

**GUIDE
TO REVISED
LEGISLATION ON
LEGISLATION.GOV.UK**

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INTRODUCTION

The revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk is designed to be user-friendly. Operations should usually be intuitive and you should find most of the information you need on screen or in tool-tips. Legislation and the revision process, however, are necessarily complex and this document is intended to provide more comprehensive guidance about the legislation on the website, the editorial process and how revised legislation is presented.

The revised legislation is maintained by the Legislation Services Team of the National Archives in London and the staff of the Northern Ireland Statutory Publications Office in Belfast. For further details see [About us](#).

For the definition of key terms used in this guide, please refer to the [Glossary](#).

Background to the Revised Legislation

The revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk is the official revised version of the statute book for the UK in electronic form. ('The statute book' is a term we use to mean all the primary legislation of a public general nature in force at any particular time.) Previously accessible only to a limited number of users in government, it was first made available online to the public in December 2006 as the UK Statute Law Database (SLD). In July 2010, legislation.gov.uk was launched, incorporating both the revised legislation content from SLD and the 'as enacted' legislation from the website of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI).

The first main source of the text of the revised legislation was the publication *Statutes in Force* (SIF), a 'loose-leaf' style official edition of the revised statute book arranged according to subject matter. SIF was regularly updated with the effects of new legislation made until 1 February 1991. The date of this final revision became the 'basedate' from which the revised legislation has been taken forward. The SIF text in turn derived from a series of earlier official revised editions, principally *The Statutes Revised*. The main source of the original text of these editions was *The Statutes of the Realm*, published between 1810 and 1828, which contained the full text of public Acts of Parliament enacted up to 1713.

New legislation made since the basedate has been added, including that of the devolved legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. From the basedate onwards, both primary and secondary legislation are held, though it remains the case at present that only primary legislation is revised.

The second main source of the revised legislation is *The Northern Ireland Statutes Revised*, the official revised version of the primary legislation of Northern Ireland. The content of the numbered volumes and their supplements covering the period from 1921 onwards has been incorporated into the revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk as it stood at 31 December 2005. (The content of volumes A to D, containing pre-1921 Acts of the UK Parliament and its predecessor parliaments extending to Northern Ireland, will be incorporated as soon as possible.) The revision work on the Northern Ireland statutes is now being carried forward with a separate Northern Ireland basedate of 1 January 2006. See further information about the background to Northern Ireland legislation below.

Note on Northern Ireland Legislation

The story of primary legislation for Northern Ireland has been complicated by the history of the political situation in the province since the foundation of an independent Irish state in the South and the consequent partition of the island in 1921.

The Parliament of Northern Ireland existed from 1921 to 1972 when it was suspended. The parliament passed 'Acts'. A new legislature was set up in 1973 (called, like the present body, the Northern Ireland Assembly) but this body passed only a few items of legislation (called 'Measures') in 1974 before being dissolved.



The present Northern Ireland Assembly was set up following the signing of the Belfast Agreement on Good Friday in 1998. The Northern Ireland Act 1998 then devolved power to make legislation for Northern Ireland (in the form of 'Acts') to the new Assembly. The power to legislate on certain matters was retained by the UK Parliament. Having been suspended briefly on previous occasions, the Assembly was suspended in October 2002 and remained suspended for nearly four-and-a-half years. The Assembly and devolved government were restored on 8 May 2007.

During the periods when devolved government has been in abeyance, and during periods of suspension of the present Assembly, legislation has been made for Northern Ireland by the UK government. This has been effected by means of 'Orders in Council', that is to say, orders made by the Queen on the advice of her Privy Council.

All the legislation for Northern Ireland mentioned above, so far as remaining in force and including consolidated revisions, was brought together in the numbered volumes of the publication *The Northern Ireland Statutes Revised* (NISR). NISR also included four volumes (A to D) containing pre-1921 Acts of the UK Parliament and its predecessor parliaments extending to Northern Ireland. Produced by the staff of the Northern Ireland Statutory Publications Office (NISPO) in Belfast, NISR was the official revised version of the primary legislation of Northern Ireland. The revised legislation of Northern Ireland continues to be maintained in Belfast by NISPO staff.

Our intention has been to make the incorporation of the Northern Ireland statutes into the revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk as seamless as possible, but users should be aware that there remain many variations in presentation between the Northern Ireland statutes and other legislation on the website. Some of the more significant of these variations have been noted at the appropriate places in this guide.

LEGISLATION

This topic provides a general introduction to UK legislation, tells you which types of legislation are carried on legislation.gov.uk and whether or not they are revised.

Only UK domestic legislation is carried on legislation.gov.uk. European Union legislation can be accessed via the EU law portal [EUR-Lex](http://eur-lex.europa.eu). There are also links to the relevant EU legislation in UK implementing regulations.

Introduction to UK Legislation

This topic provides a brief overview of UK legislation for users who are not already familiar with it.

Division into Primary and Secondary Legislation

These are the two main categories of legislation in the UK.

- Primary legislation
- Secondary legislation

'[Primary legislation](#)' is the general term used to describe the main laws passed by the legislative bodies of the UK. The principal examples are:

- Acts of the UK Parliament
- Acts of the pre-UK Parliaments
- Acts of the Scottish Parliament
- Measures of the National Assembly for Wales
- Acts of the National Assembly for Wales
- Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly (and other primary legislation for Northern Ireland)
- Church of England Measures (legislation for the established church in England passed by the General Synod of the Church of England)

These types of legislation are sometimes referred to as 'statutes'. When we speak of 'the statute book', we mean the whole of the statute law currently in force. The term 'primary legislation' also includes certain legislative instruments made by the Crown under the royal prerogative (called 'prerogative instruments').

'Secondary legislation' (also called 'subordinate legislation') is delegated legislation made by a person or body under authority contained in primary legislation. Typically, powers to make secondary legislation may be conferred on ministers, on the Crown, or on public bodies. For example, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) is given such powers by the Communications Act 2003. The main types of secondary legislation are:

- Statutory Instruments
- Scottish Statutory Instruments
- Welsh Statutory Instruments
- Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland
- Church Instruments
- Bye-laws

For a full list of the types of legislation held on legislation.gov.uk and whether they are revised, see the table at the end of this topic below.

Types of Primary Legislation

Acts of the UK Parliament

Most of the Acts passed by the UK Parliament are 'Public General Acts'. These are Acts that deal with matters of general public interest.

A small number of Acts are 'Private Acts'. These are further sub-divided into 'Local Acts' (which relate to matters of local interest) and 'Personal Acts' (which relate to particular persons, and are nowadays very rare). These two classes of Acts are numbered differently to Public General Acts.

You can find out more about the UK parliament and the UK legislative process at www.parliament.uk.

