



**Law
Commission**
Reforming the law

Annual Report 2025-26

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The Law Commission Annual Report 2025-26

(Law Com No 427)

The Sixtieth Annual Report of the Law Commission

For the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 3(3) of the Law Commissions Act 1965

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Law Commission Annual Report 2025-26

The Law Commission was set up by section 1 of the Law Commissions Act 1965 for the purpose of promoting the reform of the law.

This annual report covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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Chair's introduction



To the Right Honourable David Lammy MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and Deputy Prime Minister.

I am delighted to introduce the Law Commission's 60th Annual Report. As ever, the Law Commission has had a very busy twelve months. Our productivity is high, and we are currently engaged in 18 law reform projects covering numerous topics from Management of Housing Estates, Product Liability, Accessibility of Transport for Disabled People and Contempt of Court. Alongside our day-to-day law reform work, the organisation continues to drive forward our international engagement (publishing our formal strategy in November 2025) and promote the rule of law, look for ways to strengthen our institutional independence and continue our work for society.

This was a particularly important year for the Law Commission as we launched our 14th Programme of Law Reform in September 2025. This Programme is both diverse and forward-looking, and the ten new projects all have the potential to bring significant benefits to England and Wales. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to the 14th Programme consultation, and for the time and effort that our stakeholders put into advancing the case for law reform. This Programme will ensure that the Law Commission continues to fulfil its statutory

function of making sure the law is fair, modern, simple and cost effective.

We continued with celebrations to mark the Law Commission's 60th anniversary during this reporting year. The diverse events and means by which we celebrated the organisation's achievements served to demonstrate why we continue to remain so relevant and important to the development of the law in England and Wales. To have been able to do this with such a wide range of stakeholders is an achievement in itself. The anniversary was an important reminder of why the Law Commission continues to thrive and maintain its reputation as a world leader in law reform. I must emphasise that no-one at the Law Commission is complacent, and we are constantly looking to innovate and meet the law reform needs of our society.

Our relationship with Parliament is as important as ever. In November 2025, both Professor Penney Lewis and I gave evidence to the Justice Select Committee. This evidence session allowed us to bring an awareness of the important work that we do and assist in understanding the wide range of benefits and value that comes as a result of our work. I am grateful to the Committee for allowing us the time to discuss with them such a wide range of topics. As always, we will continue to look for other ways to engage with Parliamentarians as appropriate.

I was very pleased to have two new Commissioners appointed in May 2025, joining the organisation in September 2025. Professor Solène Rowan took over as the Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law, and Professor Lisa Webley took over as the Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law. Their impressive experience and academic records have been invaluable to their teams since taking up post. I must pay thanks to David Hertzell, who stepped in to provide interim support and leadership to the Commercial and Common Law team in the absence of a Commissioner, and to Professor

Nick Hopkins, who left the Law Commission in June 2025, for his 10 years of service as the Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law. Professor Alison Young also continues her work as the Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales.

We welcomed back Stephanie Hack, one of our Joint CEOs, in September 2025 following a short career break. My thanks go to Roshnee Patel who took up post as Joint CEO, alongside Joanna Otterburn, for that period.

There will be a period of further change in the organisation later this year, as a new Chair will be taking over from me at the end of 2026. I am sure that they will be just as impressed as I am of the work that we are doing as an organisation. I have been immensely proud of all that has been achieved in my time as Chair, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Law Commission for their hard work and dedication to law reform.

Sir Peter Fraser
Chair

Joint Chief Executives' comment



Over the 2025-26 reporting year the Law Commission has examined and published expert work on legal and policy issues that touch many aspects of our society, in delivery of its statutory purpose. The Commission has looked at such important and diverse subjects as co-operatives and community benefit societies, civil liability in the age of AI, business tenancies, disabled children's social care, disputes about digital assets and electronic trade documents across borders, the law of contempt, agriculture law in Wales, evidence in sex offences prosecutions, and the way in which people farewell their loved ones via burials, cremations and new funerary methods. These projects show an organisation working with focus, rigour and independence, and with a clear commitment to delivering practical and publicly-valuable law reform.

Sixty years on from its inception, the Law Commission remains uniquely well-placed to undertake the important and methodical work of law reform envisaged by Lord Gardiner in 1965. We work constructively with Government departments and the Welsh Government but we are independent from them. We examine a range of sources and produce in-depth and authoritative material, but we are not academia. We draw from the real world, expert and lived experience of stakeholders, judicial office holders and the public, but also utilise our own in-house expertise. And we work closely with Parliament and its officials, but remain non-political. Our 60th

anniversary was an important moment of reflection to build understanding of where we can apply the finite resources of the Commission to derive maximum value for society in terms of economic impact and the wellbeing of its citizens.

In the past year, two Law Commission bills were enacted (the Arbitration Act 2025 and Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025), and a number of Law Commission criminal justice recommendations were included in the Courts and Tribunals Bill. Another important milestone was the laying of the 14th Programme of Law Reform before Parliament in September 2025. Ten significant projects, selected through rigorous assessment of benefits, suitability, and legal need, will shape the Commission's next phase of work. Alongside these programme projects, we have continued to take on high-priority Ministerial references, including new projects on transport accessibility, consumer class actions, and farming and the environment in England. This balanced approach ensures that the Commission remains both strategic and responsive.

The Commission continues to be funded by the Ministry of Justice, with a core budget of £5.16m. To cover actual operating costs the Commission also recovers funding for specific projects from sponsoring departments across Whitehall and the Welsh Government to generate further income, returning the balance to the Ministry. We employ around 83 staff members, 76% of whom work in legal project roles. We are fortunate to work with incredibly engaged colleagues, who are committed to delivering world-leading law reform for the benefit of our society. However, progressing a large number of projects at any given time is a demanding programme; so this year we have reviewed the operating model of the organisation to ensure it has the capability, capacity and culture required to continue delivering excellent law reform in line with society's needs. We asked people with expertise from outside the organisation to review

our approach to project resourcing and expertise in legal work, communications and data and analysis, to support us in identifying risks and opportunities. We also appointed the first Special Counsel for Wales, to support our longer-term work on Welsh law reform.

We are acutely aware of the fiscal position facing the public sector, and will continue to find ways to be more efficient in how we deliver our work. An opportunity is presented with the use of AI; our staff-led AI Taskforce has begun piloting administrative tools to support productivity, while remaining firmly anchored in our organisational values of independence, integrity and expertise. We have also strengthened our internal governance with an independent Board effectiveness review. The Board will be reflecting on its recommendations going forward.

Across all of this work, we remain deeply grateful to our Law Commission colleagues for their commitment to law reform and public service. We are also indebted to our consultees, Board members, colleagues across Parliament, Government and the Welsh Government. Their contributions ensure that we can continue to deliver modern, accessible and fair laws for England and Wales. We also pay tribute to Roshnee Patel, who served as Joint CEO from April to September of this reporting year.

Joanna Otterburn and Stephanie Hack
Joint Chief Executives

Part One:

Who we are and what we do

The Law Commission

The Law Commission is headed by four Commissioners and a Chair, all of whom are appointed by the Lord Chancellor. At 31 March 2026, the Law Commissioners were:

- Sir Peter Fraser,¹ Chair.
- Professor Penney Lewis,² Criminal Law.
- Professor Alison Young,³ Public Law and the Law in Wales.
- Professor Lisa Webley,⁴ Property, Family and Trust Law.
- Professor Solène Rowan,⁵ Commercial and Common Law.

The Commissioners are supported by the staff of the Law Commission. The staff are civil servants and are led by our two Joint Chief Executives; Joanna Otterburn and Stephanie Hack. Over the period 2025-26, Roshnee Patel served as Joint interim Chief Executive until September 2025.

The Law Commission was created by the Law Commissions Act 1965 for the purpose of reforming the law, and sponsored by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

The Law Commission's principal objectives are to develop, simplify and reform the law. We do this by reviewing areas of the law and making recommendations for change. We seek to ensure that the law is as simple, accessible, fair and modern as possible.

A number of specific types of reform are covered by the Law Commissions Act 1965:

- Simplification and modernisation of the law.
- Codification.
- Removal of anomalies.
- Repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments.
- Consolidation of legislation.

The progress we have made on our law reform projects between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 is recorded in Part Two of this report.

Non-Executive Board Members

The Law Commission's Non-Executive Board Members provide support, independent challenge and expertise to the Commission when it is meeting as a Board. The selection of projects and the content of Law Commission reports and consultation papers are, however, solely the responsibility of Commissioners.

We have in place three very experienced and knowledgeable Non-Executive Board Members; Dr Hannah White, Claire Bassett and Baroness Shaista Gohir.

1 Sir Peter Fraser joined the Commission on 1 December 2023.

2 Professor Penney Lewis joined the Commission on 1 January 2020.

3 Professor Alison Young joined the Commission on 18 March 2024.

4 Professor Lisa Webley joined the Commission on 1 September 2025.

5 Professor Solène Rowan joined the Commission on 7 September 2025.

Our objectives

The Law Commission aspires:

- To be the authoritative voice on law reform.
- To make a difference through our law reform work.
- To be proactive in promoting the need for law reform in key areas.
- To have a strong reputation in the UK and abroad for being effective in the delivery of law reform.
- To attract the best talent and be an excellent place to work.

During the reporting period our key deliverables have been:

- Delivering high-quality recommendations for law reform in the reports presented to Parliament.
- Strengthening our international and Parliamentary profile.
- Improving how we engage with stakeholders and the public.
- Continuing to improve our ways of working through progress on the target operating model, productivity, and organisational capability.

Our relationship with the Ministry of Justice

In July 2015, we agreed a Framework Document with the MoJ,⁶ which sets out the broad framework for the Department’s sponsorship of the Commission and how the relationship between the Commission and the MoJ should operate.

The current Framework Document outlines the responsibilities of the MoJ sponsorship team in relation to the Commission. The sponsorship team and ALB Centre of Expertise are our primary contacts within the MoJ. Its members act as advocates for us within MoJ and other departments and ensure that we are aware of MoJ’s views and any relevant departmental policies.

The Framework Document makes it clear that, while the sponsorship team and ALB Centre of Expertise have a role in monitoring the Commission’s activities, the MoJ has “no involvement in the exercise of the Commissioners’ judgement in relation to the exercise of their functions”.

The frequency with which Ministers of the MoJ and other departments meet members of the Commission, and the scope of the Commission’s relationship with Parliament are also set out in the Framework Document, although these arrangements can operate more flexibly. The Framework details the Lord Chancellor’s statutory duties in relation to the Commission and the direct relationship we have with Parliament through, for example, maintaining contacts with Parliamentarians and committee chairs, and giving evidence in relation to our functions or projects.

⁶ Framework Document: Ministry of Justice and the Law Commission for England and Wales (2015).

14th Programme of Law Reform

Our 14th Programme of Law Reform was launched in September 2025,⁷ having been laid in Parliament by the Lord Chancellor. The 14th Programme sets out ten new projects covering a diverse range of topics, from product liability to public sector automated decision making, to management of housing estates, to the defence of insanity in the criminal law. Those projects, together with existing projects and, we anticipate, future projects arising from referrals from the UK and Welsh Governments, will form the backbone of our work over the coming years.

The 14th Programme was developed following extensive public consultation, to ensure our work is as relevant, up-to-date and informed as possible. Around 500 responses to the consultation were received, with nearly 200 different topics suggested. The selection of projects for inclusion in the 14th Programme followed rigorous analysis of possible areas of reform and extensive engagement with stakeholders.

We are confident that the work that we have committed to undertaking in the 14th Programme represents an opportunity to significantly improve and reform the law, and the lives and businesses of those who use and rely upon it, as well as contributing to wider improvements in society and economic growth.

Measuring success

The implementation of our recommendations for reform is clearly an important indicator of the success of the Law Commission. This is covered in detail in Part Three of this report.

However, implementation does not fully demonstrate the breadth of our impact. In an effort to assess our impact and influence, we take note of instances when the Law Commission is cited in judgments or during business in the Houses of Parliament and Senedd Cymru. During the reporting period the Commission's name appears 195 times in Hansard, the official report of Parliamentary proceedings.

Our work is also widely quoted in the media and in academic journals; we continue to engage the attention of people with an interest in the law and the real-life impact of its reform.

Impact assessments remain central to the Law Commission's commitment to delivering value for money. They provide a structured framework for identifying and assessing costs, benefits and wider impacts that might otherwise be overlooked, ensuring that Ministers and Parliament are equipped with a clear understanding of the implications of reform. During the year ending 31 March 2026, impact assessments supported a number of completed projects across our programme enabling us to present nuanced and well-evidenced recommendations. In our work on the modernising wills law reform project the accompanying impact assessment evaluated how our law reform recommendations could enable more people to make wills, protect testators from financial abuse and ensure people's testamentary wishes are given effect. The analysis helped to demonstrate the potential benefits of greater legal certainty and flexibility, alongside the safeguards needed to protect vulnerable individuals. Our assessment benefitted from evidence gathered during comprehensive consultation which strengthened the case for reform and ensured that both economic effects and wider social impacts were fully considered.

⁷ Fourteenth Programme of Law Reform, Law Com No 421.

The Law Commission in Wales

When working on reform of areas of law that are devolved to the Senedd, the Law Commission is acting as the Law Commission of Wales. Our support to the Welsh Government in its implementation of our report on planning law in Wales culminated this year in the passage of the Planning (Wales) Act 2026. The Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales, Professor Alison Young, gave evidence in September 2025 to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee during scrutiny of the Planning (Wales) Bill. Discussing the bill ahead of the final vote in the Senedd, the Counsel General recognised the contribution of the Law Commission report on planning law in Wales. She also noted the strong working relationship between the Commission and the Welsh Government, and their shared commitment to rationalising and modernising the law in Wales.

We have continued to engage more widely in Wales, including by participating in the Legal Wales conference in October 2025 where our Chair gave a speech on the Law Commission at 60 and law reform in Wales generally. The Chair sits as an ex officio member of the Welsh Law Council Executive. We convened two meetings of our Wales Advisory Committee, where discussion of law reform issues in Wales was supported by our newly appointed co-conveners of the Committee, the Wales Governance Centre. In our February 2026 meeting we announced the appointment of Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones as Special Counsel for Wales, a newly created senior role aimed at bolstering the Commission's presence in Wales and our visibility and relevance as an expanded Senedd Cymru is established later this year. Professor Alison Young also led presentations about our law reform work in Wales to senior leaders in the Welsh Government, as well as the Law Society's Wales Committee.

