

Research in Practice: How my Research Skills are Relevant in my Work

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I graduated from LJMU after completing my LPC LLM in 2020. I am currently a Trainee Solicitor at Jackson Lees Group, in Major Inquests & Inquiries, currently working on the Covid Inquiry – the largest statutory public inquiry in British history. I have previous experience working as a paralegal in personal injury, family law, and conveyancing.

The skill of researching has been present throughout my various legal roles as this is something that is required for many tasks you are expected to carry out as a paralegal.

In my current role, the purpose of the Covid Inquiry is to examine the UK's response to, and the impact of, the Covid-19 pandemic which requires the use of research skills. Because the scope of the Inquiry is so vast, I am required to research a variety of different aspects of the pandemic and the effect on our clients as a collective. For example, module 1 covered resilience and preparedness, module 2 covers core UK decision making and political governance, and module 3 will cover healthcare systems. I am required to consider the Inquiry's list of issues for each module and work closely with our counsel team to help construct their submissions on behalf of our client, the Covid Bereaved Families for Justice Group. The broad scope of topic areas that are researched within my work include, but are not limited to, scientific data, political governance, healthcare, and the Civil Contingencies framework.

In contrast to this, during my time as a conveyancing paralegal, I would often assist with responding to enquiries raised by a buyer's solicitor. This required me to conduct more personal and individual research in responding to queries regarding the history of the property and its ownership. This would often require me to contact a variety of organisations to collect information. For example, I would contact the Land Registry to obtain missing deeds or documents which would require investigation. I would also need to contact various banks and building societies to obtain the details of any charges held over the property before sale. It was important that this was investigated correctly so as to avoid issues for the client after completion.