



United Kingdom
National Commission for UNESCO

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

UK National Commission for UNESCO Calls for No Changes to the UK Freedom of Information Act

London, UK – 17 May 2007. After consideration of the proposed changes in the Freedom of Information Act, the UK National Commission for UNESCO's Communication and Information Committee calls upon the Secretary of State to ensure that no changes are made in the existing legislation that would, in any way, encourage, those governments that are still keen to limit the free flow of information in their own domains.

The UK National Commission for UNESCO is also concerned that the proposed changes will conflict with Her Majesty's Government's stated commitment to make transparency and accountability a universal obligation of national governments. Currently the UK has a good reputation within UNESCO as a strong advocate of the importance of freedom of information and as a crucial pillar of good governance; we are concerned that the proposed changes will endanger this hard-earned reputation.

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For further information, please ring the UK National Commission for UNESCO on 020 7766 3491.

Notes to Editors

- ***The UK National Commission for UNESCO*** is an independent body set up by HM Government to act as the national coordinator for UNESCO's activities and policies in the UK; and as a focal point for UNESCO HQ, HM Government and UK Civil Society. For more information, visit www.unesco.org.uk.
- ***The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)*** is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom.