

Internet Legal Resources for Criminal Lawyers

Statutory Law

HMSO, at www.hmso.gov.uk, provides access to statutes from 1988 and statutory instruments from 1987. The site also provides a “what’s new” page alerting users to new statutory provisions.

The texts, amendments to and general progress of Parliamentary Bills can be charted at www.parliament.uk, which also allows access to House of Lords judgments.

www.bailii.org offers the same documents as above.

Several sites cover individual pieces of legislation in more detail such as the Lord Chancellor’s Department has a Bill tracking facility for the Courts Bill, presently before Parliament (www.lcd.gov.uk/courts/courtsbill.htm)

The Home Office provides coverage of legislation within its remit (www.homeoffice.gov.uk).

Case Law

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (www.bailii.org), The Court Service website (www.courtservice.gov.uk) and the Privy Council site (www.privycouncil.gov.uk) provide access to many House of Lords and other judgments.

Butterworths provides an impressive free updater through its LexisNexis site (www.lexisnexis.co.uk/law).

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting provides free summaries of important cases at www.lawreports.co.uk as does www.courtcommentary.com, although there is a nominal charge (£1.95) for some transcripts.

ECHR decisions are available at www.echr.coe.int. and a similar database, with case commentary can be found at www.onecrownofficerow.com.

For full transcripts go to Smith Bernal and its casetrack service (www.casetrack.com). Smith Bernal is the official shorthand writer to the High Court and Appellate Divisions.

Database Offerings

Criminal Law Week digests recent cases and statutory provisions, as well as references to articles with commentary provided by James Richardson who is the editor of Archbold (www.criminal-law.co.uk).

Other Sites

CrimeLine (www.crimeline.info) is a vehicle for updating the CLSA Duty Solicitor’s Handbook and includes the free CrimeLine Updater, a weekly newsletter, delivered via

email, and also available on the site, which seeks to digest the previous week's legal offerings in respect of criminal matters.

The main criminal lawyer associations, including the Criminal Law Solicitors Association (www.clsa.co.uk), London Criminal Courts Solicitors Association (www.lccsa.org.uk), and Legal Aid Practitioners Group (www.lapg.co.uk), maintain website presences.

The Lord Chancellor's Department (www.lcd.gov.uk) maintains pages related to criminal law, as does the Home office (www.homeoffice.gov.uk). Issues in relation to the criminal contracting regime can be found on the legal services website (www.legalservices.gov.uk).

Prison law materials and internal discipline manuals can be found online at www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk and also via www.prisonshandbook.co.uk.

Campaign groups, particularly Justice (www.justice.org.uk) and Liberty (www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk) provide high level briefings on current issues and legislation.