



Welsh planning law

The Commission is responsible for the law of a single jurisdiction, England and Wales, but with devolution, the law effective in Wales is increasingly different to the law effective in England in devolved policy areas. This raises the possibility that we could undertake projects aimed at reforming the law as it affects only one of the two countries comprising the jurisdiction.

We have already had some preliminary discussions with the Welsh Government on the possibility of a project on Welsh planning law. In the first place, the National Assembly will be soon considering Welsh Government proposals to make substantive reforms to planning law in Wales, but must currently do so within the context of the pre-existing law for both countries. But the existing law for the whole jurisdiction is designed for a jurisdiction with 340 planning authorities and a population of 56 million, with a scale of development to match. It may be that different legal structures would be appropriate for a country of 3.1 million people with 25 planning authorities.

This is one possible Wales-only project for us to consider, and we welcome other proposals.