

Searching for legislation

The easiest way to search for legislation is by the names of the Act or Statutory Instrument

(e.g. Homelessness Act 2002, The Dacorum Primary Care Trust (Establishment) Order 2001)

You can also search for legislation on particular areas of law (e.g. immigration, employment rights)

The best way to search for cases is to use the *Legislation Search* facility on Westlaw or Lexis Library. These will give you the full text of all Acts and SIs in force, including any amendments.

Why not just use Google?

No guarantee that what you are reading is the version of the statute in force at a particular point in time. You may need to know the exact wording of a key section at the date a crime was committed or came to court, or the version in force today.

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.

Searching for a statute by title

If you are searching for a particular statute, you can submit your search using the grey Legislation search option on the Westlaw Home screen.

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

e.g. "Police and Criminal Evidence Act "

If you know the exact Title or Cmnd. No., use the Act/SI Title box. This will search for the original act and also any subsequent legislation amending or modifying it. When they are listed, the original act will normally appear first.

If you click on the red Arrangement of Act link then it will appear onscreen, broken down in to Preamble and Sections. Click on the Section you need and it will open.

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.

Use the Free Text search box if you are not sure of the exact title, or if you want to retrieve all legislation on a topic or if you could not find the act by doing a Title 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. "Dangerous dogs"

The legislation retrieved will then normally be listed onscreen in date order, with the most recent first.

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