

FRINGE SPECIAL

* Wayward free of charge biweekly email journals on intelligence and on FOIA *

* More information in the colophon at the bottom of this special *

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* September 20 – 2010 *

Overview of all FOI laws[©]

80 national FOIAs
184 sub-national FOIAs
&
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>> Lists and statistics are ways of lying <<

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Working definition of a FOIA

One of the problems editing this Overview is that there is no good definition of a FOIA. The working definition I use includes: it has to be a law in strict sense, a right of access, with complaint and appeal possibilities [decrees are included if they have true complaint and appeal possibilities]. So in this list are also very poor FOIAs, like those of for instance Italy and Zimbabwe.

A second important part of the definition, and in line with the practitioners point of view, is that the FOIA must be **in power** for at least the executive part of the trias politica.

I would like to add more ingredients to the definition but there is no consensus about that. In list A7, the naming and shaming list, you can get an impression of some of the possible extra ingredients. I am considering to add next year the special interest requirement and charging a fee for processing FOIA requests as conflicting with the minimum standard.

National and sub-national FOIAs

In previous editions of this Overview I used to order the terms **country & territory**. After consulting FOIA and legal specialists I replace that by **national & sub-national**, knowing that that type order is also not perfect.

All non-national FOIAs are seen in this list as sub-national, even if they are of a country in legal sense like Aruba and Scotland. If the word country is used in this overview it relates to national or national FOIA. [Not 100% correct, I know]

Tips very welcome

Do you have suggestions for improvement, corrections or other remarks, please send them in so that I can use them in the next update of this overview.

The A1 list The national FOIAs in alphabetical order

| <u>Countries</u> | Year of formal approval or formal adoption of the FOIA | Year in which the FOIA came in power | Year of latest FOIA revision | Name of the FOIA, in English | Name of the FOIA, in native tongue |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Albania | 1999 | 1999 | | Law on right to information for official documents | |
| Angola | | 2002 | 2006 | Law on right to information for official documents Access to administrative documents | |
| Antigua/Barbuda | 2004 | 2004 | | Access to administrative documents Freedom of information act | |
| Armenia | 2003 | 2003 | | Freedom of information act Law on freedom of information | |
| Australia | 1982 | 1982 | 2009 | Law on freedom of information Freedom of information act | |
| Austria | 1987 | 1987 | 2005 | Freedom of information act Federal law on the duty to furnish information | |
| Azerbaijan | 2005 | 2005 | | Auskunftspflichtsgesetz Law on access to information | |
| Bangladesh | 2008 | 2009 | | Informasiyanın əldə eilməsi haqda qanun Right to information act | |
| Belgium | 1994 | 1994 | 2000 | Tatha adhikar ain Law on the right of access to administrative documents ... | |
| Belize | 1994 | 1994 | | Wob: Wet openbaarheid van bestuur Freedom of information act | |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 2001 | 2002 | | Freedom of information act Freedom of access to information act | |
| Bulgaria | 2000 | 2000 | | Freedom of access to information act APIA: Access to public information act | |
| Canada | 1982 | 1983 | 2001 | ЗДОИ:Закон за достъп до обществена информация Access to information act | |
| Chile | 2008 | 2009 | | Access to information act Law of transparency of the public function and access ... | |
| China | 2007 | 2008 | | Ley de transparencia de la función pública y de acceso ... Open government information regulations | |
| Colombia | 1985 | 1985 | 1998 | Zhengfu xinxi gongkai tiaoli Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents | |
| Cook Islands | | 2009 | | Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents Official information act | |
| Croatia | 2003 | 2003 | | Official information act Act on the right of access to information | |
| Czech Republic | 1999 | 2000 | 2006 | Act on the right of access to information Law on free access to information | |
| Denmark | 1970 | 1970 | 2000 | Law on free access to information Access to public administration files act | |
| Dominican Republic | 2004 | 2004 | | Lov om offentlighed i forvaltningen Law on access to information | |
| Ecuador | 2004 | 2004 | | Law on access to information Organic law on transparency and access to public info | |
| Estonia | 2000 | 2001 | 2009 | Organic law on transparency and access to public info Public information act | |
| Finland | 1951 | 1951 | 2009 | Avaliku teabe seadus Act on the openness of government activities | |
| France | 1978 | 1978 | 2010 | Laki viranomaisten toiminnan julkisuudesta Law on freedom of access to administrative documents | |
| Georgia | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | Loi de la liberté d'accès aux documents administratifs General administrative code chapter III, freedom of inform. | |
| Germany | 2005 | 2006 | | General administrative code chapter III, freedom of inform. Federal act governing access to information | |
| Greece | 1986 | 1986 | 1999 | Informationfreiheitsgesetz Code of administrative procedure | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|--|
| Guatemala | 2008 | 2009 | | Law for free access to public information |
| Honduras | | 2006 | | Law for free access to public information Transparency and Access to Public Information Law Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública |
| Hungary | 1992 | 1992 | 2005 | Act on the protection of pers. data and public access ... Évi törvény a személyes adatok védelméről és közérdekű ... |
| Iceland | 1996 | 1997 | 2010 | Information act Upplýsingalög |
| India | 2005 | 2005 | | RTI: Right to information act RTI: Right to information act |
| Indonesia | 2008 | 2010 | | Freedom of information law Freedom of information law |
| Ireland | 1997 | 1998 | 2005 | Freedom of information act Freedom of information act |
| Israel | 1998 | 1999 | 2009 | Freedom of Information Law ח"התשנ"ח המידע חופש חוק |
| Italy | 1990 | 1990 | 2005 | Law on administrative procedure and the right of access ... Legge in materia de procedimento amministrativo e di ... |
| Jamaica | 2002 | 2004 | 2004 | Access to information act Access to information act |
| Japan | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | Law concerning access to information Law concerning access to information |
| Jordan | 2007 | 2007 | | Access to information law Access to information law |
| Kosovo | 2003 | 2003 | | Law on access to official documents Law on access to official documents |
| Kyrgyzstan | | 2007 | | Access to information law Access to information law |
| Latvia | 1998 | 1998 | 2006 | Law on freedom of information Law on freedom of information |
| Liechtenstein | 1999 | 2000 | | Information act Informationsgesetz |
| Lithuania | 2000 | 2000 | 2005 | Law on the provision of information to the public Law on the provision of information to the public |
| Macedonia | 2006 | 2006 | 2010 | Law on free access to information of public character Zakon za sloboden pristap do informacii od javen karakter |
| Mexico | 2002 | 2003 | 2006 | Fed. transparency and access to publ. govt. information law Ley fed. de transparencia y acceso a la información public... |
| Moldova | 2000 | 2000 | 2003 | Law on access to information Legea privind accesul la informatie |
| Montenegro | 2005 | 2005 | | Law on free access to information Law on free access to information |
| Nepal | | 2007 | | Right to Information Act 2007 Suchanako haksambandhi Ain 2064 / सुचनाको हकसम्बन्धी ऐन २०६४ |
| Netherlands | 1978 | 1980 | 2009 | Wob: Act on public access to government information Wob: Wet openbaarheid van bestuur |
| New Zealand | 1982 | 1983 | 2003 | Official information act Official information act |
| Nicaragua | | 2007 | | Law on Access to Public Information Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública |
| Norway | 1970 | 1970 | 2006 | Freedom of information law Offentlighetsloven |
| Pakistan | 2002 | 2002 | | Freedom of information ordinance Freedom of information ordinance |
| Panama | 2001 | 2002 | | Law on transparency in public administration Law on transparency in public administration |
| Peru | 2002 | 2003 | 2003 | Law of transparency and access to public information Ley Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública |
| Poland | 2001 | 2002 | | Law on access to public information Law on access to public information |
| Portugal | 1993 | 1993 | 1999 | Law on access to administrative documents Law on access to administrative documents |
| Romania | 2001 | 2001 | 2007 | Law on free access to public Information Legea privind liberul acces la informatiile de interes public |
| Russia | 2009 | 2010 | | Fed. law on providing access to information Fed. law on providing access to information |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|--|
| Serbia | 2004 | 2004 | 2007 | Law on free access to information of public importance Zakon o slobodnom pristupu informacijama od javnog ... |
| Slovak Republic | 2000 | 2001 | 2010 | Act on free access to information Zakon o slobodnom pristupe k informaciam |
| Slovenia | 2003 | 2003 | 2005 | Access to public information act Zakon o dostopu do informacij javnega značaja |
| South Africa | 2000 | 2001 | | Promotion of access to information act Promotion of access to information act |
| South Korea | 1996 | 1998 | 2004 | Act on disclosure of information by public agencies Act on disclosure of information by public agencies |
| Sweden | 1766 | 1766 | 1976 | Freedom of the press act Tryckfrihetsförordningen |
| Switzerland | 2004 | 2006 | | Federal law on the principle of administrative transparency Loi sur la transparence / Öffentlichkeitsgesetz |
| Taiwan | | 2005 | | Freedom of government information law Freedom of government information law |
| Tajikistan | 2002 | 2002 | | Law on information Law on information |
| Thailand | 1997 | 1997 | | Official information act Official information act |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 1999 | 2001 | | Freedom of information act Freedom of information act |
| Turkey | 2003 | 2004 | | Law on right to information Law on right to information |
| Uganda | 2005 | 2006 | | Access to information act Access to information act |
| Ukraine | 1992 | 1992 | 2002 | Law on information Law on information |
| United Kingdom | 2000 | 2005 | | Freedom of information act Freedom of information act |
| United States of America | 1966 | 1967 | 2007 | Freedom of information act Freedom of information act |
| Uruguay | 2008 | 2009 | | Law on the right of access to public information Law on the right of access to public information |
| Uzbekistan | 1997 | 1997 | 2003 | Law on the principles and guarantees of FOI Law on the principles and guarantees of FOI |
| Zimbabwe | 2002 | 2002 | 2007 | Access to information and privacy protection act Access to information and privacy protection act |