Part Two:

Review of our work in 2025-26



Commercial and Common Law

Commissioner: Professor Solène Rowan

Project	Update	Date published	Page
Co-operative and community benefit societies	Consultation paper published	September 2024	Page 11
Digital assets as personal property	Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025 received Royal Assent	December 2025	Page 12
Digital assets and electronic trade documents in private international law	Consultation paper published	June 2025	Page 12
Friendly societies	Consultation paper published	March 2025	Page 13
Product liability	Project commenced	September 2025	Page 13
Objects in museum collections	Initial stakeholder discussions commenced	August 2025	Page 14

Co-operative and community benefit societies

Co-operatives and community benefit societies (“CBSs”) are businesses or organisations that are owned and controlled by their members. Co-operatives exist to meet their members’ common needs, whereas CBSs are established to benefit the wider community. Both types of societies are corporations with separate legal entities to their members and are alternatives, for example, to companies, existing other than to reward financial investors.

Co-operatives and CBSs register under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 (“CCBS Act”), which sets out the legislative framework for these societies. The current law is based on consolidated 19th century legislation and is in need of modernisation.

We published a consultation paper in September 2024. Our proposals for reform included:

1. New statutory definitions for co-operatives and for community benefit societies, and the regulation of charitable community benefit societies.
2. Various proposals relating to society shares, with prescribed conditions for withdrawal and transfer, protections for class rights and when writing down shares, limits to interest payable on shares, as well as confirmation that shares can be issued with varying rights and to non-user investors.
3. Society officers to be listed on the Mutuals Public Register, with statute to prescribe duties owed by officers

The paper also addressed a long list of further potential reforms, reflecting the fact that parts of society law have not been systematically reviewed for over a century.

We received over 240 consultation responses and are currently analysing the responses and preparing a final report and a draft Bill. We aim to publish the report and draft Bill in 2026.

The sponsoring department is HM Treasury.

Digital assets as personal property

Digital assets are used for an expanding variety of purposes – including as valuable things in themselves, as a means of payment, or to represent or be linked to other things or rights – and in growing volumes.

We published our final report on digital assets in June 2023. We concluded that certain types of digital assets – notably crypto-tokens – are capable of being things to which personal property rights can relate, even though they do not easily fit within the traditional categories of personal property and are better regarded as belonging to a separate category. We recommended legislation to confirm this. We also made various other recommendations, including that Government create a panel of industry experts to provide guidance on technical and legal issues relating to digital assets and for the development of a statutory framework to facilitate new ways of taking security over crypto-tokens.

In February 2024, we consulted on draft legislation that would implement our “third category” recommendation above. We published our final recommendations for legislation in a supplemental report in July 2024.

A Bill reflecting these recommendations – which is now the Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025 – was introduced into Parliament in September 2024 under the special parliamentary procedure for Law Commission bills. The Act received Royal Assent in December 2025.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Digital assets and electronic trade documents in private international law

When parties to a private law dispute are based in different countries, or the facts and issues giving rise to the dispute cross national borders, questions of private international law arise. In which country’s courts should the parties litigate their dispute? Which country’s law should be applied to resolve it?

Recent innovations such as crypto-tokens rely on distributed ledger technology (“DLT”), which uses a network of computers – potentially located all over the world – to record and store data. Such innovations can challenge the territorial premise that underpins the principles of private international law.

We published a consultation paper in June 2025. It focuses primarily on wholly decentralised applications of DLT, which we identified as posing novel challenges to the current rules of private international law.

1. In the context of international jurisdiction, we consider how the existing jurisdictional gateways for property and tort can be applied in the context of crypto litigation. We propose the creation of a new free-standing information order to help claimants who have lost crypto-tokens through fraud or hacking.

2. In the context of applicable law, we suggest that, where it is not possible for the courts to identify a single applicable law, they should take into account a range of factors to determine a just outcome of the dispute, including the legitimate expectations of the parties.
3. We also make proposals to modernise section 72 of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882, a private international law provision that identifies the law applicable to particular contractual issues arising in connection with bills of exchange and promissory notes.

We are analysing responses and working towards publication of a final report, which we intend to publish in 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Friendly societies

A friendly society is an organisation that provides insurance or other benefits to its members, funded by its members. In providing schemes of mutual support, friendly societies can serve an important commercial purpose, especially in terms of fostering economic corporate diversity and financial inclusion. They subscribe to a mutual ownership model, meaning they are owned by their members, and profits are reinvested for the benefit of the membership. There are no shareholders or outside investors.

This project is reviewing the Friendly Societies Act 1974 (“1974 Act”) and the Friendly Societies Act 1992 (“1992 Act”). We have been asked to review these Acts to ensure that they are fitting to the nature and needs of friendly societies, and to ensure that the regulation is proportionate and predictably certain.

We published a consultation paper in March 2025. Many of our proposals are aimed at making the statutory regime more modern and efficient, in the form of technical updates. We also consider a range of other issues to support the growth of the sector, including:

1. Ways of accessing external capital.
2. Protection against demutualisation.
3. Creating a more efficient process for transfer of business engagements.

We are analysing responses and working towards publication of a final report, with draft legislation, in mid-2026.

The sponsoring department is HM Treasury.

Product liability

It has been nearly 50 years since the Law Commission’s first report on Liability for Defective Products was published, and almost 40 years since the introduction of the product liability regime, set out in Part 1 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987. That regime aimed to strike a balance between (1) providing consumers with a straightforward route to claiming compensation for harm caused by defective products and (2) supporting business by enabling innovation and growth.

Since the legislation was introduced, the range of available products – particularly in the context of digital technology – has developed significantly. The advent of online platforms has also profoundly changed how consumers purchase products. There are concerns that the product liability regime has not kept pace with such developments. We have also heard that, at times, the legislation has not provided a straightforward route to claiming compensation and that it has proven difficult to bring successful claims under it.

This project considers the operation of the existing product liability regime to determine what law reform might be required to ensure that the product liability regime is fit for purpose

Substantive work on this project began in September 2025. We have published an informal questionnaire asking stakeholders about the issues with the current regime. We aim to publish a consultation paper with proposals for reform in autumn 2026.

The project is sponsored by the Department for Business and Trade.

Objects in museum collections

Museums face significant problems dealing with objects where, as a result of poor or non-existent acquisition records (dating from a time when record keeping did not meet modern standards, and in any event could only be paper based), legal title is uncertain or the owners are unknown or cannot be found. The result is that museums may be unsure about what they are entitled to do with such items, including whether the items can be displayed, repaired, transferred to another museum or, in appropriate cases, disposed of. This can create a hidden drain on a museum's resources.

This project will review these problems with a view to providing clear legal rules as to how objects are held and can be dealt with. Such rules would help to reassure potential donors, who will have a better understanding of what can and cannot be done with their donation. Similarly, those responsible for museum collections will be able to manage their collections more effectively without having first to seek expensive specialist legal advice to ascertain the applicable legal rules or incur unnecessary storage costs for items that have no continuing cultural or heritage value.

This project formed part of our 13th Programme of Law Reform. We have started holding initial scoping discussions with stakeholders and hope to publish a consultation paper in 2027.

The sponsoring department is the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Criminal Law

Commissioner: Professor Penney Lewis

Project	Update	Date published	Page
Contempt of court	Final report (Part 1) published	November 2025	Page 15
Criminal appeals	Consultation paper published	February 2025	Page 16
Reviewing the law of homicide	Call for evidence published	August 2025	Page 17
Evidence in sexual offences prosecutions	Final report published	July 2025	Page 18

Contempt of court

“Contempt of court” refers to a wide variety of conduct that may impede or interfere with a court case or the administration of justice

Examples include disruptive behaviour in court, deliberately breaching a court order, refusing to answer the court’s questions if called as a witness, releasing photographs or publicly commenting on developments in court when reporting restrictions are in place.

The development of the law of contempt has been unsystematic, resulting in a regime that is often disordered and unclear. Problems arise from the confusing distinction between civil and criminal contempt of court, the multiple ways in which contempt can be committed, and the overlap between the law of contempt and criminal offences relating to the administration of justice, such as perverting the course of justice. There are also growing concerns about the impact of social media and technological advancements on the administration of justice.

The Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General’s Office asked the Law Commission to review the law of contempt.

On 9 July 2024 we published a consultation paper containing our provisional proposals, which sought to produce a law of contempt that is easier to understand, fairer and that better protects the administration of justice.

The murders in Southport on 29 July 2024 and the subsequent disorder that summer sparked renewed and acute focus on contempt of court liability, specifically, on what can be said after a suspect has been arrested. Given the public interest in these issues and their importance, on 3 March 2025 we published a short supplementary consultation paper.

In November 2025 we published Part 1 of our Final Report on Contempt of Court which addresses liability for contempt and the role of the Attorney General.

We recommend a new framework for contempt liability, which would both clarify and codify the elements required to prove contempt, and strike an appropriate balance between the rights and interests that are affected by the need for the effective and efficient administration of justice.

We recommend that the distinction between criminal and civil contempt should be removed. We recommend instead four forms of contempt liability:

- general contempt;
- contempt by breach of court order or undertaking;
- contempt by publication when proceedings are active;
- contempt by disrupting proceedings.

Where currently proceedings become active when a suspect is arrested, we recommend that proceedings should not be considered active until the person is charged. Under our recommendations the current test would be unchanged: liability would be established where a publication creates a substantial risk that the course of justice in the proceedings in question will be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

However, we agree with consultees who told us that the publication of certain details – such as the name, age, nationality, and ethnicity of a suspect – is generally unlikely to create a substantial risk that the course of justice will be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

We also make a series of recommendations in relation to the Attorney General's role in proceedings for contempt. For example, we recommend that the Attorney General should retain the contempt function. However, we also recommend that decisions made by the Attorney General should be subject to judicial review.

We take the view that the Attorney General's consent should continue to be required for proceedings for strict liability contempt by publication. It is a valuable protection for freedom of expression which limits the number of contempt applications that may be pursued against the media or other publishers.

Part 2 will be published in early 2027. It will address all remaining issues and include a draft Bill.

Criminal Appeals

In July 2022, the Government asked the Law Commission to review the law relating to criminal appeals.

In recent years several leading bodies and organisations – including the House of Commons Justice Committee and Westminster Commission on Miscarriages of Justice – have argued that the law in relation to criminal appeals is in need of reform. This is in part because the piecemeal way in which the law has developed means that there are inconsistencies, uncertainties and gaps in the law on criminal appeals.

Concerns have also been expressed about requirements for new evidence and the tests used by the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (CACD) and the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) – the body responsible for investigating potential miscarriages of justice, and referring those cases back to the CACD. Some groups have claimed that the current system can make it difficult for wrongly convicted people to appeal where exculpatory evidence was available but not used at trial, and/or to obtain and analyse evidence which might suggest a person's innocence.

The Commission's review of the law governing appeals in criminal cases is considering the need for reform with a view to ensuring that the courts have powers that enable the effective, efficient and appropriate resolution of appeals. It will also consider whether a consolidation of the current legislation on appeals would make the law clearer and more consistent.

The review includes the powers of the CACD; the powers of the Attorney General to refer matters to the CACD; the conditions for allowing a referral to the CACD by the CCRC; the various mechanisms of appeal from findings in magistrates' courts; and laws covering retention and access to evidence and records of proceedings.

In February 2025 we published a consultation paper in which we made provisional proposals for reform. These include:

1. Replacing the “real possibility” test used by the CCRC when considering an appeal against conviction.
2. Making the CCRC subject to an independent inspectorate.
3. Replacing the current requirement for those wrongly convicted to prove their innocence beyond reasonable doubt in order to receive compensation, so that those who can prove their innocence, on the balance of probabilities, would be eligible.
4. Simplifying appeals to the High Court in summary proceedings by abolishing the “case stated” procedure.
5. Giving courts and the CCRC greater powers to investigate claims that a conviction is unsafe due to misconduct by jurors.
6. Enabling more appeals to be considered by the Supreme Court, by removing the requirement for the Court of Appeal’s permission for an appeal to be considered by the Supreme Court. We recommend that the Supreme Court itself ought to be permitted to grant permission.

We also sought views on whether the offences for which a sentence could be referred to the CACD by the Attorney General as being unduly lenient should be expanded; whether the offences for which a person might be retried following acquittal on the basis of fresh evidence should be expanded; whether it should be lawful to disclose evidence received under pre- or post-trial disclosure where this was for the purposes of responsible journalism; and whether a National Forensic Archive Service should be established to take over responsibility for long-term storage of such evidence used in trials.

We expect to publish a final report in 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Reviewing the law of homicide (including defences for victims of domestic abuse who kill their abusers)

The law of homicide was subject to a thorough review by the Law Commission of England and Wales in the early 2000s. We published recommendations for reform of partial defences to murder in 2004. Many of our recommendations were implemented in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

We published recommendations for the reform of murder, manslaughter and infanticide in 2006. The Government of the day decided not to implement the changes we recommended.

In the almost 20 years since we last looked at homicide, the problems we identified with the way the homicide offences work have remained largely unchanged. In our 2006 report we described the law governing homicide as a “rickety structure set upon shaky foundations. Some of its rules have remained unaltered since the seventeenth century, even though it has long been acknowledged that they are in dire need of reform. Other rules are of

uncertain content, often because they have been constantly changed to the point that they can no longer be stated with any certainty or clarity”.⁸

As society and the law has moved on, new problems and possible limitations with the existing law have emerged. These include the operation of the law of joint enterprise, how diminished responsibility should be reflected in any new classification of homicide offences, and the extent to which the law reflects a modern understanding of the effects of domestic abuse.

In December 2024, the Commission agreed with the Ministry of Justice that we should revisit homicide law. We have agreed to reconsider and update our 2006 recommendations, to consider defences and partial defences to murder, especially now that the 2009 reforms have had time to bed down, and to conduct a complete review of the statutory sentencing framework for murder.

Our project on defences to murder for victims of abuse who kill their abuser has been incorporated into the wider project on homicide. This will allow us to consider this issue holistically, moving beyond defences to consider the homicide offences themselves for this group of defendants. In December 2024 we published a background paper, summarising what we need to understand about victims of domestic abuse who kill their abuser in order to analyse how the law does, and should, apply to this group of defendants.

