Information Note – March 2015

FOI Training

We want to take this opportunity to remind you of the FOI Training Framework that has been put in place for FOI bodies. There are five suppliers on a panel of FOI trainers and the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) will run mini-competitions on behalf of the FOI bodies who submit applications for training. This is a most cost-effective way for FOI bodies to receive training. Our February Information Note set out all of the details. A number of FOI bodies have already received training and the process is underway for others. For any body who still needs training, the contact in OGP is Clodagh Mulligan @ tel 076 1008091 or e-mail Clodagh.Mulligan@ogp.gov.ie.

Records of Deceased Persons - Section 37(8) Regulations (formerly Section 28(6) Regulations)

S.I. 387 of 2009 which prescribes the classes of individual whose records will be made available to parents and guardians and the classes of requester to whom the records of deceased persons will be made available remains in effect under the 2014 Act. An issue has arisen in relation to the definition of “next of kin” used in the S.I. in the context of the release of records of deceased persons. As a result, new Regulations need to be made.

In the drafting of the new Regulations, a number of issues have arisen and before we proceed any further, we decided that it would be useful to have a meeting with representatives from a small number of public bodies who deal on a regular basis with the release of records of deceased persons under FOI. I expect we are talking in the main about the HSE and Voluntary Hospital sector here.

We would appreciate if anybody who has experience in this area and who would be willing to participate in such a meeting would nominate themselves by e-mail to cpu@per.gov.ie by Tuesday 31 March 2015. It would be appreciated if you could indicate in your reply the volume of requests for the release of records of deceased persons under FOI that you would normally deal with or have dealt with in a year. We would like to keep the group small so, in the event that we get a large number of nominations, this information will enable us to identify the people with the greatest level of experience in the area. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

E-mail Addresses

We have still not received generic e-mail addresses from all FOI bodies (FOI@body.ie). This is causing difficulties for the CPU in sending out e-mails. Any outstanding addresses to cpu@per.gov.ie please.

Publication Scheme

As you are aware, the Publication Scheme(s) provided for in Section 8 of the FOI Act 2014 will take the place of the Section 15 and 16 manuals under the 1997 Act. We undertook to circulate a draft model publication scheme to all bodies for comments. Details were set out in our February Information Note. We have not yet been in a position to finalise the draft scheme but hope to do so over the coming weeks. Bodies will be given a number of weeks to consider and comment on the draft Scheme.