

# FRINGE SPECIAL

\* Fringe: biweekly journals with intelligence and freedom of information news \*

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

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

**93 national FOIAs**  
**180 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 international standards like the Aarhus and Tromsø Treaties.or international jurisprudence.

## **National and sub-national FOIAs**

All non-national/non-federal 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 quite 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 mail so that I can use them in the next update of this overview.

## The A1.1 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<br>Access to administrative documents                                |                                    |
| Antigua/Barbuda      | 2004   | 2004                                 |                              | Access to administrative documents<br>Freedom of information act  |                                    |
| Argentina            | 2002   | 2004                                 |                              | Freedom of information act<br>Acceso a la informacion publica   |                                    |
| Armenia              | 2003   | 2003                                 |                              | Law on freedom of information   |                                    |
| Australia            | 1982   | 1982                                 | 2009                         | Law on freedom of information<br>Freedom of information act   |                                    |
| Austria              | 1987   | 1987                                 | 2005                         | Federal law on the duty to furnish information<br>Auskunftspflichtsgesetz   |                                    |
| Azerbaijan           | 2005   | 2005                                 |                              | Law on access to information<br>İnformasiyanın əldə eilməsi haqda qanun   |                                    |
| Bangladesh           | 2008   | 2009                                 |                              | Right to information act<br>Tatha adhikar ain   |                                    |
| Belgium              | 1994   | 1994                                 | 2000                         | Law on the right of access to administrative documents ...<br>Wob: Wet openbaarheid van bestuur                         |                                    |
| Belize               | 1994   | 1994                                 |                              | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act  |                                    |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 2001   | 2002                                 |                              | Freedom of access to information act<br>Freedom of access to information act  |                                    |
| Brazil               | 2011   | 2012                                 |                              | Access to information bill<br>Regula o acesso informacoes   |                                    |
| Bulgaria             | 2000   | 2000                                 |                              | APIA: Access to public information act<br>ЗДОИ:Закон за достъп до обществена информация                                 |                                    |
| Canada               | 1982   | 1983                                 | 2006                         | Access to information act<br>Access to information act  |                                    |
| Chile                | 2008   | 2009                                 |                              | Law of transparency of the public function and access ...<br>Ley de transparencia de la función pública y de acceso ... |                                    |
| China                | 2007   | 2008                                 |                              | Open government information regulations<br>Zhengfu xinxi gongkai tiaoli   |                                    |
| Colombia             | 1985   | 1985                                 | 1998                         | Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents<br>Law ordering the publicity of official acts and documents  |                                    |
| Cook Islands         |  | 2009                                 |                              | Official information act<br>Official information act  |                                    |
| Croatia              | 2003   | 2003                                 |                              | Act on the right of access to information<br>Act on the right of access to information                                  |                                    |
| Czech Republic       | 1999   | 2000                                 | 2006                         | Law on free access to information<br>Law on free access to information  |                                    |
| Denmark              | 1970   | 1970                                 | 2009                         | Access to public administration files act<br>Lov om offentlighed i forvaltningen  |                                    |
| Dominican Republic   | 2004   | 2004                                 |                              | Law on access to information<br>Law on access to information  |                                    |
| Ecuador              | 2004   | 2004                                 |                              | Organic law on transparency and access to public info<br>Organic law on transparency and access to public info          |                                    |
| El Salvador          | 2010   | 2011                                 |                              | Ley de acceso a la información pública<br>Ley de acceso a la información pública  |                                    |
| Estonia              | 2000   | 2001                                 | 2009                         | Public information act<br>Avaliku teabe seadus  |                                    |
| Ethiopia             | 2010   | 2010                                 |                              | Freedom of the mass media and access to information<br>Freedom of the mass media and access to information              |                                    |
| Finland              | 1951   | 1951                                 | 2009                         | Act on the openness of government activities<br>Laki viranomaisten toiminnan julkisuudesta                              |                                    |

