



Scottish Law Commission
promoting law reform

Summer 2026

e-bulletin

Keeping you up to date with Scottish Law Commission news

Welcome

Welcome to the Scottish Law Commission's regular bulletin. We aim to keep you informed about what we have been up to and what we have coming up.

News

Chair of the Scottish Law Commission appointed

We are delighted to announce that [Lord Sandison](#) has been appointed as Chair of the Commission, succeeding Lady Paton, who served as Chair from January 2019 until her retirement in December 2025.

Lord Sandison brings a wealth of experience to the role, having practised commercial law for 25 years and served as a Senator of the College of Justice since 2021. We warmly welcome Lord Sandison to the Commission. Lord Sandison will be taking forward our project on various aspects of the law of limitation, as set out in our [Eleventh Programme of Law Reform](#).

Commissioner appointed

As mentioned in our winter bulletin 2025, we are delighted that [Roisin Higgins KC](#) has been appointed a Commissioner and she has now joined the Commission. She is leading the Commission's projects relating to leases and consolidation of nature conservation law.

Updates

Current Projects

Our current law reform projects are listed below. For further information on any particular project please click on the link

- [Aspects of family law](#)
- [Aspects of leases](#)
- [Consolidation: nature conservation](#)
- [Execution of documents](#)
- [Executry](#)
- [Heritable securities](#)

Current Programme of Law Reform

- [11th Programme](#)

Project on aspects of family law

The family law project continues with the team in the process of drafting a Report setting out its final recommendations for reform of the law of civil remedies for domestic abuse. The team is also working with the Parliamentary Counsel Office on a draft Bill which will implement these recommendations. The current plan is to publish these in the first half of 2027.

Project on aspects of leases

Work on what will be the final stage of the long term Aspects of Leases project began in early 2026 with the appointment of a new lead Commissioner, Roisin Higgins KC. We are currently conducting preliminary investigations and assessing what the scope of the final stage of the project will be. Once the scope is established, we will begin work on a Discussion Paper.

Project on consolidation: nature conservation

Again, work on this project began in early 2026 with the appointment of the lead Commissioner, Roisin Higgins KC. We are currently carrying out an initial scoping exercise to identify the key items of legislation relating to nature conservation that will form part of the consolidation exercise. We then intend to engage with relevant stakeholders throughout the project as a draft consolidation Bill is developed in conjunction with Parliamentary Counsel Office.

Project on execution of documents

We are continuing work on a Discussion Paper setting out our research and initial proposals for reform, which we intend to publish later in 2026 for public consultation.

Project on executry

Our work on this project continues, and we are currently preparing a Discussion Paper that will outline our research and set out initial proposals for law reform. This paper will be published in due course and will form the basis for a public consultation. We are continuing to engage in very helpful discussions with practitioners and academics about the need for executry law reform.

Project on heritable securities

The project team are working in conjunction with Parliamentary Counsel Office to produce a draft Bill which would implement our final recommendations for reform. We are also in the process of drafting our final Report which we plan to publish in autumn 2027.

Implementation

Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Act 2026

This Act received Royal Assent on 14 April 2026 and implements our [Report on Review of Contract Law: Formation, Interpretation, Remedies for Breach, and Penalty Clauses](#) that was published in 2018. We are very grateful to Professor Hector MacQueen, who was the lead Commissioner for the project, and who assisted with the passage of the Bill. We look forward to the Act being implemented.

Consultation on Cohabitation

In December 2025, the Scottish Government launched a [consultation](#) on changes to several areas of family law. This included a consultation on our recommendations for changes to be made to the law of financial provision on cessation of cohabitation included in our [Report on Cohabitation \(Scot Law Com No. 261\)](#) published in 2022. The consultation closed on 21 April 2026.

Report on Damages for Personal Injury

We welcome the announcement by the Minister for Community Care on 25 June 2026, that the Scottish Ministers will introduce a bill in the first year of the Parliament to implement the recommendations made in our [Report on Damages For Person Injury](#). We are looking forward to the introduction of the Bill.

Programme for Government

Following the election in May 2026, we are awaiting the Government's Programme for Government and are hoping that this will include implementation of additional Commission reports.



Further information

Further information about the Commission and our law reform work can be found on our website at www.scotlawcom.gov.uk. The website has full text versions of all of our reports and discussion papers as well as other material.

Follow us on LinkedIn - [Scottish Law Commission | LinkedIn](#) and see videos about the Commission and our work: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMHecvTB9TgJE8G7t8RpYRA>.

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