

6.2 Searching Lawtel UK

Lawtel UK offers a single box for you to enter search terms. You must then select one or more categories of information to search across by ticking the relevant boxes. To search across all categories, tick *select all*. Finally, if you wish to set a date range, enter details in the *from* and *to* boxes at the bottom of the screen.

Boolean operators may be used in this database. Lawtel assumes if you enter two terms that you mean to retrieve records in which both terms appear, because it has been designed with **and** as the default Boolean operator. Therefore if you enter the words: **Pinochet extradition**, you get exactly the same results as if you had entered: **Pinochet and extradition**.

If you wish to search for a phrase, surround it with double inverted commas, for example, “**police powers**”.

To truncate search terms (for example, when searching for terms which could be relevant in either the singular or plural), use the asterisk symbol; for example, **trade* union***.

After typing in your key words, click *Search*. A list of results will appear on the screen.

6.3 Displaying results

Results are presented in reverse chronological order. Click on the title (in capital letters and underlined) to view a document. Your search terms will be highlighted in yellow. Any text highlighted in blue links to more information (e.g. if the document is a summary for which the court transcript is available, a blue *full* text link will appear in the top left-hand corner of the screen).

6.4 Printing

To **print a document**: click on the print icon. Select *Headlines* for a citation and a very brief summary. Select *Document* to print the full text. Finally, click *print*.

6.5 Exiting

Click *Log Out* (top right of the page).

The next activity will allow you to practise your research skills in relation to Lawtel.

ACTIVITY 31

Using Lawtel UK (allow 20 minutes)

Using Lawtel UK, attempt the following searches (both were considered in paragraph 2.3 above):



- 1 Find a 2000 case where a woman who settled an action for less than its true worth won an appeal for a bigger compensation payout.

2 Find a 1999 case relating to whether windows are part of the structure of a building.**COMMENT**

Lawtel UK is a good resource for tracing recent cases and contains records of cases that have been reported in many published series of law reports. It also has entries for a large number of unreported cases.

- (a) When in Lawtel UK, click in box next to Case Law.
- (b) For question 1, enter **settled and "true worth"**.
- (c) One hit is displayed: *Kathleen Oakes v. Hopcroft* (2000).
- (d) Click on the title of the case to read the summary.
- (e) In this case, the appeal was allowed, so this answers the question. The citations given for the case are LTL 27/7/2000, the date of the Lawtel summary, (2000) 56 BMLR 136 for a full report of the case in *Butterworths Medico-Legal Reports*, and *Independent*, October 30, 2000, for a report in *The Independent* newspaper.
- (f) Click on the Lawtel logo (top left of the screen) to get back to the search box.
- (g) For question 2, again click in the box next to *Case Law*, then enter **structur* windows**. Select date range from 01/01/1999 to 31/12/1999.
- (h) A number of hits are displayed. Click on each title to read the summary to see whether it is relevant.

Among the hits displayed is the case of *John Michael Bent v. (1) High Cliff Developments Ltd; (2) The Conning Tower Management Co. Ltd* (1999). This appears to be on the issue of whether windows can be considered part of the structure of a building. The citation/reference given is LTL 17/8/1999, which is the date of the Lawtel summary. The case is unreported elsewhere.