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✦ AI Overview



The Freedom of Information Act (such as the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) in the UK) is a law that gives the public a legal right to request recorded information held by public authorities. It promotes government transparency by requiring authorities to share information about their activities. Metropolitan Police +3

Key Features of the Act

- **Who can ask:** Anyone anywhere in the world can make a request; you do not need to give a reason why you want the information.
- **What is covered:** Any recorded information held by an organization, including emails, letters, draft documents, and CCTV recordings.
- **Organizations included:** Central government, local councils, the NHS, schools, universities, and police forces.
- **Response time:** Public bodies generally must reply in writing and provide the information within **20 working days**. +6

Exceptions and Limits

- **Exemptions:** Authorities can withhold certain details—such as personal data, national security records, or commercial secrets—if releasing them causes harm.
- **Scotland:** Scotland has its own separate law called the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. +2

If you want to proceed, tell me:

- **Which country or region** you want to target (e.g., UK or US)
- **What specific public body** or topic you want information from

I can help you understand how to write your request.

Information Commissioner's Office



What is the FOI Act and are we covered? - ICO

When is information covered by the Freedom of Information Act? The Act covers all recorded information held by a public authority.

Metropolitan Police



What is the Freedom of Information Act? | Metropolitan Police

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was passed on November 30, 2000. It gives the public a general right of access to recorded i...