Acts of the pre-UK Parliaments

There are still many Acts in force that were enacted by the parliaments of the separate countries that co-existed in the British Isles before the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was formed in 1801. These are Acts that were enacted by:

- the English Parliament (which encompassed Wales) from 1267 to 1706
- the Scottish Parliament from 1424 to 1707
- the Parliament of Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) from 1707 to 1800
- the Irish Parliament from 1495 to 1800.

Acts of the Scottish Parliament

The Scotland Act 1998 devolved power to make legislation to a new Scottish Parliament sitting in Edinburgh. The Scottish Parliament has power to legislate for Scotland on matters that are not specifically reserved to the UK Parliament by the Scotland Act. There is no separate category for Acts that are local or personal.

You can find out more about the Scottish Parliament and the legislative process in Scotland at www.scottish.parliament.uk.

Measures of the National Assembly for Wales

The Government of Wales Act 2006 devolved power to make primary legislation in relation to matters set out in the Act to the National Assembly for Wales sitting in Cardiff. Initially, this legislation took the form of 'Measures' (but see 'Acts of the National Assembly for Wales' below). The Assembly had earlier been established by the Government of Wales Act 1998 with powers to legislate by means of secondary legislation in the form of Statutory Instruments. There is no separate category for Measures that are local or personal.

Measures of the National Assembly for Wales are published in both the English and Welsh languages.

Acts of the National Assembly for Wales

Following a referendum in March 2011, the National Assembly for Wales acquired the power, provided for in the Government of Wales Act 2006, to make 'Acts' in relation to subject areas set out in that Act. Unlike the earlier Measures, Acts of the National Assembly for Wales can be passed without first seeking the approval of the UK Government or Parliament. There is no separate category for Acts of the National Assembly for Wales that are local or personal.

Acts of the National Assembly for Wales are published in both the English and Welsh languages.

You can find out more about the National Assembly for Wales and the legislative process in Wales at www.wales.gov.uk and <http://www.assemblywales.org>.

Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly (and other primary legislation for Northern Ireland)

As a result of the complex history of the political situation in Northern Ireland since 1921, there have been a number of changes in the way that primary legislation has been made in and for the province. For a summary of these changes see 'Note on Northern Ireland Legislation' in the Introduction above.

The types of primary legislation for Northern Ireland still extant are:

- Acts of the Parliament of Northern Ireland (1921 – 1972)
- Measures of the Northern Ireland Assembly (1974 only)
- Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly (2000 – 2002 and 2007 to date)
- Orders in Council made under the Northern Ireland Acts (1972 to date)

Although this last category of legislation takes the form of UK statutory instruments (which are secondary legislation), it constitutes, in effect, the primary legislation for Northern Ireland during periods of 'direct rule' by the UK government. Orders in Council continue to be used to legislate for Northern Ireland in relation to matters that have not been devolved to the Assembly.

There is no separate category in Northern Ireland for primary legislation of a local or personal nature.

You can find out more about the Northern Ireland Assembly and its work at www.niassembly.gov.uk.

Church of England Measures

In the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919, the UK Parliament conferred on the Church Assembly the power to make legislation on matters concerning the Church of England. In 1970, the Assembly was replaced by the General Synod of the Church of England. Measures have the full force of an Act of Parliament.

You can find out more about Church of England legislation at www.churchofengland.org.

Prerogative Instruments

The Crown retains vestiges of power to legislate by royal prerogative. In practice, the power is always exercised on the advice of ministers, generally sitting as a body called the Privy Council. Prerogative orders made in this way are called 'Orders in Council'.

Such exercises of the prerogative may be embodied in Statutory Instruments (for example, the Orders in Council containing legislation for Northern Ireland).

Types of Secondary Legislation

Secondary legislation (also called 'subordinate legislation') is made under authority contained in primary legislation.

Statutory Instruments (UK)

These are instruments made under authority contained mainly in Acts of the UK Parliament (but see also 'Welsh Statutory Instruments' below). There are three main types of Statutory Instrument:

- 'Orders'
- 'Regulations'
- 'Rules'

However, there is no limit imposed on the descriptions that may be given to Statutory Instruments. Other examples include 'Scheme', 'Direction' and 'Declaration'. Different types of instruments serve different functions, but they all have the same legislative force.

Welsh Statutory Instruments and the Orders in Council made under the Northern Ireland Acts are included in the same numbering sequence as UK Statutory Instruments. They are distinguished within that sequence by a subsidiary number in brackets after the S.I. number (e.g. "(W. 22)", "(N.I. 15)", etc.). There are also UK Statutory Instruments relating exclusively to Scotland which are included in the UK numbering sequence and distinguished by a subsidiary number (e.g. "(S. 27)"). These are not to be confused with Scottish Statutory Instruments (see below), which have their own numbering sequence, as do Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland.

Prior to 1948, when the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 came into force, the equivalent instruments were known as 'Statutory Rules and Orders'.

Scottish Statutory Instruments

These are instruments made since 1999 under authority contained in Acts of the Scottish Parliament. They have their own 'SSI' numbering sequence, separate from the UK ('SI') sequence.

As in the case of UK Statutory Instruments, there are three main types of Scottish Statutory Instrument ('Orders', 'Regulations' and 'Rules'). In addition, there are in Scotland rules of court contained in Statutory Instruments called 'Acts of Sederunt' and 'Acts of Adjournal'. There may also be other descriptions of Scottish Statutory Instruments.

Welsh Statutory Instruments

Welsh Statutory Instruments are Statutory Instruments relating specifically to Wales. They form part of the same numbering sequence as UK Statutory Instruments but are distinguished within that sequence by a subsidiary number in brackets after the S.I. number (e.g. "(W. 22)"). They may be made under authority contained in Acts of the UK Parliament, Measures of the National Assembly for Wales or Acts of the National Assembly for Wales.

Welsh Statutory Instruments are published in both the English and Welsh languages.

Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland

These are the equivalent of Statutory Instruments for Northern Ireland. They may be made under authority contained in Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly. They may also be made under authority contained in Acts of the UK Parliament or in the Orders in Council containing the primary legislation for Northern Ireland during periods of direct rule by the UK government (and which continue to be used for matters that have not been devolved to the Assembly). They have their own 'SR' numbering sequence, separate from the UK ('SI') sequence.

Despite the name, Statutory Rules occur in the same three main types as Statutory Instruments ('Orders', 'Regulations' and 'Rules'). There may also be other descriptions of Statutory Rules.

Church Instruments

These are instruments made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York under authority contained in Church Measures. They are sometimes also referred to in annotations to the revised legislation as 'Archbishops' Instruments', and are used almost exclusively for the purpose of bringing Church Measures into force.

