

*Freedom of Information Act*

# Information Commissioner & Tribunal Decisions

## What do they mean in practice?

**A half-day course:**

**Central London: 27 April 2009 & Birmingham: 30 April 2009**

The Information Commissioner has issued over 1,000 decision notices under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations - while the Information Tribunal has published nearly 200 decisions. The first appeals to the High Court against Tribunal decisions have been decided. These complex decisions are essential materials for anyone trying to understand what public authorities must do to comply with the legislation. This course, aimed at those with a good working knowledge of the legislation, highlights key developments in the way the main exemptions, the public interest test and the legislation's procedural requirements are being interpreted.

### About the trainer

The course is presented by the Campaign's director, **Maurice Frankel**, who has worked in the field for 25 years. He was actively involved in persuading the government to introduce FOI and seeking improvements to the legislation in Parliament. He now trains public authority staff and requesters in the legislation. He is a member of the Ministry of Justice's Information Rights User Group. He sat on the ODPM group looking at aligning the Local Government Act 1972 with the FOI Act. He was a member of the Commonwealth Group of Experts whose FOI Principles were adopted by Commonwealth Law Ministers in 1999. He drafted the successful private members' bills which became the Access to Personal Files Act 1987, the Access to Medical Reports Act 1988, the Environment and Safety Information Act 1988 and the Access to Health Records Act 1990. He received an OBE for services to open government in 2004.

**The course will cover recent key decisions under both the FOI Act and EIRs including those dealing with:**

- "Fair" and "unfair" disclosures of personal data
- The FOI/EIR borderline
- The Tribunal's recent approach to the disclosure of policy discussions
- Where the public interest line is being drawn
- Applying the cost limit
- Vexatious requests
- Advice and assistance

This course is primarily aimed at FOI practitioners, lawyers and other specialists working in the field. It is not intended as an introduction to FOI. We can also provide this course in-house - please contact us for further details.

# Campaign for Freedom of Information

www.cfoi.org.uk

## Course details

**London:** 27 April 2009

**Time:** 1.45 – 5.00 pm, registration/coffee 1.30 pm

**Venue:** Local Government House

Smith Square

London SW1P 3HZ

**Birmingham:** 30 April 2009

**Time:** 1.45 – 5.00 pm, registration/coffee 1.30 pm

**Venue:** City Inn

1 Brunswick Square, Brindleyplace

Birmingham B1 2HW

## Cost

£200 per person\* (VAT is not charged)

\*25% discount for 2<sup>nd</sup> person from same organisation

\*50% discount for 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent persons from same organisation

## Ways to book

Campaign for Freedom of Information

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London EC1N 7RJ

**Email:** admin@cfoi.demon.co.uk

**Phone:** 020 7831 7477

**Fax:** 020 7831 7461

## Booking form

Name:	Position:
Organisation:	Telephone:
Email:	
Address:	
Please reserve.....places(s) on the London course <input type="checkbox"/> / Birmingham course <input type="checkbox"/>	
Others attending from your organisation:	
1) Name:	
Email:	
2) Name:	
Email:	
3) Name:	
Email:	
4) Name:	
Email:	
SELECT PAYMENT OPTION:	
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to 'Campaign for Freedom of Information'	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please invoice my organisation (give name & address for invoice if different to above):	
<i>Please provide a purchase order no. if your authority requires one:</i>	