

Legislation Directory

This report [LRC 102-2010 Report on Legislation Directory](#) arises from the Commission's general statutory mandate under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 to keep the law under review. It also reflects the need to ensure greater accessibility to legislation in Ireland in the wider context of the debate on regulatory reform, which was emphasised in the November 2010 OECD Report on Regulatory Reform in Ireland.

The Report on the Legislation Directory describes how the Commission has developed the format, content and ongoing maintenance of the Legislation Directory, and what further enhancements are in train. The main developments since the Commission took responsibility for the Legislation Directory are:

- In 2010, the Commission completed the backlog of updating the Legislation Directory for over 4 years from January 2006 to April 2010 and these updates were placed on-line on the eISB. This allows members of the public, businesses, lawyers and public bodies to track to April 2010 all changes to Acts of the Oireachtas.
- The Commission developed an XML authoring tool for the Legislation Directory, based on international eLegislation standards.
- Using the XML authoring tool, the Commission is in a position to update the Legislation Directory on a regular basis, subject to the availability of the XML version of Acts and Statutory Instruments.
- The Commission has begun to include in the Legislation Directory pre-1922 amendments to pre-1922 (pre-Independence) Acts that remain in force. Until now, only amendments made after 1922 to pre-1922 Acts were tracked in the Legislation Directory. The Commission has tracked amendments to Acts from 1900 onwards. For example, all changes made pre-1922 and post-1922 to the Probation of Offenders Act 1907 (which is applied in the District Court on a regular basis) are now available on the Legislation Directory.
- The Commission has also begun to develop a Legislation Directory of Statutory Instruments (including Ministerial Regulations), which would allow tracking of amendments made to these important statutory materials. Each year, about 40 Acts are passed by the Oireachtas, and over 600 Statutory Instruments are made.

Second Programme of Statute Law Restatement 2011-2012

In 2006, the Government (at the request of the Attorney General) transferred functional responsibility for the development of programmes of Statute Law Restatement to the Commission. The Commission's Second Programme of Statute Law Restatement 2011-2012 will deal with over 100 Acts, grouped under 15 subject headings, including:

- Criminal Law (9 Acts)
- Employment Law (35 Acts)
- Environmental and Planning Law (13 Acts)
- Family Law, including Children (30 Acts)
- Mental Health Law (4 Acts).