Apply to do Computational Analysis of Find Case Law records

You need to apply for a licence if you would like to analyse Find Case Law records as data. You can read more about the [Open Justice Licence](https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/open-justice-licence) and [Transactional Licence](https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/transactional-licence-form) on the site. You can read more about how we manage and [publish these records as data on the about page](https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about-this-service).

Before you start  
1. Check you need to apply  
You only need to apply for an additional licence if you intend to use computational analysis in your re-use of Find Case Law records in ways that are not already permitted under the Open Justice Licence.   
The Open Justice licence permits certain re-uses without the need to apply for an additional licence, for example, when you want to:

* copy, publish, distribute and transmit the Information;
* exploit the Information commercially, for example, by combining it with other Information, or by including it in your own product or application.

More information can be found: [Open Justice Licence - Find case law (nationalarchives.gov.uk)](https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/open-justice-licence)

2. Check whether your application is likely to be considered high risk   
Computational analysis of judgments is currently considered high-risk when it is used to:

* produce fully automated legal advice; or
* perform automation to anticipate legal decisions directly for a client or consumer, such as tools which set expectations for case outcomes through modelling or predictive analytics; or
* otherwise directly inform or influence the decision of a third-party whether to pursue justice or legal action.

We use the five safes framework to assess all applications for risk. You can read more about the [Five safes - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_safes)

3. Make sure your re-use complies with all existing regulations

Examples include the Legal Services Act (LSA), and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).  
Please note that this licence:

* is not a data sharing agreement for personal data is not a processing agreement for personal data

## 4. Part of your application may be published

Your answers to the questions in the ‘About your organisation’, ‘Purpose and activity’ and ‘public statement’ sections may be made publicly available in the future. Information you will need to apply

1. The details of the person responsible for the licence.  
They should be someone who is senior in your organisation and will be responsible for licence application and compliance. They will need to be someone we can talk to if we have questions about the application.

* their name
* their email

## 2. The details of your organisation including:

* legal name of your organisation
* what type of organisation is it (e.g. private limited company or registered charity)

## 3. A public statement

This statement should describe the purpose for your re-use of Find Case Law records and summarises including:

* anticipated outcomes
* individuals or communities served
* methodology or activities used to analyse the records

Your organisation's name and public statement you submit as part of your application may be published in the future.

4. Understanding of the 9 principles.   
There are 9 principles that may be relevant to our decision about whether to grant a licence. Please be prepared to give details of any considerations you have made in relation to these principles.

The 9 principles are:

1. Dignity of the court
2. Independence of the court
3. Appropriate scrutiny
4. Anti-discriminatory harm
5. Anti Bias
6. Personal Privacy
7. Discoverability
8. Algorithmic transparency
9. Accurate data representation

If you're not sure what licence applies or what information we need please contact the licence team: [caselawlicence@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:caselawlicence@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Important Note:** Please answer all questions in the application form. Please do not include any sensitive or financial information as part of your application. There will be the opportunity to leave further comments at the end of the application.

# Check you need to apply

1. Do you intend to use computational analysis on Find Case Law records?

*For example, any programmatic searching across the records to identify, extract or enrich contents within the records*

Yes

No

# Contact

Please provide details of the main contact for this licence. This will be the person we contact to discuss your application.

1. Their Full Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Their Email

Click or tap here to enter text.

# About your organisation

*This may be published alongside your statement in the future*

1. What is the full legal name of your organisation?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Is your organisation known by any other names?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Where is your organisation registered?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. What type of organisation is it?

*Tick all that apply*

Private limited company

Public limited company

Partnership

Sole trader

Registered Charity

Community interest company

Independent research organisation

Public body

Independent body

Other (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Please give your organisation identifier (e.g. company or charity registration number)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Please give the name of any partners or organisations you are working with

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Purpose and activities

*Your answers to this section may be published alongside your statement in the future.*

1. Please give any project or product name associated with this work

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. If possible, please share a link to the project or product site

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. What is the main purpose of your project or product?

*Tick all that apply*

Publish legal information

Produce summaries and interpretation of the records

Research and develop new technologies

Research activity and trends across records

Deliver a consumer service

Other (please specify): Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Which one best describes who will be able to access the outcomes of your computational analysis?

*Tick one*

Public access (e.g. anyone can freely access)

Restricted access (e.g. only subscribers or research peers)

Internal access (e.g. only colleagues from within your organisation)

Private for personal use only

1. Which Individuals or communities will benefit from your computational analysis?

*Tick all that apply*

General Public   
 Legal professionals and law firms  
 Court users (e.g. litigants in person)  
 The Judiciary   
 Public bodies   
 Researchers and academics

A specific community (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.  
 A specific (non-legal) profession (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text. Other (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.

# Public statement

*Your written statement may be published in the future*

1. Please provide a public statement that briefly describes:

* purpose and anticipated outcomes
* individuals or communities served
* methodologies or activities this will involve

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Statements and Principles

These are 9 principles that may be relevant to our decision about whether to grant a licence:

1. Dignity of the court
2. Independence of the court
3. Appropriate scrutiny
4. Anti-discriminatory harm
5. Anti Bias
6. Personal Privacy
7. Discoverability
8. Algorithmic transparency
9. Accurate data representation

## Dignity of the courts

It is important that any analysis maintains the dignity of the courts and tribunals and does not undermine their functioning as working bodies. This is consistent with access to justice.