In August 2025 we published a Call for Evidence, setting out the scope of the wider homicide review and inviting evidence from stakeholders on the range of issues that we may consider within the project. The responses we received are helping us develop provisional proposals for reform. Our first consultation paper, focusing on homicide offences, is scheduled for publication in Summer 2026.

Evidence in Sexual Offences Prosecutions

The Government’s End to End Rape Review found that the prevalence of rape and sexual violence has remained steady in the last five years but there has been a sharp decrease in the number of prosecutions since 2016/2017.

Some argue that jurors need more assistance with assessing evidence in relation to sensitive and challenging issues that may fall outside their own experience and understanding. We are considering whether more needs to be done in our criminal courts to tackle misconceptions.

Government asked the Law Commission to examine the trial process and to consider the law, guidance and practice relating to the use of evidence in prosecutions of sexual offences. We considered the need for reform in order to improve understanding of consent and sexual harm and the treatment of complainants and ensure that defendants receive a fair trial.

⁸ Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide (2006) Law Com No 304, para 1.8.

The project considered the current approach to addressing misconceptions during the trial process including:

- the use of jury directions and juror education generally;
- the admission of expert evidence to counter misconceptions surrounding sexual offences;
- the admission of evidence of the complainant's sexual history;
- the admission of the complainant's personal records including their medical and counselling records;
- the admission of evidence of the character of the defendant and complainant; and
- the use of special measures during the trial.

In May 2023 we published a consultation paper containing our provisional proposals for reform. We held a public consultation which closed on 29 September 2023. The responses we received from stakeholders helped us to formulate recommendations for reform, which we published in July 2025.

Our recommendations are aimed at improving the understanding of consent and sexual harm; improving the treatment of complainants; and ensuring that defendants receive a fair trial. One issue particularly detrimental to the fair and effective trial of sexual offences is the risk that rape myths will permeate the criminal process, influencing jurors' deliberations. Rape myths is a term used to describe genuine and sincere beliefs about sexual violence that are factually incorrect and derived from stereotypes. The report addresses that risk.

Throughout the report we have sought to minimise the risk of unnecessary harm to complainants, and better protect their privacy rights. We have been careful to protect the defendant's right to a fair trial by ensuring that the defence can present evidence relevant to their case without relying on myths and misconceptions or causing unnecessary trauma to the complainant. We recommend reform to the rules of evidence and procedure to improve the treatment of complainants, to ensure that the jury can evaluate the issues in the case uninfluenced by myths and misconceptions about sexual violence, and to ensure the defendant's right to a fair trial can be effectively exercised in every case.

On 3 December 2025, the Government announced reform of the law drawing on some of our recommendations. Those reforms are included in the Courts and Tribunals Bill, which had its first reading in the House of Commons on 25 February 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Property, Family and Trust Law

Commissioner: Professor Lisa Webley

Project	Update	Date published	Page
Burial, cremation and new funerary methods	Report	March 2026	Page 20
Business tenancies: the right to renew	First consultation paper	November 2024	Page 21
Chancel repair liability and registration	Consultation paper	July 2025	Page 22
Commercial Leasehold (sub-project 1)	Project launched	April 2026	Page 22
Kinship care	Project launched	June 2025	Page 23
Management of Housing Estates	Project launched	September 2025	Page 23
Ownerless Land	Project launched	March 2026	Page 24
Rights and obligations relating to funerary methods, funerals and remains	Project launched	April 2026	Page 25
Making a will	Report	May 2025	Page 25

Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods

Our 13th Programme of Law Reform included the project entitled “A Modern Framework for Disposing of the Dead”. Following a scoping phase, in November 2023 we agreed terms of reference that divided the overall project, retitled “Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods”, into three sub-projects.

The sub-project on “New Funerary Methods” is being conducted by the Public Law Team. It is considering what an appropriate regulatory framework might be for new methods already practised in other jurisdictions, such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, as well as those which might arise in the future.

The sub-project on Burial and Cremation is being conducted by the Property, Family and Trust Law team. A report was published in respect of that sub-project in March 2026. The report contains approximately 60 recommendations to reform the law.

Key recommendations made in the report include the following:

1. For the first time, ensuring that there are appropriate minimum standards in all burial grounds on how the burial ground should be maintained, bodies buried, burial rights issued, and records kept. That all burial ground operators, rather than just a few, should be able, if they wish, to apply for powers to enable them to extinguish burial rights in graves, and to reuse graves. That would be subject to a public consultation having taken place and strict safeguards around notice requirements, objections by relatives and rights holders, and a period of 100 years before a grave could be reused.
2. New safeguards in relation to crematoria, such as rules which will protect against mistaken cremation and to ensure transparency in relation to direct cremation. We also make recommendations to address the problem of hundreds of thousands of historic sets of ash remains which are held by funeral directors, having not been collected by those organising the funeral.

The final sub-project, “Rights and Obligations Relating to Funerals, Funerary Methods and Remains” has commenced (see separate entry below).

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Business Tenancies: the right to renew

Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 gives business tenants (from café owners to companies occupying factories) the right to renew their tenancies when tenancies would otherwise come to an end, allowing them to remain in their premises. This right is often referred to as “security of tenure”.

Most business tenants automatically have security of tenure unless, before any lease is granted, they agree with their landlord that the right to renew should not apply. In order to do that (by a process known as “contracting out”) various formalities must be followed.

The legal framework is over 70 years old, and it is now more than 20 years since the last significant update. In that time, the rise of the internet and other major events, including the financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic, have impacted the commercial leasehold market. Government priorities have also evolved; for example, there is now an increased focus on the environmental sustainability of commercial properties.

We have heard that the Act is not working well for tenants or landlords, with criticism including that the law is burdensome, unclear and out of date. The project comprises a wide review of Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

The Law Commission published its first consultation paper in November 2024. In that consultation paper key questions were asked about which model of security of tenure is appropriate and about the scope of the Act.

On 4 June 2025, the Commission published an interim statement setting out its provisional conclusions in relation to the issues raised in the first consultation. Of particular note, the Commission provisionally concluded that the existing contracting out model should remain.

The Law Commission anticipates publishing its second consultation paper in Spring 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Chancel Repair Liability and Registration

Chancel repair liability is an obligation on a landowner to pay for certain repairs to a local church. It has its origins in pre-Reformation ecclesiastical law and is rarely enforced, but liability can be large when it is. The intention of the Land Registration Act 2002 was that chancel repair liability should not bind purchasers of registered land from 13 October 2013 unless the liability is recorded in the register.

However, since the 2002 Act was brought into force, a question has arisen about the legal status of chancel repair liability, and whether purchasers of land may nevertheless be bound by unregistered liabilities despite that Act.

As a result, home buyers and other purchasers of land spend millions each year on searches and insurance to help protect themselves from unexpected costs. In addition, the 2002 Act also only governs registered land. Purchasers of unregistered land can still be bound by unexpected and undiscoverable chancel repair liabilities.

The project commenced in September 2024 and a consultation paper was published in July 2025. The consultation paper:

1. explored the complex legal history of chancel repair liability;
2. set out a provisional proposal to change the law to clarify that purchasers of land are not bound by chancel repair liability unless it is registered, and therefore visible to purchasers; and

3. contained draft legislation to implement the provisional proposal.

The Law Commission's work has the potential to help avoid the need for purchasers to undertake chancel repair searches, or to pay for unnecessary insurance – potentially saving millions.

The Law Commission is analysing the response to its consultation and will publish a report with its final recommendations in due course.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Commercial Leasehold (sub-project 1)

Our project, Business Tenancies: the Right to Renew (see separate entry above), is addressing one aspect of commercial leasehold law. This project, comprising two sub-projects, is considering other areas of the commercial leasehold legal landscape. The project was included in the Law Commission's 14th Programme of Law Reform.

The Commission is currently working on the first sub project, which is a focused review of two aspects of the law:

1. rights of first refusal under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 (in so far as the law relates to commercial premises); and
2. Issues with the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995.

Both are aspects of the law that we have heard cause significant problems in practice for commercial leasehold transactions, creating barriers for businesses, preventing commercially sound transactions and imposing needless bureaucracy.

We anticipate publishing a consultation paper in respect of the first sub-project in the first half of the reporting year.

The second sub-project has not yet commenced. It will be a scoping project, focusing on the law governing the maintenance, repair and upgrading of leased commercial buildings. As part of this scoping work, we will consider the law relating to dilapidations, service charges, and the interaction between environmental frameworks and commercial leasehold law.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Kinship Care

Kinship care has been described as “Any situation in which a child is being raised in the care of a friend or family member who is not their parent for a significant amount of the time. The arrangement may be temporary or longer term”.⁹

It is estimated that 141,000 children live in kinship care arrangements in England and Wales. Most commonly, kinship care will be an alternative to the child entering the care system, or a way of caring for a child who is the subject of a care order. The variety of methods by which kinship care can be formalised, including by way of special guardianship orders, child arrangements orders and by fostering, is complex to navigate, and confusing for kinship carers, who do not always feel confident that the order underpinning their arrangement is right for their circumstances.

This project formally commenced in June 2025. It is considering the scope for reform to simplify and streamline the orders available to kinship carers, and how to better support the consideration of kinship care as an option for looked after children.

The Law Commission anticipates publishing a consultation paper in the first half of 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Department for Education, and the project is also being conducted with the support of the Welsh Government.

Management of Housing Estates

Housing estates can be built where the developer, or an associated management company, retains the roads and common areas of the estate. These estates may involve a mix of properties owned on a freehold and leasehold basis, and may also contain a mix of residential, business, and other premises (such as open space). Houses are then sold on condition that the homeowners will pay a service charge to the developer or management company for their upkeep, and sometimes for the provision of other services.

Under the current law, the residents on housing estates have some powers to challenge excessive fees but have no right to take over the management of their estates.

This project will consider how residents could be given greater control over the management of their housing estates. It will examine whether the right to manage (“RTM”) regime that benefits leaseholders in blocks of flats could be adapted to apply to housing estates. The RTM is a no-fault right that can be exercised regardless of whether the landlord has breached any of their management obligations. The project will also consider whether any additional or alternative solutions to the problems of estate management might be required as a consequence of the differences between blocks of flats and housing estates and of the different legal ownership structures involved.

⁹ Department for Education, *Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation* (February 2023), p 85.

The project will review how any new scheme for the management of housing estates would interact with the current RTM regime, and with the recommendations made by the Law Commission in our 2020 Report, “Leasehold home ownership: exercising the right to manage”.

The Law Commission anticipates publishing a consultation paper in early 2027.

The project is sponsored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Ownerless Land

In England and Wales, ownerless land passes to the Crown. If a UK registered company that owns land is dissolved, the land transfers to the Treasury Solicitor as “bona vacantia” (the Crown’s traditional right to unowned goods). The Treasury Solicitor has a power to disclaim their title to the land. Additionally, if a person or a company who owns land becomes insolvent, their trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator has a power to disclaim their title to the land. If a freehold title is disclaimed, the land reverts (“escheats”) to the Crown and becomes part of the Crown Estate. (The rules governing ownerless land are slightly different where the land falls within the boundaries of the Duchies of Cornwall or Lancaster.)

Where ownerless land reverts to the Crown, it is believed that the Crown Estate is generally not liable for it unless it performs an act of possession or control. However, it is unclear what qualifies as a sufficient act of possession or control. We have heard that uncertainties about when the Crown may incur liability can contribute to some of the problems described below.

Ownerless land can be or become problematic. There can also be difficulties in bringing the land back into profitable use. Problems can arise where land containing dangerous buildings or environmental hazards becomes ownerless. We have also heard that, in the absence of a landowner who is actively managing the land, problems on the land can become more severe. The disclaimer of a freehold can also have a detrimental impact on leaseholders, particularly in blocks of flats. It can render the flats unsellable and unmortgageable.

More generally, the law governing ownerless land is antiquated and confusing.

This project is a review of the law of bona vacantia and escheat. It will review the Crown’s liability shield for ownerless land. It will consider whether some types of ownerless land should pass to, or be controlled by, a body other than the Crown and review powers of certain parties to obtain vesting orders. The project will examine the rights of leaseholders where the landlord’s title escheats. The project will also aim to clarify the law, addressing the survival of derivative interests that affect ownerless land and the impact of bona vacantia and escheat on the land registration system.

The project is sponsored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Rights and Obligations Relating to Funerary Methods, Funerals and Remains

This project forms part of a wide ranging review into Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods (see the separate entry above).

At present the decisions that a person makes about what happens to their body after they die are not binding, although they may be afforded some weight. The current law about who has the right to make a decision about the body of a deceased person is based on the law about dealing with the deceased person's property, and is not linked to the rules about who can apply for cremation or burial.

This project will consider whether decisions made before death should be made binding, and will look at the different ways in which they could be given effect. It will also consider who should have the right to make decisions about a body and the funeral, how disputes should be resolved, and who is responsible for making arrangements for a body after death.

The project will also consider the legal status of human remains, including those which are created as a result of new funerary methods and consider the standards which apply to public health funerals.

The project commenced in April 2026.

The project is sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

Making a Will

The law governing wills is largely a product of the Victorian era, and the Wills Act is nearly 200 years old. Our project was a general review of this important area of law to ensure that it remains fit for purpose in modern society.

We published a report, "Modernising Wills Law", in May 2025. The report comprises two volumes:

1. Volume I contains our recommendations for reform; and
2. Volume II contains our draft Bill for a new Wills Act that would give effect to our recommendations for legislative reform, accompanied by explanatory notes.

The report makes more than 30 recommendations to Government, which span across the law governing wills. Our recommendations are aimed primarily at supporting testamentary freedom, protecting testators (including from undue influence and fraud), and increasing clarity and certainty in the law where possible.

On the day our report was published, Government issued an initial response to the recommendations, in which it welcomed the "comprehensive report" and recognised that the recommendations were "significant and wide ranging". The Government indicated that it "will make further announcements in due course, once it has given the report the detailed consideration it deserves".

The sponsoring department was the Ministry of Justice.

