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VIVIENNE HARPWOOD

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Seventh Edition

Vivienne Harpwood



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MODERN TORT LAW

Seventh Edition

Modern Tort Law is a comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date introduction to the law of tort. Now in its seventh edition, Vivienne Harpwood's popular, student-friendly text explains the principles of all aspects of tort law in a lively and thought-provoking manner. The broad coverage of modern tort law makes this an ideal textbook for any undergraduate tort law course.

Students are encouraged to understand and apply the principles of tort law effectively throughout, and particular attention is paid to the context within which the law is evolving, making these topics both accessible and enjoyable.

This seventh edition has been revised and updated to take into account developments since publication of the previous edition including in the areas of privacy, negligence, personal injury and defamation. Human Rights issues are integrated throughout the text rather than treating the topic in isolation, in line with the way the subject is commonly taught.

Now more accessible and student-friendly, it includes:

- advice on further reading at the end of each chapter which is intended to point students towards sources of further study and critical debate
- new chapter introductions, rewritten to reflect learning outcomes.

Modern Tort Law is now supported by a Companion Website which offers lecturer resources available to adopters of the book, including 'think points' designed to encourage reflection and debate and PowerPoints of diagrams and flowcharts contained within the text. A dedicated student section also offers weblinks, a flashcard glossary and a test bank of multiple choice questions.

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Vivienne Harpwood is Professor of Law and Course Director for the LLM degree at Cardiff Law School. She lectures and publishes widely in the fields of tort and medical law, and her main research interests are general aspects of the law of tort, clinical negligence and the institutional framework of healthcare.

PREFACE

Tort is a broad church and many hymns, ancient and modern, can be heard within it. It is an ideal subject for undergraduate study because it shows how the law develops and responds to changing social and economic conditions. The origins of tort can be traced to the early years of the last millennium and it has survived to enter this millennium while still undergoing a process of evolution. Jurisprudentially, it is intriguing because it demonstrates the shifting boundaries of judicial creativity. All the traditional subject matter of tort is analysed here in detail but particular emphasis is placed on exploration of complex and contentious areas and topics which students find perplexing.

This seventh edition updates the material in the previous edition in the light of recent developments in this fast moving area of law. There is discussion of numerous cases decided at appellate level, including those concerning duty of care, liability for psychiatric injury, breach of duty, quantum and occupiers' liability, as well as other mainstream areas of tort studied on undergraduate and professional courses. Developments concerning the effects of the Human Rights Act 1998 on the law of tort are also discussed. The substantive law is set in the context of the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, changes in the availability of public funding and other institutional and social changes. The book is carefully structured and has been updated with the student very much in mind.

This book is the product of many years of lecturing and tutoring tort and would not have been possible without the stimulus and encouragement of colleagues and students too numerous to mention.

