



The Law Society

Parliamentary debates research service

Pepper v Hart

The case of Pepper v Hart [1993] A.C. 593 was historic. It ruled that parties could refer to parliamentary material in order to aid statutory interpretation.

If legislation is ambiguous, obscure or absurd, statements as reported in parliamentary material (eg Hansard) can be used to understand what was meant by a particular section of an Act.

Researching sections of Acts and Bills can be

- + time consuming
- + difficult
- + frustrating

The Law Society Library's **Parliamentary debates research service** is staffed by librarians trained and experienced in this type of research. They are familiar with the sources and materials, and will check the various versions of the Bills to see if the wording of the clause changed, as well as researching what was reported in Hansard – Commons, Lords and Standing Committee.

By using the **Parliamentary debates research service**, you can rest assured that the librarian doing the research will be as thorough and as accurate as possible.

The Law Society Library is offering this service at £250+VAT per section.

For this special rate, you will get:

1. A dedicated librarian, who will spend up to six hours researching the debates.
2. A detailed report of their findings.
3. Photocopies of all the relevant material.

Phone **0870 606 2511** or e-mail lib-eng@lawsociety.org.uk for more details.