Using Halsbury’s Laws of England

What is Halsbury’s Laws of England?
Halsbury’s Laws of England (LAW KD 310 H19, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) is a legal encyclopaedia covering all areas of law. It is useful when looking for a summary of the law on a particular topic and relevant cases and legislation.

The volumes
Halsbury’s Laws has a number of component parts:

- **Main volumes**: 50+ volumes are divided alphabetically into subjects. The main volumes are re-issued when enough changes to that area of law have been made to require a new volume.
- **Cumulative Supplement volume**: published annually, gives details of all changes between the publication of the main volumes and the date of the supplement. Arranged in the same title and paragraph order as the main volumes, it notes new points of law at paragraph level.
- **Current Service Noter-up**: published monthly, the Noter-up details changes since the publication of the annual Cumulative Supplement and is also arranged in the same title and volume order as the main volumes.
- **Consolidated Index**: the consolidated index is arranged by subject and refers to paragraphs in the main volumes. Each main volume also as its own index, which should be used in preference if a main volume has been published since the latest available Index.

In addition, the Monthly Review contains summary articles on significant legal developments, cases and legislation, categorised using the main volume title scheme.

How to use Halsbury’s Laws
There is a four-step process to successfully using Halsbury’s Laws:

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Index → Main Volume → Cumulative Supplement → Noter-up
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• Find a topic in the volumes of the Consolidated Index. The reference will refer to a main volume (in bold type) and a paragraph number. For example:

**WATER QUALITY**

classification of 45 (5th) 330

disinfection 100 (5th), 382

drinking water. See DRINKING WATER

• Use this reference to find the paragraph in the relevant main volume. Using the example above, to locate information about the classification of water quality, consult volume 45 of the 5th edition, paragraph 330. To locate information about the disinfection of water, consult volume 100 of the 5th edition, paragraph 382. If you’re looking for drinking water, then look at the specific entry for drinking water in the Index.

• Paragraphs in the main volume provides a summary of an area of law and any relevant cases or legislation. If the paragraph number appears to be incorrect, check the Index within the main volume itself, as the main volume may have been re-issued since the publication of the Index.

• Use the Cumulative Supplement volume to see if the law has changed since the publication of the main volume. Use the headings at the top of the page to find the same volume, subject and paragraph number. Details of any changes will be given alongside the paragraph number; if the paragraph number is not listed, there have been no changes since the publication of the main volume and the publication of the Cumulative Supplement.

• Use the Current Service Noter-up paperback volume to determine if there have been any changes since the publication of the Cumulative Supplement, up to the current month. The Noter-up follows the same style as the Cumulative Supplement. Locate the section of the Noter-up that corresponds with the main volume and paragraph number.

It is important to follow this process each time Halsbury’s Laws is used. The main volumes are published infrequently, so using the Cumulative Supplement and Noter-up is essential to ensure the information is up to date.

Halsbury’s Laws of England is also available online via Lexis Library.

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