

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION
NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST
BEFORE 0001 HOURS THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2015

SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Scottish Law Commission's Annual Report 2014 is published today.

The Report outlines progress on the Commission's law reform work during 2014 and looks ahead to events during 2015 to mark the fiftieth year since the Commission was set up

Marking the end of his first year as Chairman of the Commission, Lord Pentland notes that the increasing complexity and diversity of life in Scotland means that it is more important than ever to ensure that the law is kept up to date. He stated –

“Throughout 2014 all of us at the Scottish Law Commission have been focused on our core task of improving, simplifying and modernising the law of Scotland. That is our role as an independent law reform agency. We examine the law and recommend changes to it from a neutral standpoint – independently of the Government, the Scottish Parliament and any other public authority, organisation or individual.”

Lord Pentland praises the new procedure introduced in the Scottish Parliament for the implementation of Commission reports, welcoming it as a “great step forward”. The procedure, with a revised remit for the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, is being used for the first time for the Legal Writings (Counterparts and Delivery) (Scotland) Bill.

The Chairman records thanks to two Commissioners who demitted office at the end of 2014: Patrick Layden QC TD and Laura Dunlop QC, and welcomes their successors as Law Commissioners, David Johnston QC and Caroline Drummond, Solicitor.

Publications in 2014

- The Commission published two Reports, on Trust Law, and on Adults with Incapacity, and two Discussion Papers on Third Party Rights in Contract and on Compulsory Purchase.
- With the Law Commission for England and Wales, the Commission published a joint Report on Insurance Contract Law.
- With the Law Commission for England and Wales and the Northern Ireland Law Commission, the Commission published a joint Report on Regulation of Healthcare Professionals and a joint Consultation Paper on Electoral Law.

Progress on law reform projects in 2014

The Report outlines the progress made by the Commission in 2014 on projects under its Eighth Programme of Law Reform. The Programme ended on 31 December. Most of the projects which have not been completed will be carried forward into the Commission's Ninth Programme, covering the next three years up to the end of 2017.

The Report also records progress on joint projects with the Law Commissions for England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

Publications 2015

The Commission is aiming to publish Reports on two of the projects which will be carried forward into the Ninth Programme - Moveable Transactions, and Third Party Rights in Contract.

In the first half of the year we also expect to publish our Twentieth joint Report with the Law Commission on Statute Law Repeals.

Later in the year we expect to publish substantive recommendations on the joint project on electoral law.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Scottish Law Commission was set up in 1965 to promote the reform of the law of Scotland. The Chairman of the Commission is the Hon Lord Pentland. The other Commissioners are Caroline Drummond, David Johnston QC, Professor Hector L MacQueen, and Dr Andrew J M Steven. The Chief Executive is Malcolm McMillan.
2. Further information can be obtained by contacting Malcolm McMillan, Scottish Law Commission, 140 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR (Tel: 0131 668 2131, Fax: 0131 662 4900, email: info@scotlawcom.gsi.gov.uk).
3. The paper may also be viewed on our website at <http://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/> or purchased from TSO (<http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/>).