

## **Guide to Case Notes**

This guide is meant to help you write your Case Note, though it is just a guide and we will consider any form of submission. If you have any more queries, then do get in touch.

Once you have completed your draft, please submit it to [mail@lucidlaw.co.uk](mailto:mail@lucidlaw.co.uk)

### Why write a case note

A core aim of Lucid Law is to give young people an opportunity to publish written work. We decided that publishing case notes gives us the best chance to publish as many people's work as possible, whilst also giving readers useful insights to the law.

Here's just a few reasons why you should get writing a case note:

- 1) It looks great on a CV, and provides an excellent topic of conversation in interviews.
- 2) The chance to share your ideas, and contribute to the wider legal debate.
- 3) Practice writing critical pieces of work, invaluable for any examination or submission
- 4) Seeing your picture next to a piece of work can be great for your confidence.
- 5) Relatively, it does not require that much time.

### Choosing a case

Once you've decided you want to write a note, the most important task you have is choosing the right case to write about. Choosing the right case can be the difference in making your case note great.

When we assess your note, the most important thing we look for is strong analysis - we're looking for notes which make an interesting point about the case, or provide an interesting perspective to view the case from.

The best way to choose a case is to think what case you feel passionately about. It might be that you always rant to your friends about a single case, or maybe just one judgement from a case; you might find a case interesting enough to bring up with friends who don't study law; it might just be that you instantly form an opinion of a case after reading it - these are all great guides that that is the right case for you.

It is not important when the case was written. Whilst we love notes about recent cases, we're building a pool of case notes from scratch and so need historical notes to avoid a big gap in our collection! Writing a historic note might give you more flexibility: you can choose whether to write as if at the time, offer a historical perspective, or assess whether the case remains important today.

### The write up

It is very important to think carefully about the point you're trying to make, and how you can best get this point across.

Whilst you might adapt or your writing style, we do suggest you adopt this broad structure in order to make it as clear as possible:

- 1) Set the scene: introduce the issue of law, the context it applies, or even why the case is interesting - in effect, grab the reader's attention.
- 2) Introduce the facts of the case.
- 3) Explain the issue (of fact or law), including maybe why the case is or continues to be relevant.
- 4) Outline the Court's reasoning. Whilst we place the most emphasis on your analysis, it is important that you set the scene by explaining what was actually decided. It might be appropriate to differentiate the different Judges, include quotes, or reference specific paragraphs or pages of the judgement.
- 5) Your analysis.
- 6) Conclusion.

It may be useful to use sub-headings to split up each of these sections.

As a general rule, we like the '1 point per paragraph' rule (and that rule applies equally to sentences). We expect your paragraph(s) on the reasoning and analysis to be the longest.

Finally, in terms of length, we suggest that the notes should be between 1,000 to 1,200 words. This is only a guide, and we accept submissions of any length - however, we may turn around and ask you to lengthen or shorten the piece as appropriate.

Once you have finished your draft, please send it to [mail@lucidlaw.co.uk](mailto:mail@lucidlaw.co.uk)

#### What happens after submission

One of our editors will read your note and decide whether to accept/reject it. The note will be assessed with the following in mind: 1) strength of analysis, 2) novelty of point(s), 3) clarity of argument/writing style, and 4) the importance and relevance of the point(s) being made. We will try to be as extensive as we can with our comments to help you with future submissions.

It is likely that we will respond with comments on how to improve the note, and then work with you to get the note to a publishable standard.

#### After publication

Your work will now be available on the internet for the whole world to see! We actively encourage you to share it via your LinkedIn and other social media sites - the articles with the most views will pop up in the 'most popular' bar on the side of our pages!

Once you have done one case note and have it published, why not write another? There's no limit on how many notes you can have published, if it's good enough, we'll put it up!