|                  |      |      |      |  |
|------------------|------|------|------|--|
| France           | 1978 | 1978 | 2010 | Law on freedom of access to administrative documents<br>Loi de la liberté d'accès aux documents administratifs               |
| Georgia          | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | General administrative code chapter III, freedom of inform.<br>General administrative code chapter III, freedom of inform.   |
| Germany          | 2005 | 2006 |      | Federal act governing access to information<br>Informationfreiheitsgesetz  |
| Greece           | 1986 | 1986 | 1999 | Code of administrative procedure<br>Code of administrative procedure   |
| Guatemala        | 2008 | 2009 |      | Law for free access to public information<br>Law for free access to public information                                       |
| Guinea [Conakry] |      | 2010 |      | Organic law on the right of access to public information<br>Organic law on the right of access to public information         |
| Honduras         |      | 2006 |      | Transparency and Access to Public Information Law<br>Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública                  |
| Hungary          | 1992 | 1992 | 2010 | Act on the protection of pers. data and public access to..<br>A személyes adatok védelméről és a közérdekű adatok...         |
| Iceland          | 1996 | 1997 | 2010 | Information act<br>Upplýsingalög   |
| India            | 2005 | 2005 |      | RTI: Right to information act<br>RTI: Right to information act   |
| Indonesia        | 2008 | 2010 |      | Freedom of information law<br>Freedom of information law   |
| Ireland          | 1997 | 1998 | 2003 | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| Israel           | 1998 | 1999 | 2009 | Freedom of Information Law<br>ח"התשנ"ח המידע חופש חוק  |
| Italy            | 1990 | 1990 | 2005 | Law on administrative procedure and the right of access ...<br>Legge in materia de procedimento amministrativo e di ...      |
| Jamaica          | 2002 | 2004 | 2004 | Access to information act<br>Access to information act   |
| Japan            | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | Law concerning access to information<br>Law concerning access to information   |
| Jordan           | 2007 | 2007 |      | Access to information law<br>Access to information law   |
| Kosovo           | 2003 | 2003 |      | Law on access to official documents<br>Law on access to official documents   |
| Kyrgyzstan       |      | 2007 |      | Access to information law<br>Access to information law   |
| Latvia           | 1998 | 1998 | 2006 | Law on freedom of information<br>Law on freedom of information   |
| Liberia          |      | 2010 |      | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| Liechtenstein    | 1999 | 2000 |      | Information act<br>Informationsgesetz  |
| Lithuania        | 2000 | 2000 | 2005 | Law on the provision of information to the public<br>Law on the provision of information to the public                       |
| Macedonia        | 2006 | 2006 | 2010 | Law on free access to information of public character<br>Zakon za sloboden pristap do informacii od javen karakter           |
| Malta            | 2008 | 2012 |      | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| Mexico           | 2002 | 2003 | 2006 | Fed. transparency and access to publ. govt. information law<br>Ley fed. de transparencia y acceso a la información public... |
| Moldova          | 2000 | 2000 | 2003 | Law on access to information<br>Legea privind accesul la informatie  |
| Mongolia         | 2011 | 2011 |      | Law on the information transparency and the right to info.<br>Law on the information transparency and the right to info.     |
| Montenegro       | 2005 | 2005 |      | Law on free access to information<br>Law on free access to information   |
| Nepal            |      | 2007 | 2009 | Right to Information Act 2007<br>Suchanako haksambandhi Ain 2064 / सुचनाको हकसम्बन्धी ऐन २०६४                                |
| Netherlands      | 1978 | 1980 | 2009 | Wob: Act on public access to government information<br>Wob: Wet openbaarheid van bestuur                                     |
| New Zealand      | 1982 | 1983 | 2003 | Official information act<br>Official information act   |
| Nicaragua        |      | 2007 |      | Law on Access to Public Information<br>Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública  |

