

JUSTICE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 2002

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY

Part 3: Other New Institutions

Law Commission

Section 50: Law Commission

92. *Subsection (1)* provides for the establishment of a Law Commission for Northern Ireland, which will review the criminal and civil law of Northern Ireland, including procedure and practice, with a view to making recommendations to Government for reform, codification, simplification and consolidation of legislation.
93. *Subsections (2) to (4)* require the Secretary of State to appoint a chairman and four other Commissioners. The chairman must be a person who holds the office of judge of the High Court of Northern Ireland; and of the other Commissioners one must have experience as a barrister, one must have experience as a solicitor and one must have experience as a teacher of law in a university. The remaining Commissioner must be a lay person.
94. *Subsection (5)* requires the Secretary of State to consult with the Lord Chancellor, the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Attorney General for Northern Ireland before appointing Commissioners. *Subsection (6)* requires the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers of appointment to secure, as far as possible, that the Commission is representative of the community in Northern Ireland. *Subsection (7)* and Schedule 9 make further provision about the Commission, including Commissioners' tenure, salaries, staff and financial provisions.