

Background of Information and Privacy Commissioners

A World-wide Rapid Survey

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(covers 35 national and provincial jurisdictions)

1. Antigua and Barbuda: Information Commissioner's Office

Information Commissioner: Mr. Alister Thomas – served as Deputy Director, Culture and was Chairman of the Sir. V C Bird Centenary celebrations committee.

2. Australia: Information Commissioner's Office

The Information Commissioner's office in Australia comprises of the following officers:

Australian Information Commissioner: Prof. John McMillan Ao – served as Commonwealth Ombudsman (Australia) and as Australia's first Integrity Commissioner. He is Emeritus Professor of the Australian National University and was a public lawyer for 3 decades.

Freedom of Information Commissioner: Dr. James Popple – has a doctoral degree in artificial intelligence and law. He served as First Secretary in the Attorney General's office earlier.

Privacy Commissioner: Mr. Timothy Pilgrim – has a Bachelor's degree in Arts from Sydney University. Earlier he held senior management positions in Australian Government agencies.

3. Australia: Office of the Information Commissioner (Northern Territory)

Information Commissioner: Ms. Brenda Monaghan – is a qualified barrister and solicitor. She was Judicial Registrar of the Darwin Magistrate's Court and later Legal Member of the Northern territory Licensing Commission.

4. Australia: Office of the Information Commissioner (Queensland)

The Office of the Information Commissioner comprises of the Information Commissioner, the Right to Information Commissioner and the Privacy Commissioner. The Right to Information Commissioner is currently the acting Information Commissioner.

Acting Information Commissioner and the Right to Information Commissioner: Ms. Jenny Mead – has a law degree. She served as legal practitioner in the Queensland public sector in departments of Local Government, Tourism, sport and Recreation.

Right to Information Commissioner: Ms. Clare Smith – has a law degree. She served as Crown Assistant Solicitor, Crown Law Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Privacy Commissioner: Mr. Lemm Ex – has a law degree. He served as government lawyer for more than fifteen years and also in senior positions in the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

5. Australia: Office of the Information Commissioner (Western Australia)

Information Commissioner: Mr. Sven Bluemmel - has a Bachelor's degrees in Law and Science. He held senior positions in the Public Sector Commission, the Department of the Premier and the Cabinet and the Commonwealth Attorney general's Department.

6. Bangladesh: Bangladesh Information Commission

Chief Information Commissioner: Mr. Muhammad Zamir – has degrees and diplomas in literature and law. He retired after more than three decades of service as a career diplomat prior to appointment as the CIC.

Information Commissioner: Dr. Sadeka Halim – has a doctoral degree in sociology. She was professor of Sociology prior to her appointment as Information Commissioner.

Information Commissioner: Mr. M A Taher – has a Masters degree in Commerce (Management). He served the Government of Bangladesh in various capacities and retired in the post of Secretary to Government.

7. Canada: Office of the Information Commissioner (Federal)

Information Commissioner: Ms. Suzanne Legault – has a bachelor of law degree. She served as a criminal and defence lawyer as well as Crown prosecutor. She began her career in the public service as Special Advisor to the Commissioner of Competition.

Assistant Information Commissioner: Ms. Emily McCarthy – has a Law degree. Earlier she served as Executive Officer in the Office of the Chief Justice, Federal Court.

8. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Alberta)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Ms. Jill Clayton – has Bachelor's degrees in History and Environment Design. She worked as a privacy consultant earlier advising clients in the health care, oil and gas, telecommunications sector (both public and private).

9. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (British Columbia)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Ms. Elizabeth Denham – has a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in archival and information science. Earlier she served as the Assistant Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

10. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (New Brunswick)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Ms. Anne E Bertrand – has practised as a lawyer for 24 years. She served as an adjudicator, mediator and tribunal member at the provincial and federal levels, including Human Resources Development Canada's Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and New Brunswick's Labour and Employment Board.

11. Canada: Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Mr. Ed Ring – has a graduate degree. He served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 34 years. He also served as Director, Policing Services with the Department of Justice.

12. Canada: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office (Nova Scotia)

Freedom of Information and Privacy Review Officer: Ms. Dulcie McCallum – has a law degree with specialisation in administrative and human rights law. She practised as a lawyer in the private sector and also served in the public sector. She was Ombudsman for the province of British Columbia during the 1990s.

