Office of the Information Commissioner

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The Office of the Information Commissioner welcomes new Privacy Deputy Commissioner and Information Access Deputy Commissioner



Pictured is Privacy Deputy Commissioner Nina Skewes and Information Access Deputy Commissioner Patrick Ky.

Last week the Attorney General Hon. Dr Tony Buti MLA announced the appointment of the Privacy Deputy Commissioner and the Information Access Deputy Commissioner to the Office of the Information Commissioner Western Australia.

Annelies Moens, the Information Commissioner in Western Australia, warmly welcomes Nina Skewes as the Privacy Deputy Commissioner and Patrick Ky as the Information Access Deputy Commissioner.

Ms Skewes brings a wealth of privacy expertise from the public and private sector, including leading privacy programs and responses to data breaches across the Asia Pacific region.

Mr Ky brings significant expertise in information law, organisational governance and public sector integrity, leading accountability initiatives and reforms across multiple jurisdictions.

Read the full announcement online.

Updates to the Freedom of Information Queue Management Policy

Currently, the OIC has a significant backlog of external review matters and the number of new applications for external review received is increasing.

Accordingly, to manage the volume of matters, increase timeliness of outcomes for more applicants and agencies and reduce backlog, priority is being given to matters as decided by the OIC.

For more information and to read about which matters will be given priority visit our website and read the Freedom of Information Queue Management Policy.

International Data Privacy Day 2026

Today, 28 January is International Data Privacy Day, marking the anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108) opening for signature in 1981.

This was the first legally binding international treaty aimed at protecting individuals against abuses in data collection and processing.

Your online activity creates a magnitude of data, including your personal information. Everyone has a right to data privacy and protection of their personal information.

Do a personal data privacy audit this week by focusing on the following three key measures:

- Managing and adjusting your privacy settings on devices, websites and apps
- Enabling multifactor authentication to help securely control access to accounts
- Reviewing your passwords to ensure they are long (ideally 14-20 characters), use a mix of uppercase, lowercase, numbers and symbols, and are not personal information or words found in a dictionary (use a password safe to securely store your passwords)

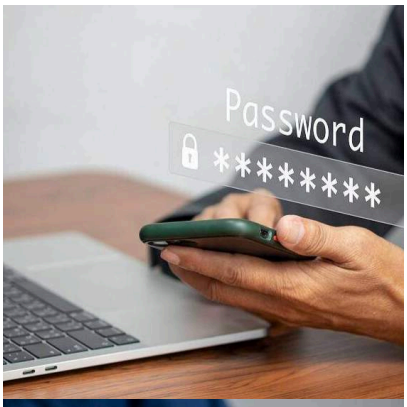
Follow the Office of the Information Commissioner WA on Linkedin

Stay connected with the Office of the Information Commissioner WA by following us on LinkedIn. Our LinkedIn page is the easiest way to keep up to date with the latest news from the Office. We regularly share updates on guidance materials, events, and consultations to support agencies and the wider community.

Receive timely updates directly in your feed and be part of the conversation around transparency, accountability, and information rights in WA.

Follow us on LinkedIn and stay informed.

FOI and privacy tip of the month





Create great answers for security questions

With the proliferation of our personal information across social media and other sources, common security questions (like your mother's maiden name or first pet) are often easy to guess or find online. Instead, use answers that are unrelated to the question to provide an additional layer of privacy protection. Store your made up answers securely in a trusted password manager.

Keep the applicant informed of progress

Agencies must deal with an access application as soon as possible or, in any event, within 45 calendar days. It is good practice to acknowledge you have received the request and advise that it is being processed. If you become aware of delays, let the applicant know early. If there is a delay in reaching a decision or if their application has progressed, proactively communicate this and provide the applicant with an update.

Upcoming events



Women Unlimited 2026

Information Commissioner Annelies Moens will be presenting alongside Kamala Harris and The Hon Julie Bishop at the upcoming Women Unlimited Leadership Summit on 18 and 19 February 2026.

The event aims to inspire attendees to explore new ways of thinking about leadership in a world where boundaries are constantly shifting. This event offers unparalleled insights from those who have shaped their careers through courageous optimism, resilience and a bold commitment to progress.

The Information Commissioner will be addressing audiences live in Perth.

For more information about this event visit the Women Unlimited Leadership Summit website.

Local Government Alliance Meeting

The Information Commissioner will be presenting to local government professionals on Tuesday 17 February. Her presentation will cover PRIS legislation, regulatory powers, and remit of the Office of the Information Commissioner, and how to prepare for 1 July 2026 and beyond.

The Local Government Alliance meeting combines the Local Government FOI Group, the Local Government Record Management Group and the PRIS Group.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of the Information Commissioner acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.