

# Annual Report

for the year ended 31 March 2015



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**for the year ended 31 March 2015**

Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly by the Department of Justice under Section 52(2) of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (as amended by paragraph 10 of Schedule 13 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010).

September 2015

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## **THE NORTHERN IRELAND LAW COMMISSION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**

#### **Foreword – Dr Venkat Iyer Commissioner**

This is the eighth Annual Report of the Northern Ireland Law Commission covering the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

The year has been another unusual one; plans were being put in place to restructure the Northern Ireland Law Commission (“the Commission”) in line with the recommendations of the DoJ’s Review of the Commission. This would have involved the appointment of a new Chairman and Commissioners by the Department, and the appointment of a new Chief Executive by the Commission.

Following the retirement of our previous CEO, the Commission appointed an interim CEO to implement these changes.

However, in September 2014, the Commission was informed by DoJ that in face of budget cuts imposed on the Department, and in seeking to protect front-line services Minister Ford had reluctantly decided that the Commission should close on 31 March 2015. I, and the Interim CEO, were asked to ensure an orderly run down of the Commission, including transfer or stopping existing projects.

The news of the closure was received with dismay by the Law Commissions on these islands, and not least by the

England & Wales, and Scottish Law Commissions, with whom the Commission works closely on UK-wide law reform projects. The arrangements for the future handling of these tri-partite projects (including the Electoral Law project already out for consultation) remain uncertain at the time of writing this report.

I want to record my appreciation of the work of the legal and administrative teams in the Commission, of course for the whole year, but more specifically in the last six months of this year, when uncertainty became the norm. The work on the projects and the approach to the many issues arising from the forthcoming closure continued at the highest level of professionalism.

Particularly noteworthy in this regard is the contribution made by the Interim Chief Executive without whose co-operation and unfailing courtesy I would have found it much harder to discharge my responsibilities.

The Interim CEO’s Report follows, describing the Commission’s progress on those projects; and the provisional arrangements for their completion elsewhere.

**Dr Venkat Iyer  
Commissioner**

## Chief Executive's Report

### Introduction

In September 2014, in the midst of this reporting period, the Commission was informed by the Minister of Justice that, in the face of budget cuts across the NI public sector, it was to cease operating in its current form on 31 March 2015.

In the immediate months following there was some uncertainty surrounding the in-year 2014/15 budget, which had a knock on effect for the completion of the law reform projects already under way.

In April 2014, the Report on the **Regulation of health care professionals** was published jointly by the Law Commissions for England & Wales and Scotland and the Northern Ireland Law Commission. This was the first such joint project. It proved a successful venture in collaborative working and one which we are already repeating with the tri-lateral electoral law project.

During the period of this report, the Commission continued in similar vein its work alongside the other UK Commissions, on the tri-lateral **electoral law project**. Electoral law is an excepted matter under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It is not, therefore a matter, within the legislative competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Commission also within this reporting period started work on two referred projects from Northern Ireland departments, namely **Defamation Law** (from Department of Finance & Personnel), and the **Public Health Act (NI) 1967** (from Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety).

The project on Defamation will examine whether the provisions of the England & Wales Defamation Act 2013 should be introduced to Northern Ireland. The Department of Justice Minister approved the inclusion of the project in the Commission's approved work programme in January 2014.

The **Review of the Public Health Act (NI) 1967** was referred by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in October 2013. Preparatory research work had started, pending formal approval of the addition of the project to the Commission's work programme.

### Who we are

The Northern Ireland Law Commission (the Commission) was established in April 2007 under the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010) referred to hereon as the 2002 Act (as amended) following on from the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review Group. The Review Group reported in March 2000: *Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland*.

The Commission was set up as an independent advisory body whose aim is to consider the law of Northern Ireland with a view to making proposals for the law's systematic reform.

The 2002 Act (as amended) provides for the appointment of a Chairman and four Commissioners. The Chairman must hold the position of a judge of the High Court of Northern Ireland and three of the Commissioners must be drawn from academia and the legal professions respectively. The fourth must be a non-lawyer. Four

Commissioners were appointed during 2008.

The Commission is not regarded as the servant or agent of the Crown or enjoying any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown.

