

**An Investigation into the operation of  
Section 10(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information  
(FOI) Acts, 1997 & 2003.**

An Investigation by the Information Commissioner  
into the manner in which public bodies have used  
Section 10(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 & 2003,  
to refuse FOI requests that involve searches for records.

A report in accordance with section 36(3) of the FOI Act, 1997

## **Foreword**

This is a report of an investigation which I carried out in accordance with section 36 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003 (the Act) into the practices and procedures adopted by public bodies for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of that Act, and of enabling persons to exercise the rights conferred on them by the Act.

In particular, the report focuses on the manner in which public bodies have used section 10(1)(a) of the Act to refuse FOI requests that involve searches for records.

In accordance with section 36(5) of the Act, I am furnishing a copy of this report to the Minister for Finance and to each public body. A copy is also appended to my Annual report 2007, which, in accordance with normal practice, will be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.

Emily O'Reilly  
Information Commissioner  
February 2007



























































































































































































