



Contact the LIS for information:

www.lis.gov.lr



Liberia Freedom of Information Act

FOI HOTLINE

Learn more about how to use the
Freedom of Information Act

Call 1281

Ask us!
It's your right!

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What is FOI?

Freedom of Information (FOI) is a human right. Under the Liberia FOI Act, signed into law on September 16, 2010, **everyone has the right** to ask for and receive information from government or private agencies that provide public services or receive public funds.

“There shall be no limitation on the public right to be informed about the government and its functionaries...”

(Article 15c, The Constitution of the Republic of Liberia)

Why is FOI Important?

FOI is essential to genuine democracy. The right to request and receive information allows both citizens and government officials to ensure good governance, transparency, and accountability.

Freedom of information:

- Is a tool to fight corruption
- Allows citizens to demand transparency and hold leaders accountable
- Promotes citizen participation in government
- Provides a clearer understanding of government policies
- Can be used to secure other critical human rights such as the right to education, healthcare, and clean water
- Enhances citizen trust and confidence in government
- Improves the efficiency of public administration
- Allows for better use of resources
- Encourages foreign investment

A transparent and accountable government is better prepared to provide for its citizens, as well as maintain long-term peace and stability in Liberia.

What Kind of Information Can I Get?

You can request **any information** from any government agency or private entity that provides public services or receives public funds. Under the Liberia Freedom of Information Act, you can request information from the LIS about:

- **Laws, regulations, fees, and policies**
- **Qualifications, contact details, responsibilities, etc. of LIS authorities and personnel**
- **Security measures for cross-border travel**
- **Your immigration file/status**
- **Status of misconduct complaints**
- **Services are available to non-nationals/aliens**
- **Immigration statistics**
- **Documents needed for entry into the country**
- **Annual reports**
- **Budget expenditures, procurement, and resources**
- **And more...**

How Can I Get Information?

1. **Decide** the information you want.
2. Identify which **agency** holds the information.
3. Ask if the information is already available (**proactively published**) without needing to make a request.
4. **Mail, email, phone, or deliver** your request in person. You do not need to give a reason for making the request.
5. **Track** your request by marking your calendar with the day you made the request.
6. The **agency must respond** within 30 days unless they transfer the request or show a reason why they can not respond timely.
7. You have the right to an **internal review** if you receive no answer within the time period, a denial of or only part of the information, a transfer notice with which you disagree, a fee you think is too high, or other negative decision.
8. You can appeal the internal review decision to the Independent Information Commissioner (IIC) if still not satisfied. You do not need a lawyer to contact the IIC.

*Asking for and viewing information is free.
You can only be charged for the actual cost of copying the information you want.*