Lexis+ UK - Searching for Case Law
Zita Szabo, September 2022
QG LAW017 [https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qglaw017.pdf]

The Lexis+ UK database (formally known as LexisLibrary) is an important source of full text legal information. It provides access to UK, EU, US, and international case law, legislation, legal journals, as well as UK national and regional newspapers.

Accessing the database, Lexis+ UK
Please, follow the link to Lexis+ UK. On the Primo result page, click on the title of the database in the ‘View Online’ section, and when prompted, log in with your university IT username and password. The first time you access Lexis+ UK, you will see a welcome message, and then you will be asked to enter your name in a form and click on ‘Accept and continue’ to accept the ‘Terms and conditions’. Once you provide your details, you will be set up to start your research in Lexis+ UK.

Accessing Cases
You have two options to start your search for cases:

- Use the main search box of the Home page of Lexis+ UK, click on All, and select Cases. (See image below). BUT be careful! If you start your search from the Lexis+ UK Home page, your search results will be less specific, as they may include more sources, e.g., Books, Forms & Precedents (even Legislation!). It is because the main search box will search across the whole database. So, to find more reliable information on case law, I would advise you that pick the other option. Please see instruction below.

- The Legal Research tab on the left-hand side of the screen offers four distinctive areas: My Sources, Content, Practice Area and International. (See the middle of the image below.)

Cases can be found within Content. Click on Cases to get access to its search or browse facilities.

Searching for cases
As previously explained, the landing page for Cases (from Legal Research) provides you with two options: searching and browsing.

To search for cases, please use the main search box on the top of the page. Type your search term(s) in the box, e.g., fracking, and press Enter.
Understanding search results

Search results will appear in a list view. Select filters - on the left-hand side of the screen - to narrow down your results.

Tick the boxes next to the various contents (e.g., Case Overview, Case Reports, Case Summaries, or Judgements) to see what information they can offer. You can also use the Search within results box to enter further search terms.

From filters, you can also select Jurisdictions & Courts (England & Wales, Europe, Rest of the World, Scotland, United Kingdom), Timeline, Practice Areas & Topics (Arbitration, Commercial law, Dispute resolution, etc.) and Sources (Judgements, All England Reporter, Case Overview, Weekly Law Reports - ICLR, etc.).

To save a source for later use, tick the box alongside the title and select delivery options: Print, Email, or Download. Alternatively, you can save cases in your Folders.

Working with cases

Click on the title (in blue) to open the full text of a case, e.g., Ineos Upstream Ltd and others v Persons unknown (see image on the right-hand side.)

Under the parties’ names, you can find Overview and a series of case citations. The citation highlighted in red is the one which provides the full text of the case by default. You can select another citation to read the same case from a different source if you wish.

On the right-hand side of the screen, Info offers links to Supporting Materials (e.g., Court Ready PDF) and Related Documents (Cases, Halsbury’s Laws & Stairs, Books & Journals, Practical Guidance). If any annotations have been made to this case, they would be available under Notes, next to Info.

While working with a case, if you click on Overview, you can get access to specific information, e.g., Court, Judgement Date, Catchwords & Digest, Case History, Cases referring to this case and Cases considered by this case.

Browsing cases

Under the main search box, on the landing page of Cases, you can find two distinct areas: Content Type and Topics.

Selecting a Content Type would open a list of further sources. As an example, if you click on Case Reports, you will be provided with an alphabetical list of titles, e.g., All England Commercial Cases, All England Law Reports, All ER Reprints, etc. Icons alongside the titles indicate if a source is archived ( ) meaning its content is only available for a period of time, or if they are still active titles ( ) and that updates are included in our subscription. But remember, it is not guaranteed that you will always be presented with a list of resources, sometimes selecting a Content Type, e.g., Case Overview, only opens the Advanced Search form of the chosen content.
**Topics** provide an alphabetical list of different subjects, e.g., Accounting, Administrative Law and Judicial Review, Agriculture, Animals and Fisheries, etc.

Choose one topic, e.g., Corporate, from the list, to get access to the advanced search form of Cases - with an option to search only within your selected subject, e.g., Corporate Cases. (See the red square in the image on the right-hand side.)

Once you have finished your research, to close Lexis+ UK Legislation, click on the three dots on the top right corner of the page, and select **Sign out**.

---

**Understanding Lexis key symbols**

Lexis+ UK uses symbols to provide a quick visual indication of how a case or a piece of legislation has been treated. Users should always conduct further research before deciding whether to rely on a specific case or legislation in their legal argument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Negative treatment" /></td>
<td>The decision has been subsequently reversed, disapproved or overruled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Negative treatment indicated for statute" /></td>
<td>Strong negative treatment indicated for a section. The section may have been found to be unconstitutional, void, or invalid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Legislation - no longer in force" /></td>
<td>Legislation has been repealed or superseded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Positive treatment" /></td>
<td>The decision has been affirmed or applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Legislation - in force" /></td>
<td>It is a good law; the legislation is in force.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Neutral treatment" /></td>
<td>The decision has received neutral or ambivalent treatment: considered or explained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Citation information only" /></td>
<td>No treatment has been given. Only citation information is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Citing references with analysis available" /></td>
<td>The treatment of the case is neither positive nor negative (for example, explained).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Cautionary treatment" /></td>
<td>Decision has had some doubt cast upon it: <strong>possible negative treatment indicated</strong> – the decision is criticised or distinguished.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Validity questioned" /></td>
<td>There are circumstances (e.g., judicial, or legislative overruling) which questions the validity of the case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Partly in force" /></td>
<td>Legislation is partially in force or has been partially repealed; or it has pending or prospective amendments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Help
If you have any problem using this database or require further assistance, please contact:

Janet MacKay, Information Consultant (Law)
Tel.: +44 (0) 1224 273892
Email: j.i.mackay@abdn.ac.uk

Nicola Will, Site Services Team Lead
(Taylor Library)
Tel.: +44 (0) 1224 273166
Email: n.will@abdn.ac.uk

Taylor Library Issue Desk
Tel.: +44 (0) 1224 272601
Email: library@abdn.ac.uk

IT Service Desk (for any access problem)
Telephone: +44 (0) 1224 273636
Login to MyIT portal
Email: servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk

You may want to read our other Lexis®Library guides:

Lexis+ UK - Key Features
Lexis+ UK – Searching for Legislation
Lexis+ UK – Searching for Articles in UK and International Journals
Lexis+ UK – searching for newspaper articles