

# ACTIVITY: STATUTORY INTERPRETATION

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## Activity 1

Go to: [www.parliament.co.uk](http://www.parliament.co.uk)

Look under the heading for Parliamentary Business for Debates (Hansard).

This link will allow you to access the most recent updates of Hansard.

Find your local MP (if you don't know who it is you can search for them on the Parliament website) and then see how often they appear in Hansard in the past year.

Make a chart of the number of times they spoke, or asked questions and see what they are interested in by adding into your table the topics they raised.

When you have done this, contrast them to another politician you know, perhaps someone in the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet and do the same exercise.

Write a report on your findings and consider the following points – how does the work of the two MPs you have chosen compare? Do you think your local MP is representing you well? How could the information reported here be useful for judges? How do you think it could cause problems?

## Activity 2

Go to: [www.opsi.co.uk](http://www.opsi.co.uk)

Look up statutes for 2009 and find the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 – look at the print version.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the long title of the Act?
2. How many schedules are there and what do they do?
3. Look at s 52–56. What does s 52(1) do and how does s 52(1A) help?
4. Look at s 54. This replaces the defence of provocation which you can find if you look up s 3 of the Homicide Act 1957 from the home page of the website you are using. How does the new defence seem different?
5. How will this new law help judges and do you think it will improve the process of interpretation?
6. What is the specific function of s 56 and why is this necessary?
7. Look at s 114. What does this do and how is it an important function of legislation?
8. What is the importance of s 136?
9. What is the relevance of s 153?
10. Look at s 155 – what is this law about and why do you think it has been made?