

PROJET DE LOI

ENTITLED

The Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Guernsey) Law, 1957 *

[CONSOLIDATED TEXT]

NOTE

This consolidated version of the enactment incorporates all amendments listed in the footnote below. However, while it is believed to be accurate and up to date, it is not authoritative and has no legal effect, having been prepared in-house for the assistance of the Law Officers. No warranty is given that the text is free of errors and omissions, and no liability is accepted for any loss arising from its use. The authoritative text of the enactment and of the amending instruments may be obtained from Her Majesty's Greffier, Royal Court House, Guernsey, GY1 2PB.

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* Ordres en Conseil Vol. XVII, p. 178; as amended by the Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Amendment) (Guernsey) Law, 1994 (No. IX of 1994, Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXXV(1), p. 218). See also the Deputy Bailiff (Guernsey) Law, 1969 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXII, p. 122); the Law Reform (Age of Majority and Guardianship of Minors) (Guernsey) Law, 1978 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXVI, p. 264). This Law is applied, in part, with modifications (to the enforcement in the Bailiwick of certain judgments under the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992), by the Merchant Shipping (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002 (No. VIII of 2004); and prospectively applied, in part, with modifications (to the enforcement in the Bailiwick of certain determinations enforceable by Eurocontrol), by the Aviation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008 (No. XXVIII of 2008).

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

Interpretation and saving

1. Interpretation.
2. Saving.

PART II

Registration of judgments given outside the Bailiwick

3. Power to extend Part II to countries giving reciprocal treatment.
4. Application for, and effect of, registration of judgment.
5. Rules of court.
6. Cases in which registered judgments must, or may, be set aside.
7. Powers of Royal Court on application to set aside registration.
8. Judgments which can be registered not to be enforceable otherwise.

PART III

Miscellaneous and general

9. General effect of certain judgments.
10. Power to make judgments unenforceable if no reciprocity.
11. Issue of certificates of judgments obtained in the Island.
12. Citation.

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The Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Guernsey) Law, 1957

WHEREAS, on the fifteenth day of March, fifteen hundred and fifty-nine, Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth I granted, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, a Charter to the Bailiff and Jurats and other inhabitants of and dwellers in the Islands of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the said Charter containing a confirmation of all and singular the laws and customs duly and lawfully used in the Islands, and also granting and confirming to the Bailiff and Jurats and all other magistrates, officers of justice, and all other persons appointed there in any office or duty, full, absolute and complete authority touching all sorts of pleas, processes, law-suits, actions, disputes and causes of any kind whatsoever arising in the Islands, as well real, personal and mixed, as criminal and capital, and there and not elsewhere to plead, proceed with, prosecute and defend all those things and in the same matters either to proceed or supersede, to examine, hear, end, acquit, condemn, decide and put their sentences into execution according to the laws and customs of the Islands theretofore used and approved:

AND WHEREAS the said Charter contains a clause which, translated from the original Latin, provides as follows: –

"Moreover our will and pleasure is and we grant for ourselves, our heirs and successors by these presents to the said Bailiff and Jurats and other inhabitants of and dwellers in the Islands and said maritime places; That for

the time to come, none of them be cited, summoned, drawn into any lawsuit or forced in any manner by any writs or processes issued from any of our Courts of the kingdom of England to appear and answer before any judges, courts or other officers of justice out of the Islands and said maritime places, touching or concerning any thing, dispute, cause or matter in controversy whatsoever arising in the said Islands; But that the said Islanders in general and each of them in particular may lawfully, notwithstanding the said writs and processes, remain, reside quietly and abide in the Islands and said places, waiting for justice there, without incurring any corporal punishment, pecuniary fine, mulct, ransom or forfeiture by reason of any offence, contempt or contumacy committed towards us, our heirs and successors for which they or any of them might be sued, arraigned or condemned; Except only in the causes which by the laws and customs of the Islands and said places are reserved to our Royal cognisance and determination.":

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that provision should be made for the enforcement in the Island of Guernsey, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities conferred by the said Charter, of judgments given in countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in the Island, and for facilitating the enforcement in such countries of judgments given in the Island:

THE STATES, in pursuance of their Resolution of the twenty-first day of November, nineteen hundred and fifty-six, have approved the following provisions which, subject to the Sanction of Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council, shall have force of law in the Island of Guernsey.

PART I

Interpretation and saving

Interpretation.

