

## Public Sector News

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*Logging public spending information; a single website for legislation.*

### Public spending information

The last day of December 2010 was the deadline set by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, for local authorities to publish all expenditure over £500. By the 28 January 2011 the Local Government Association reported that 276 out of 353 local authorities had achieved publication with a further 38 intending to have their figures in place by the very end of January.

### Legislation

[www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) was launched last July as the 'single unified service' to replace the Office for Public Sector Information website and the Statute Law Database' and makes access to legislation much easier. The site brings legislation together and I thought it would be worth summarizing here what it covers.

- All **enacted** legislation and associated documents from 1988 onwards

- All **revised** primary legislation from the SLD website which was at least partly in force at the SLD 'base dates' i.e. 1 February 1991 for UK statutes or 1 January 2006 for Northern Ireland statutes. (Revised legislation has been taken from Statutes in Force for the UK and The Northern Ireland Statutes Revised.)
- **Welsh Language Legislation**
- **Draft Statutory Instruments**
- **'More Resources'** tab provides access to associated documents such as a pdf of the original
- **'Changes to Legislation'** provides access to lists detailing changes made to all legislation enacted from 2002 onwards. Changes made before 2002 have been incorporated into the content. It allows users to see how legislation stands currently even when 'effects' have not yet been incorporated into the text of the legislation. This is provided through a drop down list showing outstanding effects which were previously known as *Tables of Legislative Effects*.

- **Scope.** The legislation covers England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland including the devolved assemblies
- A **'dashboard'** is provided to enable users to keep abreast of new legislation.
- **'Historical Timeline'** enables users to see how provisions have changed over time.
- **'Point of Time searching'** is a feature of the Advanced Search and allows users to see a whole Act as it stood at a specific point in time.
- The homepage provides quick links to new legislation, **FAQs** and the **Most Requested Acts**.

*services to local authority staff and elected members. Jane Inman is currently Chair of ALGIS. ALGIS welcomes anyone with an interest in public-sector information who feels they would benefit from being part of a community working in the same area. For more information go to [www.algis.org.uk](http://www.algis.org.uk).*

Legislation is updated as quickly as possible but it may take a couple of weeks for new legislation to be incorporated.

Free and easy to use access to the UK Statute Book has been a long time coming and it is a delight to see the developments over the last couple of years.

**And finally...**were you one of the 3000 people who filed their tax return on line on Christmas Day and Boxing Day? This was increase of a third over 2009!

*Public Sector News is supplied by ALGIS in LARIA (The Affiliation of Local Government Information Specialists in the Local Authority Research and Intelligence Association) which represents information professionals providing information*