Public Information Online

Be in the Know with PIO

www.publicinformationonline.com
What is Public Information Online . . .

“I am working on my law thesis and need to access the latest statistics on cases involving crime. Where can I go for help?”

“I have an ongoing dispute with a neighbour and need access to the latest legislation on boundaries. Where can I go?”

“As a Public Affairs consultant, I need to ensure that I have the most up to date contact details of key government officials and opinion formers and their stance on various policies. Where can I go for help?”

“As a librarian, I need to ensure that I keep my finger on the pulse when I am asked for up to date parliamentary data. Where do I go for help?”

The short answer is PIO - Public Information Online - the ‘one-stop’ on-line resource from Dandy Booksellers, where everyone can access government information from Westminster, the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland and the Welsh assemblies.

Dandy Booksellers take the hard work out of the equation by researching and collating the relevant [and currently] disparate data from across cyberspace, in every governmental field, into one accessible portal/document. It’s not just current issues we stay abreast of either. One of our core strengths is to ensure that we leave behind a legacy for future generations by continuing to publish every government key document from years gone by.

We supply official and specialist information published by Parliament and the devolved assemblies, government departments and official bodies. All of this data is held on PIO, our virtual library which can also be provided in hard copy if required.

So if you are looking for a credible, accessible, up to date, comprehensive and definitive official government information resource then look no further than PIO from Dandy Booksellers. We aim to meet the needs of everyone from all walks of life and save time, money and effort by being easily accessible at the click of a mouse.

. . . .and why should I subscribe?

• PIO is simple to use, offers you UNLIMITED ACCESS and saves you money
• Comprehensive electronic resource – used by all major academic libraries in the UK as well as The British Library and National Library of Scotland

“The Benefit of Public Information Online is that it offers a “one-stop-shop” for access to the publications of the Scottish Parliament and Government and the Northern Ireland Assembly as well as the UK Parliament at Westminster. This is why the British Library is subscribing to the product for the use of its patrons.”

Jennie Grimshaw, Curator, Official Publications, British Library

“I think it’s excellent. The improvements are great. I particularly like the Bill tracker and the ability to find associated documents.”

Simon Robinson, University of Leeds

• Access many items no longer published in hard copy e.g. Written Evidence Vol. II & Ills
• Contains many key ONS titles only available online as raw Excel data tables – We download hundreds of spreadsheets per title, format them and make them available to you as a complete book in PDF
• Get unlimited user access to the Civil Service Yearbook database
• Updated on the day of publication – no need to wait days for Parliamentary documents
• Government will be putting all their data on the internet, without an online library like PIO, official publications will disappear into cyberspace – PIO will keep them housed all under one roof for perpetuity
• PIO fully supports multi-user access both on and off site via IP address, User name and password, Shibboleth or Library card access

Be in the know with PIO . . . .
Westminster

House of Commons Papers - 2006 onwards
House of Lords Papers - currently 1983 onwards
Command Papers - 2006 onwards
Bill and Bill Amendments - 2006 onwards
Explanatory Notes to Bills - 2006 onwards
Standing and Public Bill Committees - 2006 onwards
Public General Acts (PGAs) - 1988 onwards
PGA Explanatory Notes - 1999 onwards
Amending Statutory Instruments for all UK Acts
House of Commons Daily Hansard - 2008 onwards
House of Lords Daily Hansard - 2008 onwards
Local Acts - 1995 onwards
Church Measures - 1995 onwards
Votes and Proceedings - 2009 onwards

Scottish Parliament

Papers
Bills and Explanatory Notes
Police Memorandums to Bills
Marshalled Lists
Financial Memorandums
Accompanying Documents to Bills
Delegated Powers Memorandums
Groupings
Business Bulletins
Official Reports - Meeting of Parliament
Minutes of Proceedings
Written Answers
Official Reports of Committee Debates
Acts and Explanatory Notes

All Scottish Parliament material is from Session 3 onwards
Northern Ireland Assembly

Papers
Bills
Explanatory and Financial Memorandum
Notices of Amendments
Marshalled Lists
Groupings
Committee Reports
Registers of Members' Interests
Acts and Explanatory Notes
Official Reports Hansard
Official Reports Hansard Written Answers

