Draft document

Sources:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/help#referLegislation](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/help%22%20%5Cl%20%22referLegislation)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/developer/uris>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/pdfs/GuideToRevisedLegislation_Oct_2013.pdf>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citation_of_United_Kingdom_legislation>

**UK - How do I refer to legislation in academic work or publication?**

The way in which legislation should be referred to in academic work and publications depends on the referencing style adopted by the academic institution or publishing house in question. For example, many universities use style guides based on the Harvard Referencing Style. The particular style requirements of each institution or publisher may differ, however, and you should always check with your faculty or publisher how they expect you to refer to legislation in your work. Bearing this in mind, you may find the following information useful: **Title, year and number**

The formats described here reflect generally accepted practice among legislators and legal practitioners.

**Public General Acts of the UK Parliament**

These may be cited by the short title (which includes the year) and chapter number (bracketed), e.g. **Constitutional Reform Act 2005** (c. 4).

Citations of pre-1963 Acts may also contain a reference to the 'regnal year' (that is, the year of the sovereign's reign) of the session of parliament in which the Act was passed, e.g. Statute of Westminster 1931 (22 and 23 Geo. 5 c. 4). This means that the Act was passed in 1931 during the session of Parliament spanning the 22nd and 23rd years of the reign of King George the Fifth.

**Local Acts of the UK Parliament**

These may be cited by the short title (which includes the year) and chapter number in Roman numerals (bracketed), e.g. London Local Authorities Act 1996 (c. ix)

**Acts of Earlier Parliaments**

These may be cited in exactly the same way as UK Public General Acts except that, in the case of Acts of the old Scottish or Irish parliaments, there might also be a letter 'S' or 'I' as appropriate in square brackets at the end of the citation, e.g. Writs Act 1672 (c. 16 [S])

**Acts of the Scottish Parliament**

These may be cited by the short title (which includes the year) and 'asp' number (bracketed), e.g. Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 4).

Acts of the **Northern Ireland** Assembly (and other primary legislation for Northern Ireland)

These may be cited by the short title (which includes the year) and chapter number (bracketed), e.g. Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10).

Acts of the **Parliament of Northern Ireland** (1921 to 1972) and Measures of the Northern Ireland Assembly (1974 only) are cited in exactly the same way as Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

For the citation of Northern Ireland Orders in Council, see under 'Statutory Instruments' below.

**Church Measures**

These may be cited by the short title (which includes the year) and Measure number (bracketed), e.g. Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 (No. 3).

**Statutory Instruments**

These may be cited by the title (which includes the year) and Statutory Instrument (S.I.) number (bracketed), e.g. The Detergents Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2469).

Northern Ireland Orders in Council (which are in the form of Statutory Instruments), will be cited similarly, but with the addition of the 'N.I'series number, e.g. The Budget (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/860) (N.I. 3.).

**Scottish Statutory Instruments**

These may be cited by the title (which includes the year) and Scottish Statutory Instrument (S.S.I.) number (bracketed), e.g. The Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/434).

**Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland**

These may be cited by the title (which includes the year) and Statutory Rules (S.R.) number (bracketed), e.g. The Quarries Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/205).

**Church Instruments**

These instruments do not have any series numbers, perhaps because there are so few of them. They are generally cited by date in the style: Instrument dated 14.12.2000 made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York or, occasionally: Archbishops' Instrument dated 14.12.2000.

**Author**

There is no readily identifiable 'author'of an Act or Statutory Instrument in the same way as there is an author of a book or article. If there could be said to be an 'author'it would be the Crown. Check with your faculty or publisher whether this information is really needed in the reference and, if so, how they want it to be expressed.

**Publisher**

This information can be found on the printed Act or instrument, or in the bound volume. Except for very old legislation (before 1889), the publisher will either be His or Her Majesty's Stationery Office ('HMSO') or. since 1996 (1997 for Acts).'The Stationery Office Limited' (a private company which publishes legislation under the authority and superintendence of HMSO under contract).

