

INTRODUCTION

1999 sees the publication of volume 50 of the Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly, which seems an appropriate moment to review the position of the journal in both the legal and intellectual sense. NILQ has always set out to be a generalist journal and to be of national interest, and is part of a proud tradition of intellectual scholarship. No journal can, however, afford to stand still, and in these increasingly time-pressurised days, there has to be a very good reason to give the NILQ the time it deserves.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Dr Peter Ingram, who has just relinquished the editorship, and has made such a valuable contribution to the development of the NILQ. It is the intention of the new editorial team to continue the balance between matters of exclusively Northern Ireland concern and matters of wider national and international interest.

NILQ will continue to be a generalist journal (of which there are increasingly few) but with specifically themed issues e.g. on criminal justice, the environment, human rights, and constitutional change. We welcome potential contributions, of whatever length, from sustained articles on topics of major interest to shorter pieces on important cases or legislation: our sole criterion is the quality of the contribution.

As we move into the new Millennium, we intend to take the NILQ into its second half century with a sense of renewal and optimism as a real contributor to lively intellectual legal discourse.

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