All Northern Ireland Assembly material is from 2008 onwards

National Assembly for Wales

Measures of the National Assembly for Wales 2008-2011
Mesurau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru 2008-2011
Explanatory Notes to Measures 2008-2011
Nodiadau Esboniadol i'r Mesurau 2008-2011
Acts of the National Assembly for Wales 2012 onwards
Deddfau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru 2012 ymlaen
Explanatory Notes to Acts 2012 onwards
Nodiadau Esboniadol i Ddeddfau 2012 ymlaen

Prior to 2011 Acts of the National Assembly for Wales were called Measures.
These are just some of the topics covered by Scottish Government material:

- Scottish Government Papers
- Housing
- Economy
- Transport
- Public Sector
- Government
- Statistics
- Planning
- Education and Training
- Research
- Law, Order & Public Safety
- Health & Community Care
- People & Society
- Sport
- General
- Rural Development
- Arts & Culture
- Building
- International
- First Minister
- Sustainable Development
- Regeneration
- Tourism

We update PIO daily and know it is impossible to capture everything the government publishes but we hope to offer all of the high profile reports relating to areas such as:

**Education**
- e.g. Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom

**Health**
- e.g. The National Diet and Nutrition Survey; ONS Health Statistics

**Charities**
- e.g. Giving Green Paper Finance, Independent commission on banking. Final report: Recommendations

**Defence**
- e.g. The Army List, The Air Force List, UK Defence Statistics

**Transport**
- e.g. Reported Road Casualties, Transport Statistics
“I need to do a study on the pros and cons of legalising cannabis”
Start by searching Public Information Online for “legalising cannabis”

Result: 41 papers – from all official bodies – now I can choose, do I want results from Westminster, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly, Scottish Government or perhaps look at everything, the context will help me.

I will start on my project and save my search results. I will also sign up for email alerts to ensure if anything else is published in the future I will know.

I will export my results and use abstracts from each one in my final paper.

Interesting question from Paul Flynn to Norman Baker: HC Paper 819 2013-14:

Q213 Paul Flynn: Okay, well, do you still believe in legalising cannabis which you once did? Norman Baker: I think it needs to be considered along with anything else, but that is not my prime objective and I am not advocating it at this particular moment. What I am saying is that there is an international comparison study going on, which is designed to look at all aspects of drug policy across various countries and we should be prepared to follow the evidence—to use that phrase again—and see where it takes us. Can I come back to the three strands of Home Office policy? That is to reduce the demand for drugs, to restrict the supply of drugs and to support individuals recovering from dependence. I fully support those three objectives. The question is how we get to those objectives. How we maximise the return.

I would like to contact Norman Baker to ask how he intends to restrict the supply of drugs if cannabis is legalised – I know, I can look at Civil Service Yearbook for this contact details:
Data Aggregation

More and more key titles are no longer being published in hard copy by government due to costs. The Government are instead releasing them online as raw data.

A prime example of this is ONS material and includes the following:
- Family Spending
- Regional Trends
- Social Trends
- Annual Abstract of Statistics
- United Kingdom Balance of Payments
- United Kingdom National Accounts

These are only available online as raw .csv data tables – The latest Annual Abstract of Statistics data consisted of hundreds of spreadsheets. We take each individual spreadsheet and table, format them, and make them available to you on Public Information Online as a complete book in PDF. These complete PDFs will not exist anywhere else online.

The release of raw data is not limited to ONS titles. Departments such as Transport and Education are also moving in this direction. We believe this trend will continue to grow resulting in the loss of more and more key titles.

Public Information Online will allow a continuation of core government information that will not be available anywhere else.

Added Features

The Public Information Online Bill Tracker allows you to easily follow the progress of a Bill as it goes through Parliament.

- Bills are listed by Parliamentary Session - simply choose the Bill that you want to follow.
- View the documents associated with your Bill.
- Search for keywords.
- Order results chronologically, alphabetically or by type of document.
- Save your search results to use at a later date.
- Sign up to RSS or email alerts to stay completely up to date with new additions to your chosen Bill.

The Civil Service Yearbook

The Civil Service Yearbook is the indispensible directory for anyone who needs to easily find information on the structure, departments and key personnel of the Civil Service.

Subscribers to PIO are given full access to the CSYB’s fully-searchable website.

The website, through its employment of navigation and search tools, ensures that it remains the most effective method of accessing up to date data.
**A Broad and Comprehensive View**

Public Information Online lets you see a whole session’s worth of papers at a glance. For a breadth of view, PIO can display all papers for a single session of a parliament, or you can choose to narrow your focus with our extensive search facilities.

