



Annual Report 2002/03

Summary

Law Commission
Report Law Com No 280 (Summary)
22 August 2003

Highlights

A new Chairman was appointed to the Law Commission. The Hon Mr Justice Toulson joined us in July 2002, succeeding the Rt Hon Lord Justice Carnwath, who had been Chairman since February 1999.

We issued 16 publications, including:

2 reports, recommending reforms to the law on fraud offences and the effective prosecution of multiple offending

10 consultation documents:

- ◆ renting homes (2 papers)
- ◆ land, valuation and housing tribunals
- ◆ compulsory purchase (2 papers)
- ◆ unfair terms in contracts
- ◆ registration of security interests
- ◆ trustee exemption clauses
- ◆ publication of local authority reports
- ◆ compound interest

We also issued:

- ◆ a discussion paper on sharing homes
- ◆ 2 scoping papers on defamation (procedure and the Internet)

Current Major Law Reform Projects

Those with a * are new projects that were undertaken during the period covered by the Annual Report.

Housing Law	Partnership Law
Partial Defences to Murder	Unfair Terms in Contracts
Registration of Security Interests*	Non-accidental Death or Serious Injury to Children*
Land, Valuation and Housing Tribunals*	Trustee Exemption Clauses
Codification of Criminal Law	Compulsory Purchase*

Public Benefit

The Commission believes that the main focus of its work should continue to be on delivering proposals for law reform that will result in public benefit.

This is reflected in the projects we undertake.

For example,

- Renting homes
- Non-accidental death or serious injury to children
- Partnership law
- Unfair contract terms
- Land registration

We are pleased that the Government has proposed specific legislation in the field of mental incapacity. Our own report and draft Bill were published in 1995.

Other areas where the Government has introduced draft legislation, on areas where we had previously reported (dates shown), are:

- Corruption offences (1998)
- Business tenancies (1992)

The Government is also looking again at the legislation on offences against the person, some of which dates back to 1861. It was 10 years ago that we published our report and draft Bill on this important subject.

[For an Outline of the Annual Report – please turn over]

In Outline

Foreword by the Chairman

Part 1 – A summary of the main events during the period.

Part II sets out the main features of the year. It includes a progress report on the targets that were set for the year 2002, and details of new targets for 2003/04.

Part III concentrates on the implementation record of previous Law Commission reports. It gives a convenient summary of any progress by the Government on those reports during the year.

Parts IV – VIII give the usual descriptions of the work of the law reform and statute law teams during the year.

Part IX contains a description of the Commission's outside contacts during the year, research and seminars, and a description of our publishing policy.

Part X covers its staff and other resources.

Appendix A summarises the Commission's role and methods. This is particularly useful for those unfamiliar with the Commission.

Appendix B lists the main Law Commission reports which have been implemented since 1985.

Appendix C lists the 30 reports that await further action by the Government. Of these, 17 have already been accepted by the Government, in full or in part, and are awaiting the availability of Parliamentary time for the necessary legislation.

Appendix D gives a list of visitors to the Commission from overseas.

Appendix E gives a list of contact points at the Commission.

Appendix F shows the cost of the Commission.

The Annual Report (LC280) is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk>.