

# FRINGE SPECIAL

\* A biweekly journal with freedom of information news for specialists and researchers\*

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

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

**88 national FOIAs**  
**175 sub-national FOIAs**  
**&**  
**3 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, it must include the right of access to information, this right has to be enforceable and there must be complaint. court and high court appeal possibilities. [Decrees are included if they meet the same standards.]

As a consequence this overview contains all kinds of FOIAs, including poor ones like those of for instance Italy and Zimbabwe.

A second important part of the definition, and in line with the practitioner's point of view, is that the FOIA must be **in power** for at least the executive part of the trias politica.

As a consequence a FOIA which is only adopted or approved or is still a draft will be listed in the B-section of this overview.

I would like to add more ingredients to the definition. For instance I would like to skip FOIAs which require a special interest or FOIAs which charge for processing requests, or more in general FOIAs which do not meet the standards of for instance the Aarhus and Tromsø Treaties.

## National and sub-national FOIAs

All non-national FOIAs are seen in this list as sub-national, even if they are of a country in legal sense like Aruba or Scotland.

The country definition in this overview is broader than the UN or US definition, for instance Kosovo and Palestine are included.

From a litigation point of view country is quit a complex concept. Some national FOIAs override sub-national ones, some sub-national ones are a *lex specialis* except for some topics, some sub-national countries do have an own court system except for the high court appeals, etc. The situation in for instance Canada, Mexico, Netherlands and UK is almost not comparable.

## 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.

Your special attention is asked for the sections A5 and A6, the section on request volumes. I want to improve them drastically. The working definition for request volume, published at the bottom of A5, perhaps changes. I want to develop a sound methodology.

**For now this is a call, for ideas and especially a call for data**, so detailed as possible. One of the problems is that sources lie, especially govt bodies. They love to sex up figures in an attempt to have a better performance.....

## 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	
Antigua/Barbuda	2004	2004		Access to administrative documents	
Armenia	2003	2003		Access to administrative documents	
Australia	1982	1982	2009	Freedom of information act	
Austria	1987	1987	2005	Freedom of information act	
Azerbaijan	2005	2005		Federal law on the duty to furnish information	
Bangladesh	2008	2009		Auskunftspflichtsgesetz	
Belgium	1994	1994	2000	Law on access to information	
Belize	1994	1994		Informasiyanın əldə eilməsi haqda qanun	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2001	2002		Right to information act	
Bulgaria	2000	2000		Tatha adhikar ain	
Canada	1982	1983	2006	Law on the right of access to administrative documents ...	
Chile	2008	2009		Wob: Wet openbaarheid van bestuur	
China	2007	2008		Freedom of information act	
Colombia	1985	1985	1998	Freedom of information act	
Cook Islands		2009		Freedom of access to information act	
Croatia	2003	2003		Freedom of access to information act	
Czech Republic	1999	2000	2006	APIA: Access to public information act	
Denmark	1970	1970	2009	ЗДОИ:Закон за достъп до обществена информация	
Dominican Republic	2004	2004		Access to information act	
Ecuador	2004	2004		Access to information act	
El Salvador	2010	2011		Law of transparency of the public function and access ...	
Estonia	2000	2001	2009	Ley de transparencia de la función pública y de acceso ...	
Ethiopia	2010	2010		Open government information regulations	
Finland	1951	1951	2009	Zhengfu xinxi gongkai tiaoli	
France	1978	1978	2010	Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents	
Georgia	1999	2000	2001	Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents	

