

Searching for Commissioners' decisions on the OSSCSC website decisions database

Layout of the 'Search for Decisions' page

The top half of the page is the **Search** form. The bottom half is for links to decisions. When you first open the [Search for Decisions](#) page, all the decisions on the database will appear in date order, with the 10 most recent decisions on the first page.

You can use the numbers at the bottom of the page to navigate backwards and forwards through the numbered pages. You can also change the order in which the decisions appear by clicking on the blue headings at the top of the table.

When you search your [results](#) will temporarily appear below the **Search** form, but you can return to the full database listing by clicking on [\[Search Again\]](#) or [\[Most Recent Decisions\]](#).

Searching by category and sub-category

You must enter a category first and then a sub-category.

➤ [List of categories and sub-categories](#)

- ✓ **Tip:** If there is no specific sub-category for your topic you could try searching the [notes](#) by key word or phrase instead.

Searching the notes by key word or phrase

You cannot search our database by a key word or phrase, but you can search the notes that appear on the '**Summary Information**' page. This can be very useful if the decision you want has the sub-category 'other'. Just type the word or phrase in the box.

- ✓ **Tip:** you can search Commissioners' decisions by key word or phrase on <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKSSCSC/>

Searching by file number or reported number

File number

If you know the file number of a decision, the easiest way to find it is to type just the number in the middle box under '**File No.**', and then press return/enter on your keyboard (or click **Search**).

For example, if you are searching for CDLA/1365/2005, just type '1365' in the middle box.

Reported number

If you only know the reported number, fill in all three fields after '**Reported No**' and press return/enter on your keyboard (or click **Search**).

- [Guide to how decisions are numbered](#) (PDF 19KB)
- [more explanation](#)

Searching by name of claimant

Commissioners' decisions are anonymous. However, a substantial number of decisions of higher courts on appeal from a Commissioner's decision are published in our reported series, and you can search for these by entering the name of the claimant in the '**Claimant**' field.

Searching by name of Commissioner

This may be useful if you remember a decision but do not know its number, especial if you combine it with searching by category and/or a range of dates.

Searching by date(s)

This may be useful if you remember a decision but do not know its number, especial if you combine it with searching by category and/or name of Commissioner.

You can search by either:

- the date the decision was given by the Commissioner
- the date the decision was added to the database – this is usually a week or two after the decision was given, but some decisions are added much later

There are two boxes for each option:

- to search for decisions on a specific date, enter the date in the box on the left and leave the box on the right empty
- to search for all decisions between two dates enter the dates in the two boxes
 - ✓ **Tip:** the search engine will look for all the dates **between** but not **including** the two dates you enter. So for example if you want to find all the decisions for August 2008 you must enter '31/07/2008' in the box on the left and '01/09/2008' in the box on the right.

Search results

The search engine will find any decision(s) that match your search. The search results will appear at the bottom of the page.

If the decision you want is there, click on it to go to the details of the decision on the '**Summary Information**' page. You can then save it as a Word document or print it out.

- ✓ **Tip:** You can find a particular word or phrase in the decision by pressing **Ctrl+F** (find) on your keyboard. (Occasionally this may not work, because the decision is "read only" – if this happens please [contact us](#))

If the result is 'Sorry no records found', you can change one or more of your search criteria (e.g. try the same category and sub-category but a different Commissioner)

If the decision is not on the database see [Finding Commissioners' decisions](#)

You can navigate backwards and forwards through the results of your searches by clicking on the arrows in the top left hand corner of your screen. When you want to clear the form and start a new search click on [[Search Again](#)] [[Most Recent Decisions](#)]

Searching the rest of the site

It is also possible to search the other pages of the website by word or phrase using the '**Search this website**' facility in the top right hand corner every page. This searches all the pages and documents on the site, including the text of the Commissioners' decisions on the database, lists of highlighted decisions and lists of decisions that are not on the database.

Unlike the database search engine, it will not search the records on the database itself, e.g. the [notes](#) to the decisions, but it can be a very useful way of locating decisions that deal with specific topics.

Searching our decisions on www.bailii.org

The decisions on our database can also be found on the <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKSSCSC/> database.

It is possible to search that database by word or phrase.