|                          |      |      |      |  |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|--|
| Niger                    |      | 2011 |      | Charter on access to public and administrative documents   |
| Nigeria                  |      | 2011 |      | Charter on access to public and administrative documents<br>Freedom of information law                           |
| Norway                   | 1970 | 1970 | 2006 | Freedom of information law<br>Offentlighetsloven   |
| Pakistan                 | 2002 | 2002 |      | Freedom of information ordinance   |
| Panama                   | 2001 | 2002 |      | Freedom of information ordinance<br>Law on transparency in public administration                                 |
| Peru                     | 2002 | 2003 | 2003 | Law on transparency and access to public information<br>Ley Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública      |
| Poland                   | 2001 | 2002 |      | Law on access to public information<br>Law on access to public information                                       |
| Portugal                 | 1993 | 1993 | 1999 | Law on access to administrative documents<br>Law on access to administrative documents                           |
| Romania                  | 2001 | 2001 | 2007 | Law on free access to public Information<br>Legea privind liberul acces la informatiile de interes public        |
| Russia                   | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | Fed. law on providing access to information<br>Fed. law on providing access to information                       |
| Serbia                   | 2004 | 2004 | 2007 | Law on free access to information of public importance<br>Zakon o slobodnom pristupu informacijama od javnog ... |
| Slovak Republic          | 2000 | 2001 | 2010 | Act on free access to information<br>Zakon o slobodnom pristupe k informaciam                                    |
| Slovenia                 | 2003 | 2003 | 2010 | Access to public information act<br>Zakon o dostopu do informacij javnega značaja                                |
| South Africa             | 2000 | 2001 |      | Promotion of access to information act<br>Promotion of access to information act                                 |
| South Korea              | 1996 | 1998 | 2004 | Act on disclosure of information by public agencies<br>Act on disclosure of information by public agencies       |
| St Vincent & Grenadines  |      | 2003 |      | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| Sweden                   | 1766 | 1766 | 1976 | Freedom of the press act<br>Tryckfrihetsförordningen   |
| Switzerland              | 2004 | 2006 |      | Federal law on the principle of administrative transparency<br>Loi sur la transparence / Öffentlichkeitsgesetz   |
| Taiwan                   |      | 2005 |      | Freedom of government information law<br>Freedom of government information law                                   |
| Tajikistan               | 2002 | 2002 |      | Law on information<br>Law on information   |
| Thailand                 | 1997 | 1997 |      | Official information act<br>Official information act   |
| Trinidad & Tobago        | 1999 | 2001 |      | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| Tunisia                  | 2011 | 2011 |      | Decree on access to administrative documents<br>Decree on access to administrative documents                     |
| Turkey                   | 2003 | 2004 |      | Law on right to information<br>Law on right to information   |
| Uganda                   | 2005 | 2006 |      | Access to information act<br>Access to information act   |
| Ukraine                  | 1992 | 1992 | 2011 | Law on information<br>Law on information   |
| United Kingdom           | 2000 | 2005 |      | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| United States of America | 1966 | 1967 | 2007 | Freedom of information act<br>Freedom of information act   |
| Uruguay                  | 2008 | 2009 |      | Law on the right of access to public information<br>Law on the right of access to public information             |
| Uzbekistan               | 1997 | 1997 | 2003 | Law on the principles and guarantees of FOI<br>Law on the principles and guarantees of FOI                       |
| Yemen                    | 2008 | 2012 |      | Law of the right of access to information<br>Law of the right of access to information                           |
| Zimbabwe                 | 2002 | 2002 | 2007 | Access to information and privacy protection act<br>Access to information and privacy protection act             |

## The A1.2 list

## The national FOIAs in chronological order

| <u>Ranking</u> |                   | Year of formal approval or formal adoption of the FOIA |  |                              |   |
|----------------|-------------------|--|--|------------------------------|---|
|                | <u>Countries</u>  |  | <b>Year in which the FOIA came in power&lt;&lt;&lt; decisive for the ranking!!</b> | Year of latest FOIA revision | Name of the FOIA, in English                                |
| 1              | <b>Sweden</b>     | 1766   | <b>1766</b>  | 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                                  |
|    | Argentine            | 2002 | 2004 |      | Acceso a la informacion publica                             |
|    | 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                                 |
| 61 | 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                                  |
| 66 | 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                                   |
| 71 | 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                         |
| 75 | China                | 2007 | 2008 |      | Open government information regulations                     |
| 76 | 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            |
| 81 | 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                 |
| 86 | El Salvador          | 2010 | 2011 |      | Ley de acceso a la información pública                      |
|    | Mongolia             | 2011 | 2011 |      | Law on the information transparency and the right to info.  |
|    | 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                |
| 91 | Brazil               | 2011 | 2012 |      | Access to information bill                                  |
|    | Malta                | 2008 | 2012 |      | Freedom of information act                                  |
|    | Yemen                | 2008 | 2012 |      | Law of the right of access to information                   |

## The A1.3 list

## The national FOIAs continent wise

### Countries

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

### **Africa**

|              |      |      |      |  |
|--------------|------|------|------|--|
| 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         |

