**Law Cases Working Group**

**Relevant Cases form**

**Objective**

In May 2022 the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) established the Law Cases Working Group, which objective is to advance the knowledge about Law Cases and relevant resolutions regarding access to information with the overarching goal of increasing innovation. These efforts are intended to share knowledge and exchange best practices.

This Relevant Cases Form was prepared within the ICIC Law Cases Working Group, and its objective is to integrate a compilation of files fact sheets with relevant cases, two 2022 cases per institution, that will allow us to share and spread these cases in the ICIC website.

**Case reference**

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| Authority: Information Commissioner’s Office |
| Country / State: Maldives |

**Case Summary**

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| Document:  Payment Receipts |
| Information requested:  Following Information regarding the expenses spent on the President’s trip to New York to attend the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly:   1. Name and designation of participants of the trip; 2. Total expenses spent and the segregated details of expenses; and 3. Receipts of all the expenses |
| Public entity answer:  Information requested in number 1 and 2 were provided. However, information requested in number 3, the copy of the receipts were withheld on the grounds that it includes personal information and cannot be disclosed due to security reasons. |
| Disagreement (argument that originates the presentation of the appeal):  The public institution’s main argument was that it is perceived from the law that the definition of information does not include the document in which information is held and that it is sufficient that the requested information is extracted and disclosed to the applicant and it is not necessary to disclose the copy of requested document itself.  Section 72 of the RTI Act 2014 “information” is defined as any kind of information, or any information produced at any given date, or any information produced by any party, or any information stored in any device, held and managed by a State Institute, which does not belong to a third party;” |
| Resolution:  The copies of the receipts must be disclosed and that the right of access applies to all material held by or on behalf of public authorities which is recorded in any format.  If the document consists of information that falls under an exemption that part to be omitted and provided as the Section 21 of RTI Act 2014 provides that, “where an application is made for access to information, and part of that information is exempted from disclosure under this Act, having removed the exempted part, the remaining part of the information shall be released. |
| Relevance of the case:  Principles of RTI.  Exemptions.  High profile case.  Direct constitutional significance.  The decision affects the rights of vulnerable groups.  Involve new technologies.  Direct international significance.  The relevance of the case most reflective to the application of the authority´s powers.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Keyword / subject heading the case:  Definition of Information, Partial disclosure, Third-party personal information |

**Resources**

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| Link to the resolution: |