Public Law and the Law in Wales

Commissioner: Professor Alison Young

Project	Update	Date published	Page
Accessibility of Transport for Disabled People	Project commenced	February 2026	Page 26
Administrative review	Project paused	N/A	Page 26
Agricultural law in Wales	Scoping report published	February 2026	Page 27
Aviation autonomy	Final report published	May 2026	Page 27
Compulsory purchase	Project ongoing	N/A	Page 28
Disabled children's social care	Final report published	September 2025	Page 28
New funerary methods	Project ongoing	June 2025	Page 29

Accessibility of Transport for Disabled People

This new project arises from concerns raised by the Transport Select Committee that the law governing accessibility of transport for disabled people is overly complicated and fragmented, and that this hinders the policy aspiration of providing equal access to transport for disabled people. This led to a Ministerial reference of a project on the law governing the accessibility of transport for disabled people.

The project will consider how to simplify and consolidate the law as well as strengthening enforcement and redress mechanisms. It will look at how to embed the experiences of disabled people in reforms, and support legislative and regulatory coherence across the UK. It will also look at ways that the law can accommodate future technological developments.

This is a 3-year project undertaken due to report in early 2029.

The sponsoring department is the Department for Transport.

Administrative Review

This project considers the internal systems used by public decision making bodies to ensure they are making correct decisions. These may be called internal appeals or reconsiderations – and the process is sometimes a prerequisite to formal appeals before a tribunal, or judicial review.

Administrative review decisions determine many more social security and immigration claims than courts and tribunals, which consider only a small subset of decisions. Still, the success rates at appeals remains in some areas very high. Our review would aim to identify principles for effective administrative review which:

1. Promote correct decisions, first time.
2. Reduce the number of successful appeals before tribunals and courts.
3. Promote organisational learning and positive feedback loops between the formal judicial processes and internal decision-making processes.
4. Promote confidence in administrative decision making, including accommodating the anticipated growth in the use of automation to assist public decision making.

Subject to agreeing terms of reference for the project, we expect it to begin when resource allows.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Agricultural law in Wales

The Law Commission has been asked by the Welsh Government to consider, whether, and how, agricultural law in Wales could be modernised, simplified and made more accessible through a process of codification.

Codification involves bringing all the law on a specific subject matter, such as agriculture, together under a code of law. In practice, this could mean that all of the agricultural law in Wales is consolidated into one or more pieces of legislation, and that consolidating legislation is identified as forming a code of law for agriculture.

Agriculture is a devolved area of law in Wales. Our review considered a patchwork of legislation including assimilated EU law, Acts of the Senedd Cymru and Acts of the UK Parliament. Our scoping report, which was published in February 2026, identifies which legislation should form part of a possible future code of agricultural law for Wales. It also highlights technical changes needed to simplify, modernise and streamline the law. In addition, it identifies issues which might require further consideration in the context of developing a code of agricultural law for Wales.

The Welsh Government is sponsoring this project.

Aviation Autonomy

The aviation autonomy project is sponsored by the Future Flight Challenge at UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and supported by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Department for Transport (DfT). The project considers the reforms necessary to provide a robust and future-proofed legal framework capable of supporting the safe deployment of high automation and autonomous systems in aviation. It focuses on three use cases: drones (remotely piloted, non-passenger carrying vehicles), Advanced Air Mobility (such as electrical vertical take-off and landing vehicles providing short journeys for up to ten people), and Air Traffic Management and Air Navigation Services (ATM/ANS).

The project started in late 2022 by reviewing the existing legislation to identify any legislative blocks, gaps or uncertainties. We published a consultation paper early in February 2024 and a further consultation paper in April 2025. Our final report was published in May 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Department for Transport, jointly with the Civil Aviation Authority.

Compulsory Purchase

The ability of public authorities to purchase land using compulsory powers is essential to the implementation of large-scale projects to improve both local and national infrastructure, to support the regeneration of towns and cities, and for the provision of housing. But compulsorily acquiring property can have a significant detrimental impact on the individuals and businesses affected.

The procedures of compulsory purchase, and the compensation payable to those affected, have therefore been tightly controlled by laws dating back to the Victorian era. But that law is fragmented, hard to access and in need of modernisation.

The Law Commission's 2003 and 2004 reports were very favourably received but not implemented in full. Some recommendations have been implemented by case law, or by legislative changes since then. But calls for comprehensive, simplified and modern laws have persisted.

Our review examines the current law governing the procedure for compulsory purchase, and compensation. Its core aim is to simplify the law, making technical changes with a view to consolidating, simplifying and modernising the legislation.

We published a consultation paper in December 2024 and aim to produce a report and draft Bill in the first half of 2027. Our final report will make recommendations relating to both procedure and compensation. The accompanying draft bill will provide a restatement, consolidating and reforming the law governing compensation for compulsory purchase.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Disabled Children's Social Care

The law on disabled children's social care in England is governed by a patchwork of legislation, some of which dates back more than five decades. This has contributed to inconsistency in the amount and quality of support provided by local authorities, and unnecessarily complicated routes to accessing support for the parents and care givers of disabled children.

This review was set up following a recommendation in the 2022 Independent Review of Children's Social Care, which underpins the Government's plans for reform of children's social care. Our project will review the patchwork of legislation currently governing social care for disabled children, including section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. Our overarching aim is to simplify and strengthen the law, ensuring that the system is fair and works for children, parents and other care givers, and local authorities. Our focus is on the provision of support and services in family-based care, but we will also seek to ensure that the law fits in with social care law more broadly, and to modernise the legislation.

We published our consultation paper in October 2024, and a final report in September 2025.

The sponsoring department, the Department of Education, is considering the report's recommendations.

New Funerary Methods

As we note elsewhere, (page 20) in our 13th Programme of Law Reform we stated that the law governing how we deal with the bodies of the deceased is unfit for modern needs. In addition to issues with burials and cremation, the law is not fit for purpose in relation to new and emerging funerary methods, such as alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction, sometimes called “human composting”, which are claimed to be more environmentally sustainable. In this sensitive context, the uncertainty arising from the absence of regulation can be a barrier to investment, limiting choice for individuals and families.

The new funerary methods sub-project aims to create a future-proof framework that encompasses existing practices and is flexible to accommodate safe and dignified new practices. We published a consultation paper in June 2025. Our report is due for publication in June 2026.

The sponsoring department is the Ministry of Justice.

Part Three:

Implementation of Law Commission law reform reports 2025-26

There are several mechanisms in place which are designed to increase the rate at which Law Commission reports are implemented:

- The Law Commission Act 2009, which places a requirement on the Lord Chancellor to report to Parliament annually on the Government’s progress in implementing our reports.
- Protocols between the Law Commission and the UK and Welsh Governments, which set out how we should work together.
- The Law Commission parliamentary procedure.

A dedicated parliamentary procedure, approved by the House of Lords on 7 October 2010, has been established as a means of improving the rate of implementation of Law Commission reports. Bills are suitable for this procedure if they are regarded as “uncontroversial”; this is generally taken to mean that all front benches in the House are supportive in principle.

Twelve Law Commission Bills have now followed this procedure:

- Property (Digital Assets etc) Act, received Royal Assent on 2 December 2025.
- Arbitration Act 2025, received Royal Assent on 24 February 2025.
- Electronic Trade Documents Act 2023, received Royal Assent on 20 July 2023.
- Charities Act 2022, received Royal Assent on 24 February 2022.
- Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Act 2020, received Royal Assent on 8 June 2020. The Sentencing Code received Royal Assent on 22 October 2020 and came into force on 1 December 2020.
- Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Act 2017, received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017.

- Insurance Act 2015, received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015.
- Inheritance and Trustees’ Powers Act 2014, received Royal Assent on 14 May 2014.
- Trusts (Capital and Income) Act 2013, received Royal Assent on 31 January 2013.
- Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representations) Act 2012, received Royal Assent on 8 March 2012.
- Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Act 2010, received Royal Assent on 25 March 2010.
- Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 2009, received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009.¹⁰

In our report on The Form and Accessibility of the Law Applicable in Wales, we recommended that the Senedd should adopt a similar procedure, echoing an earlier call for this from the Senedd’s Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee. The Senedd has since introduced a Standing Order 26C procedure for introducing Consolidation Bills, including those implementing Law Commission recommendations. There is also scope for the Law Commission to advise whether certain changes proposed in a Bill are appropriate for inclusion in a Consolidation Bill under the standing order.

¹⁰ The Bill passed through Parliament as part of a trial for the Law Commission parliamentary procedure.

Implementation of our reports 2025-26

The statistics from the creation of the Commission in 1965 to 31 March 2026 are:

- Law reform reports published – 262.
- Implemented in whole or in part – 171 (65%).¹¹
- Accepted in whole or in part, awaiting implementation – 25 (10%).
- Accepted in whole or in part, will not be implemented – 6 (2%).
- Awaiting response from Government – 19 (7%).
- Rejected – 31 (12%).
- Superseded – 11 (4%).

Reports implemented during the period

The Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025 implements recommendations first made in our report on Digital Assets in 2023, and draft legislation published in a supplemental report in 2024. We concluded that certain types of digital assets are things to which property rights relate. However, they do not easily fit within the categories of personal property that have been recognised traditionally. Consequently, we said that they are better regarded as belonging to a separate category. The Act confirms the existence of a “third category” of personal property rights, capable of accommodating certain digital assets including crypto-tokens.

The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 introduced a new set of rules for “consumer savings schemes”, including Christmas savings clubs and similar prepayment schemes, where consumers pay in advance for goods or vouchers to be delivered later. These provisions came into force in January 2026, and implement

a recommendation made in our 2016 report on Consumer Prepayments on Retailer Insolvency.

The Crime and Policing Bill introduced on 25 February 2025 contains provisions that will implement recommendations made in a number of criminal law projects. This includes substantial reform following the recommendations in our project on the confiscation of the proceeds of crime after conviction. Additionally, there are provisions that will implement recommendations in our projects on modernising communications offences (relating to: encouraging or assisting serious self-harm, and exposure); corporate criminal liability (relating to the identification doctrine); intimate image abuse (relating to the taking and installing offences); search warrants; and kidnapping and related offences (relating to child abduction).

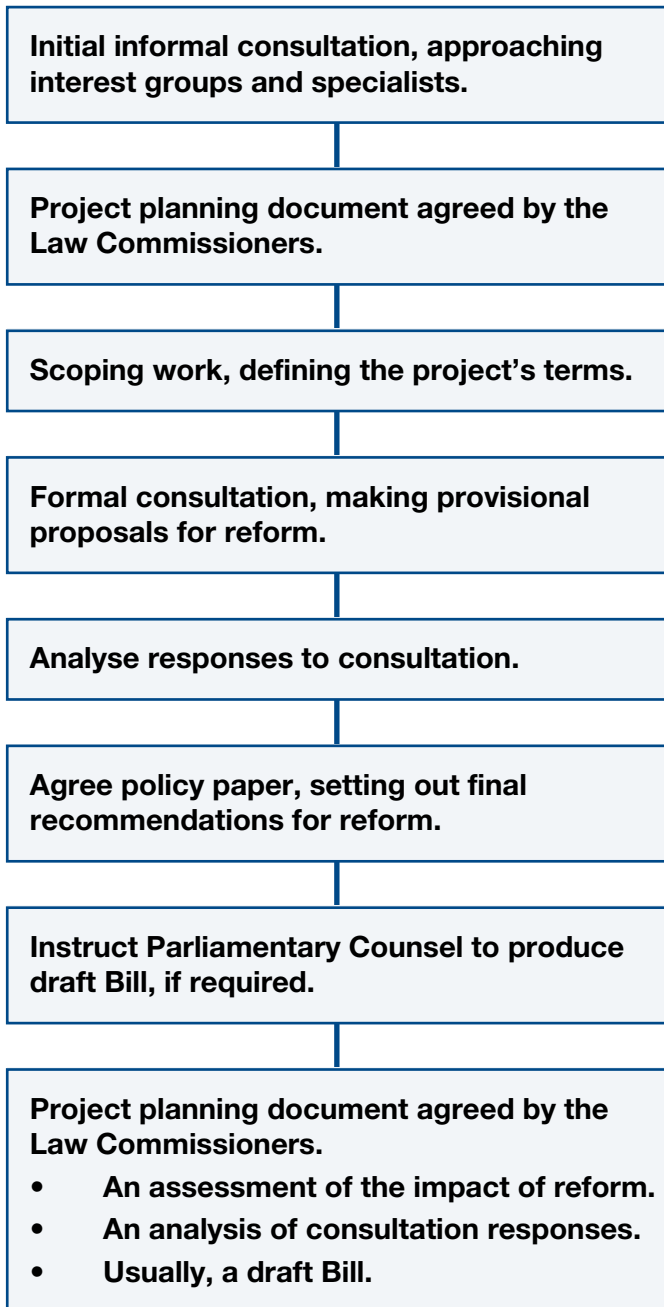
The Public Office (Accountability) Bill, introduced in September 2025, contains clauses which are designed to implement in large part our recommendations in relation to the offence of misconduct in public office.

The Courts and Tribunals Bill, introduced in February 2026, contains clauses which draw on some of our recommendations in relation to Evidence in Sexual Offences Prosecutions.

The Senedd Cymru introduced the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Act 2025 implements the recommendations of the Coal Tip Safety report, many of them fully, while others are implemented partially. The Planning (Wales) Act 2026 and the Planning (Consequential Provisions) Wales Act 2026 implement recommendations of the Law Commission’s report on Planning Law in Wales.

¹¹ This includes reports that have been accepted by Government and implementation is underway.

Figure 1: Common stages of a law reform project



Part Four:

Our people and corporate matters and other types of law reform activity



The Law Commission is grateful to everyone within the organisation for their hard work, expertise and support as well as their contribution to the work of the Commission.

Budget

The Law Commission’s core funding, provided to us by Parliament and received through the MoJ, for 2025-26 was £5.16m.

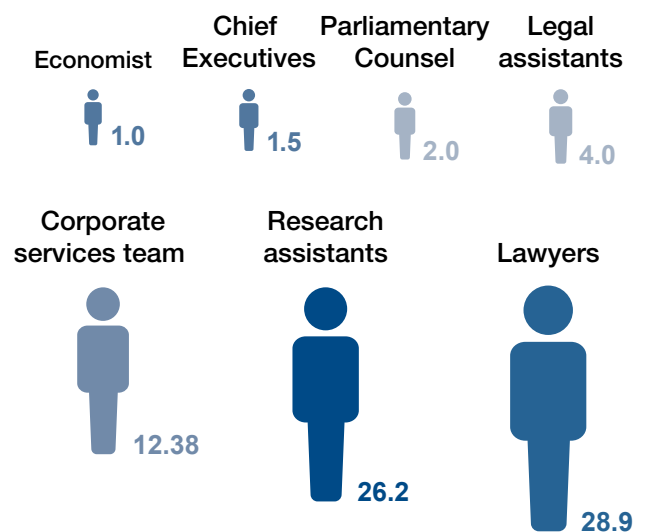
Our running costs for the 2025-26 financial year equated to £6.69m (excluding the accommodation recharge met by MoJ detailed in the financial appendix). As agreed with MoJ under our new Financial Model, we were able to return funds amounting to £577k (a planned underspend) over and above our actual running costs due to receiving more financial contributions than expected from Whitehall departments towards the individual law reform projects undertaken on their behalf.

