Westlaw UK: Cases

Clicking Cases along the top toolbar will enable you to search or browse across case law content. You can use the template to search across Case Law.

You can click the More options link at the bottom to expand the template so that you can also search by additional fields including Court, Date, Judicial Definition and Case/Legislation cited.

As you start typing in most of the template fields, Westlaw UK will suggest what you may be looking for.

Within each search field you can select a suggestion, type in single terms or phrases and use search connectors. You can see the available connectors by clicking the Terms and Connectors link in the top right-hand corner of the template.

You can also browse cases by Court or Law Report content by using the links below Cases on the main toolbar.

When browsing Law Reports you can search for a specific Law Report series, or browse alphabetically and then by year or volume.

You can see whether a Report series is covered in Full Text or Abstract, and can filter using the drop-down above.

When you select a specific Law Report series you can browse by year, show the summary of each case, re-sort cases by date or alphabetically and search for a specific case.

Significant & Guidance Cases
When browsing or viewing cases, you may see some cases marked as Significant or Guidance.

A case is deemed Significant if it sets out new legal principles, extends the law, applies established principles to a new situation, overturns established legal authority, interprets or defines statutory and non-statutory words and phrases, or is stated by the judge to be of general public importance.

A case is regarded as a Guidance case if it gives legal or procedural guidance, or reinforces or explains existing guidance.
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Viewing Cases

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Delivery options, PDF version, Add to Folder, Annotations, Linkbuilder and Case Alert

Tracking Cases

You can set up an alert to track a Case on Westlaw UK – you can receive an email for a number of different triggers. When viewing a case, click the bell icon on the right-hand side.

You are then asked to give your Alert a name (by default it is the name of the case).

You can then specify which triggers you want to be alerted for:

If you scroll down, you can then put in the email address(es) to send the alert to, the format of the email and how often to check for triggers.

Then click Save Alert – it will be saved into your Alert Centre.

When viewing lists of cited/citing references you can choose to re-sort the lists by date or treatment and show the summary of each case.