



THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Annual Report
2021-2022



Guyana Law Reform Commission
Annual Report
September 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

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Prepared by: The Chief Executive Officer in collaboration with Members of the LRC

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon. Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, SC, MP
Attorney-General & Minister of Legal Affairs
95 Carmichael Street
Georgetown

Dear Hon. Attorney-General,

Re: Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021 - 2022

The Guyana Law Reform Commission (LRC) has a mandate to keep under review all the laws applicable to Guyana with a view to its systematic development and reform, including in particular the modification of any branch of the law, the elimination of anomalies, the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments, the reduction of the number of separate enactments and generally the simplification and modernisation of the law.

We are pleased to officially present our first Annual Report for the seven (7) months of operations for the financial year 2021/2022. This report comprises of a brief background to the first Law Reform Commission in Guyana, along with its activities, achievements and challenges during the reporting period.

We are optimistic that this report would inform future policy interventions and be useful in promoting feedback and building commitment in law reform work in Guyana.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Wendy Ann Denanath
Chief Executive Officer & Secretary

PREFACE BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & SECRETARY

It is an honour of the Guyana Law Reform Commission (LRC) to publish its first Annual Report for the seven (7) months of operations for the financial year 2021/2022. This report comprises of a brief background to the first Law Reform Commission in Guyana, along with its activities, achievements and challenges during the reporting period. An update on the LRC's finances is also included.

What began as a slow start to our operations which was characterized by many challenges, resulted in a few success stories, such as, the process for conducting stakeholder engagements and receiving proposals for law reform (*an important stage in the law reform process*).

One (1) of our greatest challenges during this period was the Covid-19 pandemic which delayed operations for two (2) extended periods. We were also faced with delays in the acquisition of assets and supplies for the Secretariat.

Support of the Hon. Attorney-General & Minister of Legal Affairs, along with the Management & Staff of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Support for the Criminal Justice System Project, respectively, played a pivotal role in the establishment and stabilization of the LRC. We continue to be grateful for their support and guidance.

The LRC is equally grateful to the staff who have contributed to our success during our first few months of operations and has emerged stronger and wiser after enduring several challenges.

As we enter the financial year 2022/2023, we are optimistic that it will be one of many more successes in law reform towards the social, cultural and economic development of Guyana.

Wendy Ann Denanath

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere gratitude is extended to the Hon. Attorney-General & Minister of Legal Affairs whose support and guidance have been pivotal in the establishment of the LRC. Gratitude is also extended to the Management & staff of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Support for the Criminal Justice System Project, respectively, for their assistance in the stabilization of the LRC. Their support was equally significant. The LRC is grateful to the staff who have contributed to our success during the first seven (7) months of operations and have emerged stronger and wiser after enduring several challenges.

The publication of our first Annual Report for the financial year 2021/2022 has been made possible by the support of the Members led by the Chairperson, the Hon. Mr. B.S Roy, CCH and staff of the Secretariat led by the CEO & Secretary, Ms. Wendy Ann Denanath.

The LRC is also grateful to the several stakeholders who have acknowledged the establishment of the LRC and have begun to submit their respective proposals for law reform.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

GOG	The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CCJ	Caribbean Court of Justice
LRC	Law Reform Commission
SCJS	Support for the Criminal Justice System
MOLA	Ministry of Legal Affairs
MOF	Ministry of Finance
PEU	Project Execution Unit
A-G	Attorney-General & Minister of Legal Affairs
GABI	Guyana Association of Bankers Inc.
NICIL	National Industrial & Commercial Investments Limited
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
LO	Legal Officer
RO	Research Officer
FO	Finance Officer

CHAPTER ONE (1)

ABOUT THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces the Guyana Law Reform Commission. It consists of the mandate, functions, values, principles & attributes and mission statement of the LRC. It also presents the organizational chart of the LRC.