Staff at the commission

The Commissioners are supported by the staff of the Law Commission. The staff are civil servants and are led by the Chief Executives.

In 2025-26, there were 83 people working at the Law Commission (full-time equivalent: 75.98) as at 31 March 2026.

Figure 2: People working at the Commission (full-time equivalent, at 31 March 2026)¹²



External Engagement

Engaging effectively with people and groups outside of the Commission is critical to the success of our work. We work hard to establish strong links with a wide range of organisations and individuals who have an interest in law reform, and we greatly value these relationships. We continue to make progress in extending the number of ways in which we engage with those people and groups.

We are indebted to all those who send us feedback on our consultation papers, contribute project ideas for our programmes of law reform, and provide input and expertise at all stages of the process of making recommendations to the UK and Welsh Governments.

¹² Excluding the Chair, Chair’s Clerk and Commissioners.

As well as those with an interest in law reform, we actively seek to engage anyone with an understanding and experience of the areas of law we seek to reform. This includes creating accessible formats of our documents for different audiences.

It would not be possible in this annual report to individually thank everyone who provides us with guidance or offers us their views. We would, however, like to express our gratitude to our Wales Advisory Committee and all those organisations and individuals who have worked with us as members of advisory groups on our many projects and who have contributed in so many ways to our work during the course of the year.

We also acknowledge the support and interest shown in the Commission and our work by ministers in Westminster and in Cardiff, Members of Parliament and of the Senedd and peers from across the political spectrum, and by public officials.

In the Westminster Parliament and the Senedd, we are often invited to give evidence to special committees and sessions to assist with their inquiries and their consideration of Bills, some of which include provisions that are derived from Law Commission recommendations. (See also “The Law Commission in Wales”, page 9.)

We have a statutory duty to promote the reform of the law and continue to work hard in this area. Alongside the production of various infographics and alternative formats to explain each new law reform project, we regularly speak to students and engage with law reformers and officials from across the UK and the world. This year, we continued our usual programme of outreach visits to individual universities, with several more events already planned for 2026.

Our social media channels, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn and Instagram continue to grow. LinkedIn is an increasingly popular channel which has seen a growth in our followers of almost 50% over the year.

2025 was the Commission’s 60th anniversary and there were several activities to mark this. These included articles in external publications and an exhibition displaying the role and history of the Commission. This was displayed in Parliament and at the Royal Courts of Justice. The highlight of our 60th anniversary was the Scarman Lecture, given by Mandisa Maya in November 2026, the first female Chief Justice of South Africa.

International Engagement

The Business Plan identifies international work as one of the Law Commission’s priorities, and we have continued to expand this area of our activities. In November we published a new international strategy for 2025-2027. This sets out a clear and purposeful framework for how we will approach international work over this period, ensuring that our efforts are focused, proportionate and have impact.

This strategy assists the organisation at all levels when considering whether, and how, to engage internationally, setting out criteria for that engagement. The strategy outlines four main objectives:

1. Maintain the reputation of the Law Commission of England and Wales as world-leaders in law reform, helping to maintain the pre-eminent status of the law of England and Wales and to support the international standing of the UK.
2. Assist legal systems to evolve through law reform, supporting the rule of law.
3. Use international engagement to support learning.

4. Support international multilateral collaboration, bringing together law reformers to discuss common issues.

Highlights of our outward engagement over the year include:

1. The Commonwealth Law Conference in Malta: This occurs every two years and brings together law professionals from across the Commonwealth. The Law Commission was represented by a small delegation, including the Chair who presented at the conference on law reform.
2. The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRAs) Conference in Malta: This was an important conference bringing together law reform agencies from across the world. The Chair presented at the conference, reflecting on our 60th Anniversary.
3. The Association of Law Reform Agencies of Eastern and Southern Africa (ALRESEA) conference in Malawi: Our Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales, Professor Alison Young, and the Head of Legal, Matthew Jolley, presented on Automated Decision Making and on the use of AI in law reform. The visit also included meetings with a range of Malawian rule of law organisations. This was a unique opportunity to contribute to African law reform and to build relations in with reformers and rule of law bodies in Africa.
4. 5 Nations Law Reform Conference in Dublin: We sent representation to this annual event to engage with our counterparts in Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Jersey. Discussion focussed on the work of each Commission and on law reform practice. The conference was held in Dublin immediately prior to the Law Reform Commission of Ireland's 50th Anniversary Conference at

which former Commissioner David Hertzell presented about our work.

5. Australian Law Reform Commission's 50th Anniversary conference in Melbourne: The Head of Legal presented on two panels ("Law Reform Around the World" and "AI and Law Reform"). The visit also included several bilateral meetings with Australian law reform organisations and with universities, building relationships and sharing understanding about law reform.
6. Visit to Canada: The Chair and our Commissioner for Criminal Law, Professor Penney Lewis, had an extremely successful visit to Toronto and Ottawa. This featured detailed discussions with both the Law Commission of Canada and the Law Commission of Ontario on a wide range of issues such the relationship between law reform and the rule of law, and law reform responding to the use of AI. The visit also included meetings with the Ontario Superior Court's Chief Justice, Ontario Court of Appeal Judges, representatives from the federal Department of Justice and the Deputy High Commissioner to Canada.

Alongside our outward engagement, we welcomed a number of overseas visitors. As part of our 60th anniversary celebrations, we hosted an international law reformers roundtable followed by the 60th Anniversary dinner hosted by the City of London and attended by (amongst others) the Chief Justice of Canada, the President of the Law Commission of Canada, the Chair of the Victorian Law Reform Commission (and President of CALRAs), the Chair of the Scottish Law Commission and the Chairs of the Law Commissions of Ireland and Northern Ireland. We completed our 60th anniversary celebrations with the Chief Justice of South Africa giving the Scarman Lecture.

Other activity included welcoming a delegation from Tanzania to discuss our evidence in sexual offences prosecutions project to aid with their understanding of rape myths. We hosted a South Korean delegation who were looking to implement similar reforms to those recommended in a number of our past commercial law projects. We welcomed the Lord Chancellor of Tonga to discuss law reform in the context of his attempts to revitalise the Tongan Law Reform Commission.

A highlight was hosting officials from the Attorney General's Chambers and the Office of the President of Botswana for a three-day training visit. The visitors used this opportunity to learn about best law reform practice to feed into their newly established Law Reform Unit. Feedback confirmed that the trip was considered highly successful by the visitors and by the organisation that funded their visit, resulting in a request for further assistance.

Where appropriate, we collaborate with various parts of Government and with other bodies in our international work. Our engagement has been supported by, in particular, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (and its Rule of Law Fund, administered by ROLE UK) and by the Ministry of Justice (and its Rule of Law Fund). We have also benefitted from membership of the Attorney General's International Rule of Law Committee and from constructive collaboration with those involved in the international work of the Judiciary.

Speaking on Law Reform

As an outward facing organisation, the Commission's Chair, Commissioners and staff have been active speaking at many different events both virtually and in-person. Many have been hybrid events allowing for increased access for stakeholders.

Some examples of our speaking engagements between April 2025 and March 2026 are:

- Participating in the Experts' Group on Digital Tokens at the Hague Convention on Private International Law.
- Speaking as part of a panel at Paris Arbitration Week.
- Presenting our product liability project to a group of practitioners at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and also presenting a webinar on Product Liability Reform organised by the European Law Institute (ELI) UK.
- Speaking about our work at the Product Liability Workshop hosted by Reading University Law School.
- Speaking at the Association of Financial Mutuals annual conference to give an overview of our work on our review of the Friendly Societies Acts 1974 and 1992.
- Presenting to a group of Egyptian judges on our work on digital assets and on the Online Safety Act 2023, at an event organised through the Slynn Foundation.
- Presenting at Co-operatives UK annual Practitioners Forum.
- Speaking at the 2nd International Surrogacy Forum in Copenhagen.
- Giving the keynote speech at the Compulsory Purchase Association's National Conference.
- Speaking at the annual Legal Wales Conference on the Law Commission's work in Wales.
- Giving the keynote speech at the annual LawWorks conference.
- Speaking on: "Opening up the International Dispute Resolution Toolbox: are Existing Methods Fit for Purpose?" at London International Disputes Week.
- Giving the Law and Digitised Assets Keynote at Manchester Law and Technology Conference.

- Speaking at the Bank of England on the Law and Tokenisation.
- Presenting on wills law reform at the Law Society's Private Client Conference 2025.
- Speaking at the Institute of Legacy Management's webinar of the Wills Bill 2025.
- Presenting on wills law reform at Today's Wills and Probate's Festival.
- Presenting on wills law reform at a STEP Wales event.
- Presenting on wills law reform at Stone King's Legacy Conference.
- Contributing to a podcast for Resolution in respect of our work on Surrogacy
- Sitting as a panel member at event organised by Dawson Cornwell solicitors on adoption and surrogacy.
- Presented at a roundtable on automated decision making attended by departmental officials, academics and the judiciary.
- Speaking at a Public Law Project conference on automated decision making attended by practitioners.
- Speaking at a roundtable at a conference run by the Administrative Fairness Group at the University of York.
- Giving evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights on the findings of our report on disabled children's social care.
- Speaking at the ICCM Annual Conference in Kenilworth on burials, cremation and new funerary methods.
- Speaking at the National Burial Conference.
- Speaking at the BVL (Big Voice London) Model Law Commission launch.
- Presenting on contempt of court to Crown Court judges at Judicial College training.
- Speaking about our work on criminal appeals at a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Miscarriages of Justice in Parliament.

- Talking about our criminal appeals consultation on the Double Jeopardy podcast.

Diversity and inclusion

Delivering our mandate requires us to understand how the law operates across the full breadth of society. Diversity and inclusion are therefore not adjuncts to good governance; they are core conditions for producing authoritative, evidence-based law reform that fosters public confidence.

We have made substantial progress in implementing the 2023-25 Diversity & Inclusion Strategy which focused on four key priorities: Inclusion, Recruitment, Geographical Reach, and Consultation. In particular we have improved on inclusive recruitment, regional engagement, and consultation practices.

Outreach benefitted from external facing structured initiatives, such as the boardroom apprentice scheme. Partnerships with regional education and legal institutions continue to be maintained, including a pilot of internship placements with Middlesex University, and tailored, long-term outreach work with target universities across England and Wales, which has reached hundreds of students, with a view to encouraging and strengthening their applications.

The Commission continues to strengthen its engagement with under-represented groups through use of the Consultation Engagement Questionnaire (CEQ) which is anonymous and seeks details on consultees' ethnicity, disability, gender and social mobility via Microsoft forms. Data collected through CEQs enables targeted adjustments, including the option of engaging under-represented groups via established networks, to ensure a more balanced and inclusive evidence base.

We have embedded many of the structural and cultural changes outlined in the strategy while also identifying areas for improvement. We learnt that strong data and clear accountability are essential for lasting change.

Our partner Law Commissions and the devolved authorities

It was with great regret that we said goodbye to Lady Ann Paton as Chair of the Scottish Law Commission in December 2025. Lady Paton had been Chair since 2019 and has been a hugely respected figure, both in Scotland and within the international law reform community. We look forward to meeting her successor once appointed. In the meantime, we continue to work closely with our colleagues in the Scottish Law Commission, seeking views as appropriate and engaging on a regular basis.

The Northern Ireland Law Commission has not been operational since 2015 but remains on a statutory footing under the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 and has a designated judge to lead on law reform matters. We remain hopeful that the Northern Ireland Law Commission will be put in a position to return to being fully operational and look forward to working on relevant projects.

Health and safety

During the year, there were no notifiable incidents in relation to staff of the Commission and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Senior Leaders



Sir Peter Fraser
Chair



Professor Penney Lewis



Professor Alison Young



Professor Lisa Webley



Professor Solène Rowan



Professor Nick Hopkins
(Commissioner to
June 2025)



**Joanna Otterburn
and Stephanie Hack**
Joint Chief Executives

Part Five:

Evaluation of the 2025-26 Business Plan

Our 2025-26 Business Plan

Our Business Plan 2025-26 set out four key priorities for the period April 2025 to March 2026. Working on these priorities ensures that we continue to provide social and economic value by delivering world-class, high-quality law reform. The purpose of this evaluation is to monitor and communicate our progress, and to develop our priorities for the coming year.

Priority 1: Lay the foundations for a new programme of work

In the Business Plan 2025-26 we stated that:

“The Law Commission’s work is comprised of programmes of law reform and ad hoc ministerial references. Working with the Lord Chancellor, government departments and the Welsh Government, we will lay important foundations for our work over the coming years.”

Progress

Over 2025/26, the Law Commission published 11 consultation papers and final reports. In September 2025 the 14th Programme of Law Reform was laid in Parliament by the Lord Chancellor. This programme includes ten important law reform projects that will comprise the bulk of the Law Commission’s work over the coming years. Their selection followed a rigorous evaluation process on criteria including the potential benefits that would flow from reform, whether the independent, non-political Law Commission is the most suitable body to conduct a review in that area of the law, and the extent to which the law in that area is unsatisfactory.

Engaging with Parliament

The Law Commission continues to engage with Parliament and the Senedd. The Chair of the Law Commission and the Commissioners gave evidence to various select committees throughout 2025-26. These include:

- Evidence given by the Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales to the Senedd’s Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in September 2025.
- Evidence given by the Chair of the Law Commission and the Commissioner for Criminal Law to the Justice Select Committee in November 2025.
- Evidence given by the Commissioner for Criminal Law to Public Office (Accountability) Bill Committee in November 2025.
- Evidence given by the Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales to the Human Rights Select Committee in December 2025.

