Government Publications

You can find usually find Government publications freely available on the internet. Give the URL and date accessed instead of the publisher details. Many publications are found via www.gov.uk but you should use the specific department as the author, if given.

Online

**Name of government department (Year) Title. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).**

Or if in print:

**Name of government department (Year) Title. Place of publication: Publisher. (Series) - if applicable**


In–text citation

The Department of Heath and Social Care (2013) outline the different elements of ...

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Inquiries

Inquiries may be published by order of Parliament. If so look out for the Parliamentary or Command number.

**Author (Year) Title of inquiry. (Parliamentary or Command Paper number). Available at: URL (Accessed: date).**

Or if in print:

**Author (Year) Title of inquiry. (Parliamentary or Command Paper number) Place of publication: Publisher**


In–text citation

The Laming inquiry (2003) made recommendations...

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A very quick guide to referencing UK legal sources

This leaflet provides details of how to reference legislation, law reports, government publications and parliamentary inquiries. For full details, including formats for other countries, consult the full version of:


This is available:

- Print copies in libraries
- Online via [https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Resources/referencing-and-avoiding-plagiarism/](https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Resources/referencing-and-avoiding-plagiarism/)

This guide is to legal referencing using **Harvard**. If you are a psychology student you need to use **APA** and if a law student you need to use **OSCOLA**.

**skills@cumbria.ac.uk**
How to compile your references

**Acts of Parliament (UK Statutes)**

Since 1963 Acts should be referenced as below. Most are now available online, so you should include the website where you found the Act. You do not need to add the date separately in brackets as with most other sources. The chapter number refers to the place in the Statutes Book, not to a section of the Act.

**Title of Act including year and chapter number. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).**


**In–text citation**

Free early years provision must be provided by the local authority (_The Education Act 2011_).

To refer to a _section of an Act_, add the details in text only e.g.

As defined in section 10 (2) of the _Education Act 2011_....

For pre 1963 Acts, EU legislation and legislation from other countries see the full version of Cite them Right.

**Law reports (cases)**

These are reports of court cases. In addition to transcripts of cases, some are also reported in law report publications. The law profession uses a specific referencing style called OSCOLA so you will see case references online (eg www.baillii.org or via databases Lexis or Westlaw) and in textbooks in these formats:

R v. Turnbull and others [1976] 3 All ER 549
R v. Smith [2018] EWCA Crim 528

From 2002, cases have been given a ‘neutral citation’ making them easier to locate online. Therefore you need to include details of the website.

You will need to convert the abbreviations used in these references into _Cite them right_ format as demonstrated below. If you need to find the full name of abbreviations go to [www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/](http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/)

**Pre 2002**

’Name of case’ (Year) _Title of law report_. Volume number, page numbers.


**Post 2002**

’Name of parties involved in case’ (Year) _Court and case number, Database or website_. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).


**In–text citation**

The case of ‘R v. Smith’ (2018)....