

Searching for cases via Westlaw

You can search for cases by the names of the parties (e.g. *Harriman v Martin*, *R. v Smith*)

You can search by citation (e.g. [1962] 1 W.L.R. 739)

You can also search for cases on particular areas of law (e.g. assisted suicide, deportation)

The best way to search for cases is to use the *Case Search* facility on Westlaw or Lexis Library. These will give you the full judgement, links to other relevant cases and legislation, and journal articles about the case.

NB For cases before 1865, use **JUSTIS** to search the English Reports series.

Why not just use Google?

No guarantee that what you are reading is the actual judgement as published in the Law Reports – it is often someone else's thoughts about the case, and you could fail your assignment by citing it.

Searching via Westlaw

From the library catalogue select Online resources, then search for Westlaw. Click on the link in the red box to log into Westlaw. You will then be asked for your London Met username and password.

Once you submit these, the Westlaw UK Welcome page should appear.

Simple search for a case using party names

If you are just searching for a single case and you already have the names of the parties, you can submit your search using the search box on the Welcome page.

Remember: when searching in Westlaw, always put quote marks around your search terms to keep them together.

e.g. "Jeffrey v Black"

Westlaw will then search for the original judgement(s) on your case, any subsequent cases where your case has been cited as a precedent, any relevant legislation, and any journal articles which have been written about the case.

When they are listed, the cases will be listed first, with the most recent at the top. At the end of each entry you will see a line called **Documents:** which contains the Case analysis, reports of the case, and the Official transcript. If any are highlighted in yellow then there will be a link within that document (also highlighted in yellow) to the case you are searching for.

Normally the full text of the case will be given. If this is not the case, make a note of the citation and look for it either in print format or via another online legal information supplier such as Lexis Library or BAILLI.

Printing and saving your search results

You can print, save or email your search results to yourself using the icons at the top right of the text.

Advanced search for cases on Westlaw

From the Westlaw Home screen, click on the grey Cases link next to Westlaw UK. Here you can search by:

- parties
- citation
- free text (use if you are searching for cases on a topic or if you could not find the case by doing a simple parties search). You can use the Westlaw search connectors to make your search more precise.

Remember: when searching in Westlaw, always put quote marks around any names or phrases, to keep them together.

e.g. "Jeffrey v Black", "assisted suicide"

When your results are listed, some will have a link to full text. If this is not given, make a note of the citation or journal details and look for it either in print format or via another online legal information supplier such as Lexis Library or BAILLI.

If it is a journal article, do a Journals search on the catalogue for the journal title to check whether we have either a print subscription or another online route to it.

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