



# WESTLAW UK CASE LAW

## Quick Reference Guide



## Coverage

- Full text of The Law Reports 1865 onwards and other series of reports including: Weekly Law Reports 1953 onwards; Criminal Appeal Reports 1967 onwards; Fleet Street Reports 1966 onwards
- Full text of many Sweet & Maxwell / Thomson law reports
- Official archive of transcripts dating back to 1967

## Methods of Searching

There are three main ways of searching for cases.

### 1. *Westlaw Front Page*

Search Westlaw UK - this is a free text option where you can enter either a case name or subject terms in the search box. When entering names of parties you do not need to use “v” or “and”.

Deselect all other material types apart from cases. Click **Search**.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Services, Settings & Tools, Training Tutorial, Help, and Log Out. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Insight, Cases, Legislation, Journals, Current Awareness, EU, Books, and News. The main search area is titled "Search Westlaw UK" and contains a search box with the text "al fayed" and a "Search" button. Below the search box are two columns of search filters. The left column includes checkboxes for Insight, Cases (checked), Legislation, Journals, Current Awareness, and European Union. The right column includes radio buttons for Document Free Text (selected) and Document Title, and a checkbox for Terms in Context. Below the filters are links for "Natural Language", "Search Tips", and "List of Connectors". To the right of the search area is a promotional section titled "Two great ways to start your legal research". It contains two sub-sections: "Westlaw UK Insight" and "Index of Legal Terms". Each sub-section has a brief description and a "More information" link. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with contact information: "24 hour customer support 0800 028 2200 or +44 203 684 0749, [customer.service@westlaw.co.uk](mailto:customer.service@westlaw.co.uk)". There is also a link for "We want to hear your feedback" and the Thomson Reuters logo.

## 2. Cases Database

This is the simplest way of searching for a case if the party names are known or if you have a citation (either neutral or for a series of law reports Westlaw contains). Select the **Cases** tab from the top of the screen. Enter a case name, citation or free text terms in the appropriate box. You can also use the **Term Defined** box to find cases that define a particular term. Click **Search**.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK 'Cases' search page. The navigation bar includes 'Insight', 'Cases' (highlighted), 'Legislation', 'Journals', 'Current Awareness', 'EU', 'Books', and 'News'. The page title is 'Cases' with a breadcrumb 'Home > Cases'. A search bar is at the top with a dropdown menu set to 'Search'. Below the search bar are several input fields: 'Free Text', 'Subject/Keyword' (containing 'defamation'), 'Party Names', 'Citation', 'Term Defined', and 'Terms in Context' (with a checkbox and an information icon). A 'Search' button and a '[ Clear ]' link are positioned to the right of the input fields.

## 3. Advanced Search

Here you can enter additional information to refine your search, such as a court, judge or date restriction.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK 'Advanced Search' page. The navigation bar is the same as in the previous screenshot. The page title is 'Cases' with a breadcrumb 'Home > Cases'. The search bar dropdown is set to 'Advanced Search'. Below the search bar are several input fields: 'Free Text', 'Subject/Keyword' (containing 'defamation|'), 'Party Names', 'Citation', 'Term Defined', 'Cases Cited (Party)', 'Cases Cited (Citation)', 'Legislation Title', 'Legislation Provision No.' (with a dropdown menu set to 'any' and a text box), 'Court', 'Judge', 'Date' (with radio buttons for 'No date restriction' and 'between', and date input boxes for '01/04/2014' and '30/04/2014'), and 'Terms in Context' (with a checkbox and an information icon). A 'Search' button and a '[ Clear ]' link are positioned to the right of the input fields. A 'List of Terms' link is visible below the 'Subject/Keyword' field.

## Browsing

In the Cases Database you can browse by selecting the Law Reports and Transcripts or Case Analysis documents and then clicking on the title you wish to browse. By selecting a year or volume number you will see the contents of that year or volume, with links to the full text or summary as applicable.

## Search Results

Results are displayed in date order with the most recent first. You can alter the arrangement to display by relevance by clicking the **Sort by Relevance** link on the top right of the screen. For each hit you have the option of selecting Case Analysis or Full Text of a law report or official transcript.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK search results page. The search criteria are: **Cases** for **Subject/Keyword = defamation AND Date = Between 01/04/2014 AND 30/04/2014**. The results are sorted by relevance. The left sidebar contains filters for Topics (Family and private life, Human rights, Information and media, Legal system, Torts), Date (Last 3, 6, 12 Months), Jurisdictions (UK), Courts (High Court, Scottish courts), and Status (Appeal Outstanding, No Treatment). The main results list includes:

