

*These notes refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2000
(c.36) which received Royal Assent on 30th November 2000*

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part I: Access to information held by public authorities

Right to information

Section 8: Request for information

49. This section lays down the conditions which must be fulfilled in order that a request for information is dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The conditions include a requirement that the applicant describes the information requested. A request for information can be made by any individual or body, regardless of the purpose of the application. An applicant will have to identify himself for the purposes of the application, but the identity of the applicant is otherwise of no concern to the authority except in the case of vexatious or repeated requests (section 14), and personal information (section 40(1) - if the applicant is the subject of the personal information, the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 will apply). In particular, the applicant need not be a United Kingdom national or resident.