

Model Publication Scheme made under the Provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

1 Introduction

This model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted without modification by any public authority (including schools) without further approval and will be valid until further notice.

This publication scheme commits an authority to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the authority. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

The scheme commits an authority:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below;
- To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below:
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme;
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public;
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme;
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available;
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.

2 Classes of information

2.1 Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

2.2 What we spend and how we spend it

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.

2.3 What our priorities are and how we are doing

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

2.4 How we make decisions

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision-making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

2.5 Our policies and procedures

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

2.6 Lists and registers

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.

2.7 The services we offer

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

The classes of information will not generally include:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure;
- Information in draft form;
- Information that is no longer readily available as it contained in files that have been placed in archive storage, or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

3 The methods by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The authority will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by the scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, a public authority will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this matter is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where any authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

4 Written requests

Information held by a public authority that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.