- 1. **Meadows Care Ltd v Lambert** Queen's Bench Division, 16 April 2014  
Subject: Defamation  
Keywords: Defamation; Slander; Slanders actionable on proof of special damage; Statements of opinion  
Where Reported: [2014] EWHC 1226 (QB); Official Transcript  
Documents: Case Analysis Official Transcript
- 2. **Weller v Associated Newspapers Ltd** Queen's Bench Division, 16 April 2014  
Subject: Defamation; Human rights  
Keywords: Children; Data protection; Freedom of expression; Measure of damages; Misuse of private information; Photographs; Privacy; Publication; Right to respect for private and family life  
Where Reported: [2014] EWHC 1163 (QB); [2014] E.M.L.R. 24; Official Transcript  
Documents: Case Analysis [2014] E.M.L.R. 24 Official Transcript
- 3. **Murray v Associated Newspapers Ltd** Queen's Bench Division, 15 April 2014  
Subject: Defamation; Civil procedure  
Keywords: Libel; Offer of amends; Statements in open court  
Where Reported: [2014] EWHC 1170 (QB); [2014] E.M.L.R. 23; Official Transcript  
Documents: Case Analysis [2014] E.M.L.R. 23 Official Transcript
- 4. **Jilani v Siddique** Queen's Bench Division, 10 April 2014  
Subject: Defamation; Civil procedure  
Keywords: Libel; Particulars of claim; Publication; Striking out  
Where Reported: Unreported  
Documents: Case Analysis
- 5. **Kinley v Devine** Court of Session (Outer House), 09 April 2014  
Subject: Defamation  
Keywords: Defamation; Scotland; Statements  
Where Reported: [2014] CSOH 67; 2014 G.W.D. 14-255; Official Transcript  
Documents: Case Analysis Official Transcript
- 6. **Uppal v Endemol UK Ltd** Queen's Bench Division, 09 April 2014  
Subject: Defamation; Media and entertainment

Note that there may be status icons next to a result. These indicate the status of the case i.e. if it is on appeal or if it has been overruled.

# Case Analysis

The Case Analysis documents include the following information (where applicable)

- Where Reported
- Case Digest
- Appellate History & Status
- Related Cases
- Significant Cases Cited
- All Cases Cited
- Key Cases Citing
- Significant Legislation Cited
- Journal Articles
- Books - references to the case in Sweet & Maxwell's textbooks

There are also options to view information about the case in tabular form or to view its history in graphical form.

The screenshot displays a legal database interface for a case analysis. The breadcrumb trail is "Home > Cases > Search Results > Document". The search results show "1 of 3 results" and "Search Terms". The case title is "[2008] E.M.L.R. 20" with an "Official Transcript" link. The case name is "Mosley v News Group Newspapers Ltd" under the "Queen's Bench Division" dated "24 July 2008". The status is "Positive or Neutral Judicial Treatment". The left sidebar lists navigation options: Case Analysis (expanded), Where Reported, Case Digest, Related Cases, Significant Cases Cited, All Cases Cited, Key Cases Citing, All Cases Citing, Significant Legislation Cited, Legislation Cited, Journal Articles, and Books. Below the sidebar, the "Where Reported" section lists "[2008] EWHC 1777 (QB); [2008] E.M.L.R. 20; (2008) 158 N.L.J. 1112; Times, July 30, 2008; Official Transcript". The "Case Digest" section includes "Subject: Human rights", "Other related subjects: Damages", "Keywords: Breach of confidence; Exemplary damages; Freedom of expression; Publication; Public interest; Right to respect for private and family life", and a "Summary" paragraph: "There was a reasonable expectation of privacy in relation to sexual activities, albeit unconventional, carried on between consenting adults on private property. The exposure by a national newspaper of sado-masochistic and some sexual activities and role play between the claimant and other consenting adult participants could not be justified on grounds of public interest and had been in breach of confidence and the claimant's rights under the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 art.8". The "Abstract" states: "The claimant (M) sought damages from the defendant newspaper publisher (N) for breach of confidence and the unauthorised".

## Printing

Select the case you want to print. The full text will appear in a new window. Click on the **Delivery** icon  on the top right of the screen and then select Print.

If you want to print several cases at once, tick the cases you require. Click on the **Print icon**.

Select either **Print list of search results** or **Print full text documents**. Select the **Output Option** you require. Click on **Submit**.

You will be shown a print dialogue box. Click on **Print**.

Printing can be collected at the Enquiry Point and costs 10 pence per page.

## Emailing

Select the case you want to email and click on the **Delivery** icon  on the top right of the screen and select **Email**.

Enter your email address in the **To** box. Add a subject or message as appropriate. Select Word or PDF format and preferred output option. Click on **Send**.

### E-mail Options

[Home](#) > [Cases](#) > [Search Results](#) > [Document](#) > [Delivery Options](#)

**To**   
Separate multiple addresses with semicolons.

**Subject**

**Message**   
Your document will be attached to this E-mail.

<b>Attachment File Format</b>	<b>Output Options</b>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Word / WordPerfect (RTF)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Display status indicator
<input type="radio"/> PDF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include live links
	<input type="checkbox"/> Highlight search terms
	<input type="checkbox"/> Include summary page

## Search Language

### AND

Use AND to retrieve search terms within the same document  
e.g. narcotics and warrant

### OR

Use OR to retrieve either search term or both  
e.g. drugs or narcotics

### !

To retrieve words with variant endings, use the root expander !  
e.g. employ! will retrieve employ, employee, employer etc.

### “Quotation Marks”

Use quotation marks around your search terms to find an exact phrase  
e.g. “fiduciary duty”

### /s

This looks for words within the same sentence e.g. dismissal /s constructive will find dismissal within the same sentence as constructive

### /p

This looks for words within the same paragraph e.g. unfair /p dismissal will find unfair within the same paragraph as dismissal

### /n

This finds words or phrases within a certain number of words of each other e.g. dismissal /5 constructive will look for dismissal within 5 words of constructive

For more information on search operators select **Help** at the top right of the screen