### **The Americas [incl Caribbean]**

|                          |      |      |      |   |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|---|
| Argentina                | 2002 | 2004 |      | Freedom of information act                                  |
| Antigua/Barbuda          | 2004 | 2004 |      | Freedom of information act                                  |
| Belize                   | 1994 | 1994 |      | Freedom of information act                                  |
| Brazil                   | 2011 | 2012 |      | Access to information bill                                  |
| 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            |

### **Asia [incl Middle-East]**

|             |      |      |      |   |
|-------------|------|------|------|---|
| 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                                   |
| Mongolia    | 2011 | 2011 |      | Law on the information transparency and the right to info.  |
| 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 |
| Yemen      | 2008 | 2012 |      | Law of the right of access to information   |

## 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       |
| Malta                | 2008 | 2012 |      | Freedom of information act                                  |
| 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 A1.4 list

## Law links of the national FOIAs

| <u>Countries</u> | Link to the FOIA law text in English<br>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>   |
| Argentina        | <a href="http://infoleg.mecon.gov.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/90000-94999/90763/norma.htm">http://infoleg.mecon.gov.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/90000-94999/90763/norma.htm</a>  |
| Armenia          | <a href="http://www.foi.am/en/content/53/">www.foi.am/en/content/53/</a><br><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><br><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>   |
| Barzil           |  |
| 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><br><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><br><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><br><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><br><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/cln_030/nn_672734/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG_EN.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG_EN.pdf">www.bfdi.bund.de/cln_030/nn_672734/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG_EN.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG_EN.pdf</a><br><a href="http://www.bfdi.bund.de/cln_030/nn_672714/IFG/Gesetze/IFG/TextIFG.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/TextIFG.pdf">www.bfdi.bund.de/cln_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><br><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><br><a href="http://righttoinformation.gov.in/rti-actinhindi.pdf">http://righttoinformation.gov.in/rti-actinhindi.pdf</a>   |
| Indonesia        |  |
| Ireland          | <a href="http://www.oic.irlgov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/">www.oic.irlgov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/</a><br><a href="http://www.oic.irlgov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/">www.oic.irlgov.ie/en/FOIActsRegulations/</a>   |
| Israel           |  |
| Italy            | <a href="http://www.parlamento.it/leggi/050151.htm">www.parlamento.it/leggi/050151.htm</a>   |
| Jamaica          | <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><br><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><br><a href="http://www.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/getfmt?c1=w&amp;c2=170831">www.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/getfmt?c1=w&amp;c2=170831</a><br><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%202013-2006.doc">www.freedominfo.org/documents/Macedonia%20FOI%20Law%20ENG%20Official%20Gazette%202013-2006.doc</a>   |
| Malta            | <a href="http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&amp;itemid=8962&amp;l=1">www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&amp;itemid=8962&amp;l=1</a>   |
| Mexico           |  |
| Moldova          | <a href="http://freedominfo.org/documents/mexico_ley.pdf">http://freedominfo.org/documents/mexico_ley.pdf</a><br><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><br><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>  |
| Mongolia         |  |
| 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><br><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><br><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          | <a href="http://www.cada.pt/modules/news/article.php?storyid=28">www.cada.pt/modules/news/article.php?storyid=28</a>   |
| Romania           | <a href="http://www.dci.ro/En/Legi/544.pdf">http://www.dci.ro/En/Legi/544.pdf</a><br><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><br><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            | <a href="http://www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_Page_6062.aspx">www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_Page_6062.aspx</a>   |
| Switzerland       | <a href="http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2004/6807.pdf">www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2004/6807.pdf</a>   |
| Taiwan            | <a href="http://www.glin.gov/view.action?glinID=173514">www.glin.gov/view.action?glinID=173514</a>   |
| Tajikistan        | <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>   |
| Thailand          | <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><br><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><br><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        |  |
| Yemen             |  |
| 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 A2 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 Capital Territory |      |                                    |
| Northern Territory           | 2003 | Northern Territory Information Act |

