

Oscola referencing: Primary sources

Oscola (Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities) style is used if you are writing for a qualifying Law degree or for the School of Law.

- Oscola uses **footnotes**, which should include the pinpoint reference to a page or paragraph number.
- Oscola does **not** require the use of full stops in abbreviations e.g. All ER not All E.R.
- Oscola requires multiple citations in a footnote to be separated by a semi-colon e.g. *Secretary of State for the Home Department v E* [2007] UKHL 47, [2008] 1 All ER 699 (HL) 702; SJ Fredman, 'Equality: A New Generation?' [2001] ILJ 145, 158.

Referencing Primary Sources

Cases

Give the party names, followed by the neutral citation, followed by the Law Reports citation (e.g. AC, Ch, QB). If there is no neutral citation, give the Law Reports citation followed by the court in brackets. If the case is not reported in the Law Reports, cite the All ER or the WLR report, or failing that a specialist report.

Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884.

R (Roberts) v Parole Board [2004] EWCA Civ 1031, [2005] QB 410.

Page v Smith [1996] AC 155 (HL).

When pinpointing, give paragraph numbers in square brackets at the end of the citation. If the judgment has no paragraph numbers, give the page number pinpoint after the court.

Callery v Gray [2001] EWCA Civ 1117, [2001] 1 WLR 2112 [42], [45].

Bunt v Tilley [2006] EWHC 407 (QB), [2006] 3 All ER 336 [1]–[37].

R v Leeds County Court, ex p Morris [1990] QB 523 (QB) 530–31.

If citing a particular judge:

Arcott v The Coal Authority [2004] EWCA Civ 892, [2005] Env LR 6 [27] (Laws LJ).

NB Case titles are italicized in text and in footnotes but are not italicized in the formal list of cases in your Reference List where they are listed in alphabetical order, but may be divided into sections by jurisdiction.

Examples taken from OSCOLA Quick Reference Guide written by the Oxford Law Faculty, in consultation with the OSCOLA Editorial Advisory Board.

Statutes and Statutory Instruments

Give the title and date followed by SI reference (if applicable and) section no (if appropriate). Please note all significant words are capitalized.

Act of Supremacy 1558.

Human Rights Act 1998, s 15(1)(b).

Penalties for Disorderly Behaviour (Amendment of Minimum Age) Order 2004, SI 2004/3166.

EU legislation

Give the legislation type e.g. Council Decision, Council Directive or Council Regulation (EC) number title including amendments if necessary, the year, OJ L issue number/first page number, and pinpoint page or article if required.

Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union [2008] OJ C115/13.

Council Regulation (EC) 139/2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (EC Merger Regulation) [2004] OJ L24/1, art 5.

EU cases

Give the case number (cases since 1989 designated as C if European Court of Justice or T if Court of First Instance), the case name, the year, the law report series abbreviation, the first page, and the pinpoint paragraph (para) or paragraphs (paras) if required.

Case C–176/03 Commission v Council [2005] ECR I–7879, paras 47–48.

Case C–556/07 Commission v France [2009] OJ C102/8.

European Court of Human Rights

Give the title, the application no (if applicable) and the report details.

Omojudi v UK (2010) 51 EHRR 10.

Osman v UK ECHR 1998–VIII 3124.


Balogh v Hungary App no 47940/99 (ECHR, 20 July 2004).

Simpson v UK (1989) 64 DR 188.

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Useful sources of help

You will find links to the main sources of help on the Law Referencing page of the library website, and detailed guidance on individual types of sources in the OSCOLA pages of

[Referencing@Portsmouth](#), accessible from the  on the library's homepage.