**Freedom of Information Act**

**Information Commissioner & Tribunal Decisions**

What do they mean in practice?

*A half-day course:*


The Information Commissioner has issued over 900 decision notices under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations - while the Information Tribunal has published nearly 150 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 24 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
- Effective conduct of public affairs
- Investigations and proceedings
- Vexatious requests - recent Tribunal decisions question the Commissioner’s guidance
- Where the public interest line is being drawn
- 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.
**Course details**

**London:** 21 July 2008  
**Time:** 1.45 – 5.00 pm, registration/coffee 1.30 pm  
**Venue:** Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

**Birmingham:** 24 July 2008  
**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  
Email: admin@cfoi.demon.co.uk  
Phone: 020 7831 7477  
Fax: 020 7831 7461

**Booking form**

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Please reserve…..places(s) on the London ☐ / Birmingham ☐ / course (tick location)

Others attending from your organisation:

1) Name:  
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3) Name:  
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**SELECT PAYMENT OPTION:**

☐ I enclose a cheque for £…… payble to ‘Campaign for Freedom of Information’  
☐ Please invoice my organisation (give name & address for invoice if different to above):