

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

What is Public Information Online?

Abstract: Public Information Online (PIO) is an online service from Dandy Booksellers Ltd offering a wide range of official documents going back, in many cases, more than a century. PIO is safeguarding the accessibility to historic government decisions which have changed the face of our constitution. Here **Donna Ravenhill**, Managing Director of Dandy Booksellers, takes LIM through the origins and history of PIO, explains how you can make the most of its facilities, and outlines its plans for the future.

Keywords: legal research; online databases; commercial legal information; legal information providers

Official documents provide a wealth of information, but the sheer number and diversity of them can make it problematic to obtain exactly the information that you need. Dandy Booksellers has been supplying official publications to libraries, universities and local government, among other bodies, for more than 30 years and so we are aware of the difficulties that researchers can face. As a result we decided some time ago to offer our customers an easy and comprehensive means of querying the vast store of official documents and getting results in a meaningful format.

Once upon a time Dandy Booksellers was simply that – a seller of books. We would sell printed copies of Hansard, Bills, House of Commons / Lords Papers and Command Papers. Our main customers were academic and public libraries. In 2006 we launched Public Information Online (PIO) so that we could offer electronically everything that we sold in paper format via an online subscription. Most customers were keen to transition from print to electronic supply as the price was significantly lower and the customers could save space and time not having to handle the paper copies.

Having the data stored electronically meant that end users could also search across the whole database for subjects of interest and automatically be directed to the appropriate publication, rather than having to first determine which publication was applicable to them and then reading through this to find the required information. This constituted a major time saver for the end user.

New publications were, of course, available in electronic format when they were produced, but to produce an archive of earlier material required digitising publications that were only available in printed form. In 2009 we began a major digitisation project. Customers who were keen to switch to a digital-first approach generously made sections of their hard copy collections available to us and their continued co-operation in doing so has made it possible to build a large and growing archive. Our first phase was to digitise all the House of Lords

Papers and Bills going back to 1901, moving on to bound volumes of Hansard for both Houses going back to 1801 and the Standing Committee Debates from when they commenced in 1919.

Digitising these historical documents was clearly a daunting process. The effects of age on the printed page, and in some cases the initial quality of the printing itself, presented a challenge. We were also acutely aware that the exact wording of the documents was of crucial importance, so the typical accuracy of optical character recognition (OCR) at the time was simply insufficient. We also knew that we would have to produce print-capable files that could generate accurate facsimiles of the original documents, albeit ones that were cleaner and easier to read.

The procedure that we painstakingly developed has been able to meet these requirements, but however good your automated processes are, there will always be individual pages where the ravages of time cause unanticipated problems. As a result, every single page that we produce is examined by our digitisation team before being passed to allow us to catch and correct any such problems.

The process produces a hybrid database, with the page content stored using Apache SOLR and the metadata in Microsoft SQL Server, plus high-quality PDF files that can be printed to recreate the original documents as they were first published. These include full colour maps and diagrams, where the colour coding is essential to their use. For example, [Figure 1](#) is a colour plate from the 1958 paper CMND 331 illustrating the report on the explosion at Chanters Colliery, Lancashire.

The existence of this comprehensive database has allowed us to expand the range of what we can offer in response to customer needs. For example, when Parliament said it was no longer going to produce printed copies of the Hansard Bound Volumes we were asked whether we could set up a research tool to help with *Pepper v Hart* type enquiries, and now we offer all the relevant parliamentary documents to do this.

