

Referencing using OSCOLA

Section 5

Internet sources

What's different about websites?

- **Not all websites are reliable (anyone can put information on to the internet)**
- **Websites may present a biased, misleading or inaccurate viewpoint.**

The variable quality of information freely available on the internet makes it even more important to provide detailed information.

Websites also move, change or are deleted: another reason to make sure you provide as much information as possible.

Referencing a website

Remember the basic purpose of referencing is to document

- Who wrote it
- Where, when and by whom it was published.

A website needs all this information, but a further question is often relevant for websites – *why* this was written.

Why is this important for websites?

What information do you need to include?

Look at the instructions in the *Citing the Law* online tutorial

Some of it is the same as for citing a book:

- **Author**
- **Title**

Note that sometimes an individual author is not given. In that case, use the name of the organisation responsible for the website.

Remember the purpose is to tell the reader *who is responsible for writing the material.*

And what else?

- Within brackets, include any additional information which is relevant. This will vary depending on the nature of the source. For example, if the source is a speech given by a government minister, the location and occasion would be relevant. Use your common sense here!
- Give the url of the site
- And the date you accessed it
- The following slide gives an example

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill

Home > Media centre > News > British Bill of Rights planned

Media centre

See other News

British Bill of Rights planned

Wednesday, 16 Feb 2011

Theresa May says that a legal framework is required to make sure parliament makes laws, not the courts.

In a [statement to parliament](#), the Home Secretary said that a Commission will be established to investigate creating a British Bill of Rights.

This comes after the Supreme Court ruled that not granting sex offenders the opportunity to seek a review is a breach of their human rights.

Theresa May said that government is 'appalled' by this ruling.

Parliament makes our laws

She explained: 'It is time to assert that it is Parliament that makes our laws, not the courts; that the rights of the public come before the rights of criminals; and above all, that we have a legal framework that brings sanity to cases such as these.'

Sex offenders' register

Currently serious sexual offenders sign a register for life, with no right of appeal.

But the final court of appeal in the UK said this must change.

Mrs May said that the government will comply with this ruling but make the 'minimum possible changes to law in order to comply'.

The final decision of whether an offender should remain on the register will be down to the police, not the courts.

twitter


Latest Twitter commentary from @ukhomeoffice

Plans to allow religious buildings in England and Wales to host civil ceremonies announced <http://tinyurl.com/6d6ss25> 3 days ago

In photos: border officers raid addresses in Rotherham and Manchester in sham marriage raids this morning. <http://bit.ly/fNBBBW> 4 days ago

YouTube

Latest videos from the Home Office YouTube channel

The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the Home Office website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill'. The page has a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Media centre > News > British Bill of Rights planned'. On the left, there is a navigation menu with categories like 'About us', 'Media centre', 'News', 'Press releases', 'Speeches', 'Home Office videos', 'Twitter policy', and 'Contact us'. Below this are more categories: 'Crime', 'Counter-terrorism', 'Passports and immigration', 'Antisocial behaviour', 'Drugs and alcohol', 'The police', 'Science, research and statistics', 'Agencies and public bodies', and 'Publications'. The main content area features a 'Media centre' header with a globe icon, a 'See other News' link, and the main article title 'British Bill of Rights planned' dated 'Wednesday, 16 Feb 2011'. The article's lead is 'Theresa May says that a legal framework is required to make sure parliament makes laws, not the courts.' The text continues with a quote from a 'statement to parliament' and discusses the Supreme Court's ruling on sex offenders. It then highlights 'Parliament makes our laws' and 'Sex offenders' register'. On the right side, there are social media widgets for Twitter and YouTube. The Twitter widget shows a tweet about civil ceremonies, and the YouTube widget shows a video about sham marriage raids. Three blue arrows are overlaid on the page: one points to the breadcrumb trail, another points to the 'See other News' link, and a third points to the 'Media centre' header.

What information do you need?

- Remember, if there is a named author, give their name.
- In this case, there is no named author, so give the name of the institution or organisation. In this case 'Home Office'
- The title is 'British Bill of Rights Planned'
- The date is 16 Feb 2011
- The url is <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill>
- The site was accessed on 20th February

How do you present this information?

- Author first followed by a comma:
- Home Office,
- Then the title, in single quotation marks:
- ‘British Bill of Rights Planned’

Then...

- Additional information in brackets – in this case we can add the date (16 February 2011) and that this concerns a statement to Parliament by the Home Secretary.

Then the url surrounded by <>:

<<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill>>

And finally

- The date you accessed the site:
- accessed 20 February 2011

So the full reference would be...

- Home Office, 'British Bill of Rights Planned' (Statement to Parliament by the Home Secretary, 16 February 2011) <<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill>> accessed 20 February 2011