The A2 list The national FOIAs in chronological order

| <u>Ranking</u> | | Year of formal approval or formal adoption of the FOIA | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| | <u>Countries</u> | | Year in which the FOIA came in power<<< decisive for the ranking!! | Year of latest FOIA revision | Name of the FOIA, in English |
| 1 | Sweden | 1766 | 1766 | 1976 | Freedom of the press act |
| 2 | Finland | 1951 | 1951 | 2009 | Act on the openness of government activities |
| 3 | United States | 1966 | 1967 | 2007 | Freedom of information act |
| 4 | Denmark | 1970 | 1970 | 2000 | Access to public administration files act |
| | Norway | 1970 | 1970 | 2006 | Freedom of information act |
| 6 | France | 1978 | 1978 | 2010 | Law on freedom of access to administrative documents |
| 7 | Netherlands | 1978 | 1980 | 2009 | Wob: Act on public access to government information |
| 8 | Australia | 1982 | 1982 | 2009 | Freedom of information act |
| 9 | Canada | 1982 | 1983 | 2001 | Access to information act |
| | New Zealand | 1982 | 1983 | 2003 | Official information act |
| 11 | Colombia | 1985 | 1985 | 1998 | Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents |
| 12 | Greece | 1986 | 1986 | 1999 | Code of administrative procedure |
| 13 | Austria | 1987 | 1987 | 2005 | Federal law on the duty to furnish information |
| 14 | Italy | 1990 | 1990 | 2005 | Law on administrative procedure and the right of access ... |
| 15 | Hungary | 1992 | 1992 | 2005 | Act on the protection of pers. data and public access ... |
| | Ukraine | 1992 | 1992 | 2002 | Law on information |
| 17 | Portugal | 1993 | 1993 | 1999 | Law on access to administrative documents |
| 18 | Belgium | 1994 | 1994 | 2000 | Law on the right of access to administrative documents ... |
| | Belize | 1994 | 1994 | | Freedom of information act |
| 20 | Iceland | 1996 | 1997 | 2010 | Information act |
| | Thailand | 1997 | 1997 | | Official information act |
| | Uzbekistan | 1997 | 1997 | 2003 | Law on the principles and guarantees of FOI |
| 23 | Ireland | 1997 | 1998 | 2005 | Freedom of information act |
| | Latvia | 1998 | 1998 | 2006 | Law on freedom of information |
| | South Korea | 1996 | 1998 | 2004 | Act on disclosure of information by public agencies |
| 26 | Albania | 1999 | 1999 | | Law on right to information for official documents |
| | Israel | 1998 | 1999 | 2009 | Freedom of Information Law |
| 28 | Bulgaria | 2000 | 2000 | | APIA: Access to public information act |
| | Czech Republic | 1999 | 2000 | 2006 | Law on free access to information |
| | Georgia | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | General administrative code chapter III, Freedom of inform. |
| | Liechtenstein | 1999 | 2000 | | Information act |
| | Lithuania | 2000 | 2000 | 2005 | Law on the provision of information to the public |
| | Moldova | 2000 | 2000 | 2003 | Law on access to information |
| 34 | Estonia | 2000 | 2001 | 2009 | Public information act |
| | Japan | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | Law concerning access to information |
| | Romania | 2001 | 2001 | 2007 | Law on free access to public Information |
| | Slovak Republic | 2000 | 2001 | 2010 | Act on free access to information |
| | South Africa | 2000 | 2001 | | Promotion of access to information act |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|------|------|------|---|
| | Trinidad & Tobago | 1999 | 2001 | | Freedom of information act |
| 40 | Angola | | 2002 | 2006 | Access to administrative documents |
| | Bosnia & Herzegov. | 2001 | 2002 | | Freedom of access to information act |
| | Pakistan | 2002 | 2002 | | Freedom of information ordinance |
| | Panama | 2001 | 2002 | | Law on transparency in public administration |
| | Poland | 2001 | 2002 | | Law on access to public information |
| | Tajikistan | 2002 | 2002 | | Law on information |
| | Zimbabwe | 2002 | 2002 | | Access to information and privacy protection act |
| 47 | Armenia | 2003 | 2003 | | Law on freedom of information |
| | Croatia | 2003 | 2003 | | Act on the right of access to information |
| | Kosovo | 2003 | 2003 | | Law on access to official documents |
| | Mexico | 2002 | 2003 | 2006 | Fed. transparency and access to publ. govt. information law |
| | Peru | 2002 | 2003 | 2003 | Law of transparency and access to public information |
| | Slovenia | 2003 | 2003 | 2005 | Access to public information act |
| 53 | Antigua/Barbuda | 2004 | 2004 | | Freedom of information act |
| | Dominican Republic | 2004 | 2004 | | Law on access to information |
| | Ecuador | 2004 | 2004 | | Organic Law on Transparency and Access to Public Info. |
| | Jamaica | 2002 | 2004 | 2004 | Access to information act |
| | Serbia | 2004 | 2004 | 2007 | Law on free access to information of public interest |
| | Turkey | 2003 | 2004 | | Law on right to information |
| 59 | Azerbaijan | 2005 | 2005 | | Law on access to information |
| | India | 2005 | 2005 | | RTI: Right to information act |
| | Montenegro | 2005 | 2005 | | Law on free access to information |
| | Taiwan | | 2005 | | Freedom of government information law |
| | United Kingdom | 2000 | 2005 | | Freedom of information act |
| 64 | Germany | 2005 | 2006 | | Act to regulate access to federal government information |
| | Honduras | | 2006 | | Transparency and Access to Public Information Law |
| | Macedonia | 2006 | 2006 | 2010 | Law on free access to information of public character |
| | Switzerland | 2004 | 2006 | | Federal law on the principle of administrative transparency |
| | Uganda | 2005 | 2006 | | Access to information act |
| 69 | Jordan | 2007 | 2007 | | Access to information law |
| | Kyrgyzstan | | 2007 | | Access to information law |
| | Nepal | | 2007 | | Right to Information Act 2007 |
| | Nicaragua | | 2007 | | Law on Access to Public Information |
| 73 | China | 2007 | 2008 | | Open government information regulations |
| 74 | Bangladesh | 2008 | 2009 | | Right to information act |
| | Chile | 2008 | 2009 | | Law of Transparency of the Public Function and Access ... |
| | Cook Islands | | 2009 | | Official information act |
| | Guatemala | 2008 | 2009 | | Law for free access to public information |
| | Uruguay | 2008 | 2009 | | Law on the right of access to public information |
| 79 | Indonesia | 2008 | 2010 | | Freedom of information law |
| | Russia | 2009 | 2010 | | Fed. law on providing access to information |

