

25 May 2022

To: All Media

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Information Commissioner Issues Decision 15/2022**

Hamilton, Bermuda. On 18 May 2022, the Information Commissioner issued [Decision 15/2022, Cabinet Office](#). The Applicant had submitted a public access to information (PATI) request to the Cabinet Office seeking any correspondence between the Premier or Acting Premier and their staff that related to the then-Director of the Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory. The Information Commissioner found that the Cabinet Office did not issue an internal review decision to the Applicant within the six-week timeline set out in the PATI Act. However, during the Information Commissioner's independent review, the Cabinet Office issued an internal review decision for the PATI request. As a result, the Information Commissioner did not require the Cabinet Office to take any further action with respect to [Decision 15/2022](#). The Decision did not address whether the Cabinet Office has properly denied access to the requested records. Rather, it addressed the basic obligation upon the Cabinet Office to respond to an internal review request within the statutory timeframe.

[Decision 15/2022](#) is available on [www.ico.bm](http://www.ico.bm).

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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.

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