

Day One | 26 November 07 | Closed Session for Commissioners

Time	Session	
8.30am	Registration Desk Opens	
8.45 am	Powhiri	
9.30 am	Plenary Session Opening of the conference Hon Margaret Wilson, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives Welcome - Overview of the conference, what we'd like it to achieve John Belgrave, Chief Ombudsman, New Zealand The Genesis and Future of New Zealand's 25-year experience of Freedom of Information. Video interview with Sir Kenneth Keith, member of the International Court of Justice Room: Banquet Hall	
10.45 am	Morning Tea – Grand Hall	
11.15 am	Plenary Session The current issues and future challenges for FOI in New Zealand John Belgrave, Chief Ombudsman, New Zealand Room: Banquet Hall	
11.30 am	Workshops Ensuring compliance with investigation requests for information and decisions that public authorities should disclose information.	
	Workshop 1A Andrea Neill, Assistant Commissioner, Complaints Resolution and Compliance, Canada Room: Legislative Council Chamber	Workshop 1B Nataša Pirc Musar, Information Commissioner, Republic of Slovenia Room: Banquet Hall
12.30 pm	Lunch – Grand Hall	
1.30 pm	Plenary Session Talking to government about sensitive issues: how far can 'behind the scenes' conversations resolve problems? Richard Woods, formerly Director, Security Intelligence Service, New Zealand Marie Shroff, Privacy Commissioner, New Zealand Room: Banquet Hall	
2.45 pm	Report back from the workshops on compliance. Sharing the main points that arose in each group Room: Banquet Hall	
3.05 pm	Afternoon Tea – Grand Hall	

Day One | 26 November 07 | Closed Session for Commissioners | Continued

3.30 pm	<p>Plenary Session Communications Tools for Information Commissioners Discussion of the ways in which technology could help facilitate sharing knowledge and seeking advice between Commissioners</p> <p>Alonso Lujambio Irazábal, Commissioner President, Federal Institute of Access to Public Information, Mexico Room: Banquet Hall</p>
4.30 pm	<p>Plenary Session Future conferences Do we need a more defined structure for continuing international collaboration, or are the current arrangements working?</p> <p>Beverley Wakem, Ombudsman, New Zealand Room: Banquet Hall</p>
5.30 pm	End of Day One

Day Two | 27 November 07 | Open Session

Time	Session
8.30am	Registration Desk Opens
9.00 am	Plenary Session Welcome to the conference for non-Information Commissioners John Belgrave, Chief Ombudsman, New Zealand Room: Banquet Hall
9.15 am	Plenary Session Going Forward: Should we be building a global transparency movement? Some questions and proposals on the challenges and opportunities ahead for FOI. Professor Alasdair Roberts, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, USA Room: Banquet Hall
10.15 am	Morning Tea – Grand Hall
10.45 am	Plenary Session Keynote Speech Hon Annette King, Minister of Justice, New Zealand Room: Banquet Hall
11.30 am	Plenary Session Discussion of the issues raised by Professor Roberts and the Minister of Justice Rooms: Banquet Hall
12.30 pm	Lunch – Grand Hall
1.30 pm	Plenary Session How do we create a culture of openness and participation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education for the public: what parts are played by Commissioners, government and NGOs? ▪ Training for civil servants: Only a government responsibility or will it work better if delivered with Commissioners and NGOs? ▪ Is the aim for ministers and civil servants to recognise that it is in their own self-interest (as well as the public interest) to be open? To see the benefits in terms of knowledge management, records management, performance assessment and better policy-making and service delivery. Or are we aiming for something else? If so, what? ▪ The role of sanctions in addition to encouragement. Shri A. N. Tiwari, Commissioner, Central Information Commission, India Marc-Aurèle Racicot, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Alberta, & Lawyer, Canada Megan Carter, FOI Consultant, Information Consultants Pty Ltd, Australia Room: Banquet Hall
3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea – Grand Hall