The A3 list The national FOIAs continent wise

Countries

Year of formal approval or formal adoption of the FOIA
 Year in which the FOIA came in power
 Year of latest FOIA revision
 Name of the FOIA, in English

Africa

| | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|--|
| Angola | | 2002 | 2006 | Access to administrative documents |
| South Africa | 2000 | 2001 | | Promotion of access to information act |
| Uganda | 2005 | 2006 | | Access to information act |
| Zimbabwe | 2002 | 2002 | | Access to information and privacy protection act |

The Americas [incl Caribbean]

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|---|
| Antigua/Barbuda | 2004 | 2004 | | Freedom of information act |
| Belize | 1994 | 1994 | | Freedom of information act |
| Canada | 1982 | 1983 | 2001 | Access to information act |
| Chile | 2008 | 2009 | | Law of Transparency of the Public Function and Access ... |
| Colombia | 1985 | 1985 | 1998 | Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents |
| Dominican Republic | 2004 | 2004 | | Law on access to information |
| Ecuador | 2004 | 2004 | | Organic Law on Transparency and Access to Public Info. |
| Guatemala | 2008 | 2009 | | Law for free access to public information |
| Honduras | | 2006 | | Transparency and Access to Public Information Law |
| Jamaica | 2002 | 2004 | 2004 | Access to information act |
| Mexico | 2002 | 2003 | 2006 | Fed. transparency and access to publ. govt. information law |
| Nicaragua | | 2007 | | Law on Access to Public Information |
| Panama | 2001 | 2002 | | Law on transparency in public administration |
| Peru | 2002 | 2003 | 2003 | Law of transparency and access to public information |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 1999 | 2001 | | Freedom of information act |
| United States of America | 1966 | 1967 | 2007 | Freedom of information act |
| Uruguay | 2008 | 2009 | | Law on the right of access to public information |

Asia [incl Middle-East]

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|---|
| Armenia | 2003 | 2003 | | Law on freedom of information |
| Azerbaijan | 2005 | 2005 | | Law on access to information |
| Bangladesh | 2008 | 2009 | | Right to information act |
| China | 2007 | 2008 | | Open government information regulations |
| Georgia | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | General administrative code chapter III, Freedom of inform. |
| India | 2005 | 2005 | | RTI: Right to information act |
| Indonesia | 2008 | 2010 | | Freedom of information law |
| Israel | 1998 | 1999 | 2009 | Freedom of Information Law |
| Japan | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | Law concerning access to information |
| Jordan | 2007 | 2007 | | Access to information law |
| Kyrgyzstan | | 2007 | | Access to information law |
| Nepal | | 2007 | | Right to Information Act 2007 |
| Pakistan | 2002 | 2002 | | Freedom of information ordinance |
| South Korea | 1996 | 1998 | 2004 | Act on disclosure of information by public agencies |
| Taiwan | | 2005 | | Freedom of government information law |
| Tajikistan | 2002 | 2002 | | Law on information |
| Thailand | 1997 | 1997 | | Official information act |
| Turkey | 2003 | 2004 | | Law on right to information |
| Uzbekistan | 1997 | 1997 | 2003 | Law on the principles and guarantees of FOI |

Europe

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|---|
| Albania | 1999 | 1999 | | Law on right to information for official documents |
| Austria | 1987 | 1987 | 2005 | Federal law on the duty to furnish information |
| Belgium | 1994 | 1994 | 2000 | Law on the right of access to administrative documents ... |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 2001 | 2002 | | Freedom of access to information act |
| Bulgaria | 2000 | 2000 | | APIA: Access to public information act |
| Croatia | 2003 | 2003 | | Act on the right of access to information |
| Czech Republic | 1999 | 2000 | 2006 | Law on free access to information |
| Denmark | 1970 | 1970 | 2000 | Access to public administration files act |
| Estonia | 2000 | 2001 | 2009 | Public information act |
| Finland | 1951 | 1951 | 2009 | Act on the openness of government activities |
| France | 1978 | 1978 | 2010 | Law on freedom of access to administrative documents |
| Germany | 2005 | 2006 | | Act to regulate access to federal government information |
| Greece | 1986 | 1986 | 1999 | Code of administrative procedure |
| Hungary | 1992 | 1992 | 2005 | Act on the protection of pers. data and public access ... |
| Iceland | 1996 | 1997 | 2010 | Information act |
| Ireland | 1997 | 1998 | 2005 | Freedom of information act |
| Italy | 1990 | 1990 | 2005 | Law on administrative procedure and the right of access ... |
| Kosovo | 2003 | 2003 | | Law on access to official documents |
| Latvia | 1998 | 1998 | 2006 | Law on freedom of information |
| Liechtenstein | 1999 | 2000 | | Information act |
| Lithuania | 2000 | 2000 | 2005 | Law on the provision of information to the public |
| Macedonia | 2006 | 2006 | 2010 | Law on free access to information of public character |
| Moldova | 2000 | 2000 | 2003 | Law on access to information |
| Montenegro | 2005 | 2005 | | Law on free access to information |
| Netherlands | 1978 | 1980 | 2009 | Wob: Act on public access to government information |
| Norway | 1970 | 1970 | 2006 | Freedom of information act |
| Poland | 2001 | 2002 | | Law on access to public information |
| Portugal | 1993 | 1993 | 1999 | Law on access to administrative documents |
| Romania | 2001 | 2001 | 2007 | Law on free access to public Information |
| Russia | 2009 | 2010 | | Fed. law on providing access to information |
| Serbia | 2004 | 2004 | 2007 | Law on free access to information of public interest |
| Slovak Republic | 2000 | 2001 | 2010 | Act on free access to information |
| Slovenia | 2003 | 2003 | 2005 | Access to public information act |
| Sweden | 1766 | 1766 | 1976 | Freedom of the press act |
| Switzerland | 2004 | 2006 | | Federal Law on the Principle of Administrative Transparency |
| Ukraine | 1992 | 1992 | 2002 | Law on information |
| United Kingdom | 2000 | 2005 | | Freedom of information act |

Oceania

| | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|----------------------------|
| Australia | 1982 | 1982 | 2009 | Freedom of information act |
| Cook Islands | | 2009 | | Official information act |
| New Zealand | 1982 | 1983 | 2003 | Official information act |

