



Tracing legislation - quick guide to Current Law Statutes

Anne McLean, June 2020

QG LAW008 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qglaw008.pdf>]

Background

Current Law Statutes (CLS) is an unofficial version of the statutes published by Sweet & Maxwell. Until 1991 there was a separate version of the service for Scotland called **Scottish Current Law Statutes** which included all the UK and English material as well as Scottish Statutes. The services were amalgamated in 1991 and published as **Current Law Statutes Annotated** (until 1993) when the service became Current Law Statutes before reverting to Current Law Statutes Annotated in 2005.

This version of the Statutes includes:

- all Public and General Acts
- all Private Acts (from 1992)
- all Acts of the Scottish Parliament (asp) (since 1999).

CLS provides access to the text of legislation soon after it receives the Royal Assent. The text does not include subsequent amendments or repeals. You will need to use the Statute Citator included in the bound volumes between 1984 and 2004, or the separate **Current Law Legislation Citator** volumes, to see if there have been any subsequent amendments or repeals to particular sections of an Act, and for details of enabling Statutory Instruments and relevant case law.

Annotations by the editor in smaller type give useful notes and commentary to each Act including references to debates in **Standing Committee** or in **Parliament**. A table of Parliamentary debates listing references to substantive debates in the **House of Commons** and the **House of Lords** is sometimes included. Where no debates are listed for an Act, there will have been no substantive debate.

To find very recent legislation

Use the loose leaf **Current Law Statutes Service** file. When a new act is printed Taylor Library receives a copy to add to the loose-leaf binder for the current year. (We receive these about once every month.) These are then eventually replaced by the bound volumes.

Each volume of Current Law Statutes has a **Chronological Table of Statutes** at the front, giving a list of the **Acts** for that year, with their **Chapter** numbers and in some cases the name of the person annotating a particular Act. There is also an **Alphabetical Index** giving the Chapter or asp number. Older volumes include the **Statute Citator**. At the end of each year there is an **Index** to the legislation, amendments, repeals and appeals. You are referred to the Chapter number (in bold) and the relevant Section number.

Example:

To find the **Environment Act 1995** and any amending legislation:

1. Find the Current Law Statutes volumes for 1995.
 - Check the alphabetical list in the **final** volume for 1995.
 - The Environment Act 1995 is chapter [c.] 25 and is published in volume 2.
2. To see if there have been any amendments to this Act:
 - Find the **Legislation Citator** volume that covers the period from 1996 to 1999,
 - Turn to the section for 1995 and find chapter 25,
 - Each section of the Act is now listed with any amendments, repeals, applications, enabling Statutory Instruments and case law,
 - If nothing is listed, check the subsequent volumes of the **Statute Citator** for 2000 to 2001, 2002 to 2004 and all subsequent individual volumes from 2005 to the end of the year previous to the current one.
3. Use the Statute Citator in the loose leaf Current Law Statutes Service file to check for changes since the beginning of the current year.

Aberdeen University members can find revised legislation by accessing the legal database Westlaw through [Primo](#).

Please speak to a member of Taylor Library staff if you need any assistance.

Tel: 01224 – 272601

Email: lawlib@abdn.ac.uk