

Freedom of Information 2.0

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Constitution Unit FOI Seminar
7 December 2010

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Context

- Information rights centre stage
- FOI embedded in public sector
- Compliance or culture change?
- Security concerns for personal data
- Government and European agenda

FOI/EIR

- Greater emphasis on proactive disclosure
- Government's "Transparency Agenda"
- Transparency Board (Cabinet Office)
- Salary information and public expenditure
- Obvious fit with Publication Schemes

Complaints to ICO 2009/10

- FOI complaints received: 3734 – 20% up
- FOI complaints closed: 4196 – 39% up
- Significant reduction in age of caseload
- 628 formal decision notices
- 161 appeals to Tribunal

Complaints Issues

- Volumes increasing – up 17% in 2010
- Resources likely to reduce significantly
- Tougher stance on timeliness
- Revised enforcement policy
- Small authorities – parish councils

Possible amendments to FOI

- Cabinet minutes – ministerial veto
- Communications with the Royal Family
- Reducing the burden – cost/benefit
- A new “right to data”
- Re-use of public sector information

Possible extension of FOI

- Newly created public authorities
- Privatised/partnership organisations
- Representative organisations
- Impact on EIR
- Geospatial information - INSPIRE

Tribunal Activity

- First tier and Upper tier
- Paper hearings v oral hearings
- Strike outs and withdrawals
- Costs rulings
- Consent orders

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