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Handy hints to help get you started

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Navigating to LexisPSL:
- Go to:  www.lexisnexis.com/uk/lexispsl

Signing In
Enter your username and Password
You can find your logins in your welcome email.
For help with your logins, please use either of the two links below or call contact Customer Support at 0330 161 1234 (Select option 2, then option 1)
Forgotten Your ID?
Forgotten Your Password?
Make sure to tick the Remember Me box, to ensure the site remembers your logins for next time.

Forgotten Your ID?

Bookmarking

Once you have logged in, LexisPSL will remember your details and keep you logged in.
You can now favourite or bookmark a particular practice area homepage to make accessing the site more convenient.
The methods for bookmarking a LexisPSL Practice Area Homepage depends on your browser.
In Internet Explorer, right click anywhere on the page and click “Create Shortcut” to create a desktop icon.
In Google Chrome, click on the Star icon in the address bar and specify Bookmarks Bar to bookmark the site.
In Firefox, use the Star icon next to the address bar. Then move it to the Bookmark Bar by clicking on the icon to the right of the Star.
LexisPSL Practice Area Homepages

The LexisPSL logo will take you back to your practice area homepage.

Change to another practice area by clicking on the arrow.

The topics tree gives you a list of the topics covered in each practice area. On the homepage you can view the subtopics by selecting the topic heading, or by selecting 'Expand all topics'.

Use the dropdown to manage your settings, contact our experts, access help or sign out.

Search across all practice areas or use 'Filters' to tailor your search to specific areas.

View essential content in the Key Resources tab.

Access and subscribe to the latest current awareness and analysis pieces with the News tab.

LexisPSL practice areas:

- Arbitration
- Banking & Finance
- Commercial
- Competition
- Construction
- Corporate
- Corporate Crime
- Dispute Resolution
- Employment
- Energy
- Environment
- Family
- Financial Services
- Immigration
- In-house Advisor
- Information Law
- Insurance & Reinsurance
- IP
- Life Sciences
- Local Government
- Pensions
- Personal Injury
- Planning
- Practice Compliance
- Practice Management
- Private Client
- Property
- Property Disputes
- Public Law
- Risk & Compliance
- Share Incentives
- Tax
- TMT
- Willis & Probate
Browsing

Select topics to browse other areas wherever you are in PSL.

Once you have navigated to a subtopic, you can view all related content in one place.

Click 'View all' to access all documents within a category.

Status Key:
- 'NEW' – added in the past 20 days
- 'MAINTAINED' – up-to-date
- 'UPDATED' – following changes in the law
- 'UNDER REVIEW' – undergoing changes (more information will be available under 'STOP PRESS' within the document).
Enter the description of what you are looking for.

LexisPSL Recommends links to frequently used documents in relation to your search terms.

Click to show/hide more content.

The tick boxes allow you to print/download/email multiple documents at once.

After searching, refine results by selecting single or multiple practice areas and/or document types.
Rules of contract interpretation

The basic approach of contract interpretation as provided by Lord Hoffmann’s five principles in ICS (see Practice Note: Interpreting contracts—The guiding principles) is supplemented by general guidelines (known as “canons of construction”) which can be used to assist in ascertaining the meaning of a written contract. This Practice Note considers the most important of these guidelines.

For related guidance on contract interpretation, see Practice Notes: The parol evidence rule in interpreting contracts and Admissibility of pre-contractual negotiations and statements in interpreting contracts.

Interpreting a contract—the whole of the document relevant

The document should be considered as to its whole effect and not just the impact of individual terms. Therefore, while issues in a case may narrow to the interpretation of one specific clause, its interpretation must be considered within the context of the document as a whole.

A necessary corollary of this approach is that, where possible, all parts of a contract must be given effect and no part of a contract should be treated as inoperative or surplus (Der Cymro). However, as Lord Neuberger made clear in Macquarie, it will not always be possible (particularly in the case of standard form contracts) to give effect to every provision in a contract.

It follows that recitals can and should be taken into account when interpreting an agreement (Ennui Travel v Barker Tilly, para [31] and Blackpool FC v JSC Baltic, on which see News Analysis: Contractual interpretation (Blackpool FC (Properties) Ltd v JSC Baltic International Bank)).

Interpreting a contract—applying commercial sense (business common sense)

Business contracts should be construed in a way which makes ‘good commercial sense’. The importance of trying to ‘give some business sense to the agreement’ was highlighted by Lord