Vivienne Harpwood 2008

TABLE OF CASES

A, B and Others v Leeds Teaching Hospital & Another [2004] EWHC 644	29, 48, 366
A & B v Essex County Council [2003] EWCA Civ 1848; [2002] EWHC 2707 (QB); [2003] 1 FLR 615; [2004] 1 WLR 1881	30, 51, 64, 113, 125
A v B Hospitals NHS Trust [2006] EWHC 1178 (QB)	441
A v B plc [2002] EWCA Civ 307	413
A v Hoare; C v Middlesbrough Council; X v Wandsworth LBC; H v Suffolk County Council; Young v Catholic Care [2008] UKHL 6	62, 119, 313, 361, 492, 493
A v National Blood Authority [2001] 3 All ER 289	344, 346
A v United Kingdom [1998] 2 FLR 959	306
Abbahall v Smee [2002] EWCA Civ 1831	256
AD v Bury Metropolitan Borough Council [2006] EWCA Civ 1	117
AD v East Kent Community NHS Trust [2002] EWCA Civ 1872	445
Adams v Rhymney Valley DC (2000) 150 NLJ 1231	155
Addie (Robert) & Sons (Collieries) Ltd v Dumbreck [1929] All ER 1	215, 216
Ahanonu v South East London & Kent Bus Co Ltd (23/01/2008)	141–2
Aiken v Stewart Wrightson Members Agency Ltd [1995] 1 WLR 1281	30, 81
Alcock v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police [1992] 1 AC 310; [1991] 4 All ER 907	38, 42, 44, 45, 46–8, 50, 54, 59, 63, 64, 68, 69, 329
Alexander and Others v Midland Bank plc [2000] ICR 464	324
Alexander v Arts Council for Wales [2001] 1 WLR 1840	390
Alexandrou v Oxford [1993] 4 All ER 328	100, 101, 105
Allason v Campbell (1996) The Times, 8 May	403
Allen v Bloomsbury HA [1993] 1 All ER 651	448
Allen v Gulf Oil Refining Ltd [1981] 1 AC 1001	249, 269
Allied Maples Group Ltd v Simmons and Simmons [1995] 1 WLR 1602	171, 173, 446
Allin v City and Hackney HA [1996] 7 Med LR 167	48, 70
Allsop v Church of England Newspaper Ltd [1972] 2 QB 161	378
American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon [1975] AC 396	464
Ancell v McDermott and Another [1993] 2 QB 161; [1993] 4 All ER 355	30, 99, 101, 105
Anchor Brewhouse Developments Ltd and Others v Berkley House (Docklands Developments) [1987] 38 BLR 82; (1987) 284 EG 625	233
Anderson v Bryan (2000) unreported, 16 June	234
Anderson v Davis [1993] PIQR 87	446
Andrews and Others v Secretary of State for Health (2000) 54 BMLR 111	58
Andrews v Schooling [1991] 3 All ER 723	227
Aneco Reinsurance Underwriting Ltd v Johnson and Higgins Ltd [2001] UKHL 51	85
Anns v Merton BC [1978] AC 728	30, 88, 89, 92, 100, 121, 225
Appleton v El Safty [2007] EWHC 631 (QB)	447
Appleton v Garrett [1996] PIQR 1	307
Archer (Jeffrey) v The Star (1987) unreported	383
Armstrong v Cottrell [1993] PIQR P109, CA	138

Arnott (Raymond and Sheila) v United Kingdom Application no. 44866/98 3 October 2000	414
Arscott v The Coal Authority [2004] EWCA Civ 892	9, 254
Arthur v Anker [1995] QB 564	235, 366
Ashdown v Samuel Williams & Sons Ltd [1957] 1 QB 409	212
Ashton v Turner [1981] QB 137	483
Associated Provincial Picture Houses v Wednesbury Corpn [1948] 1 KB 223, [1947] 2 All ER 680	405
Atkins v Seghal [2003] EWCA Civ 697	58–9, 70
Atkinson v Croydon Corpn (1938) unreported	192
Attia v British Gas [1987] 3 All ER 455	45, 46, 279
Attorney General of Ontario v Orange (1971) 21 DLR 257	243
Attorney General v Corke [1933] Ch 89	273
Attorney General v Cory Bros [1921] 1 AC 521	277
Attorney General v Guardian Newspapers (No 2) [1990] 1 AC 109	408, 412, 416
Attorney General v Hastings Corpn (1950) SJ 225	244
Attorney General v Observer Newspaper & Others (<i>Spycatcher</i> case) [1987] 1 WLR 1248	399, 411
Attorney General v PYA Quarries [1957] 2 QB 169	243, 244
Austin and Another v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis [2007] EWCA Civ 989	301, 302, 313
Australian Broadcasting Corporation v Lenah Game Meats Ltd (2001) 208 CLR 199	412
Re B (A Minor) (Wardship: Medical Treatment) [1981] 1 WLR 1421	477
Re B (A Minor) (Wardship, Sterilisation) [1987] 2 WLR 1213	309
B & Q plc v Liverpool and Lancashire Properties Ltd [2000] 1 EGLR 92	259
B v An NHS Hospital Trust [2002] EWCA 429	307, 477
B v Croydon District HA (1994) 22 BMLR 13	308
B v Reading Borough Council and Others [2007] EWCA Civ 1313; <i>The Times</i> , December 27, 2007	118
BA v Tameside & Glossop HA (1997) 35 BMLR 79	48
Babbings v Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council [2004] EWCA Civ 1431	156
Badger v MoD [2005] EWHC 2941 (QB)	469
Bailey v Asplin (2000) unreported	219
Baker v James Bros [1921] 2 KB 674	326
Baker v Willoughby [1970] AC 467	168–9
Balfour v Barty-King [1957] 1 All ER 156	279, 319
Ball v Street [2005] EWCA Civ 76	190, 336
Ballard, Stewart-Park and Findlay v Metropolitan Police Comr (1983) 113 NLJ Law Rep 1133	300, 312
Ballard v Tomlinson (1885) 29 Ch D 115	266
Banks v Ablex Ltd [2005] EWCA Civ 173	353
Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd [1995] 2 All ER 769	184
Barber v Somerset County Council [2004] UKHL 13; [2004] 2 All ER 385; [2002] EWCA Civ 76	51, 66, 183, 330–1, 332
Barker v Corus [2006] UKHL 20	173
Barker v Saint-Gobain Pipelines plc [2004] EWCA Civ 545	173

