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| **Leicester De Montfort Law School**  **Legal Practice Course**  **Full Time – Solicitors Development Programme (SDP)**  **SDP 1 - Practical Legal Research** |

**Outcomes**

As a result of this Small Group Session, you will be able to:

* Understand the criteria that underpin good performance in research skills.
* Identify all relevant factual and legal issues involved in a scenario.
* Recognise the elements of a methodical, accurate and complete record of the research undertaken.
* Be able to undertake systematic and comprehensive legal research, identifying and locating appropriate primary and secondary sources and demonstrating the use of relevant research tools such as Westlaw, lexis and Practical Law.
* Be able to record research results in a methodical, accurate and complete way.

**Materials and preparation needed**

For this Small Group Session, you must:

* Read the sections on Practical Legal Research in the CLP Skills for Lawyers manual which is in your pre-reading materials and SDP shell. and utilise its online resources relating to legal research by logging on to [www.clponline.co.uk](http://www.clponline.co.uk) and clicking on the Skills for Lawyers book in the left-hand column and then clicking on the ‘Online resources’ tab on the right hand side. You can then choose the research sections on the right hand side.
* Complete Tasks 1, 2 and 3 and bring your answers to the Small Group Session. You will be given other Tasks in the session.
* Bring your notes from the Thomson Reuters training session.
* Read the notes on how to use Lexis which can be found at <https://www.lexisnexis.co.uk/help-and-support/lexis-library>

**Task 1 - Summarising the problem**

A key element of legal research is being able to identify your client’s objectives and write a summary of the client’s problem. One or two short sentences should suffice.

Look at the scenarios in **Attachment 1** and write a summary of the clients’ problem for each scenario.

**Task 2 - Search terms**

Once you have a relevant summary of the problem you will need to start researching that problem. It is vital that you start with the most appropriate search terms as using the wrong ones at this stage will probably not get you to the right answer.

Look again at the scenarios in **Attachment 1** and list the key search terms for each scenario. This task is just focusing on search terms or questions you might ask you are not required to complete the research for this task.

**Task 3 - Using the right research sources**

What sources might you use when completing any piece of practical legal research? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using these sources?

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| **Leicester De Montfort Law School**  **Legal Practice Course**  **SDP 1 - Practical Legal Research**  **Attachment 1 relating to Tasks 1 and 2.** |

**Scenario 1**

Your client is Andrew Stall, a director and shareholder of Chunky Knits Ltd of Blaby, Leicester, a clothing retailer. He has thoughts on some radical proposals to increase profits which he intends to table at a board meeting next month. Your firm is asked to advise whether or not Andrew's proposals are lawful.

Amongst Andrew's proposals is the following:

* To reduce costs the company will engage, as temporary labour, schoolchildren to work daily between the hours of 7.00 am - 8.30 am and 5.30 pm - 8.00 pm. The children's main duty will be to restock the shop shelves.

**Scenario 2**

Your client, Mary, works in a local clothes shop, which is owned and managed by Adam. There are 5 other employees. Mary has never really got on with Adam.

Adam is married but is having an affair with the manager of the shop next door. Last week his wife found out about the affair and threw him out of the matrimonial home. He mistakenly believes that Mary told his wife about the affair, confronting her the following day saying “you’re a typical woman. You all stick together against us men who just want to have a bit of fun”.

Since then he hasn’t called Mary by her name but instead constantly refers to her as the “snitchy bitch”.

Mary finds it very uncomfortable working with Adam now but she doesn’t want to leave this job as she needs the money to support herself through University.

Mary wants to know if she is able to bring an employment tribunal claim(s) in relation to this situation and if so on what grounds?