

Scottish Law Commission Return for Financial Year 2025/2026

Under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 the Commission, along with other public bodies in Scotland, has a duty to publish an annual statement relating to our expenditure in the following areas:

- public relations
- overseas travel
- hospitality and entertainment
- external consultancy

There are further duties to publish certain information relating to:

- the purchasing of goods, and
- the remuneration of employees.

Our statement covering the financial year 2025-2026 is set out below:

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010	
Expenditure for Financial Year 2025/2026	
Activity	Spend 2025/2026
Public Relations	Nil
Overseas Travel	Nil
Hospitality and Entertainment	£1,025.35
External Consultancy	£564

Hospitality and Entertainment comprised spending for the Commission's 60th anniversary conference in June 2025, entitled "Law Reform: Shaping Society?"

External consultancy comprised spending on IT support services.

Payments in excess of £25,000 (2025/2026)			
<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
Avison Young (acting on behalf of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service)	£29,453.60	15/05/2025	Occupancy costs for premises in Parliament House covering period July to September 2025.
Avison Young (acting on behalf of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service)	£29,453.60	13/08/2025	Occupancy costs for premises in Parliament House covering period October to December 2025.
Avison Young (acting on behalf of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service)	£29,453.60	16/12/2025	Occupancy costs for premises in Parliament House covering period January to March 2026.
Avison Young (acting on behalf of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service)	£29,453.60	17/02/2026	Occupancy costs for premises in Parliament House covering period April to June 2026.

There were no other payments in excess of £25,000 in 2025/2026.

Remunerations received in excess of £150,000	Nil
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Sustainability, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy Statement

Under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 the Commission, along with other public bodies in Scotland, also has a duty to publish an annual statement of the steps it has taken that year to:

- promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions;
- improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in exercise of its functions.

The Scottish Law Commission has a statutory function, which is to recommend to Ministers ways of simplifying, updating and improving the law of Scotland. Most of our work is carried out in accordance with our Programme of Law Reform. The Programme is prepared following extensive consultation, including discussions with Government. The Programme is submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval and is laid before the Scottish Parliament. The Commission also from time to time receives references from Ministers to carry out law reform projects.

The Scottish Government's Economic Strategy published in November 2006 included "By sustainable growth we mean building a dynamic and growing economy that will provide prosperity and opportunities for all, while ensuring that future generations can enjoy a better quality of life too."

In exercising its functions, the Commission contributed to the Scottish Government's overall objectives and National Outcomes on Fair Work and Business, the Economy, Communities, Human Rights and Children and Young People.

In particular law reform projects worked on during the financial year 2025/6 have the following purposes:

- review of homicide law to update long-standing common law rules to make them fit for modern society. The report for this project was published on 25 September 2025;
- reform of law on tenement property, regarding the establishment of compulsory owners' associations as a mechanism which may assist in

addressing concerns about disrepair in tenement buildings. The report for this project was published on 11 December 2025;

- proposals for civil remedies for domestic abuse to simplify, update and make the law more effective including considering the impact on children and young people;
- heritable securities: reviewing the legal regime around heritable securities (mortgages), to better reflect the societal and economic changes that have taken place in Scotland in the last 50 years;
- reviewing the law relating to the execution of documents to reflect changes in a modern digital environment and deal with practical issues both making Scotland a more attractive place to do business and protecting consumers, including vulnerable people;
- reviewing the law relating to executry to modernise it so that it is clearer, more efficient and better suited to the needs of families, practitioners and the courts;
- reviewing the law relating to aspects of leases to modernise the law and make it fit for modern society;
- consolidation of nature conservation law to create a coherent and systematic body of legislation.

The Commission's sole source of funding comes from the Scottish Government. In the financial year around 88% of the Commission's costs were staff and Commissioner costs, 2.1% were IT, telephone and postage costs and 6.4% was accommodation costs, including maintenance and utilities.

To continue to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy the Commission seeks to operate on a shared costs basis wherever possible, and this includes:

- in 2025, changing to use an electronic filing system as opposed to paper files;
- a continuing agreement with the Scottish Government Legal Directorate on the provision of a shared library service to the Commission by the Scottish Legal Information Centre;

- a service level agreement with the Government Legal Service for Scotland for the provision of resourcing and learning & development services to the Commission;
- use of the Scottish Government's shared service Oracle business system for finance and HR
- continued participation in Scottish Government collaborative procurement agreements,
- reducing travel to meetings unless this is essential for business reasons
- on staff training, continued reliance for compulsory professional development and for general staff development on shared training, for example seminars organised by the Scottish Government and the Government Legal Service for Scotland.