

New Zealand

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, which is part of New Zealand's uncodified constitution, includes the "freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form" (Art. 14). New Zealand adopted the Official Information Act in 1982.¹

The Official Information Act repealed the earlier Official Secrets Act 1951, and unlike the repealed Act, is based on the idea that information should be available to those who seek it unless there is a good reason to withhold it. The Official Information Act is now a major statutory source of New Zealand's uncodified constitution.

On 8 August 2011, the New Zealand Cabinet approved the Declaration on Open and Transparent Government, committing the Government to "actively releas[e] high value public data" that is unclassified and non-personal. Pursuant to this declaration, over 1600 data sets are already available online, without charge when possible, and in a reusable form.

¹ [http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ACT/New Zealand/2011-07-01 - Official Information Act, 1982 \(with Amendments\).pdf](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ACT/New_Zealand/2011-07-01_-_Official_Information_Act,_1982_(with_Amendments).pdf)