Day Two | 27 November 07 | **Open Session** | Continued

4.00 pm	<p>Plenary Session New Zealand and overseas perspectives on the operation of FOI laws</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Steven Price, Adjunct Law Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand <i>Keynote Speaker:</i> Sir Geoffrey Palmer, President, New Zealand Law Commission <i>Discussant:</i> Andrew Podger, National President, Institute of Public Administration Australia Room: Banquet Hall</p>
5.30 pm	End of Day Two
7.00 pm	Social Programme: Conference Dinner at the St James Theatre

Day Three | 28 November 07 | Open Session

Time	Session
8.30am	Registration Desk Opens
9.00 am	<p>Plenary Session Freedom of Information and Human and Economic Development</p> <p>Colin Bruce, Country Director, Comoros, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles and Somalia, World Bank Maja Daruwala, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Room: Banquet Hall</p>
10.30 am	Morning Tea – Grand Hall
11.00 am	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 1A How do we design an effective oversight body?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the best model for enforcing a FOI law? ▪ What would Information Commissioners recommend if they could amend the statute that created their office? <p>This session will consider some the issues of political economy around designing the enforcement model for an effective FOI law.</p> <p><i>Chair and Speaker:</i> Laura Neuman, Assistant Director, Americas Program, The Carter Center, USA <i>Speakers:</i> Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner, Scotland Prof. John McMillan, Commonwealth Ombudsman, Australia Anja-Maria Gardain, Spokesperson, Office of the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Germany Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 1B 'Own motion' investigations into systemic FOI problems</p> <p>Case study from the Ombudsman of Victoria, Australia with contributions from other jurisdictions.</p> <p>John Taylor, Deputy Ombudsman of Victoria, Australia Emily O'Reilly, Information Commissioner, Ireland Andrea Neill, Assistant Commissioner, Complaints Resolution and Compliance, Canada Room: TBC</p>
12.30 pm	Lunch – Grand Hall
1.30 pm	<p>Plenary Session The heart of the matter: Policy advice and politically sensitive requests</p> <p>Maurice Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information, United Kingdom John Belgrave, Chief Ombudsman, New Zealand Bryn Gandy, Associate Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Room: Banquet Hall</p>
3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea – Grand Hall

Day Three | 28 November 07 | **Open Session** | Continued

4.00 pm	<p>Plenary Session Regime change!</p> <p>What happens when there are proposals to amend the FOI law, or a new government takes a more hostile approach to FOI? Do Commissioners have a role to play in recommending change to 'their' law? Should they only work behind the scenes, or are there times when they need to 'go public'?</p> <p>Richard Thomas, Information Commissioner, United Kingdom Emily O'Reilly, Information Commissioner, Ireland Room: Banquet Hall</p>
5.30 pm	End of Day Three
6.30 pm	Optional Social Programme

Day Four | 29 November 07 | Open Session

Time	Session
8.30am	Registration Desk Opens
9.00 am	Parallel Sessions – Session 2A FOI and Countries in Transition - Off the shelf software or custom built? The Asian Experience. Rick Snell, Senior Law Lecturer, University of Tasmania, Australia Toby Mendel, Law & Asia Programmes Director, Article 19 Prof. Mo Yuchuan, Executive Director, Renmin University Constitutionalism and Administrative Law Research Center, China Room: TBC
	Parallel Sessions – Session 2B Scope: Extending the law to cover the legislature and courts What needs to be considered when applying openness laws to other parts of the state, not just the executive? This session will discuss a case study from Slovenia on access to court papers, the New Zealand Law Commission report on access to court records, a comparative study of access to court information, and debate the issues involved when parliament comes within the scope of FOI. Nataša Pirc Musar, Information Commissioner, Republic of Slovenia Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner, Scotland Frances Joychild, Barrister and former Law Commissioner, New Zealand Eduardo Bertoni, Executive Director, Due Process of Law Foundation, USA Room: TBC
	Parallel Sessions – Session 2C Managing backlogs and caseloads: ensuring rights of access are not stifled by delays. Richard Thomas, Information Commissioner, United Kingdom Melanie-Ann Pustay, Director, Office of Information & Privacy, Department of Justice, USA Room: TBC
	Parallel Sessions – Session 2D Sweden 240 years On Alive and well or death by a thousand cuts? Nils-Olof Berggren, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sweden Kjell Swanström, Head of Staff, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sweden Room: TBC
10.30 am	Morning Tea – Grand Hall

