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To: All Media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INFORMATION COMMISSIONER GUTIERREZ INVITES PUBLIC
TO ATTEND FREE WEBINARS HOSTED BY THE ICIC**

Blurred Boundaries in Access to Information: Home Office and Public Records Management

Hamilton, Bermuda. Information Commissioner Gitanjali Gutierrez wishes to advise all Bermudians and residents that the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) will be hosting open sessions for the public throughout 2021. The theme for this year's sessions is *Access to Information for a Changing World – Using Technology to Promote Inclusion*.

The next scheduled webinar is entitled *Blurred Boundaries in Access to Information: Home Office and Public Records Management* on Wednesday, 30 June, 2021 at 11:00am AT. The live webinar will be available on the [ICIC's YouTube Channel](#).

These free open sessions are available to all members of the public as online webinars and workshops. 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 the following:

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.

Information Commissioner Gutierrez stated, "Numerous employees and officers in public authorities in Bermuda worked remotely during each phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some used every tool at their disposal—including home computers, personal cell phones, private emails and messaging through social media—to resiliently maintain continuity of services for the benefit of the public. As we move forward, though, this ICIC webinar considers the long-term impact of the blurred

lines between personal and public. What happens when critical policy or spending decisions are made over WhatsApp accounts on personal cell phones? How do public authorities ensure that records containing sensitive personal information are moved from home devices to appropriate filing systems within public offices? As public authorities return to their in-office operations, this ICIC webinar is a timely and important topic for Bermuda. I hope it will spark conversations about public records management and the handling of public authorities' information and documents".

Recordings 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.

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, 4th Floor, One Church Street, Hamilton, or by calling 543-3700 or emailing info@ico.bm.

Further information about the ICO is available at 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.