



# Freedom of Information

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## Headlines:

- Scottish Commissioner’s response — extending FOISA? p.17
- Tribunal retains legal professional privilege, p.17
- Commissioner rules against FSA, p.19

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## ICO monitors organisations

The ICO has published a list of organisations that it will be monitoring because they have not been meeting the required response time for freedom of information requests.

These organisations have been targeted because the ICO looked at complaints it had received, and pinpointed those organisations where less than 85% of requests had received a response within the time limits or where authorities had significantly exceeded the time limits.

The list of 33 authorities,

includes the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Wolverhampton City Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

Graham Smith, the ICO’s Deputy Commissioner, said that the ICO will be monitoring the organisations for three months, and if within that time “an authority’s standard of compliance is revealed to be particularly poor, or if it is unwilling to make the improvements necessary”, the ICO may take action. The ICO is now going to be

publishing a quarterly list on their website that will name the public authorities it is monitoring.

The ICO is hoping that the organisations named will take the opportunity in the three month period to address the issues and demonstrate that they take requests seriously.

The following is the complete list of all 33 authorities currently being monitored: Birmingham City Council, British Transport Police, Bromsgrove District

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## Australia gets first FOI Commissioner

James Popple, a lawyer and academic, has been appointed as Australia’s first Freedom of Information Commissioner.

Dr Popple will work alongside the recently appointed Privacy Commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim, at the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, officially launched by Minister for Privacy and Freedom of

Information, Brendan O’Connor.

According to Mr O’Connor, Dr Popple was an ideal choice for the role because of his experience working as first assistant secretary of the civil law division of the Federal Attorney-General’s Department.

As the Freedom of Information Commissioner, Dr Popple will be

monitoring, investigating complaints and reviewing the Australian government’s decisions in relation to FOI requests.

The Australian Information Commissioner, John McMillan, who oversaw significant changes to what and how government information can be accessed, said: “Dr Popple’s

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