



International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)

28 September 2020 - Today we celebrate the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

The ICIC is pleased to be working with UNESCO and other international partners including civil society organisations, to celebrate this important day to promote and protect the Universal Right of Access to Information.

The ICIC and colleagues have come together during this pandemic to reaffirm the importance of access to information laws in building greater public trust in government. Openness and transparency, as well as proactive sharing of information are essential to allowing citizens to better understand public decision-making.

The role of Information Commissioners is crucial in holding public authorities to account by ensuring good record keeping and management, sound information processing and adherence to information access, proactive disclosure and other statutory obligations, particularly in a situation of public emergency.

In this context, the ICIC reiterates its statement of April 2020 supporting a flexible approach that takes into account the compelling public interest in the current health emergency, while safeguarding the values of the right to access information.

The ICIC has grown in 2020 with an increasing membership and stronger commitment to the vision and values of the ICIC Charter. This renewed focus demonstrates the importance of universal access to information and need to empower Information Commissioners, civil society and international bodies to work together to improve standards.

As all parties invested in promoting and protecting the right of access to information begin to celebrate IDUAI 2020, the ICIC is proud to announce its joint Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO which will help both organisations share expertise to develop concrete tools and responses towards international best practice and standards in the context of access to information.

END