1. (1) In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say –

"**appeal**" includes any proceeding by way of discharging or setting aside a judgment or an application for a new trial or a stay of execution,

"**the Bailiwick**" means the Bailiwick of Guernsey,

"**country of the original court**" means the country in which the original court is situated,

"**the Island**" means the Island of Guernsey,

"**judgment**" means a judgment or order given or made by a court in any civil proceedings, or a judgment or order given or made by a court in any criminal proceedings for the payment of a sum of money in respect of compensation or damages to an injured party,

"**judgment creditor**" means the person in whose favour the judgment was given and includes any person in whom the rights under the judgment have become vested by succession or assignment or otherwise,

"**judgment debtor**" means the person against whom the judgment was given, and includes any person against whom the judgment is

enforceable under the law of the original court,

"judgments given in the Royal Court" means judgments given in the Royal Court or in any Division thereof and includes judgments given in any court upon appeal against any judgments so given,

"original court" in relation to any judgment means the court by which the judgment was given,

"prescribe" means prescribed by rules of court made by the Royal Court sitting as a Full Court,

"registration" means registration under Part II of this Law, and the expressions **"register"** and **"registered"** shall be construed accordingly,

"Royal Court" means the Royal Court sitting as an Ordinary Court.

(2) For the purposes of this Law, the expression **"action in personam"** shall not be deemed to include any matrimonial cause or any proceedings in connection with any of the following matters, that is to say, matrimonial matters, administration of the estates of deceased persons, insolvency, winding up of companies, lunacy or guardianship of infants.

(3) For the purposes of this Law, a judgment given by Her Majesty in Council on any matter originating in the courts of the Island shall not be deemed to be a judgment given in a court of a country outside the Bailiwick, and nothing in this Law shall affect the procedure applicable to the registration in, and the enforcement by, the Royal Court of any such judgment.

(4) Except in so far as the context otherwise requires, any

reference in this Law to any other enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended, extended or applied by or under any other enactment, including this Law.

NOTES

The following cases have referred to this Law:

Fewtrell v. Fewtrell (1985) 1.GLJ.44;
Majormine Limited v. Lindmar Trust Company Ltd. (1997) 24.GLJ.78;
Vekaplast Windows (C.I.) Limited v. Mila Hardware and Machinery (U.K.) Limited (1987-88) 6.GLJ.176.
Lloyd's Bank PLC v. Bushby (1998) 26.GLJ.44;
Manches LLP v. Inter Global Financial Ltd (2009) (Unreported, Royal Court, 9th September) (Guernsey Judgment No 41/2009).

In accordance with the provisions of the Law Reform (Age of Majority and Guardianship of Minors) (Guernsey) Law, 1978, section 1(1), section 1(2) and section 3, with effect from 1st July, 1978 and subject to the saving provision in section 1(6) of the 1978 Law, the reference in this section to "infants" shall be construed as a reference to "minors", that is to say persons under the age of 18 years.

Saving.

2. Nothing in this Law shall enable a judgment creditor to register in the Island any judgment given by a court of any country outside the Bailiwick, whether within or without Her Majesty's dominions, in any thing, suit, matter or cause whatsoever arising within the Island save in a case where, by virtue of subsection (2) of section six of this Law, the courts of the country of the original court are deemed to have jurisdiction.

PART II

Registration of judgments given outside the Bailiwick

Power to extend Part II to countries giving reciprocal treatment.

3. (1) The States, if satisfied that, in the event of the benefits conferred by this Part of this Law being extended to judgments given in the superior courts of any country outside the Bailiwick, whether within or without Her Majesty's dominions, substantial reciprocity of treatment will be assured as respects the enforcement in that country of judgments given in the Royal Court, may by Ordinance direct –

- (a) that this Part of this Law shall extend to that country, and
- (b) that such courts of that country as are specified in the Ordinance shall be deemed superior courts of that country for the purposes of this Part of this Law.

(2) Any judgment of a superior court of a country to which this Part of this Law extends, other than a judgment of such a court given on appeal from a court which is not a superior court, shall be a judgment to which this Part of this Law applies, if –

- (a) it is final and conclusive as between the parties thereto, and
- (b) there is payable thereunder a sum of money, not being a sum payable in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty, and

- (c) it is given after the coming into operation of the Ordinance directing that this Part of this Law shall extend to that country.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a judgment shall be deemed to be final and conclusive notwithstanding that an appeal may be pending against it, or that it may still be subject to appeal, in the courts of the country of the original court.

(4) The States may by a subsequent Ordinance vary or revoke any Ordinance previously made under this section.

NOTES

In its application to any judgment given by a court in a State party to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992 to enforce a claim in respect of liability incurred under any provision corresponding to section 182 of the Merchant Shipping (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002, Part II of this Law is modified in accordance with the provisions of section 184(3) of the 2002 Law.