1.1 Establishment

The Guyana Law Reform Commission was established by the Law Reform Commission Act (2016), as amended, on July 1, 2022 when staff assumed duties. Staff were employed between the months of July to August 2021 and seven (7) Members were officially sworn in on August 11, 2022, but commenced duties on September 1, 2021. On September 1, 2021, the LRC became fully operational. In December 2021, one (1) of its members tendered his resignation. The Secretariat is currently located at 91 Middle Street, Georgetown and the LRC currently comprises of six (6) members and eight (8) members of staff.

1.2 Mandate of the LRC

The LRC is a statutory body that was established to provide for the establishment of a Law Reform Commission for keeping under review the laws of Guyana for the purpose of their simplification, modernization, systematic development and reform and for connected matters.

1.3 Specific Functions of the LRC

The functions of the LRC are set out in Section 7 of the Law Reform Commission Act (2016), as amended, which provides that it shall be the duty of the Commission to keep under review all the law applicable to Guyana with a view to its systematic development and reform, including in particular the modification of any branch of the law, the elimination of anomalies, the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments, the reduction of the number of separate enactments and generally the simplification and modernization of the law and for that purpose-

- (a) to receive and consider suggestions for the reform of the law which may be forwarded to it either on the invitation of the Commission or otherwise, by Judges, public officials, lawyers and members of the general public;

- (b) to receive and consider proposals for changes in the law referred to it by the Minister or recommended by any law reform committee, association of lawyers or other learned bodies;
- (c) to prepare and submit to the Minister from time-to-time specific programmes for the examination of different branches of the law with a view to reform including recommendations as to whether such examination should be carried out by the Commission or some other body in relation to branches of the law that require technical expertise;
- (d) to undertake, in pursuance of any recommendation of the Minister, the formulation of draft Bills relating to the proposals for reform contained in such recommendation;
- (e) to undertake, pursuant to any recommendations approved by the Minister, the examination of particular branches of the law and the formulation, by means of draft instructions or otherwise, of proposals for reform therein;
- (f) to provide at the instance of the Minister advice and information to Ministries and Departments of Government and Statutory Authorities concerned with proposals for the amendment or reform of any branch of the law;
- (g) to obtain such information in regard to the laws and legal systems of other countries as in the opinion of the Commission is likely to facilitate the performance of any of its functions.

1.4 Mission Statement

“To continually review the Laws of Guyana to ensure their simplification, modernization and systematic development in keeping with the social, cultural and economic needs of Guyana”.

1.5 Core Values

In achieving its mission, the LRC strives to articulate and execute its functions with loyalty to the following core values:

- Integrity;
- Teamwork;
- Professionalism;
- Transparency and Accountability; and
- Courtesy and Equality