Alongside delivering projects included in the 13th and 14th Programmes, the Law Commission is working on a number of projects that we agreed to accept as references from across Whitehall and the Welsh Government. Delivering these references allows the Law Commission to remain flexible to high-priority areas of law reform. New reference projects taken on during this period include: a project on environmental regulation and farming for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, a project on transport accessibility for the Department for Transport and a project on consumer class actions for the Department of Business and Trade.

We continue to build strong relationships with stakeholders and government departments across England and Wales, to help deliver the work of the Law Commission. In 2025 we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Law Commission; this presented increased opportunities to raise awareness of our work with a range of stakeholders including the judiciary, Government, parliamentarians and the Welsh Government. Highlights included an informational banner display that toured the Royal Courts of Justice and Parliament, evidence on the work of the Law Commission given by the Chair of the Law Commission and the Commissioners to various Parliamentary Select Committees, and sessions run with officials in the Ministry of Justice and with the Welsh Government's Senior Leaders Group on the work of the Law Commission. Meetings to discuss the work of Law Commission also took place with the Attorney General and Solicitor General, and with the sponsoring Minister in the Ministry of Justice.

The work of the Law Commission received special mention in both the Senedd and Westminster Parliament this year, as legislation was passed giving effect to Law Commission recommendations. In the Senedd, with the passage of the Planning (Wales) Bill, the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, Julie James MS, said:

"I particularly want to acknowledge the Law Commission for its report on planning law in Wales. The Bills are, in no small part, the product of its meticulous and independent analysis, and this continues the strong partnership between the Welsh Government and the Law Commission in our shared mission to modernise and rationalise Welsh law."¹³

With the passage of the Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025, Justice Minister, Sarah Sackman KC MP said:

"The Law Commission deserves particular recognition for its exemplary work ... on which this Bill stands. Their engagement with stakeholders has been gold standard and demonstrated the benefits of coherent law reform – transparent, expert-led and deeply consultative."¹⁴

¹³ Senedd Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2026, 325.

¹⁴ Hansard (HL), 19 November 2025, vol 775, col 811.

Remaining alive to new issues affecting society: Case study on scoping papers

As England and Wales's dedicated independent law reform body, it is crucial that the Law Commission is scanning for issues affecting society and able to scope law reform topics. Our scoping papers and discussion papers are often shorter and have a quicker turnaround than our full reports. Scoping papers allow us to test the extent of problems in an area of law and examine whether law reform might be a solution. These are inherently valuable but can also lead to full reports with recommendations to reform the law.

- In July 2025 we published a discussion paper on AI and the law. On such an important emerging topic, this aimed to raise awareness of legal issues regarding AI and prompt wider discussion of the topic, acting as a step towards identifying those areas most in need of law reform.
 - In February 2026 we published a scoping paper on agriculture law in Wales. The paper is a significant milestone in the wider initiative to codify the law in Wales and was informed by the views of a range of stakeholders, including farmers, unions, regulatory bodies, academics and legal professionals, to ensure the voices of all people affected by the paper were represented.
-

Priority 2: Develop ways to engage with new and existing audiences

In the Business Plan 2025-26 we stated that:

“Engaging with a wide range of stakeholders across England and Wales is vital to good law reform. By developing ways to extend our reach, we can ensure our work is inclusive and takes into account diverse perspectives and experiences. Fully engaging with the public will ensure they are a meaningful part of the process of shaping our recommendations and how we communicate.”

Progress

Important progress was made on this priority with the implementation of key elements of the Law Commission’s new communications strategy. This strategy gave particular focus to innovative ways to engage the public with the work of the Law Commission.

We explored new and different media through which to reach a wide audience, resulting in the launch of the Law Commission’s new Instagram page to reach younger audiences, with 63% of Instagram users being aged between 18-34. To ensure our existing social media channels have a modern and cohesive look we designed and created branded templates, which also make our content more accessible and easier to share.

We continue to dedicate resources to developing summary, easy read and Welsh language versions of Law Commission publications to improve the reach and accessibility of these publications. This year, we developed additional ways of making the Law Commission’s publications more accessible to a wider range of audiences. An audio version was produced for our report on disabled children’s social care in September 2025, alongside a short animation which was the first of its kind for a Law Commission report. We chose to develop an audio version and animation for this project since it affects such a broad range of people – disabled children and young people, families, social workers and charities – who might not otherwise come across, or be able to easily access, our long form publications. The audio version and animation offered a way to reach out to, and hear from, this wider audience. Our report on disabled children’s social care has the potential to transform support for up to 5 million children over the next decade.

Our communications strategy in numbers

The Law Commission has seen an **increase in social media engagement and audience**. For example, in 2024 we gained 957 followers on LinkedIn, and in 2025 we gained 3,569 followers. Our average number of monthly impressions on LinkedIn was 10,227 in 2024, and in 2025 this rose to 18,857.

In 2025 the Law Commission saw an **increase of 27% in visits to the Law Commission website** which was substantially overhauled in light of user insight data, and was re-launched in March 2025. Website traffic to the Law Commission website from links on our social media channels has increased from 1.4% in 2024 to 5.1% in 2025.

We also strengthened our consultation practice by systematically collecting demographic and geographical data about consultees through an optional consultation engagement questionnaire. The insights we generated from this have already informed targeted adjustments where specific groups were underrepresented in our consultations, enabling more equitable and representative engagement. This evidence-led approach is now being embedded as standard across all Law Commission consultations.

Our outreach work to students continues to strengthen both our recruitment process for the research assistant role and public understanding of the Law Commission's work. As in previous years, we hosted the annual online central outreach presentation in December 2025. This year, the presentation received 346 live attendees, which is a significant increase from last year. We also continued our targeted approach to university outreach; Law Commission staff have delivered presentations or attended careers fairs on ten occasions this year, which has reached several hundred students.

Engagement with the legal community in Wales is also an important aspect of this priority. Aside from our continuing work with the Welsh Government, highlights include the Chair of the Law Commission's speech in October 2025 at the Legal Wales Conference about our growing body of law reform in Wales and two meetings of the Wales Advisory Committee where the Law Commission was integral in shaping the content, working for the first time with a newly-appointed co-convenor based in Wales.

Priority 3: Enhance our reputation as a world-leading law reform agency

In the Business Plan 2025-26 we stated that:

“As a world-leading law reform agency, the Law Commission can play a unique role in supporting the development and implementation of the rule of law. We will bring our skills and experience to a wider audience internationally, which will help to attract investment, support UK legal services and enhance the UK's reputation overseas.”

Progress

The Law Commission's world-class reputation for law reform has been strengthened this year through many significant examples of high-profile international engagement. During the year we launched and implemented an updated version of our international strategy for 2025-2027. This strategy highlights the value of Law Commission's international work in supporting the rule of law and the reputation of the Law Commission overseas. International engagement supports overseas agencies and improves our project work through knowledge and insights from international comparators. Where appropriate, engagement allows the Law Commission to contribute to the wider priorities of the Government.

Some key examples of how we enhanced our international outreach this year include important visits by the Chair of the Law Commission to the USA and Canada. We presented at, and provided organisational support to, the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (“CALRAS”) conference in Malta. We took part in multilateral discussions with other law reform agencies at various events including: the Australian Law Reform Commission’s 50th Anniversary conference in Melbourne, the annual meeting of the law reform agencies of England and Wales, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Jersey in Dublin, and at a conference of the Association of Law Reform Agencies of Eastern and Southern Africa in Malawi.

The Commission welcomed a range of visitors from around the world to its 60th anniversary celebrations in London. Separately, we also met with a range of international visitors wishing to discuss the process of law reform or individual areas of work, including the South Korean Ministry of Justice, the Tanzanian judiciary and the Lord Chancellor of Tonga.

The Law Commission continues to develop strong working relationships with the Ministry of Justice (“MoJ”) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (“FCDO”), to help support our international work. The FCDO provide in-country support during the Law Commission’s international visits. We successfully applied to the MoJ rule of law fund to support the implementation of our international strategy and have been invited to apply again for funding for the 2026-27 financial year.

The Law Commission as a world-leading law reform agency: Case study, Botswana Law Reform Unit

ROLE UK, an FCDO funded programme, approached the Law Commission to facilitate a visit from the newly formed Botswana Law Reform unit in May 2025. As a body with a reputation for exhibiting law reform best practice, we shared some of our insights with the Botswana team and provided an opportunity for them to observe our law reform discussions. We also arranged for the team to visit the Scottish Law Commission, in order to offer a different perspective. The team took home insights into a wide range of organisational issues and aspects of law reform project work to consider when starting the activities of their unit. As a result of the visit’s success, we have been invited to Botswana to continue our relationship.

Priority 4: Improve our ways of working

In the Business Plan 2025-26 we stated that:

“The Law Commission is a small organisation. There are around 70 members of staff, 90% of whom are in legal roles delivering law reform. The operating cost is approximately £6 million.”

Continuing to develop innovative and effective ways of working allows us to continue to deliver high-quality law reform and value for money for taxpayers.

Progress

The Law Commission delivers value for money for taxpayers by being an efficient, effective and productive organisation. Independent analysis has shown that the outputs we deliver, principally law reform recommendations in our final reports and draft bills, support economic growth and citizen wellbeing. The estimated economic gains from the five highest value projects completed since 2019 is about £670 million over 10 years.¹⁵ Considering we are usually working on around 20 in-depth, high-quality projects a year, the Law Commission is a relatively streamlined organisation, with around 80 staff members, the vast majority of whom work in legal roles directly producing these outputs.

However, we must ensure the Law Commission has the necessary capability and capacity and is able to keep pace with expectations in society, for example with making appropriate use of communication channels and meeting robust standards for data and analysis. This year, we sought experts from outside the Law Commission to conduct a review of our operating model. This identified opportunities to build greater resilience that we plan to implement over the next few years, subject to funding considerations. We have also set up an AI Taskforce to pilot and adopt AI solutions to improve

productivity while living by our organisational values of independence, integrity and expertise. These values were developed following engagement with staff and the Law Commission’s Board. To ensure our ability to work well with sensitive subject-matters and difficult issues, we have continued to offer staff bespoke, regular training on trauma-informed practice and have implemented this in our engagement with stakeholders, and in our internal ways of working throughout the year. We have also commenced work looking at how we deliver law reform that responds to the needs of all generations both in terms of harnessing talents internally, and engaging with consultees and the public. In terms of good governance, this year we engaged an independent reviewer to conduct a Board Effectiveness Review to make recommendations about the organisation’s governance structures and ways of working to ensure we are meeting public sector board standards and adopting best practice.

Integral to our reputation as a world-class law reform agency is the experience, expertise and knowledge of both those who work in and those who lead the Law Commission. We were therefore pleased to welcome two new Law Commissioners in September 2025, Professor Lisa Webley as the Property, Family and Trusts Law Commissioner, and Professor Solène Rowan as the Commercial and Common Law Commissioner. In February 2026, we announced the appointment of Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones to the role of Special Counsel for Wales. A key aspect of her role will be to help deepen the reach and relevance of law reform to communities in Wales. Finally, we have also increased resilience at senior staff levels in the Law Commission with the permanent creation of new Senior Lawyer posts. These roles ensure that, alongside Team Heads, each law reform team has a senior staff member with significant law reform expertise and also extensive management and leadership experience, to support better delivery of law reform.

¹⁵ Law Commission, **Value of Law Reform – Update** (February 2024).

Appendices



Appendix A:

Implementation status of Law Commission law reform reports

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
2025			
425	Burial and Cremation	Pending	
423	Contempt of Court: Liability	Pending	
422	Disabled Children's Social Care	Pending	
420	Evidence in sexual offences prosecutions	Accepted in part; in process of implementation in part	Courts and Tribunals Bill
419	Wills	Pending	
2024			
416	Digital assets as personal property	Implemented	Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025
2023			
413	Review of the Arbitration Act 1996	Implemented	Arbitration Act 2025
412	Digital assets	Accepted in part, implementation in part	Property (Digital assets etc) Act 2025
411	Building families through surrogacy: a new law	Pending	
2022			
410	Confiscation of the proceeds of crime after conviction	Accepted, in process of implementation	Crime and Policing Bill
408	Celebrating Marriage: A New Weddings Law	Pending	
407	Intimate image abuse	Accepted, implemented in part	Online Safety Act 2023; Crime and Policing Bill
406	Regulating Coal Tip Safety in Wales	Accepted, implemented in part	Disused Mines and Quarry Tips (Wales) Act 2025
405	Electronic Trade Documents Final Report	Implemented	Electronic Trade Documents Act 2023
404	Automated Vehicles Joint Report	Accepted, in process of implementation	Automated Vehicles Act 2024
2021			
403	Devolved Tribunals in Wales Report	Accepted	
402	Hate crime laws: Final report	Pending	
401	Smart legal contracts: advice to Government	Pending	

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
399	Modernising Communications Offences	Accepted, implemented in part; in process of implementation in part	Online Safety Act 2023; Crime and Policing Bill
398	Consumer sales contracts: transfer of ownership	Pending	
2020			
397	Misconduct in Public Office	Accepted; in process of implementation	Public Office (Accountability) Bill
396	Search Warrants	In process of implementation in part; pending in part	Crime and Policing Bill
395	Protection of Official Data	Accepted in part, implemented in part	National Security Act 2023
394	Commonhold	Accepted in part	
393	Right to Manage	Implemented in part; pending in part	
392	Leasehold Enfranchisement	Implemented in part; pending in part	
390	Employment Law Hearing Structures	Pending	
389	Electoral Law	Pending	
388	Simplification of the Immigration Rules	Accepted	
387	Leasehold Enfranchisement – options to reduce the price payable	Implemented	
2019			
386	Electronic Execution of Documents	Accepted	
384	Anti-money Laundering: the SARS Regime	Accepted, implemented in part	Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023
2018			
383	Planning Law in Wales	Accepted in part; pending in part	
382	Sentencing Code	Implemented	Sentencing (Pre-Consolidation Amendments) Act 2020
381	Abusive and Offensive Online Communications: A Scoping Report	Accepted	