Germany	2005	2006		Federal act governing access to information Informationfreiheitsgesetz
Greece	1986	1986	1999	Code of administrative procedure Code of administrative procedure
Guatemala	2008	2009		Law for free access to public information Law for free access to public information
Guinea [Conakry]		2010		Organic law on the right of access to public information Organic law on the right of access to public information
Honduras		2006		Transparency and Access to Public Information Law Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública
Hungary	1992	1992	2010	Act on the protection of pers. data and public access to.. A személyes adatok védelméről és a közérdekű adatok...
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	2003	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
Liberia		2010		Freedom of information act Freedom of information act
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	2009	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
Niger		2011		Charter on access to public and administrative documents Charter on access to public and administrative documents
Nigeria		2011		Freedom of information law Freedom of information law
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
Peru	2002	2003	2003	Law on transparency in public administration 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	2011	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	2010	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
St Vincent & Grenadines		2003		Freedom of information act Freedom of information act
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
Tunisia	2011	2011		Decree on access to administrative documents Decree on access to administrative documents
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	2011	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				Name of the FOIA, in English
<u>Countries</u>	Year in which the FOIA came in power<<< <b>decisive for the ranking!!</b>				
	Year of latest FOIA revision				
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	2009	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	2006	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	2010	Act on the protection of pers. data and public access to..
	Ukraine	1992	1992	2011	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	2003	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	2010	Access to public information act
	St Vincent & Grenad.		2003		Freedom of information act
54	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
60	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
65	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
70	Jordan	2007	2007		Access to information law
	Kyrgyzstan		2007		Access to information law
	Nepal		2007	2009	Right to Information Act 2007
	Nicaragua		2007		Law on Access to Public Information
74	China	2007	2008		Open government information regulations
75	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
80	Ethiopia	2010	2010		Freedom of the mass media and access to information
	Guinea [Conakry]		2010		Organic law on the right of access to public information
	Indonesia	2008	2010		Freedom of information law
	Liberia		2010		Freedom of information act
	Russia	2009	2010	2011	Fed. law on providing access to information
85	El Salvador	2010	2011		Ley de acceso a la información pública
	Niger		2011		Charter on access to public and administrative documents
	Nigeria		2011		Freedom of information law
	Tunisia	2011	2011		Decree on access to administrative documents