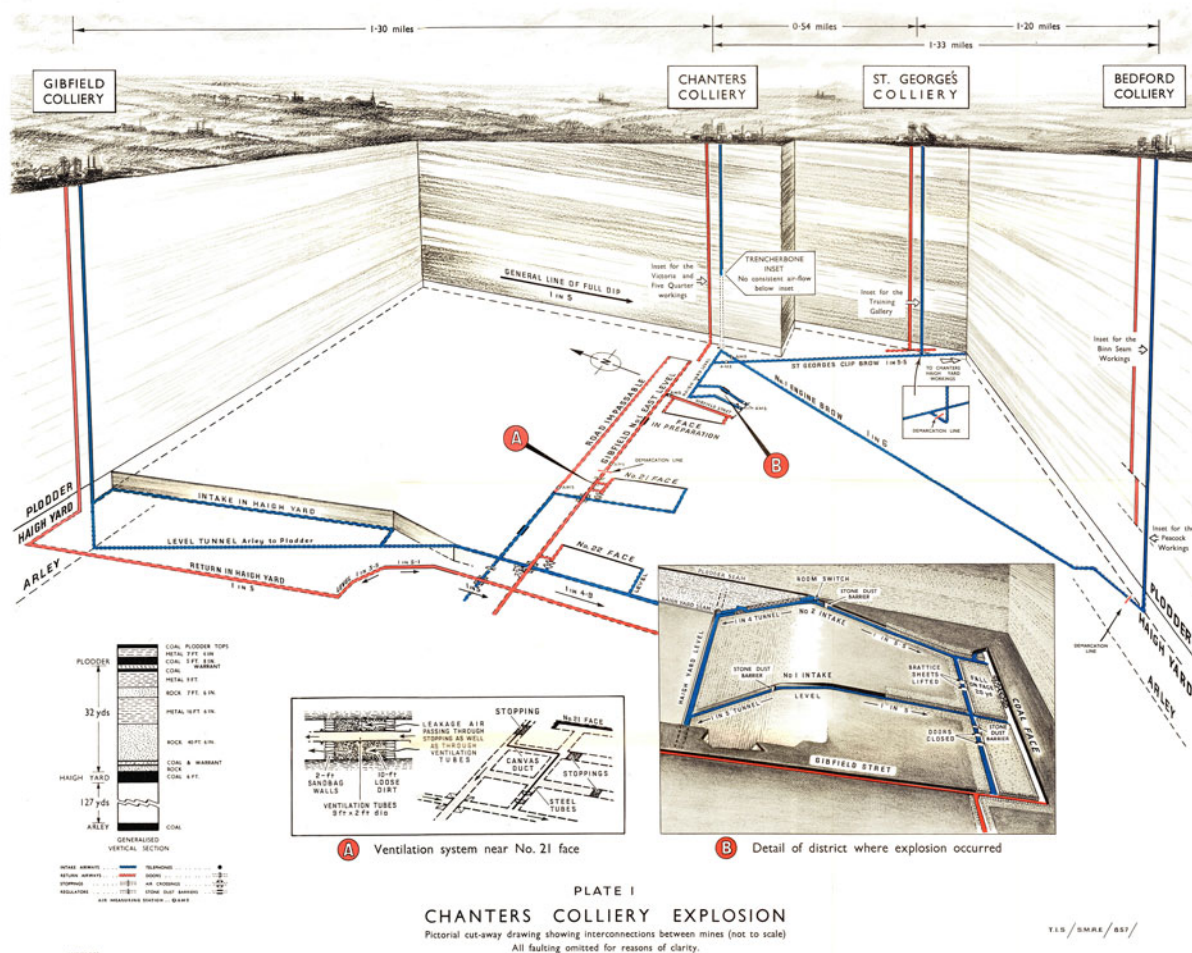


Figure 1: This is taken from the Report on the Causes of, and Circumstances Attending, the Explosion which Occurred at Chanters Colliery, Lancashire, on 6th March, 1957. By G Hoyle, CMG, HM Divisional Inspector of Mines (1st January 1958; CMND 331)

Public Information Online continues to expand its scope in response to customer feedback. Our current digitisation project, in partnership with Middle Temple, is to scan all Command Papers back to 1870. We are also increasing the scope of our coverage of Statutory Instruments (back to 1987), so that their passage can be tracked in the same way a Bill can currently be tracked on its progress through both Houses.

Soon we will launch our partnership with HeinOnline. This will make all of our data available not only on our PIO platform but also on HeinOnline too – we believe this will open us up to global markets and we expect our customer base to grow.

Public Information Online currently contains a comprehensive archive of official documents from Westminster and the devolved administrations, amounting to over 300,000 documents, including:

- House of Commons Papers from 2006–07
- House of Lords Papers from 1901
- Command Papers from 1900
- Bills, Bill Amendments and Explanatory Notes from 1901/1919
- Public General Acts and Explanatory Notes from 1900/1999
- Public Bill and Standing Committee Debates from 1919
- Hansard bound volumes (House of Commons and House of Lords) from 1803
- Church Measures from 1920
- Scottish Parliament Papers from Session 3
- Scottish Bills and Acts from Session 3
- Scottish Official Reports (Meetings of parliament and Committee Debates) from Session 3
- Northern Ireland Assembly papers from 2007
- Northern Ireland Bills and Amendments from 2007

- Northern Ireland Acts and Explanatory Notes from 2000
- Northern Ireland Hansard from 2008
- Welsh Senedd Acts and Measures (including Explanatory Notes) from 2008
- Welsh Bills, Amendments and Committee Reports from 2011
- International Agency Catalogues 1986–1995
- Navy List 1974–2014
- Regional Trends 1974 (No. 1) – 2011 (No. 43)
- Social Trends 1970 (No. 1) – 2011 (No. 41)
- United Kingdom Balance of Payments: Pink Book 2001
- United Kingdom National Accounts: The Blue Book 2000 (1973–2000)

It also includes key non-Parliamentary and Scottish Government publications, including a broad range of titles from the Office for National Statistics and government departments, such as:

- Army List 1969–2014
- Air Force List 1970–2013
- Annual Abstract of Statistics 1935–2018
- British Imperial Calendar 1939–1973
- Civil Service Yearbook 1974–2018 (access to the database to date)
- HMSO Annual Catalogues 1922–1995

Public Information Online is also the home of the Civil Service Yearbook, which has been online-only since 2018, and contains details of ministerial and senior civil service office holders, with contact details where these are available, from the central and devolved administrations, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. Earlier editions of the Civil Service Yearbook, and its predecessor, the British Imperial Calendar, dating back to 1939, have been digitised and are included in the PIO archive.