Bye-Laws

Brief mention should be made of one other type of secondary legislation: bye-laws. This is legislation delegated to bodies such as local authorities, operators of transport systems or public utilities. The application of bye-laws is usually limited to a particular local area or the operations of a specific public body.



Legislation on legislation.gov.uk

Most (but not all) types of legislation, both primary and secondary, are carried on legislation.gov.uk. Most types of primary legislation (broadly speaking, those of a public general nature) are held in 'revised' form. This means that amendments made to them by subsequent legislation are incorporated into the text. Most types of secondary legislation are not revised and are held only in the form in which they were originally made.

For pre-1991 UK legislation held and revised, the earliest revised version is the revised text as it stood at 1 February 1991 (the basedate). Where legislation has been wholly repealed before the basedate, no revised version is carried. Some Acts that were still in force at the basedate, but which were superseded by consolidations in 1991 or 1992, are not carried in revised form. Also, certain whole categories of Public General Acts enacted before the basedate are not carried in revised form (subject to a few exceptions). These categories are: Consolidated Fund Acts; Appropriation Acts; Expiring Laws Acts; Statute Law Revision Acts; Statute Law (Repeals) Acts; Acts of a local or personal nature; and Acts extending only to territory outside the UK.

The revised primary legislation of Northern Ireland, previously published in the numbered volumes of *The Northern Ireland Statutes Revised* and its supplements, is now incorporated. The historical versioning of the Northern Ireland statutes starts from 1 January 2006 (the Northern Ireland basedate). Where Northern Ireland legislation has been wholly repealed before the Northern Ireland basedate, no revised version is carried.

Pre-1921 UK Acts extending only to Northern Ireland (as at 1 February 1991) are not at present carried in revised form. These Acts were included in Volumes A to D of *The Northern Ireland Statutes Revised* and will be incorporated into the revised legislation in due course. Also, until this exercise is complete, those pre-1921 Acts extending to Northern Ireland that *are* held in revised form will not necessarily appear in the form in which they have effect in Northern Ireland. An 'Editorial Information' annotation has been inserted at the Long Title level of relevant Acts.

Details of the legislation held, and whether they are revised, are as follows:

Legislation Type	Held on legislation.gov.uk ?	Revised?
Primary Legislation		
Public General Acts of the United Kingdom Parliament (1801 to date)	Yes ¹	Yes
Local Acts of the United Kingdom Parliament (1801 to date)	Yes ²	No ²
Personal Acts of the United Kingdom Parliament (1801 to date)	No	No
Acts of the Parliament of Great Britain (1707 – 1800)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the English Parliament (1267 – 1706)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the Scottish Parliament (1424 – 1707)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the Scottish Parliament (1999 to date)	Yes	Yes
Measures of the National Assembly for Wales (2008 – 2011)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the National Assembly for Wales (2012 to date)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the Irish Parliament (1495 – 1800)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the Parliament of Northern Ireland (1921 – 1972)	Yes	Yes

Legislation Type	Held on legislation.gov.uk?	Revised?
Measures of the Northern Ireland Assembly (1974)	Yes	Yes
Orders in Council made under the Northern Ireland Acts (1972 to date)	Yes	Yes
Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly (2000 – 2002 and 2007 to date)	Yes	Yes
Church of England Measures (1920 to date)	Yes	Yes
Prerogative Instruments ³	No	No
Secondary Legislation⁴		
UK Statutory Instruments	Yes ⁵	No
Scottish Statutory Instruments (1999 to date)	Yes	No
Welsh Statutory Instruments (1999 to date)	Yes	No
Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland	Yes – from 1991 ⁶	No
Church Instruments	Yes – from 1991	No
Bye-laws	No	No



¹ Prior to 1988, other than Acts still in force at 1991 and revised, only selected Public General Acts are held.

² Prior to 1991, only selected Local Acts are held. A small number of these are also revised.

³ Prerogative Instruments may sometimes take the form of Statutory Instruments, such as the Orders in Council that constitute, in effect, the primary legislation for Northern Ireland during periods of 'direct rule' by the UK government, and continue to be used for matters that are not devolved. In such cases, the instruments are carried, but other instruments made in exercise of the prerogative are not carried.

⁴ Prior to 2007 for Scottish Statutory Instruments, and 2008 for UK Statutory Instruments, only secondary legislation that has been printed is held. (Legislation of purely local interest, for example, may not be printed).

⁵ Prior to 1987, only Statutory Instruments that are still at least partly in force in April 2011 are held.

⁶ Note that, for the period 1991 to 2005, only those Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland that affect UK legislation are held.

HOW WE EDIT LEGISLATION

The editorial task of revising legislation on legislation.gov.uk is carried out by the Legislation Services Team within the National Archives in London and the staff of the Northern Ireland Statutory Publications Office in Belfast. For further details see [About us](#).

Revision of legislation on legislation.gov.uk involves, in simple terms, amending the text of the legislation where appropriate and adding annotations containing information about effects on legislation or other editorial information.

The following topics explain our approach to editing legislation, describe the types of annotation we use and give an overview of the main editorial conventions we follow in drafting annotations.

Our Approach to Editing Legislation

Principles

It is our aim to present the revised text of legislation clearly and accurately without gloss or comment. We will give authority for changes to the text, and record any other effects that make some difference to the meaning, scope or application of the legislation. But otherwise, we aim to let the legislation speak for itself precisely as the legislature has framed it.

Additional editorial information is used only sparingly, generally either to explain our presentation of the text where necessary or to draw attention to some difficulty in the reading of the text arising from the way in which it has been amended. We avoid interpretation as far as possible, though an element of interpretation may be required in deciding whether or how one piece of legislation affects another.

The Editorial Process

When we receive a new piece of legislation, a newly enacted Act for example, the first thing we do is to analyse it carefully to identify all its impacts on other legislation. These are mostly amendments to the text of the other legislation, but there are also many effects that do not change the text, such as when the other legislation is said to be 'applied' or 'modified'.

At this point, we also note certain other information about new primary legislation, such as when it comes into force and its geographical extent or territorial application. This information will be used in setting up the timeline and extent facilities for the legislation and its provisions on the website. Once this information has been entered, and any annotations needed at this stage about commencement or extent have been inserted, the new legislation is deployed to the website as the 'Latest Available (Revised)' version. (A version of the legislation 'As Enacted' will have been published on the website shortly after it was enacted.)

As soon as the analysis of the legislation is complete, the extracted information about its effects on other legislation is tabulated. This is then added to the 'Changes to Legislation' facility on the website. This information also serves as a guide for the editor in the next stage of the process.

The bulk of the editorial work consists of carrying through the effects of the new legislation into the affected legislation by editing the text and adding appropriate annotations using a set of computer-based editing tools. This work necessarily takes rather longer than the initial processes. You will be notified whenever you access an item of legislation on the website if there are any effects that have not yet been applied to it in the Changes to Legislation information appearing at the top of the page you are viewing.



