



What is the law on Access to Information?

- This law promotes transparency and openness of the administration by establishing an effective right to access public information.
- The law requires the administration to actively publish documents (such as decisions, directives, circulars, memoranda, annual reports, explanatory notes to the laws) in the official gazette and online.
- The law provides a simple mechanism for any person to request and obtain information from the administration without the need to justify his/her request or explain the intended use of the requested information.

What are the benefits to making government information public?

- Information will no longer be held a few senior public officials, as citizens, irrespective of political alliances, will have access to critical information about government performance, policy updates, and public administration procedures and processes.
- Citizens' ability to obtain public information will increase their confidence in government and elected officials and help foster a relationship of trust between citizens and the State.
- Enhanced access to information will enable the media to provide more accurate, issue-based reporting.
- Information sharing, and the mechanisms by which it is enforced, enhances checks and balances within the government, and ensures proper separation of powers.
- Transparency in government will enhance investor confidence and ensure better practice in the private sector, with associated economic benefits to the public.
- Opportunities for the use of bribery and petty corruption in daily administration will be reduced through greater clarity in procedures for accessing information within government offices and through mechanisms to enforce those procedures.

How will this law empower you as a citizen?

- Enhanced access to information will allow you to more effectively oversee government decision-making, advance your capacity to engage in public debate and hold your government accountable.
- This law will enable you to obtain government records pertaining to you, while protecting disclosure of such personal information.
- This law will give you access to information that you can use to make an informed and independent assessment of the government and elected officials' performance without facing legal penalties or prosecution.
- This law will serve to enhance the democratic process as you will have the capacity to vote based on verifiable facts rather than speculation.
- This law will allow you to compare politicians' promises with what the government actually achieves.
- This law will give you access to the reasons for administrative decisions that affect your rights and enable you to challenge such decisions to protect your rights.

Why should you support the law on Access to Information?

- Access to information is a basic human right for all citizens.
- Access to information contributes in improving your daily life.
- Your support for this law will demonstrate your commitment to transparency and good governance in Lebanon.
- Your support for this law will increase your access to critical public records and documents that allow you to assess the performance of the government and elected officials.
- Your support for this law will decrease the need for "wasta" to obtain critical data on government performance, policy updates, and public administration procedures and processes.

The National Network for the Right of Access to Information ("Network"), a multi-sectoral group comprising parliamentarians, ministries, private sector associations, professional syndicates and non-governmental organizations, seeks to enhance transparency and accountability and to strengthen the rule of law and civic participation in Lebanon through access to information and protection for individuals who report corruption ("whistleblower protection"). The Network was formed on April 11, 2008 upon the initiative of the Lebanese Parliamentarians against Corruption (LebPAC), the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), and Association pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés (ADDL), in collaboration with the American Bar Association (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative in Lebanon.