



A New Era for Law Reform

The Law Commission today reveals its plan for the future with the publication of its Annual Report.

Sir Terence Etherton, Chairman of the Law Commission, said

“This year has marked the most significant development in the relationship between the Commission and Government since the Commission’s inception in 1965. We wanted to celebrate it by announcing what we have achieved in the last year and what we will strive to achieve in our next Programme of law reform, simultaneously.

In March 2008, the Lord Chancellor announced his intention to strengthen the constitutional role of the Law Commission and provide statutory backing to the arrangements underpinning the way Government works with the Commission. In April 2008, the House of Lords approved a new procedure for uncontroversial Law Commission Bills. These changes provide the most encouraging environment for successful law reform for many years.

We are embarking on many new and complex projects in our Tenth Programme and there has never been a better time to embrace these challenges.”

This year has seen the publication of 7 consultation papers and 2 law reform reports. It has also seen the acceptance of the proposals on post legislative scrutiny, and the implementation of recommendations relating to corporate killing, assisting and encouraging crime, and distress for rent.

The Commission will now embark on its Tenth Programme of Law Reform, which includes a diverse range of new projects as well as some carried over from the Ninth Programme. The programme is the result of over a year of wide and intense consultation, including an online deliberative web forum where the public could debate law reform with the Commission.

The programme will deliver a package of proposals with the potential to have a huge impact on society, including subjects such as adult social care, marital property agreements, level crossings, and simplification of the criminal law.

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. The Annual Report can be found at http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/ann_reports.htm.
3. Full details of the Tenth Programme can be found at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/programmes.htm>.
4. For more information on the Lord Chancellor’s statement go to the Ministry of Justice website at <http://www.justice.gov.uk>.
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