



European Documentation Centre

Alison Steed and Ross McClure, August 2020

QG LAW002 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qglaw002.pdf>]

What is an EDC?

European Documentation Centres (EDCs) are part of the *Europe Direct Information Network* established by the European Commission to ensure that information about the work and policies of the European Union is available to all its citizens.

EDCs are collections of material published and deposited by the European Union in academic institutions throughout the Member States. There are 30 centres in UK university libraries.

Their purpose is to enable the study of European integration within the academic institution and to make their information available to the wider local community.

The documents in the Aberdeen collection date from 1952. They record all aspects of the policy and activities of the EU Institutions, Agencies and related bodies.

Today much of this is available on the internet through, or linked from, the [Europa](#) website. EDC staff can provide guidance on sourcing this material online.

Where can you find the EDC in Aberdeen?

The Aberdeen EDC is on the upper floor of the Taylor Library, one of the Site Libraries belonging to University of Aberdeen. There is a staffed information point providing assistance from Monday to Friday between 9 am -12 noon and 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm. For those who require assistance but are unable to visit the EDC between these times, please contact the EDC staff by telephone or e-mail to make alternative arrangements.

Documents in the collection, except those on microfiche, are accessible when the Taylor Library is open. The [opening hours](#) of the Taylor Library and all other site libraries are available on the University website.

Who can use the EDC?

The Collection is available to staff and students of this and other universities, colleges, and schools as well as to members of the public.

All the material is reference only but can be photocopied subject to copyright restrictions. Photocopying is available using a Multi-Function Device (MFD) – please ask at the Issue Desk about how to use these.

Members of the public should contact the EDC Library staff before visiting the EDC to ensure that the material they require is available.

Which documents can we provide?

EU Legislation*

- Primary legislation – Treaties and Agreements
- Secondary legislation – Regulations, Directives, Decisions, etc.

Legislative and judicial process documents*

- Official Journal of the European Union ‘L’ (Legislation), ‘C’ (information and notices), ‘S’ (tenders for contracts)
- Debates of the European Parliament
- Working documents, SEC, SWD or COM documents (legislative proposals, reports and communications)
- European Parliament Reports
- Economic and Social Committee Opinions
- Committee of the Regions Opinions
- Reports of Cases before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Selected studies*

- Reports by the EU Institutions and Agencies such as the European Environment Agency, European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health, etc.

Selected statistics*

- From Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Commission.

*** Some of the above documents may only be available electronically.**

Internet sources

There is a great deal of information about the EU and its policies on the Internet.

- [Europa](#) is the official website of the EU. In addition to news, press releases, numerous full text documents including all publicly available official documents, Europa provides links to all the EU institutions, agencies, and related bodies.
- [EUR-Lex](#) is the gateway to the documentation of the legislative and judicial process. EUR-Lex provides direct free access to European Union law. The system makes it possible to consult the Official Journal of the European Union and it includes *inter alia* the treaties, legislation, case-law and legislative proposals. It offers extensive search facilities.

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- [EU Bookshop](#) is an online service giving access to publications from the EU institutions, agencies and other bodies. In addition to the online bookshop, this service provides an online catalogue and archive of EU publications. EU Bookshop allows users to search for EU publications, order them or download copies.
 - [Eurostat](#) provides statistics at European level that allows comparisons between countries.
 - **Eurostat microdata**
The University of Aberdeen is recognised as a 'research entity' by Eurostat. This allows researchers at the University of Aberdeen to [request access to microdata](#) - the units of data that aggregate statistics are compiled from - by submitting research proposals to Eurostat.

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Blog: EDC Information Update
<https://edcinformation.wordpress.com/>