



Law Commission welcomes new bribery laws

The Law Commission welcomes the Justice Secretary's announcement of the introduction of a draft Bribery Bill today. This Bill is aimed at simplifying current legislation and enhancing the legal powers to tackle this issue.

In March 2007, the Government asked the Commission to consider the options for reform of Bribery Law. The Commission published detailed recommendations for reform in November 2008. The full report and supporting information, including a press release and summary of the report, is available at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/bribery.htm>.

Professor Jeremy Horder, the Commissioner leading the project, said:

"We are pleased that our report has made an important contribution to the thinking behind the Government's approach to the reform of bribery law. As the Justice Secretary has indicated, the absence of clear, modern bribery legislation has been hampering efforts to deter and punish bribery both nationally and internationally. We very much hope that the new Bill will change that, and give prosecutors the powers they need to clamp down on corrupt practices, without impinging on the ability of businesses to compete effectively in overseas markets."

More details on the Government's announcement can be found on the Ministry of Justice website

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease250309a.htm>

Notes for Editors

1. The Law Commission is a non-political independent body, set up by Parliament in 1965 to keep all the law of England and Wales under review, and to recommend reform where it is needed.
2. For further details on this project, and to download the *Reforming Bribery* report, visit <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/bribery.htm>.
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