

Autumn 2018

e-bulletin

Keeping you up to date with Scottish Law Commission news and consultations

Our current work

Our current law reform projects are set out below. These include joint law reform projects with the Law Commission for England and Wales. For further information on any particular project, click on the link.

Scottish Law Commission only projects

- [Heritable securities](#)
- [Aspects of the law of leases](#)
- [Homicide](#)
- [Aspects of family law](#)
- [Damages for personal injury](#)
- [Section 53 of the Title Conditions \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#)

Joint projects with the Law Commission for England and Wales:

- [Insurance law](#)
- [Surrogacy](#)
- [Automated vehicles](#)

Statute law

- [Consolidation of statutes](#)
- [Statute law repeals](#)

News

New Commissioner

In July the Minister for Community Safety appointed Kate Dowdalls QC as a Commissioner to lead law reform projects in the area of family law. The family law team is currently considering what the specific project or projects and their scope will be, and hopes to finalise the scoping exercise early next year.



Kate Dowdalls QC

Current consultation

Automated vehicles

The Commission and the Law Commission for England and Wales published a preliminary consultation paper on 8 November. The paper is on the automated vehicles project page [here](#). We seek views on a wide range of issues, by 8 February 2019.

The team attended the CAV (Connected and Autonomous Vehicles) Scotland Event at the end of October, organised by Transport Scotland.



The team's legal assistant, Alison Hetherington, tries out a self-driving pod

Recent publications

Discussion Paper on Aspects of Leases: Termination

The Discussion Paper was published in May. The consultation period closed in September. The Commission is analysing the responses in order to prepare recommendations and a draft Bill.

Discussion Paper on Section 53 of the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003

In May the Commission published the Discussion Paper. The consultation closed at the end of August. The Commission is analysing the responses with a view to framing recommendations and preparing a draft Bill. The Bill will be issued for consultation early in 2019.

Insurable Interest Bill

The extended consultation period on a working draft of a Bill on insurable interest finished at the end of October. In this joint project, the Commission and the Law Commission for England and Wales will now consider all of the comments offered and, in light of those comments, decide on the most appropriate next steps.

Collaboration on law reform with Scottish Law Schools

Heritable securities project

In August the Commission published a research paper on enforcement of heritable securities by Dr John MacLeod, formerly of the University of Glasgow and now at the University of Edinburgh. The research paper is on the heritable securities project page [here](#).

Homicide law project

In September Dr Claire McDiarmid of the Strathclyde Law School joined the Commission's homicide law project team for 4 months, to develop a discussion paper on the mental element of homicide.



*Dr Claire McDiarmid
at the seminar on homicide law*

A seminar on homicide law was held in Glasgow on 5 October in conjunction with the Universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow. For further information see the homicide project page [here](#).



Group attending seminar on homicide law

Further information

Further information about the Commission and our law reform work can be found on our website at <https://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/>. The website has full text versions of all of our reports and discussion papers.

Follow us on Twitter for regular updates and information: [@scotlawcom](https://twitter.com/scotlawcom).

To see videos about the Commission and our work: click [here](#).

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