Barnes v Nayer (1986) <i>The Times</i> , 19 December	306
Barnet v Chelsea and Kensington Hospital Management Committee [1969] 1 QB 428	109, 139, 162–3
Barrett v London Borough of Enfield (1998) 8 PIQR; [2001] 2 AC 550	30, 120, 121, 125, 126, 190, 247
Barrett v Ministry of Defence [1995] 3 All ER 87	140, 453
Barry v Ablere Construction (Midlands) Ltd [2001] EWCA Civ 433	433
Barwick v Joint Stock Bank (1867) LR 2 Ex 259	363
Basely v Clarkson (1681) 3 LEV 37	486
Batty v Metropolitan Property Realisations [1978] QB 554	88–9
Bayley v MSL Rly Co (1873) LR 8 CP 148	361
Beard v London General Omnibus Co [1900] 2 QB 530	362
Beary v Pall Mall Investments [2005] EWCA Civ 415	168
Beaton v Devon CC [2002] EWCA Civ 1675	209
Beaulane Properties Ltd v Palmer [2005] EWHC 25 (Ch D)	239
Beaumont v Surrey CC (1968) 66 LGR 580	156
Beech v Freeson [1972] 1 QB 14	393
Behrens v Bertram Mills Circus [1957] 1 All ER 583	292
Bennett v NHS Litigation Authority (2001)	151
Bernstein v Skyviews and General Ltd [1978] QB 479	233
Best v Staffordshire University; Wheeldon v HSBC Bank Ltd [2004] EWCA Civ 06	332
Bici v Ministry of Defence [2004] EWHC 786 (QB)	305, 360
Biesheuvel v Birrell (1998) unreported	471
Billings (AC) & Sons Ltd v Riden [1958] AC 240	223
Birch v Mills [1995] 9 CL 354	284
Bird v Holbrook (1828) 4 Bing 628	305
Bird v Jones (1848) 7 QB 742	302
Black v Davies [2004] EWHC 885 QB	86
Blackburn v ARC Ltd [1998] Env LR 469	255
Blake v Galloway [2004] EWCA Civ 814	139
Bland v Airedale NHS Trust [1993] AC 789	449
Bland v Morris [2005] EWHC 71 (QB)	143
Bliss v Hall (1838) 4 Bing NC 183	259
Bluck v Information Commissioner [2007] 98 BMLR 10	412, 417
Bluett v Suffolk County Council [2004] EWCA Civ 1707	113, 120
Blythe v Birmingham Waterworks (1865) 11 Ex 781	130
Blythe v Bloomsbury HA [1987] 5 PN 167	307
Bolam v Friern Hospital Management Committee (1957) 101 SJ 357; [1957] 2 All ER 118	109, 143–4, 145, 147, 148, 307, 310, 326, 482
Bolitho v City and Hackney HA [1992] PIQR P334; (1997) 39 BMLR 1, HL; [1997] 4 All ER 771	145–50, 152, 167, 168, 307, 310, 482
Bolton v Stone [1951] AC 850	132, 265
Bolwell v Redcliffe Homes [1999] PIQR P243	359

