

28th September 2021 – Change-over day for legislation on jerseylaw.je

Legislative Drafting Office, States of Jersey 22/9/2021

On Tuesday 28th September 2021 the legislation pages on jerseylaw.je (Jersey Legal Information Board's website) will be replaced to offer improved search facilities and to reflect the coming into force of the [Legislation \(Jersey\) Law 2021](#).

The change-over has been planned to coincide with the Corn Riots Festival and bank holiday, as part of the anniversary year of Jersey's 1771 Code of Laws. That will also mean changes to the website can be made and tested over the bank holiday weekend with minimal disruption to users.

Here is a snapshot of the evolving new Laws page. It will probably change some more by **28th September** –

The screenshot shows the new website interface. At the top is the Jersey Legal Information Board logo and navigation menu. Below the navigation menu, there are tabs for 'Current', 'As Enacted', 'Pending', and 'Non-current'. A search bar is present with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for 'Title / reference / chapter' (selected) and 'Content'. On the left, there are filters for 'View Type' (Search, Browse), 'Sort by' (Title (A - Z)), and 'Subject' (Animals, Aviation, Banking). The main content area shows a list of laws with columns for 'Title' and 'Showing 1 - 20 out of 1,418'.

Title
Administration of Justice (Interim Payments and Provisional Damages) (Jersey) Law 1993
Administrative Decisions (Review) (Jersey) Law 1982
Adoption (Jersey) Law 1961
Adoption Rules 1962
Advocates (Specified Examinations and Assessments) Rules 2013
Advocates and Solicitors (Jersey) Law 1997
Advocates and Solicitors (Qualifying Examination) Rules 1997
Aerodromes (Administration) (Jersey) Law 1952
Aerodromes (Jersey) Regulations 1965
Affidavits (Advocates and Solicitors) (Jersey) Law 1992
Affiliation Proceedings (Prescription) (Jersey) Law 1999
Age of Majority (Jersey) Law 1999

Here for contrast are 2 of the old pages from **before** 28th September –

The screenshot shows the old website interface. It features a navigation menu and a search bar. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Current', 'As Enacted', 'Pending', 'Revised A-Z', 'Revised Chapters', 'Non-current', and 'Superseded'. A search bar is present with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for 'Any' and 'A-Z'. The main content area shows a list of laws with columns for 'Chapter No.' and 'Title'.

Chapter No.	Title
07.025	Access to Justice (Jersey) Law 2019
07.025.40	Access to Justice (Legal Aid Guidelines) (Jersey) Order 2021
07.025	Administration of Justice (Interim Payments and Provisional Damages) (Jersey) Law 1993
16.025	Administrative Decisions (Review) (Jersey) Law 1982
12.050	Adoption (Jersey) Law 1961
12.050.50	Adoption Rules 1962
12.050.50	Advocates (Specified Examinations and Assessments) Rules 2013

The screenshot shows the old website interface for the Revised Edition - Chapters. It features a navigation menu and a search bar. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Current', 'As Enacted', 'Pending', 'Revised A-Z', 'Revised Chapters', 'Non-current', and 'Superseded'. A search bar is present with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for 'Any' and 'A-Z'. The main content area shows a list of laws with columns for 'Chapter No.' and 'Title'.

Chapter No.	Title
01.080	Agricultural Land (Control of Sales and Leases) (Jersey) Law 1974
01.080.50	Agricultural Land (Control of Sales and Leases) (Exempted Transactions) (Jersey) Regulations
01.160	Agricultural Marketing (Jersey) Law 1953
01.160.14	Export of Agricultural Produce (Jersey) Order 1972
01.160.21	Export of Flowers (Jersey) Order 1972
01.160.28	Jersey Potato Export Marketing (Polls) (Jersey) Order 2002
01.160.35	Jersey Potato Export Marketing (Registration of Producers) (Jersey) Order 2001
01.160.42	Jersey Potato Export Marketing Scheme 2001 (Approval) (Jersey) Act 2001
01.160.70	Milk Marketing (Polls) (Jersey) Order 1954
01.160.77	Milk Marketing (Registration of Producers) (Jersey) Order 1954
01.160.84	Milk Marketing Scheme (Approval) (Jersey) Act 1954
01.160.91	Potatoes (Precautions against Blight) (Jersey) Order 1961
01.240	Agricultural Returns (Jersey) Law 1947

Users familiar with how jerseylaw.je has worked till now will notice some changes.

