

Freedom of Information Act

Information Commissioner & Tribunal Decisions

What do they mean in practice?

A half-day course in central London 19 May 2011

The Information Commissioner has issued over 2,200 decision notices under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations - while the Information Tribunal has published over 400 decisions. A number of appeals to the courts 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 experienced FOI practitioners and others with a good working knowledge of the legislation, highlights the latest developments in the way the 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 27 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 the most significant decisions issued since our last course in November 2010. The content will therefore depend on the cases that have been decided, but typically addresses issues such as:

- "Fair" & "unfair" disclosures of personal data
- The FOI/EIR border
- The application of specific exemptions including those for breach of confidence & commercial interests
- Where the public interest line is being drawn
- Vexatious requests
- The cost limit, advice & assistance and other administrative provisions

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. The course can be provided in-house - please contact us for further details.

* Lawyers may claim non-accredited CPD hours for attendance.

Campaign for Freedom of Information

www.cfoi.org.uk

Course details

London: 19 May 2011

Registration: 1.30 pm

Course time: 1.45 - 5.00 pm

Venue: The Mermaid Conference Centre

Puddle Dock, Blackfriars

London EC4V 3DB

Cost

£200 per person* (VAT is not charged)

*25% discount for 2nd person from same organisation

*50% discount for 3rd 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 19 May 2011 course.	
Names and contact email address for 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. where necessary:</i>	