



Conquest House 37-38 John Street Theobalds Road, London, WC1N 2BQ 140 Causewayside Edinburgh EH9 1PR

Press Release – Embargoed until 0001hours on 22 July 2008

Statute Book Cleared of Clutter

The 18th Statute Law (Repeals) Act, drafted by the Law Commission of England and Wales and the Scottish Law Commission and presented to Parliament on 27 February 2008, received Royal Assent yesterday.

The Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2008 repeals 260 whole Acts and part repeals 68 other Acts. The Act covers a diverse range of subjects, from turnpikes to workhouses, from county gaols and tax to an old channel tunnel initiative. The earliest repeal is from 1695 (London to Harwich Roads Act) and the latest is part of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. A more detailed list is attached.

The Commissions are committed to a rigorous research and consultation process. All those potentially affected by the repeal of the provisions contained in the Act were given the opportunity to contribute views.

For further details on the Commissions' Statute Law Repeals work go to http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/statute.htm and http://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/html/cpslr.htm.

Notes for Editors

- 1. The Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission are non-political independent bodies, set up by Parliament in 1965 to keep all the law of England and Wales and Scotland under review, and to recommend reform where it is needed.
- 2. There have been 17 Statute Law (Repeals) Acts since the Commissions were established, repealing nearly 5000 statutory provisions and more than 2000 whole Acts.

3.	For all press queries please contact:		
	Correna Callender, Head of Communications		020 7453 1273
	or Dan Leighton		020 7453 1235
	e-mail:	ail: <u>communications@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk</u>	

LIST OF REPEALS

- Repeal of obsolete laws relating to London workhouses including the workhouse at Wapping mentioned by Charles Dickens in The Uncommercial Traveller
- Proposals on criminal law repeals including an Act of 1819 passed following the Peterloo Massacre of that year when 11 people were killed in Manchester
- Repeal of obsolete laws on the police including a law of 1839 requiring street musicians to leave the area if required to do so by irritated householders
- Repeal of 40 Acts dating from 1700 for building local prisons across 19 counties in England and Wales
- Repeal of 12 obsolete Acts relating to the former East India Company
- Repeal of obsolete laws on turnpikes dating back to a time when roads were maintained locally, with travellers having to pay a toll to cross a turnpike

For further details see http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/statute.htm