+ 8

### Austria

#### Bundesländer

Burgenland  
Karinthie  
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<br><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<br>-   |
| Manitoba                  | 1985 |      |  | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act<br><a href="http://www.ombudsman.mb.ca/legislation.htm">www.ombudsman.mb.ca/legislation.htm</a>  |
| New Brunswick             | 1978 |      |  | Right to Information Act<br><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<br><a href="http://www.oipc.nl.ca/">www.oipc.nl.ca/</a>   |
| Nova Scotia               | 1977 |      |  | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act<br><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<br><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<br><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<br><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<br>-   |
| <u>Territories</u>        |      |      |  |   |
| Northwest Territories     | 1994 |      |  | Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act<br>-  |
| Nunavut                   | 2000 |      |  | Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act<br><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<br><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<br><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<br><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 |      |  | 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<br>Landstingslov om offentlighed i forvaltningen<br><a href="http://www.lovgivning.gl/gh.gl-love/dk/1994/Lt/ltl_nr_09-19-94_dk.htm">www.lovgivning.gl/gh.gl-love/dk/1994/Lt/ltl_nr_09-19-94_dk.htm</a> |
|-----------|------|------|------|--|

### Provinces

|       |      |      |  |  |
|-------|------|------|--|--|
| Faroe | 2004 | 2004 |  | Law on openness in administration<br>Landstingslov om offentlighed i forvaltningen |
|-------|------|------|--|--|

+ 2

## Finland

### Provinces

|       |  |      |      |  |
|-------|--|------|------|--|
| Aland |  | 1977 | 2008 | Act on the openness of government activities<br>Lag om allmänna handlingars offentlighet |
|-------|--|------|------|--|

+ 1

## Germany

### Bundesländer

|                        |  |      |      |  |
|------------------------|--|------|------|--|
| Berlin                 |  | 1999 | 2010 | among them [11 out of 16]:<br>Berliner Informationsfreiheitsgesetz<br><a href="http://www.datenschutz-berlin.de/content/informationsfreiheit/berlin">www.datenschutz-berlin.de/content/informationsfreiheit/berlin</a>   |
| Brandenburg            |  | 1998 |      | Akteneinsichts- und Informationszugangsgesetz<br>Data Protection and Access to Information<br><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<br><a href="http://www.informationsfreiheit-bremen.de/informationsfreiheit.php">www.informationsfreiheit-bremen.de/informationsfreiheit.php</a>  |
| Hamburg                |  | 2006 |      | Hamburgisches Informationsfreiheitsgesetz<br><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<br><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<br><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 |      | -<br>Saarländisches Informationsfreiheitsgesetz<br><a href="http://www.sadaba.de/GSLT_SIFG.html">www.sadaba.de/GSLT_SIFG.html</a>  |
| Sachsen-Anhalt         |  | 2008 |      | Informationszugangsgesetz Sachsen-Anhalt<br><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<br><a href="https://www.datenschutzzentrum.de/material/recht/ifg.htm">https://www.datenschutzzentrum.de/material/recht/ifg.htm</a>  |
| Thüringen              |  | 2007 |      | Thüringer Informationsfreiheitsgesetz<br><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

Penang 2010 2012

Selangor 2010 2011

+ 2

## 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

Oxaca

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<br>Lob: Landsverordening openbaarheid van bestuur<br><a href="http://www.overheid.aw/index.asp?nmoduleid=4&amp;wgid=6&amp;nbrwsrdctn=-1&amp;spagetype=6&amp;docid=329">www.overheid.aw/index.asp?nmoduleid=4&amp;wgid=6&amp;nbrwsrdctn=-1&amp;spagetype=6&amp;docid=329</a> |
| Curacao      | 1999 | 1999 |      | Lob: Act on public access to government information<br>Lob: Landsverordening openbaarheid van bestuur<br><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<br>Lob: Landsverordening openbaarheid van bestuur<br><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 |
| Ogun  |  | 2012 |  | Freedom of information act |

+ 2

## Pakistan

### Provinces

|             |  |      |  |   |
|-------------|--|------|--|---|
| Sindh       |  | 2006 |  | among them:<br><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 ... |
|----------|--|------|--|---|

+ 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)

Bermuda 2010 2010

Freedom of information law

Isle of Man/Manx 2008 2012

Freedom of information law

### Off topic

Isle of Wight

Under the scope of the UK FOIA

+ 5

## 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                    2005                    Public Records Act  
West-Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