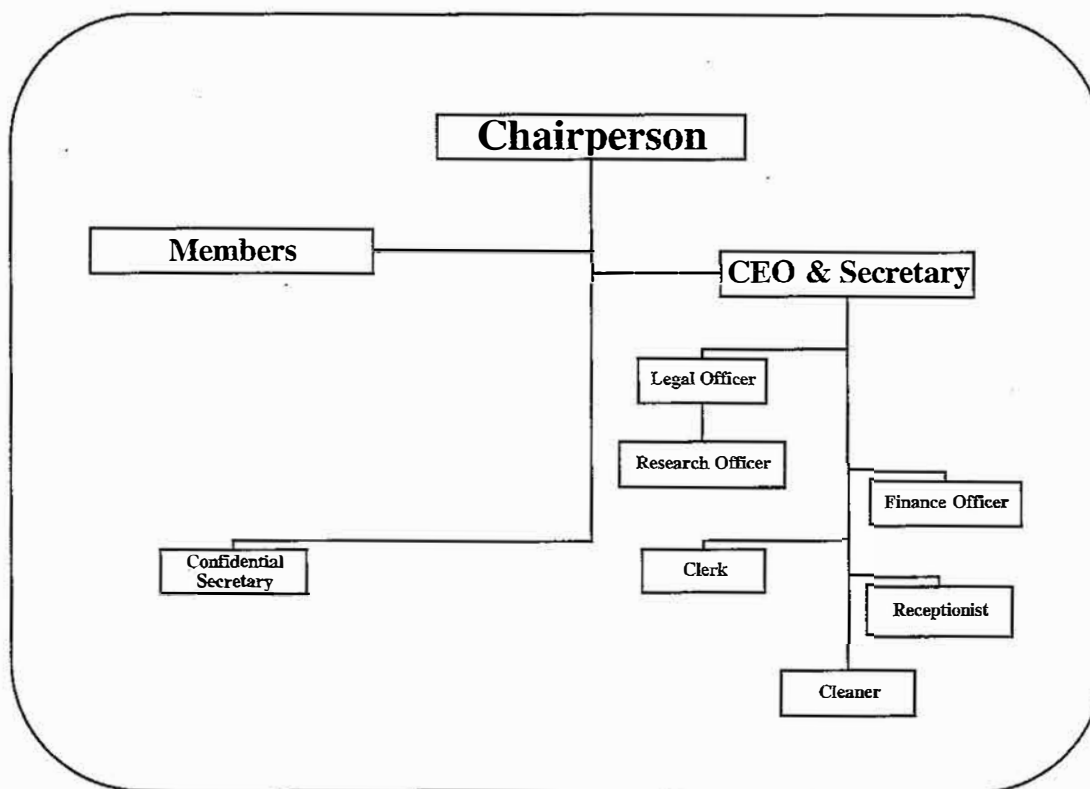
1.6 Fundamental Principles and Attributes

Like other Law Reform Commissions in the Commonwealth, the LRC appreciates the fact that a national law reform agency should possess certain distinguishing characteristics which are:

- Permanent;
- Authoritative;
- Full-time;
- Independent;
- Consultative;
- Implementation-Minded

1.7 Structure and Administration of the LRC

At the apex of the LRC stands the Commissioners (members), headed by the Chairperson. The Secretary to the Commission also serves as the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Secretariat. The Members meet once every week to assess progress and proposals received for law reform and to also provide appropriate direction to the Secretariat. The Chairperson serves on a full-time basis while all the other members serve on a part-time basis. The full organizational structure is captured in the chart below:



CHAPTER TWO (2)

ACTIVITIES OF THE LRC

2.0 This chapter presents the activities of the LRC during the reporting period.

2.1 Number of meetings held

Since the LRC became operational on September 1, 2022, a total of twenty-six (26) meetings were held on the following dates:

- September 8, 2021 – Face-to-Face;
- September 16, 2021 – Face-to-Face
- September 23, 2021 – Face-to-Face
- September 30, 2021 – Virtual
- October 6, 2021 – Virtual
- October 14, 2021 – Virtual
- October 21, 2021 – Virtual
- October 28, 2021 – Virtual
- November 5, 2021 – Virtual
- November 11, 2021 – Face-to-Face
- November 18, 2021 – Virtual
- November 25, 2021 – Virtual
- December 2, 2021 – Virtual
- December 23, 2021 – Virtual
- December 30, 2021 – Virtual
- January 16, 2022 – Virtual
- January 27, 2022 – Virtual
- February 3, 2022 – Virtual
- February 10, 2022 – Virtual
- February 17, 2022 – Virtual
- February 24, 2022 – Virtual
- March 3, 2022 – Virtual
- March 10, 2022 – Virtual
- March 17, 2022 – Virtual
- March 24, 2022 – Virtual
- March 31, 2022 – Virtual

In addition to those twenty-six (26) statutory meetings, a meeting was held with the LRC and the Hon. A-G on January 29, 2022.

