



03 HOW TO Find Public General Acts

Locations of Public General Acts

Official Series

The official definitive text of the statutes on the date they received royal assent published by The Stationary Office can be located in the Library at Bay 168 onwards.

Legislation.gov.uk

The original text (as enacted) and revised versions of legislation are available at www.legislation.gov.uk. The revised versions are not always up-to-date so always check the 'Changes to legislation' note at the beginning of each section. Coverage is complete from 1988 onwards, prior to this not all statutes are available.

Halsbury's Statutes

Halsbury's Statutes is arranged in subject order setting out the text of statutes in force as amended at the date the particular volume concerned went to press. Annotations are included (located at Bays 61-62).

Current Law Statutes Annotated

Beginning in 1948, *Current Law Statutes Annotated* contains the text of statutes as originally printed together with annotations including references to parliamentary debates (located at Bay E).

Textbooks

Many specialist texts, particularly loose-leaves, set out the text of statutes updated to the date the work went to press plus annotations.

LexisLibrary

This online subscription service provides **updated** versions of statutes in force. LexisLibrary is available in the Library.

Westlaw

This is an online subscription service providing **updated** versions of statutes in force. It also contains historic versions for acts since 1991. Westlaw is available in the Library.

Justis.com

This online subscription service provides the **original** official full text of most acts since 1235. Amendments, repeals and annotations are not included, although there are cross references to amendments and repeals with links to JustCite. Justis.com is available in the Library.

Updating Statutes

Halsbury's Statutes

Use the separate consolidated index to find the act in either the main volumes or the loose-leaf *Current Statutes Service*. Amendments and repeals are shown as at the date that particular volume went to press. You can further update the information by looking in firstly the annual *Cumulative Supplement* and secondly the loose leaf *Noter-Up* (located at Bay 61).

Current Law Legislation Citators

Beginning in 1947 *Current Law Statutes Annotated* list statutes noting amendments, repeals etc. Use the volume which contains the year in question and **all** subsequent volumes (located at Bay E).

Chronological Table of Statutes 1225-

Chronological Table of Statutes lists every statute passed since 1225 noting repeals and amendments (located at Bay N7). Please note that whilst this is authoritative, it is not very up to date. Repealed acts will simply show as repealed and will not note any amendments which may have taken place before the date of repeal. Old editions are available (ask staff).

LexisLibrary and Westlaw

Both these subscription services provide **updated** versions of public statutes.



Commencement of Statutes

Is it in Force?

Is it in Force? lists alphabetically by year from 1960 all acts showing details of commencement. Information is updated in *Halsburys Statutes looseleaf Noter-Up* (located at Bay 61).

LexisLibrary and Westlaw

Both these subscription services provide details of commencement. In LexisLibrary the information is in a note at the end of the section. In Westlaw select 'Legislative Analysis'.

Commencement Orders Index (1974-2012)

This is an in-house commencement index compiled by Library staff. It is freely available on the Library catalogue [Knowledge Base](#).

Finding Statutes on a Subject

Halsbury's Statutes

Use the separate consolidated index to find the relevant legislation (located at Bay 61).

LexisLibrary and Westlaw

Sections in both these subscription services can be used to find statutes on a subject including Commentary and Current Awareness in LexisLibrary and Legal Journals and Current Awareness in Westlaw. Westlaw contains abstracts and subject keywords which can be useful for finding recent statutes on particular subjects.

Textbooks

Textbooks and loose-leaves covering the relevant subject area can be used.

Finding Cases on a Section of a Statute

Current Law Legislation Citators

Refer to Updating Statutes above. Use the volume which contains the relevant statute and **all** subsequent volumes. (Bay E).

Halsbury's Statutes

The annotations often refer to relevant cases (located at Bay 61).

LexisLibrary and Westlaw

Locate the relevant section of the statute and in LexisLibrary select 'Related cases' and in Westlaw select 'Legislative Analysis'.

Finding Statutory Instruments made under a Section of a Statute

Current Law Legislation Citators

Refer to Updating Statutes section above. Use the volume which contains the relevant statute and **all** subsequent volumes (located at Bay F).

Halsbury's Statutes

The annotations often refer to orders made under a particular section of an act (located at Bays 61-62).

LexisLibrary and Westlaw

Locate the relevant section of the statute. In LexisLibrary the information is in a note at the end of the section. In Westlaw select "Legislative Analysis".

Please note : the updating mechanisms of many of the above sources can be difficult to use. Please ask staff for assistance if you are unsure. The above are suggestions only and are not exhaustive. If you do not succeed or are not satisfied with the result in the first source you use, try an alternative.