



Freedom of Information Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 36

PART I

ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Publication schemes

19 Publication schemes

- (1) It shall be the duty of every public authority—
 - (a) to adopt and maintain a scheme which relates to the publication of information by the authority and is approved by the Commissioner (in this Act referred to as a “publication scheme”),
 - (b) to publish information in accordance with its publication scheme, and
 - (c) from time to time to review its publication scheme.
- (2) A publication scheme must—
 - (a) specify classes of information which the public authority publishes or intends to publish,
 - (b) specify the manner in which information of each class is, or is intended to be, published, and
 - (c) specify whether the material is, or is intended to be, available to the public free of charge or on payment.
- (3) In adopting or reviewing a publication scheme, a public authority shall have regard to the public interest—
 - (a) in allowing public access to information held by the authority, and
 - (b) in the publication of reasons for decisions made by the authority.
- (4) A public authority shall publish its publication scheme in such manner as it thinks fit.
- (5) The Commissioner may, when approving a scheme, provide that his approval is to expire at the end of a specified period.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (6) Where the Commissioner has approved the publication scheme of any public authority, he may at any time give notice to the public authority revoking his approval of the scheme as from the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which the notice is given.
- (7) Where the Commissioner—
 - (a) refuses to approve a proposed publication scheme, or
 - (b) revokes his approval of a publication scheme,he must give the public authority a statement of his reasons for doing so.

20 Model publication schemes

- (1) The Commissioner may from time to time approve, in relation to public authorities falling within particular classes, model publication schemes prepared by him or by other persons.
- (2) Where a public authority falling within the class to which an approved model scheme relates adopts such a scheme without modification, no further approval of the Commissioner is required so long as the model scheme remains approved; and where such an authority adopts such a scheme with modifications, the approval of the Commissioner is required only in relation to the modifications.
- (3) The Commissioner may, when approving a model publication scheme, provide that his approval is to expire at the end of a specified period.
- (4) Where the Commissioner has approved a model publication scheme, he may at any time publish, in such manner as he thinks fit, a notice revoking his approval of the scheme as from the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which the notice is published.
- (5) Where the Commissioner refuses to approve a proposed model publication scheme on the application of any person, he must give the person who applied for approval of the scheme a statement of the reasons for his refusal.
- (6) Where the Commissioner refuses to approve any modifications under subsection (2), he must give the public authority a statement of the reasons for his refusal.
- (7) Where the Commissioner revokes his approval of a model publication scheme, he must include in the notice under subsection (4) a statement of his reasons for doing so.