

1 February 2021

To: All Media

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Information Commissioner Issued First Decision for 2021**

Hamilton, Bermuda. Information Commissioner Gitanjali Gutierrez issued her first decision for 2021 on 25 January 2021: [Decision 01/2021](#), Department of Public Lands and Buildings (Department). The requester made a request under the Public Access to Information (PATI) Act 2010 for a copy of the Tudor Farm lease and tender records. After the Department did not issue an initial decision, the requester asked for an internal review of their PATI request. When the PATI requester did not receive an internal review decision from the Department, the requester sought an independent review by the Information Commissioner.

In [Decision 01/2021](#) the Information Commissioner found the Department failed to issue an internal review decision within the statutory timeframes of the PATI Act. The Department also did not issue its decision to the Applicant during the Information Commissioner's review. The Information Commissioner ordered the Department to conduct an internal review and issue its internal review decision within four weeks of [Decision 01/2021](#).

[Decision 01/2021](#) reminds public authorities of their obligation to conduct an internal review and issue a decision within six weeks of the public authority receiving an internal review request, which is not extendable under the PATI Act.

As Bermuda nears its sixth year of PATI rights available to Bermudians and residents of Bermuda, [Decision 01/2021](#) is the Information Commissioner's 27<sup>th</sup> failure-to-decide investigation. This represents over one-third of the Information Commissioner's 77 published decisions, as of 31 January 2021.

[Decision 01/2021](#) can be accessed online at [www.ico.bm](http://www.ico.bm), along with all prior decisions.

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Editor's Notes:

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is providing services to the public and other stakeholders during regular business hours. 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).

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.

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