



Official Publications Collection

Alison Steed and Ross McClure, July 2020

QG LAW003 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qglaw003.pdf>]

The **Official Publications Collection** is in the [Taylor Library and European Documentation Centre](#).

A [floor plan](#) showing the location of each section of the collection is on display near the entrance to the Taylor Library & EDC.

UK Official Publications

Databases

Parliamentary material from both the House of Commons and House of Lords, going back in some categories to 1660, is available on the database, [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#) (formally called House of Commons Parliamentary Papers). This database includes material up to the 2009/2010 session of Parliament.

[Public Information Online](#) database holds material from the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly, National Assembly of Wales, Scottish Government and Key UK Government Papers. Start dates of these collections vary but they all go up to the present day.

Both of these databases can be accessed through [Primo](#) or our [Official Publications subject page](#). The databases have comprehensive search facilities.

Members of the public can access the [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#) database using the [Walk-In Users Service](#) at The Sir Duncan Rice Library.

House of Commons

- Paper copies of House of Commons Sessional Papers 1894-1980/81 are kept in store and are available, for consultation or loan, on request.
- In addition to the Command Papers included in the House of Commons Sessional Papers, there is a set of unbound Command Papers in the Taylor Library.
- There is a collection of selected House of Commons Papers and Command Papers published by the Irish University Press. The collection covers papers from 1800 – 1899, and it is arranged chronologically by subject and is housed in the Taylor Library.
- House of Commons Papers from 1715-2010, Command Paper from 1833-2010 and Bills from 1695-2010 are available in electronic format from [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#).
- House of Commons Papers from 1997, Command Papers from 1835 and Bills from 1919 all to the present day are available on [Public Information Online](#).

As individual reports within the Sessional Papers or individual papers within the Command Papers are generally not catalogued, please contact the Official Publications staff if you require help.

House of Lords

House of Lords Papers are available electronically from 1714-1805 through the [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#) database.

House of Lords Bills and House of Lords Papers from 1901 onwards are available in electronic format on [Public Information Online](#).

In addition, the Taylor Library has copies of:

- House of Lords manuscript minutes, committee books and voting records 1620 - 1714 (on microfilm)
- House of Lords Sessional Papers 1714 - 1805 (Oceana reprint) (paper)
- House of Lords Sessional Papers 1894 - 1934/35, 1962/63 - 2006/07 (paper).

Parliamentary Debates

The Taylor Library has paper copies of:

- Parliamentary debates of the House of Commons, House of Lords (commonly known as Hansard); the earlier Grey's Debates and the Parliamentary History, and cover the period from 1667 to 2007/08
- Debates of the Standing Committees of the House of Commons 1966/67 to 2006/07
- In addition, the House of Commons and House of Lords Debates are available on [Public Information Online](#) from 2008/09
- Parliamentary Debates from 1600-2005 are on [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#)
- A [Hansard Database](#) covering the period 1803 - 2005 is also available.

Parliamentary Journals

- Journals from both the House of Commons and House of Lords are available on [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#) from 1688-1834.
- The Taylor Library has copies of House of Commons Journal 1547 to date. Some are available in paper, and some are on microfiche.
- House of Lords Journal 1509 to date.

UK Acts

The Taylor Library has paper copies of:

- Public and General Statutes/Acts 1797- to date
- Statutes of the Realm 1066 - 1713
- Statutes at Large 1225 -1800
- Local and Private Acts 1797 to date.

Fully consolidated UK Acts are available on the legal database, [Westlaw UK](#).
See the [Library guide on Westlaw UK – legislation](#).

Statutory Instruments

The university holds paper copies of:

- Statutory Rules & Orders and Statutory Instruments revised to December 1903 v.1-12
- Statutory Rules & Orders and Statutory Instruments revised to 1948 v.1-25
- Statutory Instruments 1953, 1956 - 2000
- The legal database, [Westlaw UK](#) provides links to some full text UK Statutory Instruments from 1947 onwards.

Government department publications

Paper holdings are listed on [Primo](#). The Key Non-Parliamentary Papers section of [Public Information Online](#) includes documents from UK government departments and agencies.

Scottish Parliamentary publications

The Library holds:

- Acts of the Scottish Parliament 1999 to date
- Bills including explanatory notes, other accompanying documents, and policy memoranda 1999 - 2007
- Official Report: Meeting of the Parliament 1999 - 2007
- Official Report: Committees 1999 - 2007
- Official Report: Written Answers
- Scottish Parliament Papers 1999 – 2007.