The following Ordinances have been made under section 3:

*Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance, 1973;
Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991;
Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Amendment) (No.2) Ordinance, 1991;
Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009.*

Application for, and effect of, registration of judgment.

4. (1) A person, being a judgment creditor under a judgment to which this Part of this Law applies, may apply to the Royal Court at any time

within six years after the date of the judgment, or, where there have been proceedings by way of appeal against the judgment, after the date of the last judgment given in those proceedings, to have the judgment registered in the Royal Court, and on any such application the Court shall, subject to proof of the prescribed matters and to the other provisions of this Law, order the judgment to be registered:

PROVIDED that a judgment shall not be registered if at the date of the application –

- (a) it has been wholly satisfied, or
- (b) it could not be enforced by execution in the country of the original court.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Law with respect to the setting aside of registration –

- (a) a registered judgment shall, for the purposes of execution, be of the same force and effect, and
- (b) proceedings may be taken on a registered judgment, and
- (c) the sum for which a judgment is registered shall carry interest, and
- (d) the Royal Court shall have the same control over the execution of a registered judgment,

as if the judgment had been a judgment originally given in the Royal Court and

entered on the date of registration:

PROVIDED that execution shall not issue on the judgment so long as, under this Part of this Law and the rules of court made thereunder, it is competent for any party to make an application to have the registration of the judgment set aside, or, where such an application is made, until after the application has been finally determined.

(3) ...

(4) If at the date of the application for registration the judgment of the original court has been partly satisfied, the judgment shall not be registered in respect of the whole sum payable under the judgment of the original court, but only in respect of the balance remaining payable at that date.

(5) If, on an application for the registration of a judgment, it appears to the Royal Court that the judgment is in respect of different matters and that some, but not all, of the provisions of the judgment are such that, if those provisions had been contained in separate judgments, those judgments could properly have been registered, the judgment may be registered in respect of the provisions aforesaid but not in respect of any other provisions contained therein.

(6) In addition to the sum of money payable under the judgment of the original court, including any interest which by the law of the country of the original court becomes due under the judgment up to the time of registration, the judgment shall be registered for the reasonable costs of and incidental to registration, including the costs of obtaining a certified copy of the judgment from the original court.

NOTES

In section 4, subsection (3) was repealed by the Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Amendment) (Guernsey) Law, 1994, section 1, with effect from 7th June, 1994, subject to the transitional provisions in section 2 of the 1994 Law.

In its application to the enforcement in any part of the Bailiwick of any determination by a relevant authority in a Contracting State (being a State party to the Multilateral Agreement relating to Route Charges signed at Brussels on 12th February 1981 at the Diplomatic Conference on the Protocol amending the Eurocontrol International Convention relating to Co-operation for the Safety of Air Navigation of 13th December 1960) as to whether or not any sum is due to Eurocontrol in respect of air navigation services provided by Eurocontrol or by some other person, which is enforceable by Eurocontrol, section 4 is prospectively modified in accordance with the provisions of the Aviation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008, section 26.

The following cases have referred to section 4:

Majormine Limited v. Lindmar Trust Company Ltd. (1997) 24.GLJ.78;

Vekaplast Windows (C.I.) Limited v. Mila Hardware and Machinery (U.K.) Limited (1987-88) 6.GLJ.176.

Rules of court.

5. (1) The power of the Royal Court, sitting as a Full Court, to make rules of court under Article sixty-four of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, and section twelve of the Royal Court of Guernsey (Miscellaneous Reform Provisions) Law, 1950, shall, subject to the provisions of this section, include power to make rules of court from time to time for the following purposes –

- (a) for making provision with respect to the giving of security for costs by persons applying for the registration of judgments,
- (b) for prescribing the matters to be proved on an application for the registration of a judgment and for

regulating the mode of proving those matters,

- (c) for providing for the service on the judgment debtor of notice of the registration of a judgment,
- (d) for making provision with respect to the fixing of the period within which an application may be made to have the registration of the judgment set aside and with respect to the extension of the period so fixed,
- (e) for prescribing the method by which any question arising under this Law whether a judgment can be enforced by execution in the country of the original court, or what interest is payable under a judgment under the law of the original court, is to be determined,
- (f) for prescribing any matter which under this Part of this Law is to be prescribed.

(2) Rules of court for the purposes of this Part of this Law shall be expressed to have, and shall have, effect subject to any such provisions contained in Ordinances made under section three of this Law as are declared by the said Ordinances to be necessary for giving effect to agreements made between Her Majesty and foreign countries in relation to matters with respect to which there is power to make rules of court for the purposes of this Part of this Law.