Our main task is to review areas of the law and to make recommendations for change. The Commission seeks to ensure that the law is as simple, accessible, fair, modern and cost-effective as possible. A number of specific types of reform are covered by the provisions in the 2002 Act (as amended):

- Simplification and modernisation
- Codification
- The elimination of anomalies
- The repeal of legislation which is no longer of practical utility
- The reduction of the number of separate legislative provisions

## Devolution of justice functions

On 12 April 2010, justice functions in Northern Ireland were devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly (NIA) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) came into existence as a new Northern Ireland Department. From this date, the Commission became an independent advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB) of the DoJ.

The 2002 Act (as amended) provides that the Commission consider any proposals for the reform of the law of Northern Ireland referred to it and submit to the DoJ programmes for the examination of different branches of the law with a view to reform. The DoJ must consult the Attorney General for Northern Ireland before approving any

programme submitted by the Commission.

Under the 2002 Act, the annual report of the Commission for the year ended 31 March 2015 will be laid in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

## What we do

The Northern Ireland Law Commission will provide the DoJ and the Northern Ireland Executive with independent and well-researched proposals and advice on law reform. The Commission supports the premise that in a modern system of justice each citizen has rights and duties under the law. The Commission – alongside other bodies responsible for developing our laws – will respect, safeguard and promote those rights and duties.

## Developing our programme of law reform work

The Commission submitted its First Programme of Law Reform proposals to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in 2009. The Secretary of State laid the programme before each House of Parliament (following devolution of justice matters this role falls to the Minister of Justice and the programme is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly only). The Commission also submitted the First Programme to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. The Programme was laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly in December 2009.

The Commission's Second Programme was approved by the Minister of Justice and laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly in July 2012.

## Working Methods

A legal team, normally headed by a Commissioner or Commissioners is created for each project. The Commissioner(s) have responsibility for providing the strategic project leadership along with a level of detailed legal and policy work commensurate with his or her part-time commitment.

Teams are encouraged to exchange information freely across the project boundaries and our governance mechanisms ensure that Commissioners have a degree of involvement across all projects. The Chief Executive Officer sits on each of the project Steering Groups. The aim of such mechanisms is to build a corporate policy approach for the Commission and ensure that any inter-dependencies or linkages between projects is recognised and reflected in the Commission's considerations.

Law reform projects may begin with a scoping paper or a consultation paper. The purpose of a scoping paper is to consider how extensive the project should be, find out the key issues as seen by others, and identify interested parties. This early process can involve considerable work with stakeholders.

This is followed by publication of a consultation paper. In the Consultation Paper the law as it currently stands is set out, the perceived weaknesses/defects in the law and its operation are discussed and possible options for reform are set out.

During the consultation period, we actively seek out interested parties and engage with them in meetings either on their own or with other stakeholders. We try to hold meetings across Northern Ireland so as to ensure we have a balance of views and to facilitate

and encourage wider stakeholder engagement from outside Belfast.

The responses to the public consultation are analysed and the Commission takes careful account of these responses as part of its final considerations.

A Report with recommendations and, where appropriate, draft legislation, is presented to the DoJ and is published. It is then for the DoJ and the Northern Ireland Administration to decide whether it accepts the recommendations and to introduce any necessary Bill in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

## Financial Statements

From the 2011-12 financial year onwards, the Comptroller and Auditor General is not required to examine, certify and report on the Law Commission's statement of accounts in accordance with Section 102 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

However, there is a continuing requirement for the Commission to prepare accounts in accordance with a direction issued by the DoJ in accordance with paragraph 6 (2) of Schedule 9 to the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010.

The Law Commission's accounts are therefore now incorporated within the DoJ Sponsor Departments Annual Accounts from 2011-12 onwards.

A summary overview statement of the Commission's running costs for the period is shown on page 21.



## Membership of the Commission Board

### Chairman and Commissioners

For the period in question, the sole Commissioner was Dr Venkat Iyer, who was originally appointed on 8 September 2008, and in 2011 re-appointed for a period of up to four years until 31 August 2015.

