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Thank you for joining me here today to hear about Public Information Online.

I would like to start by giving you a bit of background about Dandy Booksellers.

I started the business over 30 years ago in 1992. We were library suppliers; we would buy publications from HMSO and supply them to lots of different customers including academic libraries, public libraries, institutions and corporate customers.

In 1996 HMSO privatised and TSO became the publisher for parliamentary papers, then government departments started doing their own publishing and we became the 'one stop shop' for official publications.

In 2006 we started Public Information Online (PIO), a customer asked if there was one resource where they could view all parliamentary and government documents and we soon realised this would be our future. We also offer the Civil Service Yearbook database where you can view details of over 20,000 civil servants.

PIO is now a database with more than 12 million pages, it dates back to 1803, we have worked with customers to digitise their print holdings allowing them to discard their bound volumes. All our digitisation is in colour which is essential for colour coded graphs, maps etc. Furthermore we believe we have the best archive for Hansard. We digitised the bound volumes from 1803 and developed software to check search results from our pdf copies against the freely available HTML version concurrently, we offer an exact copy of the printed material, this is proving very useful for researchers.

We are so happy to have partnered with HeinOnline where you will now be able to view all our documents.

PIO CONTENT UPDATED DAILY



WESTMINSTER 1803/1900 onwards



- House ofLordsPapers 1901
- House of LordsBills 1901
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- Public General Acts 1900
- Public General Act Explanatory Notes 1999
- StatutoryInstruments 1985

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SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT Session 3 onwards



WEI SH PARI IAMENT ((Senedd) 2008 onwards



- Bills Bills including MLs, DPMs, PMs, G, Acts Bill EFMs ADs & FMs Groupings • Bills Bill Explanatory Notes Notices of Amendments Meeting of the Parliament Marshalled Lists Bills Minutes of Proceedings Committee Reports SP Papers Acts & Acts Explanatory Notes Official Reports of Committee Official Report Hansard Debates Written Answers Committee Reports . Acts & Act Explanatory Notes Northern Ireland Statutory Rules Scottish Statutory Instruments SSIs
 - Explanatory Notes to Acts
 - Explanatory Memorandum to
 - Notice of amendments
 - Marshalled list of amendments
 - Groupings of amendments
 - Wales Statutory Instruments

Our team of data aggregators spend their time monitoring the various different resources for latest official publications and ensuring they are uploaded to PIO on the same day they are released. For Westminster, there are over 7 different resources to monitor, these sites cannot be cross searched and you cannot search for the content of the publication. So, in most cases you can only find a specific paper if you happened to know the paper number or exact title of the publication.



Hansard – why did we digitise the bound volumes when the Parliament Historic Hansard was freely available?

We were told by the Law Society in the UK:

The reason the Parliament Historic Hansard is unreliable is that it contains mistakes. A few years ago I was asked to investigate why a Bill was still being discussed after it had been given Royal Assent. The reason was that Parliament Historic Hansard had 'read' the month incorrectly and had dated the discussion months after Royal Assent.

What was worrying was that the date was totally incorrect. I can't remember what the exact months were, but I do remember the error wasn't understandable, e.g. reading June as July, but had misread two totally different months, e.g. May as August

Our PDFs are an exact copy of the printed material, furthermore on PIO we have the HTML and the PDFs running a simultaneous search so we believe there is no better place than Hein/PIO to view Hansard, you can download single or multiple pages from either platform.

Search Page 1101

matter.



Fully indexed

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- Extensively checked at granular level

2185 Sexual Offences (No. 2)

2) 23 JUNE 1967

taken up by the Home Office in this to

The hon, and learned Gentleman then turned to the question of burden of proof and the matter of consent. Here I understood that he had only one answer. He said, "Ah, but we are using all the provisions which deal with heterosexual offences and have made them apply to homosexual offences." That may be well; it may be convenient always to follow precedent. But we are dealing with a very different set of circumstances when we deal with homosexual offences. In the other matters the threat of blackmail is not present to the same extent. We are not dealing with an unnatural act or an unnatural offence, whereas in this case we are. Because we are dealing with an unnatural act and an unnatural offence, special provisions should apply to ensure that all those who may be subject to weakness are given particular support and protection.

I support what my hon. Friend the

967 Bill—Report

1 2186

told that they must stand on their own feet. Those are the people whom the right hon. Lady should be at pains to protect, but I can see no provision in the Bill which will protect them.

I hope that the House will give the fullest support not only to the new Clause, which gives special protection against the unscrupulous employer, but also to the Amendments which seek to ensure that those who are feebly-minded get the complete protection of the law.

Mr. Abse: If there are those who feel that the short contribution which my hon. and learned Friend the Under-Secretary made when he intervened on the first occasion was inadequate, only the most churlish would suggest that he has not explained why it is that the series of Clauses and Amendments before us now are, in effect, impracticable even if they are desirable.

