

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION

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FIRST MINISTER CONGRATULATES THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION
ON 50 YEARS OF LAW REFORM

The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, visited the Scottish Law Commission at its offices in Edinburgh today to mark the Commission's 50th Anniversary in 2015.

The Commission was established in 1965 and has promoted the reform of many areas of Scots Law for half a century. Land law and family law are just two areas that have been transformed due to the Commission's work.

The Commission examines the law and recommends reforms so that the law is kept up to date and continues to meet the needs and expectations of contemporary society. The Commission's proposals are based on wide consultation and careful analysis.

The First Minister said:

"To be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Scottish Law Commission is a real tribute to those men and women who have worked tirelessly to promote Scots Law over the years. The Scottish Law Commission has an excellent record of providing Government with independent advice on the reforms that are needed to improve and update the laws of Scotland to ensure that they reflect the evolving needs of our society. I congratulate the Chair, Commissioners and staff on this important anniversary."

The Chairman of the Commission, Lord Pentland, said:

"It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome the First Minister to the Scottish Law Commission today. The visit signifies the important contribution the Commission has made over the past half century to reforming Scots Law. It also reflects the key relationships that the Commission has with Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament. Successful law reform depends on a partnership between the country's independent law reform agency, the government and the legislature and we are fortunate in Scotland to have an extremely good relationship between the three partners.

As an independent body, the Scottish Law Commission has promoted the reform of Scots law for 50 years. We will continue to do so in the future, engaging closely with Scottish people and organisations to ensure that the law is just, principled and up to date.”

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 Pentland, a Court of Session judge. 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).