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
380	Updating the Land Registration Act 2002	Accepted in part; pending in part	
2017			
376	From Bills of Sale to Goods Mortgages	Accepted but will not be implemented	
375	Technical issues in Charity Law	Implemented	Charities Act 2022
374	Pension Funds and Social Investment	Accepted; implemented in part	Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service) and Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations 2018
373	Event Fees in Retirement Properties	Accepted in part; pending in part	
372	Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty	Implemented in part	Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019
371	Criminal Records Disclosures: Non-Filterable Offences	Pending	
2016			
370	Enforcement of Family Financial Orders	Implemented in part; Accepted in part; pending in part	Family Procedure Rules 2010 Part 33.3 (Family Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2023)
369	Bills of Sale	Superseded	Superseded by LC 376
368	Consumer Prepayments on Retailer Insolvency	Accepted; implemented in part	Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024
366	Form and Accessibility of the Law Applicable in Wales	Implemented	Legislation (Wales) Act 2019
365	A New Sentencing Code for England and Wales Transition	Superseded	Conclusions carried forward into LC382
364	Unfitness to Plead	Accepted	
2015			
363	Firearms Law – Reforms to Address Pressing Problems	Implemented	Policing and Crime Act 2017 (Part 6); Antique Firearms Regulations 2021

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
362	Wildlife Law	Implemented in part; pending in part	Infrastructure Act 2015
361	Reform of Offences against the Person (HC 555)	Pending	
360	Patents, Trademarks and Designs: Unjustified Threats	Implemented	Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Act 2017
358	Simplification of Criminal Law: Public Nuisance and Outraging Public Decency	Implemented in part	Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, section 78
2014			
356	Rights to Light (HC 796)	Pending	
355	Simplification of Criminal Law: Kidnapping and Related Offences	Accepted in part	Crime and Policing Bill
N/a	Social Investment by Charities	Implemented	Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016
353	Insurance Contract Law (Cm 8898;SG/2014/131)	Implemented	Insurance Act 2015; Enterprise Act 2016
351	Data Sharing between Public Bodies: A Scoping Report	Pending	
350	Fiduciary Duties of Investment Intermediaries (HC 368)	Accepted	
349	Conservation Covenants (HC 322)	Implemented	Environment Act 2021
348	Hate Crime: Should the Current Offences be Extended? (Cm 8865)	Accepted in part	
347	Taxi and Private Hire Services (Cm 8864)	Implemented in part; pending in part	Deregulation Act 2015
346	Patents, Trademarks and Design Rights: Groundless Threats (Cm 8851)	Superseded	Superseded by LC360
345	Regulation of Health Care Professionals: Regulation of Social Care Professionals in England (Cm 8839 / SG/2014/26 / NILC 18 (2014))	Accepted	
344	Contempt of Court (2): Court Reporting (HC 1162)	Pending	
343	Matrimonial Property, Needs and Agreements (HC 1039)	Implemented in part; pending in part	

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
342	Wildlife Law: Control of Invasive Non-native Species (HC 1039)	Implemented	Infrastructure Act 2015
2013			
340	Contempt of Court (1): Juror Misconduct and Internet Publications (HC 860)	Implemented	Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015
339	Level Crossings (Cm 8711)	Accepted but will not be implemented	
337	Renting Homes in Wales/Rhenttu Cartrefi yng Nghymru (Cm 8578)	Implemented	Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016
336	The Electronic Communications Code (HC 1004)	Implemented	Digital Economy Act 2017
2012			
335	Contempt of Court: Scandalising the Court (HC 839)	Implemented	Crime and Courts Act 2013, s 33
332	Consumer Redress for Misleading and Aggressive Practices (Cm 8323)	Implemented	Consumer Protection (Amendment) Regulations 2014; Consumer Rights Act 2015
2011			
331	Intestacy and Family Provision Claims on Death (HC 1674)	Implemented in part, pending in part	Inheritance and Trustees' Powers Act 2014
329	Public Service Ombudsmen (HC 1136)	Pending	
327	Making Land Work: Easements, Covenants and Profits à Prendre (HC 1067)	Accepted	
326	Adult Social Care (HC 941)	Implemented	Care Act 2014 and Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014
325	Expert Evidence in Criminal Proceedings in England and Wales (HC 829)	Implemented	Criminal Procedure Rules
2010			
324	The High Court's Jurisdiction in Relation to Criminal Proceedings (HC 329)	Pending	
322	Administrative Redress: Public Bodies and the Citizen (HC 6)	Rejected	
320	The Illegality Defence (HC 412)	Rejected	

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
2009			
319	Consumer Insurance Law: Pre-Contract Disclosure and Misrepresentation (Cm 7758)	Implemented	Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representation) Act 2012 (c6)
318	Conspiracy and Attempts (HC 41)	Accepted but will not be implemented	
317	Consumer Remedies for Faulty Goods (Cm 7725)	Implemented	Consumer Rights Act 2015
315	Capital and Income in Trusts: Classification and Apportionment (HC 426)	Implemented	Trusts (Capital and Income) Act 2013
314	Intoxication and Criminal Liability (Cm 7526)	Rejected	
2008			
313	Reforming Bribery (HC 928)	Implemented	Bribery Act 2010 (c23)
312	Housing: Encouraging Responsible Letting (Cm 7456)	Rejected	
309	Housing: Proportionate Dispute Resolution (Cm 7377)	Accepted in part	
2007			
307	Cohabitation: The Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown (Cm 7182)	Pending	
305	Participating in Crime (Cm 7084)	Pending	
2006			
304	Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide (HC 30)	Implemented in part	Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c25)
303	Termination of Tenancies (Cm 6946)	Accepted in part; pending in part	
302	Post-Legislative Scrutiny (Cm 6945)	Implemented	See Post-Legislative Scrutiny: The Government's Approach (2008) Cm 7320
301	Trustee Exemption Clauses (Cm 6874)	Implemented	See Written Answer, Hansard (HC), 14 September 2010, vol 515, col 38WS
300	Inchoate Liability for Assisting and Encouraging Crime (Cm 6878)	Implemented	Serious Crime Act 2007 (c27)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
297	Renting Homes: The Final Report (Cm 6781)	Rejected for England, Accepted in principle for Wales	
2005			
296	Company Security Interests (Cm 6654)	Implemented in part	
295	The Forfeiture Rule and the Law of Succession (Cm 6625)	Implemented	Estates of Deceased Persons (Forfeiture Rule and Law of Succession) Act 2011
292	Unfair Terms in Contracts (SLC 199) (Cm 6464; SE/2005/13)	Implemented	Consumer Rights Act 2015
2004			
291	Towards a Compulsory Purchase Code: (2) Procedure (Cm 6406)	Accepted but will not be implemented	
290	Partial Defences to Murder (Cm 6301)	Implemented	Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c25)
288	In the Public Interest: Publication of Local Authority Inquiry Reports (Cm 6274)	Accepted but will not be implemented	
287	Pre-judgment Interest on Debts and Damages (HC 295)	Rejected	
2003			
286	Towards a Compulsory Purchase Code: (1) Compensation (Cm 6071)	Accepted but will not be implemented	
284	Renting Homes (Cm 6018)	Superseded	See LC 297
283	Partnership Law (SLC192) (Cm 6015; SE/2003/299)	Implemented in part; Accepted in part; Rejected in part	The Legislative Reform (Limited Partnerships) Order 2009
282	Children: Their Non-accidental Death or Serious Injury (Criminal Trials) (HC 1054)	Implemented	Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c28)
281	Land, Valuation and Housing Tribunals: The Future (Cm 5948)	Rejected	
2002			
277	The Effective Prosecution of Multiple Offending (Cm 5609)	Implemented	Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c28)
276	Fraud (Cm 5560)	Implemented in part	Fraud Act 2006 (c35)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
2001			
273	Evidence of Bad Character in Criminal Proceedings (Cm 5257)	Implemented	Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c44)
272	Third Parties – Rights against Insurers (SLC 184) (Cm 5217)	Implemented	Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010 (c10); Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Regulations 2016
271	Land Registration for the Twenty-First Century (jointly with HM Land Registry) (HC 114)	Implemented	Land Registration Act 2002 (c9)
270	Limitation of Actions (HC 23)	Rejected	
269	Bail and the Human Rights Act 1998 (HC 7)	Implemented	Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c44)
267	Double Jeopardy and Prosecution Appeals (Cm 5048)	Implemented	Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c44)
1999			
263	Claims for Wrongful Death (HC 807)	Rejected	
262	Damages for Personal Injury: Medical and Nursing Expenses (HC 806)	Rejected	
261	Company Directors: Regulating Conflicts of Interests (SLC 173) (Cm 4436; SE/1999/25)	Implemented	Companies Act 2006 (c46)
260	Trustees' Powers and Duties (SLC 172) (HC 538; SE2)	Implemented	Trustee Act 2000 (c29)
257	Damages for Personal Injury: Non-Pecuniary Loss (HC 344)	Implemented in part	See <i>Heil v Rankin</i> (2000) 3 WLR 117
1998			
255	Consents to Prosecution (HC 1085)	Accepted (Advisory only, no draft Bill)	
253	Execution of Deeds and Documents (Cm 4026)	Implemented	Regulatory Reform (Execution of Deeds and Documents) Order 2005
251	The Rules against Perpetuities and Excessive Accumulations (HC 579)	Implemented	Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 2009 (c18)
249	Liability for Psychiatric Illness (HC 525)	Rejected	
248	Corruption (HC 524)	Superseded	See LC 313

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
1997			
247	Aggravated, Exemplary and Restitutory Damages (HC 346)	Rejected	
246	Shareholder Remedies (Cm 3759)	Implemented	Companies Act 2006 (c46)
245	Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Hearsay (Cm 3670)	Implemented	Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c44)
1996			
243	Money Transfers (HC 690)	Implemented	Theft (Amendment) Act 1996 (c62)
242	Contracts for the Benefit of Third Parties (Cm 3329)	Implemented	Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 (c31)
238	Responsibility for State and Condition of Property (HC 236)	Accepted in part but will not be implemented; Rejected in part	
237	Involuntary Manslaughter (HC 171)	Implemented in part	Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 (c19); see LC 304
1995			
236	Fiduciary Duties and Regulatory Rules (Cm 3049)	Rejected	
235	Land Registration: First Joint Report with HM Land Registry (Cm 2950)	Implemented	Land Registration Act 1997 (c2)
231	Mental Incapacity (HC 189)	Implemented	Mental Capacity Act 2005 (c9)
230	The Year and a Day Rule in Homicide (HC 183)	Implemented	Law Reform (Year and a Day Rule) Act 1996 (c19)
229	Intoxication and Criminal Liability (HC 153)	Superseded	See LC 314
1994			
228	Conspiracy to Defraud (HC 11)	Implemented	Theft (Amendment) Act 1996 (c62)
227	Restitution: Mistakes of Law (Cm 2731)	Implemented in part	See Kleinwort Benson v Lincoln City Council (1999) 2 AC 349

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
226	Judicial Review (HC 669)	Implemented in part	Housing Act 1996 (c52); Access to Justice Act 1999 (c22); Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (c15)
224	Structured Settlements (Cm 2646)	Implemented	Finance Act 1995 (c4); Civil Evidence Act 1995 (c38); Damages Act 1996 (c48)
222	Binding Over (Cm 2439)	Implemented in part	In March 2007, the President of the Queen's Bench Division issued a Practice Direction
221	Termination of Tenancies (HC 135)	Superseded	See LC 303
220	Delegation by Individual Trustees (HC 110)	Implemented	Trustee Delegation Act 1999 (c15)
1993			
219	Contributory Negligence as a Defence in Contract (HC 9)	Rejected	
218	Legislating the Criminal Code: Offences against the Person and General Principles (Cm 2370)	Implemented in part	Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c28)
217	Effect of Divorce on Wills (Cm 2322)	Implemented	Law Reform (Succession) Act 1995 (c41)
216	The Hearsay Rule in Civil Proceedings (Cm 2321)	Implemented	Civil Evidence Act 1995 (c38)
215	Sale of Goods Forming Part of a Bulk (SLC 145) (HC 807)	Implemented	Sale of Goods (Amendment) Act 1995 (c28)
1992			
208	Business Tenancies (HC 224)	Implemented	Regulatory Reform (Business Tenancies) (England and Wales) Order 2003
207	Domestic Violence and Occupation of the Family Home (HC 1)	Implemented	Family Law Act 1996 (c27), Part IV
205	Rape within Marriage (HC 167)	Implemented	Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c33)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
1991			
204	Land Mortgages (HC 5)	Rejected	
202	Corroboration of Evidence in Criminal Trials (Cm 1620)	Implemented	Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c33)
201	Obsolete Restrictive Covenants (HC 546)	Rejected	
199	Transfer of Land: Implied Covenants for Title (HC 437)	Implemented	Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 (c36)
196	Rights of Suit: Carriage of Goods by Sea (SLC 130) (HC 250)	Implemented	Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1992 (c50)
194	Distress for Rent (HC 138)	Implemented in part	Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (c15), Part III (enacted, but not yet brought into force)
1990			
193	Private International Law: Choice of Law in Tort and Delict (SLC 129) (HC 65)	Implemented	Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 (c42)
192	Family Law: The Ground for Divorce (HC 636)	Implemented	Family Law Act 1996 (c27), Part II (enacted, but never brought into force)
1989			
188	Overreaching: Beneficiaries in Occupation (HC 61)	Implemented in part	Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (c47)
187	Distribution on Intestacy (HC 60)	Implemented in part	Law Reform (Succession) Act 1995 (c41)
186	Computer Misuse (Cm 819)	Implemented	Computer Misuse Act 1990 (c18)
184	Title on Death (Cm 777)	Implemented	Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 (c36)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
181	Trusts of Land (HC 391)	Implemented	Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (c47)
180	Jurisdiction over Offences of Fraud and Dishonesty with a Foreign Element (HC 318)	Implemented	Criminal Justice Act 1993 (c36), Part I
178	Compensation for Tenants' Improvements (HC 291)	Rejected	
177	Criminal Law: A Criminal Code (2 vols) (HC 299)	Superseded	Superseded by the criminal law simplification project: see Tenth Programme.
1988			
175	Matrimonial Property (HC 9)	Rejected	
174	Landlord and Tenant: Privity of Contract and Estate (HC 8)	Implemented	Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995 (c30)
173	Property Law: Fourth Report on Land Registration (HC 680)	Superseded	See LC 235
172	Review of Child Law: Guardianship (HC 594)	Implemented	Children Act 1989 (c41)
1987			
168	Private International Law: Law of Domicile (SLC 107) (Cm 200)	Rejected	
166	Transfer of Land: The Rule in <i>Bain v Fothergill</i> (Cm 192)	Implemented	Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 (c34)
165	Private International Law: Choice of Law Rules in Marriage (SLC 105) (HC 3)	Implemented	Foreign Marriage (Amendment) Act 1988 (c44)
164	Formalities for Contracts for Sale of Land (HC 2)	Implemented	Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 (c34)
163	Deeds and Escrows (HC 1)	Implemented	Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 (c34)
161	Leasehold Conveyancing (HC 360)	Implemented	Landlord and Tenant Act 1988 (c26)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
160	Sale and Supply of Goods (SLC 104) (Cm 137)	Implemented	Sale and Supply of Goods Act 1994 (c35)
1986			
157	Family Law: Illegitimacy (Second Report) (Cmnd 9913)	Implemented	Family Law Reform Act 1987 (c42)
1985			
152	Liability for Chancel Repairs (HC 39)	Rejected	
151	Rights of Access to Neighbouring Land (Cmnd 9692)	Implemented	Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1992 (c23)
149	Criminal Law: Report on Criminal Libel (Cmnd 9618)	Rejected	
148	Property Law: Second Report on Land Registration (HC 551)	Implemented	Land Registration Act 1988 (c3)
147	Criminal Law: Poison Pen Letters (HC 519)	Implemented	Malicious Communications Act 1988 (c27)
146	Private International Law: Polygamous Marriages (SLC 96) (Cmnd 9595)	Implemented	Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 (c42)
145	Criminal Law: Offences against Religion and Public Worship (HC 442)	Implemented	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c4)
143	Criminal Law: Codification of the Criminal Law: A Report to the Law Commission (HC 270)	Superseded	See LC 177
142	Forfeiture of Tenancies (HC 279)	Rejected	
141	Covenants Restricting Dispositions, Alterations and Change of User (HC 278)	Implemented in part	Landlord and Tenant Act 1988 (c26)
138	Family Law: Conflicts of Jurisdiction (SLC 91) (Cmnd 9419)	Implemented	Family Law Act 1986 (c55), Part I
1984			
137	Private International Law: Recognition of Foreign Nullity Decrees (SLC 88) (Cmnd 9347)	Implemented	Family Law Act 1986 (c55), Part II
134	Law of Contract: Minors' Contracts (HC 494)	Implemented	Minors' Contracts Act 1987 (c13)
132	Family Law: Declarations in Family Matters (HC 263)	Implemented	Family Law Act 1986 (c55), Part III

