

Freedom of Information Act



Definition document for Wholly Owned Companies

This guidance is for wholly-owned companies which are public authorities for the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act. It gives examples of the kinds of information that we would expect these companies to provide in order to meet their commitments under the model publication scheme. We would expect these companies to make the information in this definition document available unless:

- they do not hold the information;
- the information is exempt under one of the FOI exemptions or Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) exceptions, or its release is prohibited under another statute;
- the information is archived, out of date or otherwise inaccessible; or,
- it would be impractical or resource-intensive to prepare the material for routine release.

The guidance is not meant to give a definitive list. The legal commitment is to the model publication scheme, and authorities should look to provide as much information as possible on a routine basis.

Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts.

We would expect information in this class to be current information only.

- **Roles and responsibilities**

Companies should be providing outline and detailed information about their roles and responsibilities, and the roles and responsibilities of people working in them at senior level. It should indicate the relationship with the public authority owning the company.

- **Articles of Association**
- **Board membership**

Identification of and biographical details of Board members. Biographical details that are not work related should be published only with consent.

- **Senior executives**

Identification of, responsibilities of and biographical details those making strategic and operational decisions about providing the company's services. Biographical details that are not work related should be published only with consent.

- **Staff structure**
- **Contact points**

Where possible, give named contacts.

What we spend and how we spend it

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit.

The minimum we would expect is that financial information for the current and previous financial year

Our policies and procedures

Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities.

We would expect information in this class to be current information only.

- **Policies and procedures for conducting departmental business**
- **Policies and procedures for delivering our services**
- **Policies and procedures for recruiting and employing staff**

Codes of practice, memoranda of understanding and similar information should be included. A number of policies, for example equality and diversity, and health and safety, will cover both the provision of services and the employment of staff. If vacancies are advertised as part of recruitment policies, details of current vacancies will be readily available. Policies and procedures for handling request for information should be included.

- **Customer service**

Standards for providing services to the company's customers, including the complaint procedure. Complaints procedures will include those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme.

- **Records management and personal data policies**

This will include information security policies, records retention, destruction and archive policies, and data protection (including data sharing) policies.

- **Charging regimes and policies**

Details of any statutory charging regimes should be provided. Charging policies should include charges made for information routinely published. They should clearly state what costs are to be recovered, the basis on which they are made, and how they are calculated.

Lists and registers

Any information we are currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers.

We expect this to be information contained only in currently maintained lists and registers.

- **Any lists or registers that may be required to produce in the conduct of their business**
- **Any property asset list**
- **Disclosure logs**

If a department produces a disclosure log indicating the information provided in response to requests, it should be readily available. Disclosure logs are

recommended as good practice.
The services we offer Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters Generally this is an extension of part of the first class of information. While the first class provides information on the company's roles and responsibilities, this class includes details of the services the company provides, internationally, nationally and locally as a result of them. It will benefit the public to have ready access, for example, to everything from information about the services the company provides for the public authority owning it to the information readily available to individuals at a public counter (where provided). The starting point would normally be a list or lists of the services the company is responsible for, linked to details of these services. • Details of company services • Services for which the company is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees • Leaflets • Media Releases