

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

LOCATION

Government and Parliamentary material is located on the Gallery between BAYS 156 - 190. Some Parliamentary Papers are stored off-site, but can be retrieved within 24 hours. Lincoln's Inn Library specialises in these resources and holds a more comprehensive collection, which Middle Temple members are entitled to use.

Many publications are now freely available online through various government websites, and the Library subscribes to additional databases to supplement these materials. Remember to search the online catalogue to view the Library's full holdings, or speak to a librarian if you have any questions about where to find a particular document.

PRIMARY LEGISLATION

The Library holds copies of primary legislation from 1235 onwards. Early Acts of Parliament can be found in the series *Statutes at Large 1225-1800* (BAY 164) or *Statutes of the Realm 1235-1714* (HeinOnline Database). The Library continues to collect hardcopies of the Acts of Parliament from The Stationery Office, which are bound in sessional volumes. (BAY 163 - 165) From 1999, the Library also receives the accompanying explanatory notes- documents explaining the purpose of a Bill .

Print copies of Private Acts are also available from 1801 - present. (MOBILE SHELVES).

**The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
The Library, Ashley Building
Middle Temple Lane
London EC4Y 9BT**



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LOCAL ACTS

To determine whether a Local Act has been amended or repealed, search the

Chronological Table of Local Legislation on legislation.gov.uk

The tables are not completely current, so it is necessary to follow up by checking a resource like the *Current Law Legislation Citator* for recent changes.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Secondary legislation in the form of Statutory Instruments are held from 1890-2009 on the MOBILE SHELVES and in BAYS 187-190.

Rules, Regulations and Orders all come under the heading of Statutory Instruments. Rules and Regulations are issued to update parts of an Act so that a new Act need not be passed. Commencement Orders are issued to bring into force whole or part of an Act that has not come into effect immediately upon Royal Assent.

PRIMARY LEGISLATION COMMENTARY

There are several options for finding legislative commentary and amended versions of Acts. In addition to a range of textbooks and regularly updated looseleaf encyclopaedias, the following titles are particularly useful.

Butterworths Annotated Legislation provides authoritative commentary on Acts, with informative explanatory notes written by experts in relevant fields. Located in BAY 172 and organised chronologically, this series can be searched by the Act's short title in the Library catalogue.

Current Law Statutes Annotated (1948 -) provides a means of monitoring legislative change in the UK through tables of Statutes and bills, lists of SIs, details of white and green papers and references to Hansard. It is annotated by experts offering analytical commentary on the legislation and has an updating service for material not yet covered in the bound volumes. Located in BAYS 165-166.

Halsbury's Laws is an encyclopaedia of current law in England and Wales. Although it does not provide full text cases or Acts, it is a useful resource for starting research in a particular area of law. Organised by subject, footnotes provide details on relevant case law and legislation for each area of law. Current volumes found in BAYS 178 - 179. The Library also holds previous editions in BAYS 173 - 177.

Halsbury's Statutes provide a comprehensive annotated record of all Acts of Parliament currently in force and is organised by subject. It has regular looseleaf releases and supplements to ensure coverage is fully up-to-date. Current edition in BAY 171, previous editions BAYS 166-170.



Butterworths Annotated Legislation. Image credit Beth Flerlage

BILLS

Bills generally fall into two categories: public and private.

Public bills relate to matters of public policy applying to the general population and are the most common type of bill. Either House can introduce a bill. Bills will have three readings in each House (reported in *Hansard*). Between readings, bills are sent to Public/Standing Bill Committees for debate and scrutiny

Private bills are directed at the interests of an individual, corporation or local authority. Historically, these were marriage enabling or estate settlements, or introduced by commercial promoters of roads, canals and railways. The Marriage (Prohibited Degrees of Relationship) Act 1986 and the Transport and Works Act 1992 reduced the amount of private legislation required for these purposes, and today Parliament considers very few private bills. Private bills can also be introduced in either House and will similarly follow the same stages as public bills.