NOTE: the Changes to Legislation facility is updated with the effects of new legislation only after the editorial processes described above have been completed. These processes typically take from four to eight weeks to complete depending on the volume of new legislation. In some cases, such as where an Act is very large or heavily affecting, or a large number of Acts have received Royal Assent at the same time, it may take longer.

The following topics describe the kinds of annotations that are added by editors to the text of revised legislation and the editorial conventions that determine how those annotations are framed.

Annotation Types on legislation.gov.uk

Annotations are used in revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk to give authority for amendments or other effects and also to provide certain types of editorial information. For a full explanation of how annotations are presented in the legislation, see the topics under 'Presentation of Revised Legislation' below.



The information about annotations given here does not apply to footnotes in unrevised secondary legislation on the website. These are inserted by drafters of the legislation, not as part of the editorial process.

There are seven annotation types currently in use:

- F-notes – Amendments (Textual)
- C-notes – Modifications etc. (not altering text)
- E-notes – Extent information
- I-notes – Commencement information
- P-notes – Subordinate legislation made
- M-notes – Marginal citations
- X-notes – Editorial information



Note that some annotations dating from before the basedate may be assigned to the wrong annotation types. We are re-assigning them to the correct types as we come across them.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, all annotations appear as F-notes under the 'Annotations' heading without any sub-categories. In legislation made in 2006 and later years, the categorisation of annotations is consistent with usual practice.

F-notes - Amendments (Textual)

'F' stands for 'Footnotes'. This annotation type is used for amendments, including repeals, where there is authority to change the text.

A footnote reference is placed inside the opening square bracket enclosing the amendment text or, in the case of a repeal, before the three dots (for repealed words), or before the provision or sub-provision number (which is retained when a whole provision or sub-provision is repealed).

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/88/section/2>



Note that, for older annotations, the location of footnote references may vary. For example, the reference for a repeal dating from before the basedate will usually be found at the end of the row of dots rather than at the beginning.

For the amendment or repeal of a whole Act, whole Part, Schedule, etc., the footnote reference is placed against the short title, long title or heading as the case requires.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/88/schedule/A1>

The footnote annotation will contain a brief description of the type of amendment, the commencement date (or 'prosp.' if not yet in force), and a citation of the legislative provisions providing authority for the amendment.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, all annotations, not just those relating to amendments to text, appear as F-notes under the 'Annotations' heading without any sub-categories. Also, annotations inserted prior to 2006 do not follow the standard format illustrated in the above examples. In legislation made in 2006 and later years, the style and categorisation of annotations are consistent with standard practice.

C-notes - Modifications etc (not altering text)

'C' stands for 'Cross-notes', so called because of the way in which they were presented in the hard copy predecessors to the revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk. This annotation type is used to denote the effect when the meaning, scope or application of an Act or provision, etc. is changed in some way, but without there being any authority to alter the text.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/14-15/26/section/20>

Typical expressions of effects of this kind are 'modified', 'applied', 'excluded', 'extended', 'restricted', etc.

As C-notes always relate to whole provisions or sub-provisions (or higher levels of division, such as Part, Schedule, whole Act, etc.), rather than to specific words, reference markers are not shown in the body of the text in order to reduce cluttering. The provision, sub-provision, etc. to which the C-note relates will be specified in the annotation.

The C-note annotation will contain a brief description of the type of effect, the commencement date (or 'prosp.' if not yet in force), and a citation of the legislative provisions providing authority for the effect.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, all annotations, including those relating to modifications etc. (not altering the text), appear as F-notes under the 'Annotations' heading without any sub-categories. Also, annotations inserted prior to 2006 do not follow the standard format illustrated in the above examples. In legislation made in 2006 and later years, the style and categorisation of annotations are consistent with standard practice.

E-notes - Extent information

This annotation type contains information about the geographic extent of the Act or relevant part of it.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/20>

As E-notes always relate to whole provisions (or higher levels of division, such as Part, Schedule, whole Act, etc.), rather than to specific words, reference markers are not shown in the body of the text in order to reduce cluttering.

E-notes are at present used very sparingly, mainly to indicate some complexity or change in the extent which is not adequately reflected in the extent provision of the Act (although they have been used more extensively in the past). They are also used where there are multiple versions of a provision for different geographic extents.

I-notes - Commencement information

'I' stands for 'In-force'. This annotation type contains information about the coming into force of a provision and will typically state whether it is partly or wholly in force, give the date or dates of commencement and cite relevant provisions of the Act and any commencing instruments.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/3/section/43>

As I-notes always relate to whole provisions (or higher levels of division, such as Part, Schedule, whole Act, etc.), rather than to specific words, reference markers to them are not shown in the body of the text in order to reduce cluttering.

At present, I-notes are used only if there is some complexity in the commencement. If the provision comes into force on one day for all purposes, no I-note will be created and the in-force date will be the same as the start date of the earliest version of the provision.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland revised legislation enacted prior to 2006, no commencement information is recorded against provisions being commenced and there are, therefore, no annotations equivalent to I-notes.

P-notes - Subordinate legislation made

'P' stands for 'Power exercised'. Where a provision of primary legislation confers power to make subordinate legislation and that power is exercised (that is, an instrument is made in pursuance of it), that exercise may be recorded in a P-note. The annotation will cite any instruments made under that power.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/42/section/19>

As P-notes always relate to whole provisions or sub-provisions, rather than to specific words, reference markers are not shown in the body of the text in order to reduce cluttering. The provision or sub-provision to which the P-note relates will be specified in the annotation.

At present, the P-note annotation type is used only in respect of the making of commencement orders (distinguished by a 'C' series number after the number of the instrument) or other exercises of a power to appoint a day.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, all annotations, including those relating to exercises of power to make subordinate legislation, appear as F-notes under the 'Annotations' heading without any sub-categories. Also, annotations inserted prior to 2006 do not follow the standard format illustrated in the above examples. In legislation made in 2006 and later years, the style and categorisation of annotations are consistent with standard practice.

M-notes - Marginal citations

This annotation type is so called because it used to appear in the margin of the Queen's Printer's copy of primary legislation. M-notes recite the year and number of an Act or instrument mentioned in the text.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/6/section/2>

A reference marker is placed in the text at the relevant point. Marginal citations are generally derived from the text of the original legislation and are only rarely added editorially. They are no longer used in primary legislation since the changes in drafting style introduced in 2001.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, all annotations, including those containing marginal citations, appear as F-notes under the 'Annotations' heading without any sub-categories. In legislation made in 2006 and later years, the categorisation of annotations is consistent with standard practice.