**Place of Publication**

The 'place of publication' is only ever given as 'UK' on printed copies of legislation. If a more particular location is really required, the place of publication can generally be taken to depend on the legislature from which the legislation originated: London (for Acts of the UK parliament and Statutory Instruments made under them); Edinburgh (for Acts of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Statutory Instruments); Belfast (for Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland made under them); or Cardiff (for Measures of the National Assembly for Wales or Statutory Instruments made by the Assembly).

**How to cite the revised version of an Act**

You would cite a revised version of an Act in exactly the same way as you would cite the Act as originally enacted (i.e., in this case, the XXX Act YYYY (c. NN)) but, by convention, you might then add "(as amended)" to indicate that you are referring to the revised version.

**Other UK Citation Styles**

The citation styles listed above are those generally followed however there are some variations which are also often used.

* It’s common for citations to legislative documents to exclude either the title or the series number, e.g. “Superannuation Act 1972” or “1972 c. 11” rather than “Superannuation Act 1972 (c. 11)”. Sometimes the missing part of the reference is provided in an accompanying footnote (you can see an example in <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1229/article/2/made> ).
* It’s also common for documents to include definitions of abbreviated citations that have a limited reference scope, e.g. “In this Act, “ALDA 1979” means the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979” and “the 1986 Act” means the Insolvency Act 1986” (see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/29/section/235> for some examples).
* It should also be noted that most UK legislation contains a provision that specifies how it should be cited (i.e. it defines the document’s short title) e.g. see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1229/article/1/made> and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/1/section/2> for examples.

**URI structure reflecting UK legislation:**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/developer/uris>

**3 levels of URIs are defined**

identifier URIs; for example, "The Transport Act 1985", http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1985/67

document URIs; for example, "The current version of The Transport Act 1985" (as opposed to a previous version), http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1985/67

representation URIs; for example, "The current version of The Transport Act 1985 in XML" (as opposed to an HTML document), http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1985/67/data.xml

We recommend that you link to identifier URIs.

When you request an identifier URI, the response will usually be a 303 See Other redirection to a document URI. When you request a document URI, you will usually get a 200 OK response and a Content-Location header that will point to an appropriate representation URI based on the Accept headers that you use in the request.

Identifier URIs generally follow the template:

**http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/{type}/{year}/{number}[/{section}]**

However, legislation is often quoted without a chapter number, which can make it hard to automatically construct these URIs. If you don't know the chapter number for a piece of legislation, you can use a search URI of the form:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id?title={title}

If the title is recognised, this will result in a 301 Moved Permanently redirection to the canonical URI for the legislation. For example, requesting:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id?title=The%20Transport%20Act%201985

will result in a 301 Moved Permanently redirection to

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1985/67>

On occasion, items of legislation have very similar titles, and the title search will result in multiple possibilities. In this case, the response will be a 303 Multiple Choices containing a simple XHTML document. For example, requesting

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id?title=Disability%20Rights%20Commission%20Act>

will result in a document containing multiple results

* [The Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 (Commencement No.3) Order 2006](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2006/3189)
* [The Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional Provision) Order 2000](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2000/880)
* [The Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provision) Order 1999](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/1999/2210)
* [Disability Rights Commission Act 1999(repealed)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1999/17)

**Interesting approach:** User testing has shown that users want an updated in force version of an act.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/schedule/7> redirects to the latest in force version

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/schedule/7?timeline=true> shows a timeline with different point in time versions

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/schedule/7/2007-04-01> Same act with a point in time as 1 April 2007

UK example:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/schedule/7>

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| --- | --- |
| <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>  | Official site for UK legislation |
| ukpga | Document type: in this case United Kingdom Public GeneralAct |
| 2002 | Year:  |
| 30 | Chapter 30 |
| Schedule | Subdivision … like a paragraph  |
| 7 | Schedule number 7  |
| http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/schedule/7/2007-04-01 | As in force on 1 April 2007 |