2.3 Matters that arose from meetings

With the LRC being the first of its kind in Guyana, the few months of its operations during the reporting period were spent on extensive discussions for developing the foundation for the commencement of its mandate. During the course of the twenty-six (26) meetings held, among other things, the following matters came up for discussion:

- a) An analysis of the LRC Act, especially, Sections 4, 11 (a), 12 & 13;
- b) The priority of the LRC;
- c) Jurisdiction of the LRC to undertake Law Revision;
- d) Mission Statement of the LRC;
- e) Confirmation of weekly meetings on day, time and duration;
- f) An email address for the LRC;
- g) Library facilities & list of books for the LRC
- h) Copies of Volumes of the Laws of Guyana;
- i) Membership to the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRAs);
- j) Caribbean Association of Law Reform Commissions;
- k) Finances of the LRC;
- l) Creation of a Website for the LRC;
- m) Creation of a Facebook Page;
- n) Logo for the LRC;
- o) Code of Conduct/ Charter for all members;
- p) Letter from the Guyana Consumers' Association;
- q) Methodology for Law Reform;
- r) Employee Handbook;
- s) Staff Engagement;
- t) Proposals for Law Reform.

2.4 Status/ Progress on matters that arose from meetings

Based on the meetings held, the following provides an update on the status and progress of the matters that arose at meetings held during the period:

a) An analysis of the LRC Act

○ Section 4 – Composition of the LRC

A brief discussion in September 2021 on whether the LRC's current composition is an accurate reflection of the stakeholders/ organizations listed under this Section revealed that given the nature of work of the LRC, the organizations may have preferred Legal Professionals to represent them. Hence, the reason why the LRC comprises of six (6) Legal Professionals and not particularly, members of their organizations.

○ **Section 11 (a) – Annual Budget for the LRC**

Consultations with MOLA and MOF during the months of October to December 2021 revealed that currently, the LRC is not considered as a budget agency and falls under the umbrella of MOLA. Though the LRC is required to prepare and submit an annual budget for approval under Section 79 of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act, the LRC is unable to do so, since the deadline for budget submission was September 6, 2021 and the LRC became constituted in September 2021. Budget expenditures for the LRC also fall under the SCJS Program, but this arrangement is likely to come to an end in June 2022. The LRC would be clarifying this matter with the Hon. A-G before the end of the second quarter of 2022.

○ **Section 12 – Activities of the Commission & Programme for Law Reform**

Having finalized its methodology for law reform in February 2022, the LRC would be able to effectively report on its activities and programme for law reform in 2023.

○ **Section 13 – Annual Report of the Activities of the LRC.**

Though the LRC was not in operation for an entire year, it was agreed that its first annual report would be submitted for the period September 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022. A more comprehensive report would be submitted in 2023 for the period January to December 2022.

b) Priority of the LRC (Law Revision/ Law Reform)

This matter was deliberated upon during the period September to December 2021. A meeting with the Chairperson and the Hon. A-G on December 10, 2021 clarified that the LRC's priority is law reform.

c) Jurisdiction of the LRC to undertake Law Revision

At the LRC's inaugural meeting which was held on September 8, 2021, the Hon. A-G had indicated that the LRC would be assisting the Law Revision Unit with law revision for the first year of the LRC's operations. From the period September 8, 2021 – December 9, 2021, the LRC had extensive discussions on this matter. A comparative analysis of the Law Reform Commission Act and the Law Revision Act was conducted during the period September 23, 2021 to November 5, 2021, followed by a letter to the Hon. A-G seeking clarification on this matter. Clarification was finally provided on December 10, 2021, indicating that the LRC would be solely tasked with undertaking law reform.

d) Mission Statement for the LRC

From the period October 21 to January 31, 2022, the members and staff were tasked with drafting potential mission statements. These statements were shared with the members and on February 3, 2022, after deliberations, the members finalized the official mission statement of the LRC to read as follows:

"To continually review the Laws of Guyana to ensure their simplification, modernization and systematic development in keeping with the social, cultural and economic needs of Guyana".