X-notes - Editorial information

The X-note annotation type is used sparingly to alert users to anything they may need to be aware of in using the text.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/aep/Edw1cc16/25/6/section/>

They have been used, for example, to explain potential difficulties arising from variations in editorial practice inherited from older versions of the revised statutes or to point to uncertainties in the text of very old Acts.

A reference marker is placed in the text at the relevant point.

Editorial Conventions

This topic describes the form of annotation typically used for noting effects on revised legislation and explains the main conventions we follow in framing those annotations.

What follows is necessarily a brief overview, as the full guidance to editors on editorial policy and practice is very extensive. It should also be noted that the conventions described are those in current usage. The revised legislation on [legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) has inherited revised text and annotations from a succession of official revised editions of the statutes dating back to the late nineteenth century. This guidance does not attempt to document all the changes in practice there have been over the years.

Content of annotations

Several types of annotation are used and the precise form and content will vary according to the circumstances. Here we refer only to the type of annotation that is used for amendments and other effects that you might find in either a C-note or F-note. A typical such annotation might read like this:

S. 14A(7) applied (with modifications) (30.12.2005) by [Adoption and Children Act 2002 \(c. 38\)](#), [s. 29\(6\)](#) (with [Sch. 4 paras. 6-8](#)); [S.I. 2005/2213](#), [art. 2\(c\)](#)

The annotation sets out the following information:

- the affected provision – sub-section (7) of section 14A
- the type of effect – applied (with modifications)
- the date on which the affecting provision came into force – (30.12.2005)
- the affecting legislation – Adoption and Children Act 2002 (c. 38)
- the affecting provision in that Act – subsection (6) of section 29
- savings (or other provisions that may operate to qualify the amendment in some way) – paragraphs 6 to 8 of Schedule 4 in the affecting Act
- the commencement order (a Statutory Instrument bringing the affecting provision into force) – S.I. 2005/2213
- the operative provision of the commencement order – paragraph (c) of article 2

Most of these elements are self-explanatory. See the following topics for brief explanations about how we describe the effects on legislation and how legislation is cited (that is, referred to). There is also a note on the abbreviations used in annotations.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland revised legislation, annotations inserted prior to 2006 do not follow the standard format described above. Annotations relating to amendments to text generally only refer to the year and number of the amending legislation, while those relating to modifications etc (not altering the text) additionally provide a brief indication of the nature of the effect.

How we describe effects on legislation

This topic sets out the main conventions that determine how we describe the effects that one piece of legislation may have on another.

Our aim is always to give effect as accurately as we can to the plain words of the legislation with a minimum of interpretation. We will, therefore, wherever possible use the wording of the legislation itself. As a simple example, if the legislation provides that a new sub-section (1A) is to be “inserted” into section 12, the annotation will follow that wording, e.g. “S. 12(1A) inserted ...”.

Often, however, especially where the effect is one that does not alter the text, we have to make a decision as to what kind of effect is intended based on our reading of the legislation. For example, it may be provided that:

“... section 259 of that Act shall have effect in relation to any inspector ... with the omission of paragraphs (f) to (h) of subsection (2) of that section.”

It is clearly intended here that the effect of section 259 should be changed in certain circumstances (in relation to “any inspector”). But, since the change doesn’t apply to all persons, we cannot interpret this as authority to change the text. We would say, in this case, that section 259 is being ‘modified’.

There are three main types of amendments to text and a much wider category of types of effect that do not alter the text. Both of these categories are described below.

Amendments to text

The three main types of amendments to text are these:

Amendment	Description
insertions	Where new text is inserted into existing text. If the new text is to be placed at the end of the existing text, the term ‘ added ’ may be used instead.
substitutions	Where existing text is replaced by new text.
repeals	Where existing text ceases to have effect and may also be removed from the legislation. Repeals may also relate to a whole Act. The amending legislation may alternatively (or, in many cases, additionally) specify that words or provisions ‘ shall be omitted ’ or ‘ shall cease to have effect ’. (Where this last expression only is used, we do not treat this as authority to remove the text.)

Effects that do not change the text

The ways in which a provision may be affected, apart from the straightforward amendments to text mentioned above, are almost infinitely varied and may be quite complex. The words used in annotations to denote such effects can do no more than give an indication of their general nature. **The user is in all cases advised to consult the affecting legislation itself to discover the precise nature of the effect.**

These effects may be described in annotations in many different ways, depending on the circumstances. Below are listed just a few of the more common conventional terms that you may find.

Effect	Description
amended	This has been used in the past to indicate any effect that changes the meaning of the specified legislation for all purposes, even if there is no authority to alter the text. In current practice, the term ‘modified’ is preferred.
applied	Used where provisions of existing legislation are applied to new legislation or to some set of circumstances specified in the applying legislation. The expression ‘ applied (with modifications) ’ is used where the applied provisions are also modified to fit the new legislation or new circumstances.

Effect	Description
excluded	Used where it is provided that the affected provisions are not to apply to the affecting legislation or to some specified set of circumstances.
extended	Used for the extension of existing provisions to persons, things or other circumstances not previously included. It is commonly used where a provision is extended to a new jurisdiction such as the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. The expression ' extended (with modifications) ' is used where the extended provisions are also modified to fit the new circumstances.
functions transferred	Used where functions under a provision formerly vested in one party are transferred to another.
modified	Used for any situation in which the meaning or operation of a provision is altered without changing the text. (But note that, when used by drafters of legislation, the term 'modified' may be used much more loosely to mean any kind of change, including amendments to text).
referred to	Widely found in annotations to the primary legislation of Northern Ireland, but rarely elsewhere in the revised legislation, it may denote any reference to legislation.
restricted	Used to indicate that the application of the affected provision is being limited or reduced in relation to the affecting legislation or to some specified set of circumstances (as opposed to being completely excluded).

Northern Ireland Variations

The conventions described above do not apply in full to annotations in Northern Ireland revised legislation inserted before 2006. Where the text is amended, the nature of the amendment is not usually mentioned, except in the case of repeals (when the abbreviation 'rep.' is used). Only a limited range of modifications etc. (not altering the text) will be found, many of these being noted simply as 'referred to'.

How we cite legislation

This topic describes the main ways in which legislation may be cited (that is, referred to) in annotations. It does not set out to be an exhaustive description of all the ways in which legislation may be cited, whether in legislative text or elsewhere.

Here we have divided the citation methods into two categories:

- How we cite primary legislation
- How we cite secondary legislation



There are citations in footnotes in Statutory Instruments and other types of secondary legislation that do not conform to this editorial practice. For a full explanation of the methods of citation used in Statutory Instruments, see para. 2.11 in the publication 'Statutory Instrument Practice'.

How we cite primary legislation

Described below are the ways in which we cite the various types of primary legislation.

