Using Current Law

What is Current Law?
Current Law comprises a number of publications providing summaries of case law, legislation and other related legal information. The series includes the Current Law Case Citator; the Current Law Legislation Citator and the Current Law Yearbook. The Current Law Monthly Digest supplements these publications. As the name implies, the Current Law publications enable you to stay up to date.

Current Law Case Citator

- Find the volume covering the period in which the case was reported, or work forwards chronologically from 1947 if the year is unknown, and browse the alphabetical table of cases for a specific case. The case reports are in plain type. For example:
  - Douglas v Hello! Ltd (No.1) [2001] QB 967...Digested, 01/567: Applied, 01/2583, 04/1391, 08/1992: Considered, 01/1824, 03/2923, 03/2941, 03/4363.
  - The references are to volumes of the Current Law Yearbook. For example:
    - 01/1824 refers to paragraph 1824 in the 2001 Yearbook

- Repeat this search in subsequent Case Citators. Then check the Consolidated Table of Cases in the Monthly Digests up to the present day to find out if there have been any changes since the most recent Current Law Case Citator volume was published.
Current Law Case Citator Definitions
The following definitions are used in the Current Law Case Citator to explain the judicial history of a case:

- **Digested**: A summary of the case is available in a volume of the Current Law Yearbook. Not all cases in Current Law have a digest. Yearbook references are to year/paragraph number. For example:
  - 01/567 refers to paragraph 567 in the 2001 Yearbook
- **Distinguished**: Outlines the differences between a current case and an older case being referred to in court so that it cannot be used as a precedent
- **Followed**: The same precedent as outlined in an earlier case is quoted during the hearing
- **Applied**: The same precedent set out in an older case is used again during another case
- **Approved**: The original findings of an older case are agreed with in a new case
- **Disapproved**: The original findings of an older case are not agreed with but the original decision is not overruled
- **Mentioned**: A brief mention in a court case
- **Overruled**: A new precedent has been set and a precedent set out by another court has been overruled. The case is no longer ‘good law’
- **Not followed**: A case does not use the same precedent as outlined in an earlier case
- **Reversed**: A decision made by another court has been changed.

Current Law Legislation Citator

Each statute is split into sections with details of commencement dates, amendments, repeals, any Statutory Instruments made under the Act and any cases which have interpreted the statute. For example:

- **Employment Relations Act 1999**
  s.13 see *N v Lewisham LBC* [2009] ICR 1538 (EAT), Burton, J.
Repeat this search in subsequent Legislation Citators. To be completely up to date, then check the Current Law Statutes Annotated volumes (LAW D6, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) and Service File. An Act can be amended at any time after it has received Royal Assent.

**Current Law Yearbook**

Current Law Yearbooks (LAW A3.1, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) have been published annually since 1947 and provide more detail about developments in the cases and legislation referred to in the Citator volumes. The Yearbook volumes also contain subject and case indexes and can be useful reference tools.

**Current Law Monthly Digest**

The Current Law Monthly Digest (LAW A3.1, 1st Floor, Abercromby Wing) contains details of changes to case law or legislation since the publication of the most recent Case Citator and Legislation Citator volumes. If a case is listed in the Monthly Digest, there will be a reference to either the latest issue or an earlier monthly issue and a paragraph number. For example, from the August 2009 Monthly Digest:


This refers to paragraph 350 in the February 2009 issue of the Monthly Digest.

The Current Law Monthly Digest also includes abstracts of all public general and private Acts, plus abstracts of Bills and a progress of Bills table, all listed under subject headings.

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