Day Four | 29 November 07 | **Open Session** | Continued

11.00 am	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 3A</p> <p>What else promotes openness? A sectoral approach to transparency.</p> <p>A spectrum of openness measures can help to achieve benefits for countries – not just an FOI law. It could take the form of affirmative publication or proactive voluntary publication. This session will include presentations on initiatives which might not necessarily fall within an FOI Commissioner’s mandate such as the forestry transparency efforts in Indonesia and fiscal transparency in Argentina.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Dr. Andrew Ladley, Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Anwar Purwoto, Director of Research and Development, Center of Forest And Nature Conservation, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia Christian Gruenberg, Director, Transparency Programme of the Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equality and Growth, Argentina</p> <p>Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 3B</p> <p>Accountability and challenges to Commissioners decisions</p> <p>a. What happens when there is an appeal tribunal or court that can hear appeals against the Commissioner on the substance of the matter?</p> <p>b. Is scrutiny of Commissioners by the legislature working? Does it have a beneficial effect?</p> <p>Graham Smith, Deputy Information Commissioner, United Kingdom David McGee, Ombudsman, New Zealand</p> <p>Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 3C</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of FOI Acts</p> <p>Results of research into the operation of the FOI laws in the UK and New Zealand.</p> <p>Professor Robert Hazell, Director, Constitution Unit, University College London, United Kingdom Nicola White, Assistant Auditor-General, Office of the Auditor-General, New Zealand</p> <p>Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 3D</p> <p>The relationship of sub-national FOI review bodies to their national counterparts: tensions and synergies.</p> <p>Alonso Lujambio Irazabál, Commissioner President, Federal Institute for Access to Information, Mexico Shri A. N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, India Luis Alberto Dominguez Gonzalez, Counsellor, Mexican State Institute for Transparency and Access to Information, Mexico Rajan Kashyap, Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab State Information Commission, India</p> <p>Room: TBC</p>

Day Four | 29 November 07 | Open Session | Continued

12.30 pm	Lunch – Grand Hall
1.30 pm	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 4A The use of information and communications technology in Mexico's to managing requests.</p> <p>Juan Pablo Guerrero Amparán, Commissioner, Federal Institute for Access to Information, Mexico María Elena Pérez-Jaén Zermeño, Information Commissioner, Federal District of Mexico Institute of Access to Public Information, Mexico Dr Issa Luna Pla, Executive Director, Center for International Studies on Transparency and Access to Information, Mexico Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 4B Freedom of Information in the Asia - Pacific Region</p> <p>Charmaine Rodrigues, Regional Legislative Strengthening Advisor, UNDP Pacific Region Ila Geno, Chief Ombudsman, Papua New Guinea Janet Maki, Ombudsman, Cook Islands Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 4C Information in electronic form</p> <p>Do commissioners face institutional capacity challenges as government stores more information electronically and requesters seek access to things like databases?</p> <p>Mr. Sandy Hounsell, Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada Thomas Susman, Senior Partner, Ropes & Gray, U.S.A. Room: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Sessions – Session 4D Mapping the research and funding agenda for FOI</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Marcos Mendiburu, World Bank Institute Room: TBC</p>
3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea – Grand Hall
4.00 pm	<p>Plenary Session</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summing up the conference – where to from here? 2. Invitation to attend the 6th International Conference of Information Commissioners 3. Closing of the conference. <p>Room: Banquet Hall</p>
	5.30 pm