

This is a quick guide to citing and referencing using the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) (4th edition) referencing system. For more detailed examples go to [Cite Them Right Online](#), or see the official guidance on the [University of Oxford's OSCOLA](#) page.

Your referencing includes three stages:

- a numbered citation in the text of your assignment
- a footnote corresponding to the numbered citation
- a reference list at the end of your assignment

## Referencing in your text

When you summarise, refer to, or quote from an author's work, or from a legal source such as a case or piece of legislation, you need to acknowledge your source in the text. OSCOLA uses numbering for each source cited in the text which link to footnotes at the bottom of each page.

### In-text referencing examples:

One author/editor (up to 3)	Alder and Syrett argue that ... <sup>1</sup>
Four or more authors/editors	Finch and others argue that ... <sup>5</sup>
Organisation	Research by Liberty states that ... <sup>6</sup>
Case (in italics)	... as outlined in <i>Patterson v Munk</i> . <sup>9</sup>
Legislation	... as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998. <sup>10</sup>

## Footnote examples – primary sources of law

### Cases

*Winterburn v Bennett* [2016] EWCA Civ 482, [2017] 1 WLR 646.

*R v Gold* [1988] AC 1063 (HL).

### Statutes and Statutory Instruments

Settled Land Act 1889 (52 & 53 Vict c 36).

Human Rights Act 1998.

Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014, SI 2014/512.

### EU legislation and cases

Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union [2016] OJ C202/13.

Regulation (EU) 2018/831 amending Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food [2018] OJ L140/35.

Case 53/81 *Levin v Staatssecretaris van Justitie* EU:C:1982:105, [1982] ECR 1035.

### European Court of Human Rights cases

*Copland v UK* (2007) 45 EHRR 37.

*Robins v UK* [1997] ECHR 22410/93.

*Evans v UK* App no 18770/18 (ECtHR, 23 April 2018).

# Footnote examples – secondary sources of law

## Books

---

Keith Abbott, Norman Pendlebury and Kevin Wardman, *Business Law* (9<sup>th</sup> edn, Cengage Learning EMEA 2013).

---

## Book chapters/sections (in an edited book)

---

Helen Allan, 'Justice and Fairness' in Ann Gallagher and Sue Hodge (eds), *Ethics, Law and Professional Issues* (Palgrave Macmillan 2012).

---

## Journal articles

---

Patricia Londono, 'Should Sex Offence Suspects be Granted Anonymity?' (2017) 167(7760) *New Law Journal* 13.

---

David Campbell, 'Decency, Disobedience and Democracy in Immigration Law' [2018] *PL* 413.

---

## Newspaper articles

---

Kaya Burgess, 'Law Chief Warns Google for Identifying Victims of Rape' *The Times* (London, 23 May 2018) 2.

---

Mark Sweeney, 'Marriott to be fined nearly £100m over GDPR breach' *The Guardian* (London, 9 Jul 2019)  
<[www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jul/09/marriott-fined-over-gdpr-breach-ico](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jul/09/marriott-fined-over-gdpr-breach-ico)> accessed 9 July 2019.

---

## Government command papers

---

Ministry of Justice, *Punishment and Reform: Effective Community Sentences* (Cm 8334, 2012).

---

Department for Constitutional Affairs, *The future of legal services: putting consumers first* (Cm 6679, 2005).

---

## Web pages

---

Legal Action Group, 'Number of Employment Tribunal Cases Continues to Rise' (*Legal Action Group*, March 2018)  
<[www.lag.org.uk/article/204701/number-of-employment-tribunal-cases-continues-to-rise](http://www.lag.org.uk/article/204701/number-of-employment-tribunal-cases-continues-to-rise)> accessed 29 May 2019.

---

## Reference list

The reference list at the end of your assignment should be arranged as follows:

- Table of Cases (in alphabetical order of first named party, not italicised)
- Table of Legislation (in alphabetical order of first word in title)
- Bibliography (all secondary sources used – in alphabetical order by first author's last name, followed by their initials e.g. Helen Allan would be Allan H)

## Pinpointing

If you use a direct quote or reference a specific paragraph of a case judgement, part of a statute or a page in a report, book or journal article you include this information at the end of the footnote.

### Pinpointing examples:

---

*Sumner v Colborne* [2018] EWCA Civ 1006, [2019] QB 430 [21]-[23].

---

Consumer Protection Act 1987, s 4(1)(c).

---

Emily Finch and Stefan Fafinski, *Legal Skills* (6<sup>th</sup> edn, OUP 2017) 266.

---

Kate Malleon, 'Equality Law and the Protected Characteristics' (2018) 81(4) *MLR* 598, 602.

---