

Publication Scheme

A guide to the information routinely available from the CLC

What information is routinely made available by the CLC?

The CLC makes a significant amount of information routinely available to the public. This document helps us to operate as transparently as a legal service regulator is able. In the majority of cases, the information that you will be looking for will already be available on our website. If there is further information you want, you can write to us to make a request for information, in line with this policy.

Our core statutory functions and corporate structure are such that some information will not routinely be made available. It may not be appropriate – and, in some cases, it may be misleading – to release information, for example during the development stage of a policy.

Although it is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, the CLC has adopted the Information Commissioner’s Model Publication Scheme. The information that we will routinely make available is grouped under seven 'classes of information':

- who we are and what we do
- what we spend and how we spend it
- what are our priorities and how are we doing
- how we make decisions
- policies and procedures
- lists and registers
- the service we offer.

How does the scheme work? Will I be charged for the information?

The information listed in this document is available on our website and in print. You can access information:

1. **On our website** (<https://www.clc-uk.org/>) If the information is available on our website, a link will be provided. There is no charge for such information.
2. **By email** You can email a request to clc@clc-uk.org, including the words ‘publication scheme’ in the subject heading. There is no charge for information provided electronically.
3. **By post** If you ask for information that is available on our website to be provided in paper format, it may be necessary to make a charge. For example, if a large amount of photocopying or printing is required, or if the cost of postage of a large volume of paperwork is very high, a charge is more likely to be made. You will be notified in advance of any charges.

How up-to-date is the published information?

Most of the information that we make available will be current. However, for certain classes of information, it may be necessary to publish the information retrospectively.

Information will not be made available indefinitely. We are committed to providing the public with as much information as is practicably possible, however, it is important that we provide only relevant and up-to-date information. Therefore we may remove published information from our website to ensure that it is easy to find the most immediately relevant and up to date material. When we do so, the information that has been removed will still be available on request.

EXEMPTIONS

Our approach to considering exemptions to our general commitment to openness takes account of general freedom of information practice, the public interest and the principles of good regulation (proportionality, accountability, consistency, transparency, targeting).

The following exemptions will identify particular categories or items of information that should not be published by the CLC. The first three are absolute exemptions. The remainder are qualified exemptions in which case the grounds for the exemption will be tested against our commitment to openness.

Absolute Exemptions

- A. **Personal data** – Data within the meaning of Article 4(1) General Data Protection Regulations¹, other than as permitted by statute (e.g. the requirement at s.19 Administration of Justice Act 1985 for the CLC to keep a register of licensed conveyancers).
- B. **Confidential information** – Information, the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by the person who provided the information or any other person.
- C. **Prohibited disclosures** – Information the disclosure of which is incompatible with any law or which would constitute or be punishable as contempt of court (e.g. ‘tipping off’ under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002).

Qualified Exemptions

The following exemptions are not absolute. They set out reasons why we are entitled not to make information available. Before they are applied we will consider them against the public and consumer interest in disclosure, our regulatory responsibilities and our commitment to being as open as possible.

- A. **Legal professional privilege** – Information which would be protected by lawyer client privilege
- B. **Trade secrets and commercial interests** – Information the disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the CLC, an organisation regulated by the CLC or any other person.
- C. **Future publication** – Where publication of the information is planned and it is reasonable to withhold the information until the date of publication.
- D. **Investigations and proceedings** – Information the CLC has collected and holds for the purpose of regulatory investigations and proceedings, or any criminal or civil proceedings.

¹ **Personal data** means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (‘data subject’); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

- E. **Regulatory and law enforcement** – Information the disclosure of which would, or may, prejudice regulatory action to be taken by the CLC or law enforcement operations.
- F. **Policy in development** – Information that has been collected and/or is held to support the development of policy, including records of discussion of that policy development, publication of which would inhibit the policy development process.

Is the information available in other languages?

Our information is currently available only in English.

Is the information available in alternative formats?

When making a request, please let us know how you would like the information communicated to you – and we will do our best to comply. Providing information in alternative formats may take longer than would otherwise be the case.

Our information

Who we are and what we do – Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts.

Information	Website links
Roles and responsibilities of the CLC	About us What we do
CLC organisational structure	About us Organisation chart (job roles only)
The CLC’s Approach to Procurement	Summary of the CLC’s Approach to Procurement
Information relating to the legislation relevant to the CLC’s functions	What we do
Lists of and information relating to organisations with which the CLC works in partnership	Legal Services Board Legal Services Consumer Panel Legal Ombudsman
Senior management team and Council members	Our Council members Senior management team Register of Interests
The location and contact details for the CLC	Contact us

What we spend and how we spend it – Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit.

Information	Website links
Financial statements, budgets and variance reports	Corporate Documents
Financial audit reports	Corporate Documents
Pay and grading structure	Organisation chart (job roles only)
Internal financial regulations	Summarised in the Annual Financial Statements (see Corporate Documents)
Summary of Members' Expenses	included in the CLC Annual Report in Corporate Documents

What are our priorities and how are we doing – Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews.

Information	Website links
Annual Financial Statement	Corporate Documents
Strategic plan	
Annual business plan	
Annual report	
Data Breaches	Included in the CLC Annual Report in Corporate Documents
Service standards	Guidance for CLC Practice Applicants Transfer to CLC Regulation Reporting Problems

How we make decisions- Decision-making processes and records of decisions.

Information	
Background information relating to major policy proposals and decisions	About us What we do
Making Decisions	Corporate Governance Framework
Consultations	Current consultations Past consultations CLC responses to third party consultations

Council meetings	Council agendas, summary sheets and minutes Anyone may apply to attend a session of the Council for a specific item or items or to request a full paper that is not already available on the website. You may apply via clc@clc-uk.org
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Our policies and procedures - Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering services and responsibilities.

Information	Website links
Policies and procedures for making decisions	About us Regulatory approach CLC Framework Documents Diversity and Inclusion
Policies and procedures for the recruitment and employment of staff	About us Work with the CLC
Customer service	Complaints about the CLC Whistleblowing
Records management and personal data policies	Privacy policy
Charging regimes and policies	Fees Framework

Lists and registers – currently maintained lists and registers.

Information	Website links
CLC registers	Find a CLC Lawyer ABS Register

Datasets

The CLC publishes datasets related to research.

Research Reports	Research Reports
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The service we offer – Information about the services we currently provide, including leaflets, guidance and

newsletters produced.

Information	Website links
Regulatory responsibilities	About us What we do CLC Handbook CLC Framework Documents Find a CLC Lawyer ABS Register
Advice and guidance	Resources for Consumers Resources for CLC Lawyers and practices Training as a CLC Lawyer
Media releases	News Reporting

For any further assistance or guidance, please contact our Director of Strategy and External Relations:

Stephen Ward
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Policy Review

Agreed by the CLC Council in December 2022
For review in Q4 2023