

Freedom of Information Act

Information Commissioner & Tribunal Decisions

What do they mean in practice?

A half-day course:

Central London: 30 November 2009 & Birmingham: 3 December 2009

The Information Commissioner has issued over 1,300 decision notices under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations - while the Information Tribunal has published over 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 such as those dealing with:

- "Fair" and "unfair" disclosures of personal data
- The FOI/EIR borderline
- The commercial interests exemption & other exemptions
- Vexatious requests
- Where the public interest line is being drawn
- 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. 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: 30 November 2009

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

Venue: The King's Fund
11-13 Cavendish Square
London W1 0AN

Birmingham: 3 December 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 2nd person from same organisation

*50% discount for 3rd and subsequent persons from same organisation

Ways to book

Campaign for Freedom of Information
Suite 102, 16 Baldwins Gardens
London EC1N 7RJ

Email: admin@cfoi.demon.co.uk

Phone: 020 7831 7477

Fax: 020 7831 7461

Booking form

Name:	Position:
Organisation:	Telephone:
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Please reserve.....places(s) on the London 30 Nov course <input type="checkbox"/> / Birmingham 3 Dec course <input type="checkbox"/>	
Others attending from your organisation:	
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