Locating United Kingdom Case Law

The authorised law report series for the United Kingdom is The Law Reports as published from 1865 onwards. This overarching series contains several divisions; Appeal Cases (AC), Chancery (Ch), Queen's Bench (QB), Family (Fam) and others that are no longer current (KB, App Cas, Ch D, Ex, Ex D, PC, P, QBD). The abbreviations within case citations reflect these divisions. To access UK cases published in The Law Reports (authorised series), use the Library’s [ICLR3](#) database.

Like Australia, the UK has various other law reports series differing by jurisdiction, field of law etc. A selection of these other UK law reports series, together with unreported cases, are accessible via the Thomson Reuters Westlaw or Lexis Advance International databases. These databases also provide the option of searching for UK cases on a particular topic area using keywords.

**Thomson Reuters Westlaw**

Thomson Reuters Westlaw is the recommended starting point for general UK legal research as it contains many UK legal materials, such as legislation, cases, journals and a case citator (case analysis similar to that provided by CaseBase Cases/FirstPoint for Australian case law).

- From the WSU Library website, select e-Resources from the ‘Resources’ tab and select the subject Law on the next page
- Select ‘T’ under for Thomson Reuters Westlaw
- You will need to enter your username & password to access.

**ICLR3**

On the database entry page, enter the case citation or party names (or part thereof) into the search box and click submit search.

This will lead you to view the full case. NB: Click on the ‘+’ symbol beside the party name for research information about the case.

Open/download the PDF version via the icon at the top.
To find cases by topic, select the Full Search Template option on the right side for an advanced search template. Enter search terms into the catchwords or full-text search boxes and refine by date, court etc if appropriate. Refer to the ICLR.3 'Search Help' link for more assistance.

UK cases heard after 1865 are generally cited in the same format as Australian case law according to the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC) style. Refer to AGLC 23.1 for further information.

Other Sources:

- Cases published in the All England Law Reports (All ER), an unauthorised UK law report series, are available in the Lexis Advance database

- UK cases published in the English Reports (abbreviation ER) 1220-1865 are also available via the HeinOnline database

- The Lexis Advance (International) database also contains UK case law (select International - UK)

- The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) [http://www.bailii.org/](http://www.bailii.org/)

- Court websites e.g. Supreme Court [https://www.supremecourt.uk/decided-cases/index.html](https://www.supremecourt.uk/decided-cases/index.html)