Bone v Searle [1975] 1 All ER 787	259
Bonnick v Morris and Another [2002] UKPC 31	376
Bonnington Castings v Wardlaw [1956] 1 All ER 615	170
Bottomley v Banister [1932] 1 KB 458	224
Bottomley v Todmorden Cricket Club [2003] EWCA Civ 1574	213
Bourgoin SA v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food [1986] QB 716	197
Bourhill v Young [1943] AC 92	43, 62, 68, 182
Bower v Peate (1876) 1 QBD 321	320
Bowlit v Clark [2006] EWCA Civ 978	287
Boyle and Others v McDonalds Restaurants Ltd [2002] EWHC 490	345
Bradburn v Great Western Railway Co (1874) LR 10 Exch 1	426, 436
Bradburn v Lindsay [1983] 2 All ER 408	258
Bradford Corp v Pickles [1895] AC 587	9, 125, 257
Bradford v Robinson Rentals [1967] 1 All ER 267	181
Bradford-Smart v West Sussex CC [2002] EWCA Civ 7	59, 66, 126
Brady v Warren [1900] 2 IR 632	284
BRB (Residency) Ltd v Cully (2001) WL 1476357	239
Brennan v Airtours plc (1999) The Times, 1 February	468–9
Brett v Lewisham London Borough Council (1999) unreported	196
Brice v Brown [1984] 1 All ER 997	43
Bridlington Relay v Yorkshire Electricity Board [1965] 1 All ER 264	260
Brigham (Rupert St John Loftus) v London Borough of Ealing [2003] EWCA Civ 1490	266
Briody v St Helen's and Knowsley HA [2002] 2 WLR 394, [2001] EWCA Civ 1010	439–40
Bristol and West Building Society v Fancy and Jackson [1997] 4 All ER 582	156
British Celanese v Hunt (Capacitators) Ltd [1969] 2 All ER 749	252
British Rlys Board v Herrington [1972] 1 All ER 749	216, 217, 259
British Road Services v Slater [1964] 1 All ER 816	248
British Telecommunications plc v James Thomson & Sons (Engineers) Ltd [1999] 1 WLR 9	353
British Transport Commission v Gourley [1956] AC 185	434
Britt v Galmoye (1928) 44 TLR 294	359
Broadly v Guy Clapham and Co [1994] 4 All ER 439	490
Brock v Frenchay Healthcare Trust (1999) unreported	167–8
Brogan v UK (1989) 11 EHRR 117	312
Brooks v Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police [2005] UKHL 24	97, 103, 296
Brooks v Home Office [1999] 2 FLR 33	143
Broome v Cassell & Co Ltd [1971] 2 QB 354	370, 424
Brown v National Coal Board [1962] 1 All ER 81	195
Bryanston Finance v De Vries [1975] QB 703	393
Bryant v Harvey [2005] EWCA Civ 762	293
Bubbins v United Kingdom (Application number 50196/99)	108

