

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION
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BEFORE 1000 HOURS FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2010

SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION ANNOUNCES EIGHTH PROGRAMME OF LAW REFORM

The Scottish Law Commission has today published its Eighth Programme of Law Reform which will form the main basis for its work over the next five years. The programme has been approved by Scottish Ministers and laid before the Scottish Parliament.

The programme was prepared following extensive consultation with the legal profession and other interested bodies. The Commission also sought views from the public about areas of the law in need of reform. Two of the new projects reflect suggestions made by consultees, and the scope of two projects being carried forward has also been changed significantly following comments by consultees.

The Eighth Programme incorporates ongoing work from the previous programme as well as identifying new projects to be undertaken. It comprises a mix of short, medium and long term projects on which the Commission will work from the beginning of 2010 to the end of 2014.

Items in the Eighth Programme

Four projects are carried forward from the previous programme:-

- Security over corporeal and incorporeal moveable property; assignation of incorporeal moveable property
- Trusts
- Judicial factors
- Homicide.

In addition six new projects are identified:-

- Criminal liability of partnerships
- Law of contract in light of the Draft Common Frame of Reference
- Adults with incapacity
- Compulsory purchase
- Heritable securities
- Prescription and corporeal moveable property.

The Commission's Chairman, Lord Drummond Young, said: "We are very grateful to all those who took part in our consultation exercise by commenting on our proposals or suggesting other topics for reform. Their views have helped to shape our plans for the next five years. Our new Programme includes a significant element of commercial law. We hope that our projects in this area will help to achieve a modern and efficient system of commercial law for Scotland, which is very important in promoting the development of the economy."

The Commission's other law reform work

In addition to its work under the Programme the Commission will continue to deal with requests for advice received from the Scottish Government and government departments.

One topic currently referred to the Commission by Scottish Ministers is similar fact evidence and the *Moorov* doctrine.

There is also an ongoing need for the Commission to respond to work being carried out by the Law Commission for England and Wales. From time to time this may involve the two Commissions undertaking a joint examination of a particular topic.

Current joint projects include -

- Insurance law
- Level crossings.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Scottish Law Commission was set up in 1965 to promote the reform of the law of Scotland. The Chairman is the Hon Lord Drummond Young, a Court of Session judge. The other Commissioners are Laura J Dunlop QC, Professor George L Gretton, Patrick Layden QC TD, and Professor Hector L MacQueen. 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.gov.uk).

3. The paper may also be viewed on our website at www.scotlawcom.gov.uk or purchased from TSO (www.tsoshop.co.uk).