During the period, the post of Chairman, and those of the other three Commissioner posts remained vacant, pending the outcome of the Review of the Commission which had been initiated by the Department of Justice in 2012.

### Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Ms Judena Goldring was appointed as the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer in August 2007.

### Interim Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Following Ms Goldring's retirement at the end of April 2014, Mr Kenneth Millar was appointed as Interim Chief Executive of the Commission with effect from 22 May 2014.

A list of the full staffing of the Commission during 2014-15 is shown on page 7.

## Full Membership of the Commission during 2014-15

### COMMISSION BOARD

#### Chairman

Post Vacant

#### Commissioners

Dr Venkat Iyer - Law Academic

Post Vacant

Post Vacant

Post Vacant

#### Chief Executive

Ms Judena Goldring MA, Solicitor (up to 30/04/14)

#### Interim Chief Executive

Mr Ken Millar (from 22/05/14)

### PROJECT LAWYERS

Mrs Diane Drennan LL.B., M Phil, Solicitor

Mrs Rebecca Ellis LL.B., (Hons), Solicitor

Dr Andrew Scott LL.B., (Hons), MPhil, PhD

Mr Robert Warnock LL.B., Solicitor

### LEGAL RESEARCHERS

Mr John Clarke, LL.B.

Dr Catherine O'Dwyer BA Hons, M.A., PhD

### BUSINESS SUPPORT TEAM

Business Manager - Mr Derek Noble

Communications and HR Manager - Mrs Cathy Lundy

Personal Secretary to Chief Executive - Ms Paula Martin

Personal Secretary to Chief Executive - Ms Ciara Murray (Temp up to 24/04/14)

Administrative Officer - Miss Joanne Kirk

*Note: Not all members of staff were employed for the full financial year.*

## Business Review

### Second Programme Projects

#### Electoral Law

The focus of this project has been on the technical law governing elections and referendums throughout the UK. It does not include subjects which have constitutional or political policy dimensions such as the feasibility of voter identification in Great Britain, changes to the franchise.

Electoral law is a dense area of law with over 25 pieces of primary legislation and many more pieces of secondary legislation. Electoral law is still very much based on the Victorian model of elections, which was formulated at a time when there were much fewer elections. Consequently, introducing a new election requires replicating every aspect of existing law or should any amendments be made to the current framework, each piece of legislation affecting elections must be amended.

This is extremely time consuming for policy makers and has led to drafting errors across the statute book. Many of the recommendations are based on the aim of rationalising electoral law into a single, consistent legislative framework governing all elections.

There have been particular issues in regard to Northern Ireland due to distinct policy differences, e.g. the existence of the Chief Electoral Officer, voter identification, postal voting not being available on demand etc. Additionally the statutory framework in Northern Ireland has been difficult to access due to a lack of central up-to-date resources. Particular consideration has had to be given therefore to the position in Northern Ireland which has required a different approach, or introduced caveats to many of the recommendations.

#### Timetable

This project has been broken into three phases. Phase 1 was the scoping exercise which included a consultation element which was completed in December 2012. This was conducted by the Law Commission of England and Wales with input from the NI Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission.

Phase 2 involves formulating law reform proposals, and has been conducted on a tripartite basis with all three Law Commissions actively involved. The consultation paper was published in December 2014, and the consultation period ran until 31 March 2015. The paper includes a vast number of provisional proposals in order to focus the mind of stakeholders. Once the formal consultation period has ended there is a review point with Government to assess the progress of the project. It is planned that substantive law reform recommendations will be available in autumn 2015. This is a precursor to a final report, due to the scale of the project.

Phase 3 is publishing a final report and draft legislation in February 2017, in order for any new legislation to be in place in advance of the 2020 elections.

#### Defamation law

DFP sought advice from the Commission in September 2013 on whether any corresponding provisions from the Defamation Act 2013 (as applies in England & Wales from January 2014) should be introduced in Northern Ireland. The DFP Minister in October 2013 referred a full consultation on the project to the Commission, and the DoJ Minister in January 2014 formally approved its inclusion in the Commission's current work programme.

The Terms of Reference are “to review the existing law of defamation within Northern Ireland in light of the recent changes brought about in England and Wales by the introduction of the Defamation Act 2013”.

