

1 March 2012



Your ref:
Our ref: L/2/9/1A

Dear Consultee

**LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION PAPER NO 202
SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION DISCUSSION PAPER NO 153
NORTHERN IRELAND LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION PAPER NILC 12 (2012)**

**REGULATION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
REGULATION OF SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS IN ENGLAND**

We invite comment on the abovementioned joint Consultation Paper which has been published today, together with a news release and separate summary. These documents and further details are available on our website.

Currently, with the Law Commission for England and Wales and the Northern Ireland Law Commission, we are examining the regulation of health care professionals in the UK and social care professionals in England.

In the consultation paper the Law Commissions of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are seeking views on how the regulation of health care professionals in the UK and social workers in England can be made clearer, simpler, more modern and more consistent. The Commissions set out provisional proposals for the structure of a new legal framework across the UK and seek views on how a new framework would (i) give the regulators increased flexibility in the use of their powers while ensuring their public accountability (ii) enable the regulators to ensure proper standards of professional education, conduct and practice, and establish and maintain a register of professionals, and (iii) have at its heart a duty on the regulators to protect the public.

Consultation is critical in all our law reform projects to ensure that the final recommendations contained in our report would, if implemented, result in law which is just, principled, responsive and easy to understand. We would therefore be grateful to receive your views on any or all of the proposals in this Paper; they will be fully considered and analysed in the course of reaching our final conclusions. Even if you agree with our proposals but do not wish to make any further comments, a brief note to that effect would also be most helpful as an indication that our proposals are on the right lines.

As the Law Commission for England and Wales is co-ordinating the submission of responses, please send your comments to that Commission at the address shown at the front of the paper.



Where possible, we would prefer the electronic submission of comments. Please note that the consultation process for this project will conclude on **31 May 2012**; accordingly, we would be grateful if comments were submitted by then.

PLEASE NOTE THAT information about this Consultation Paper, including copies of responses, may be made available in terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Any confidential response will be dealt with in accordance with these Acts and as stated at the front of the Consultation Paper. We may also attribute comments and publish a list of respondents' names.

Finally, should you wish to offer any comments on the way in which we conduct our consultation exercises, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Yours faithfully

MALCOLM MCMILLAN
Chief Executive