

Advanced Stage

Module 5: Professional and Legal Skills – Section B Legal Research

Sample Assessment Materials

Paper 2

Section B – Legal Research

Notes:

Candidate Version

Background

You are a senior paralegal employed by the firm KEMPSTONS. Your supervising lawyer is John Hedley. John has sent you an email in which he has asked you to conduct research for an existing client.

Email

To: Candidate

From: John Hedley

Client: Annie Apollo

File Ref: 6789/xyz

Date: Today

We have had an enquiry in our Dispute Resolution Department regarding a potential neighbour dispute – these cases are always difficult to resolve and I am keen to give some practical advice to the client asap. Annie Apollo is an existing client.

Annie Apollo lives at 14 Captains Drive, Kempston, where she has a shared driveway with Ed Knight, her neighbour, who lives at 16 Captains Drive. On the shared driveway, Ed Knight has parked his VW California Campervan. Annie is concerned at the use of CCTV and doorbell camera systems by Ed Knight; the audio and video surveillance system that Ed Knight has installed has cameras and a spotlight onto the shared driveway, this system is filming and recording Annie and any visitors to her home at 14 Captains Drive. Annie knows that this is happening as Ed has joked to her that he has CCTV footage of her putting out the rubbish bins late at night wearing her pyjamas – apparently the system also has an audio setting so that conversations on the shared driveway can be recorded.

Annie is uncomfortable about this and has contacted me for some initial advice.

I am mindful of the cost of a potential neighbour dispute and so it would be helpful if you could come up with some practical help for her.

Annie wants to know the following:

1. What is the relevant statutory law here?
2. Are there any cases that you can find?
3. Explain if Ed Knight can use an audio and video surveillance system in this way.
4. What do we suggest that Annie should do?

Thanks for your help, John Hedley

TASK INSTRUCTIONS

This task requires you to conduct legal research and produce a **report** for your supervisor, John Hedley. The details for your report and any research should be recorded. Your report findings should be presented, below, as a 'business-like' document.

- **INTRODUCTION** – *Your report must include an explanation of the purposes of the report.*
- **SOURCES** – *You should record and identify all relevant primary and secondary sources relied upon and evaluate their reliability, ensuring that you include full citations for all statutory authorities (e.g. statutes and section number(s)) and case law). **If you use AI to undertake all or part of your research, you must ensure that you identify whether the references generated by the AI source are primary or secondary references, and are correctly cited and evaluated for reliability.***
- **FINDINGS** – *Your report must provide an outline of the law relating to “finds” and “treasure” based on the current law. You should also provide answers to the FOUR questions raised in the email.*
- **CONCLUSION** – *Your report must include an appropriate closing statement that summarises your findings. It should be written in an appropriate manner for the recipient.*

INTRODUCTION – Your report must include an explanation of the purposes of the report.

SOURCES – You should record and identify all relevant primary and secondary references relied on and evaluate their reliability, ensuring that you include full citations for all statutory authorities (e.g. statutes and section number(s)) and case law. **If you use AI to undertake all or part of your research, you must ensure that you identify which AI source you have used and whether the references generated by the AI source are primary or secondary references, are correctly cited and evaluated for reliability.**

FINDINGS – Your report must provide an outline of the law *relating to the granting of access for fibre optic cabling based on the current law*. You should also provide answers to the questions raised in the email.

CONCLUSION – Your report must include an appropriate closing statement that summarises your findings. It should be written in an appropriate manner for the recipient.

END of paper