From Session 3 (2007) onwards, all Scottish Parliament material is available in full text from the [Public Information Online](#) database.

The [Scottish Parliament](#) website has material from 1999 onwards.

Fully consolidated Acts of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Statutory Instruments both from 1999- are available on [Westlaw UK](#) which can be accessed through [Primo](#) or from the [Accessing Legal Databases](#) page.

The library holds paper copies of The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland 1235 – 1707.

These are also available on [The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland](#) (RPS) website. This is a fully searchable database containing the proceedings of the Scottish Parliament from the first surviving act of 1235 to the union of 1707. Acts from the 1400s to 1707 are also available on [Westlaw UK](#).

Scottish Government publications

The library has a collection of documents published by the Scottish Government (previously referred to as the Scottish Executive) since 1999. These are all listed on [Primo](#). Recent documents are available on

the [Scottish Government](#) website, as well as on [Public Information Online](#).

National Assembly for Wales

Acts from 2008 onwards (formerly designated as Measures up to 2012) are available in electronic format on [Public Information Online](#).

Northern Ireland Assembly

Bills, Papers, Committee Reports and Debates from 2007/08 and Acts from 2000 are available in electronic format on [Public Information Online](#).

European Documentation Centre

The library holds or can help source the following types of document:

- Official Journal of the European Communities L, C and S series
- COM documents (Commission working documents)
- European Parliament debates and reports
- European Court Reports
- Eurostat publications
- Studies and background papers.

While much of this material is no longer received in hard copy, EU official documents and legislation can be traced and accessed via the [Europa](#) website. The EDC staff can help you trace this material.

OECD collection

The library has a collection of OECD documents from 1961 to 2003. From 2004 all OECD books, periodicals and statistical data are available in electronic format via the [OECD iLibrary](#).

This database can be accessed through [Primo](#) or the subject page for [Official Publications](#).

Census reports

The library has access to most of the published British census reports from 1801 to 2001:

- Great Britain 1801 - 1851
- England & Wales 1861 - 2001
- Scotland 1831 - 2001 (including the 1851 census of religious worship & education)
- Northern Ireland 1961 - 1991
- Ireland 1841 – 1911.

Use the [HCPP - UK Parliamentary Papers](#) database for 19th and early 20th Century census materials.

[UK Data Service](#) provides a one stop gateway to data and support services which allow users and researchers in UK Higher and Further Education to access the UK censuses from 1971-2001. It also provides access to other important census related resources.

For the 2011 Census:

- **England and Wales** - see [Office for National Statistics](#) website
- **Scotland** – see [Scotland's Census](#) website
- **Northern Ireland** – see the website of the [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#).

Irish Parliament

The Taylor Library has paper copies of Journal of the House of Commons of the Kingdom of Ireland 1613 – 1789.

League of Nations

The Taylor Library has paper copies of Treaty Series 1920 – 1946.

United Nations

The Taylor Library has paper copies of:

- UN Treaty Series v.1–1420, 1946 - 1986
- UN General Assembly 1950/51 - 1986
- UN Resolutions 1946 - 1986
- UN Key Resolutions 1946 - 1996
- UN Document Index 1950 – 1982
- UN Security Council 1946 – 1966
- UN Conference on Trade and Development 1975 – 1986.

Check the catalogue for other UN titles shelved at other Aberdeen University Library locations.

The [Official Document System](#) (ODS) website covers all official UN documentation from 1993 onwards. It also provides access to resolutions of the General, Security and Economic and Social Councils from 1946 onwards.

All treaty information is available from the [UN Treaty Database](#).

The [United Nations Digital Library](#) covers UN documents, UN open access publications, UN voting records, maps and speeches.

If you have any problems tracing official publications, please contact the dedicated OP Help Desk on the upper floor of the Taylor Library.

Library contact

Ross McClure
(Principal Information Assistant)

E-mail: r.mcclure@abdn.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1224 273334 or +44 (0)1224 272601

In the case of access problems (including Out-of-Hours Service), contact the [IT Service Desk](#):

Address: The Sir Duncan Rice Library, 1st Floor, Old Aberdeen.

Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 09:00-17:00; Wed: 10:45-17:00

Log a problem via your MyIT portal at <https://myit.abdn.ac.uk> or

Email: servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1224 273636 (for ***Out of Hours Service** – call this number)

If you require further information, please contact:

Taylor Library & EDC

Dunbar Street

Aberdeen

AB24 3UB

Telephone: 01224 272601

Email: lawlib@abdn.ac.uk