



What is Freedom of Information?

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect on 21 April, 1998. This Act gives you the right to access records held by Government departments and certain public bodies.

What can you ask for?

You can ask for the following records held by Government departments or certain public bodies:

- any records relating to you personally, whenever created
- all other records created after 21 April, 1998

Procedure for accessing records

To access a record you must apply in writing to the Information Access Officer, Information Unit (FOI) Irish Prison Service, IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford, Co Longford, stating that the request is made under the Freedom of Information Act **clearly identifying the records that you seek**. If you are seeking personal records, you should include photographic identification. Should you need assist in making your request, you can contact datarequest@irishprisons.ie or alternatively ring 043 3335100 / 3335377.

Processing of applications

You will receive an acknowledgement of your application within 10 working days. A decision on your application will normally be made within 20 working days. If your request is refused you will be given reasons for the refusal.

Can you appeal against the decision?

Yes. If you are not satisfied with the decision regarding your FOI request you may ask the Irish Prison Service for an "internal review" of that decision. A more senior officer will review your application. You will be told the result of this review within 15 working days. If you are unhappy with the outcome of the "internal review" an appeal, in writing, may be made directly to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Office of the Information Commissioner, 18 Lower Lesson Street, Dublin 2.

Do you have to pay?

Fees may be charged for the cost of photocopying in the case of personal information. Charges may also apply in respect of the search and retrieval of other information.