## The A3 list The national FOIAs continent wise

<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
<b>Africa</b>				
Angola		2002	2006	Access to administrative documents
Ethiopia	2010	2010		Freedom of the mass media and access to information
Liberia		2010		Freedom of information act
Niger		2011		Charter on access to public and administrative documents
Nigeria		2011		Freedom of information law
South Africa	2000	2001		Promotion of access to information act
Tunisia	2011	2011		Decree on access to administrative documents
Uganda	2005	2006		Access to information act
Zimbabwe	2002	2002		Access to information and privacy protection act
<b>The Americas [incl Caribbean]</b>				
Antigua/Barbuda	2004	2004		Freedom of information act
Belize	1994	1994		Freedom of information act
Canada	1982	1983	2006	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.
El Salvador	2010	2011		Ley de acceso a la información pública
Guatemala	2008	2009		Law for free access to public information
Guinea [Conakry]		2010		Organic law on the right of 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
St Vincent & Grenadines		2003		Freedom of information act
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
<b>Asia [incl Middle-East]</b>				
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	2009	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	2009	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	2010	Act on the protection of pers. data and public access to..
Iceland	1996	1997	2010	Information act
Ireland	1997	1998	2003	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	2011	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	2010	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	2011	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>
Croatia	<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>
El Salvador	
Estonia	<a href="http://www.legaltext.ee/text/en/X40095K2.htm">www.legaltext.ee/text/en/X40095K2.htm</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="http://www.ethiopian-law.com/federal-laws/substantive-law-legislations/human-rights-and-governance/media-and-information/225-freedom-of-the-mass-media-and-access-to-information-proclamation-no-5902008.html">www.ethiopian-law.com/federal-laws/substantive-law-legislations/human-rights-and-governance/media-and-information/225-freedom-of-the-mass-media-and-access-to-information-proclamation-no-5902008.html</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/clin_030/nn_672734/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG_EN.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG_EN.pdf">www.bfdi.bund.de/clin_030/nn_672734/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG_EN.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG_EN.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.bfdi.bund.de/clin_030/nn_672714/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG.pdf">www.bfdi.bund.de/clin_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>
Guinea [Conakry]	<a href="http://right2info.org/resources/publications/guinea-ati-law-2010">http://right2info.org/resources/publications/guinea-ati-law-2010</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_LXIII">http://abiweb.obh.hu/dpc/index.php?menu=gyoker/relevant/national/1992_LXIII</a> <a href="http://abiweb.obh.hu/abi/index.php?menu=8">http://abiweb.obh.hu/abi/index.php?menu=8</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.irigov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/">www.oic.irigov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/</a> <a href="http://www.oic.irigov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/">www.oic.irigov.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	
Liberia	
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://www.lrs.lt/cqi-bin/getfmt?c1=w&amp;c2=170831">www.lrs.lt/cqi-bin/getfmt?c1=w&amp;c2=170831</a> <a href="http://www.lrs.lt/pls/inter2/dokpaieska.showdoc_e?p_id=101596">www.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%2013-2006.doc">www.freedominfo.org/documents/Macedonia%20FOI%20Law%20ENG%20Official%20Gazette%2013-2006.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.ccrinepal.org/legal-provision/rti-act-2007">http://www.ccrinepal.org/legal-provision/rti-act-2007</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_9-10-2011">http://wetten.overheid.nl/zoeken_op/regeling_type_wetten+AMVB+ministeries/titel bevat Wob/datum_9-10-2011</a>
New Zealand	<a href="http://www.ombudsmen.parliament.nz/internal.asp?cat=100095">www.ombudsmen.parliament.nz/internal.asp?cat=100095</a>
Nicaragua	
Niger	<a href="http://right2info.org/resources/publications/niger-law-on-access-to-public-documents">http://right2info.org/resources/publications/niger-law-on-access-to-public-documents</a>
Nigeria	<a href="http://freedominfo.org/documents/Nigeria2011finalbill.pdf">http://freedominfo.org/documents/Nigeria2011finalbill.pdf</a>
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	<a href="http://www.legalinfo-panama.com/legislacion/administrativo/00195.pdf">www.legalinfo-panama.com/legislacion/administrativo/00195.pdf</a>

Peru	<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>
Poland	
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>
St Vincent & Gre.	<a href="http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/international/laws_papers/vincent/foi_act_2003.pdf">www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/international/laws_papers/vincent/foi_act_2003.pdf</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>
Tunisia	
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	<a href="http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Uruguay%20ATI%20Law.doc">http://right2info.org/resources/publications/Uruguay%20ATI%20Law.doc</a>
Uzbekistan	
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

**Warning:** this section is a bit outdated, experimental and based on a not matured, not balanced methodology.

A lot of countries are not represented in this part of the overview because there are simply no request volume figures or they are totally unreliable.

The quality of the figures represented in this section is poor. Most sources that produce figures, produce sexed-up figures. This is done by govt sources, campaigners, lobbyists and practitioners for political or propaganda reasons. Even figures produced by academics are often poor, for instance because of a too small research scope.

I am working on a methodology that in a reliable way validates 'official' figures [downsizing / resizing]. I hope to publish this section in an improved way next year.

An overall problem that has to be addressed is: True comparing needs an assessment of the pro-active transparency rate versus the passive transparency per country because that defines 'the need to file requests'.

Another overall problem is the availabilities of figures, even poor ones.....

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, although the quality of the figures is poor, I publish them. By publishing I hope to stimulate debate.

<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	9,000	7,500,000	120
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
El Salvador		7,000,000	
Ethiopia		90,000,000	
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	
Guinea		10,000,000	
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	500	3,000,000	17
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	
Liberia		3,500,000	
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	
Niger		15,500,000	
Nigeria		150,000,000	
Norway	...60.000	4,800,000	1250
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
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	
St Vincent & Grenadines		100,000	
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	
Tunisia		11,000,000	
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

**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 – judiciary - legislative bodies] and
- **excluded are requests for personal formalities**, social security applies etc.

