

Leading Cases in Constitutional and Administrative Law

Fifth Edition

O. Hood Phillips

Sweet & Maxwell

LEADING CASES IN CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

by

O. HOOD PHILLIPS
Q.C., D.C.L., M.A. (OXON.), J.P.

*Emeritus Professor of Jurisprudence
and formerly Dean of the Faculty of Law
in the University of Birmingham*

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PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

SOME rearrangement of the material has been made to help the student to find the context and background of the cases in the new edition of my textbook on *Constitutional and Administrative Law* without the need for specific cross-references. On the other hand, of course, this book can be used together with any other textbooks on the same subject.

The treatment of each case: (i) indicates the court in which the decision was given, the names of the judges and whether any dissented, and the previous or subsequent course of the litigation; (ii) summarises the facts concisely but with sufficient detail to arouse the student's interest and assist his memory; and (iii) gives a verbatim extract—more or less complete—from one judgment, so that the reader may follow the process of judicial reasoning from the facts to conclusion. In some cases shorter extracts have also been included from other judgments, including dissenting opinions.

There are no headnotes. However skilful one may be in putting into three lines what the House of Lords takes 30 pages to say, the result is liable to mislead. The student should learn to extract the *ratio decidendi* for himself. There may be more than one in a given case. He should be aware, in particular, that it is not necessarily the statement of principle that may be contained in the judge's opinion. "It is always a little dangerous," as Greer L.J. said in *Monk v. Warbey* [1935] 1 K.B. 75, "to pick out one or two observations from a long judgment and treat them as if they necessarily afforded the *ratio decidendi* of the case." Guidance may, of course, be obtained from the editorial headings and subheadings, though the classification adopted is based on convenience of exposition, and one case may cover several different matters.

Since I have written extensively on this subject elsewhere, the notes are kept to a minimum. They are intended primarily to advise the reader of changes in the law since the decision was given, or of the limits of the decision concerned. Space has thereby been found for full judgments from about 100 cases.

An apologia for case books is not called for on this occasion. My experience leads me to believe that some teachers exaggerate the risk that a case book may deter students from reading the law reports. A book of this kind should be both a guide and a stimulus to the reading of full reports. A warning, however, should be given against overlooking the importance of statutes, in this branch of the law as in others. To these the textbooks will usually be the student's first introduction. Even as regards the case law, the reader may profitably consider how many

of the decisions contained in this book turn on the interpretation of statutes.

Twenty-five cases have been newly included in this edition, most of them decided since the last edition was published; and 20 cases have been omitted as rendered obsolete by statute or judicial decisions or superseded by better authority, or because it was decided to discard the section on the Commonwealth. *Attorney-General for New South Wales v. Trethewan*, however, is retained and has been transferred to section 1. Among the cases appearing for the first time may be mentioned:—*Pickin v. British Railways Board*; *E. Coomes (Holdings) Ltd. v. Shields*; *Laker Airways v. Department of Trade*; *Sirros v. Moore*; *Gouriet v. Union of Post Office Workers*; *Bulmer v. Bollinger*; *Congreve v. Home Office*; *Metropolitan Properties Co. v. Lannon*; *Anns v. Merton London Borough Council*; *Secretary of State for Education and Science v. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council*; *R. v. Liverpool Corporation, ex p. Liverpool Taxi Fleet Operators' Association*; *R. v. Secretary of State for the Environment, ex p. Ostler*; and *R. v. Lewes Justices, ex p. Home Secretary*. The notes of some of the cases retained from the last edition have been revised.

Although this remains a casebook, I have thought it helpful to students to insert extracts from the European Communities Act 1972 and the new Rules of the Supreme Court concerning applications for judicial review of administrative action.

Professor David Yardley and Professor Paul Jackson kindly answered my request for advice about cases to be introduced or discarded. If not all of their suggestions were accepted it was for reasons which, after careful consideration, seemed good to me. If I was mistaken, the responsibility is mine.

I would like to take this opportunity, also, to express my sincere thanks to Miss Mary Blake, and to her colleagues from time to time on the staff of the former Law Faculty Library and the present Harding Law Library at Birmingham University, for all the expert help they have so cheerfully and patiently given me in my researches and writings over the last 25 years.

Acknowledgements are due to the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting and the proprietors of the *All England Law Reports*, the *Law Times Reports*, the *Times Law Reports*, the *Scots Law Times*, the *Criminal Appeal Reports*, the *Criminal Law Review* and the *Industrial Relations Law Reports* for permission to publish extracts from their reports; and also to the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office for permission to publish extracts from the statutes and statutory instruments.

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