HYBRID BILLS

A third type of bill, hybrid bills, are comparatively rare.

These are promoted by the government but affect private interests. Examples include the Channel Tunnel bills of the 1970's.

Bills are accessible through the databases UK Parliamentary Papers 1695-2004 and Public Information Online from 1919 to present.

HANSARD

The official report of the House of Commons or Lords (*Hansard*) is a full, although not verbatim, report of the proceedings of the Houses as recorded by reporters. It is published in daily, weekly, and fortnightly editions.

Debates are cited by reference to the House, volume number, year, and column number. For example: HC 239 (1907) col.1356.

Hansard can be searched freely online at hansard.parliament.uk/

The Library also stores bound volumes of Hansard off-site, which can be requested.



House of Commons.
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HOUSE PAPERS

House of Commons Papers and House of Lords Papers are information papers required by Parliament in its work of Legislation. House of Commons Papers include documents such as: Select Committee papers, annual reports and accounts, supply estimates, and reports of government departments or commissions. House of Lords papers includes reports from Select Committees of the House of Lords, Acts of Parliament, and Bills. House of Commons/Lords Papers have separate numbering sequences, referenced by the House abbreviation, number and session: HC 507 2010-12.

Access 18th, 19th and 20th century House Papers and Command Papers on UK Parliamentary Papers database.

TREATIES ONLINE

Flare Index to Treaties

Searchable database of significant multi- and bilateral treaties. Hosted by IALS.

resources.ials.sas.ac.uk/flare-index-to-treaties/search

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office on tracking and searching for treaties.

www.gov.uk/uk-treaties

United Nations Treaty Collection Full text, ratification and status of treaties deposited with UN since 1946 and League of Nations Treaty Series 1920-1944. treaties.un.org

COMMAND PAPERS

There are six series of Command Papers. These are cited as:

- C. 1870-1899
- Cd. 1900-1918
- Cmd. 1919-1955/56
- Cmnd. 1956-1986
- Cm. 1986-2018
- CP 2019 onwards

Command Papers are formally presented to Parliament by command of His/Her Majesty; although, in practice the responsible government department presents the paper. Command papers encompass several types of documents, including: annual reports of certain bodies, treaties, Government replies to Select Committee reports, reports of Royal Commissions, state papers, white papers, some green papers, and reports of some major Committees, Commissions, and non-Parliamentary bodies.

WHITE AND GREEN PAPERS

White papers are statements of intent or policy by the Government. The paper usually outlines proposals for changes in legislation and a Bill will always follow a white paper.

Green papers are consultation papers and do not necessarily lead to a Bill. Green papers are published by individual Government Departments as a consultation or discussion paper, and they invite comments from the public.

LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION PAPERS AND REPORTS

The Law Commission is an independent body, which reviews the law in England and Wales. The organisation conducts consultations and issues reports of recommendations for law reform where needed.

Consultation papers are circulated, detailing the existing law and its failings. Comments are invited from interested individuals, organisation, and the media.

Reports provide final recommendations based on information from the consultation papers. Hardcopies of the *Law Commission's Consultation Papers 1966-2019* are available in BAY 158 and *Law Commission's Reports 1966-2019* are available in BAYS 159.

PEPPER V HART RESEARCH

The decision in *Pepper (Inspector of Taxes) v Hart* [1993] AC 593 allows for Parliamentary statements to be considered in court in certain circumstances. For example, speeches made in Parliament by Ministers or other promoters of a Bill may be referenced when legislation is ambiguous or obscure.

Public Information Online allows users to conduct Pepper v Hart research by building a collection of materials around a specific Bill. The database includes Lords papers, Bills, Standing Committee/Public Bill Committee reports and Hansard dating back to 1919.



Law Commission Reports.

Image credit Beth Flerlage



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SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES

The Library subscribes to databases which provide access to various official publications and related commentary. A chart detailing coverage is available on the last page of this guide.

LEXIS +

WESTLAW

PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLINE

UK PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS

Subscription databases are available from any Library computer terminal.