Improvements to searching

- **Title search** – The general search box on the new page allows users to choose whether they are searching for a word in the **title** of the enactment or anywhere in its body. Before 28th September a user could search by title for “banking”, but only if they knew to enter “title:banking” in the search box. With the new page the user just clicks between “title” and “content” under the search box to choose which way to search.
- **Subjects v chapters** – The move away from the Revised Editions means replacing their chapter system with a system of **subject tagging** in which an enactment can have more than one subject. Under the Revised Editions the fixed chapter system gave some problems, where enactments ended up in chapters which intuitively did not seem right. For instance some agriculture legislation and some financial services legislation (particularly on alternative investment funds) appeared in the “International” chapter instead of the more obvious “Agriculture” or “Financial Services” chapters. The subject tagging means that in the new site each item of legislation is tagged for each of the subjects that are appropriate to it, so it can be found more readily and browsing the subject gives a fuller picture of the relevant legislation.
- **“Parent-child”** – It is often useful to see a Law (the “parent”) together with the Regulations and Orders made under that Law (its “children”). The Revised Edition pages used to display these “parent-child” relationships by showing subsidiary legislation indented beneath its parent Law. After 28th September 2021 a user can switch to a view (probably called “Browse”) in which the Current versions of Laws offer drop-down lists of their “children”. We are still working with JLIB on improving how we display these relationships, but we think this view will be a useful addition to the Current versions in the meantime.

Official status for Consolidated versions – Revised Editions kept as historical only

Since 2019 the Legislative Drafting Office has been continually producing updated unofficial “**Consolidated**” versions of legislation, to show all new amendments as soon as they come into force (even during the Covid-19 epidemic). The main effect of the Legislation (Jersey) Law 2021 is to make the Consolidated versions official. Previously only the **Revised Editions** had that status.

- For some time we have been encouraging users of the website to update any **links** or **bookmarks** they have to the Revised Edition versions, which have not been updated since 1/1/19, in favour of linking to the **Current** Consolidated versions which are updated within a day or so of every amendment. On jerseylaw.je the “Current” tab had already been made the default when users go to the [legislation](#) page, with the Revised Edition tabs moved further to the right.
- In the new page the old **tabs** for “Revised Edition A-Z”, “Revised Edition Chapters” and “Superseded” are all merged into the “Non-current” tab, with all the old Revised Edition versions still searchable under that tab. Effectively the Revised Editions from 1/1/19 are being treated as joining the former “Superseded” set (of previous Revised Editions), where specialist users can still find them without distracting users who want to see the current law.
- The old Revised Editions will remain on jerseylaw.je as an aid for lawyers and other specialist users who need to find the state of the legislation at a given **past** date. We will continue working with JLIB on providing a full “point in time” facility to enter any past date and be given the legislation as in force at that date (such as the date on which an offence was committed, which is now being prosecuted).
- A **warning** already pops up when a user clicks on a Revised Edition version of legislation. It lets the user choose whether to carry on (knowing that they are looking at a historic version), or click to move to the current version instead. That will remain after 28th September, and we will look into other changes to make clear that the Revised Editions are only for specialist users looking for historical material.
- Before 28th September the legislation page for the current versions has a large **disclaimer** about “unofficial” status at the top, which will be removed on 28 September because the current versions become official. Each consolidated version will have “unofficial” changed to “official” on its cover page, and we will add a reference to the range of dates that it covers (up to “today” while it is current).
- The **web addresses** of the “current” pages will change (to remove “unofficial”), but JLIB and their IT contractors are confident that there will be a working **redirect** to ensure that existing links and bookmarks continue to work smoothly without users noticing. At a later point we plan to move away from identifying enactments by the Revised Edition chapter numbers, and that will mean changing the web addresses again. The search results no longer show the chapter numbers down the left side of the results table, because the chapter numbers do not add anything now.

The translated versions, annotated versions and so on will still be on the site – in the test model they are accessed via the “In this section” and “See also” buttons on this snapshot, but that may change.

Please let us and JLIB know if you find any problems.