

The Information Commissioner for Bermuda,

Recognising that the right to information is an integral part of the right to freedom of expression, as recognised by Resolution 59 of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1946,

Noting that the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000) highlights good governance as being central to development and the eradication of poverty, and acknowledging that the right to know and press freedom are essential to promoting democracy and ensuring respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), which includes the right of access to information held by public bodies and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which guarantees that: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”,

Affirming the purposes of the Public Access to Information Act 2010 (PATI Act) to strengthen good governance, to build greater public trust in government and increase public accountability, which will only be realised through its regular use by Bermudians and residents of Bermuda,

Recognising that the PATI Act empowers Bermudians and residents, and encourages social inclusion, by facilitating active participation and engagement by Bermudians and residents with the government and other public authorities,

Noting that Bermuda is emerging from a pandemic, faces unprecedented challenges, and is on the cusp of Bermudians exercising their fundamental right to vote,

Affirming that Bermuda’s continuing growth at this moment in history is only possible when government and other public authorities are fully transparent, respect good information management and uphold the right to access public information,

Recognising that civil society organisations and government bodies throughout the world have adopted and currently celebrate 28th of September as “International Right to Know Day”, and

Declares and

1. **Commits** to the mandate of the Information Commissioner to promote public access to information in Bermuda and ensure public access to information to the greatest extent under the provisions of the PATI Act; and
2. **Celebrates** Bermudians and residents who have exercised their rights under the PATI Act to be informed about, and to be included and to be involved in, the public decision making that affects their lives, the efforts to hold public authorities accountable and the promotion of good governance; and
3. **Encourages** government and other public authorities to further their openness and transparency, as well as their proactive sharing of information to allow Bermudians and residents to better understand public decision making.

Declared this day on Monday, 28th of September 2020



Gitanjali S. Gutierrez

Information Commissioner for Bermuda