

## Law – Summer Transition

**Law** can be defined as a set of rules that are created and are enforceable by social or governmental institutions to regulate behaviour. Most of our law has been created by Parliament and written down into an Act which we have to follow. Pressure groups can play a key role in the creation of new legislation in the United Kingdom.

Pressure groups are groups of people who have very particular interests and try to bring topics that matter to them, to the attention of the general public and the government.

Pressure group activity may make the government reconsider the law on certain areas. This was notable in the year 2000, when the age of consent for a homosexual act was reduced to 16 years of age. Sometimes pressure groups will also campaign *against* a proposed change in current law.

### TASK 1

Over the summer please take the opportunity to look up websites of pressure groups such as Liberty ([www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk](http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk)) or Justice ([www.justice.org.uk](http://www.justice.org.uk)) or Greenpeace ([www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)). (These are only suggestions. You can find any other pressure groups if you wish).

**Choose one pressure group and write a brief summary of any changes in the law that it is suggesting. Identify any success it has had in the past in bringing about a change in the law.**

Bring this work along to the first lesson in September and be prepared to discuss your findings.

### TASK 2

However, there are some English laws and legal processes that are not written down, but are still followed. This is called common law. Tort is a type of common law, slowly developed by decisions made by the judges in court and by following precedent (a previous decision made by a judge). I have provided you with a link here to access a website which discusses the concept of Negligence which is a type of Tort developed by common law. **Please write notes on the topic.**

[Introduction to Negligence | Law of Tort - Bing video](#)

**Then have a go at learning these relevant Negligence cases. Try to learn the facts of each case and be able to explain why a duty of care did/did not exist.**

Case	Facts	Decision
<b>Donoghue v Stevenson (1932)</b>	Mrs Donoghue visited a café. Her friend bought Mrs D a bottle of ginger beer. The glass was dark, so the contents could not be seen. After drinking some of it, Mrs D poured the rest of the drink out and noticed that it contained a dead and decomposing snail. The impurities of the drink caused the claimant both physical and mental injuries. She sued the manager for negligence claiming that he owed her a duty of care.	The principle of a Duty of Care was stated: "duty of care to...anyone you ought to bear in mind, who could be injured by your act or omission'. Here it was agreed that the manufacturer had a duty of care towards Mrs Donoghue.
<b>Kent v Griffiths (2000)</b>	An ambulance was called to take the claimant who was suffering an asthma attack. Despite reassurances from the control centre and for no obvious reason, the ambulance failed to arrive at the hospital at a reasonable time. The claimant suffered a respiratory arrest.	The court decided that it was reasonably foreseeable that the claimant would suffer further illness and as no good reason was given as to why the ambulance failed to arrive promptly, the ambulance service were liable to pay compensation as they owed the patient a duty of care.
<b>Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire (1990)</b>	The Yorkshire Ripper, a serial killer, had been attacking and murdering women in Yorkshire and across the North of England. The claimant's daughter was the last victim. By the time of her death, the police had enough evidence to arrest the killer but failed to do so. The claimant alleged that the police owed her daughter a duty of care.	It was considered by the court that the relationship between the victim and the police was not proximate (close) enough and that it would not be fair, just and reasonable to impose a duty on the police. They did not have a duty of care to the general public (ie. They no idea that it would be her that was the next victim). Held no duty of care.