

# FRINGE SPECIAL

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

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\* September 20 – 2010 \*

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## Overview of all FOI laws<sup>©</sup>

**80 national FOIAs**  
**184 sub-national FOIAs**  
**&**  
**2 international 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
Hungary	1992	1992	2005	Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública 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<<< <b>decisive for the ranking!!</b>	
			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	<a href="http://www.hidaa.gov.al/english/laws/l_8503.htm">www.hidaa.gov.al/english/laws/l_8503.htm</a>
Angola	<a href="http://www.privacyinternational.org/countries/angola/foi-law02.doc">www.privacyinternational.org/countries/angola/foi-law02.doc</a>
Antigua/B.	<a href="http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/government/parliament/laws/freedom_of_info.pdf">www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/government/parliament/laws/freedom_of_info.pdf</a>
Armenia	<a href="http://www.foi.am/en/content/53/">www.foi.am/en/content/53/</a> <a href="http://www.legislationline.org/documents/action/popup/id/6410">www.legislationline.org/documents/action/popup/id/6410</a>
Australia	<a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/foia1982222/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/foia1982222/</a> <a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/foia1982222/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/foia1982222/</a>
Austria	
Azerbaijan	<a href="http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/26135/12047260333Azerbaijan.pdf/Azerbaijan.pdf">http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/26135/12047260333Azerbaijan.pdf/Azerbaijan.pdf</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Bangladesh-RTI%20Ordinance%202008.pdf">http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Bangladesh-RTI%20Ordinance%202008.pdf</a>
Belgium	<a href="http://www.privacyinternational.org/countries/belgium/loi-publicite.rtf">www.privacyinternational.org/countries/belgium/loi-publicite.rtf</a>
Belize	<a href="http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/PDF%20files/cap013.pdf">www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/PDF%20files/cap013.pdf</a>
Bosnia & H.	<a href="http://www.ohr.int/ohr-dept/media-d/med-recon/freedom/default.asp?content_id=7269">www.ohr.int/ohr-dept/media-d/med-recon/freedom/default.asp?content_id=7269</a>
Bulgaria	<a href="http://www.aip-bg.org/library/laws/apia.htm">www.aip-bg.org/library/laws/apia.htm</a>
Canada	<a href="http://www.infocom.gc.ca/acts/pdfs/accessact.pdf">www.infocom.gc.ca/acts/pdfs/accessact.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.infocom.gc.ca/acts/pdfs/accessact.pdf">www.infocom.gc.ca/acts/pdfs/accessact.pdf</a>
Chile	<a href="http://www.bcn.cl/leyes/pdf/original/276363.pdf">www.bcn.cl/leyes/pdf/original/276363.pdf</a>
China	<a href="http://chinesefoi.org/regulation.aspx">http://chinesefoi.org/regulation.aspx</a>
Colombia	<a href="http://www.privacyinternational.org/countries/colombia/ley57-foi.doc">www.privacyinternational.org/countries/colombia/ley57-foi.doc</a>
Cook Isl.	<a href="http://www.cook-islands.gov.ck/view_release.php?release_id=1180">www.cook-islands.gov.ck/view_release.php?release_id=1180</a>
Croati	<a href="http://www.gradjani-imaju-pravo-znati.hho.hr/index.php?lang=en">www.gradjani-imaju-pravo-znati.hho.hr/index.php?lang=en</a> <a href="http://www.gradjani-imaju-pravo-znati.hho.hr/index.php?lang=hr">www.gradjani-imaju-pravo-znati.hho.hr/index.php?lang=hr</a>
Czech Rep.	<a href="http://mujweb.cz/www/vaske/informace.htm">http://mujweb.cz/www/vaske/informace.htm</a>
Denmark	<a href="http://www.privacyinternational.org/countries/denmark/dk-foi-85.doc">www.privacyinternational.org/countries/denmark/dk-foi-85.doc</a> <a href="http://www.update.dk/cfje/Lovbasen.nsf/ID/LB00000597?OpenDocument">www.update.dk/cfje/Lovbasen.nsf/ID/LB00000597?OpenDocument</a>
Dominican R.	<a href="http://www.centrojuanmontalvo.org.do/documentos/acceso.pdf">www.centrojuanmontalvo.org.do/documentos/acceso.pdf</a>
Ecuador	<a href="http://www.freedominfo.org/documents/ecuador-spanish.pdf">www.freedominfo.org/documents/ecuador-spanish.pdf</a>
Estonia	<a href="http://www.legaltext.ee/text/en/X40095K2.htm">www.legaltext.ee/text/en/X40095K2.htm</a>
Finland	<a href="http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1999/en19990621.pdf">www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1999/en19990621.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1999/19990621">www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1999/19990621</a>
France	<a href="http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006068643&amp;dateTexte=20100919">www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006068643&amp;dateTexte=20100919</a>
Georgia	
Germany	<a href="http://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_672734/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG_EN.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG_EN.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.bfdi.bund.de/cn_030/nn_672714/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG.pdf">www.bfdi.bund.de/cn_030/nn_672714/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG.pdf</a>
Greece	<a href="http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN001820.pdf">http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN001820.pdf</a>
Guatemala	<a href="http://www.freedominfo.org/documents/Guatemalalaw_decreto_57-2008.pdf">www.freedominfo.org/documents/Guatemalalaw_decreto_57-2008.pdf</a>

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

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

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

+ 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
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+ 3

## Denmark

### Countries

Greenland	1994	1995	1999	Law on openness in administration Landstingslov om offentlighed i forvaltningen <a href="http://www.lovgivning.gl/gh.gl-love/dk/1994/Lt/l_tl_nr_09-19-94_dk.htm">www.lovgivning.gl/gh.gl-love/dk/1994/Lt/l_tl_nr_09-19-94_dk.htm</a>
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### Provinces

Faroe	2004	2004		Law on openness in administration Landstingslov om offentlighed i forvaltningen
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+ 2

## Finland

### Provinces

Aland		1977	2008	Act on the openness of government activities Lag om allmänna handlingars offentlighet
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+ 1

## Germany

### Bundesländer

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

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

+ 3

## Pakistan

### Provinces

Sindh		2006		among them: <a href="http://www.ourrighttoknow.org/sindh-foi-law.html">www.ourrighttoknow.org/sindh-foi-law.html</a>
Baluchistan		2005		<a href="http://www.ourrighttoknow.org/balochistan-foi-law.html">www.ourrighttoknow.org/balochistan-foi-law.html</a>

+ 2

## United Kingdom

### Countries

Scotland	2002	2005		Freedom of information [Scotland] act <a href="http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Law/FOISA/FOISA.asp">www.itspublicknowledge.info/Law/FOISA/FOISA.asp</a> 60 requests per 100.000 inhabitants
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### Territories

Cayman Islands	2007	2009		Freedom of information law <a href="http://www.infocomm.ky/pubdocs/file/FREEDOM_OF_INFORMATION_LAW_2007.PDF">www.infocomm.ky/pubdocs/file/FREEDOM_OF_INFORMATION_LAW_2007.PDF</a>
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+ 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

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## 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 <sup>1</sup>	1999	1999	North/South Bodies FOI Code of Practice
European Union	2001	2001	FOI Regulation

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### Notes

<sup>1</sup> [http://foiwiki.com/foiwiki/index.php/North/South\\_Bodies\\_Freedom\\_of\\_Information\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice](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	<b>Strange entities</b> [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 **Wob 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](mailto:roger.vleugels@planet.nl)

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