The Commission engaged a specialist resource to undertake the work, supplemented by the Commission’s own in-house resource, and work on the project commenced in February 2014. A consultation paper was published in November 2014, with responses due by 20 February 2015.

The planned ceasing of the operation of the Commission on 31 March 2015 did not give sufficient time for adequate analysis of the responses, and the formulation of the Commission’s recommendations within a final report.

The Commission has provided a summary of the responses to the consultation paper to DFP, who will progress through to the final stages of the project as appropriate.

### **Review of Public Health**

On 4 February 2013, the Commission received a request from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), asking for discussions about the potential for a review of the Public Health Act (NI) 1967 (‘the 1967 Act’). Initial research was conducted by the Commission in order to scope the review and set the main objectives of the project.

The aim of the project is to clarify and modernise the 1967 Act in the context of an overall examination of public health law in Northern Ireland as well as a comparative analysis of legislation in other jurisdictions to enable the provision of informed proposals for future reforms.

In this context, the 1967 Act was examined in detail and compared with the legislation in England and Wales (Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 as amended) and Scotland (Public health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008). The public health law in other jurisdictions and countries, such as Wales, the Republic of Ireland, South Australia and British Columbia were also examined.

Detailed research papers were prepared in April, June, August and September 2013 for meetings with DHSSPS. The Commission contributed to a Departmental submission to the DHSSPS Minister and a formal reference from DHSSPS was received on 4 October 2013 confirming that, following Ministerial approval, the Commission were requested to carry out a review of the Public Health Act (NI) 1967. The review was to be carried out under the provisions of section 51(2)(e) of the Justice (NI) Act 2002.

From April until December 2014, the Public Health Review Team met with key stakeholders, such as senior management in the Public Health Agency, the DoE, representatives from local government and the Chartered Institute of Public Health. A meeting took place involving senior public health consultants and policy makers. Contact was also made with the head of Health Protection in the Scottish Government. Working group meetings with DHSSPS representatives have continued on a monthly basis.

A draft consultation paper was prepared by the team and was forwarded to DHSSPS by the end of February 2015.

In the uncertain period before the formal DoJ Ministerial decision to close the Commission, the project was not formally included in the Commission’s work programme. However, the legal team involved (50% funded by DHSSPS) continued its research and drafting work within the auspices of the

Commission. In the latter part of this reporting period, DHSSPS agreed to take ownership of the project from 1 April 2015.

### **Enforcement of contact orders**

The Commission was also engaged in work considering the law and practice around enforcement of contact orders. This work is being undertaken on behalf of the Department of Justice as part of the review of Family Justice in Northern Ireland.

A comparative research paper was prepared considering the position in Northern Ireland and other jurisdictions. The paper was presented to the Department in October 2014.

## Corporate governance

- demonstrating high standards of corporate governance at all times.

### Commission Board

In the absence of a formal Chairman and Board, the Commissioner and Interim CE meet regularly, usually on a weekly basis.

Progress on each of the various law reform projects were discussed at these meetings, and personnel and finance matters associated with the closure.

The Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer for the Commission. In accordance with the Relationship Document and associated Financial Controls agreed between the Commission and the DoJ, the Chief Executive has particular leadership responsibilities for:-

- ensuring the efficient and effective use of staff and other resources;
- ensuring high standards of propriety;
- ensuring that the Minister of Justice and the sponsor team are kept informed of any changes or developments within the organisation;
- ensuring that any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of public funds are complied with; that the office operates within the limits of its remit and any delegated authority agreed with the sponsor Department, and in accordance with any other conditions relating to the use of public funds; and

The Chief Executive is required on a regular basis to provide assurance information to the Commission Board on how she/he was taking forward the above responsibilities.

The corporate governance procedures and arrangements for the Commission, including finance and accountancy arrangements were operated in accordance with both DoJ and DFP requirements.

Expenditure and decision making during the period was carried out in accordance with these governance arrangements.

The Commission has throughout the period once again contained overall expenditure within the funding resources made available from our Sponsor Department.

### Savings Delivery Plan

The Commission continues to successfully implement its Savings Plan drawn up in response to the budget reductions required under the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010.