NOTES

In its application to the enforcement in any part of the Bailiwick of any

determination by a relevant authority in a Contracting State (being a State party to the Multilateral Agreement relating to Route Charges signed at Brussels on 12th February 1981 at the Diplomatic Conference on the Protocol amending the Eurocontrol International Convention relating to Co-operation for the Safety of Air Navigation of 13th December 1960) as to whether or not any sum is due to Eurocontrol in respect of air navigation services provided by Eurocontrol or by some other person, which is enforceable by Eurocontrol, subsection (1) of this section is prospectively modified in accordance with the provisions of the Aviation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008, section 26.

The following Rules have been made by Order of the Royal Court under section 5:

*Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Guernsey) Rules, 1972;
Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Amendment) (Guernsey)
Rules, 1975.*

Cases in which registered judgments must, or may, be set aside.

6. (1) On an application in that behalf duly made by any party against whom a registered judgment may be enforced, the registration of the judgment –

- (a) shall be set aside if the Royal Court is satisfied –
 - (i) that the judgment is not a judgment to which this Part of this Law applies or was registered in contravention of the foregoing provisions of this Law, or
 - (ii) that the courts of the country of the original court had no jurisdiction in the circumstances of the case, or
 - (iii) that the judgment debtor, being the defendant in the proceedings in the original court, did not

(notwithstanding that process may have been duly served on him in accordance with the law of the country of the original court) receive notice of those proceedings in sufficient time to enable him to defend the proceedings and did not appear, or

- (iv) that the judgment was obtained by fraud, or
 - (v) that the enforcement of the judgment would be contrary to public policy in Guernsey, or
 - (vi) that the rights under the judgment are not vested in the person by whom the application for registration was made,
- (b) may be set aside if the Royal Court is satisfied that the matter in dispute in the proceedings in the original court had previously to the date of the judgment in the original court been the subject of a final and conclusive judgment by a court having jurisdiction in the matter.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the courts of the country of the original court shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, be deemed to have had jurisdiction –

- (a) in the case of a judgment given in an action in personam –

- (i) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, submitted to the jurisdiction of that court by voluntarily appearing in the proceedings otherwise than for the purpose of protecting, or obtaining the release of, property seized, or threatened with seizure, in the proceedings, or of contesting the jurisdiction of that court, or
- (ii) if the judgment debtor was plaintiff in, or counter-claimed in, the proceedings in the original court, or
- (iii) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, had before the commencement of the proceedings agreed, in respect of the subject matter of the proceedings, to submit to the jurisdiction of that court or of the courts of the country of that court, or
- (iv) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, was at the time when the proceedings were instituted resident in, or being a body corporate had its principal place of business in, the country of that court, or
- (v) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, had an office or place of business in the country of that court and the proceedings in that court were in respect of a

transaction effected through or at that office or place,

- (b) in the case of a judgment given in an action of which the subject matter was immovable property or in an action in rem of which the subject matter was movable property, if the property in question was at the time of the proceedings in the original court situate in the country of that court,
- (c) in the case of a judgment given in an action other than any such action as is mentioned in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of this subsection, if the jurisdiction of the original court is recognised by the law of Guernsey.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (2) of this section, the courts of the country of the original court shall not be deemed to have had jurisdiction –

- (a) if the subject matter of the proceedings was immovable property outside the country of the original court, or
- (b) except in the cases mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (a) and in paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of this section, if the bringing of the proceedings in the original court was contrary to an agreement under which the dispute in question was to be settled otherwise than by proceedings in the courts

of the country of that court, or

- (c) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original proceedings, was a person who under the rules of public international law was entitled to immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts of the country of the original court and did not submit to the jurisdiction of that court.

NOTES

In its application to any judgment given by a court in a State party to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992 to enforce a claim in respect of liability incurred under any provision corresponding to section 182 of the Merchant Shipping (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002, section 6 is modified in accordance with the provisions of section 184(3) of the 2002 Law.

The following cases have referred to section 6:

Vekaplast Windows (C.I.) Limited v. Mila Hardware and Machinery (U.K.) Limited (1987-88) 6.GLJ.176;

Majormine Limited v. Lindmar Trust Company Ltd. (1997) 24.GLJ.78;

Lloyd's Bank PLC v. Bushby (1998) 26.GLJ.44.

Powers of Royal Court on application to set aside registration.

7. (1) If, on an application to set aside the registration of a judgment, the applicant satisfies the Royal Court either that an appeal is pending, or that he is entitled and intends to appeal, against the judgment, the Court, if it thinks fit, may, on such terms as it may think just, either set aside the registration or adjourn the application to set aside the registration until after the expiration of such period as appears to the Court to be reasonably sufficient to enable the applicant to take the necessary steps to have the appeal disposed of by the competent tribunal.

