House of Commons
Justice Committee

Manorial Rights: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2014–15

Third Special Report of Session 2014–15

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 17 March 2015

HC 1124
Published 20 March 2015
by authority of the House of Commons
London: The Stationery Office Limited
£0.00
The Justice Committee

The Justice Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Ministry of Justice and its associated public bodies (including the work of staff provided for the administrative work of courts and tribunals, but excluding consideration of individual cases and appointments, and excluding the work of the Scotland and Wales Offices and of the Advocate General for Scotland); and administration and expenditure of the Attorney General’s Office, the Treasury Solicitor’s Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office (but excluding individual cases and appointments and advice given within government by Law Officers).

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Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

Committee reports are published on the Committee’s website at www.parliament.uk/justicectee and by The Stationery Office by Order of the House.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Nick Walker (Clerk), Daniel Whitford (Second Clerk), Gemma Buckland (Senior Committee Specialist), Hannah Stewart (Committee Legal Specialist), Ana Ferreira (Senior Committee Assistant), Ellen Bloss (Committee Support Assistant), Conor Johnson (Sandwich Student), and Liz Parratt (Committee Media Officer).

Contacts

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Third Special Report

We have received the Government’s Response to our Fifth Report of Session 2014–15, *Manorial Rights*, HC 657. The response came in a letter dated 5 March 2015 to the Chair of the Committee from Lord Faulks QC, Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice. We publish Lord Faulks’ letter as an Appendix to this Special Report.

Appendix: Government response

Letter from Lord Faulks QC, Minister of State for Justice, to Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, Chair, Justice Committee, dated 5 March 2015

*Manorial Rights: Justice Committee’s Fifth Report of Session 2014–2015*

I am writing in response to the report on manorial rights that the Justice Committee published on 22 January 2015.

We are grateful to the Committee for its detailed consideration of the issues surrounding the existence and exercise of manorial rights. The Committee’s recommendations fall into two main areas, namely proposals in relation to the operation of the current system for registering manorial rights under the Land Registration Act 2002 and related statistical information, and proposals in relation to the need for research and broader reform of the law on manorial rights.

The Committee’s report raises important issues which we believe would best be considered by Ministers in the next Parliament. In particular, it would not be appropriate for me to ask the Law Commission to commit to a review of this area prior to the General Election, as this would effectively tie incoming Ministers to a particular course of action. The question of whether a review is appropriate and, if so, how matters should be taken forward are issues that should rightly be left to new Ministers.