Public General Acts of the UK Parliament

These may be cited either:

by the short title (which includes the year) and chapter number (bracketed),

e.g. Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4)

or by just the year and chapter number (without brackets),

e.g. 2005 c. 4

Citations of pre-1963 Acts may also contain a reference to the 'regnal year' (that is, the year of the sovereign's reign) of the session of parliament in which the Act was passed,

e.g. Statute of Westminster 1931 (22 and 23 Geo. 5 c. 4)

or

e.g. 1931 c. 4 (22 & 23 Geo. 5)

This means that the Act was passed in 1931 during the session of Parliament spanning the 22nd and 23rd years of the reign of King George the Fifth.

Local Acts of the UK Parliament

These may be cited either:

by the short title (which includes the year) and chapter number in Roman numerals (bracketed),

e.g. London Local Authorities Act 1996 (c. ix)

or by just the year and chapter number (without brackets),

e.g. 1996 c. ix

Acts of Earlier Parliaments

These may be cited in exactly the same way as UK Public General Acts except that, in the case of Acts of the old Scottish or Irish parliaments, there might also be a letter 'S' or 'I' as appropriate in square brackets at the end of the citation,

e.g. Writs Act 1672 (c. 16 [S])

or

e.g. 1705 c. 12 [I]

Acts of the Scottish Parliament

These may be cited either:

by the short title (which includes the year) and 'asp' number (bracketed),

e.g. Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 4)

or by just the year and 'asp' number (without brackets),

e.g. 2006 asp 4

Measures of the National Assembly for Wales

These may be cited either:

by the short title (which includes the year) and 'nawm' number (bracketed),

e.g. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (nawm 1)

or by just the year and 'nawm' number (without brackets),

e.g. 2011 nawm 1

Note: The first Acts of the National Assembly for Wales are expected during 2012. A suitable example will be added at that time.

Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly (and other primary legislation for Northern Ireland)

These may be cited either:

by the short title (which includes the year) and chapter number (bracketed),

e.g. Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10)

or by the year and chapter number (without brackets) followed by 'N.I.' (bracketed),

e.g. 2002 c. 10 (N.I.)

Acts of the Parliament of Northern Ireland (1921 to 1972) and Measures of the Northern Ireland Assembly (1974 only) are cited in exactly the same way as Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

For the citation of Northern Ireland Orders in Council, see under 'Statutory Instruments' below.

Church Measures

These may be cited either:

by the short title (which includes the year) and Measure number (bracketed),

e.g. Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 (No. 3)

or by just the year and Measure number (without brackets),

e.g. 2003 No. 3

How we cite secondary legislation

Described below are the ways in which we cite the various types of secondary legislation.

Statutory Instruments

These may be cited either:

by the title (which includes the year) and Statutory Instrument (S.I.) number (bracketed),

e.g. The Detergents Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2469)

or by just the year and S.I. number (without brackets),

e.g. S.I. 2005/2469

Northern Ireland Orders in Council (which are in the form of Statutory Instruments), will be cited similarly, but with the addition of the 'N.I.' series number,

e.g. The Budget (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/860) (N.I. 3)

or

S.I. 2005/860 (N.I. 3)

Scottish Statutory Instruments

These may be cited either:

by the title (which includes the year) and Scottish Statutory Instrument (S.S.I.) number (bracketed),

e.g. The Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/434)

or by just the year and S.S.I. number (without brackets),

e.g. S.S.I. 2005/434

Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland

These may be cited either:

by the title (which includes the year) and Statutory Rules (S.R.) number (bracketed),

e.g. The Quarries Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/205)

or by just the year and S.R. number (without brackets),

e.g. S.R. 2006/205

Church Instruments

Until 2010, these instruments did not have any official series numbers (although numbers were assigned for the purposes of the database). They are therefore generally cited by date in the style:

Instrument dated 14.12.2000 made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

or, occasionally:

Archbishops' Instrument dated 14.12.2000

Abbreviations used in annotations

Listed below are the main abbreviations used in annotations (other than for legislation types, as to which see 'How we Cite Legislation' above). Where applicable, the plural is given in brackets. Unless otherwise stated, initial letters of the abbreviations are in lower case, except where they occur at the beginning of a sentence.

Abbreviation	Meaning
art. (arts.)	article(s)
Ch. (Chs.)	Chapter(s) (division of legislation)
para. (paras.)	paragraph(s)
prosp.	prospective
Pt. (Pts.)	Part(s)
reg. (regs.)	regulation(s)
retrosp.	retrospective
s. (ss.)	section(s)
Sch. (Schs.)	Schedule(s)
temp.	temporary

PRESENTATION OF REVISED LEGISLATION

Presentation of Text

The text of legislation on [legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) follows the established layout and presentation of legislation using the Crown Legislation Schema and associated stylesheets. However, the web version and generated PDFs do not always follow the exact layout of the hard copy published version ('the Queen's Printer's copy') especially in cases where that may not be appropriate or helpful in the context of online presentation. However, where available the original print PDFs can be found under the 'More Resources' tab for reference.

Amendments in the amended legislation

This topic explains how amendments will appear in the text of the legislation that is being amended. The appearance depends on the type of amendment: Insertions and Substitutions or Repeals.

Insertions and substitutions

Insertions and substitutions that have been brought into effect are signified by square brackets:

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1977/49/section/31>

Insertions and substitutions that have not yet been brought into effect (that is, those that are 'prospective') are also displayed in square brackets:

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/22/section/1/prospective?timeline=true>

Each amendment is annotated with an 'F-note', and a sequential reference for that F-note is displayed in bold superscript at the beginning of the amendment.

NOTE: At present, amended text is not highlighted in any way, for example by using a different font or colour. In the future we plan to add a facility to [legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) that will give users the option to 'turn on' amendment text highlighting.

Northern Ireland Variations

The text of any insertions or substitutions by legislation made after 31 March 1981 but which were still prospective at the Northern Ireland basedate (1 January 2006) will not appear at all in the basedate version of the affected legislation. Instead there will be a footnote at the appropriate location indicating the nature of the amendment and citing the amending legislation (e.g. “prosp. inserted by 1991 NI 24”) – but see also ‘NOTE’ below. In such cases, the amendment text will be shown correctly, in line with standard practice, either when the amendment comes into force or, even if it is still prospective, when any new version is made of the provision to which it relates.

NOTE: When the N.I. revised legislation was converted in order to bring it together with the existing revised content, some footnotes relating to prospective insertions and substitutions (as mentioned above) were incorrectly located so that they appear to relate to the provision or sub-provision immediately following the one to which they actually relate. (For example, a footnote relating to a prospectively inserted art. 5A may appear to relate to art. 6.) These instances will be corrected as they are identified in the course of revision work.