13. Canada: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office (Nunavut)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts – has a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Law. She practised from her own law firm for several years. She has served as Commissioner since 1999.

14. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Ontario)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Dr. Ann Cavoukian – has a Master's degree and a doctoral degree in Psychology with specialisation in law and criminology. She is a leading expert on privacy and is a member of the International Biometric Advisory Council.

15. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Prince Edward Island)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Ms. Maria MacDonald – has Bachelor's degree in Biology and Law. Before practising as a lawyer she had work experience in the potato industry and laboratory work.

16. Canada: Commission on Access to Information (Quebec)

President: Jean Chartier – has a law degree. He practised and taught law and political science earlier. He also served as Director, Legal Affairs with the Chief Electoral Officer, Quebec.

17. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Saskatchewan)

Information and privacy Commissioner: Mr. Gary Dickinson QC – has Bachelor's degrees in Political Science/History and Law. He practised law until he was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly in 1992.

18. Canada: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Yukon)

Information and Privacy Commissioner: Mr. Tim Koepke – is a professional engineer and land surveyor. He also served as the Chief Federal Negotiator in relation to land claims settlement.

19. Cayman Islands: Information Commissioner

Information Commissioner: Ms. Jennifer Dilbert – has a graduate degree in Economics. She served as a civil servant in the Government of the Cayman Islands for 25 years. She headed the Financial Services Supervision Department prior to appointment as Commissioner.

Deputy Information Commissioner: Mr. Jan Liebaers – has a Master's degree in History and an LLM specialising in freedom of information and data protection. Earlier he served as Deputy Director of the Cayman Islands National Archive.

20. Chile: Office of the Information Commissioner

Information Commissioner: Mr. Alejandro Ferreiro Yazigi – has a law degree and a postgraduate degree in Arts. He made his career in the Chilean public sector in senior positions in various ministries.

21. Estonia: Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate

Director General: Dr. Viljar Peep – has a doctoral degree in the history of law. He taught the history of economy at Talinn University. Prior to appointment as DG he served in the Ministry of Justice and was responsible for courts' management, state funded legal aid and notaries' services.

22. Europe: Office of the European Ombudsman

The European Ombudsman is responsible for adjudicating over information access disputes relating to the bodies of the European Union.

European Ombudsman: Dr. P. Nikiforos Diamandouros – has a doctoral degree in Political Science. Earlier he served as a member of Greece's National Commission on human rights and the National Council for Administrative Reform.

23. Germany : Office of the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (Federal)

Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information: Mr. Peter Schaar – has a degree in Economics. Earlier he worked in various government positions in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. He also served in senior positions in the Hamburg Data Protection Commissioner's office.

24. Germany: Office of the Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (State of Berlin)

Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information: Dr. Alexander Dix – has a Masters degree in Law. He is a specialist in telecommunications and media and earlier worked in various capacities in the office of the Privacy Officer.

25. Hungary: Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information

Parliamentary Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information: Dr. András Jóri - has a law degree and is a certified systems administrator. Earlier he was a member of the legal advisory board of the Council of Hungarian Internet Providers.

26. Indonesia: Central Information Commission

Chairman: Mr. Abdul Rahman Mamun – has a degree in civil engineering. He pursued a career as a journalist before appointment as Information Commissioner for the period 2009-2011.

Vice Chairman: Mr. Usman Abdhali Watik – has a Masters degree in Communication Studies. Earlier he lectured on Political Communication and Communication Research Methodology in the Indonesian Universities.

Member: Mr. Dono Prasetyo – has a graduate degree in Biology. Earlier he served as the Director, Development Studies Institute (Information flows).

Member: Mr. Ramly Amin Simbolon – has a degree in journalism. He is a senior journalist and was Deputy Chief Editor of Daily Sunrise.

Member: Ms. Heny S Widyaningsi – was a lecturer, Faculty of Social Communication and Head of Public Relations and Protocol, University of Indonesia. She was Vice Chairman of the Commission from 2009-11.

Member: Mr. Ahmad Alamsyah Saragih – has a bachelor's degree in Economics. He was the first Chairman of the Commission during the period 2009-11. He had earlier served with the World Bank.