**View whole sessions**
- Public Information Online lets you see a whole session’s worth of papers at a glance.
- For a breadth of view, PIO can display all papers for a single session of a parliament, or you can choose to narrow your focus with our extensive search facilities.

**Extensive Search Facilities**

- **Boolean searches** use AND, OR and NOT to narrow down your search using special terms before your keywords.
  - Search: “housing crisis” AND “credit crunch”
  - Performing single or multiple character wildcard searches.
  - Use fuzzy searches to find words with similar spellings to your query. Very useful for alternate spellings, medical terms or hard-to-spell words. Simply add a “~” to the end of a single search term.
  - A proximity search finds words that are within a specific distance from each other. To do a proximity search use the tilde (~) symbol at the end of a phrase followed by the maximum number of words of separation.

**Daily Updates for All the Parliaments**

- All sections updated daily
- All material available in PDF format
- Majority of PDFs available on the day of hard copy publication
- Content can be supplied at the end of a session for you to hold on your own servers

**Export your search results in a variety of useful formats:** CSV, XLS, XLSX, HTML, PDF, DOC, DOCX or XML

Create your own collection of search results. Access, edit or delete these search results at a later date.

Alerts can be set up by: Parliament, Paper Category, A Particular Bill, Corporate Author
Keep Up-to-Date

Public General Acts and SI Linking
After the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, what next?
PIO doesn’t just stop at the Act.

PIO allows you to see at a glance whether any Act dating back to 1988 has been amended by Statutory instruments.

A list of amending SIs is shown against each Act, with a link to view or download the SI.

You can easily see on just one page the progress of the legislation from Bill to Act to Amending SIs.

Standards Compliant

Search and Discovery Services
You can now include PIO in the simultaneous search of your multiple online databases or web resources

PIO is Federated Search Compliant
To enable you to incorporate PIO in your federated searching, we have implemented an SRU interface which can be accessed at:
www.publicinformationonline.com/sru/

PIO has been successfully integrated into the following popular search and discovery solutions:
- Primo Central
- Ex Libris Summon
- Serials Solutions Discover
- Ebsco

Metadata and XML
PIO provides the full set of 15 simple Dublin Core metadata elements for every document listed in the database. The simple Dublin Core Metadata Element Set consists of the following elements: Title, Creator, Subject, Date, Description, Publisher, Contributor, Type, Format, Identifier, Language, Source, Relation, Coverage & Rights.

We have an XML file that contains the same Dublin Core Metadata elements (with the addition of subject index terms for Westminster papers) for every document listed in PIO. The XML file is available on request for you to use.

PIO uses Parliamentary Search records which follow the House of Commons Thesaurus. These records are produced by full-time cataloguers at the House of Commons Library in London

Subject Records
Over 5000 Subject Categories allows users to narrow down searches into relevant subject areas, including:
- Health
- Employment
- Education
- Law
- Income Tax
Saves Money… and The Environment

Secure for the Future

Hard Copy Value of Papers on PIO

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<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Value (£)</th>
<th>No. of Papers</th>
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Saves Money
Cost of hard copy is 5 times greater per Session than a subscription to PIO

Current Subscription Rate £6365
Special Arts Council England rate for Public Libraries £4500

Save Time
No need to spend time receipting and managing Parliamentary material

Save Space
Keep abreast of ALL Parliamentary Papers without having to find shelf space for them.

Environmental Benefits
A subscription to PIO can help you to reduce your carbon footprint:
- No Paper
- No Printing
- No Transportation

Multi-User Access
PIO fully supports multi-user access
- Shibboleth - UK Access Management Federation
- IP Address
- User name and password
- Library Card Access

Safeguarding the Past
PIO is committed to maintaining a viable archive of official documents for future users and, to this end, not only creates future-proofed copies of all new documents, but has embarked on a programme of archiving historic documents, starting with House of Lords papers.

The highest quality scans are produced to ensure compatibility with future standards.

Looking to the Future
PIO adapts to new technologies and new ways of working.
Our adaptive interface makes it easy to access using popular mobile devices.
PIO stays abreast of the latest developments in new standards and formats to provide the best possible user experience.

Listening to Your Needs
We are always keen to hear from you about how we can improve PIO as a valuable resource for you and your library users. All of our recent changes to the site have been driven by feedback from our customers and future developments will likewise respond to or anticipate our customers’ needs.

If you would like to provide feedback, please contact us using the details on the back of the brochure.