Repeals

Repeals that have been brought into effect are signified by rows of dots. There are two ways in which a row of dots can be displayed:

- a short row of three dots for a repeal of words
Example (repeal of words):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/46/section/104>
- a full line of dots for the repeal of a whole provision or sub-provision
Example (section contains multiple repealed sub-provisions):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1977/49/section/33>
Example (whole section repeal):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1977/49/section/34>

Where the text has been repealed only for a limited geographical extent (e.g. the text of a provision that extends to England and Wales is repealed for England only), the text will remain in place enclosed in square brackets.

Repeals that have not yet been brought into effect (that is, those that are ‘prospective’) are also displayed in square brackets:

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/44/section/272/prospective?timeline=true>

Where the whole of the legislation or a division of it larger than a single provision (e.g. whole Part, whole Schedule, etc.) has been repealed, the presentation of the repeal will depend on how the document is opened. If opened from the heading of the division of the legislation repealed, or the whole legislation repealed is opened, you will see the title, a line of dots and an annotation giving authority for the repeal. However, it will still be possible to open the individual provisions that are part of the larger repeal from the Table of Contents (this is to allow continued access to the Timeline of Changes), in which case you will be shown the section number, a line of dots and the annotation giving authority for the repeal.

Example:

- Whole Act repeal (view when opening whole Act):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/4>
- Whole Act repeal (view when opening a provision):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/4/section/1>

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland revised legislation, repeals of whole provisions, sub-provisions, definitions, etc. occurring before 2006 will not appear as rows of dots. The repealed text is instead replaced by an italicised note giving authority for the repeal.



There are some variations in the location in the text of the F-note markers relating to repeals, particularly in relation to pre-2003 amendments. For example, current editorial practice is to insert the F-note marker at the beginning of a repealed provision or sub-provision, but older amendments may show the marker at the end of the row of dots. Also, most F-notes markers for the repeal of whole sections and sub-sections are at present appearing incorrectly immediately after the provision number. In future this will be corrected so that the markers appear before the provision number.

Amendments in the amending legislation

Amendments to text as they appear in the amending legislation are delimited by double quotes.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2002/444/regulation/3/made>

In the publication *Statutes in Force* (SIF), from which the originating revised text on legislation.gov.uk was mainly derived, purely amending or repealing provisions were generally not reproduced. In most cases these provisions have been restored in the revised legislation on the site but do not reflect any amendments made to them prior to the basedate. Where this is the case, an annotation explains the position.

Northern Ireland Variations

Amending and repealing schedules in pre-2006 legislation (and individual amending provisions in pre-1982 legislation only) do not appear in the text of Northern Ireland revised legislation. Amendments to those provisions are not carried through to the database. Amending and repealing schedules in legislation made from 1987 to 2005 may be accessed on legislation.gov.uk, but only in the form in which they were originally enacted. The original versions of the Orders in Council can be accessed using the 'What Version' buttons on the Table of Contents for the Order you are concerned with. Details of amendments to these schedules and provisions can be found in the *Northern Ireland Chronological Tables of the Statutes* (available only in hard copy, published by The Stationery Office, Belfast).

Annotations

Annotations are used in revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk to give authority for amendments or other effects on that legislation and to convey editorial information. They appear at the foot of the relevant provision or under the associated heading if relating to a higher-level division of the legislation such as a Part, Schedule, etc.



The information about annotations given here does not apply to footnotes in unrevised secondary legislation on the website. These are inserted by drafters of the legislation, not as part of the editorial process.

Annotations are categorised by annotation type, such as F-notes for textual amendments and I-notes for commencement information. For a detailed description of annotation types and what they contain, see 'Annotation Types on legislation.gov.uk' in the 'How We Edit Legislation' section above.

Each annotation is identified by a sequential reference number. For example, the reference C3 would represent the 3rd occurrence of 'Modifications etc. (not altering text)' in the legislation you have opened. Similarly, M8 would be the eighth marginal citation in the legislation you have opened. For F-notes, M-notes and X-notes, the number also appears in bold superscript at the relevant location in the text.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5/15-16/20/section/3>



Annotation types other than F-notes, M-notes and X-notes always relate to whole provisions, sub-provisions, and so on, and consequently it has been decided not to show references to them in the text in order to reduce cluttering.

Annotations giving authority for an amendment or other effect on the legislation may contain one or more blue hyperlinks to the affecting legislation. The annotations will provide separate links to the whole amending Act and to each affecting provision cited. In annotations created after 2003 the most relevant provision (i.e. the one containing the details of the amendment or effect that has been carried through) will be in bold text. Clicking on the hyperlinks will take you to the relevant affecting legislation.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/46/section/17A>



Note that annotations may appear at any level in a piece of legislation (e.g. Part, Schedule or whole Act), not just at provision level, and you may need to check against these higher levels of division for relevant annotations. Most types of annotation that relate to a whole Act appear under the long title. (To see these you will need to open the introductory text.) One notable exception is the annotation that indicates the final repeal of a whole Act, which appears against the short title.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, all annotations appear as F-notes under the 'Annotations' heading without any sub-categories. Also, annotations inserted prior to 2006 do not follow the format illustrated above – see 'Editorial Conventions – Content of Annotations' in the 'How We Edit Legislation' section above. In legislation made in 2006 and later years, the style and categorisation of annotations are consistent with the standard practice described.

Timeline of Changes

The Timeline of Changes enables users to see how revised legislation has changed or could change over time by providing access to points in time where changes occurred. The timeline can be viewed by selecting 'Show Timeline of Changes' from the left-hand menu when viewing revised legislation.

Dates on the Timeline

The first date on the timeline will usually show the provision in the form in which it was enacted or made, or in the form in which it had effect at the relevant basedate (1 January 2006 for Northern Ireland legislation or 1 February 1991 for all other revised legislation) if that was later. That date will be based on the earliest date on which that provision was in force to any extent or for any purpose (or the basedate if that was later). In the case of higher levels of provisions such as Parts, Chapters, etc. the first date on the timeline will be no later than the earliest in force date of any provision beneath it. (Note that dates on legislation.gov.uk are abbreviated by day / month / year, e.g. 1 February 1991 is abbreviated as 1.2.1991).

A new date is added to the timeline whenever the text is amended. Dates added as a result of an amendment or other effect will be based on the earliest date at which that effect came into force to any extent or for any purpose. Once a new date is added to the timeline for a new amendment, the new amended version of the text will supersede the previous dated version and appear as the current version.

For example:

- A section extending to England and Wales is substituted in relation to the whole of that extent, but the substitution is brought into force for England on 1 January 2006 and for Wales on 1 February 2007. The date of the new version will be 1 January 2006.
- A sub-section is substituted and the new text contains a power to make subordinate legislation but does other things as well. The amendment is brought into force on 1 April 2006 for the purpose only of exercising the power to make subordinate legislation. It is otherwise not in force. A date of 1 April 2006 will be added to the timeline.

