



Queen's University
Belfast

Northern Ireland Law

Law Library Guide

Northern Ireland legislation

There is no single source for legislation which applies to Northern Ireland.

A great deal of legislation applies to Northern Ireland as it does to the rest of the UK. Print and online sources for this legislation are noted in the Law Library guide on Law reports and legislation.

This guide covers Northern Ireland primary and secondary legislation: legislation made (for the most part) in the areas of law and order, policing, criminal law, health and social services, education, planning and the environment, industrial development and agriculture. Primary legislation has taken the form of Acts of the Northern Ireland (Stormont) Parliament, Orders in Council and, after 2000, Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly, e.g.

Wild Birds Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1931

Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

Budget Act (Northern Ireland) 2001

In addition, a small but significant amount of Westminster legislation has applied exclusively to Northern Ireland, e.g.

Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1980

Volume 31 of *Halsbury's Statutes* (shelved at KE1.2) prints the current amended texts of these Westminster Acts. Westminster Acts applying exclusively Northern Ireland are also on the OPSI web site from 1988 onwards (linked from the Northern Ireland legislation page (at www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/northernireland/ni_legislation.htm)).

Finding primary legislation (online)

The full updated text of Northern Ireland Statutes from 1922 to 2004 can be found on the OPSI web site, linked from the Northern Ireland Legislation page (at www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/northernireland/ni_legislation.htm).

The site also includes links to the original text of primary legislation from 1997 onwards (either Orders in Council or after 2000, Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly).

Finding primary legislation (print)

The blue binders of the *Statutes Revised Northern Ireland* (shelved KWE52.R2 and KWE52.R3) print the text of primary legislation in force in March 1981. Subsequent amendments are listed in the Cumulative Supplement binder.

The original (unamended) text of primary legislation after 1981 can be found in the blue binders of *Northern Ireland Statutes*. These are shelved in the same sequence as *Statutes Revised* (at KWE52.R2 and KWE52.R3). Notes of amendments are found in the *Statutes Revised Cumulative Supplement* binder.

Statutes Revised (1982) is also available on the BAILII web site (at www.bailii.org) The revisions listed in the Cumulative Supplement are not available.

The original text of pre 1981 statutes can be found in the volumes of statutes shelved at KWE52.S5.

Secondary legislation

Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland from 1991 onwards are available on the Northern Ireland Legislation page of the OPSI web site (at www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/northernireland/ni-srni.htm).

Printed versions of all Northern Ireland Statutory Rules are shelved at KWE70.

Some statutory instruments made by Westminster government departments can apply exclusively to Northern Ireland. These can be found in the TSO volumes of *Statutory Instruments* (KE70) and in *Halsbury's Statutory Instruments* (KE68).

Indexes to legislation

The *Chronological table of the Statutes* (shelved at KWE53.C5) lists statutes by year, with a note of any amending legislation.

The *Index to the Statutes: Northern Ireland* (shelved at KWE53.C5) provides a subject approach to finding statutes. All primary legislation in force in Northern Ireland is listed under a series of subject headings. However, the index is no longer current. The most recent volume only covers legislation up to 1996.

Statutory Rules can be found using the *Index to the Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland*, shelved at KWE80.

Finding Northern Ireland law reports

Northern Ireland cases are reported in the *Northern Ireland Law Reports* and the *Northern Ireland Judgments Bulletin*. These are shelved on the right hand side of the Law Library at KWF10 and KWF11.

Northern Ireland reports can be found online using the LexisNexis service. LexisNexis also provides access to some 'unreported' cases.

Selected judgments from 2001 onwards are available from the Northern Ireland Court Service web site (at www.courtsni.gov.uk/judgments). Court of Appeal and High Court judgments from 1998 onwards are available from the BAILII web site (at www.bailii.org). Select 'Northern Ireland' under 'Cases and Legislation'.

Casetrack (at www.casetrack.com) provides access to Northern Ireland Court of Appeal and High Court cases from 2001 onwards. Click to browse judgments by name or date, then select Northern Ireland cases. You need a username and a password to access the cases. These can be supplied by the Law Library.

Butterworths *Index to Northern Ireland Cases, 1921-1997* (shelved at KWF10.N8) provides a subject approach to finding cases

The Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law

The *Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law* (shelved at KWH2.6) provides a regular comprehensive digest of legal developments in Northern Ireland.

The online version of the *Bulletin* allows searches by subject for both cases and legislation from 1996 onwards. The *Bulletin* is available from the SLS web site (at www.sls.qub.ac.uk/slsweb). The Law Library can supply the username and the password required for access.

The Bulletin's 'Advanced Search' enables searches for legislation by category. Searches for both legislation and cases by keyword are also possible.

A summary is provided for both cases and legislation. Links to the full text of legislation on the HMSO web site are available