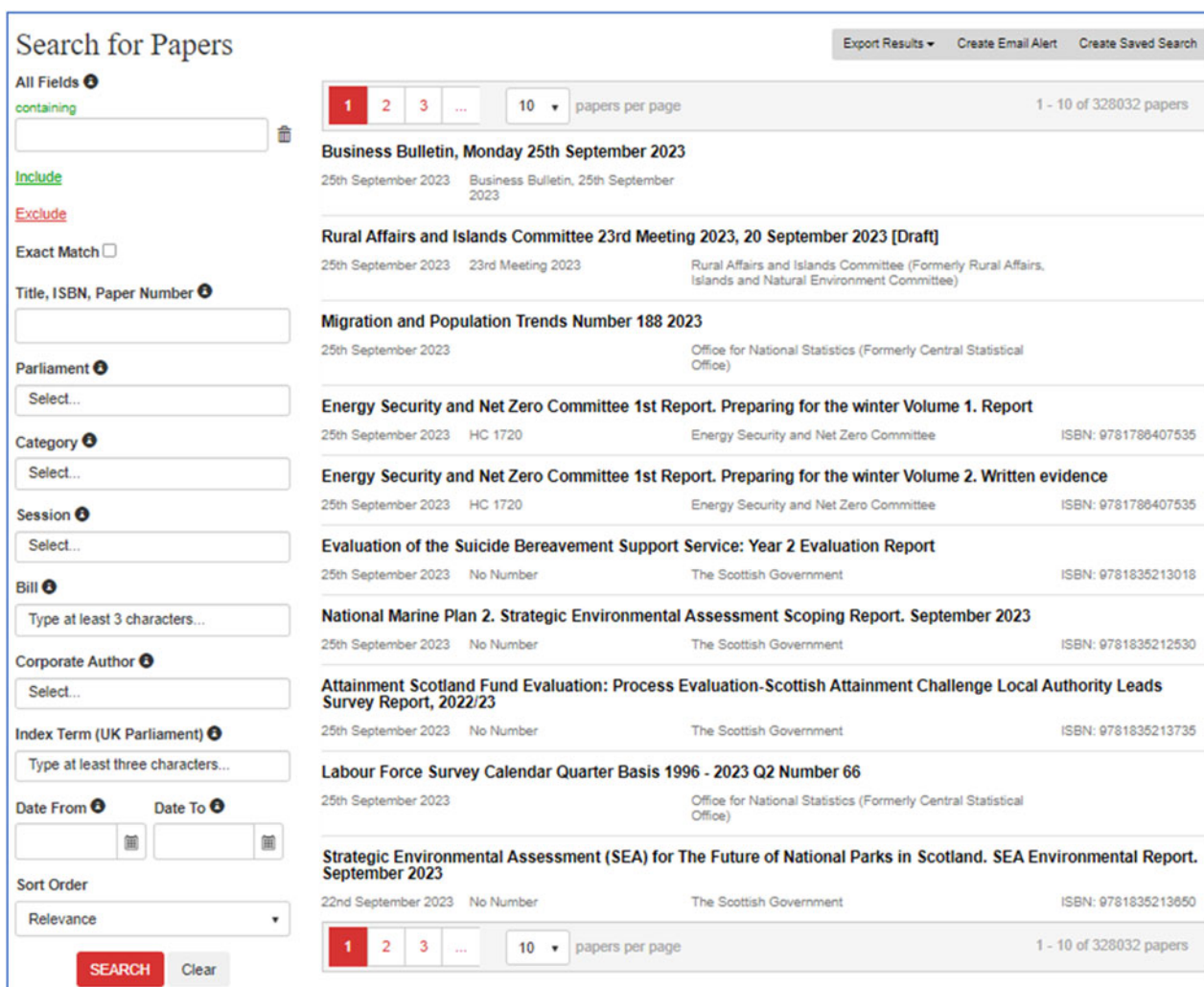


Figure 2: The Public Information Online interface

The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Search for Papers". On the left, there are several filter sections: "All Fields" with a "containing" search box; "Include" and "Exclude" options; "Exact Match" checkbox; "Title, ISBN, Paper Number" search box with "knife crime" entered; "Parliament" dropdown; "Category" dropdown; "Session" dropdown; "Bill" search box; "Corporate Author" dropdown; "Index Term (UK Parliament)" search box; "Date From" and "Date To" date pickers; and "Sort Order" dropdown set to "Relevance". At the bottom left are "SEARCH" and "Clear" buttons. On the right, there are "Export Results", "Create Email Alert", and "Create Saved Search" buttons. Below these are two pagination controls showing "1" of "10" papers per page and "1 - 10 of 10 papers". The main results area lists ten items, each with a title, date, source, and ISBN. The titles include "The Magistrates' Courts (Knife Crime Prevention Orders) Rules 2020", "Thematic Report on Knife Crime", "Gang membership and knife carrying: findings from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime - research findings", "Gang membership and knife carrying: findings from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime", "The Government Reply to the 7th Report from the Home Affairs Committee Session 2008-09 HC 112: Knife Crime", "Home Affairs Committee 7th Report. Knife Crime Volume 2: Oral and written evidence", "Home Affairs Committee 7th Report. Knife Crime Volume 1", "Public Administration Committee. Official Statistics: Publication of statistics relating to knife crime. Oral and written evidence, Thursday 5 February 2009", "Public Petitions Committee 1st Report, 2009: Knife Crime", and "Home Affairs Committee Minutes of Evidence. Knife Crime".

Figure 3: A simple title search

All sections of PIO are updated daily, with most documents available on the day of publication. It has a simple but powerful search engine that can be run across the whole database, or restricted by, for example, Parliament or date to provide a more focused search. It is also integrated into popular search and delivery solutions such as Ex Libris (Clarivate) and Ebsco Discovery Service.