The A4 list Law links of the national FOIAs

| <u>Countries</u> | Link to the FOIA law text in English Link to the FOIA law text in native tongue |
|------------------|--|
| Albania | www.hidaa.gov.al/english/laws/l_8503.htm |
| Angola | www.privacyinternational.org/countries/angola/foi-law02.doc |
| Antigua/B. | www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/government/parliament/laws/freedom_of_info.pdf |
| Armenia | www.foi.am/en/content/53/ www.legislationline.org/documents/action/popup/id/6410 |
| Australia | www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/foia1982222/ www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/foia1982222/ |
| Austria | |
| Azerbaijan | http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/26135/12047260333Azerbaijan.pdf/Azerbaijan.pdf |
| Bangladesh | http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Bangladesh-RTI%20Ordinance%202008.pdf |
| Belgium | |
| Belize | www.privacyinternational.org/countries/belgium/loi-publicite.rtf www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/PDF%20files/cap013.pdf |
| Bosnia & H. | www.ohr.int/ohr-dept/media-d/med-recon/freedom/default.asp?content_id=7269 |
| Bulgaria | www.aip-bg.org/library/laws/apia.htm |
| Canada | www.infocom.gc.ca/acts/pdfs/accessact.pdf www.infocom.gc.ca/acts/pdfs/accessact.pdf |
| Chile | www.bcn.cl/leyes/pdf/original/276363.pdf |
| China | http://chinesefoi.org/regulation.aspx |
| Colombia | www.privacyinternational.org/countries/colombia/ley57-foi.doc |
| Cook Isl. | www.cook-islands.gov.ck/view_release.php?release_id=1180 |
| Croati | www.gradjani-imaju-pravo-znati.hho.hr/index.php?lang=en www.gradjani-imaju-pravo-znati.hho.hr/index.php?lang=hr |
| Czech Rep. | http://mujweb.cz/www/vaske/informace.htm |
| Denmark | www.privacyinternational.org/countries/denmark/dk-foi-85.doc www.update.dk/cfje/Lovbasen.nsf/ID/LB00000597?OpenDocument |
| Dominican R. | www.centrojuanmontalvo.org.do/documentos/acceso.pdf |
| Ecuador | |
| Estonia | www.freedominfo.org/documents/ecuador-spanish.pdf www.legaltext.ee/text/en/X40095K2.htm |
| Finland | www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1999/en19990621.pdf www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1999/19990621 |
| France | www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006068643&dateTexte=20100919 |
| Georgia | |
| Germany | www.bfdi.bund.de/cn_030/nn_672734/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG_EN.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG_EN.pdf www.bfdi.bund.de/cn_030/nn_672714/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG.pdf |
| Greece | http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN001820.pdf |
| Guatemala | www.freedominfo.org/documents/Guatemalalaw_decreto_57-2008.pdf |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Honduras | www.unah.hn/uploaded/content/category/1434383409.pdf |
| Hungary | http://abiweb.obh.hu/dpc/index.php?menu=gyoker/relevant/national/1992_LXVI |
| Iceland | http://eng.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/English/accesstoinfo.doc |
| India | http://righttoinformation.gov.in/rti-act.pdf http://righttoinformation.gov.in/rti-actinhindi.pdf |
| Indonesia | |
| Ireland | www.oic.irlgov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/ www.oic.irlgov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/ |
| Israel | |
| Italy | |
| Jamaica | www.parlamento.it/leggi/050151.htm www.jis.gov.jm/special_sections/ATI/ATIACT.pdf |
| Japan | |
| Jordan | www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/gyoukan/kanri/translation3.htm http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Jordan-Access-Law-arabic.doc |
| Kosovo | www.unmikonline.org/regulations/2003/RE2003_32%20.pdf |
| Kyrgyzstan | |
| Latvia | |
| Liechtenstein | |
| Lithuania | www.gesetze.li/get_pdf.jsp?PDF=1999159.pdf www3.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/getfmt?c1=w&c2=170831 www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter2/dokpaieska.showdoc_e?p_id=101596 |
| Macedonia | www.freedominfo.org/documents/Macedonia%20FOI%20Law%20ENG%20Official%20Gazette%202013-2006.doc |
| Mexico | |
| Moldova | http://freedominfo.org/documents/mexico_ley.pdf www.acces-info.org.md/index.php?cid=122&lid=815 www.acces-info.org.md/index.php?cid=122&lid=50 |
| Montenegro | |
| Nepal | www.article19.org/pdfs/laws/Nepal.FOI.Sep06.doc |
| Netherlands | www.minbzk.nl/bzk2006uk/subjects/constitution-and/publications/4327/act-on-public-access http://wetten.overheid.nl/zoeken_op/regeling_type_wetten+AMVB+ministeries/titel bevat wob/datum_29-6-2009 |
| New Zealand | www.ombudsmen.parliament.nz/internal.asp?cat=100095 |
| Nicaragua | |
| Norway | www.ub.uio.no/ujur/ulovdata/lov-20060519-016-eng.pdf www.lovdata.no/all/nl-20060519-016.html |
| Pakistan | |
| Panama | |
| Peru | www.legalinfo-panama.com/legislacion/administrativo/00195.pdf |
| Poland | www.minjus.gob.pe/transparencia2/Ley_27927_modifica_Ley_Transparencia.pdf |
| Portugal | |
| Romania | www.cada.pt/modules/news/article.php?storyid=28 http://www.dci.ro/En/Legi/544.pdf http://legislatie.resurse-pentru-democratie.org/544_2001.php |
| Russia | |
| Serbia | |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Slovak Rep. | |
| Slovenia | www.ip-rs.si/index.php?id=324 www.ip-rs.si/zakonodaja/zakon-o-dostopu-do-informacij-javnega-znacaja/ |
| South Africa | |
| South Korea | www.freedominfo.org/documents/korea%20980258118_korea.doc |
| Sweden | |
| Switzerland | www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_Page_6062.aspx |
| Taiwan | www.admin.ch/ch/ff/2004/6807.pdf www.glin.gov/view.action?glinID=173514 |
| Tajikistan | |
| Thailand | www.cipi.tj/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9&Itemid=3 www.oic.go.th/content_eng/act.htm |
| Trinidad & T. | www.foia.gov.tt/ |
| Turkey | |
| Uganda | www.freedominfo.org/documents/uganda_ati_act_2005.pdf |
| Ukraine | www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/Law-base/Legislations1991-1994.php#03 |
| UK | www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000036_en_1 www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000036_en_1 |
| USA | www.usdoj.gov/oip/foiastat.htm www.usdoj.gov/oip/foiastat.htm |
| Uruguay | |
| Uzbekistan | http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Uruguay%20ATI%20Law.doc |
| Zimbabwe | www.kubatana.net/html/archive/legisl/030611aippaamd.asp?sector=LEGISL |

The A5 list The number of requests per year per country

| <u>Countries</u> | Number of requests per year | Inhabitants | Number of requests per 100,000 inhabitants |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Albania | | 3,000,000 | |
| Angola | < 100 | 11,000,000 | <1 |
| Antigua/Barbuda | | 60,000 | |
| Armenia | | 3,500,000 | |
| Australia | 4,000 | 20,000,000 | 20 |
| Austria | << 100 | 8,000,000 | <1 |
| Azerbaijan | 400 | 8,000,000 | 5 |
| Bangladesh | | 150,000,000 | |
| Belgium | < 100 | 10,000,000 | <1 |
| Belize | << 100 | 250,000 | <1 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | | 4,000,000 | |
| Bulgaria | 14,000 | 8,000,000 | 175 |
| Canada | 34,000 | 32,000,000 | 106 |
| Chile | | 16,000,000 | |
| China | 4,000 | 1,400,000,000 | <1 |
| Colombia | < 100 | 45,000,000 | <1 |
| Cook Islands | | 20,000 | |
| Croatia | 3,000 | 4,500,000 | 67 |
| Czech Republic | | 10,000,000 | |
| Denmark | | 5,000,000 | |
| Dominican Republic | | 8,500,000 | |
| Ecuador | < 100 | 13,000,000 | <1 |
| Estonia | | 1,500,000 | |
| Finland | 500 | 5,000,000 | 10 |
| France | 3000 | 65,000,000 | 5 |
| Georgia | | 5,000,000 | |
| Germany | 1,500 | 84,000,000 | 2 |
| Greece | < 100 | 11,000,000 | <1 |
| Guatemala | | 14,000,000 | |
| Honduras | | 7,000,000 | |
| Hungary | | 10,000,000 | |
| Iceland | | 300,000 | |
| India | | 1.100.000.000 | |
| Indonesia | | 206,000,000 | |
| Ireland | 5,000 | 4,000,000 | 125 |
| Israel | 3,000 | 6,500,000 | 46 |
| Italy | < 100 | 55,000,000 | <1 |
| Jamaica | 400 | 3,000,000 | 13 |
| Japan | 100,000 | 125,000,000 | 80 |
| Jordan | << 100 | 5,500,000 | <1 |
| Kosovo | << 100 | 2,000,000 | <1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | << 100 | 5,000,000 | <1 |
| Latvia | | 2,500,000 | |
| Liechtenstein | << 100 | 35,000 | <1 |
| Lithuania | | 3,500,000 | |
| Macedonia | 600 | 2,000,000 | 30 |
| Mexico | 105,000 | 107,000,000 | 98 |
| Moldova | | 4,000,000 | |
| Montenegro | | 3,000,000 | |
| Nepal | | 27,000,000 | |
| Netherlands | 1,300 | 16,500,000 | 8 |
| New Zealand | | 4,000,000 | |
| Nicaragua | | 5,000,000 | |
| Norway | ...44.000 | 4,800,000 | 917 |
| Pakistan | | 160,000,000 | |
| Panama | | 3,000,000 | |
| Peru | 2,500 | 28,000,000 | 9 |
| Poland | | 38,000,000 | |
| Portugal | 600 | 10,000,000 | 6 |