Buchan v Ortho Pharmaceuticals (Canada) Ltd (1986) 25 DLR (4th) 658	342
Buck & Others v Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust [2006] EWCA Civ 1576	326
Budd v Colchester BC [1999] Env LR 739	285
Bulli Coal Mining Co v Osborne [1899] AC 351	234
Bunker v Charles Brand & Sons Ltd [1969] 2 QB 480	214
Burdett v Dahill (2002) unreported	51
Burgin v Sheffield County Council [2005] EWCA Civ 253	491
Burton v Winters [1993] 1 WLR 1077, [1993] 3 All ER 847	271
Butterfield v Forrester (1908) 11 East 60	467
Bybrook Barn Garden Centre Ltd v Kent CC [2001] BLR 55	252
Byrne v Deane [1937] 1 KB 818	375, 378
 Re C (a child) (immunisation: parental rights); Re F (a child) (immunisation: parental rights), The Times, 31 July 2003	309
Re C (Adult: Refusal of Medical Treatment) [1994] 1 WLR 290	307
C v D and Another [2006] EWHC 166 (QB)	314, 361
C v Middlesbrough Council [2004] EWCA Civ 1746	492, 493
Calscione v Dixon (1993) 19 BMLR 97	59
Calvey and Others v Chief Constable of Merseyside Police [1989] AC 1228	105
Calvert v Gardiner [2002] EWHC 1394 QB	252, 355
Cambridge Water Co Ltd v Eastern Counties Leather plc [1994] 2 WLR 53; [1994] 2 AC 264	227, 265, 266, 275, 276, 277–8
Caminer v Northern and London Investment Trust Ltd [1951] AC 88	248
Campbell v Mirror Group Newspaper Ltd [2004] UKHL 22; [2004] 2 AC 457	8, 397, 400, 407, 408, 410, 411, 413, 415, 416, 417
Campbell v Paddington Corp'n [1911] 1 KB 869	245
Candler v Crane, Christmas & Co [1951] 2 KB 164	74
Caparo Industries plc v Dickman [1990] 2 WLR 358; (1990) 2 AC; (1990) BC 164; [1990] 2 AC 605	21, 28, 29, 40, 64, 76, 77–9, 80, 93, 114, 115, 123, 125, 128, 184, 190, 258, 442
Capital and Counties Bank plc v Hampshire CC [1997] 2 All ER 865	124
Capital and Counties Bank v Henty (1882) 7 App Cas 741	377
Carmichael v National Power [1999] 1 WLR 2042	355
Carmichele v Minister of Safety and Security (2001) 12 BHRC 60	103
Carroll v Fearon [1988] PIQR P46	347
Carter v Basildon & Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2007] EWHC 1882 (QB)	163
Carty v Croydon London Borough Council [2005] EWCA Civ 19	119, 126
Carver v Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's Special HA (2000) unreported	151
Cassell & Co v Broome [1972] 1 All ER 801	250, 398
Cassidy v Daily Mirror [1929] 2 KB 331	378–9
Cassidy v Minister of Health [1951] 1 All ER 575	158, 356
Cassidy v Railtrack plc (2002) unreported, 17 October	86

Castle v Saint Augustine's Links (1922) 38 TLR 615	245
Castorina v Chief Constable of Surrey [1988] NLJ 180	312
Caswell v Powell Duffryn Collieries Ltd [1940] AC 152	198
Cavalier v Pope [1906] AC 428	224
CC v AB [2006] EWHC 3083 (QB)	417
CC v AB [2006] EWHC 3183	413
Century Insurance Co Ltd v Northern Ireland Transport Board [1942] AC 509	361
Chadwick v British Transport Commissioners [1967] 1 WLR 19; [1967] 1 WLR 912	39, 44, 53, 68, 476
Chalk v Devizes Reclamation Co Ltd (1999) unreported	324
Chapman v Barking and Dagenham LBC [1998] CLY 4053	248
Chappell v Hart (1998) 195 CLR 232	153–4, 164
Chapronière v Mason (1905) 21 TLR 633	158
Charleston v News Group Newspapers Ltd [1995] 2 All ER 313	384–5
Chatterton v Gerson [1981] 1 All ER 257	307
Chatterton v Secretary of State for India [1895] 2 QB 189	390
Chaudhry v Prabhakar [1988] 3 All ER 718	75
Chauhan v Paul (1998) unreported	288
Chester v Afshar [2004] 4 All ER 587; [2004] UKHL 41	7, 9, 24, 34, 150, 152–3, 163, 175, 307, 482
Cheung v Southwark London Borough Council Ch D 19/12/2007	244, 262
Chief Constable of Lincolnshire v Stubbs [1999] IRLR 81	359
Chief Constable of West Yorkshire v Schofield (1998) 43 BMLR 28; [1999] 1 ICR 193	49, 51, 69
Chipchase v British Titan Products Co Ltd [1956] 1 QB 545	193
Chittock v Woodbridge School [2002] EWCA Civ 915	126
Christie v Davey [1893] 1 Ch 316	257
Clare v Roderick Perry [2005] EWCA Civ 39	214
Clark v Chief Constable of Cleveland Constabulary (1999) The Times, 13 May	425
Clarke v Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police (1999) The Times, 14 June	98
Clayton v Deane (1817) Taunt 489	215
Cleese v Associated Newspapers Ltd [2003] EWHC 137	382
Clift and Another v Welsh Office [1999] 1 WLR 796	253
Clough v Bassan [1990] 1 All ER 431	99
Clunis v Camden and Islington HA [1998] 3 All ER 180; [1998] QB 978	111, 192–3, 484, 485
Cole v Davis-Gilbert & Ors [2007] EWCA Civ 396	209–10
Cole v Turner (1704) 6 Mod 149	299
Colle v Chief Constable of Hertfordshire [2007] EWCA Civ 325	362
Colledge v Bass, Mitchells and Butlers Ltd [1988] 1 All ER 536	437
Collingwood v Home and Colonial Stores [1936] 3 All ER 200	280
Collins v Renison (1754) 1 Say 138	238
Collins v Wilcock [1984] 3 All ER 374	301
Commission v UK (1997) unreported	349

Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis v Lennon [2004] EWCA Civ 130	76, 81
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Thompson (1998) QB 498	406, 424, 425
Commissioners of Customs & Excise v Barclays Bank plc [2004] EWHC 122; [2006] UKHL 28	30, 76, 77
Commonwealth v McLean (1977) 41 NSWLR 389	39
Condon v Basi [1985] 2 All ER 453	306
Condon v Condon [1978] RTR 483	471
Conneely (A Minor) v Redbridge and Waltham Forest NHS Trust (1999) Lawtel, 11 January	460
Connor v Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire (1984) The Times, 11 April	300
Cook v Bradford Community NHS Trust [2002] EWCA Civ 1616	325
Cooke v United Bristol Health Care and Others [2003] EWCA Civ 1370	433–4
Cookson v Knowles [1979] AC 556	431, 433, 454
Cope v Sharpe [1912] 1 KB 496	487
Corby Litigants v Corby BC [2008] EWCA Civ 463	245
Cornwell v Daily Mail (1989) unreported	376
Corpn of Manchester v Farnworth [1930] AC 171	269
Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13; [2006] EWCA Civ 331	182, 196, 326, 470
Cosmos v BBC (1976) unreported	376
Cowan v Chief Constable for Avon and Somerset Constabulary [2001] EWCA Civ 1699; (2002) HLR 830	102, 105
Cowley v Cheshire & Merseyside Strategic Health Authority [2007] EWHC 48 (QB)	149
Cox v Rolls Royce Industrial Power (India) Ltd [2007] EWCA Civ 1189	173
Crawford v Charing Cross Hospital (1983) The Times, 8 December	149
Crocker v British Coal Corpn (1996) 29 BMLR 159	59
Cross v Kirby (2000) The Times, 5 April	239, 484
Crossley v Rawlinson [1981] 3 All ER 674	181
Crown River Cruises Ltd v Kimbolton Fireworks Ltd and Another [1996] 2 Lloyd's Rep 533	165, 252–3, 259–60, 275, 277, 279
Cullen v Chief Constable of Royal Ulster Constabulary [2003] 1 WLR 1763	188
Cullin and Others v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority [1999] PIQR P314	51
Cummings v Grainger [1977] QB 397	288, 289, 290
Cunningham v Essex CC (2000) WL 1274149	375
Cunningham v Harrison [1973] QB 942	427
Curtis v Betts [1990] 1 WLR 459, [1990] 1 All ER 769	287, 288
Cutler v United Dairies [1933] 2 KB 297	476
Cutler v Wandsworth Stadium Ltd [1949] AC 398	189, 191
D and F Estates v Church Comrs [1988] 2 All ER 992	90
Dakhyl v Labouchère [1908] 2 KB 325	395
Danby v Beardsley (1840) 43 LT 603	404
Dann v Hamilton [1939] 1 KB 509	472, 474
Darby v National Trust [2001] EWCA Civ 189	211

