

## **Penalties for minor offences**

In 2003, the Commission published a Report on [Penalties for Minor Offences](#) (LRC 69-2003), following its Consultation Paper on [Penalties for Minor Offences](#) (LRC CP 18-2002). This Report recommends that, ideally, a term of imprisonment of more than 6 months should only apply following a jury trial, with a minority recommendation that this be implemented in legislation. The Report recommends that the current maximum permissible fines for minor offences conventionally included in legislation could be increased, having regard to the changes in the value of money. The Report also recommended that, where fines are imposed, the means of a defendant, whether an individual or a corporate body, should be taken into account. For corporate offenders, the Report recommends that the maximum fine possible should be 3 times that applicable to an individual.