[1]

[2]

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----|
| Romania | 15,000 | 22,000,000 | 68 |
| Russia | < 100 | 142,000,000 | <1 |
| Serbia | | 7,000,000 | |
| Slovak Republic | | 5,500,000 | |
| Slovenia | | 2,000,000 | |
| South Africa | 20,000 | 44,000,000 | 45 |
| South Korea | | 48,000,000 | |
| Sweden | | 9,000,000 | |
| Switzerland | | 7,000,000 | |
| Taiwan | | 23,000,000 | |
| Tajikistan | << 100 | 7,000,000 | <1 |
| Thailand | | 65,000,000 | |
| Trinidad & Tobago | | 1,300,000 | |
| Turkey | 39,000 | 70,000,000 | 56 |
| Uganda | < 100 | 27,000,000 | <1 |
| Ukraine | | 48,000,000 | |
| United Kingdom [-Scotland] | 40.000 | 55,000,000 | 72 |
| United States of America | 1.500.000 | 305,000,000 | 492 |
| Uruguay | | 3,500,000 | |
| Uzbekistan | < 100 | 30,000,000 | <1 |
| Zimbabwe | < 100 | 12,000,000 | <1 |

Notes

[1] This figure excludes FOIA requests filed by journalists. Journalists request usually informal not using the FOIA for two reasons: quicker and cheaper [filing a FOIA request costs in Israel approx 16 euro]

[2] In Norway you cannot request for disclosure of a collection of docs; every doc needs a request of its own. This is just one of the examples to underline that statistics are ways of lying.

Remarks

The working definition of 'Number of requests' in this list is:

- written requests [=paper+digital-oral] filed at
- national/federal bodies and/or level of
- executive bodies [=trias politica minus courts and minus parliaments] and
- excluded are requests for personal formalities, social security applies etc.

A lot of the presented figures are based on this working definition and therefore by me downsized official figures. In next year's Overview this list will be more accurate because I will try to publish the official figure, knowing that official figures often lie, and a by me modified one based on criteria like the above ones. In remarks I will give a clarification for the used methodology and present the sources.

An overall aspect that has to be considered is: True comparing needs an assessment of the pro-active transparency rate versus passive transparency because that defines 'the need to file requests'.

In my view the volume of requests is one of the important indicators to assess the health of the FOI climate in a country. That is why I, realising that the quality/ of the figures is poor, publish them. A second reason is the idea that publishing is a way to get more input.

I hope that this presentation will stimulate debate on the working definition and on the quality of statistics provided by governments, information commissioners, lobbyists and NGOs.

Warning

Even after my downsizing efforts lots of figures above are still sexed up.

The A6 list The country requests volume ranking

| <u>Ranking</u> | <u>Countries</u> | Number of requests per year per 100,000 inhabitants | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Norway | 917 | [see note 2 previous page] |
| 2 | United States of America | 492 | |
| 3 | Bulgaria | 175 | |
| 4 | Ireland | 125 | |
| 5 | Canada | 106 | |
| 6 | Mexico | 98 | |
| 7 | Japan | 80 | |
| 8 | United Kingdom | 72 | |
| 9 | Romania | 68 | |
| 10 | Croatia | 67 | |
| 11 | Turkey | 56 | |
| 12 | Israel | 46 | [see note 1 previous page] |
| 13 | South Africa | 45 | |
| 14 | Macedonia | 30 | |
| 15 | Australia | 20 | |
| 16 | Jamaica | 13 | |
| 17 | Finland | 10 | |
| 18 | Peru | 9 | |
| 19 | Netherlands | 8 | |
| 20 | Serbia | 7 | |
| 21 | Portugal | 6 | |
| 22 | Azerbaijan | 5 | |
| | France | 5 | |
| 24 | Germany | 2 | |
| | Angola | <1 | |
| | Austria | <1 | |
| | Belgium | <1 | |
| | Belize | <1 | |
| | China | <1 | |
| | Colombia | <1 | |
| | Ecuador | <1 | |
| | Greece | <1 | |
| | Italy | <1 | |
| | Jordan | <1 | |
| | Kosovo | <1 | |
| | Kyrgyzstan | <1 | |
| | Liechtenstein | <1 | |
| | Russia | <1 | |
| | Tajikistan | <1 | |
| | Uganda | <1 | |
| | Uzbekistan | <1 | |
| | Zimbabwe | <1 | |

+
42

The A7 list The name and shame list – *very experimental*

| <u>Countries</u> | less than 1 requests per 100,000 inhabitants per year and/or | special interest required and/or | poor complaint and appeal possibilities/practice and/or | poor execution of decisions and rulings and/or | veto for govt and/or | costs | |
|------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|-------|----|
| Belgium | x | | x | | | | * |
| Georgia | | | x | x | | | |
| Italy | x | x | | | | | |
| Liechtenstein | x | x | | | | | |
| Moldova | | | x | x | | | |
| Panama | | | x | x | | | |
| Tajikistan | x | | | x | | | |
| Ukraine | | | x | x | | | |
| Uzbekistan | x | | | x | | | |
| Zimbabwe | x | | x | x | x | x | ** |

* Belgium is taking steps to improve its incredible poor complaint practice

** Without doubt the poorest of the 80 members of the A list

Methodology of this naming and shaming section

Enlisted are countries which fail to meet at least two of the above six criteria. [That is a narrow escape for for instance Canada, UK [veto right], Nepal [interest required], Germany and Israel [costs] or a whole range of countries with less than 1 request per 100,000 inhabitants]

Would the countries which fail to meet just one of the above criteria be enlisted, the number of countries in this section would double; would I have added 'time delay' as criteria almost all countries would be on the list.

In other words this section is a call for debate on criteria to discriminate between good and poor FOIA texts and practices. My preference would be one list with next to good and poor, lots of shades of grey. My second preference is to not exclude in the A-list any FOIA even if it is a very poor one.

Other criteria suggestions: The above used selection of criteria is arbitrary and a mixture of minimum-standards and best practice-like standards. Other suggestions for criteria are:

- + enforceable right of access
- + true law
- + govt holds information on behalf of the public
- + next to passive also active disclosure provisions
- + limited set of clear exemptions
- + time limits which enable access as real time as possible
- + no citizenship requirement
- + no costs
- + no interest requirement
- + no govt veto right
- + number of silent refusals
- + time delay
- + effective sanctions against time delay
- + effective sanctions against misconduct of civil servants
- + effective sanctions against misuse of exemptions

The A8 list The sub-national FOIAs in alphabetical order

A part of the countries with a national FOIA has also one or more sub-national ones. This is a first overview of those sub-national FOIAs. Please reply if you have additions and/or corrections.

| <u>Territories</u> | Year of formal approval or formal adoption of the FOIA | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| <u>Provinces</u> | Year in which the FOIA came in power <<< <u>only these FOIAs are counted !!</u> | |
| <u>States</u> | Year of latest FOIA revision | |
| <u>Etc</u> | Name of the FOIA, in English | |
| | Name of the FOIA, in native tongue | |
| | Link | |

