



PRESS RELEASE

No: 163/2017

Date: 20th March 2017

Government Publishes Law Commission Bill

The Minister with responsibility for Justice, the Hon Neil F. Costa MP, has today published a Bill to create a Law Commission in Gibraltar for the reform of the law and for connected purposes.

The Law Commission created under this legislation will be a statutory body comprised of at least six persons who will be tasked to:

- receive and consider proposals for the reform of the law;
- undertake the examination of particular branches of the law and formulate proposals for reform, codify the law and eliminate anomalies;
- propose the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments; and
- generally provide advice and information to Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar on the reform or amendment of any branch of the law.

The Law Commission will be made up of professionals and experts who will be able to give their opinion on a number specific issues relating to legal reform. The Law Commission will also be the vehicle used to fulfil the 2015 GSLP/Liberal manifesto commitment to "further review legislation on our statute book which has not been revised for some time".

The Minister for Justice, the Hon Neil F. Costa MP said: "This Bill is intended to create a statutory body made up of myself, HM Attorney General and experts in different fields. The Commission will be tasked with examining various areas of laws, which may either be obsolete due to the passage of time since they appeared on the statute books, or require amendment due to particular local circumstances. It is intended that one of the first, if not the first project that the Commission will be requested to undertake, will be to review local sentencing laws to ensure that they cater for the needs of Gibraltar, rather than being tied to sentencing guidelines, which have evolved for another jurisdiction with its own particular issues that do not necessarily apply to Gibraltar. I am truly very excited about this particular project and I am very much looking forward to debating the merits of this Bill in Parliament."