Member: Mr. Amiruddin – has a degree in social communication and multiple graduate diplomas from US and European Universities. Apart from teaching at educational institutions he also was a member of the Presidium of the Journalists Network for Transformation, Education and Democracy (J-TREND).

27. Ireland: Office of the Information Commissioner:

Information Commissioner: Ms. Emily O'Reilly – has a degree in journalism. She served as a political correspondent with prominent print and broadcasting media for several years.

28. Macedonia: Commission for the Protection of Right to Free Access to Public Information

President: Mr. Pece Tashevski – has a graduate degree in political science (includes law studies). He has also served as the Head of the Bureau of Judicial Expertise in government.

Vice President: Mr. Elerim Iseni – has a graduate degree with history, philology and journalism as subjects. Earlier he worked as a journalist and anchored debates for TV channels.

Member: Ms. Katerina Dimeska – graduated as a structural engineer. She has worked with NGOs and was also elected as Councillor of the Prilep municipality.

Member: Mr. Marjanko Kolevski – has a graduate degree. He worked with Macedonian Forests and was a member of the Presidency of the Trade Union of Forestry and Wood Industry.

29. Mexico: Federal Access to Information Institute (IFAI)

Chairperson: Ms. Jacqueline Peschard Mariscal – has a doctoral degree in social sciences. She served as a Professor of Political Science and Counselor of the Federal Electoral Institute.

Member: Ms. Wanda Sigrid Artz Colunga – has a Ph.D in Comparative Policy and International Relations. Earlier she served as Secretary, Presidential Technical Council on National Security.

Member: Mr. Gerardo Laveaga Rendón – has a Master’s Degree in Law. Earlier he served as the Director General of the National Institute of Criminal Sciences.

Member: Ms. María Elena Pérez-Jaén Zermeño – has Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Public Administration and a Master’s Degree in Communication and Human Development. She served as Information Commissioner in the Federal District Information Commission before appointment to the IFAI. She has 20 years of experience in the field of social communication and development.

Member: Mr. Ángel J. Trinidad Zaldívar – is a lawyer holding a Master’s Degree in Administration and Government. He also served as Secretary, Tourism in the Government of Mexico City.

30. Nepal: Nepal Information Commission

Chief Information Commissioner: Mr. Vinay Kasajoo – has a Bachelor’s degree in Arts. He was a career journalist and served as Advisor Press Council of Nepal. Earlier he edited and published prominent weeklies in Nepal.

Information Commissioner: Mr. Sri Acharya – has a Master’s degree. He is a career journalist and edited several prominent dailies in Nepal.

Information Commissioner: Ms. Sabita Bhandari Baral – has a Bachelor’s degree in law. She has undertaken legal empowerment programmes for women and other legal aid programmes.

31. Scotland: Office of the Information Commissioner

Information Commissioner: Ms. Rosemary Agnew – has a Masters in Business Administration. Earlier she served as Chief Executive of the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission and Assistant Ombudsman at the Local Government Ombudsman.

32. Serbia: Office of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance

Commissioner for Information of Public Importance: Mr. Rodoljub Savic – has a degree in law. He pursued a career as attorney at law. He was a member of the Commission on Re-enactment of the Constitution and also a member of Parliament and a Minister for some time.

33. Slovenia: Office of the Information Commissioner

Information Commissioner: Ms. Natasa Pirc Musar – has a law degree. She served as a journalist with CNN, BBC, Sky News and Reuters TV. Prior to this appointment she was Director, Training and Communications, Supreme Court of Slovenia.

34. Switzerland: Office of the Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner

Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner: Mr. Hanspeter Thür – has a law degree and practised as a lawyer. He also served as a National Council member of the Green Party during the 1990s.

35. UK: Office of the Information Commissioner

Information Commissioner: **Mr. Christopher Graham** – has a graduate degree in History. He has served as the Director General, Advertising Standards Authority. He was a journalist with the BBC earlier.

Deputy Information Commissioner: **Mr. David Smith** – He served as Chairman of the data protection supervisory body of EUROPOL.

Deputy Information Commissioner: **Mr. Graham Smith** – has a Law degree and a diploma in Local Government Law and Practice. He served as a Local Government lawyer earlier. He has served in the office of the Data Protection Registrar and also worked as District Officer for the public sector trade union National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO).
