

# FOI – 5 years on

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# Outline

- Landmark cases
- Challenging issues
- Process and substance
- Looking ahead

# General Observations

- Success – it works!
- Takes time – but speeding up
- Popular with requesters and media
- Degrees of formality
- Culture change or compliance?

# Landmark Cases

- MPs expenses
- Cabinet minutes
- Policy advice
- Commercial information
- Regular topics – local/personal interest

# Challenging Issues – Personal Information

- Definition of personal data
- Identification / anonymisation
- Salaries, benefits and expenses
- Public accountability v personal privacy
- Individual and societal expectations

# Challenging Issues – Environmental Information

- Definition of environmental information
- Definition of public authority
- Unintended consequences?
- Citizen participation – Aarhus and the Directive
- Handling differences – and similarities

# Process and Substance

- Need to speed up – s.10 enforcement
- Information held?
- Making the arguments
- Claiming exemptions late
- Litigation, litigation, litigation?

# Looking Ahead

- Routine disclosure
- Reduction in requests? Complaints?
- The information appetite
- Technology and transparency
- Demands and expectations



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