Alternatively, you can use the browsing facilities to get an overview of all activity in a Parliamentary session, or to follow the passage of a Bill from White Paper to Public Act and even beyond to see post-legislative scrutiny and amending Statutory Instruments from 1987 to date.

The *Pepper v Hart* facility allows you to search for individual clauses or schedules of interest and to follow their discussion right through the legislative process. You can then produce a combined document that includes all the relevant references that you have chosen.

The uses for PIO are only limited by your imagination, and if there are other facilities that you would like to see included then please let us know, whether or not

you are an existing customer, and we will see if these can be integrated.

But the best way to see what PIO has to offer is to run through a few typical examples.

Suppose that you are interested in reports about knife crime. You could enter this as a search term in the *Title, ISBN, Paper Number* field. This returns a list of papers with the words 'knife crime' in the title. By default, this is sorted by relevance, although other options, such as chronological or alphabetical, are also available.

If the search returns a large number of papers, you can narrow the scope by Parliament, category, corporate author, date range and so on by using the options on the left of the page. If you know the ISBN or paper number of a particular publication of interest, you could instead search by these in the same place.

Once you have found a paper of interest, just click on the title to open it. The paper viewer window provides you with a number of tabbed options. The *Search Original*



Figure 4: Search results—browsing the document

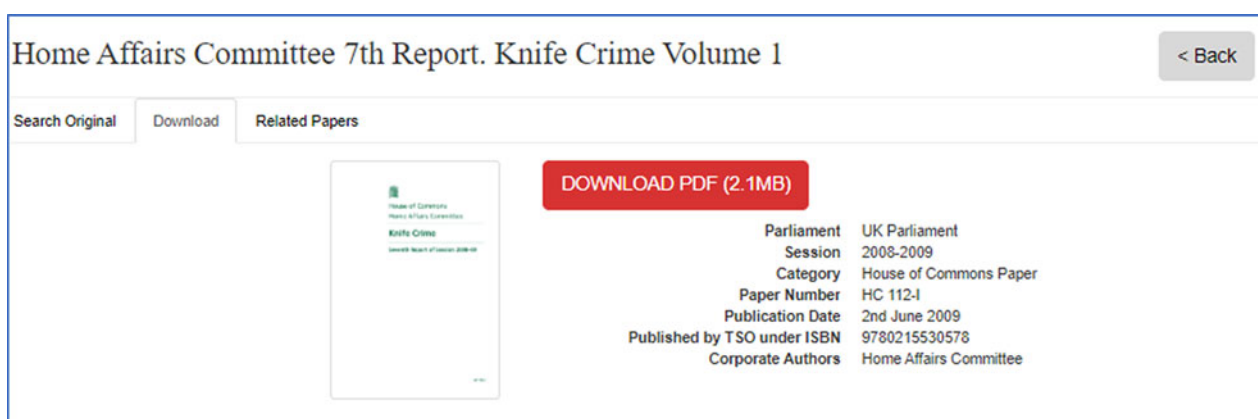


Figure 5: Search results—downloading the document

tab lets you read through the entire document in your browser. This includes a search option so that you can jump straight to a section of interest.

If you prefer to read offline, the *Download* tab lets you download a high-resolution PDF copy of the paper to read in your preferred software.

