



04 HOW TO Find Local and Personal/Private Acts

Local and personal legislation is very complex and these notes are only intended to give you a general overview. Terminology often causes confusion. Examples of **Local** legislation include acts governing local government, educational establishments, specific companies, railways, canals, harbours and so on. Chapter numbers are shown in roman numerals. **Personal** (previously often referred to as **Private**) acts are rare these days and consist mostly of marriage enabling and estate acts. In the past they have also covered inclosures, naturalisation and divorce. Chapter numbers are shown in *italic* arabic numerals. Please note that over the years the classification and numbering of local and personal legislation has changed.

For information on public general acts which are of general application and affect the community at large refer to *03 HOW TO Find Public General Acts*.

Local Legislation

Finding copies of local legislation

- Printed versions of the official, definitive text of local acts on the day they received royal assent are held by the Library from 1797 onwards at Bay 131 onwards. Recent loose issues are held at Bay F.
- *Current Law Statutes Annotated* includes local legislation as originally printed since 1992 under the heading 'Private'. These are held at Bay E.
- Original, **unamended** versions from 1991 onwards can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk
- Justis.com is a subscription service providing original **unamended** versions of local acts from 1797. Justis.com is available in the Library.
- Westlaw is a subscription service providing **updated** versions of local acts published since 1991. Westlaw is available in the Library.
- LexisLibrary is a subscription service providing **updated** versions of only a very few local acts, mainly those concerning London. LexisLibrary is available in the Library.

Finding local legislation if you know the name

For legislation between 1797-1995 use the *Indexes to the Local & Personal Acts* at Bay N6.

For legislation from 1797 onwards use Justis.com

For legislation from 1991 onwards use Justis.com, Westlaw or legislation.gov.uk

Finding local legislation on a subject

If you do not know the name or the year, use the indexes held at Bay N6. Alternatively try searching by keyword in Justis.com and Westlaw subscription services.

Updating local legislation

To find whether a local act has been amended or repealed, first use the *Chronological Table of Local Legislation*. An online version is available at www.legislation.gov.uk/changes/chron-tables/local. The tables list in date order every local act from 1797 noting repeals and amendments made by public and local acts and public and local statutory instruments. Check the website to find the date to which the tables are updated - as at May 2017, they are only up to date to December 2008. Therefore please note these tables are not very up to date and are not comprehensive. If there is no mention of any repeals or amendments, this does not necessarily mean that the act is unchanged. Often it is wise to contact the relevant local body particularly local authorities. Check also the Statute Law (Repeals) Acts of 2008 and 2013 which repealed many local acts relating to railways, roads, London and benevolent institutions such as hospitals, schools and charities.



There is a printed version of the *Chronological Tables* at Bay N6, but this is only updated to 2000. Updating using the paper version is complex and involves using many different volumes. Ask staff for help if needed.

Cross-check the *Chronological Tables* and update beyond 2008 using the *Current Law Legislation Citators* (1947–present). Check all volumes, but be aware these are less comprehensive than the *Chronological Tables* and not complete as the 2008 annual volume does not include local act repeals by the Statute Law (Repeals) Acts 2008.

The tables of effects published in the annual volumes of Acts and Measures published by TSO can also be used.

If the act is later than 1991, use Westlaw for an updated version.

Halsbury's Statutes includes the text of very few local statutes in force as amended, mainly concerning London, in the Ports & Shipping and the Local Government volumes at Bay 61.

Pre 1797 legislation

The local act series started in 1797; therefore any legislation before this date will be in either the **public** series (see *03 HOW TO find Public General Acts*) or the **personal/private** series (see below).

Personal / Private Legislation

Finding copies of personal/private legislation

Bound volumes covering the period 1700-1893 are held in Library stores (ask staff to retrieve these for you). Bound volumes covering the period 1894 onwards are bound with local legislation at Bay 139 onwards.

Finding personal/private legislation if you know the name

For legislation between 1797-1995 use the *Index to the Local and Personal Acts* held at Bay N6.

Finding personal/private legislation on a subject

Use the indexes held at Bay N6.

Updating personal/private legislation

There are not many amendments and repeals to personal/private legislation. The main source for finding them is the *Chronological Table of Private and Personal Acts 1539-*. An online version is available at www.legislation.gov.uk/changes/chron-tables/private. The table lists in date order every personal/private act from 1539, noting repeals and amendments up to the end of 2008 (refer to Updating local legislation above). As with local legislation there is also a printed version of the tables, but is only updated to 2000 (Bay N6).

Personal/private statutes cannot be updated using the *Current Law Legislation Citators* as they only contain public and local statutes.

Please note : sometimes it is not obvious whether a particular act is a **public**, **local** or **personal/private** act. If you require further guidance please ask Library staff who will be happy to assist.