A lot of the presented figures are based on this working definition which means that they are by me downsized official figures. More clarification at the top of this section.

## The A6 list The country requests volume ranking

**Warning:** this section is a bit outdated, experimental and based on a not matured, not balanced methodology. More clarification at the top of section A5.

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Countries</u>	Number of requests per year per 100,000 inhabitants
1	Norway	1250
2	United States of America	492
3	Ireland	125
4	Bulgaria	120
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
13	South Africa	45
14	Macedonia	30
15	Australia	20
16	Jamaica	17
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 sub-national FOIAs in alphabetical order

A part of the countries with a national FOIA has also one or more sub-national ones. This part of the overview is young, 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

Karinthië

Nieder-Österreich

Ober-Österreich

Salzburg

Steirmark

Tirol

Vorarlberg

Wien

+ 9



## Belgium

<u>Regions</u>		The Belgian sub-national situation is very complex
Brussels		1 decree + 3 ordinances
Flanders		1 decree
Wallonia		4 decree
<u>Communities</u>		
French		1 decree
German		1 decree
+ 11		

## Canada

<u>Provinces</u>				
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

<u>Special Administrative Regions</u>				
Hong Kong	1995	1998		Code on access to information
Shanghai		2004		Shanghai Municipal Provisions on Open Govt Information
<u>Municipalities</u>				
Guangzhou		2002		Guangzhou Municipal Provisions on Open Govt Information
+ 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/ltl_nr_09-19-94_dk.htm">www.lovgivning.gl/gh.gl/love/dk/1994/Lt/l/ltl_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.la.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?template=start_e_la&amp;gsid=5lbm1.c.97044.de">www.la.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?template=start_e_la&amp;gsid=5lbm1.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/ifgm/ifg-mv.html">www.informationsfreiheit-mv.de/inffrei/ges_ver/ifg/ifgm/ifg-mv.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

### State

Jammu and Kashmir

### Territory

Delhi

National Capital Territory of Delhi RTI Act

+ 2

## Malaysia

### States

Selangor

2010 2011

+ 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

## 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;wgid=6&amp;nbrwsrdtctn=-1&amp;spagetype=6&amp;docid=329">www.overheid.aw/index.asp?nmoduleid=4&amp;wgid=6&amp;nbrwsrdtctn=-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

## Nigeria

### State

Ekiti		2011		Freedom of information act
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+ 1

## 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

## Russia

### Regions

Kaliningrad		2002		On procedure to Disclose Information by Bodies ...
Krasnoyarsk		2003		On citizens Right to Information on State Bodies Activities...
Novgorod		2004		On procedure to Disclose Information by Bodies of State ...
Rostov		2008		On Providing of Access to information on State Bodies ...
Volgograd		2003		On procedure to Disclose Information by Bodies of State ..

### Municipalities

Moscow		2004		Law on Guarantees of Access to Information on Moscow ...
Saint-Petersburg	1995	1995		Law on Guarantees of Constitutional Citizens Right to Info...

### Territories

Primorie		2004		On State Information Resource of the Primorie Territory ...
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+ 8

## United Kingdom

### Countries

Scotland 2002 2005

Freedom of information [Scotland] act  
[www.itspublicknowledge.info/law/foisa/foisa.asp](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/law/foisa/foisa.asp)  
60 requests per 100.000 inhabitants

### Territories

Cayman Islands 2007 2009

Freedom of information law  
[www.infocomm.ky/pubdocs/file/freedom\\_of\\_information\\_law\\_2007.pdf](http://www.infocomm.ky/pubdocs/file/freedom_of_information_law_2007.pdf)

### Off topic

Isle of Wight

Under the scope of the UK FOIA

+ 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  
West-Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