Home Affairs Committee 7th Report. Knife Crime Volume 1 < Back

Search Original Download Related Papers

Related Papers

Home Affairs Committee 5th Special Report. Asylum and migration: Albania: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report	8th September 2023	HC 1818	ISBN: 9781788406897
Home Affairs Committee 3rd Report. Drugs Volume 1. Report	31st August 2023	HC 198	ISBN: 9781788406361
Home Affairs Committee 3rd Report. Drugs Volume 2. Oral and written evidence	31st August 2023	HC 198	ISBN: 9781788406361
Home Affairs Committee 4th Report. Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft Bill Volume 1. Report	27th July 2023	HC 1359	ISBN: 9781788406125
Home Affairs Committee 4th Report. Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft Bill Volume 2. Oral and written evidence	27th July 2023	HC 1359	ISBN: 9781788406125
Home Affairs Committee 2nd Report. Asylum and migration: Albania Volume 1. Report	12th June 2023	HC 197	ISBN: 9781788403018
Home Affairs Committee 2nd Report. Asylum and migration: Albania Volume 2. Oral and written evidence	12th June 2023	HC 197	ISBN: 9781788403018
Home Affairs Committee 4th Special Report. Channel crossings, migration and asylum: Government Response to the Committee's First Report	28th October 2022	HC 706	ISBN: 9781804939468
Home Affairs Committee 3rd Special Report. The investigation and prosecution of rape: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2021–22	25th July 2022	HC 507	ISBN: 9781804937020
Home Affairs Committee 1st Report. Channel crossings, migration and asylum Volume 1. Report	18th July 2022	HC 199	ISBN: 9781804936627

1 2 3 ... 10 papers per page 1 - 10 of 466 papers

Figure 6: Search results—related documents

And the *Related Papers* tab shows a list of other papers related to the one under consideration.

You will notice from the above there is also “Home Affairs Committee 7th Report. Knife Crime Volume 2: Oral and written evidence” – PIO is the only place where users will find written and oral arguments brought together in consolidated PDFs.

Other tabbed options may be available depending upon the type of paper selected. For example, if you are considering a Bill, the *Associated Papers* tab will allow you to track the passage of a bill from announcement to enactment, including all versions of the Bill, proposed amendments, explanatory notes and Hansard reports of readings.

Figure 7 is the start of the *Online Safety Bill* results as at 21 September 2023. The full list goes right back to the Draft Bill and its explanatory notes on 12 May 2021.

Our *Pepper v Hart* service offers a refinement of this facility which is designed to help customers find Hansard references where specific clauses are debated. The basic *Pepper v Hart* page for the *Online Safety Bill* is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8 highlights the type of document being listed and colour codes this to show whether it is from the

Lords (red) or Commons (green). You can restrict this list by type of paper using the *Category* option on the left. For example, if you are only interested in Public Bill Committee stages you can restrict it as shown in Figure 9.

Or to focus on the discussion of a specific part of the Bill, enter the search term in the *Text In Body* field on the left.

Figure 10 gives you a list of all papers that contain the search phrase. Furthermore, it allows you to produce a single document that contains all of the relevant pages from all of the papers listed. You can, again, restrict by category of document, or use the selection check boxes to include or exclude individual papers.

This combined document can be further modified by including pages before or after the ones on which the text match appears, and by removing any unnecessary pages. The final document can be downloaded as a PDF, which can be printed to provide a high-quality facsimile of the pages as they were originally printed in the source documents.

General text searching within all documents is also offered in the standard version of PIO, although in this case there is no facility to combine pages from multiple documents. The general text search supports wildcards,

Online Safety Bill			< Back
Search Original	Download	Additional Volumes	Associated Papers
Associated Papers			
	HOL Daily Hansard Vol. 832, No. 211 19.09.23		
20th September 2023		Vol. 832, No. 211	ISBN: 0464400022626
	HOL Daily Report Written Statements and Answers 19.09.23		
20th September 2023		Vol. 832, No. 211	ISBN: 0464400022626
	Online Safety Bill Marshalled List of motions to be moved on consideration of Commons amendments and reasons		
19th September 2023		HLB 170 l	ISBN: 9781786407344
	Online Safety Bill Motions to be moved on consideration of Commons amendments and reasons		
15th September 2023		HLB 170 a	ISBN: 9781786407313
	Online Safety Bill Commons amendments to Lords amendments, consequential amendments, disagreements, amendments in lieu and reasons		
14th September 2023		HLB 170	ISBN: 9781786407153
	HOC Daily Hansard Vol. 737, No. 200 12.09.23		
13th September 2023		Vol. 737, No. 200	ISBN: 0464400022534
	HOC Daily Report Written Statements and Answers 12.09.23		
13th September 2023		Vol. 737, No. 200	ISBN: 0464400022534
	Online Safety Bill Explanatory Notes on Lords Amendments		
8th September 2023		HCB 362-EN	ISBN: 9781786406866
	Lords Amendments to the Online Safety Bill		
8th September 2023		HCB 362	ISBN: 9781786406859
	Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee 41st Report. Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Government Amendments Online Safety Bill: Government Response		
7th September 2023		HL 248	ISBN: 9781786406767
	HOL Daily Hansard Vol. 832, No. 204 06.09.23		
7th September 2023		Vol. 832, No. 204	ISBN: 0464400022480
	Online Safety Bill Marshalled List of amendments to be moved on third reading		
6th September 2023		HLB 164 l	ISBN: 9781786406563