Argentina

Provinces

8 of 32 have a FOIA

4 others have a FOI decree

Municipalities

Buenos Aires City has a FOIA

+ 13

Australia

States

Queensland

2009

Queensland Right to Information Act

New South Wales

Victoria

Tasmania

South Australia

Western Australia

Territories

Australian Capitol Territory

Northern Territory

2003

Northern Territory Information Act

+ 8

Austria

Bundesländer

Burgenland

Karinthie

Nieder-Österreich

Ober-Österreich

Salzburg

Steirmark

Tirol

Vorarlberg

Wien

+ 9

Belgium

Regions

Brussels
Flandres
Wallonia

+ 3

Canada

Provinces

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|---|
| Alberta | 1994 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.oipc.ab.ca/pages/home/ |
| British Columbia | 1992 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act - |
| Manitoba | 1985 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.ombudsman.mb.ca/legislation.htm |
| New Brunswick | 1978 | | Right to Information Act www.gnb.ca/0073/info-e.asp |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1981 | 2002 | Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.oipc.nl.ca/ |
| Nova Scotia | 1977 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act http://foipop.ns.ca/legislation.html |
| Ontario | 1987 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.ipc.on.ca/english/Access-To-Information/ |
| Prince Edward Island | 2001 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.gov.pe.ca/jps/index.php3?number=1024336&lang=E |
| Quebec | 1982 | | An Act Respecting Access to Docs Held by Public Bodies www.cai.gouv.qc.ca/index-en.html |
| Saskatchewan | 1991 | | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act - |
| <u>Territories</u> | | | |
| Northwest Territories | 1994 | | Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act - |
| Nunavut | 2000 | | Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.info-privacy.nu.ca/en/home |
| Yukon | 1984 | | Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act www.atipp.gov.yk.ca/ |
| <u>Municipalities</u> | | | |
| Ontario | 1990 | | Municipal FoI and Protection of Privacy Act www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90m56_e.htm |
| Saskatchewan | 1991 | | Local Authority FoI and Protection of Privacy Act www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/L27-1.pdf |

+ 15

China

Special Administrative Regions

| | | | |
|-----------|------|------|--|
| Hong Kong | 1995 | 1998 | Code on access to information |
| Shanghai | | 2004 | Shanghai Municipal Provisions on Open Govt Information |

Municipalities

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------|---|
| Guangzhou | | 2002 | Guangzhou Municipal Provisions on Open Govt Information |
|-----------|--|------|---|

+ 3

Denmark

Countries

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|--|
| Greenland | 1994 | 1995 | 1999 | Law on openness in administration Landstingslov om offentlighed i forvaltningen www.lovgivning.gl/gh.gl-love/dk/1994/Lt/l_tl_nr_09-19-94_dk.htm |
|-----------|------|------|------|--|

Provinces

| | | | | |
|-------|------|------|--|--|
| Faroe | 2004 | 2004 | | Law on openness in administration Landstingslov om offentlighed i forvaltningen |
|-------|------|------|--|--|

+ 2

Finland

Provinces

| | | | | |
|-------|--|------|------|--|
| Aland | | 1977 | 2008 | Act on the openness of government activities Lag om allmänna handlingars offentlighet |
|-------|--|------|------|--|

+ 1

Germany

Bundesländer

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--|------|------|--|
| Berlin | | 1999 | 2010 | among them [11 out of 16]: Berliner Informationsfreiheitsgesetz www.datenschutz-berlin.de/content/informationsfreiheit/berlin |
| Brandenburg | | 1998 | | Akteneinsichts- und Informationszugangsgesetz Data Protection and Access to Information www.lfa.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?template=star_e_lda&gsid=5lbn1.c.97044.de |
| Bremen | | 2006 | | Gesetz über die Freiheit des Zugangs zu Informationen www.informationsfreiheit-bremen.de/informationsfreiheit.php |
| Hamburg | | 2006 | | Hamburgisches Informationsfreiheitsgesetz www.bfdi.bund.de/cln_136/SharedDocs/IFG/IFGLandesgesetze/HamburgischesIFG.html?nn=412008 |
| Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | | 2006 | | Informationsfreiheitsgesetz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern www.informationsfreiheit-mv.de/infrei/ges_ver/ifg/ifqmv/ifq-mv.html |
| Nordrhein-Westfalen | | 2002 | | Informationsfreiheitsgesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen www.bfdi.bund.de/cln_136/SharedDocs/IFG/IFGLandesgesetze/IFGNRW.html?nn=412008 |
| Rheinland-Pfalz | | 2009 | | Informationsfreiheitsgesetz |
| Saarland | | 2006 | | - Saarländisches Informationsfreiheitsgesetz www.sadaba.de/GSLT_SIFG.html |
| Sachsen-Anhalt | | 2008 | | Informationszugangsgesetz Sachsen-Anhalt www.bfdi.bund.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/416200/publicationFile/24710/SachsenAnhalt.pdf |
| Schleswig-Holstein | | 2000 | | Informationsfreiheitsgesetz Schleswig-Holstein https://www.datenschutzzentrum.de/material/recht/ifg.htm |
| Thüringen | | 2007 | | Thüringer Informationsfreiheitsgesetz www.bfdi.bund.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/416228/publicationFile/24711/ThueringerIFG.pdf |

+ 11

India

States

27 out of 28 [no FOIA in: Jammu and Kashmir]

Andra Pradesh
Arunachal Pradesh
Assam
Bihar
Chhattisgarh
Goa
Gujarat
Haryana
Himachal Pradesh
Jharkhand
Karnataka
Kerala
Madhya Pradesh
Maharashtra
Manipur
Meghalaya
Mizoram
Nagaland
Orissa
Punjab
Rajasthan
Sikkim
Tamil Nadu
Tripura
Uttar Pradesh
Uttarakhand
West Bengal

Territories

National Capital Territory of Delhi

+ 28

Malaysia

States

Selangor 2010

+ 1

Mexico

States

Aguascalien
Baja California
Baja California Sur
Campeche
Chiapas
Chihuahua
Coahuila
Colima
Federal District
Durango
Guanajuato
Guerrero
Hidalgo
Jalisco
Mexico State
Michoacan

Morelos
 Nayarit
 Nuevo Leon
 Oaxaca
 Puebla
 Queretaro
 Quintan a Roo
 San Luis Potosi
 Sinaloa
 Sonora
 Tabasco
 Tamaulipas
 Tlaxcala
 Veracruz
 Yucatan
 Zacatecas

+ 32

The Netherlands

Countries

| | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|---|
| Aruba | 1999 | 1999 | 2006 | Lob: Act on public access to government information Lob: Landsverordening openbaarheid van bestuur www.overheid.aw/index.asp?nmoduleid=4&wgj-d=6&nbrwsrdctn=-1&spagetype=6&docid=329 |
| Curacao | 1999 | 1999 | | Lob: Act on public access to government information Lob: Landsverordening openbaarheid van bestuur www.curacao-gov.an/site.nsf/Sectionpages/LOB?Open-Document |
| Sint Maarten | 1999 | 1999 | | Lob: Act on public access to government information Lob: Landsverordening openbaarheid van bestuur www.curacao-gov.an/site.nsf/Sectionpages/LOB?Open-Document [not yet a site of its own] |

+ 3

Pakistan

Provinces

| | | | | |
|-------------|--|------|--|---|
| Sindh | | 2006 | | among them: www.ourrighttoknow.org/sindh-foi-law.html |
| Baluchistan | | 2005 | | www.ourrighttoknow.org/balochistan-foi-law.html |

+ 2

United Kingdom

Countries

| | | | | |
|----------|------|------|--|--|
| Scotland | 2002 | 2005 | | Freedom of information [Scotland] act www.itspublicknowledge.info/Law/FOISA/FOISA.asp 60 requests per 100.000 inhabitants |
|----------|------|------|--|--|

Territories

| | | | | |
|----------------|------|------|--|--|
| Cayman Islands | 2007 | 2009 | | Freedom of information law www.infocomm.ky/pubdocs/file/FREEDOM_OF_INFORMATION_LAW_2007.PDF |
|----------------|------|------|--|--|

+ 2

United States of America

States

| | | |
|----------------|------|--------------------|
| Alabama | 2010 | |
| Alaska | | |
| Arizona | | |
| Arkansas | | |
| California | | |
| Colorado | | |
| Connecticut | | |
| Delaware | | |
| Florida | | |
| Georgia | | |
| Hawaii | | |
| Idaho | | |
| Illinois | | |
| Indiana | | |
| Iowa | | |
| Kansas | | |
| Kentucky | | |
| Louisiana | | |
| Maine | | |
| Maryland | | |
| Massachusetts | | |
| Michigan | | |
| Minnesota | | |
| Mississippi | | |
| Missouri | | |
| Montana | | |
| Nebraska | | |
| Nevada | | |
| New Hampshire | | |
| New Jersey | | |
| New Mexico | | |
| New York | | |
| North-Carolina | | |
| North-Dakota | | |
| Ohio | | |
| Oklahoma | | |
| Oregon | | |
| Pennsylvania | | |
| Rhode Island | | |
| South-Carolina | | |
| South-Dakota | | |
| Tennessee | | |
| Texas | | |
| Utah | | |
| Vermont | | |
| Virginia | | |
| Washington | 2005 | Public Records Act |
| West-Virginia | | |
| Wisconsin | | |
| Wyoming | | |

