



**Law
Commission**
Reforming the law

International Strategy for the Law Commission

2025-27

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Foreword from the Joint CEOs

We are pleased to introduce the Law Commission's international strategy for 2025-27, setting out a clear and purposeful framework for how we will approach international work over this period and ensuring our efforts are focused and impactful.

The rule of law, legal certainty, and modernisation of legal systems are challenges shared across jurisdictions. We are proud of the role the Law Commission plays internationally, and we look forward to deepening our global relationships, contributing to the development of law reform institutions worldwide, supporting the rule of law and continuing to learn from those we engage with.

This strategy is designed to guide all members of the Commission in making informed decisions about international engagement. It provides clarity on our priorities, ensures that resources are used proportionately, and supports our independence while enabling meaningful collaboration.

Purpose of this strategy:

As a world-leading law reform agency, the Law Commission plays a unique role in supporting the development of the law and the rule of law domestically and internationally. International engagement maintains and enhances our reputation and promotes the organisation's interests and values.

The Law Commission has always involved itself in international work, reflecting in part its duty under s3(1)(f) of the Act to "obtain such information as to the legal systems of other countries as appears to the Commissioners likely to facilitate the performance of any of their functions". The Commission has, however, recently made it a priority to increase its international activity.

This strategy will assist the organisation at all levels when considering whether, and how, to engage internationally. It aims to do the following:

- Provide guidance as to the rationale for any international engagement undertaken.
- Ensure that all international activities are aligned with wider organisational objectives/priorities – including the business plan – and can be shown to provide a clear benefit.
- See that resources, both financial and personnel, are used in a focussed and proportionate way.
- Respect the Law Commission's independence whilst enabling collaboration with others where interests and objectives align.
- Allow for engagement to be recorded, monitored and evaluated.

This strategy applies to all members of the Law Commission. International engagement, whether in relation to incoming visitors or overseas travel, should be co-ordinated centrally through the Law Commission's international team.

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.*
 - We will show international leadership in law reform by promoting modern, innovative law reform practice and thought leadership in specific areas of reform (for example, reform relating to technology).
 - By bringing our skills and experience to an international audience, we will demonstrate this jurisdiction's commitment to modern, fit for purpose law, helping to attract investment, support UK legal services and the enhance the reputation of the UK overseas.
 - We will, where appropriate, collaborate with the Government, the judiciary and others to further the reach and impact of our international work and to enhance our domestic reputation.
2. *Assist legal systems to evolve through law reform, supporting the rule of law.*
 - We will identify opportunities for the Law Commission to provide training or otherwise engage to support the development of other jurisdictions' law reform capability, sharing information and expertise to enable effective law reform in those jurisdictions, strengthening the rule of law.
 - We will engage with other jurisdictions on their work to reform particular areas of law, sharing the experiences and insights we have gained from our own work in those or associated areas.
 - We will continue to demonstrate on the international stage the essential role that law reform plays in supporting the rule of law, encouraging jurisdictions to set up law reform agencies where there currently are none, and to support existing institutions.
3. *Use international engagement to support learning.*
 - We will use engagement opportunities to keep the Law Commission abreast of international legal developments. Insight into these developments will support our individual reform projects and help us identify areas of future work, ensuring that we remain at the cutting edge of international development of the law.
 - We will proactively seek to learn about 'best practice' from other jurisdictions and feed that back to our project teams, enhancing our effectiveness.
 - We will enhance our global network of experts with whom we can engage on law reform issues.

4. *We will support international multilateral collaboration, bringing together law reformers to discuss common issues.*

- We will support the work of the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRAs), assisting with its administration and development while ensuring that the organisation retains its own identity, wholly separate from the Law Commission.
- We will, where appropriate, take the opportunity to undertake joint activities (e.g. training) with CALRAs, benefitting from CALRAs' networks and capacity.
- We will continue to engage with the law reform agencies of our neighbouring jurisdictions, including by means of the annual "5 nations" conference.
- We will seek opportunities to present on law reform topics at multinational conferences.

Criteria for International Engagement

In order to assess whether we undertake a proposed activity, that activity should be considered against the following criteria:

- a) The extent to which the activity supports the objectives in this strategy; in terms of both the number of objectives contributed to and the degree of potential impact.
- b) The time commitment likely required and number of people that will need to be involved. Capacity of staff is limited and must be focussed on engagement where there will be the most impact.
- c) Cost implications to the Law Commission and the availability of separate funding.
- d) Safety of those involved.
- e) Reputational concerns, including the suitability of the activity for an independent body.
- f) The extent to which Law Commission involvement would "add value"; for example, by providing law reform and project-specific expertise as opposed to general legal input that could be sourced elsewhere.

Involvement in International Engagement:

- The Chair, Commissioners or other senior representatives of the organisation should aim to undertake at least two outward visits per year, and look for ways to exceed this where funding is available. These visits will focus on relationship building with jurisdictions identified as a priority by the Law Commission.
- Other international activity (both inward and outward) that meets the above criteria should be undertaken by whoever is best placed to deal with specific

issues of interest and/or of relevance to those we are engaging with. Where possible, the intention will be to spread activities across the Commission, providing opportunities for involvement to all staff in support of personal and professional development.

- The Law Commission will retain control as to the extent of our international work. We will work flexibly, balancing the need to be reactive to requests for international engagement, as well as proactively seeking opportunities to further the objectives under this strategy.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- A record of all international engagement undertaken by the Law Commission will be maintained by the international team.
- Report templates must be completed by staff member(s) involved in the activity to ensure there is an accurate record, and to enable evaluation of the engagement to take place.
- Feedback on the international engagement will be sought from participants in order to understand the benefit of the activity, and to demonstrate that it met the criteria within this strategy.