Figure 7: Associated papers for a Bill

Boolean operators, proximity searching, fuzzy searches and grouping.

We believe one of the main benefits of PIO is that it enables customers to receive alerts to ensure they are notified whenever something is published: we have email alerts, immediate, daily or weekly or RSS feeds. An ‘all fields’ alert can be set up for whatever you need to track – this is invaluable to today’s busy researcher.

All you have to do is set up your alert and then rest assured that PIO will keep you up to date. Figure 13 is an example of an email alert for Hansard.

Subscription to PIO grants you unlimited access (subject to our fair use policy) to the full database. Some optional elements, such as the *Pepper v Hart* service, may require an additional subscription. We support multi-user access and both on-site and off-site use. Login can be by IP address, user name and password, Shibboleth, or via the end user’s library card.

We have tried to make the PIO interface as easy to follow as possible, but training is available to help your

organisation get the most out of your subscription. In some cases, your users may simply be unaware of the facilities offered, or you may have specific search requirements that would benefit from being explained more fully. Several of our subscribers organise regular online sessions for their staff.

Non-subscribers can make use of the basic search functionality of the site to purchase printed copies via our PIO Shop. <https://www.publicinformationonline.com/shop>

We hope that you have been able to see that PIO offers a convenient way of accessing and searching a wide range of official documents. Data is only really valuable when it can be turned into information, which is what we believe PIO achieves, and from there into knowledge in the minds of your users.

If you have any comments, or would like to learn more, then we would love to hear from you. You can contact us on enquiries@dandybooksellers.com, or info@publicinformationonline.com for technical queries, or follow our Twitter feed at @DBooksellers

UK Parliament Online Safety Bill 2022, 2022-2023

A Bill to make provision for and in connection with the regulation by OFCOM of certain internet services; for and in connection with communications offences; and for connected purposes.

Search Publications

Text In Body ⓘ

Words or Phrases

190 publications

Exact Match

Session ⓘ

Select...

Date From ⓘ Date To ⓘ

Category ⓘ

Select...

Including only

Sort Order

Reverse Chronological

SEARCH Clear

HOL Daily Hansard Vol. 832, No. 211 19.09.23	Hansard
20th September 2023 HOL Hansard	Vol. 832, No. 211 ISBN: 0464400022626
HOL Daily Report Written Statements and Answers 19.09.23	Hansard
20th September 2023 HOL Hansard	Vol. 832, No. 211 ISBN: 0464400022626
Online Safety Bill Marshallled List of motions to be moved on consideration of Commons amendments and reasons	Bill
19th September 2023 House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 170 I ISBN: 9781786407344
Online Safety Bill Motions to be moved on consideration of Commons amendments and reasons	Bill
15th September 2023 House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 170 a ISBN: 9781786407313
Online Safety Bill Commons amendments to Lords amendments, consequential amendments, disagreements, amendments in lieu and reasons	Bill
14th September 2023 House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 170 ISBN: 9781786407153
HOC Daily Hansard Vol. 737, No. 200 12.09.23	Hansard
13th September 2023 HOC Hansard	Vol. 737, No. 200 ISBN: 0464400022534
HOC Daily Report Written Statements and Answers 12.09.23	Hansard
13th September 2023 HOC Hansard	Vol. 737, No. 200 ISBN: 0464400022534
Online Safety Bill Explanatory Notes on Lords Amendments	Bill EN
8th September 2023 House of Commons Explanatory Note	HCB 362-EN ISBN: 9781786406866
Lords Amendments to the Online Safety Bill	Bill
8th September 2023 House of Commons Bill	HCB 362 ISBN: 9781786406859
HOL Daily Hansard Vol. 832, No. 204 06.09.23	Hansard
7th September 2023 HOL Hansard	Vol. 832, No. 204 ISBN: 0464400022480
Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee 46th Report: Levelling Up and Regeneration Bills	Report

Figure 8: Pepper v Hart Bill history

UK Parliament Online Safety Bill 2022, 2022-2023

A Bill to make provision for and in connection with the regulation by OFCOM of certain internet services; for and in connection with communications offences; and for connected purposes.

Text In Body 20 publications

Words or Phrases

Exact Match

Session Select...