e) Confirmation of weekly meetings on day, time and duration

At meeting No. 2 which was held on September 6, 2021, it was agreed upon that the LRC would have weekly meetings every Thursday at 1.30pm for a period of at least two (2) hours.

f) An e-mail address for the LRC

A temporary e-mail address for the LRC was created in October 2021, which is lawreformcommission21@gmail.com.

g) Library facilities and list of books for the LRC

The LRC spent the period October to December compiling a list of books for the creation of its library. This list has not yet been finalized and is currently being updated. Quotations have been received from Booksellers in the UK.

h) Copies of the volumes of the Laws of Guyana

The LRC was able to acquire a copy of the green volumes of the Laws of Guyana in October 2021 through a donation by Ms. Clarissa Riehl, one of its members. The Hon. A-G had promised to formally present a copy of the purple volumes but was unable to do so in 2021 as a result of other work commitments. Copies of the Guyana Law Reports (1975-2007) were submitted to the LRC by the Hon. A-G on Friday, April 1, 2022.

i) Membership to CALRAs

Research on Law Reform Commissions globally revealed that there is a Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Commission (CALRAs) established. Through this association, members are able to benefit from a wide variety of services. As such, an application for membership was submitted by the LRC to CALRAs in October 2021 and the LRC is currently awaiting feedback on same.

j) Caribbean Association of Law Reform Commissions

A few weeks in October were spent conducting research into this association which revealed that the establishment of this association was put on hold as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The LRC, however, has been added to the waiting list.

k) Finances of the LRC

With the LRC having no finances of its own, the period October to December 2021 was spent on consultations between the LRC and the SCJS Program, MOF and MOLA on this topic. These consultations revealed that the LRC would be supported financially by the SCJS Program until

June 30, 2022 and then by MOLA onwards. The LRC is hopeful that this matter would be clarified by the Hon. A-G before the end of the second quarter of 2022.

l) Creation of a Website for the LRC

Deliberations on this matter were done over a period of two (2) weeks in September 2021. Research was done as to the procurement process, cost, duration for creation of the website and management of the website after. As a result of limited content to add to the website in 2021, the members decided that it was most feasible to proceed with this matter in the latter part of 2022.

m) Creation of a Facebook Page for the LRC

In September 2021, the idea of creating a Facebook Page for the LRC was discussed, but was not entertained, since some members were not too keen on the idea, at least for the time being.

n) Logo for the LRC

The period September 23, 2021 to October 21, 2021 was also spent exploring several possible methods of creating a logo for the LRC. Some of those methods included reaching out to students at the Queen's College Law Association, Law students at Nations University and also seeking suggestions from the members and staff. Contact was also made with a few advertising agencies. The LRC was able to acquire the cost and duration for the creation of the logo from several agencies. The LRC is optimistic that this matter would be finalized in the second quarter of 2022.

o) Code of Conduct/ Ethics for the LRC

The period September 23, 2021 to October 14, 2021 was spent conducting research into the Code of Conduct/ Code of Ethics for several Law Reform Commissions globally. In November 2021, a draft Code of Conduct/ Code of Ethics was prepared for the LRC, but is yet to be finalized.

p) Recommendation from the Guyana Consumers Association

On September 7, 2021, the LRC received a letter from the Guyana Consumers Association requesting that a bit of law reform be done to a piece of legislation applicable to them. However, due to the LRC's deliberations relating to law revision and law reform, a delayed response was sent to the association in October 2021. The association, once again, formally requested that law reform be done to an applicable legislation on November 5, 2021, resulting in the members having extensive discussions on this matter between November 5 to December 6, 2021. A response indicating that this matter had to be put on hold as a result of an ongoing legal matter was sent to the association on December 7, 2021.

q) Methodology for Law Reform

The LRC was successful in establishing its methodology for law reform in February 2022. It was agreed that requests for proposals for law reform would be sent to relevant stakeholders, followed by quarterly consultations with the Hon. A-G for review of those proposals and determination of the priority of each proposal.