1. Licence holders must not undermine the courts and tribunals’ ability to function as working bodies. Do you accept this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Please describe:
   1. the risks you have identified and
   2. how you will protect the ability for the courts and tribunals to function

*You should consider anything that may undermine the ability for the justice system to operate impartially and with integrity and treat all members of the public equally and fairly, no matter who they are.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Independence of the court

It is important that any analysis respects the independence of the judiciary and their impartial judgment.

1. Licence holders must respect the independence of the judiciary. Do you accept this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Please describe:
   1. the risks you have identified and
   2. how you will protect the independence of the justice system

*You should consider anything that may undermine the ability for the justice system to be fair and transparent, free of any influence outside the rule of law.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Appropriate scrutiny

We seek to encourage the analysis of machine-readable judgments to allow the public to scrutinise justice outcomes and the law more effectively. We also acknowledge that the incomplete nature of the dataset and the current lack of safeguard against opaque or biased methodologies increases the risk of inaccurate or biased conclusions which may cause harm to individuals named therein.

1. Licence holders must acknowledge the incomplete nature of the dataset and apply appropriate scrutiny. Do you accept this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Will the computational analysis focus on specific individuals or groups of people?

Yes

No

1. Will you anonymise individuals before you analyse records?

Yes

No

1. How will you prevent anonymised people from being re-identified?  
   *This is referred to as jigsaw identification. This involves putting together information in a way that identifies individuals even if they have been anonymised. Please describe the actions you will take to reduce the ability to identify individuals after they have been anonymised.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Anti-Discriminatory Harm

Outcomes of analysis should not cause direct discriminatory harm and reasonable steps should be taken by the re-user to avoid introducing or compounding bias.

1. Licence holders must take actions to prevent discriminatory harm. Do you accept this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Please describe how you will monitor for and address any harmful outcomes including:
   1. misleading analysis or conclusions
   2. discrimination against individuals or communities

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Anti-bias

Re-users have responsibility to operate effective governance to ensure that bias does not enter the process over time

1. Licence holders must ensure bias does not enter their process. Do you agree with this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Will you regularly review algorithms for bias?

Yes

No

1. Please describe how you will regularly monitor for bias

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Do you have a code of ethics?

Yes

No

1. Does an impartial party review your work against an ethical framework?

*For example, an Ethics Advisory Board (EAB) or Research Ethics Committee (REC)*

Yes

No

1. Please describe any ethical governance structures you have in place

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Personal Privacy

Re-users should satisfy themselves that their practices comply with the standards set out in the DPA and UK GDPR regarding data security and data subjects’ rights, regardless of their location.

Please note that this licence:

* is not a data sharing agreement for personal data
* is not a processing agreement for personal data

You can read more about the licencing framework on [the Find Case Law site](https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/transactional-licence-form)

1. Please describe any personal privacy or data protection regimes you are complying with.   
   *Example regimes include UK General Data Protection Regulations (UKGDPR) or UK Data Protection Act*

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Discoverability

We acknowledge a distinction between publicly available and readily available information. For example, care should be given to data subjects’ discoverability in line with MoJ/The National Archives’ decision not to index the content of judgments on search engines.

1. Licence holders must not index the contents of judgments and decisions on search engines. Do you agree to this term of the licence?

Yes

No

1. Will you make the entire record available online?

*For example this may include publishing a full judgment to users of a digital service*

Yes

No

1. Will data extracted from these records be published online?

*Any statistical analysis for example: lists of citations or entities from within the records,*

Yes

No

1. Will you make your methodology available for scrutiny online?

Yes

No

1. Will you analyse and publish findings online?

Yes

No

1. Describe what you will do to prevent third party services from crawling or scraping either:
   1. the text of the records and /or,
   2. data you have extracted from the records

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Algorithmic Transparency

Where possible, algorithms should be explainable and transparent

1. Do you intend to use computational analysis to do any of the following?

*Tick all that apply*

Produce fully automated legal advice

Perform automation to anticipate legal decisions directly for a client or consumer

Directly inform or influence the decision of a third-party whether to pursue justice or legal action

None of the above

1. Will you notify people when they are using generative AI services or content?

Yes

No

Not using Generative AI

1. Please give as much detail as you can about how you will be transparent in your use of algorithms to people using your project or product

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Accurate data representation

The ‘Find Case Law’ service comprises an incomplete set of court judgments and tribunal decisions. Outcomes from analysis should therefore reflect the limitations of the data and avoid misrepresenting the significance of findings.

1. Licence holders must avoid misrepresenting the significance of findings. Do you agree with this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Will you explain how the limits of the find case law collection impacts your computational analysis to users?

Yes

No

1. Please describe how you will notify people that the records may not be representative

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Occasionally records that have been published will be revised and taken down by the court. Licence holders must regularly check to make sure they are re-using the authoritative version of the record. Do you agree to this licence term?

Yes

No

1. Please describe how you will make sure the records you use are the most up to date list of published records?

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Any comments

Any additional comments you’d like to make to your application?

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Thank you

Thank you for completing the licence application. To submit your application please:

* save this document with your name and the name of your organisation
* attach it to an email and send to [caselawlicence@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:caselawlicence@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

The licencing team may contact you if they need further information to process your application.