

**BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY**  
**THE LAW REVISION ORDINANCE 2015**

**REASONS AND OCCASION FOR THE ENACTMENT**

- Clause 1 provides the citation of the ordinance and specifies that it comes into force ‘forthwith’.
- Clause 2 provides a list of definitions.
- Clause 3 provides for the appointment of a Law Revision Officer and appoints the Attorney General in default.
- Clause 4 sets out the general duties of the Law Revision Officer, to revise the laws, prepare an edition of the revised laws and arrange for its publication. It further allows for an interim edition to be produced. The ‘1<sup>st</sup> January 1990’ was chosen because this was the year in which a law revision process took place and when the laws in effect prior to that date were repealed.
- Clause 5 lists the powers of the Law Revision Officer in producing the revised edition of the laws. These are standard functions involved in a law revision process, adopted in other jurisdictions and which do not affect the nature and meaning of the laws themselves. They are aimed at bringing clarity and consistency.
- Clause 6 applies in circumstances where the Law Revision Officer is not the Attorney General and provides for an input from the Attorney General before the revision process is completed.
- Clause 7 provides for the content of the revised edition of the laws. These are standard products of a revision process.
- Clause 8 maintains the Commissioner’s power to decide whether to adopt the revised laws and provides for when they should come into force. As a timing mechanism, the date on which copies of the edition of the revised laws are ready for distribution to those persons listed in section 11(2).
- Clause 9 provides for how the revised laws are to be cited.
- Clause 10 sets out the effect that the revised laws will have. Save for some limited exceptions, the revised edition of the laws will comprehensively set out the law as it applies on the agreed date.
- Clause 11 lists those persons who shall be provided with a set of printed volumes of the revised laws and allows for the possibility of sale or distribution to those persons or groups as designated by the Commissioner.
- Clause 12 allows the Commissioner to correct any mistakes within the revised edition of the laws by regulation, if done within a year after the laws come into force.
- Clause 13 repeats the provisions applicable for adoption of the revised laws, in circumstances where an interim version of the revised edition is produced.

- Clause 14 allows for revision of those laws enacted after the previous revision date.
- Clause 15 allows for a continuing periodic revision of the laws.
- Clause 16 enables the Commissioner to correct by notice any error found in a subsequent periodic law revision.
- Clause 17 provides powers for the Commissioner to act in the ways described in the ordinance.

In general terms, this ordinance allows for the revision and consolidation of the laws of the British Antarctic Territory on a regular basis. The style and content follow the precedent in use in several other British Overseas Territories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Maitland Wood', with a horizontal line underneath it.

James Maitland Wood QC  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2015