Darling v Attorney General [1950] 2 All ER 793	319
Davies v Health and Safety Executive [2002] EWCA Crim 2949	187
Davies v Mann (1842) 10 M & W 546	468
Davis v Stena Line [2005] EWHC 420 (QB)	131
Day v Suffolk County Council [2007] EWCA Civ 1436	195, 247
Dayani v Bromley LBC [2001] BLR 503	271
De Keyser's Royal Hotel Ltd v Spicer Bros Ltd (1914) 30 TLR 257	252
Deeny v Gooda Walker Ltd (No 2) [1996] 1 WLR 426	434
Delaware Mansions and Fleckson Ltd v Westminster CC [2001] UKHL 55	252, 254, 262–3, 269
Dennis v Charnwood BC [1982] 3 All ER 482	89
Dennis v Ministry of Defence [2003] EWHC 793	256, 270
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs v Feakins [2004] EWHC 2785 (Ch)	235–6
Department of the Environment v Thomas Bates & Son Ltd [1990] 2 All ER 943	92
Derbyshire CC v Times Newspapers Ltd [1993] AC 534	373
Dering v Uris [1964] 2 QB 669	397
Devon CC v Webber [2002] EWCA Civ 602	248
Devon County Council v Clarke [2005] EWCA Civ 266	162
Devon Lumber v McNeill (1988) 45 DLR (4th) 300	261
Dhesi v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police (2000) The Times, 9 May	289
Digital Equipment and Others v Hampshire CC (1997) The Independent, 10 April	109
Dixon v Clement Jones [2004] EWCA Civ 1005	173
Dixon v John Were [2004] EWHC 2273 (QB)	434
Dobbie v Medway HA [1994] 1 WLR 1234	490
Dobson v Thames Water Utilities [2007] EWHC 2021 (TCC)	263
Docker v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police [2001] 1 AC 435	9
Dodd Properties (Kent) v Canterbury CC [1980] 1 WLR 433	183
Doe v Board of Commissioners of Police for Metropolitan Toronto (1989) 58 DLR (4th) 396; (1990) 72 DLR (4th) 580	103
Doe v Board of Commissioners of Police for Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (1998) 160 DLR (4th) 697	103
Doleman v Deakin (1990) The Independent, 30 January	451
Donaldson v Brighton and Hove Council (2001) unreported	204
Donelan v Donelan [1993] PIQR P205	472
Donnelly v Joyce [1973] 3 All ER 475	428, 441
Donoghue v Folkstone Properties [2003] EWCA Civ 231	221
Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] AC 562	10, 19–21, 22, 28, 29, 33, 42, 73, 226, 227, 340, 341
Dooley v Cammel Laird & Co Ltd [1951] 1 Lloyd's Rep 271	43, 52, 68
Dorset Yacht Co Ltd v Home Office [1970] AC 1004	34, 100, 110, 121, 122
Doughty v Turner Manufacturing Co Ltd [1964] 1 QB 518	180, 183
Douglas v Hello! Ltd (No 3) [2005] EWCA Civ 595	409, 410
Douglas v Hello! Ltd [2001] QB 967; [2003] EWCA Civ 595	411, 412