Date From **Date To**

Category UK Parliament Public Bill and General Committee Debate (20)

Including only

Sort Order Reverse Chronological

Online Safety Public Bill Committee (Re-committed Clauses and Schedules) 3rd Sitting 15th December 2022 AM	PBC
15th December 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 3rd Sitting ISBN: 0464300019924	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee (Re-committed Clauses and Schedules) 2nd Sitting 13th December 2022 PM	PBC
14th December 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 2nd Sitting ISBN: 0464300019883	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee (Re-committed Clauses and Schedules) 1st Sitting 13th December 2022 AM	PBC
14th December 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 1st Sitting ISBN: 0464300019858	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 16th Sitting 28th June 2022 AM	PBC
29th June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 16th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017975	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 17th Sitting 28th June 2022 PM	PBC
29th June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 17th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017982	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 15th Sitting 23rd June 2022	PBC
24th June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 15th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017889	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 14th Sitting 21st June 2022 PM	PBC
22nd June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 14th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017814	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 13th Sitting 21st June 2022 AM	PBC
22nd June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 13th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017807	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 12th Sitting 16th June 2022 PM	PBC
17th June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 12th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017753	
Online Safety Public Bill Committee 11th Sitting 16th June 2022 AM	PBC
17th June 2022 Public Bill and General Committee Debate 11th Sitting ISBN: 0464300017746	

Figure 9: Bill history—restrict by category

UK Parliament Online Safety Bill 2022, 2022-2023

A Bill to make provision for and in connection with the regulation by OFCOM of certain internet services; for and in connection with communications offences; and for connected purposes.

Search Publications

Text In Body **+**

Repeal of part 4B of the Communicatir

Exact Match

Session **+**

Select...

Date From **+** Date To **+**

Category **+**

Select...

Including only

Sort Order

Reverse Chronological

SEARCH Clear

17 publications

Did you mean Repeal of part 4 of the Communication Act ? [refine search](#)

Select All [View Selected Documents](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill [as amended on Report]	24th July 2023	House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 164	ISBN: 9781786405975	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill [as amended in Committee]	28th June 2023	House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 151	ISBN: 9781786404176	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill Explanatory Notes	19th January 2023	House of Lords Explanatory Note	HLB 87-EN	ISBN: 9781804928826	Bill EN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill	19th January 2023	House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 87	ISBN: 9781804928819	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill. Cross-references in Clause headings on contents pages corrected	19th January 2023	House of Lords Bills and Amendments	HLB 87	ISBN: 9781804928819	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill [as amended on Re-committal, in Public Bill Committee]	20th December 2022	House of Commons Bill	HCB 220	ISBN: 9781804927571	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill [as amended on Report]	9th December 2022	House of Commons Bill	HCB 209	ISBN: 9781804928073	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOC Daily Hansard Vol. 724, No. 85 05.12.22	8th December 2022	HOC Hansard	Vol. 724, No. 85	ISBN: 0464400020134	Hansard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOC Daily Hansard Vol. 718, No. 33 12.07.22	13th July 2022	HOC Hansard	Vol. 718, No. 33	ISBN: 0464400019121	Hansard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill [as amended in Public Bill Committee]	29th June 2022	House of Commons Bill	HCB 121	ISBN: 9781804935415	Bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Public Bill Committee 15th Sitting 23rd June 2022	24th June 2022	Public Bill and General Committee Debate	15th Sitting	ISBN: 0464300017899	PBC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online Safety Bill					Bill

Figure 10: Bill history – only containing specified text

Search Publications | View Selected Documents | Download | 6 of 6 loaded | Scroll top

581 Public Bill Committee HOUSE OF COMMONS Online Safety Bill 582

Public Bill Committee

Thursday 23 June 2022
[SIR ROGER GALE *in the Chair*]

Online Safety Bill

11.30 am

The Chair: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Please ensure your phones are switched to silent.

Clause 168

PUBLICATION BY OFCOM

Question proposed, That the clause stand part of the Bill.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Chris Philp): It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Sir Roger. Clause 168 is a very short and straightforward clause. Ofcom will be required to publish a variety of documents under the Online Safety Bill. The clause simply requires that this be done in a way that is appropriate and likely to bring it to the attention of any audience who are going to be affected by it. Ofcom is already familiar with this type of statutory obligation through existing legislation, such as the Digital Economy Act 2017, which places similar obligations on Ofcom. Ofcom is well versed in publishing documents in a way that is publicly accessible. Clause 168 puts the obligation on to a clear statutory footing.

Barbara Keeley (Worsley and Eccles South) (Lab): As the Minister said, clause 168 rightly sets out that the raw material the Bill requires of Ofcom is published in a way that will bring it to the attention of any audience likely to be affected by it. It will be important that all the guidance is published in a way that is easily available and accessible, including for people who are not neurotypical, or experience digital exclusion. I think we would all agree, after the work we have done on the Bill, that the subjects are complex and the landscape is difficult to understand. I hope Ofcom will make its documents as accessible as possible.

