



## Framework Document

7. The Chief Executive updated Commissioners on the Framework Document. She noted that at the last meeting she had brought to their attention a series of queries that HM Treasury had raised on the draft document. Those issues had not yet been resolved, and this had delayed the Framework Document's agreement. The Chief Executive noted that the issue had been escalated within the Ministry of Justice and she hoped that there would be resolution soon.

## Recruitment of Chairman, Commissioner and Non-Executive Board Members

8. The outcome of the recruitment for the Chairman of the Law Commission had been announced on 27 March. Lord Justice Bean, the Chairman elect, was attending this meeting of the Commissioners as an observer as part of his induction into the role.

9. The recruitment for a successor for Professor Cooke was progressing well. The advertisement for the position had been posted before the pre-election purdah period commenced on the 30 March, and the advert would run until the 30 April. The full membership of the panel was now agreed, and dates for the sift and interviews were being diarised. In addition, the Chief Executive noted that she had met with the external recruitment consultants who were leading on the recruitment to provide them with briefing on the role.

10. The recruitment of the Non-Executive Board Members was continuing – and the interview panel had recommended the name of one candidate to the Permanent Secretary for approval. Once that approval had been granted, the appointment could formally be made by the Chairman of the Law Commission. As this was not a public appointment, there would be no role for Ministers in the process.

## **Item 3: Work Programme**

11. The Commissioners then provided updates against the programme board report and the business plan. Specifically:

- Nicholas Paines noted that, as agreed at the earlier peer review meeting, the draft Report of the Wildlife project would be returning to Commissioners for further discussion at their meeting on the 6 May. He also provided an update on the Planning Law in Wales project, where discussions were ongoing with the Welsh Government as to the scope of the project. The Welsh Government had expressed a view that the project should seek to consolidate the existing law, which was not the Commission's understanding of the Terms of Reference of the project as agreed when it was entered into the 12<sup>th</sup> Programme. The Chief Executive and the relevant Team Manager would be involved in the discussions about this with the Welsh Government.
- The Chairman noted that the draft Consultation Paper on the Form and Accessibility of Welsh Law was on schedule to come to Commissioners for their meeting on the 21 May, but that it might be slightly delayed being circulated to them.
- Professor Ormerod confirmed that the Sentencing (Issues Paper) would be circulated to Commissioners for their meeting on the 3 June, and that this

- Stephen Lewis noted that a short policy paper on Groundless Threats would be discussed by the Commissioners at their meeting on the 17 June. This would provide an update to Commissioners on some issues that had arisen since the publication of the original report which needed to be addressed before the draft Bill could be finalised.
- Professor Cooke noted that all the projects led by the Property, Family and Trust Law Reform team were currently rated as Amber due to the uncertainty brought about by her imminent departure from the Commission and to the additional work ongoing in the team to undertake the Marriage project.

12. All other projects remained on track to be delivered to timetable. The Chairman noted the importance of ensuring there was no slippage on projects due to come to Commissioner's before the summer break as the programme of meetings was already very heavy.

13. The Chief Executive then provided a short update on the corporate aspects of the business plan, noting that the launch of the new website for the Commission had been delayed (as reported at the Commissioner's previous meeting) but that content was now being moved onto the new site, and it was hoped that the website would be launched in June. The Chief Executive also advised Commissioners that the Head of External Communications would arrange to hold a session with Commissioners ahead of that launch to demonstrate the new website to them.

14. The Chief Executive then introduced the Finance Report – noting that the Commission had deferred more than £300,000 before the end of the financial year into 2015-16. There has been no clarity as yet from the Ministry of Justice as to the Commission's budget allocation for this financial year, and any budget is subject to the spending review that will take place once a new Government is formed.

#### **Item 4: Any Other Business**

15. No other business was raised.