

Information Rights Strategy

Consultation

Promoting openness by
public bodies and data
privacy for individuals

ico.

Information Commissioner's Office

The purpose and scope of this consultation

We are consulting on our [draft information rights strategy](#) **Promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals**; to gather the views of stakeholders.

This strategy is being introduced in the light of our commitment to integrate our data protection and freedom of information activities wherever we can. It replaces our former, separate data protection and freedom of information strategies.

The strategy describes the purpose for which the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) exists and explains how we go about achieving this purpose.

The ICO's goal is to achieve a sustained reduction in risks to the upholding of information rights so that ultimately:

- all organisations collect and use personal information responsibly, securely and fairly;
- all public authorities are open and transparent, providing people with access to official information as a matter of course;
- people are aware of their information rights and are confident in using them; and
- people understand how their personal information is used and are able to take steps to protect themselves from misuse.

The final document

The closing date of this consultation is Friday 12 August 2011. We will publish the final strategy shortly afterwards.

The document will be published on the ICO website and hard copies can be made available upon request.

A summary of consultation responses will also be made available at the same time.

How to take part in this consultation

We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. We have proposed nine questions but feel free to leave any that are not of interest to you, or add anything you think we may have missed. Your responses can be submitted in one of the following ways:

Complete this document and email to:

Consultations@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Complete this document, print and post to:

Robert Parker, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Complete this document, print and fax a copy to:

01625 524510.

Request a copy of this document to be posted to you, complete it and post or fax it back to us:

To request a copy, you can either telephone 0303 123 1113 and ask for Robert Parker, or email

Robert.parker@ico.gsi.gov.uk

If you would like a copy of the consultation document in an alternative format, please telephone 0303 123 1113 and ask for Robert Parker.

Accessibility

The ICO has a Translations Policy that covers the publications and correspondence it produces. The policy states that, on request, the ICO will arrange for written information to be made available in Braille or on tape for blind or visually impaired users.

The ICO website also has a Browsealoud feature that reads web pages for people who find it difficult to read online.

As a publicly funded organisation we do not have the budget to undertake translation of all publications as a matter of course, but we will respond to individual requests in line with our Translations Policy, which can be found on our website.

Privacy statement

Following the end of the consultation we shall publish a paper summarising the responses. Information you provide in your response to this consultation, including any personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please tell us but be aware that, under the FOIA, we cannot guarantee confidentiality

If you are replying as an individual, the ICO will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and this will usually mean that if you request confidentiality your personal information will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please note anonymous responses, whether in hard copy or from a non-personal email address, will receive the same attention as all others.

Section 1: Consultation questions

1) The intention of the strategy document is to clearly:

- explain the information rights outcomes which the ICO is seeking;
- outline how the ICO goes about achieving those outcomes; and
- clarify how the ICO sets its priorities.

Does the strategy document achieve this?

If not, where do you consider that it falls short?

What aspects are unclear or need further explanation?

2) Section 4 lists the information rights outcomes that the ICO is seeking.

Do you agree with this list?

Is there anything that should be added to or removed from the list?

3) We believe that to maximise our effectiveness we have to set priorities.

Do you consider that our approach to doing so as outlined in section 5.3 is the right one?

If not how could it be improved?

4) We are committed to upholding information rights “in the public interest”.

Do you agree with our approach to assessing where the public interest lies as outlined in section 5.4?

If not what needs to be changed?

5) Section 5.5 explains how we seek to maximise our impact.

Do you agree that education, awareness raising and the provision of guidance should be key activities for the ICO?

We also list other ways in which we will seek to maximise our impact. Is this list complete?

Is there anything we should add to the list or remove from it?

6) We refer to the international dimension in section 5.6.

Do you agree with our assessment of the significance of the international dimension to our work?

If not have we overstated or understated this?

7) The tactics we list in section 6 are intended to summarise the way in which our stakeholders can expect us to operate.

Are there other significant tactics that you would expect the ICO to be adopting or anything that we should be doing differently or not doing at all?

8) We are committed to measuring and evaluating how far we succeed in delivering our desired outcomes. Some ways in which we will do this are listed in section 7.

Can you suggest other ways in which we could measure our effectiveness?

9) Do you have any other suggestions for ways in which the strategy document could be improved?

Section 2: About you

1. Are you:

A representative of a public sector organisation?
Please specify:

A representative of a private sector organisation?
Please specify:

A representative of a community, voluntary or charitable organisation, or of a trade body?
Please specify:

Other?
Please specify:

**Thank you for completing this consultation.
We value your input.**