Federal District
Washington DC

+ 51

The A9 list The Inter-, super- and supranational FOIAs in alphabetical order

Organisation

Year of formal approval/adoption of a FOIA regulation/policy
Year in which the FOIA regulation came in power
Status and/or name of the FOIA

| | | | |
|--|------|------|---|
| Belfast Good Friday Agreement ¹ | 1999 | 1999 | North/South Bodies FOI Code of Practice |
| European Union | 2001 | 2001 | FOI Regulation |

+ 2

Notes

¹ http://foiwiki.com/foiwiki/index.php/North/South_Bodies_Freedom_of_Information_Code_of_Practice
<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/list/nsbody>

The B1 list – More or less close to a FOIA – National

| <u>Countries</u> | Year of first FOIA draft | Year of FOIA approval | Prognosis for coming into power of the FOIA | Status and/or name of the FOIA |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Afghanistan | 2010 | | | Draft: Right to information in Media law |
| Argentina | | 2009 | | Draft |
| Bahrain | 2008 | | | Draft |
| Barbados | | 2008 | | Draft |
| Belarus | 2003 | | | Draft |
| Bolivia | | | | FOIA Decree 2004 |
| Botswana | 2010 | | | Lobby |
| Brazil | 2008 | 2008 | | Draft: Bill on the right to information |
| Burkina Faso | 2010 | | | Lobby |
| Cambodia | | | | Lobby |
| Cameroon | | | | Lobby |
| Congo Democratic Republic | | | | Lobby |
| Costa Rica | | 2002 | | Draft |
| Egypt | 2008 | | | Lobby |
| El Salvador | | 2009 | | Draft |
| Ethiopia | | | 2008 2010 | Law mass media/FOI [in power dec2010] |
| Fiji Islands | | 2005 | | Draft |
| Ghana | | 2002 | | New draft 2007 |
| Guyana | | 2005 | | Draft |
| Iran | | 2004 | 2008 | Approved but actual status unclear |
| Iraq | | 2009 | | Draft |
| Kazakhstan | 2010 | | | Lobby |
| Kenya | | 2005 | | Draft |
| St Kitts and Nevis | | 2006 | | Draft |
| Kuwait | 2008 | | | Draft |
| Lebanon | 2010 | | | Lobby |
| Lesotho | | 2000 | | Draft but actual status unclear |
| Liberia | | | 2010 | Approved Freedom of information bill |
| Luxembourg | | 2000 | 2010 | Approved bill |
| Malawi | | 2004 | | Draft |
| Malaysia | 2005 | 2006 | 2010 2010 | Federal prognosis uncertain |
| Maldives | | | 2009 | Adopting process |
| Mali | 2010 | | | Lobby |
| Malta | | | 2008 | Approved Freedom of information act |
| Mongolia | | 2006 | | Draft |
| Morocco | 2007 | | | Lobby |
| Mozambique | | 2005 | | Draft |
| Nauru | 2009 | | | Lobby |
| Nigeria | 1999 | 2000 | 2008 | Approved Freedom of information bill |
| Palestine | 2005 | 2005 | | Draft |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | Draft |
| Paraguay | | | | Draft |
| Philippines | | 2008 | 2009 | Draft |
| Rwanda | | 2010 | | Draft: Law on access to information |
| Senegal | 2010 | 2010 | | Lobby |
| Sierra Leone | 2009 | | 2010 | Approved Freedom of information bill |
| Solomon Islands | 2008 | | | Lobby |
| Spain | | 2009 | | Draft |
| Sri Lanka | | 2003 | | Draft |
| Sudan | | | | Draft |
| Surinam | | 2008 | | Draft |
| Swaziland | | 2007 | | Draft - stalled |
| Tanzania | | 2006 | | Draft - stalled |
| Vanuatu | | 2006 | | Draft |
| Venezuela | 2010 | | | Lobby |
| Vietnam | | 2009 | | Draft |
| Zambia | | 2003 | | Draft |
| Yemen | 2008 | 2009 | | Draft |

The B2 list – More or less close to a FOIA – Sub-national

| <u>Territories</u> | Year of first FOIA draft | Year of FOIA approval | Status and/or name of the FOIA |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| UK: Bermuda | 2010 | 2012 | Draft: Freedom of information law |
| UK: Guernsey | | | Draft |
| UK: Isle of Man | 2008 | | Draft |
| UK: Jersey | 2005 | | Draft |

The B3 list – More or less close to a FOIA – Inter-, super- and supranational

Organisation

Year of formal approval/adoption of a FOIA regulation/policy
 Year in which the FOIA regulation came in power
 Status and/or name of the FOIA

| | | | |
|--|------|---|--|
| AfDB: African Development Bank | 1997 | ? | - |
| Asian Development Bank | 1994 | ? | - |
| EBRD: European Bank for Recon. and Develp. | 1996 | ? | - |
| Inter American Development Bank | 1994 | ? | - |
| IMF: International Monetary Fund | 2002 | ? | FOI policy statement |
| UN: United Nations | ? | ? | Some kind of FOI regulation in early stage |
| UNDP: UN Development Programme | ? | ? | Some kind of FOI regulation in early stage |
| UNESCO | ? | ? | Formal commitment to adopt a FOI policy |
| World Bank | 1994 | ? | - |

The C1 list – No sign of a FOIA – National

Algeria
Andorra
Bahamas
Benin
Bhutan
Brunei
Burma
Burundi
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Cuba
Cyprus
Djibouti
Dominica
East Timor
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Gambia
Gabon
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Haiti
Ivory Coast
Kiribati
Laos
Libya
Madagascar
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Monaco
Myanmar
Namibia
Niger
North Korea
Oman
Palau
Qatar
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
St Lucia
Syria
Togo
Tonga
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United Arab Emirates
Vatican
St Vincent & Grenadines
West Sahara
West Samoa

The C2 list – No sign of a FOIA – Sub-national

| | <u>Part of:</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Akrotiri | UK | |
| Alderney | UK | |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | India | |
| Anguilla | UK | |
| Ashmore and Cartier Islands | Australia | |
| Australian Antarctic Territory | Australia | |
| Baker Island | US | |
| Chandigarh | India | |
| Christmas Islands | Australia | |
| Clipperton Island | France | |
| Cocos Islands | Australia | |
| Coral Sea Islands | Australia | |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | India | |
| Daman and Diu | India | |
| Falkland Islands | UK | |
| French Guyana | France | |
| French Polynesia | France | |
| French Southern & Antarctic Lands | France | |
| Gibraltar | UK | |
| Guadeloupe | France | |
| Guam | US | |
| Guantanamo Bay Naval Base | US | extraterritorial jurisdiction: FOIA implication unclear |
| Heard and McDonald Islands | Australia | |
| Howland Island | US | |
| Isle of Wight | UK | |
| Jan Mayen | Norway | |
| Jarvis Island | US | |
| Jervis Bay Territory | Australia | formerly a part of New South Wales |
| Johnston Atoll | US | |
| Kingman Reef | US | |
| Lakshadweep | India | |
| Macau [SAR] | China | |
| Martinique | France | |
| Mayotte | France | |
| Midway Islands | US | |
| Montserrat | UK | |
| New Caledonia | France | |
| Niue | Nw Zealand | |
| Norfolk Islands | Australia | |
| Northern Mariana Islands | US | |
| Palmyra Atoll | US | |
| Pitcairn Islands | UK | |
| Puducherry | India | |
| Puerto Rico | US | |
| Reunion | France | |
| Samoa | US | |
| Sark | UK | |
| St Barthelemy | France | |
| St Helena | UK | |
| St Martin | France | Strange entities [a serious FOI problem] |
| St Pierre and Miquelon | France | Arctic |
| S Georgia & S Sandwich Islands | UK | Antarctic |
| Svalbard | Norway | Continental Shelves |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | UK | Moon |
| Virgin Islands | US | Planets |
| Wake Island | US | Seas, Oceans |
| Wallis and Futuna | France | Space |