Federal District  
Washington DC

+ 51

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180

## The A3 list

## The Inter-, super- and supranational FOIAs

### 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                          |                                 |
| Bahamas            |                          | 2012                  | 2012  | Approved                       |                                 |
| Bahrain            | 2008                     |                       |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Barbados           |                          | 2008                  |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Bhutan             |                          | 2009                  |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Bolivia            |                          | 2004                  |   | Draft, newest draft 2010       |                                 |
| Botswana           | 2010                     | 2011                  |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Burkina Faso       | 2010                     |                       |   | Lobby                          |                                 |
| Cambodia           |                          | 2011                  |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Cyprus             | 2011                     |                       |   | Lobby                          |                                 |
| Dominica           |                          | 2011                  |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Egypt              | 2008                     | 2012                  |   | Draft                          |                                 |
| Ghana              |                          | 2002                  |   | New draft 2007                 |                                 |
| Guyana             |                          | 2005                  | 2011  | 2012                           | Approved                        |
| Iran               |                          | 2004                  | 2008  |                                | Approved, actual status unclear |
| Iraq               |                          | 2009                  |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Kazakhstan         | 2010                     | 2010                  |   | 2012                           | 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                        |
| Malaysia           | 2005                     | 2006                  | 2010  |                                | Approved                        |
| Maldives           |                          |                       | 2009  |                                | Approved                        |
| Mali               | 2010                     |                       |   |                                | Lobby                           |
| Morocco            | 2007                     |                       |   |                                | Lobby                           |
| Mozambique         |                          | 2005                  |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Namibia            | 2012                     |                       |   |                                | Lobby                           |
| Nigeria            | 1999                     | 2000                  | 2008  |                                | Approved                        |
| Palestine          | 2005                     | 2005                  |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Papua New Guinea   |                          | 1999                  |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Paraguay           | 2008                     |                       |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Philippines        |                          | 2008                  |   |                                | Draft, not approved in 2010     |
| Rwanda             |                          | 2010                  | 2010  |                                | Approved                        |
| Senegal            | 2010                     | 2010                  |   |                                | Lobby                           |
| Sierra Leone       | 2009                     |                       | 2010  |                                | Approved                        |
| Solomon Islands    | 2008                     | 2009                  |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Spain              |                          | 2009                  |   |                                | Draft                           |
| Sri Lanka          | 2011                     |                       |   |                                | Lobby                           |
| 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                           |
| Zambia             | 2011                     |                       |   |                                | Lobby                           |

## The B2 list – More or less close to a FOIA – Sub-national

| <u>Territories</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 |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| UK: Guernsey       |                          |                       |   | Draft, more or less            |
| 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  
Belarus  
Benin  
Brunei  
Burma  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo  
Congo Democratic Republic  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Djibouti  
East Timor  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Fiji Islands  
Gambia  
Gabon  
Grenada  
Guinea Bissau  
Haiti  
Ivory Coast  
Kiribati  
Laos  
Libya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Marshall Islands  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Monaco  
Myanmar  
Nauru  
Niger  
North Korea  
Oman  
Palau  
Qatar  
San Marino  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Samoa  
Saudi Arabia  
Seychelles  
Singapore  
Somalia  
Syria  
Togo  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
United Arab Emirates  
Vatican  
West Sahara  
West Samoa



## 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

## About the editor/publisher: Roger Vleugels

In 1986, I started my own office and began working as a legal advisor and lecturer specialized in freedom of information and intelligence. In 2001, I added the publishing of the two Fringe journals to my activities. I lecture on freedom of information at journalism schools, universities and corporations. I have taught students in or from Argentina, Aruba, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Ireland, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Since 1988, I have as a legal advisor / acting lawyer filed for or with my clients more than 4,000 FOIA requests. Most of these clients are journalists in the Netherlands but also special interest groups, NGOs, researchers and private persons. As an intelligence specialist, I research and lecture on this topic. I also comment in the press, brief members of parliament and advise journalists and lawyers.

## The format of the Fringe journals

The main goal of the Fringe journals is: 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. One of the consequences is that Fringe does not discriminate between information and disinformation.**

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.