PARLIAMENTARY ONLINE

British History Online - Primary and secondary sources of British history by the Institute of Historical Research, University of London.
www.british-history.ac.uk

Digitised Historical Parliamentary Material - Links to legislation, debates, papers, proceedings, journals, judgments, devolved parliaments and archives.
archives.parliament.uk/online-resources/

LEGISLATION ONLINE

Many official publications are freely available in official and unofficial formats online.

Government - Legislation and information on local government, political parties and government departments, offices and agencies. www.gov.uk

UK Government Web archive - National Archives collection of archived UK central government information, including videos, tweets, images and websites dating from 1996 to present .
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/webarchive/

Law Commission - Reports and Consultation Papers since 1996. www.lawcom.gov.uk/document/

Legislation.gov - Legislation, SIs and selected legislation from Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. www.legislation.gov.uk

UK Parliament - Information about the Houses of Commons and Lords, Hansard and Bills. Live broadcasting from Parliament.
www.parliament.uk

DEVOLVED PARLIAMENTS

For questions relating to Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, it may be necessary to see materials produced by the relevant devolved Assemblies or Parliaments. For specialist collections see either Inner Temple's library (for Scotland) or Gray's Inn Library (for Northern Ireland).

Some materials and information about the devolved Parliaments are freely available online.

National Assembly for Wales - Publications from committees, Plenary sessions and records of proceedings.

www.assemblywales.org

Northern Ireland Assembly - Legislation, End of Session Reports, Order Papers, Official Reports, and Standing Orders.

www.niassembly.gov.uk

Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707 - Searchable database produced by Scottish Parliament Project researchers at the School of History, University of St Andrews. Includes proceedings of the Scottish parliament from 1235-1707.

www.rps.ac.uk

Scottish Parliament - Publications from Parliamentary committees, bills and official reports. www.scottish.parliament.uk



Public Entrance to the Scottish Parliament. Image © Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body – 2012. Licensed under the Open Scottish Parliament Licence v1.0.

PARLIAMENTARY ONLINE

The History of Parliament - Parliamentary and political history from 1386-1868.

www.histparl.ac.uk

Online Historical Population Reports (OHPR) - Population reports of Britain and Ireland from 1801-1937. Includes censuses, registrar general reports, essays, legislation, a bibliography and national archive documents.

www.histpop.org

Parliamentary Publications and Records - Recent Parliamentary documents including Hansard, Commons and Lords business papers, committee publications, research briefings, agendas, minutes and links to historical materials.

www.parliament.uk/business/publications/

Official Documents - Papers presented to Parliament by outside bodies. Includes Command Papers and departmentally sponsored House of Commons Papers from 2005 onward.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

See the table to the right for coverage of primary and secondary legislation, as well as a selection of parliamentary papers available through electronic resources.

Key:

PIO—Public Information Online

UK PP- UK

Parliamentary Papers

THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF
THE MIDDLE TEMPLE
The Library
Ashley Building
Middle Temple Lane
London EC4Y 9BT

Phone: 020 7427 4830

Email:
library@middletemple.org.uk

Web:
[www.middletemple.org.uk/
library](http://www.middletemple.org.uk/library)



Document	Resource	Coverage
Amended Legislation	Legislation.gov	1988—present
	Lexis +	Currently in force
	Westlaw	1991—present
	Enacted Legislation	Legislation.gov
	PIO	1919– present
	Westlaw	1949—present
Private Acts	Legislation.gov	1801—present (incomplete)
	Westlaw	1991 –present
Statutory Instruments	Legislation.gov	1987-present
	Lexis +	Currently in force
	Westlaw	1991-present
	Hansard	Parliament.uk
PIO		1909-present
	UK PP	1803-2005
	Standing/Public Bill Committees	Parliament.uk
PIO		1919-present
House of Commons/	PIO	HOL 1919-present
	UK PP	HOC 1715-2004
Command Papers	UK PP	1802-2004