



PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BOARD

CONSULTATION ON PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BOARD DRAFT PUBLICATION SCHEME

DECEMBER 2007

CONSULTATION ON PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BOARD
DRAFT PUBLICATION SCHEME

Introduction

1. The effect of section 1252(3) of Companies Act 2006 is that, from 6 April 2008, the Professional Oversight Board (“Oversight Board”) is designated as a public authority for Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”) purposes in relation to the exercise of the statutory functions delegated to it by the Secretary of State. We will be treating the statutory functions delegated to us by the Secretary of State as falling within the scope of the Act from this date.
2. Under the Act, we are required to adopt and maintain a publication scheme which has been approved by the Information Commissioner
3. The purpose of this consultation is to obtain views of our stakeholders on the scope and coverage of our draft Publication scheme.
4. Subject to the comments received in response to the consultation, the Publication scheme will be submitted to the Information Commissioner for approval and adoption by 6 April 2008.

Summary and issues for consultation

5. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which became law in the UK on 30 November 2000, gives the public a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities, sets out exemptions from that right of access and places a number of obligations on such authorities.
6. The Act will apply to the Oversight Board from 6 April 2008 and we will therefore be responding to individual requests for information from this date.
7. An independent Information Commissioner enforces the FOIA. The Information Commissioner is responsible for promoting best practice under the FOIA and ensuring compliance. A requirement of the Act is that designated bodies must publish and maintain a publication scheme which has been approved by the Information Commissioner. This publication scheme must set out:
 - the types of information which will be published ('classes of information');
 - the way in which the information will be published; and
 - whether or not we will charge for providing the information.

8. The requirements of a publication scheme require us to indicate our classes of information – the sub classes we have included in our scheme are there to provide examples of what might be included to assist users in understanding the type of information we will publish routinely.
9. Through section 1252(3) of Companies Act 2006, from 6 April 2008, the Oversight Board is designated as a public authority for Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”) purposes.
10. It is our intention to publish information in respect of the statutory functions delegated to us by the Secretary of State to the extent that it is not covered by an exemption. Where we have indicated that we will provide other information, this provision is on an entirely voluntary basis.

Questions for consultation

11. We would welcome views on the following questions in order to ensure that our Publication scheme reflects the areas in which there may be public interest.

Question 1: Have we categorised any information as being excluded from publication which could be released?

Question 2: Have we omitted any information/documents which should be classed as exempt from the publication scheme?

How to respond

Responses to the questions set out in this consultation document, and any comments on other aspects of the draft Publication scheme, are requested by **17 March 2008**.

Responses should be sent by e-mail to FOIA@frc.org.uk, or in writing to:

Christina Trickett
Financial Reporting Council
5th Floor
Aldwych House
71-91 Aldwych
London WC2B 4HN

All responses will be acknowledged.

Unless otherwise stated, responses will be regarded as being on the public record. Respondents should indicate specifically whether their responses should be treated as confidential (standard disclaimers in responses received by e-mail will be disregarded for this purpose).



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