

Key changes made in the fifth edition of OSCOLA

Key changes in the fifth edition of OSCOLA relative to the previous edition ('OSCOLA 4'), are summarised by chapter in the list below. Key changes made in Chapter 4 (International law sources) are relative to the dedicated 2006 Supplement, *Citing International Law Sources Section*. All references are to sections of the fifth edition unless otherwise specified.

1 General notes

- Clarifying that retrospectively created medium neutral citations (ie, those that predate 2001) should not be used (1.1.1; see also 2.1.3).
- New rules regarding indicators (1.1.5).
- Updating guidance on subsequent citations, including removal of the use of 'ibid' (1.2.1, 1.2.3).
- Additional guidance on tables of cases and legislation (1.6.2–1.6.3).

2 Primary sources

- Changes to certain court identifiers (see 'KBD' and 'QBD' at 2.1.5).
- New guidance regarding references to judges (2.1.7, 2.2.2).
- Additional guidance for the citation of Welsh legislation and bills (2.4.6).
- New guidance for the citation of bills in Northern Ireland (2.4.8).
- New guidance for the citation of EU legislation assimilated within the UK pursuant to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (2.4.9).

3 Secondary sources

- New rule for pinpoint citation of audio and video content (3.1.3).
- Removing previous guidance for the citation of looseleaf services (OSCOLA 4, 3.2.7).
- Additional guidance for the citation of websites and blogs to encourage use of persistent links or digital object identifiers where available (3.7.1). This guidance also applies to citation of electronic versions of other secondary sources (see, eg, 3.1.4, 3.2.6, 3.3 and 3.7.3).
- New guidance for the citation of book reviews (3.5), social media content (3.7.1), podcasts (3.7.2) and generative artificial intelligence (3.7.13).

4 International law sources

- Generally incorporating and updating rules for the citation of international law sources from the 2006 Supplement to reflect OSCOLA's objectives of consistency, clarity and common citation practice, with minimum punctuation.
- Restructuring guidance into the fivefold structure of 'treaties' (4.1), 'United Nations documents' (4.2), 'international cases and decisions' (4.3), 'regional materials' (4.4) and 'other international sources' (4.5).

- Updating guidance for the citation of EU court decisions to include a European Case Law Identifier and omitting reference to a report, in accordance with Court of Justice guidance (4.4.2).
- Updating guidance for the citation of World Trade Organisation/GATT decisions (4.3.4) and European Court of Human Rights decisions (4.4.4) and to include the application or document number particulars rather than an official report series.
- Addition of guidance for the citation of sources that was absent from or incompletely dealt with in the 2006 Supplement, including treaty reservations and declarations (4.1.2), unpublished International Court of Justice decisions and other case documents (4.3.1), judgments of the International Criminal Court (4.3.3), arbitral decisions (4.3.5) and other court and tribunal documents (4.3.6).
- Adding general principles for the citation of 'other' international sources (4.5.1) as well as specific guidance for commonly cited sources falling within this category such as entries in the Max Planck Encyclopedias of Public International Law (4.5.6).
- Assimilating within chapter 4 the citation principles applicable to the citation of EU sources, which were previously located in chapters 2 and 3 of OSCOLA 4 (4.4.1–4.4.2).

5 Appendix

- Generally revised and expanded the abbreviations, including medium neutral citations.