

Court Poor Box

In 2005, the Commission published a Report on the [Court Poor Box: Probation of Offenders](#) (LRC 75-2005), which followed a Consultation Paper on the [Court Poor Box](#) (LRC CP 31-2004). This deals with the procedure which has been adopted over many years by the courts, particularly the District Court, where the judge may take the view that, although the prosecution has proved its case, it is not appropriate to enter a conviction, but that a contribution is made to the court poor box.

In its Report, the Commission recommended that the essential elements of the existing arrangement, which reflect the restorative justice concept, be put on a statutory basis, while omitting its adverse features, particularly the lack of clear criteria for its application. The Report recommends that payments would be made to a ring-fenced Reparation Fund, which would then make distributions to projects involved in the prevention of crime and assisting victims. The Report also recommended that the Court Poor Box be integrated into a reformed *Probation of Offenders Act 1907*, with which it is often associated. The Report recommended that a reformed *1907 Act* should include significant additional non-custodial sentencing options, including those based on restorative justice principles, to deal with offences at the lowest end of the criminal calendar.