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Baroness: Anguilla Should Be Proud Of Law Revision Centre

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Anguilla should be proud of hosting the Regional Law Review Centre, Baroness Scotland, the United Kingdom's Attorney General, said while on a tour of the facility last week.



Baroness (3rd from left) and other officials

At present the centre serves Anguilla, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands and in the future hopes to be of assistance to other Caribbean Overseas Territories as well as a number of Eastern Caribbean States which may need to update their laws.

“I think it is very important because one of the issues we have had for a long time is how to speedily and accurately keep the law up to date in a way that makes it accessible to all the people who need it,” the Baroness said. “It is not to be accessible just to the lawyers and the court, but actually to citizens and other people. It was always a huge problem. To be able now to have up to date laws to 2008 for Anguilla, Turks and Caicos and Montserrat, is an enormous step forward. Obviously having a revision to 2008, would make it easier every year to then keep the laws up to date in a much more effective and efficient way. I think that the centre is a real asset and that Anguilla should be very proud that it is the country which is hosting the centre.”

The centre was established in September 2007 with a grant from the Department for International Development for up to three years. It is also being funded by the three subscribing territories of Anguilla, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Attorneys General of each territory, Wilhelm Bourne of Anguilla, James Wood of Montserrat, and Kurt De Freitas of the Turks and Caicos Islands, are the Directors of the centre.

The work at the centre is being undertaken by Mrs. Yolande Dash whose duties include checking the consolidation of the laws, arranging for them to be checked by a Law Revision consultant, printing the laws, storing them on CDs and making them readily available on data base and in booklet form.

Mrs. Dash said that a revised edition of laws for Montserrat, comprising 247 booklets, was done in 2002. Seventy of those booklets now have to be changed since the laws had again been revised. Next after Montserrat's laws will be the revision of Anguilla's. The local general revision was in 2000. The first update was in 2002, another was in 2004 and still another in 2006. Work is now to be done on the 2008 edition.

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