

Statement

Friday 7 January 2011

Information Commissioner's response to the Government's plans to extend the scope of the Freedom of Information Act

Information Commissioner, Christopher Graham, said:

"I welcome [the proposals](#) that the Government has set out today. The Freedom of Information Act has revolutionised the way the public holds decision makers to account, giving citizens a right to shine a torch over the inner workings of hundreds of public authorities to find out how decisions are made – as well as scrutinising public spending. But, six years on, the time is now right to go even further.

"2011 promises to be a significant year for FOI. The public's appetite for information rights is at an all time high and the need to be open and transparent has never carried more weight. Extending the coverage of the Act to a number of additional organisations will allow for even greater transparency, and a more independent ICO is essential to make sure information rights continue to be upheld. I look forward to working with the Government to make the new vision a reality."

The Ministry of Justice's press release can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease070111a.htm>

ENDS

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