2005

Public Records Act

Federal District  
Washington DC

+ 51

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## The A8 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
World Bank	2010	2010	Policy on Access to Information <sup>2</sup>

+ 3

### 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>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/03/000112742\\_2010-0603084843/Rendered/PDF/548730Access011y0Statement01Final1.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/03/000112742_2010-0603084843/Rendered/PDF/548730Access011y0Statement01Final1.pdf)

## 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	
Argentina		2009	2010	Draft	
Bahrain	2008			Draft	
Barbados		2008		Draft	
Bolivia		2004		Draft, Decree	
Botswana	2010	2011		Lobby	
Brazil	2002	2003	2010	2011	Approved
Burkina Faso	2010				Lobby
Cambodia		2011			Draft
Cameroon					Lobby
Congo Democratic Republic					Lobby
Costa Rica		2002			Draft
Dominica		2011			Draft
Egypt	2008				Lobby
Ghana		2002			New draft 2007, next step 2010
Guyana		2005	2011	2012	Approved
Iran		2004	2008		Approved, actual status unclear
Iraq		2009			Draft
Kazakhstan	2010	2010			Draft
Kenya		2007			Draft
St Kitts and Nevis		2006			Draft
Kuwait	2008				Draft
Lebanon	2010				Lobby
Lesotho		2000			Draft, actual status unclear
Luxembourg		2000	2010		Approved
Malawi		2003			Draft
Malaysia	2005	2006	2010	2010	Approved, federal prognosis uncertain
Maldives			2009		Approved
Mali	2010				Lobby
Malta			2008		Approved
Mongolia		2006	2011		Approved
Morocco	2007				Lobby
Mozambique		2005			Draft
Nigeria	1999	2000	2008		Approved
Palestine	2005	2005			Draft
Papua New Guinea		1999			Draft
Paraguay					Draft
Philippines		2008			Draft, not approved in 2010
Rwanda		2010	2010		Approved
Senegal	2010	2010			Lobby
Sierra Leone	2009		2010	2011	Approved
Solomon Islands	2008	2009			Draft
Spain		2009			Draft
St Lucia		2011			Draft
Sudan					Draft
Surinam		2008			Draft
Swaziland		2007			Draft
Tanzania		2006			Draft
Tonga	2011				Lobby
Vanuatu		2006			Draft
Venezuela	2010				Lobby
Vietnam		2009			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, more or less
UK: Isle of Man/Manx	2008		Draft
UK: Jersey	2005	2011 2015	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

## The C1 list – No sign of a FOIA – National

Algeria  
Andorra  
Bahamas  
Belarus  
Benin  
Bhutan  
Brunei  
Burma  
Burundi  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo  
Cuba  
Cyprus  
Djibouti  
East Timor  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Fiji Islands  
Gambia  
Gabon  
Grenada  
Guinea Bissau  
Haiti  
Ivory Coast  
Kiribati  
Laos  
Libya  
Madagascar  
Marshall Islands  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Monaco  
Myanmar  
Namibia  
Nauru  
Niger  
North Korea  
Oman  
Palau  
Qatar  
San Marino  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Samoa  
Saudi Arabia  
Seychelles  
Singapore  
Somalia  
Sri Lanka  
Syria  
Togo  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
United Arab Emirates  
Vatican  
West Sahara  
West Samoa  
Zambia

## 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	
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	
Sark	UK	
St Barthelemy	France	
St Helena	UK	
St Martin	France	
St Pierre and Miquelon	France	
S Georgia & S Sandwich Islands	UK	
Svalbard	Norway	
Turks and Caicos Islands	UK	
Virgin Islands	US	
Wake Island	US	
Wallis and Futuna	France	

### Strange entities

Arctic & Antarctic  
Moon  
Planets & Space  
Seas & Oceans & Continental Shelves

◀◀◀ A serious FOI problem

## The C3 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 Argentina, Aruba, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Ireland, Macedonia, Mexico, 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 most of 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. Since the early nineties the freedom of information litigation and lectures are the main pillar.

