

23 August 2021

To: All Media

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INFORMATION COMMISSIONER GUTIERREZ INVITES PUBLIC  
TO ATTEND FREE ICIC WEBINAR:  
*ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF PRESS***

Hamilton, Bermuda. Information Commissioner Gitanjali Gutierrez wishes to advise all Bermudians and residents that the next session in the series of free public webinars hosted by the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) will be on Wednesday, 25 August 2021 at 11:00am AT.

The topic is *Access to Information and Freedom of the Press*. This session is part of a series of free open webinars available to all members of the public as online webinars, streaming live on the [ICIC's YouTube Channel](#).

The overall theme for this series of webinars is *Access to Information for a Changing World – Using Technology to Promote Inclusion*. Each session will bring together experts and professionals from around the world to discuss specific themes around transparency and access to information. The ICIC's webpage states that "The webinars aim to provide participants with dialogue and reflection on some of the most important topics related to the right of access to information. It will be marked by appreciating the diversity of opinions and points of view, with representatives from academia, the public sector and the private sector. More than offering unilaterally the transmission of information or knowledge, the event will seek to encourage dialogue, discussion and the development of critical reasoning, being free and open to all and all those interested in the proposed themes."

Commissioner Gutierrez states "Freedom of the press is critical for accountability in any democracy, including Bermuda. It ranges from traditional print journalists to cutting edge digital programmes. The media often takes the initiative to ask the probing questions that allow the public to hold the Government of the day and other public bodies to their promises and mandates. Public access to information and freedom of the press are deeply intertwined. The right to make a PATI request allows journalists to go beyond the information that public authorities voluntarily provide and allows for a deeper dive into the information that the public wants, and needs to know. Members of the

media, journalism students, human rights advocates and anyone in the public can join the ICIC's Wednesday Webinar to learn how access to public information supports freedom of the press."

The recording of this session, as well as the remaining sessions for 2021, will be available on the [ICIC's YouTube Channel](#). The free webinars are offered on the last Wednesday of every month. The full schedule of webinars for 2021 and viewing details are available on [www.informationcommissioners.org](http://www.informationcommissioners.org).

Editor's Notes:

The ICO is an independent public office responsible for promoting the use of and overseeing compliance with the Public Access to Information (PATI) Act 2010. The PATI Act gives the public a right to access records held by public authorities, subject to listed exemptions and administrative grounds for denial of access. Individuals who are dissatisfied with the response of a public authority may seek a review by the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner shall investigate and the decisions by the Information Commissioner are legally binding. The ICO can be reached by visiting our offices at Maxwell Roberts Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, One Church Street, Hamilton, or by calling 543-3700 or emailing [info@ico.bm](mailto:info@ico.bm).

Further information about the ICO is available at [www.ico.bm](http://www.ico.bm).

The International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) is a permanent network established in March 2019, which connects member Information Commissioners to foster the protection and the promotion of access to public information as a fundamental pillar to social, economic and democratic governance.

Further information about the ICIC is available at [www.informationcommissioners.org](http://www.informationcommissioners.org).