

**Decision D0332001 – Published in note form only**

***Re Wimbridge and the Department of Housing and Works [2001] WAICmr 33***

**Date of Decision: 21 September 2001**

***Freedom of Information Act 1992; clause 3(1)***

The complainant is a former tenant of the agency. The complainant made an application to the agency for access, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* ('the FOI Act'), to copies of correspondence received by the agency in relation to his former tenancy. In particular, the complainant sought access to documents containing information that would identify the person or persons who had informed the agency that the complainant no longer resided at the property leased to him by the agency.

The agency granted the complainant access to edited copies of the requested documents. The agency claimed that the information deleted from the requested documents was exempt under clause 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act, because it consists of "personal information" within the meaning of the FOI Act about third parties.

The Information Commissioner obtained the disputed documents from the agency and examined the information deleted by the agency. On its face, the information deleted from the disputed documents was clearly personal information about third parties other than the complainant, from which those third parties could be identified.

The Information Commissioner was satisfied that the information deleted from the disputed documents consisted of personal information about people other than the complainant and that the public interest in protecting the privacy of those third parties was not outweighed by any other overriding public interest factors in favour of disclosure.

The Information Commissioner confirmed the agency's decision to refuse access to the information deleted from the disputed documents by the agency on the ground that it is matter that is exempt under clause 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act.