

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

The Act

The Freedom of Information Act creates a statutory right of access to information from a wide range of public authorities, to make the work of these public bodies as open and transparent as possible. The Act permits people to apply for access to documents, or copies of documents, as well as the information itself.

The provisions of the Act are regulated by the Information Commissioner.

www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000036.htm
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Individual Right of Access to information

Individuals already have the right of access to personal information about them which is held on computer and in some paper files, under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Freedom of Information (FOI) extends this right to allow access to all the types of information held, whether personal or non-personal. **This right comes into effect in January 2005.**

Anyone making a request has the right to:

- Be told whether the information exists
- receive the information,
- receive a response within 20 working days.

Exemptions

The Act sets out some exemptions to disclosure, *absolute exemptions*, where information will not be disclosed, and information subject to a *public interest test*. For example, information concerning criminal investigations and proceedings, and personal information provided in confidence, will NOT be provided to individuals.

Advice or assistance

Advice or assistance for anyone seeking information as to what is available, or for clarification, should contact:

Force Information Registrar
Warwickshire Police
PO Box 4, Leek Wootton
Warwick
CV35 7QB

Further information with regard to Individual Rights of Access will be provided on this website in due course. Such information will include contact details, how to obtain assistance, appeals procedures, etc.