

Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs
Annabelle Ewing MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



The Hon. Lord Pentland
Chair
Scottish Law Commission
140 Causewayside
Edinburgh
EH9 1PR

12 September 2017

Dear Lord Pentland,

I would like to thank the Scottish Law Commission for your Report on Prescription presented to Ministers in July of this year and also let you know my plans to take the report forward.

I very much welcome the thorough and detailed report. It is clear that this is an area of the law which has benefitted from the consideration that the Commission has brought to bear and I am supportive of the general approach taken in the report.

The Bill will address certain issues within the law of negative prescription which can cause uncertainty and difficulty in practice. It will bring some much needed clarity, certainty and fairness, and promote the efficient use of resources.

You will no doubt have welcomed the First Minister's announcement on 5 September that this Bill will be taken forward as part of the Scottish Government's legislative programme in her Programme for Government statement.

The process for allowing certain Scottish Law Commission Bills to be referred to the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee is now well established and in my view this Bill is a suitable candidate for that process. The details of the recommendations and the Bill are currently being considered and we will share our conclusions in due course.

I would be grateful if you could pass my thanks to those at the Commission who worked on the report and I look forward to working with the Commission during the Parliamentary stages of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,
Annabelle Ewing

Annabelle Ewing