

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CASE NOTES

Public Interest favoured over identity disclosure ***Information Act s.46, s.56***

The complaint was lodged following the internal review decision of the public sector agency not to disclose three Police Information Reports on the grounds that they were exempt under sections 46(2)(b) and (c) of the Act.

The Complainant wanted access to the reports in order to correct personal information about the Complainant.

The Office found that the section 46(2)(b) and (c) exemptions did not apply because the reports did not disclose the identity of a confidential source of information.

The Office also considered whether the names of officers appearing in the reports should be edited out under the section 56 exemption and concluded that, as the reports did not reveal anything about the individual officers except their name and position the reports did not unreasonably interfere with the privacy of the officers.

The Office concluded that it is in the public interest for the Complainant to have access to the reports and that there is sufficient *prima facie* evidence to substantiate the complaint.