Using Halsbury’s Statutes of England and Wales

What is Halsbury’s Statutes?
Halsbury’s Statutes (KD135 H3 H17.4, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) contains the full-text of all amended legislation currently in force in England and Wales. Volumes are arranged alphabetically by subject and contain references to cases, legislation and the judicial interpretation of words and phrases.

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

- **Table of Statutes and Consolidated Index**: arranged alphabetically and refers to paragraphs or pages in the main volumes
- **Main volumes**: 50+ volumes arranged alphabetically by subject. The main volumes are re-issued when enough changes to that area of law have been made to warrant a new volume
- **Cumulative Supplement**: this single volume updates the main volumes to include any amendments, repeals, important cases or other information up to the end of the previous calendar year
- **Current Statute Service binders and Noter-Up**: these binders include any updates since the main volumes were published and are updated monthly.

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

- If the name of an Act is known, use the alphabetical or chronological Table of Statutes in the Consolidated Index to identify the main volume containing the Act. The volume number is in bold, followed by a page number. For example:
  
  War Crimes Act 1991..........................12(2), 69

- Acts that have been passed since the main volumes were published can be found in the Current Statute Service binders, which is indicated by an (S) after the volume number. For example:

  Sale of Student Loans Act 2008 .........................15(S), Education 45
• If the name of an Act is unknown, use the Consolidated Index to find the topic in the relevant main volume, plus either a page number or, for more recent volumes, a paragraph number [in square brackets]. For example:

**Land drainage –**

byelaws, 32(S), Open Spaces 109

Coal Authority powers, 29, 160-3

town development, works during, 46, [14]

• Using the example above, to find information about land drainage byelaws, consult volume 32 in the relevant Service Binder (denoted by (S)), page 109. For information about Coal Authority powers, consult volume 29, pages 160-3. For information about land drainage during town development works, consult volume 46, paragraph 14.

• If the text of an Act has been amended it will be printed in [square brackets]. The footnotes give details of any amendments, repeals, important cases, the interpretation of words and phrase and other useful information.

• Use the Cumulative Supplement to find out if there have been further changes since the publication of the main volume. Use the headings at the top of the page to find the same volume and page number as in the main volume. If there is no entry for the relevant sections, there have been no subsequent amendments. (Note that if the main volume has been published more recently than the Cumulative Supplement, the notes in the Cumulative Supplement will no longer be relevant. Check the publication date at the top of the page in the Cumulative Supplement and the publication date of the main volume to see which is the most recent.)

• Use the Current Statute Service binders and Noter-Up to check for any changes since the publication of the Cumulative Supplement. Both binders follow the same style as the Cumulative Supplement. Locate the section of the binders that corresponds with the main volume and paragraph number.

Remember the four-step process:
Follow this process each time Halsbury’s Statutes is used. The main volumes are published infrequently, so using the Cumulative Supplement and Current Statute Service/Noter-Up binders is essential to ensure the information is up to date.

**Halsbury’s Statute Citator**

**Halsbury’s Statute Citator** (KD135 H3 H17.4, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) is a guide to the current status of statutes, giving details of amendments, repeals and any cases which have interpreted the Act in court. Published in a single volume, the Statute Citator is up to date to the end of the last calendar year. To check for further amendments, consult the relevant section in the Noter-Up binder.

Statutes are listed alphabetically within each year, so the year the Act received Royal Assent must be known. Acts are treated section by section and Acts in italics are no longer in force.

**Halsbury’s Is it in Force?**

**Halsbury’s Is it in Force?** (KD135 H3 H17.4, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) is a guide to commencement dates for Acts passed since 1st January 1960. Is it in Force? is up to date to the end of the last calendar year. To check for further amendments, consult the Is it in Force? section in the Noter-Up binder.

Acts are listed alphabetically within each year. For each Act you will find the date of Royal Assent; the date when each section of the Act came into force; the legislation that brought that section into force; if a section has been repealed; if a section is not yet in force and dates when sections are due to come into force. For example:

**National Lottery Act 1998 (c.22)**

*RA*: 2 Jul 1998


1 1 Apr 1999 (1999/650)

2-5 2 Sep 1998 (s 27(5))

6-12 2 Jul 1998 (s 27(4)) and so on.

Halsbury’s Is it in Force? is also available online via Lexis Library.
Finding Acts on a subject
To find Acts on a particular topic, use the keyword index found in the back of the Table of Statutes and Consolidated Index volume to find references to the main volumes. Follow the instructions above in the section How to use Halsbury’s Statutes.

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