

When undertaking legal research using either printed or online services, you must ALWAYS check your legal material to ensure you have the most up to date information. The availability of up to date information varies from one source to another and it may be necessary to 'migrate' to a different source to check that the law is current.

ONLINE SERVICES

With **online services** you need to consider:

- how the service actually displays updated material; is the update included in the text, or do you need to click an *update* or *comment* button?
- how often the service is updated; does this apply to the WHOLE database or just a part of it?

Case law and **legislation** are usually updated on a daily basis or regularly (ie: "within a few days") **Practitioner texts** and **looseleaf works** available online are usually only updated when the printed text is published. The online service may offer additional *commentary* but this does not form part of the text of the work and it does NOT mean the online version is more up to date.



CASE LAW

- Cases are linked into a database that is updated **3 times a day**.
- Look for a blue **CASE HISTORY** symbol to find if a case has been considered, applied, distinguished etc



A red **NO ENTRY** sign will tell you if a case has been reversed or superseded.




Find case history links to the left of Westlaw's Case Analysis records.

LEGISLATION is updated weekly. Look for **repealed**  and **amendments pending**  symbols.

PRACTITIONER TEXTS & LOOSELEAFS are updated as and when the printed copies are updated.



HALSBURY'S LAWS

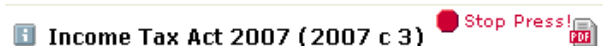
- **Look in the Table of Contents to the left for an UPDATE.** Click **UPDATE** for the text from the most recent Cumulative Supplement and Noter-up.
- The service is updated **monthly**. The printed Noter-up is also published monthly and is added to the electronic service at the same time. The online service  **Stop Press** is therefore no more up to date than the printed version.



LEGISLATION

- **Always click STOP PRESS button (illustrated) for the latest updates.**




- The button is located next to the title of the Act.



- The service is updated **daily**. However amendments to legislation are not incorporated into the text immediately and there can be a substantial delay. Clicking the **STOP PRESS** will link you to

amending legislation OR inform you of a very recent change that has not yet been loaded onto the database.

CASE LAW

- On **Case Search** records, the traffic lights system of red, green and blue icons indicates whether a decision has received *negative*  (reversed, overruled, doubted), neutral  (distinguished, explained) or *positive*  (followed, applied) treatment. **CaseSearch** is updated **daily**. See [signal help](#) for more details.
- Note that it will *only* indicate this information where the updated case appears in **Case Search** records. It will NOT do so for cases retrieved from other case sources such as *All England Law Reports* or *The Law Reports* - you will need to update your case by searching for the case name and in the search results, looking for mention of your specific case name, within other cases.



CASE LAW

- Cases are added **daily** and normally appear the day after the hearing. The abstract of the most recent ruling in a case is displayed. Click **Case History** to the top right of the screen to link to the abstracts of earlier decisions in the case.
- Use the link at the bottom of the screen, **Cases citing this case**, to see where the case has been considered etc. For full noting-up, use Current Law (print) or Westlaw (online).
- Note that the database starts in 1980 - cases prior to 1980 are not necessarily updated.

LEGISLATION is supplied in its **original format** as published by *The Stationery Office*. The accompanying table of amendments, repeals etc is updated regularly but prefer **Westlaw** or **LexisNexis Butterworths** for the *amended* legislation in full text.

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS are updated infrequently on Lawtel. The **Articles Index** is updated **daily**. "Weekly journals are summarised immediately".

PRINTED SOURCES

With **printed texts** you need to be constantly aware of publication dates. Look out for:

- cumulative supplements and noter-ups (legal encyclopaedias - *Halsbury's*, *Atkins* etc)
- supplements (practitioner texts, legal dictionaries)
- publication dates, issue numbers, bulletins and filing records (loose-leaf works)

If the text refers to legislation or case law you may need to bring those authorities up to date using an electronic database or another printed source.

LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS – such as *Halsbury's Laws*, *Atkins Court Forms*, etc – are updated with a separate Cumulative Supplement and looseleaf Noter-Up service volume(s).

PRACTITIONER TEXTS – many of the major practitioner texts you will use throughout the course (Chitty on Contract, Clerk and Lindsell on Tort, Archbold etc) have **Supplements**. These update the main work to the date written on the front cover or on a separate page inside. If you aren't sure if there is a supplement, check the Library catalogue or ask a member of library staff to check for you.

LEGAL DICTIONARIES – such as *Stroud's Judicial Dictionary* – are also updated by **Supplements**.

LOOSELEAF WORKS – check the **filing record** in the first or last volume of the looseleaf set. This will give you the latest issue number and filing date. When citing from a looseleaf you should quote the date of the latest issue (look for the filing instructions in front of volume 1) or, if that isn't clear, you could quote the date the latest issue was filed.