New dates are not usually added to the timeline for modifications and other effects that do not alter the text. Occasional exceptions are made to this policy. For example, a provision is modified at frequent intervals by statutory instruments and each such instrument revokes the previous one. The provision would rapidly become overburdened with redundant annotations. In these circumstances, a new date would be added to the timeline each time it is modified and superseded annotations removed from the new version.



NOTE that the commencement of any provision of an Act may be determined by the terms of the Act itself or it may be left to be determined subsequently (usually by a Statutory Instrument called a 'Commencement Order'). In the latter case, we say that the provision is 'prospective'. Instead of a new date being added to the timeline, the word 'prospective' will appear. If an Act is completely silent as to the commencement of a provision, it means that the provision comes into force on the Royal Assent date (or the day after Royal Assent for Acts of the Scottish Parliament).

The timeline shown at individual provision level (e.g. section) will include only the dates of changes that occurred to that provision. Timelines at higher levels (e.g. Act or Part) will include all the dates of changes that occurred to any provision that comes under that heading as well as any changes that have occurred to that level specifically, e.g. words in the Part title have been substituted. This means that there may be many more dates on a timeline at higher levels than within individual provisions.

There are some limited scenarios where provisions are assigned a date as from which they no longer have effect, a 'stop date'. For example, where the whole of the legislation or a division of it larger than a single provision (e.g. whole Part, whole Schedule, etc.) has been repealed, the earliest date on which the repeal came into effect is added to the timeline at that higher level. When viewing the legislation at the repealed level as at that date or later, the provisions within it will no longer be visible. Instead you will see a single dotted line together with an annotation giving authority for the repeal. You can still navigate to those individual provisions via the Table of Contents. They will also appear as dotted lines with an annotation giving authority for the repeal. The timeline will show the effective date of the repeal as a 'stop date'.

Example:

- Timeline of Changes for a wholly repealed Act (whole Act opened):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/4?timeline=true>
- Timeline of Changes for a wholly repealed Act (individual provision opened):
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/4/section/1?timeline=true>

Geographical Extent

Geographical extent information is added to all revised legislation at every provision level (e.g. Part, section, etc.). The primary purpose of this information is for use by the search engine when using 'Advanced search' to determine whether a version of a provision is relevant to the part of the United Kingdom specified in the search criteria. For this reason, the term 'extent' as currently used on legislation.gov.uk may also denote a limited territorial application within a wider technical extent. For example, the extent of the legislation may be 'England and Wales' but it only applies in Wales.

The geographical extent information can also be viewed by selecting 'Show Geographical Extent' from the left-hand menu when viewing revised legislation.

The extent is set to the widest geographical coverage to which the version applies. This example shows the widest extent available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/section/1?view=extent>

For a higher level provisions (e.g. Part), the extent must be wide enough to encompass the extents of all versions of any provisions beneath it in the hierarchy. The extent settings used on the website are:

- England (E)
- Wales (W)
- Scotland (S)
- Northern Ireland (N.I.)

or any combination of these.

Thus, UK extents are represented as E+W+S+N.I. and GB extents are represented as E+W+S. Church of England Measures, which generally extend to the provinces of Canterbury and York, are treated as 'E'.

The extent attribute is not intended to represent precisely the technical extent of the provision in question but rather to ensure that all versions are returned that may be relevant to the user's search criteria, e.g. that extend to Scotland, or that apply only in Wales. For detailed information, you should refer to any extent annotations (E-notes) or to any provisions in the legislation about extent or territorial application. Where there are multiple versions of a provision that apply to different geographic extents, it is the sum of the extents of these versions that will represent the widest extent for the provision as a whole. (Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1985/67/section/6>)



NOTE that, although there will usually be one or more provisions in an Act determining the extent of the Act, this is not always the case. If an Act of the UK parliament is silent as to its extent, this means that it extends to the whole of the United Kingdom.

You should treat with caution the extent attributes for amending or repealing provisions where it is provided that the extent of any amendment, etc. is the same as that of the provision being amended. The "effective extent" in these cases is not researched for the purpose of setting the attributes. Practice has varied over time. Formerly, the attributes for such provisions were set to a special extent category of 'Co-extensive' that has translated onto the current system as 'UK'. Present practice in these cases is to set the attribute initially to the extent the provision would otherwise have had but for the 'co-extensive' provision and only to revisit it if the provision in question is itself later amended.

All Acts of the 'pre-UK' parliaments have been set initially to the extent appropriate to the relevant jurisdiction. Thus, all Acts of the old English parliament are set to 'E+W', all Acts of the old Scottish parliament to 'S' and so on. The extent attributes of these Acts will not reflect any territorial extensions made to them before the basedate. Any extent changes after the basedate will be reflected.

In the course of 2012, changes will be made to the way in which 'extent' information is presented on legislation.gov.uk to display separately information about extent and territorial application. This will enable us, for example, to specify more clearly that legislation extending to England and Wales applies only in Wales, without having to resort to an artificial 'Wales extent'.

Confers power

If a provision confers power to make secondary legislation, this information will be recorded in the legislation data. A list of any provisions that confer power can be viewed by selecting the 'More Resources' tab from any item of revised legislation.

Example: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1985/67/resources>

Sometimes secondary legislation confers power to make other secondary legislation. This information is not recorded for secondary legislation (except, from 2006 onwards, in the case of Northern Ireland Orders in Council that are treated for our purposes as primary legislation).



Note that this attribute may not have been set for legislation dating from before the revised legislation basedate.

Northern Ireland Variations

In Northern Ireland legislation made in 2005 and earlier years, no power attributes have been set. There are at present no plans to correct these generally, but new powers created in that legislation by subsequent amendments will be set correctly.

Blanket amendment

A provision may make an amendment or modification that is framed in such a way as to affect legislation generally rather than any specific enactment. We call this a 'blanket amendment'. A list of any provisions that apply blanket amendments can be viewed by selecting the 'More Resources' tab from any item of revised legislation.

An example of a blanket amendment that changes the text of affected legislation might be: "For the words "Supreme Court Act 1981" wherever they occur in any enactment substitute "Senior Courts Act 1981"."

However, as well as amendments to text, any other significant effect, such as a modification (but not a mere power to amend or modify), if directed to legislation generally, will be recorded as a 'blanket amendment'. (A more accurate term might be 'blanket effect'.) The relevant effect might either be aimed at all legislation or at a more limited category of legislation the precise contents of which are not readily identifiable. In either case, this would be called a 'blanket amendment' and the attribute set to 'Y'. Where there is no blanket amendment, the attribute will be set to 'N'.

'Blanket amendment' information is not recorded for secondary legislation.



Note that this attribute will not usually have been set for legislation dating from before the relevant basedate.