How to use Halsbury’s Laws of England

1. Finding the relevant section in the text volumes

   a) when you know the general subject area of your research:
      • go to the relevant title (if necessary, consult the Arrangement of Titles in the Current Service Noter-up booklet)
      • turn to the Table of Contents at the front of the title or the Title Index at the back of the volume for reference to the relevant paragraph(s)

   OR

   b) when you know the name of the Act, statutory instrument or case with which your research is concerned:
      • go to the Consolidated Table of Statutes, Statutory Instruments or Cases for reference to the relevant volume(s) and paragraph(s)

   OR

   c) when you are uncertain of the general subject area of your research:
      • go to the Consolidated Index for reference to the relevant volume(s) and paragraph(s)

2. How to check for change

   The text volumes of Halsbury’s Laws are updated in two ways:

   First, look in the Cumulative Supplement:
      • annually reissued, to give details of all changes between the operative date of the text volume and the operative date of the Supplement
      • arranged in the same volume, title and paragraph order as the text volumes
      • developments affecting particular provisions are noted to the relevant paragraph(s) of the text volumes

   For narrative treatment of material noted in the Cumulative Supplement, go to the Annual Abridgment volume for the relevant year

   Secondly, look in the Noter-up
      • contained in the Current Service Noter-up booklet
      • issued monthly and containing all changes since the publication of the annual Cumulative Supplement
      • follows the same style as the Cumulative Supplement

   For narrative treatment of material noted in the Noter-up, go to the relevant Monthly Review

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

1) HALSBURY’S LAWS IS CONSTANTLY UPDATED: MAKE SURE YOU ARE USING THE CURRENT VOLUME, THE CURRENT CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT AND THE MOST UP TO DATE MONTHLY ISSUE OF THE NOTER-UP.

2) THE 3-STEP PROCESS: TEXT VOLUME – CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT – NOTER-UP.
THERE ARE THREE MAIN WAYS INTO HALSBURY’S LAWS

When you know the general subject area of research

Make sure that you are using the current volume: see the checklist in the Current Service Noter-up booklet

Turn to the title in the text volume which deals with the general area (e.g. Landlord and Tenant)

Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of the title, or the Title Index at the back of the volume, which will refer you to the relevant paragraph(s)

When you know the name of the legislation or case with which your research is concerned

Turn to the Consolidated Table of Statutes, Statutory Instruments or Cases which will refer you to the relevant volume(s) and paragraph(s)

When you are uncertain of the subject area of your research

Turn to the Consolidated Index, which will refer you to the relevant volume(s) and paragraph(s)

IS THE INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

Turn to the relevant paragraph of the bound, two volume annual Cumulative Supplement for all developments which have occurred in the period between the operative date of the text volume and the operative date of the Cumulative Supplement

For a fuller narrative treatment of material noted in the Cumulative Supplement, consult the relevant Annual Abridgment volume

Check the Noter-up in the most recent Current Service booklet, for all developments subsequent to the operative date of the Cumulative Supplement

For a fuller narrative treatment of material in the Noter-up, consult the relevant Monthly Review

Note the other features of the Current Service booklet, eg Commencement of Statutes Table, Destination Tables, Practice Directions, Table of Articles and the index to the Monthly Reviews

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