r) Employee Handbook

The need for a handbook which would guide the conduct of the staff of the LRC was established and is currently being worked on by the members. This handbook is expected to be finalized before the end of the second quarter of 2022.

s) Staff Engagement

In a quest to build rapport among with staff and members, an engagement with the staff and members is scheduled for April 13, 2022. The Hon. A-G has agreed to attend this engagement.















t) Proposals for Law Reform









During the reporting period, a total of thirty-five requests for proposals for law reform were sent to stakeholders and a total of sixteen (16) such proposals were received. Chapter three (3) highlights the proposals received during the reporting period, along with their status/ priority.

CHAPTER THREE (3) LAW REFORM PROPOSALS

3.0 This Chapter highlights the proposals received for law reform during the reporting period and their priority/ current status.

3.1 Database of law reform proposals received.

No.	Legislation	Stakeholder/ Recommended by	Priority	Current Status
1	Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act via Report by Mr. Peter Pursglove	 The Hon. A-G  The CCJ	No. 1	Please refer to comments below.
2	Procurement Act via Report by Ms. Sabine Englehart	 The Hon. A-G	No. 2	Please refer to comments below.
3	Companies Act	 GABI  The CCJ  Mr. Ronald Ally  Mr. Stephen Fraser	No. 3	Please refer to comments below.
4	Legislation that make provisions for Qualified Independent/ Private Valuation Officers/ Surveyors	 Mr. Joel Freeman, Property Manager, NICIL	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
5	Title to Land (Prescription & Limitation) Act	 Christopher Ram & Associates  The CCJ	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
6	Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act	 Director of Public Prosecutions	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
7	Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Bill 2001	 Director of Public Prosecutions	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
8	Record Retention and Disposal ([A] Record-keeping requirements of financial institutions, [B] Digitizing Customer Information – Evidence Act, and Recommendations)	 GABI	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
9	Management of unclaimed funds and Recommendation.	 GABI	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.

No.	Legislation	Stakeholder/ Recommended by	Priority	Current Status
	Section 18 of the AML/CFT Act – Suspicious Transaction Report			
10	Civil Procedure Rules under the High Court Act and Recommendations	 GABI	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
11	E-commerce and Digital signatures and Recommendations	 GABI	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
12	Income Tax Act	 GABI	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
13	Draft Movable Property Security Bill	 GABI	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
14	Criminal Law (Procedure) Act	 The Hon. A-G  The CCJ	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
15	Deeds Registry Act	 The CCJ	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.
16	Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act	 The CCJ	To be determined	Please refer to comments below.

3.2 As indicated in the table above, the LRC would be prioritizing three (3) pieces of legislation for the year 2022 based on the recommendation of the Hon. A-G and stakeholders. The current status of those pieces of legislation is explained below:

1) The Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act

At a meeting with the Hon. A-G on January 29, 2022, the LRC was informed of a report by Mr. Peter Pursglove, who after a review of the Act, made some recommendations for reform. The report was forwarded to the LRC on February 15, 2022 by Ms. Joann Bond, Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel on behalf of the Hon. A-G. The report was followed by a request from the Hon. A-G for a draft Bill to be presented by August 31, 2022. Given its urgency, the LRC has made this report its priority and is currently in the process of:

- 1) Compiling a list of offences for review/ reform under the provisions of Chapter 14 of the Summary Jurisdiction Offences (Ordinance) and Chapter 8:02 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act. This task is being undertaken by the Research Officer.
- 2) Extracting a list of stakeholders referred to in the report for engagement in the coming weeks. This task is being undertaken by the members.