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
127	Transfer of Land: The Law of Positive and Restrictive Covenants (HC 201)	Rejected	
1983			
125	Property Law: Land Registration (HC 86)	Implemented	Land Registration Act 1986 (c26)
124	Private International Law: Foreign Money Liabilities (Cmnd 9064)	Implemented	Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 (c42)
123	Criminal Law: Offences relating to Public Order (HC 85)	Implemented	Public Order Act 1986 (c64)
122	The Incapacitated Principal (Cmnd 8977)	Implemented	Enduring Powers of Attorney Act 1985 (c29)
121	Law of Contract: Pecuniary Restitution on Breach of Contract (HC 34)	Rejected	
1982			
118	Family Law: Illegitimacy (HC 98)	Implemented	Family Law Reform Act 1987 (c42)
117	Family Law: Financial Relief after Foreign Divorce (HC 514)	Implemented	Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (c42)
116	Family Law: Time Restrictions on Presentation of Divorce and Nullity Petitions (HC 513)	Implemented	Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (c42)
114	Classification of Limitation in Private International Law (Cmnd 8570)	Implemented	Foreign Limitation Periods Act 1984 (c16)
114	Property Law: The Implications of Williams and Glyns Bank Ltd v Boland (Cmnd 8636)	Superseded	See City of London Building Society v Flegg (1988) AC 54
1981			
112	Family Law: The Financial Consequences of Divorce (HC 68)	Implemented	Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (c42)
111	Property Law: Rights of Reverter (Cmnd 8410)	Implemented	Reverter of Sites Act 1987 (c15)
110	Breach of Confidence (Cmnd 8388)	Rejected	

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
1980			
104	Insurance Law: Non-Disclosure and Breach of Warranty (Cmnd 8064)	Rejected	
102	Criminal Law: Attempt and Impossibility in Relation to Attempt, Conspiracy and Incitement (HC 646)	Implemented	Criminal Attempts Act 1981 (c47)
99	Family Law: Orders for Sale of Property under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (HC 369)	Implemented	Matrimonial Homes and Property Act 1981 (c24)
1978			
96	Criminal Law: Offences Relating to Interference with the Course of Justice (HC 213)	Rejected	
95	Law of Contract: Implied Terms in Contracts for the Sale and Supply of Goods (HC 142)	Implemented	Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 (c29)
91	Criminal Law: Report on the Territorial and Extra- Territorial Extent of the Criminal Law (HC 75)	Implemented in part	Territorial Sea Act 1987 (c49)
89	Criminal Law: Report on the Mental Element in Crime (HC 499)	Rejected	
88	Law of Contract: Report on Interest (Cmnd 7229)	Implemented in part	Administration of Justice Act 1982 (c53); Rules of the Supreme Court (Amendment No 2) 1980
86	Family Law: Third Report on Family Property: The Matrimonial Home (Co-ownership and Occupation Rights) and Household Goods (HC 450)	Implemented	Housing Act 1980 (c51); Matrimonial Homes and Property Act 1981 (c24)
1977			
83	Criminal Law: Report on Defences of General Application (HC 566)	Rejected	
82	Liability for Defective Products: Report by the two Commissions (SLC 45) (Cmnd 6831)	Implemented	Consumer Protection Act 1987 (c43)
79	Law of Contract: Report on Contribution (HC 181)	Implemented	Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978 (c47)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
1976			
77	Family Law: Report on Matrimonial Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts (HC 637)	Implemented	Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978 (c22)
76	Criminal Law: Report on Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform (HC 176)	Implemented in part	Criminal Law Act 1977 (c45)
75	Report on Liability for Damage or Injury to Trespassers and Related Questions of Occupiers' Liability (Cmnd 6428)	Implemented	Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 (c3)
74	Charging Orders (Cmnd 6412)	Implemented	Charging Orders Act 1979 (c53)
73	Report on Remedies in Administrative Law (Cmnd 6407)	Implemented	Rules of Supreme Court (Amendment No 3) 1977; Supreme Court Act 1981 (c54)
1975			
69	Exemption Clauses: Second Report by the two Law Commissions (SLC 39) (HC 605)	Implemented	Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 (c50)
68	Transfer of Land: Report on Rentcharges (HC 602)	Implemented	Rentcharges Act 1977 (c30)
67	Codification of the Law of Landlord and Tenant: Report on Obligations of Landlords and Tenants (HC 377)	Rejected	
1974			
62	Transfer of Land: Report on Local Land Charges (HC 71)	Implemented	Local Land Charges Act 1975 (c76)
61	Family Law: Second Report on Family Property: Family Provision on Death (HC 324)	Implemented	Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 (c63)
60	Report on Injuries to Unborn Children (Cmnd 5709)	Implemented	Congenital Disabilities (Civil Liability) Act 1976 (c28)
1973			
56	Report on Personal Injury Litigation: Assessment of Administration of Damages (HC 373)	Implemented	Administration of Justice Act 1982 (c53)
55	Criminal Law: Report on Forgery and Counterfeit Currency (HC 320)	Implemented	Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (c45)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
53	Family Law: Report on Solemnisation of Marriage in England and Wales (HC 250)	Rejected	
1972			
48	Family Law: Report on Jurisdiction in Matrimonial Proceedings (HC 464)	Implemented	Domicile and Proceedings Act 1973 (c45)
1971			
43	Taxation of Income and Gains Derived from Land: Report by the two Commissions (SLC 21) (Cmnd 4654)	Implemented in part	Finance Act 1972 (c41), s 82
42	Family Law: Report on Polygamous Marriages (HC 227)	Implemented	Matrimonial Proceedings (Polygamous Marriages) Act 1972 (c38); now Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c18)
1970			
40	Civil Liability of Vendors and Lessors for Defective Premises (HC 184)	Implemented	Defective Premises Act 1972 (c35)
35	Limitation Act 1963 (Cmnd 4532)	Implemented	Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1971 (c43)
34	Hague Convention on Recognition of Divorces and Legal Separations: Report by the two Commissions (SLC 16) (Cmnd 4542)	Implemented	Recognition of Divorces and Legal Separations Act 1971 (c53); now Family Law Act 1986 (c55), Part II
33	Family Law: Report on Nullity of Marriage (HC 164)	Implemented	Nullity of Marriage Act 1971 (c44), now Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c18)
31	Administration Bonds, Personal Representatives' Rights of Retainer and Preference and Related Matters (Cmnd 4497)	Implemented	Administration of Estates Act 1971 (c25)
30	Powers of Attorney (Cmnd 4473)	Implemented	Powers of Attorney Act 1971 (c27)
29	Criminal Law: Report on Offences of Damage to Property (HC 91)	Implemented	Criminal Damage Act 1971 (c48)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
1969			
26	Breach of Promise of Marriage (HC 453)	Implemented	Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 (c33)
25	Family Law: Report on Financial Provision in Matrimonial Proceedings (HC 448)	Implemented	Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act 1970 (c45); now largely Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c18)
24	Exemption Clauses in Contracts: First Report: Amendments to the Sale of Goods Act 1893: Report by the Two Commissions (SLC 12) (HC 403)	Implemented	Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973 (c13)
23	Proposal for the Abolition of the Matrimonial Remedy of Restitution of Conjugal Rights (HC 369)	Implemented	Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act 1970 (c45)
21	Interpretation of Statutes (HC 256)	Rejected	
20	Administrative Law (Cmnd 4059)	Implemented	See LC 73
19	Proceedings against Estates (Cmnd 4010)	Implemented	Proceedings against Estates Act 1970 (c17)
18	Transfer of Land: Report on Land Charges affecting Unregistered Land (HC 125)	Implemented	Law of Property Act 1969 (c59)
17	Landlord and Tenant: Report on the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, Part II (HC 38)	Implemented	Law of Property Act 1969 (c59)
1968			
16	Blood Tests and the Proof of Paternity in Civil Proceedings (HC 2)	Implemented	Family Law Reform Act 1969 (c46)
1967			
13	Civil Liability for Animals	Implemented	Animals Act 1971 (c22)
11	Transfer of Land: Report on Restrictive Covenants	Implemented in part	Law of Property Act 1969 (c59)
10	Imputed Criminal Intent (Director of Public Prosecutions v Smith)	Implemented	Criminal Justice Act 1967 (c80), s 8
9	Transfer of Land: Interim Report on Root of Title to Freehold Land	Implemented	Law of Property Act 1969 (c59)

LC No	Title	Status	Related Measures
1966			
8	Report on the Powers of Appeal Courts to Sit in Private and the Restrictions upon Publicity in Domestic Proceedings (Cmnd 3149)	Implemented	Domestic and Appellate Proceedings (Restriction of Publicity) Act 1968 (c63)
7	Proposals for Reform of the Law Relating to Maintenance and Champerty	Implemented	Criminal Law Act 1967 (c80)
6	Reform of the Grounds of Divorce: The Field of Choice (Cmnd 3123)	Implemented	Divorce Reform Act 1969 (c55); now Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (c18)
3	Proposals to Abolish Certain Ancient Criminal Offences	Implemented	Criminal Law Act 1967 (c58)

Appendix B:

The cost of the Law Commission

The Law Commission operates a mixed funding model, with the cost of the Commission met substantially from core funding provided by Parliament (section 5 of the Law Commissions Act 1965) and received via the Ministry of Justice, but with a significant proportion of our income being generated through funded projects for other government departments and ALBs. This OGD funding is provided in accordance with the Protocol between the Government and the Law Commission, and any underspend is returned to the MoJ. Income from other Government Departments enables us to support additional work, but is inherently time limited and dependent on project pipelines and staffing stability. Maintaining an appropriate core budget is therefore critical to avoid over reliance on volatile income streams and to ensure that core costs are met upfront, allowing the organisation to plan sustainably and deliver independently over the medium term.

	2024-25 (April-March)		2025-26 (April-March)	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Commissioner salaries (including ERNIC) ¹⁶	582.0		586.0	
Staff costs ¹⁷	5154.9		5829.2	
		5736.9		6415.2
Research and consultancy	0.0		7.5	
Communications (printing and publishing, translation, media subscriptions, publicity and advertising)	161.8		171.2	
Design, print and reprographics				
Events and conferences (non-training)				
Information technology				
Equipment maintenance				
Library services (books, articles and on-line subscriptions)				
Postage and distribution				
Telecommunications				
Accommodation recharge (e.g. rent, rates, security, cleaning) (met by MoJ) ¹⁸	629.2		609.9	
Travel and subsistence (includes non-staff)	46.0		49.9	
Stationery and office supplies	53.8		51.9	
Recruitment				
Training and professional bodies membership				
Recognition and reward scheme awards				
Childcare vouchers				
Health and Safety equipment/services				
Hospitality	0.6		0.9	
		891.7		891.2
Total		6628.6		7306.4

16 Excludes the Chair who is paid by HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

17 Includes ERNIC, ASLC, bonuses (not covered under recognition and reward scheme), secondees and agency staff.

18 In November 2013 the Law Commission moved to fully managed offices within the MoJ estate. This cost is met by MoJ directly.

Appendix C:

Targets for 2025-26 and 2026-27

Target from 2024-25	Outcome in 2025-26
To publish reports on:	
Co-operative and community benefit societies	Report to be published in 2026
Making a Will	Report published May 2025
Burial and Cremation	Report published March 2026
Agriculture in Wales	Report published February 2026
Disabled Children's Social Care	Report published September 2025
To publish consultations on:	
Digital assets and electronic trade documents in private international law	Consultation paper published June 2025
Business Tenancies: the right to renew (consultation paper 2)	The paper is anticipated to be published in Spring 2026
Chancel Repair Liability and Registration	Consultation paper published July 2025
Aviation Autonomy (2nd consultation)	Consultation paper published April 2025
New Funerary Methods	Consultation paper published June 2025

Targets for 2026-27	
To publish reports on:	To publish consultations on:
Co-operative and community benefit societies	Product liability
Digital assets and electronic trade documents in private international law	Business Tenancies: the right to renew (consultation paper 2)
Friendly societies	Management of Housing Estates
Compulsory Purchase	Commercial Leasehold (sub-project 1)
Aviation Autonomy	Rights and obligations relating to funerary methods, funerals and remains
Chancel Repair Liability and Registration	Kinship Care
Criminal Appeals	Homicide (1)
Contempt of Court (2)	
New Funerary Methods	

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