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Dear

*Robin.*

### **Update on Progress of Law Commission Projects**

Thank you for your recent interest in the Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Bill and your words on the proposed reforms.

In your comments at the Second Reading Committee of the Bill you noted that this work has come about through Law Commission review and recommendation. You asked me to write with an update on the progress of Law Commission work, and government response to it.

I am pleased to say that in recent years, the implementation rate for Law Commission reports has been positive. Ministers, Departments and the Law Commission work closely together in order to guarantee that Law Commission recommendations are fully considered and followed through.

At the Second Reading debate you expressed a particular interest in the Electoral Reform project and I am pleased to be able to provide the following update on progress. The Law Commission published an interim report on this project in February this year. There will now be a period of review between the Commission and the Cabinet Office, which is the sponsoring department. If the Commission and the Government decide to continue with the project to reform electoral law, the aim is to publish a final report (with recommendations) in early 2017. The Departmental contact on this project is Simon James ([Simon.James@cabinetoffice.go.uk](mailto:Simon.James@cabinetoffice.go.uk)). He would be happy to discuss any further queries you may have about this specific project.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that, in 2015 and 2016 so far, the Commission has published six reports containing recommendations. Of those, the Government has accepted recommendations outright in two areas, including Intellectual Property Unjustified Threats – and, as you know, the passage of relevant legislation is in progress.

For convenience, I attach at the end of this letter a table setting out details of all final reports published in recent years, the sponsoring department for the project concerned and the Government's response.

It may also be of interest to note that, although Law Commission reports will all contain recommendations, not all will be published with an associated Bill. As you are aware, reform can come about in many ways, for example through a voluntary code of conduct or a change in procedural rules. A number of Law Commission reports have been taken forward in this way.

The Government takes the work of the Law Commission to review and recommend law reform very seriously. The Lord Chancellor has committed to report to Parliament on the Government's progress in implementing Law Commission proposals. His duty to report ensures the relevant departments actively consider Law Commission reports in a timely way. It ensures that decisions are made either to bring forward reforms which deliver the recommendations, or to provide an explanation as to why they have been rejected. The 5th such report was made by the Lord Chancellor in March 2015 and is available here:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/implementation-of-the-law-commission-proposals](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/implementation-of-the-law-commission-proposals). The Lord Chancellor's 6th report to Parliament is due later this year.

Up-to-date information on progress of Law Commission projects is also published in the Law Commission's own annual reports. The 2015/16 Law Commission annual report will be laid before Parliament on 11 July and published on 14 July. I have asked the Commission to ensure that your name is added to its circulation list and you will be provided with a copy.

If you would like to discuss the overall approach to Law Commission work and implementation issues more widely, its Chief Executive, Phil Golding, has said that he would be very happy for you to contact him directly. His email address is [Phillip.Golding@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Phillip.Golding@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk)

I hope you find the above information helpful, and may I thank you for your interest in the Law Commission's important work.

I am copying this letter to Noble Lords who kindly attended the Second Reading Committee on 15 June. I will also place copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

*Warm regards*

*Lucey*

**BARONESS NEVILLE-ROLFE DBE CMG**

Project	Status	Sponsor	Implementation
<b>2015/16</b>			
Unfitness to Plead (LawCom 364)	Pending	Ministry of Justice	
Firearms Law (LawCom 363)	Accepted	Home Office	Policing and Crime Bill (Part 6)
Wildlife Law (LawCom 362)	Pending	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Offences Against the Person (LawCom 361)	Pending	Ministry of Justice	
Unjustified Threats (LawCom 360)	Accepted	Department for Business Innovation and Skills	IP (Unjustified Threats) Bill
Public Nuisance and Outraging Public Decency (LawCom 358)	Pending	Ministry of Justice	
<b>2013/14</b>			

Rights to Light (LawCom 356)	Pending	Department for Communities and Local Government	
Kidnapping and Related Offences (LawCom 355)	Pending	Ministry of Justice	
Insurers' Remedies for Fraudulent Claims (LawCom 353)	Implemented	HM Treasury	Insurance Act 2015; Enterprise Act 2016
Data Sharing Between Public Bodies (LawCom 351)	Pending	Ministry of Justice, Cabinet Office	
Fiduciary Duties of Investment Intermediaries (LawCom 350)	Accepted	Department for Business Innovation and Skills, Department for Work and Pensions	
Conservation Covenants (LawCom 349)	Accepted	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Hate Crimes (LawCom 348)	Pending	Ministry of Justice	

Taxi and private Hire Services (LawCom 347)	Pending	Department for Transport	
Groundless Threats (LawCom 346)	Accepted	Department for Business Innovation and Skills	Superseded by (LawCom 360) IP (Unjustified Threats) Bill
Regulation of Health and Social Care Professionals (LawCom) 345	Accepted	Department of Health	
Contempt of Court: Court Reporting (LawCom 344)	Pending	Ministry of Justice	
Matrimonial Property, Needs and Agreements (LawCom 343)	Part-accepted	Ministry of Justice	
Wildlife Law (LawCom 342)	Implemented	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Infrastructure Act 2015
Contempt of Court: Juror Misconduct and Internet publications (LawCom 340)	Implemented	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015

Level Crossings (LawCom 339)	Accepted	Department for Transport, Office of Rail Regulation	
Renting Homes (LawCom 337)	Accepted	Welsh Government	Renting Homes (Wales) Bill introduced into Welsh Assembly on 9 February 2015
Electronic Communications Code	Accepted	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	