2) The Procurement Act

At the meeting with the Hon. A-G, he also stressed that the area of Procurement requires strengthening in Guyana. He explained that though tedious, the procurement process which requires transparency needs to be expedited swiftly to effectively execute the 2022 budget. The LRC has therefore agreed to prioritize the Procurement Act, along with the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act. Following the discovery of a previous study of this legislation by Ms. Sabine Englehart who made recommendations for reform, the LRC has agreed to review Ms. Englehart's report to avoid the duplication of efforts. A thorough analysis of the report and actions based on the recommendations made by Ms. Englehart would be done during the second and third quarters of 2022.

3) The Companies Act

On April 7, 2022, the LRC conducted an analysis of the proposals received as at April 1, 2022. After a thorough review of the list, it was decided that this legislation would be the third priority on the LRC's agenda for 2022 based on the recommendations of four (4) stakeholders.

4) Qualified Independent/ Private Valuation Officers/ Surveyors.

Following proposals by Mr. Joel Freeman, Property Manager, NICIL for legislation that would make provisions for Qualified Independent/ Private Valuation Officers/ Surveyors, Mr. Freeman was invited to an engagement with the LRC on March 24, 2022. At that meeting, it was highlighted that there is currently a Diploma in Valuation Programme being offered by the University of Guyana of which Mr. Freeman is a student. Having supported the recommendations proposed by Mr. Freeman, the LRC has reached out to the University of Guyana for a copy of the syllabus (course content and training) and other supporting information applicable to the Programme, which may be of assistance in the drafting of the proposed legislation. The LRC and Mr. Freeman would continue to have frequent engagements until this matter is tabled for drafting.

CHAPTER 4

CHALLENGES

4.0 This chapter highlights the challenges faced by the LRC during the reporting period.

4.1 Closure of the Secretariat

During the reporting period, the LRC's Secretariat was forced to be closed for three (3) extended periods, as a result of several factors. Those factors are listed below:

- 1) Infrastructural works to the building which houses the Secretariat. The Hon. A-G visited the LRC's Secretariat on August 11, 2021 and recommended some repairs and renovations to the Secretariat. These infrastructural works commenced on August 13, 2021 and lasted until September 3, 2021, resulting in closure of the Secretariat for those twenty-two (22) days.
- 2) The Secretariat was forced to be closed for another seven (7) days from September 27, 2021 to October 3, 2021 as a result of a staff member being exposed to a relative who passed away from Covid-19. As a precautionary measure, the office was closed until all staff members were tested and received negative results.
- 3) During the month of January 2022, four (4) staff members of the Secretariat tested positive for Covid-19. As a result, the Secretariat was forced to be closed for nine (9) working days from January 7, 2022 to January 19, 2022, both days inclusive. After following guidelines from the Ministry of Health and receiving clearances, the Secretariat reopened on January 20, 2022 with its full staff complement.

The Covid-19 pandemic was one (1) of those daunting challenges that staggered operations during the reporting period.

4.2 Delays

- Another challenge encountered was the delay in acquiring items (stationery and a few assets) for the effective functioning of the LRC. As a result of the LRC having no finances of its own, the procurement process (IDB guidelines) for items under the SCJS Project takes a while. As at January 2022, the LRC was still receiving basic supplies for daily operations. We are optimistic that the Hon. A-G would be able to clarify the process for the acquisition of items and funds from July 1, 2022 after the SCJS Project's financial responsibility for the LRC expires on June 30, 2022.

- A vast amount of time in 2021 was spent on clarifications regarding the LRC's mandate of law reform vs law revision. Law reform activities commenced in 2022 after the LRC finally clarified its mandate with the Hon. A-G in December 2021.

CHAPTER 5

FINANCIAL RECORDS

5.0 This chapter provides a summary of finances spent on the LRC during the reporting period.

5.1 Expenditures under the SCJS Project

The LRC Act (Section 13) provides that the LRC shall submit an Annual Report which should comprise of an audited financial statement for the reporting period. On April 11, 2022, the LRC reached out to the SCJS Project for an audited financial statement of all expenditures for the LRC to which Ms. Indira Anandjit, Project Manager, SCJS Project provided the following response:

“...we do not have the audited financial statement for the last year, 2021. We are currently being audited, hence we cannot offer an audited financial statement..... even though the Law Reform Act provides for an annual report which should include a financial statement, you will not have a separate audited statement as the LRC comes under the project as a part of the programme.

