



# Westlaw UK

**Westlaw UK** contains British legal material such as case reports, cases digests, legal journals and unreported judgements.

**Access:** Access is via the DIT library homepage under Databases, subject gateways or under the Law section of the Aungier Street homepage: <http://www.dit.ie/library/sites/aungierst>

## Searching for Cases

Cases can be retrieved using any of these search criteria: [Basic](#), [advanced](#) or [Browse](#).

### Basic search

From the welcome page, select the **Cases** heading from the navigation bar at the top of the screen - you can search for cases by entering "Party Name" or "Citation". Use the "Free Text" field to look for terms or phrases relating to the subject matter of the cases you want to find.

Westlaw UK will automatically use the '&' (AND) connector with multiple keywords. This means that your search will return all documents containing those words – not just instances where the words appear together. For example entering *contributory negligence* will return all documents containing *contributory and negligence*. If you want to search for those terms together as a phrase, enter as "contributory negligence".

### More on searching with Terms and Connectors.

If you know the name of one or more of the parties, enter them into "Party Names". The more party names you include, the more precise the search will be.

If you know the case "Citation", enter it, or part of it, into the field. For example, [2001] 1 A.C. 1 can be simplified to *2001 1 ac 1* for search purposes.

### Advanced search

The advanced Cases search allows you to enter more information to further refine your search. The more information you enter the more accurate your search will be. In addition to the **Free Text**, **Party Name** and **Citation** search fields, you can:

- Search for subject headings, keywords or catchphrases
- Search for any cases citing specific cases
- Search by the court in which the case was heard
- Search by judge & Restrict your search by date

## Browsing for Cases

### Browsing all Case Reports

You can browse for any case either by accessing all case analysis documents on Westlaw UK or only the full text reports and transcripts. When you select [Case Analysis Documents](#) an alphabetical list of all case reports monitored by Westlaw UK is displayed with the title of the report on the left hand side and the citation format on the right, with a search option above.

Once you have selected a report series name, you will be taken to a list of years or volume number for that report. A list of cases in alphabetical order will be displayed for that year.

### Browsing all full text cases

The "Law Reports and Transcripts" link will display all case reports held on Westlaw UK in full text. The name of the series appears on the left with the corresponding citation format on the right of the screen. Accessing one of the report series will take you to a list of years or volume number for that case report series. Within that list of years, an alphabetical list of cases is displayed.



Browsing for cases serves two purposes. It allows you to browse through a list of report series right down to document level and also determines what you are searching.

## Search Results List

Westlaw UK will retrieve documents matching your search terms. If you are interested in relevancy and how often your search terms appear within the documents, click on **Sort by Relevance**. The cases result list will include the following:

- Party Name
- Subject/Keyword used
- Where reported – a list of all citations where the case has been reported
- Documents – links to the case analysis documents and each of the full text case reports (if available)

### Status Icons

Some results might show status Icons next to the title of the case indicating that either the case has been judicially considered elsewhere (indicated by ) or that the case has been overruled or reversed on appeal (indicated by )

### Edit Search/New Search

You can edit your search or delete it and start a new one by selecting "Edit Search" or "New Search", both at the top left of the page. To refine a long list of results even further, you can search for additional terms. Just enter your new search term(s) in the field at the top of the page and click "Search Within Results".

## The Case Analysis

This is a unique feature, the best place to start when looking for relevant case law. A [Case Analysis](#) provides all the information you need in the first instance. There is a Case Analysis available for every case on Westlaw UK, it appears highlighted in yellow below each case result and this amongst others, contain:

### Where Reported

The first part of the case analysis lists all case report series that have reported the case. The list runs in order of persuasive authority of a particular law report series, with the ICLR at the top and newspaper reports and transcripts at the bottom as required by:

- Practice Direction (CA: Citation of Authority) Also known as: Practice Note (CA: Citation of Reports) (CA (Civ Div))
- Court of Appeal (Civil Division) [1995] 1 WLR 1096; [1995] 3 All ER 256 [1996] 1 WLR 854; [1996] 3 All ER 382 and
- Practice Direction (Form of Judgments) [2001] 1 Cr App R 29.

### Case Digest

This consists of the "Subject, Keyword" and "Catchphrase" fields, which distil the case into a few links and are useful to quickly grasp the key issues within the case. Together the three fields are also referred to as the Westlaw UK Taxonomy.

- Subject – the legal subject as assigned from a controlled vocabulary, eg Damages, Personal Injury, Criminal Law
- Keyword – terms contained in the Westlaw UK Legal Taxonomy describing issues involved in the case.
- Summary – contains key phrases
- Abstract – the facts of the case and a summary of the decision

The summary section may also provide details of the Judge(s), Counsel and instructing Solicitors.

### Significant Cases Citing This Case

Provides a list of editorially selected cases cited within the Case Analysis. Click the case name and citation to retrieve it.

## Legislation

Westlaw UK has a comprehensive coverage of consolidated legislation dating back as far as 1267 and Statutory Instruments since 1948. New legislation will be added into Westlaw UK with annotations as provided by Westlaw UK experts. Legislation can be browsed by year or title.

## Journals

Offers access to Full-text articles from leading UK & Europe's Legal Journals. You can perform a keyword search or browse the Journals contents.

Updated July 10