



Finding legal materials: Frequently asked questions

CRMR 5

(Shelf marks are for Sheffield University Library)

Cases

I only know the name of this case. How do I find a law report?

Use the [Law Reports Consolidated Index](#) (LAWS 344.41095 LAW) [Current Law Case Citator](#), (LAWS 344.41095 CUR) or [The Digest](#) (LAWS 344.41095 DIG). Alternatively, use a legal database such as Westlaw or Lexis to find a law report citation.

How can I find cases relevant to a specific area of the law?

Most textbooks include tables of significant cases. Alternatively, try [The Digest](#) (LAWS 344.41095 DIG), [Halsbury's Laws](#) (LAWS 344.41095 HAL) or a legal database such as Westlaw or Lexis.

Where will I find cases from the European Court of Justice?

The [European Court Reports](#) are at ERC 349.4031 COU. You can also find judgments on EUR-Lex <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/index.htm> or on the Court's web site <http://www.curia.eu.int/en/content/juris/index.htm>

Legislation

Where can I find Parliamentary Bills?

You can get them from the web site of the UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/bills/bills.cfm>. Print copies of older Bills are kept in the Parliamentary Papers collection in Western Bank Library.

Where do I find Acts of Parliament?

[Halsbury's Statutes](#) LAWS 344.41021 HAL or legal databases such as Westlaw or Lexis are the best sources to use if you want to be sure you have the current text, including all subsequent amendments. The UK Statute Law Database <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk/> is the official revised edition of the legislation of the United Kingdom made available online.

Public General Acts from 1988 are available on the government web site <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts.htm>.

Print copies of [Public General Acts](#) are in the library at LAWS 344.41022/PUB. [Current Law Statutes](#), which incorporate useful notes and annotations are at LAWS 344.41022/CUR.

Where are "The rules of the air (amendment) regulations 2003"?

A publication that has regulations, rules or order in the title is likely to be a Statutory Instrument (SI), which is a form of secondary legislation. Thousands are published, and a new numerical sequence starts each year. SI's from 1987 are available on the government website <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm>. SI's are also included in the UK Statute Law Database <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk/>.

[Halsbury's Statutory Instruments](#) LAWS 344.4103 HAL lists all current SI's.

Where can I find European Union Regulations and Directives?

These can be found on EUR-Lex <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/index.htm>. The official print versions are published in [Official Journal of the European Union \(L\)](#) at ERC 349.40221/OFF

Journals

How can I find legal journal articles on a particular subject?

The best source is the Legal Journals Index, which is part of the Westlaw UK legal database. A print alternative is [Index to Legal Periodicals](#) PER 340.5 IND

Other FAQ's

What does this legal abbreviation mean?

To identify legal abbreviations, use the Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/> or [Index to Legal Citations & Abbreviations](#) REF 347.03(R)

How do I find a Command Paper?

Since 2001, some Command Papers have been published on government department web sites. A list is available at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/official-publications/command-papers/index.htm>. Individual command papers are occasionally added to the library and are on the catalogue – try searching by title or keyword. Command Papers are also kept in the Parliamentary Papers collection.

Where are the Law Commission Reports?

Most reports from 1996 onwards are on the Law Commission web site <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/publications.htm>. Print copies are available in the library at 347(L) or Q 347(L).