

Code of Practice on Freedom of Information for North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd.

The British-Irish Agreement provides that a Code of Practice on Freedom of Information be drawn up by the Irish and Northern Ireland Ministers with responsibility for freedom of information for the North/South Bodies for approval by the NSMC. The Code is non-statutory and has been drafted with regard to the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003 in Ireland and the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 in the United Kingdom.

The Code facilitates public access to information held by the six North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd in a number of ways. It provides that each body should publish certain types of information relating to its functions, structures, organization and services, together with a general description of the type of information held by that body. It sets out the process under which a member of the public can request information held by a body, the steps that a body must take in handling such a request and the time period within which a body should normally respond to a request. The Code also contains the facility for members of the public to obtain a statement of the reasons for an act of a body affecting the person.

The Annex to the Code sets out the categories of exempt information, if the information requested falls into a category listed in Part 1 of the Annex, the body is not obliged to release the information. If the information requested falls into a category listed in Part 2, the body must carry out a public interest test in deciding whether or not to release the information.

The Code provides for an internal review mechanism of decisions taken by the body under the Code.

Members of the public have recourse to an ombudsman if they consider that the administration of their request has not been handled appropriately by a Body.

Foras na Gaeilge holds both paper and electronic records pertaining to its operations. When requests are received which may be dealt with under the Code for Freedom of Information, they are registered and an acknowledgment sent to applicants. In cases where the request may be dealt with more easily or efficiently other than under the procedures of the Code, such possibilities may be discussed with the applicant at the earliest opportunity. Accordingly, the more contact information provided by the applicant, the better. Applicants are strongly advised to read [The Freedom of Information Code of Practice](#) before making an application.

The Freedom of Information Officer for Foras na Gaeilge is Seán Ó Cearnaigh.

Freedom of Information queries should be sent by mail to

An tOifigeach um Shaoráil Faisnéise
Foras na Gaeilge
7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Or by e-mail to saorailfaisneise@forasnaGaeilge.ie