

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CASE NOTES

Anonymity ***Information Act* s.56(1)(a)**

The complainant sought access to information contained in an “anonymous grievance” about him.

The organisation relied on the exemption in section 56(1)(a) of the Act that releasing the information would be “an unreasonable interference with a person’s privacy” because there was some identifying information in the complaint. The organisation also argued that it was required by IPP 8 to protect the anonymity of the complainant.

The Office found that IPP 8 does not create a blanket right to conduct all dealings with an organisation anonymously, that there was sufficient *prima facie* evidence that not all reasonable steps had been taken to locate the information and that the organisation did not have an adequate basis to refuse access using section 56(1)(a).