

Copyright FAQs

1. What is the definition of ‘judicial proceedings’?

“Judicial proceedings” includes proceedings before any court, tribunal or person having authority to decide any matter affecting a person’s legal rights or liabilities.¹

The Act does not make it clear whether this exemption covers advice prior to issuing a statement of claim. For further information please refer to the [Bar Council’s copyright guidelines](#), para. 7.

2. What constitutes ‘non-commercial research or private study’?

The distinction between non-commercial research and research carried out for commercial purposes is not clearly set out in the legislation. For further guidance on whether your purposes are ‘commercial’ or ‘non-commercial’ please refer to the [Bar Council’s copyright guidelines](#), para. 10.

Copying for commercial research should not be confused with copying for judicial proceedings, which is permitted under the legislation.

3. How much material can be copied?

Judicial proceedings

The copyright legislation does not prescribe limits over what can be copied for judicial proceedings.

Non-commercial research / private study

We can supply the following material up to the following limits:

5% of the whole publication or:

- a) In the case of a book, one chapter;
- b) In the case of a periodical publication, one whole article and the contents pages of a year’s issue of any periodical publication; or
- c) In the case of a published report of judicial proceedings, the entire report of a single case.
- d) A reasonable proportion of any other published work.

Other

We can supply the following material up to the following limits:

5% of the whole publication or:

- a) In the case of a book, one chapter;
- b) In the case of a periodical publication, one whole article and the contents pages of a year’s issue of any periodical publication; or
- c) In the case of a published report of judicial proceedings, the entire report of a single case.
- d) A reasonable proportion of any other published work.

We are not able to supply copies of newspaper articles

¹ Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, s. 45