No sum of money was allocated for LRC per se, as we are absorbing all costs until end of June. For now, you are couched under SCJS.

I hope the attached doc suffices for now”.

A summary of the SCJS Project’s expenditure for the LRC is attached as appendix 7.1.

5.2 Expenditures under MOLA

During the reporting period, a total of four million, five hundred and sixty-five thousand, five hundred Guyana dollars (\$4,565,500) was spent on repairs and renovations to the LRC’s Secretariat during the period August to December 2021. ***(Please see statement from MOLA listed under appendix 7.2)***

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

The LRC during the seven (7) months of its operations for the reporting period was faced with many challenges which affected its operations. Despite these challenges, the LRC able to successfully pave the foundation for its methodology and operations in 2022. It is hoped that the annual report for the financial year 2022/2023 would be a much more comprehensive report.

CHAPTER 7

APPENDICES

7.1 Summary of expenditure for LRC by SCJS Project

SUPPORT FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM LO: 3876 BL-GY L1044 EXPENDITURE FOR LAW REFORM COMMISSION FOR 2021 AND 2022 July to December 2021	
EXPENDITURE	
STAFF	75,676
COMMISSIONERS	24,768
OTHER EXPENSES	17,556
TOTAL	118,000
January to March 2022	
STAFF	46,965
COMMISSIONERS	22,016
OTHER EXPENSES	3,554
TOTAL	72,535

7.2 Summary of expenditure for LRC by MOLA

MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Tel: (592) 225-3663 (O)
S/Board: (592) 227-0700/226-2616-8
Fax: (592) 226-9721 (F)
Email: ps@mola.gov.gy



Attorney General Chambers
95 Carmichael Street,
North Cummingsburg, Georgetown,
Guyana.

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

April 12, 2022

Hon. B.S. Roy (Retired Justice of Appeal)
Chairman
Law Reform Commission
91 Middle Street
Georgetown



Dear Sir,

Re: Request for Audited Financial Statement

Reference is made to your letter dated April 07, 2022 on the captioned subject.

Please be informed that the Ministry of Legal Affairs expended the sum of four million five hundred and sixty-five thousand five hundred Guyana dollars (\$4,565,500) on repairs and renovation of the building during the period August to September 2021.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

S. Ally-Khan

Sharon Ally-Khan
Permanent Secretary (ag.)

PERMANENT SECRETARY
Ministry of Legal Affairs

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17/4/22

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12/4/22 - 2:10 pm

7.3 Administration of the LRC

Commissioners

At the end of the reporting period, the LRC comprised of the following members:

- 1) The Hon. Mr. B.S Roy, CCH – Chairperson (Full-time)
- 2) Dr. Brian O'Toole – Member (Part-time)
- 3) Mr. Teni Housty – Member (Part-time)
- 4) Ms. Clarissa Riehl - Member (Part-time)
- 5) Ms. Emily Dodson - Member (Part-time)
- 6) Ms. Deenawati Panday - Member (Part-time)

~~✱~~ Mr. Roopnarine Satram was the member who resigned in December 2021.

The Secretariat

- 1) Ms. Wendy Ann Denanath – CEO & Secretary
- 2) Mr. John Fraser – Legal Officer
- 3) Ms. Reshma Budhram – Research Officer
- 4) Ms. Carmelita Rampertab – Finance Officer
- 5) Ms. Liloutie Rampersad – Clerk to the Commission
- 6) Ms. Nyasha Walcott – Secretary to the Chairperson
- 7) Ms. Mohini Ramsaroop – Receptionist
- 8) Ms. Bharati Hansraj - Cleaner