## Surfing, searching, stringers and sources

Articles are gathered for Fringe by a small group of Dutch and foreign stringers, some of whom work covertly. Without the work of these stringers Fringe would not be possible. Additionally I do some of the gathering on my own, mainly by netsurfing and maintaining a range of subscriptions, feeds and alerts. Some of the more specialised sources are: Access Info Europe, AIP Bulgaria, Article 19, BeSpacific, Bigwobber, Bits of Freedom, Centre for Law & Democracy, Cryptogram, CFI, Cryptome, EDRI-gram, EFF, EPIC, FOIANet, FreedomInfo, Geheim, Infowarrior, Intelforum, Intelligence Online, Memory Hole, Mother Jones, National Security Archive, NatoWatch, NISA, Privacy International, RCFP, Secrecy News, StateWatch, Terrorism Monitor and Wired.

## Two Fringe journals

*Fringe Intelligence* gathers intelligence news from established media and outlets beyond the mainstream. The journal offers articles covering classical intelligence and counterintelligence, criminal and private espionage and more. The main focus is on forensic and operational information, and not on bureaucracy, politics and the formal/legal aspects of intelligence. *Fringe Intelligence* does not concentrate on terrorism. Special sections highlight NARINT, or Natural Resources Intelligence [dealing with energy, rare earth, water and climate intelligence], and Intelligence 2.0 [IT sector-generated private intelligence]. These sections look beyond jihad, cyber and other previous or 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. Space is also devoted to recently disclosed "old news" on intelligence, revealed by FOI requests.

Taken together, the two biweekly journals contain about 100 articles per month selected from a variety of media sources. Almost all articles are internet downloads. Over 90% are in English. Less than 10% are focused on the Netherlands. The contents stand or fall with the quality of the source.

## 3,100 subscribers

In terms of circulation, both *Fringe* journals enjoy a top ranking in their sector, respectively OSINT and FOI, among the worldwide communities of independent email journals and mailing lists.

Fifty-five percent of the subscribers are intelligence specialists, 30% journalists and 15% FOIA specialists. They live in 110 countries: 35% in NL, 5% in UK, 25% in US and 35% in the rest of the world. Fifteen percent of the subscribers are government employees [half of whom work in intelligence services] and 15% are employed by universities and colleges.

## Pose questions directly or by Linked In and Twitter

Please feel free to mail me, Roger Vleugels, directly. You can also contact me by the networks I belong to. More than 1,000 subscribers have joined one or more groups managed by me on LinkedIn: **FOIA Specialists**; **Web Specialists**; **NARINT**; **Dutch Intelligence Watch Specialists** or **Intelligence 2.0**.

I am also active on Twitter. Most of my tweets are in Dutch, but I also tweet breaking news in English: **@RogerVleugels**. For privacy and usability reasons, I do not like Facebook. Therefore I am only passively present on that network.

## Subscriptions are free of charge and include both journals

Subscribers receive both journals free of charge. A voluntary contribution is very welcome, however. Producing Fringe is a time-consuming project. Each year in January I ask subscribers for a voluntary contribution.

Copyright law [see the Fair Use Restriction at the bottom of this colophon] forbids me to charge for journals like Fringe. Therefore, the only way to collect enough money to keep this service going is by voluntary contributions or donations.

The percentage of paying subscribers is about 8%. To guarantee the service in the long run 400-500 paying subscribers on a yearly basis are needed.

To start a subscription e-mail: Start Fringe in the subject line, to [roger.vleugels@planet.nl](mailto:roger.vleugels@planet.nl)

To stop a subscription e-mail: Stop Fringe in the subject line, to [roger.vleugels@planet.nl](mailto:roger.vleugels@planet.nl)

## **Voluntary contributions or donations are very welcome**

My suggestion:

48.00 Euros per year for individual subscribers [this equals one Euro per issue]

24.00 Euros per year for students and others with modest means

200.00 Euros per year for news media or other organizations with multiple users/subscribers or subscribers who are well to do

### **Payments from the Netherlands**

ING Bank no. 3432010, account holder: Roger Vleugels, Utrecht

Reference: "Fringe contribution" or "Fringe donation"

### **Payments from abroad**

ING Bank: IBAN: NL79INGB0003432010 / BIC: INGBNL2A, account holder: Roger Vleugels, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Reference: "Fringe contribution" or "Fringe donation"

### **Payments by post (for larger sums, please use registered mail)**

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

Reference: "Fringe contribution" or "Fringe donation"