



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reform of the Law of Homicide

On 29 November we launched our report "Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide" at a press briefing held at Conquest House. There has been extensive media coverage of our recommendations, and Professor Horder has given several interviews, including appearances on Radio 5 Live and Radio 4's "Woman's Hour". The report is available on our website at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/docs/lc304.doc>.

Termination of Tenancies for Tenant Default

On 31 October we published our report with recommendations and a draft Bill. This report finalised the provisional proposals that we previously put out for public consultation in 2004. The report is available on our website at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/docs/lc303.pdf>.

Post-legislative scrutiny

Earlier in the same month, on 25 October, we held a launch event in the House of Lords to coincide with the publication of the report containing our recommendations. This event was chaired by our new Chairman, and was addressed by the Leader of the House of Lords and the deputy Leader of the House of Commons. The report is available on our website at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/docs/lc302.pdf>.

Remedies against Public Bodies

Also in October, on the 10th, we published a scoping report. This project is concerned with remedies against public bodies both in public law and in tort. The scoping paper sets out the basis on which we will proceed with the substantive project. We expect to publish a consultation paper in autumn 2007.

The scoping report is available on our website at http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/docs/remedies_scoping_report.pdf.

Tenth Programme of Law Reform

In January 2007 we plan to begin our consultation on the content of our next programme.

PROJECTS UPDATE

On our website <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk>, the "What's New" section and the "A-Z of Projects" will keep you-up-to-date on all the latest developments.

Assisting and Encouraging Crime

We published a short report in July 2006 covering inchoate liability for encouraging or assisting the commission of an offence. We hope to publish our recommendations for reform of secondary liability in January 2007.

Judicial Review of Decisions of the Crown Court Service

We distributed a discussion paper in July 2005. In this we invited comments on a number of issues relevant to resolving the problems experienced in interpreting the exclusionary words "relating to trial on indictment" in the Supreme Court Act 1981, section 29(3). We hope to publish a consultation paper, also in March/April 2007.

Codification of the Criminal Law

We are revisiting Part 1 of the draft Criminal Code that we published in 1989. In the first half of 2007, we hope to publish consultation papers on 3 topics.

- intoxication
- attempt
- conspiracy.

Cohabitation

We published a consultation paper and overview in May 2006. We are currently analysing the large number of responses we have received. We plan to publish a report with our recommendations in Summer 2007. There has been extensive media coverage of this project, and Stuart Bridge has given several interviews, both to the press and on TV, some of which have yet to be broadcast.

Housing Dispute Resolution

We published an issues paper in April 2006, setting out the values which should underpin a proportionate dispute resolution system in housing and which the current system lacks. We are currently considering the best way to take the project forward in the light of the responses.

Easements and Land Obligations

Work continues on our examination of easements and covenants. We have now made significant progress in our initial consideration of this difficult and extensive area of the law. We expect to publish a consultation paper during the course of 2007.

Insurance Contract Law

Insurance contract law has been criticised as outdated and unduly harsh to policyholders. Where the law gives rise to problems, consumers and small businesses can refer disputes to the Financial Ombudsman Service. In our view, this should not be regarded as a substitute for law reform, and in any case medium and large businesses do not have recourse to the Ombudsman.

In September and November 2006 we published 2 Issues papers, on "Misrepresentation and Non-Disclosure" and "Warranties" respectively.

We hope to publish a consultation paper, jointly with the Scottish Law Commission, in Summer 2007.

The issues papers and further information are available on our website at http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/insurance_contract.htm

Indirectly Held Investment Securities

We published three seminar papers during Summer 2006, each followed by a public seminar to discuss a variety of legal and policy issues affecting the ownership, transfer and pledge of indirectly held investment securities.

The project is currently focused upon a review of the UNIDROIT Convention on Intermediated Securities. The Convention potentially offers an attractive solution to removing some of the major legal obstacles to cross-border settlement of securities within the EU.

In October 2006 we published our interim advice to HM Treasury on the draft Convention.

Geoff Davies, the lawyer leading the Law Commission project, attended the drafting sessions of the UNIDROIT Committee of Governmental Experts in March and November as a member of the UK delegation.

We aim to publish a final advice on the UNIDROIT Convention in the first half of 2007.

The seminar papers, the advice to HM Treasury and other background material are available on our website at http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/investment_securities.htm.

Ensuring Responsible Renting

This project will take a broad approach to the question of how the private rented sector can be appropriately regulated, with the aim of ensuring that landlords and tenants adhere to their obligations. We held a stimulating seminar in March 2006, at which we sought to apply the academic learning on regulation to this particular market. We hope to publish a consultation paper in 2007.

Statute Law Reform

During 2006 we completed consultations on repeals relating to the police, armed forces, county gaols, the former East India Company, turnpikes and tax and duties. We are currently reviewing Acts relating to London and to overseas territories and may be in a position to consult on these early in 2007.

Consolidation

The following consolidation and associated Acts were passed in the last session of Parliament –

- National Health Service Act 2006
- National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006
- National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006
- Parliamentary Costs Act 2006
- Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

We are working on consolidations of the law relating to charities, private pensions and the Health Service Commissioner for England.

We welcome comments and suggestions on this newsletter. You can contact us at communications@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk.

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