



# Scottish Law Commission

*promoting law reform*

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ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION

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BEFORE 0001 HOURS ON 5 MAY 2022

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## THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION – ELEVENTH PROGRAMME OF LAW REFORM WANTED: SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGING THE LAW

The Scottish Law Commission has today launched a public consultation on the law reform work that it should carry out in the future.

The Commission is seeking views on which areas of Scots law are most in need of reform. Reform may be needed because the law is causing difficulties in practice, for example where the law is unfair, unclear, unduly complex or out-of-date.

The Commission's remit covers all of Scots law; it extends to reserved and devolved areas of the law.

Most of the Commission's work is carried out under Programmes of Law Reform, approved by Scottish Ministers. Each Programme runs for a specified period of several years, and sets out a number of law reform projects which the Commission will examine during that period.

Work carried out by the Commission has resulted in major new laws passed by the Scottish Parliament and the UK Parliament.

The Commission is now preparing its next Programme of Law Reform, the Eleventh Programme. This is due to start in 2023.

A number of projects under the Commission's current Programme, the Tenth Programme of Law Reform, will be carried forward into the Eleventh Programme in 2023. These are –

- Homicide;
- Heritable securities;
- Damages for personal injury;
- Aspects of family law.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP, has also made a reference to the Commission to consider changes to the law in order to establish compulsory owners' associations for tenement properties.

The Commission may also continue to carry out law reform work jointly with the Law Commission for England and Wales.

The Chair of the Commission, Lady Paton, said:

“We wish to maximise the benefits that our law reform work can bring to Scotland and to the people and businesses in Scotland. We therefore seek contributions from all those with suggestions for reform of laws which are thought to be unfair, unclear, unduly complex, or out-of-date.”

An online consultation paper will be available from 5 May 2022 on the Commission's website at: <https://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/law-reform/consultations/>. . Consultees are encouraged to submit their suggestions using the online form.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION SECTION**

1. The Scottish Law Commission was set up in 1965 to promote the reform of the law of Scotland. The Chair is the Rt Hon Lady Paton, a Court of Session judge. The other Commissioners are David Bartos, Professor Gillian Black, Kate Dowdalls QC and Professor Frankie McCarthy. The interim Chief Executive is Charles Garland.

2. Further information can be obtained by contacting Charles Garland, Scottish Law Commission, 140 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR (Tel: 0131 668 2131; email [info@scotlawcom.gov.uk](mailto:info@scotlawcom.gov.uk)).