

Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (PAIA)

What is PAIA?

The Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (or PAIA, Act No. 2 of 2000) is a freedom of information law in South Africa that gives effect to the constitutional right of access to any information held by any public or private body that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights. The Act is enforced by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

Purpose of the Act?

PAIA was enacted to give effect to the constitutional right of access to any information held by the State and any information that is held by another person and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Objective of this Act

The act promote transparency, accountability and effective governance of all public and private bodies, by empowering and educating everyone to understand their rights in terms of PAIA so that they are able to exercise their right in relation to public and private bodies, to understand the functions and operation of national spheres/public bodies, and to

Effectively scrutinize, and participate in decision making by public bodies that affects their rights.

To ensure that the state takes part in promoting a human rights culture and social justice.

To encourage openness and to establish voluntary and mandatory mechanisms or procedures which give effect to the right of access to information in a speedy, inexpensive and effortless manner as reasonably possible.

Governance of PAIA is performed by the DATA Governance and Information Management Section in the Office of the City Manager. All PAIA related issues can be addressed to Thembisa Zwane on Accesstoinfo@joburg.org.za or faxed to 011 727-0267 or by telephone on 011 407-6930.