(2) Where the registration of a judgment is set aside under subsection (1) of this section, or solely for the reason that the judgment was not at the date of the application for registration enforceable by execution in the country of the original court, the setting aside of the registration shall not prejudice a further application to register the judgment when the appeal has been disposed of or if and when the judgment becomes enforceable by execution in that country, as the case may be.

(3) Where the registration of a judgment is set aside solely for the reason that the judgment, notwithstanding that it had at the date of the application for registration been partly satisfied, was registered for the whole sum payable thereunder, the Royal Court shall, on the application of the judgment creditor, order judgment to be registered for the balance remaining payable at that date.

NOTE

In its application to the enforcement in any part of the Bailiwick of any determination by a relevant authority in a Contracting State (being a State party to the Multilateral Agreement relating to Route Charges signed at Brussels on 12th February 1981 at the Diplomatic Conference on the Protocol amending the Eurocontrol International Convention relating to Co-operation for the Safety of Air Navigation of 13th December 1960) as to whether or not any sum is due to Eurocontrol in respect of air navigation services provided by Eurocontrol or by some other person, which is enforceable by Eurocontrol, subsection (1) and subsection (2) of this section are prospectively modified in accordance with the provisions of the Aviation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008, section 26.

Judgments which can be registered not to be enforceable otherwise.

8. No proceedings for the recovery of a sum payable under a judgment to which this Part of this Law applies, other than proceedings by way of registration of the judgment, shall be entertained by any court in the Island.

PART III

Miscellaneous and general

General effect of certain judgments.

9. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a judgment to which Part II of this Law applies or would have applied if a sum or money had been payable thereunder, whether it can be registered or not, and whether, if it can be registered, it is registered or not, shall be recognised in any court in the Island as conclusive between the parties thereto in all proceedings founded on the same cause of action and may be relied on by way of defence or counterclaim in any such proceedings.

(2) This section shall not apply in the case of any judgment –

(a) where the judgment has been registered and the registration thereof has been set aside on some ground other than –

(i) that a sum of money was not payable under the judgment, or

(ii) that the judgment had been wholly or partly satisfied, or

(iii) that at the date of the application the judgment could not be enforced by execution in the country of the original court, or

- (b) where the judgment has not been registered and it is shown (whether the judgment could have been registered or not) that if it had been registered the registration thereof would have been set aside on an application for that purpose on some ground other than one of the grounds specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be taken to prevent any court in the Island recognising any judgment as conclusive of any matter of law or fact decided therein if that judgment would have been so recognised before the commencement of this Law.

Power to make judgments unenforceable if no reciprocity.

10. (1) If it appears to the States that the treatment in respect of recognition and enforcement accorded by the courts of any country outside the Bailiwick to judgments given in the Royal Court is substantially less favourable than that accorded by the courts of the Island to judgments of the superior courts of that country, the States may by Ordinance apply this section to that country.

(2) Except in so far as the States may by Ordinance under this section otherwise direct, no proceedings shall be entertained in any court in the Island for the recovery of any sum alleged to be payable under a judgment given in a court of a country to which this section applies.

(3) The States may by a subsequent Ordinance vary or revoke any Ordinance previously made under this section.

Issue of certificates of judgments obtained in the Island.

11. Where a judgment under which a sum of money is payable, not being

a sum payable in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty, has been entered in the Royal Court or in any Division thereof against any person and the judgment creditor is desirous of enforcing the judgment in a country to which Part II of this Law applies, the Bailiff shall, on an application made by the judgment creditor and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed, direct the issue by Her Majesty's Greffier to the judgment creditor of a certified copy of the judgment, together with a certificate containing such particulars with respect to the action, including the causes of action, and the rate of interest, if any, payable on the sum payable under the judgment, as may be prescribed:

PROVIDED that, where execution of a judgment is stayed for any period pending an appeal or for any other reason, an application shall not be made under this section with respect to the judgment until the expiration of that period.

NOTE

In accordance with the provisions of the Deputy Bailiff (Guernsey) Law, 1969, section 5(4), with effect from 9th September, 1969, in the event of the Deputy Bailiff discharging any functions or exercising any powers appertaining to the office of Bailiff which he is authorised to discharge or exercise under or by virtue of the 1969 Law, the provisions contained herein relating to the discharge of such functions or the exercise of such powers shall have effect as if the reference herein to the Bailiff included a reference to the Deputy Bailiff.

Citation.

12. This Law may be cited as the Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Guernsey) Law, 1957.

NOTE

The Law received Royal Sanction on 15th March, 1957 and was registered on the Records of the Island of Guernsey and came into force on 6th April,

1957.
