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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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19 December 2014

File Ref: 2014/04861

Honourable Kate Doust MLC
Chair Standing Committee,
on Uniform Legislation and Statute Review
Parliament House
Perth
Western Australia 6000
Australia

Re: Review of the Statute Book

Dear Ms Doust,

I refer to your letter of the 15th of October 2014 which the Attorney General has asked me to respond to.

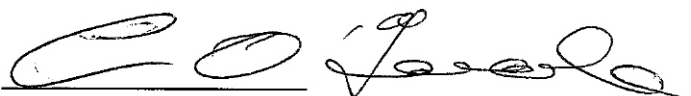
In this jurisdiction we do not have a systematic review of the Statute Book as such. Consolidation of certain statutes has taken place from time to time, for example the Social Welfare Acts and the Tax Acts have over the years been subject to consolidation. The most recent consolidation project is the Companies Bill 2012 which is currently under consideration by the Houses of the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament) and the text is published on its website www.oireachtas.ie. Individual consolidations are primarily a matter for an individual Department as it considers necessary for practical and policy reasons.

A number of Statute Law Revision Acts have also been passed in recent years to repeal redundant statutes or underline the retention of statutory provisions. There is a current programme of revisions and a series of Acts from 2007 to 2012 has repealed a substantial number of acts made prior to Irish independence in 1922. Further revisions are in train to deal with pre 1922 secondary legislation and post 1922 primary and secondary legislation.. The objective of this programme is to remove obsolete legislative provisions and to provide clarity and transparency in relation to the legislation which is currently in effect.

While sunset clauses are not unknown in this jurisdiction their use is not favoured by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel which is responsible for drafting legislation for the Government. A repeal day provision is not used in this jurisdiction.

The Irish Law Reform Commission has a programme to revise primary legislation and it publishes these administrative consolidations (known as Revised Acts) on its website www.lawreform.ie. However, Revised Acts are not part of the official statute book. The Statute Book itself is published by the Attorney General and can be accessed on the website of this Office www.attorneygeneral.ie

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C O'Toole', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher O'Toole
Deputy Director General