## **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.**

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 a couple of dozen, Dutch and foreign, overt and covert stringers. Second to that is Fringe based on active surfing; on lots of subscriptions, feeds and alerts.

In this way Fringe tries 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 articles on not yet established intelligence news next to mainstream, ranging from intelligence and counterintelligence, via criminal intelligence and counter terrorism to parapolitics and other topics with intelligence aspects. It tries to focus on forensic and/or operational information. In other words it tries not to publish about bureaucratic information and not about politics or formal and legal aspects. Fringe Intelligence does not focus on terrorism.

In special sections there is attention for NARINT: Natural Resources Intelligence [energy-, rare earth- and water-intelligence] and for Intelligence 2.0. [Are IT firms at the brink of overruling traditional govt intel?]. Two sections trying to look beyond previous and present threats.

*Fringe Spitting* publishes for freedom of information [FOI] specialists, investigative journalists and other researchers, with a special focus on FOI practitioners and requesters, news on caseload, jurisprudence, litigation, tools and trends, and also recently -via FOI requests- disclosed new old news, partly intelligence related.

Both are biweeklies. Occasionally Fringe publishes Specials, like the Index Dutch Intelligence, the Overview of all FOI laws, Spying the Press or Hunting down WikiLeaks. If there is a lot of news the journals change into a more frequent, if necessary daily, mode.

Almost all articles are internet downloads. 90+% are in English. Less than 10% is about or related to The Netherlands. The quality is the quality of the source.

## **2,700 subscribers**

This circulation means that both Fringe journals have each in their own sector, respectively OSINT and FOIA, worldwide a top five ranking.

60% of the subscribers are intelligence specialists, 25% journalists, 15% FOIA specialists and a lot do have mixed specialisms. They live in 99 countries: 35% in NL, 10% in UK, 25% in US and 30% in the rest of the world. 15% of the subscribers are employees of government bodies [50% of them of services in the intelligence communities] and 15% of universities and colleges.

## **Questions direct or via Linked In, Twitter [& Facebook]**

Please feel free to mail me direct. Other contact options are via the networks on which I am present. Close to thousand of the subscribers joined one or more groups managed by me: on Linked In: **FOIA Specialists; Wob Specialists; NARINT; Dutch Intelligence Watch Specialists** or **Intelligence 2.0**.

I am also active on Twitter, most in Dutch, but breaking news-like stuff, smile, in English: **@RogerVleugels**.

[I do not like Facebook for privacy and usability reasons. As a consequence I am only passive present on 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. That is not a Fringe rule but a consequence of the Fair Use Notice. 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.]

### **The meaning of the ►**

At the start of an article you will find several ►. They identify the source and the age of the article.

The source: after one or more ► you will find the source [the first source mentioned is the most original one, the last one is the source or stringer via which/whom Fringe received the article].

The age: before ► the date on which Fringe received the article; after ► the original publications date [if known].

### **Subscriptions are free of charge and enclose both journals**

The journals are and will stay free of charge. This is for two reasons:

- I started the Fringe project as a kind of service to my clients and relations; and perhaps I am a bit of an idealist.
- For legal reasons the journals have to be free of charge. It is forbidden to ask a mandatory contribution for publishing copyrighted material [the US Fair Use Restrictions, more on that at the bottom of this colophon].

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 paying subscribers is about 8%. In order to give Fringe a more solid fundament 400-500 paying subscribers are needed, So, every donation is welcome.

### **Voluntary contributions**

Voluntary contributions are welcome. 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, or well to do subscribers

### **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 of Fringe donation

### **Payments via classic mail [please consider, for larger sums: registered mail]**

Roger Vleugels / Korfoedreef 213 / 3562 SL Utrecht / The Netherlands

Reference for instance Fringe contribution of Fringe donation