There is a difference between the Bill's supporters and those who support these

- With over 12 million pages, PIO offers unparalleled coverage compared to competing products
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Explosion at Chanters Colliery, Lancashire. Report on the causes of, and circumstances attending, the Explosion which occurred at Chanters Colliery, Lancashire, on 6th March, 1957 by G. Hoyle, C.M.G. H.M. Divisional Inspector of Mines



This digital content is unique to PIO in pdf



Standing Committees/Public Bill Committees are rare there are now only 7 sets available in print in the UK



A few years after launching PIO, customers came to us and said they would like us to digitise their archive. It is becoming increasingly valuable as many libraries are disposing of their physical hard copy collection in order to make space and save costs on storage safe in the knowledge that they have access to these on PIO.

PIO



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Searching for papers on PIO is straightforward. Title, ISBN, paper category, and corporate author are all available options for researchers, and results can be further refined by keyword or phrases within the documents.

eg. Title search: "governance of artificial intelligence"

	1 10 v papers per page		1 - 5 of 5 papers
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Clear	31st August 2023 HC 1769	Science, Innovation and Technology	ISBN:

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UK Parliament Bribery Act, 2009-2010

To make provision about offences relating to bribery; and for connected purposes.



56 publications			
Government resp	onse to the House of Lords Select Committe	ee on the Bribery Act 2010	Command
13th May 2019	Command Paper	CP 96	ISBN: 9781528612876
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27th April 2010	Act Explanatory Note	PGA CH 23 2010 EN	ISBN: 9780105623106
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9th April 2010	HOL Hansard	Vol. 718 No.68	ISBN: 9780108468025
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29th March 2010	House of Lords Paper	HL 108	ISBN: 9780108459856
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PIO offers Compiled Legislative Histories



Following the decision in Pepper v Hart [1993] AC 593, if primary legislation is ambiguous or obscure, the courts may, in certain circumstances, take account of statements made in Parliament by Ministers or other promoters of a Bill in construing that legislation.

Previously using Hansard in this way would have been considered a breach of Parliamentary privilege.

The service allows you to easily follow the progress of a United Kingdom Bill as it goes through Parliament from introduction through to enactment and everything in between. Let's take for example the European Union Withdrawal Act 2018, this was made up from 459 publications, our service allows you to quickly and easily view, search and save pages to make your own unique document based on your keywords for a particular Act, including results from all the associated, Hansards, Bills, Public Bill Committees, Lords Papers, PGAs and ENS.

Secondary Legislation



PIO also shows Statutory Instruments, Scottish Statutory Instruments, Northern Ireland Statutory Rules and Welsh SIs, allowing users to view Acts and their amending SIs from 1988 to present. If a user searches for a specific Act on PIO they will be able to view amending legislation in PDF, as illustrated below with the Sentencing Act 2020.



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We add all key non-Parliamentary papers as published.

PIO's archive is constantly evolving, we add content as it is donated - please see a list of material available on PIO:

Army List 1969-2014 Air Force List 1970-2013 Annual Abstract of Statistics 1935-2020 British Imperial Calendar 1939-1973 Civil Service Yearbook 1974-2018 (access to the database to date) HMSO Annual Catalogues 1986-2006 International Agency Catalogues 1986-1996 Navy List 1974-2014 Regional Trends 1974 (No. 1) – 2011 (No. 43) Social Trends 1970 (No. 1) – 2011 (No. 41)





Civil Service Yearbook 1939 to 2018 – you will find all the pdfs on PIO and more recently you will find annual snapshots of the database.

I would like to tell you about the Civil Service Yearbook. In 2018 the Cabinet Office on behalf of the "Infected Blood Inquiry" took out a subscription to PIO because they needed to know who was in government in the 1970s. It is worrying how many government departments have discarded their official publications. We know how valuable our archive is and we are pleased many libraries now rely on it and are no longer having to shelve thousands of bound volumes. Our archive continues to grow, we are constantly being asked to digitise material that is hard to find; most recently old government circulars.





Finally, volume IIs – when there is a HC report this is often backed up by the Oral and Written Evidence on the Parliament website a recent example and hot topic in the UK currently;

Health and Social Care Committee 2nd Report. Assisted Dying/ Assisted Suicide Volume 1. Report

HC 321 published 29th February 2024

Contained the following in 399 single pdfs on the Parliament website:

300 questions

389 written evidences

All available in one fully searchable PDF containing 1701 pages on PIO.



HC 321 Published on 29 February 2024 by authority of the Llouse of Commons

WHAT SETS THIS DATABASE APART?

Features	UK Parliamentary & Government Publications (Public Information Online)	Other Parliamentary Products
Parliamentary coverage	Includes UK, Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Ireland documents	Includes just UK documents
House of Lords Papers/Bills	Coverage from 1901 to current	Coverage from 1800 to 1910
House of Commons Papers	Coverage from 2006/07 to current	Coverage from 18th to 21st centuries
Hansard	Coverage from 1803 to current, scanned directly from bound volumes	Coverage from 1803 to 2005, scanned from freely available XML
Command Papers	\checkmark	Coverage from 1833 to current
Non-Parliamentary material	\checkmark	×
Standing Committee Debates	Dating back to 1919, rare and exclusive to this collection	×
Public General Acts	Dating back to 1900	×
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Finally, I would like to say how thrilled I am to be here today, it is an absolute honour to have partnered with HeinOnline and we really hope our data is now used globally – please remember if you take out a subscription via Hein or Dandy to PIO you will get access via both databases



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