

**iUS**

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ANDREW LE SUEUR and RICHARD CORNES for *Public Law*

Thank you for the invitation to participate in this network of leading European public and administrative law journals.

I am Richard Cornes, the International Survey Editor of the journal *Public Law* here today to represent the journal. The journal is honoured to be invited to participate in the Ius Publicum network and the editorial team looks forward to collaborating with colleagues in the coming years.

In its 55 years of operation, *Public Law* has been led by five editors: Professor John Griffith of the LSE (1956-1981); Professor Graham Zellick of Queen Mary, University of London (1981-86); Professor Tony Bradley of Edinburgh University (1986-92); Professor Dawn Oliver of UCL (1993-2002); and currently by Professor Andrew Le Sueur of Queen Mary, University of London.

The editor is supported by a committee of distinguished public lawyers. They are academics, practitioners, and parliamentarians: Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC, Professor Paul Craig QC (Oxford University), Professor Terrence Daintith (University of London, emeritus), Professor Gavin Drewry (Royal Holloway), Professor Evelyn Ellis (Birmingham, emeritus), M. Roger Errera (as a former member of the Conseil d'Etat, the only judge to serve on the committee), Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, Mr Clive Lewis QC, Professor Aileen McColgan (Kings College, London), Professor Gillian Morris (Warwick), Professor Colin Munro (Edinburgh), Professor Danny Nicol (Westminster), Lord Pannick QC, Professor Adam Tomkins (Glasgow), Professor Maurice Sunkin (Essex), Mr Jo Eric Khushal Murkens (of the LSE), Mr Mario Mendez (of Queen Mary, University of London), Kyela Leakey (also of Queen Mary), and myself.

The journal is published four times a year, both in print and on-line through Westlaw. Our subscribers are divided almost equally between those based in the United Kingdom and those in other jurisdictions. Within the EU, our largest readership is in Italy,

followed by Spain and Germany. We also have many readers in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and the USA.

Writing in 1956, in the inaugural edition, its first editor, Professor Griffith identified the purpose of *Public Law* as being to:

“provide a place where the related problems of law and government can be examined and discussed. It will, we believe, be relevant and useful and by focusing attention on the relationship between the State and the individual be of interest to lawyers, officials and all those concerned, professionally or otherwise, with the process of government and the administration of law”.

And the journal’s mission statement is, “to publish scholarly articles, reviews and surveys that analyse and comment upon leading issues of constitutional and administrative law in the United Kingdom and abroad (especially in Europe, USA and the Commonwealth).”

Since its launch, the journal has attempted to fulfill these goals. It is, however, more than a forum for purely academic debate and analysis (though that is important); the journal has also carved out a distinctive role in enabling senior members of the judiciary and lawyers in private practice and within government to write about matters of public interest. This has been especially true in relation to the major reforms introduced to the United Kingdom notably the incorporation of Convention rights by the Human Rights Act 1998, devolution of executive and legislative powers to the three smaller parts of the UK (Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) and, a generation earlier, the UK’s accession to what we now know as the European Union.

The journal plays a role in the development of case law, a vital process in a common law jurisdiction. There is two-way traffic: judgments provide the raw material for academic analysis and commentary in the journal; and that analysis and commentary in turn is referred to judgments of courts. References to articles published in *Public Law* can be found in court judgments throughout the United Kingdom and other common law systems.

*Public Law* has always sought to be an outward looking publication. And as the constitution and legal systems of the United Kingdom have become increasingly ‘Europeanised’, and “globalised” the journal has evolved. Every issue of *Public Law* now carries some commentary on aspects of European Union law, the European Convention on Human Rights, or developments in the national legal systems of European jurisdictions.

Looking beyond Europe, since 2008 *Public Law* has contained also an International Survey, building on the work of Roger Errera, who for many years provided reports on decisions of the Conseil d’Etat. The International Survey goes wider though and, supported by leading academics from around the world, reports on public law matters from both common law and civilian systems – the latest edition including commentaries from: Argentina, France, Israel, Italy, and New Zealand.

Participation in the Ius Publicum network fits well with these developments. Uniquely, of-course, among the founding members of the Ius Publicum network, we do remain part of the family of common law legal systems and we regularly publish work relating to the constitutional and administrative law of other nations of the British Commonwealth, especially in recent years Australia and New Zealand.

We hope that, as a British-based journal, we will be able to make a distinctive contribution to the Ius Publicum network and enable users of the website to understand more fully the contribution of the common law to the field of European public and administrative law.

Andrew Le Sueur and Richard Cornes