



# Freedom of Information Act 2000

## 2000 CHAPTER 36

### PART I

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

##### *Right to information*

#### **12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.**

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The [<sup>F1</sup>Minister for the Cabinet Office] may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
  - (a) by one person, or
  - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The [<sup>F2</sup>Minister for the Cabinet Office] may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

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*Changes to legislation: Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 12 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 October 2018. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

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## Annotations:

### Amendments (Textual)

- F1** Words in  
 s. 12(4)  
 substituted (9.11.2016) by  
[The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\)](#)  
 ,  
 art. 1(2)  
 ,  
**Sch. 2 para. 14(2)(h)**  
 (with  
 art. 12  
 )
- F2** Words in  
 s. 12(5)  
 substituted (9.11.2016) by  
[The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\)](#)  
 ,  
 art. 1(2)  
 ,  
**Sch. 2 para. 14(2)(h)**  
 (with  
 art. 12  
 )

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 12(3)-(5) functions transferred (9.12.2015) by  
[The Transfer of Functions \(Information and Public Records\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/1897\)](#)  
 ,  
 arts. 1(2)  
 ,  
**4(1)**  
 ,  
 (2)(e)  
 (with  
 art. 5  
 )

### Commencement Information

- I1** S. 12 wholly in force at 1.1.2005; s. 12 in force at Royal Assent to the extent that it confers power to make regulations, see s. 87(1)(m)(3); s. 12 otherwise in force at 1.1.2005 by  
[S.I. 2004/3122](#)  
 ,  
**art. 2**

**Changes to legislation:**

Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 12 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 October 2018. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 Pt. 4 para. 53(1)(aa) inserted by  
2017 c. 29  
Sch. 11  
para. 29(2)(a)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 4 para. 53(2)(aa) inserted by  
2017 c. 29  
Sch. 11  
para. 29(3)(a)