The C2 list – No sign of a FOIA – Inter-, super- and supranational

Organisation

Year of formal approval/adoption of a FOIA regulation/policy
 Year in which the FOIA regulation came in power
 Status and/or name of the FOIA

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ABEDA: Arab Bank for Ec. Development in Africa | ? | ? | - |
| ASEAN: Association of South East Asian Nations | ? | ? | - |
| AU: African Union | ? | ? | - |
| Council of Europe | ? | ? | - |
| Commonwealth | ? | ? | - |
| ECO: Economic Cooperation Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| EFTA: European Free Trade Association | ? | ? | - |
| Egmont Group | ? | ? | - |
| EIB: European Investment Bank | ? | ? | - |
| FAO: Food and Agricultural Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| FTAA: Free Trade Area of the Americas | ? | ? | - |
| Mercosur: Southern Common Market | ? | ? | - |
| NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| OAS: Org. of American States | ? | ? | - |
| OECD: Org. for Economic Coop. and Develp. | ? | ? | - |
| OPEC: Org. of Petroleum Export. Countries | ? | ? | - |
| OSCE: Org. for Security & Coop in Europe | ? | ? | - |
| Pacific Forum Secretariat | ? | ? | - |
| SADC: Southern African Develp. Community | ? | ? | - |
| SECI: Southeast European Coop. Initiative | ? | ? | - |
| Sparteca: South Pacific Coop Agreement | ? | ? | - |
| UNEP: UN Environment Program | ? | ? | - |
| UNHCR: UN High Comm. for Refugees | ? | ? | - |
| UNICEF | ? | ? | - |
| UNIDO: UN Industrial Development Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| WAEMU: West African Econ. & Mon. Union | ? | ? | - |
| WEU: Western European Union | ? | ? | - |
| WCO: World Customs Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| WFO: World Food Program | ? | ? | - |
| WHO: World Health Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| WTO: World Trade Organisation | ? | ? | - |
| Zangger Committee | ? | ? | - |

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ *Fringe Colophon*

This Overview is a Special of the Fringe journals

Fringe is a project of Roger Vleugels

In 1986 I started my own office and my work as legal advisor and lecturer specialized in freedom of information and intelligence. Next to this regular work I publish since 2001 the Fringe journals.

I lecture on journalism basics, investigative journalism and FOIAs on journalism schools, universities and in company for students in or from Aruba, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Ireland, Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and UK.

As legal advisor I filed since 1988 more than 3,500 FOIA requests for and with my clients, most of them press organizations and journalists but also, special interest groups, NGOs, researchers and private persons.

At the beginning my work was focused on forensic intelligence research only. In other words I started at the climax of non-transparency. As intelligence specialist I research, lecture, comment in the press, brief members of parliament and give advice to journalists and lawyers.

The format of the Fringe journals

The goals of the Fringe journals are not being a regular magazine. The journals are purely a research tool. **Articles are not selected for their content but for the facts or trends within them.** One of the consequences is that I do not discriminate between information and disinformation. Other goals are trying to publish news in early stages, before the news is established with an overall focus on next to mainstream. After doing so Fringe will not cover such a topic further, unless there is again something special, and above all: Fringe hopes to be a bit wayward.

The Fringe article gathering & The Fringe Stringers

Fringe would not be possible without a fine network of about fifteen, Dutch and foreign, overt and covert stringers. Second to that is Fringe based on active surfing; on lots of subscriptions and on feeds and alerts.

In this way I try to cover a substantial part of the intelligence and foia sites and of a representative part of the major newspapers and other periodicals worldwide.

Two Fringe Journals

Fringe Intelligence offers not yet established intelligence news and intelligence articles next to mainstream, while Fringe Spitting provides news and tools for investigative journalists, researchers and freedom of information specialists.

Fringe Intelligence tries to focus on forensic and/or operational information. In other words tries not to publish about bureaucratic information and not about politics or formal and legal aspects. Fringe Intelligence does not focus on terrorism. In every issue of Fringe Intelligence 50+ articles ranging from intelligence and counterintelligence, via criminal intelligence and counter terrorism to parapolitics and other topics with intelligence aspects.

Fringe Spitting is oriented on FOIA practitioners. In each issue of Spitting 20+ articles about news on laws, litigation, remarkable disclosures [among others about new old news with a bit a focus on intelligence matters]. And lots of tips, tricks and tools.

Both are biweeklies [an article will never appear in both]. Occasionally Fringe publishes Specials, like the Index Dutch Intelligence, the Overview of FOIA Countries or Spying the Press. If there is a lot of news, for instance after a terror attack, Fringe Intelligence changes into a more frequent, if necessary daily, published journal.

Almost all articles are internet downloads. 90+% English. Less than 10% is about or related to The Netherlands. The quality is the quality of the source.

2,200 subscribers

This circulation means that both Fringe journals have each in their own sector, respectively OSINT and FOIA, worldwide a top five ranking.

55% of the subscribers are intelligence specialists, 30% journalists, 15% FOIA specialists and a lot do have mixed specialisms. They live in 96 countries: 35% in NL, 5% in UK, 25% in US and 35% in the rest of the world. 15% of the subscribers are employees of government bodies [50% of them of services of the intelligence communities] and 15% of universities and colleges.

Questions direct or via Linked In, Twitter [& Facebook]

Please feel free to mail me direct. Another contact option is via one of the social and/or professional networks on which I am present.

On Linked In, Twitter and Facebook I am direct connected with more than 50% of the subscribers. Several hundred them joined one or more of groups managed by me: on Linked In: **FOIA Specialists** or **Web Specialists** or **Dutch Intelligence Watchers**; and on Facebook: **FOIA Specialist**. Feel free to join these groups.

[I put Facebook between square brackets because, for privacy and usability reasons, I do not like that network.]

Fringe is solely a research tool

All articles [re]published in Fringe are solely meant for research by the subscribers themselves. It is not allowed to [re]publish or [re]circulate, parts of, articles. Because Fringe is a free of charge research tool Fringe itself is allowed to recirculate copyrighted material according to the fair use notice. [More on that at the bottom of this colophon.]

Subscription are free of charge [voluntary contributions very are welcome] and enclose both journals

The journals are and will stay free of charge. This is for two reasons:

- I started, ten years ago, the Fringe project as a kind of service to my clients and relations.

- For legal reasons the journals have to be free of charge.

To start a subscription email: **Start Fringe** in the subject line, to roger.vleugels@planet.nl

To stop a subscription email: **Stop Fringe** in the subject line, to roger.vleugels@planet.nl

Donations

Fringe is a very time consuming project. Each year in January I ask the subscribers for a voluntary contribution. The percentage of subscribers who pays yearly is rising but still less than 10%. [Due to legal, copyright, reasons it is not allowed to charge for journals like Fringe. This means that the only way to collect money is via voluntary contribution or via donations.]

In order to give Fringe a more solid fundament every donation is welcome.

Voluntary contributions

Voluntary contributions are welcome. Once a year, in January, you will be asked to pay a voluntary contribution. My suggestion:

48.00 euro per year for individual subscribers [48,00 euro a year is 1.00 euro per issue]

24.00 euro per year for students and others with modest means

200.00 euro per year for an editorial office or other organization for multiple subscriptions

Payments from the Netherlands

ING Bank no. 3432010 in the name of Roger Vleugels, in Utrecht

Reference for instance Fringe contribution or Fringe donation

Payments from abroad

ING Bank: IBAN: NL79INGB0003432010 / BIC: INGBNL2A in the name of Roger Vleugels, in Utrecht, The Netherlands

Reference for instance Fringe contribution or Fringe donation

Payments via snail mail [please consider, for larger sums, registered mail]

Roger Vleugels / Korfoedreef 213 / 3562 SL Utrecht / The Netherlands

Reference for instance Fringe contribution or Fringe donation