in revenue during 2015/2016. This amount is distributed as follows:

1. One Million Five Hundred and Eighty Six Thousand Dollars (\$1,586,000) from the registration and renewal of Trademarks, Patents and Designs and Domain Name Registration Fees. This is an increase of \$524,000 over the 2014/15 amount of \$1,062,000. It is anticipated that with the new domain name system and the ability to charge registration fees that this increase will be realized.

2. Two Hundred and Fifty Three Thousand Dollars (\$253,000)
from Property Registration, Land Transfer Registration and Charity Registration fees. With the coming into effect of the Charities Act 2014 and ancillary regulations, it is anticipated that an increase of \$69,000 will be realized from the payment of the annual charity fee.
3. Six Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand Dollars (\$652,000)
from Birth, Death and Marriage Fees. It is anticipated that there will be a decrease in revenue of \$50,000 for birth certificates in 2015/16.

Madam Chair, the budget estimates of \$1,840,000, allocated to the Registry General, will allow the Registry to provide the core services mandated by the law. The allocation of \$822,000 to the Administration **cost centre # 39000** as found on **page B310** will ensure that the proper resources are made available to facilitate the efficient and timely registration of all intellectual property, vital and general events occurring in Bermuda during this fiscal period.

The \$541,000 allocated to the Intellectual Property cost center will allow that section to register or renew the registration of domain names, trademarks, patents and designs in the upcoming budget year. The department will continue to meet its output measures as it registers documents relating to land and other property transactions with the \$110,000 allocated to the Property, Professional and Organization cost center. The \$367,000 allocated to the Birth, Death and Marriage cost center will ensure that all of these vital events occurring in Bermuda will be registered.

Madam Chair, as with all the Departments within the Ministry of Home Affairs, I would like to express my gratitude to the team of the Registry General Department, led by Mr. Aubrey Pennyman as they continue to take a proactive approach to ensure Bermuda remains current with our global partners.

Thank you, Madam Chair.