Dow Jones & Co v Jameel [2005] EWCA Civ 75	398
Dowling v Surrey CC and Another (1994) unreported	119
Doyle v Wallace [1998] PIQR P146	446–7
DPP v Bayer [2003] EWHC (Admin) 25	239
DPP v Jones and Another [1999] 2 AC 240	232, 236
Draper v Hodder [1972] 2 All ER 210	284
Draper v Hodder [1972] 2 QB 556	289
Drury v Secretary of State for the Environment & Rural Affairs [2004] EWCA Civ 200	240
Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd v Salaam (2002) UKHL 48, (2003) 2 AC 366	338
Duddin v Home Office [2004] EWCA Civ 181	55
Dugmore v Swansea NHS Trust and Morriston Hospital NHS Trust [2002] EWCA Civ 1689	195
Dulieu v White [1901] 2 KB 669	42, 68
Duncan v British Coal Corpn [1997] 1 All ER 540	49, 69
Dutton v Bognor Regis UDC [1972] 1 All ER 462	88, 92, 225
Dyer v UK (1984) 39 D & R 246	97
E v Dorset CC [1994] 3 WLR 853	119
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Emanuel (H and N) Ltd v GLC [1971] 2 All ER 835	278–9
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Evans v Kosmar Villa Holidays plc [2007] EWCA Civ 1003	131, 210
Evans v National Coal Board (1951) unreported	486
Excelsior Wire Rope Co v Callan [1930] AC 404	216
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Eyres v Atkinsons Kitchens & Bedrooms Ltd [2007] EWCA Civ 365	143, 469
Ezekiel v Fraser and Others [2002] EWCA 2066	239
F v West Berkshire HA [1989] 2 All ER 545	310, 478, 487

F v Wirral MBC [1991] 2 All ER 648	125
Fagan v Jeffers and Another [2005] EWCA Civ 380	142
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Fairie v Hall (1947) 28 TC 200	370
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Flora v Wako (Heathrow) Ltd [2007] EWCA Civ	434
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Garden Cottage Foods v Milk Marketing Board [1984] 2 All ER 770	192, 197
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Gautret v Egerton (1867) LR 2 CP 371	202, 218
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Giles v Walker (1890) 24 QBD 656	273
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Glenie v Slack and Others (1998) unreported	206
Godfrey v Demon Internet Ltd [2001] QB 201	375, 381
Gold v Essex CC [1942] 2 KB 293	356
Goldman v Hargrave [1967] 1 AC 645	257–8, 266, 279
Goldsmith v Pressdram [1977] QB 83	373
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Gomberg v Smith [1962] 1 All ER 725	283
Goode v Owen [2001] EWCA Civ 2101	256, 270
Goodes v East Sussex County Council [2000] 1 WLR 1356; [2000] 3 All ER 603	246, 247
Goodwill v British Pregnancy Advisory Service [1996] 1 WLR 1397; [1996] 2 All ER 161	32, 75, 97
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Gorringe v Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council [2004] UKHL 15; [2004] UKHL 2	119, 120, 134, 246
Gorris v Scott (1874) 9 LR Exch 125	196
Goswell v Comr of Police for the Metropolis (1998) unreported	298, 302
Gough v Thorne [1966] 1 WLR 1387	138, 178, 469
Gouldsmith v Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust [2007] EWCA Civ 397	168
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Gower v Bromley LBC (1999) The Times, 28 October	119
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Gravgaard v Aldridge & Brownlee [2004] EWCA Civ 1529	490–1
Gray v Thames Trains and Network Rail [2007] EWHC 1558 (QB)	182, 485

Gray v Vesuvins Premier Refractories (Holdings) Ltd (2004)	325
Greatorex v Greatorex [2000] 1 WLR 1970	54
Green Corns Ltd v Claverley Group Ltd [2005] EWHC 958 (QB)	415
Green v DB Group Services (UK) Ltd [2006] EWHC 1898 (QB)	66, 362
Green v Grimsby & Scunthorpe Newspapers Ltd [2004] EWCA Civ 06	332
Greenhalgh v British Rlys Board [1969] 2 QB 286	202
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Group B Plaintiffs v Medical Research Council and Another (1998) 41 BMLR 157	70
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Guenat v Switzerland (24722/94)	302
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H v N and Another [2004] EWCA Civ 526	61
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Halsey v Milton Keynes General NHS Trust [2004] EWCA Civ 576	502
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Hambrook v Stokes [1925] 1 KB 141	42, 68
Hamilton v Al Fayed (Costs) EWCA Civ 6651	370
Hamilton v Al Fayed (No 4) [2001] CMLR 15	383
Hamilton v Al Fayed [2001] AC 395	389
Hamilton v Minister of Safety and Security 2003 (7) BCLR 723	103
Hamwi v Johnston [2005] EWHC 206	154