

No votes in law reform

by Francis Bennion

Donald Rutherford (letter, 2 February 2012) says MPs could usefully spend their time ‘consolidating previous, and often ill-drafted, Acts into more codes for each area of the law’. He seems unaware that Acts are drawn not by MPs but by expert drafters. He does not specify in what way the Acts which I and my colleagues have spent our professional lives drawing are ‘ill-drafted’. This seems merely the sort of routine abuse that the topic unwarrantably attracts.

However, Mr Rutherford does have a point. In the days of the British Empire we provided our colonies with volumes of laws periodically consolidated into the sort of ‘codes for each area of the law’ that Mr Rutherford reasonably wants. This has never been done comprehensively for domestic legislation because politicians have never thought it worth the necessary time and money. It’s an old Westminster truism that there are no votes in law reform.

Francis Bennion (retired Parliamentary Counsel).¹

© 2011 F A R Bennion

Website: www.francisbennion.com

Doc. No. 2012.002 T130L

The Times 3 Feb 2012

Any footnotes are shown at the bottom of each page

For full version of abbreviations click ‘Abbreviations’ on FB’s website

References:

None

¹ Published in *The Times* 3 February 2012.