The Commission has restructured a number of posts which changed the profile of the original Savings Delivery Plan (SDP); however, savings targets have been met in full.

The Commission has continued to review its non-staff costs, and in particular our publications policy. This has resulted in further consequent reductions in the numbers of printed Papers and Reports. Where possible, the use of electronic means to

view/download documents from our website is encouraged. Any proposal involving national or international travel is carefully examined and approved in accordance with DoJ policies.

### [Relations with DoJ Sponsor Branch](#)

In accordance with the Relationship Document, quarterly review meetings were held between the Commission and the Sponsor Branch.

An annual Business Plan for the period was drawn up.

### [Equality Scheme](#)

The Commission had submitted its revised Equality Scheme together with its Equality Action Plan to the Equality Commission in October 2012. The Scheme sets out how NILC proposes to fulfil its statutory duties and was drawn up in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Equality Commission guidelines. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Act.

The Commission's Equality Scheme was subsequently approved by the Equality Commission in April 2013.

### [Equality of Opportunity](#)

The Commission is fully committed to the promotion of equality and good relations, as set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The

Commission takes into account equality issues throughout its Law Reform Projects and Internal Services.

### **Law Reform Projects**

The Commission introduces equality considerations at the beginning of each law reform project and builds up its understanding of these issues through effective consultation throughout the course of the project – particularly working with groups representing the nine categories of Section 75. In this way, the Commission can be confident that its law reform recommendations, and any draft legislation presented to the DoJ, are fully equality proofed and tested on the need to build good relations between persons of differing beliefs, political opinion or racial group.

### **Recruitment**

Recruitment of staff to the Commission adheres to Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) and HR Connect recruitment policies and procedures. These take full account of equal opportunities statutory obligations and best practice. All Commission recruitment panel members are given up to date recruitment and selection interview standards and legislation training in line with the NICS.

### **Public procurement of services**

The Commission procures its services through public tender exercises assisted by DFP Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) where necessary. The Commission adheres to the guidelines and procedures set down by CPD. These take full account of equal opportunities statutory obligations and best practice. Commission procurement panel members are given relevant equal opportunity training.

## **Employee Involvement**

The Commission strongly encourages consultation and exchange of information within the Commission. This is affected through regular staff team meetings.

## **Register of Interests**

All members of the Commission's Senior Management Board are required to provide information on personal and business interests that may be perceived to influence their judgement in the exercise of their public duty.

## **Personal data related incidents**

During the financial year 2014-15, the Northern Ireland Law Commission reported no incidents of personal data related incidents.



## Publications 2014-15

<b>Title</b>	<b>Published</b>
Report: The Regulation of Healthcare Professionals NILC 18 (2014)	April 2014
Consultation Paper: Defamation Law NILC 19 (2014)	November 2014
Joint Consultation Paper: Electoral Law NILC 20 (2014)	December 2014
Annual Report 2013-14	December 2014

These publications are available on our website: [www.nilawcommission.gov.uk](http://www.nilawcommission.gov.uk)

## **Management Commentary**

The Commission's business plan for 2014-15 sets out the key objectives for that period.

Progress against these strategic and business objectives is described below.

The Commission has two overarching strategic aims:

1. To develop and maintain a centre of law reform excellence for Northern Ireland within the resources provided by government.
2. To take forward the Commission's Second Programme of Law Reform for Northern Ireland.

## **STRATEGIC AIM 1:**

### **TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A CENTRE OF LAW REFORM EXCELLENCE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WITHIN THE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT.**

#### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:**

- 1.1 To build and maintain effective governance and working practices that effectively support the objectives of the Commission, are in accordance with the statutory obligations, rules and guidance governing NDPBs and specifically the DOJ/NILC Relationship document governing the Commission.**

In year targets:

- To forward to DoJ an Annual Business Plan for the 2014-15 year.  
**Target Achieved**
- Continue to maintain a sound financial control system in line with DOJ accounting and audit requirements.  
**Target Achieved**
- During the course of the year the Commission will continue to review our financial and resourcing savings delivery plan to ensure, as far as practicable, that we manage the delivery of our services in a way that realises the required cash releasing savings totalling £150k.  
**Target Achieved**
- Continue to operate AccountNI in line with Government procedures and identify/resolve any arising operational issues with DOJ Financial Services Division, Directorate accountants and AccountNI for period ending 31 March 2015.  
**Target Achieved**
- To process all payments to suppliers within 10 days of receipt of a valid invoice in line with Government targets working in partnership with DOJ Financial Services Division and AccountNI.  
**Target Achieved**
- Prepare an Annual Report for the 2013/14 period and send to the DOJ by 31 July 2014.  
**Target Achieved**
- Conduct an annual review of NILC overarching risk register.  
**Target Achieved**

**1.2 To take forward an effective Training and Development Plan that accords with the Commission's objectives and business plans.**

In year targets:

- For staff in post at 1 April 2014, Personal Performance Agreements (PPAs) and Personal Development Plans (PDPs) to be drafted and agreed in line with NICS Core Competence Framework by 31 July 2014.

**Target Achieved**

- Ensure appropriate new Commissioner and new staff development opportunities are identified and developed into a one year Training and Development Plan by 31 December 2014 (see 1.3 below).

**Target Achieved**

**1.3 To maintain and build an effective legal staff team within the terms of the Commission's resources.**

- As a result of the uncertainties around the outcome of the DOJ Review recommendations, planning for recruitment of Commission lawyers and legal researchers had been put on hold until final decisions were made by the Department about the future role of the Commission. Following the decision that the Commission should close, no new contracts or appointments were made within the accounting period. The existing team was structured within the Commission's allocated resources.

**Target Achieved**

## **STRATEGIC AIM 2:**

### **TO TAKE FORWARD THE COMMISSION'S SECOND PROGRAMME OF LAW REFORM FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

#### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:**

#### **TO TAKE FORWARD THE PROJECTS CONTAINED WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S SECOND PROGRAMME OF LAW REFORM**

##### **2.1 To contribute the Northern Ireland perspective to the English Law Commission project on electoral law (working alongside the Scottish Law Commission in a tri-partite project).**

In year targets:

- To contribute to consideration of policy recommendations in conjunction with the Law Commission of England and Wales and the Scottish Law Commission.

**Target Achieved**

- To contribute to the publication of a consultation paper by 31 October 2014.

**Target Achieved – NILC draft contribution submitted and joint tri-partite consultation paper subsequently published in December 2014.**

##### **2.2 To consider a review of the Public Health Act (NI) 1967.**

In year targets:

- To obtain DOJ formal Ministerial approval by 31 August 2014.

**Target not achieved, related to announced closure of Commission.**

- To finalise a Project Initiation Document by 31 August 2014.

**Target Achieved**

- To publish draft consultation paper by February 2015.

**Target Achieved – draft paper passed to DHSSPS in February 2015, but not formally published by NILC.**

##### **2.3 To consider reform of the law of defamation in Northern Ireland**

In year targets:

- Continue pre-public consultation meetings with key stakeholders, to be completed by 31 July 2014.

**Target Achieved**

- To publish draft consultation paper for internal approval by 31 August 2014.

**Target Achieved**

- To publish consultation paper by 30 September 2014.  
Paper published November 2014; original target delayed due to uncertainty around future of project.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:**

**TO IDENTIFY AND RESEARCH POTENTIAL LAW REFORM PROJECTS FOR THE THIRD PROGRAMME**

During this reporting period and linked to the announced closure of the Commission, a Third Programme of Law Reform was not developed.

## Summary of running costs during 2014-15

The Northern Ireland Law Commission is funded by the Department of Justice.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Year to 31 March 2015</b>
	<b>£k</b>
<b>Staffing Salary Costs</b> (including national insurance contributions, superannuation and retirement payments)	546
<b>Accommodation</b> (including rent, rates, service charges, maintenance, contracted out services)	172
<b>Other non-staff running costs</b> (including general office expenditure, 'phones, printing, training, travel and subsistence and library subscriptions etc.)	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>



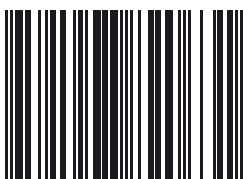


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