Question put and agreed to.
Clause 168 accordingly ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 169

give notice to in respect of different structures. For example, notice may be given to an officer of a body corporate.

Barbara Keeley: As the Minister said, clause 169 sets out the process of issuing notices or decisions by Ofcom. It mostly includes provisions about how Ofcom is to contact the company, which seem reasonable. The Opposition do not oppose clause 169.

Question put and agreed to.
Clause 169 accordingly ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 170

REPEAL OF PART 4B OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Question proposed, That the clause stand part of the Bill.

The Chair: With this it will be convenient to consider clauses 171 and 172.

Chris Philp: Clause 170 repeals the video-sharing platform regime. While the VSP and online safety regimes have similar objectives, the new framework in the Bill will be broader and will apply to a wider range of online platforms. It is for this reason that we will repeal the VSP regime and transition those entities regulated as VSPs across to the online safety regime, which is broader and more effective in its provisions. The clause simply sets out the intention to repeal the VSP.

Clause 171 repeals part 3 of the Digital Economy Act 2017. As we have discussed previously, the Online Safety Bill now captures all online sites that display pornography, including commercial pornography sites, social media sites, video sharing platforms, forums and search engines. It will provide much greater protection to children than the Digital Economy Act. The Digital Economy Act was criticised for not covering social media platforms, which this Bill does cover. By removing that section from the Digital Economy Act, we are laying the path to regulate properly and more comprehensively.

Finally, in this group, clause 172 amends section 1B of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and creates a defence to the offence of making an indecent photograph of a child for Ofcom, its staff and those assisting Ofcom in exercising its online safety duties. Clearly, we do not want to criminalise Ofcom staff while they are discharging their duties under the Bill that we are imposing on them, so it is reasonable to set out that such a defence

Figure 11: Combined document with relevant text highlighted

Search for Papers

All Fields ¹

containing

"suicide social media"~

Include

Exclude

Exact Match

Title, ISBN, Paper Number ¹

Parliament ¹

Category ¹

Session ¹

Bill ¹

Corporate Author ¹

Export Results ¹ Create Email Alert Create Saved Search

1 10 papers per page 1 - 5 of 5 papers

HOL Daily Hansard Vol. 827, No. 113 03.02.23
 ...graphic material promoting self-harm and **suicide**. **Social media** platforms require regulation to prevent...
 6th February 2023 Vol. 827, No. 113 ISBN: 0464400020721

A New Suicide Prevention Strategy for Scotland. Early Engagement Summary Report
 ...so something similar could be done for **suicide**. **Social media** regulation is difficult with the younger...
 14th June 2022 No Number The Scottish Government ISBN: 9781804356135

Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Public Bill Committee 1st Sitting 23rd July 2019 AM
 ...people trolling young people and encouraging **suicide**. **Social media** has an awful lot to account for. Certainly...
 24th July 2019 1st Sitting ISBN: 0464300009000

HOC Daily Hansard Vol. 652 No. 234 15.01.19
 ...perpetuated and where people are talking about **suicide**. **Social media** platforms have a real responsibility to...
 16th January 2019 Vol. 652, No. 234 ISBN: 0464400008408

Home Affairs Committee 9th Report. Pre-Lisbon Treaty EU Police and Criminal Justice Measures: the UK's Opt-in Decision
 ...guidance on difficult matters like assisted **suicide**, **social media** and child sexual abuse, so being clear upfront...
 1st November 2013 HC 615 Home Affairs Committee ISBN: 9780215063410

1 10 papers per page 1 - 5 of 5 papers

Figure 12: General text search across all documents

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<https://www.publicinformationonline.com/uk-parliament/hoc-hansards/2022-2023/0464400022619>
 20th September 2023
 Vol. 737, No. 204

ISBN: 0464400022619

HOC Daily Report Written Statements and Answers 19.09.23
<https://www.publicinformationonline.com/uk-parliament/hoc-hansards/2022-2023/0464400022619>
 20th September 2023
 Vol. 737, No. 204

ISBN: 0464400022619

Figure 13: Example of an email alert for Hansard

Biography

Donna Ravenhill is the managing director of Dandy Booksellers Ltd. She has been involved in the supply of official publications for over 30 years and started Dandy in 1992. The business went from strength to strength, then along came gov.uk and the government went 'digital by default'. Parliament said they had two major costs; 'security and print', and print they could do something about. Literally the books Dandy purchased from publishers then became e-only.

Dandy launched Public Information Online in 2006, realising that a small business often needs to reinvent itself, as well as to listen to customers as they normally guide you. It now offers e-publishing, printing, bookbinding, scanning services and bookselling.