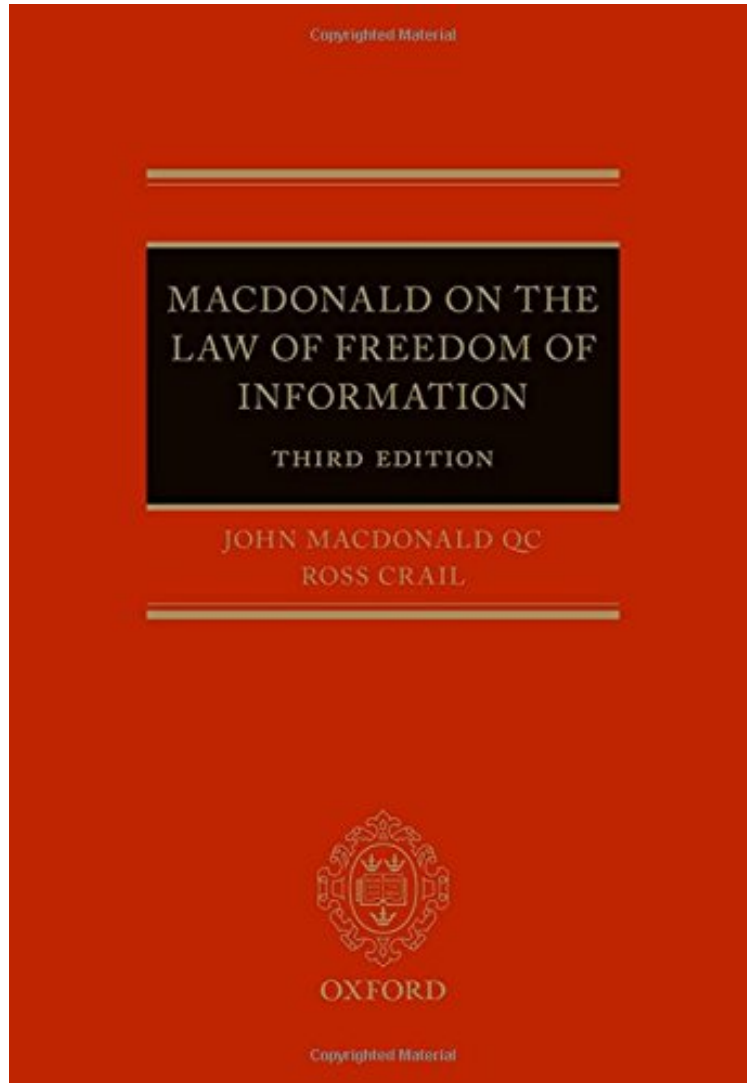


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The Law of Freedom of Information

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From Oxford University Press : The Law of Freedom of Information before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Law of Freedom of Information:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSITION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW By Phillip Taylor MBEA COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSITION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW NOW IN A NEW THIRD EDITION FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESSAn appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green ChambersIn a recent decision, the Supreme Court has in effect, tipped the uneasy balance between privacy and free speech in favour of the former. An

injunction is now in place which prevents people in England and Wales from reading about what people in Scotland can read about and what people in virtually the rest of the world can read about via the Internet. This seems a strange decision, especially for readers of this new edition of MacDonald on the Law of Freedom of Information. Published by Oxford University Press, this is the latest edition of this now definitive work on a subject which has engendered considerable controversy and public concern. Quoting Lord Sumption, author John MacDonald QC stresses that information is the key to sound decision making, to accountability and development; it underpins democracy but information can be genuinely private, confidential or sensitive and these interests merit respect in their own right. The balance between the competing considerations of privacy and free speech, adds the author, and the balance between them, lie at the heart of this third edition. In the light of all this, the aforementioned Supreme Court decision strikes a cacophonous note, for it seems that privacy of late has triumphed over transparency. The judgment is especially odd in that the Supreme Court is one of the few courts in England and Wales that has cameras positioned all over the place, with a view to recording the proceedings therein. Also, consider the mighty struggle for free speech over the past few hundred years. The 17th century poet of Paradise Lost John Milton who wrote the famous anti-censorship tract *Areopagitica* must be turning over in his grave. Oh well -- even Supreme Courts make mistakes. What is especially interesting about this well established and ever up-to-date work of reference, is its ending, as the author and his team of expert contributors from New Square Chambers consider Thoughts on the Future in the last chapter. There is more than one juicy Sir Humphrey-like quote in there and elsewhere from certain government sources, including one from Lord Bridges. Our aim, he has said, is to be as open as possible on the substance, consistent with ensuring that a private space is protected for frank advice. Reading between the lines, say the books editorial team, the Treasury see an opportunity to charge people more if they seek information. The more they are charged, the less information they will seek and the less trouble they will cause. We make no further comment here. Writing in the Foreword, Richard Scott describes the book as a comprehensive exposition of freedom of information law and as such, invaluable to the practitioner, also pointing out that although this is arguably a practitioners book, its simple, clear language will make it accessible to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. Logically organised, with extensive footnoting, numbered paragraphs a detailed table of contents and index, the book is easily navigable. The work contains a wealth of research resources, including over sixty pages of tables of cases and legislation (from a number of jurisdictions) as well as a table of conventions and agreements. Also note Part A which is an introduction to the pivotal Freedom of Information Act 2000. Certainly the books comprehensiveness and erudition make it a must-have for any practitioner, or indeed any reader interested in this continually expanding, consistently complex and certainly topical area of law and its influence (or lack of it) within a relentlessly changing media environment. The publication date is cited as at 4 February 2016.

Ten years after the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force in the UK, the implementation and case law related to the Act remains contentious. This new edition of the standard practitioners' text provides a complete, authoritative, and accessible guide to this challenging and rapidly evolving area of law. The core of the book is a full and lucid exploration of the statutory scheme: the Act itself, as well as the Environmental Regulations 2004 and the Data Protections Act 1998. It provides historical perspectives, aids to construction, and in-depth analysis of all provisions, with discussion expanded to include the problems exposed by the mass of information about individuals now available on the Internet, and the best way to protect citizens from those who commit crimes and torts online. Further chapters address how the Act relates to other legal issues, including human rights, confidentiality, data protection, and official secrets. Finally, it offers an account of the different ways the disclosure of information is treated in the European Union and the devolved parts of the UK, and a comparative survey of information rights in other parts of the world.

"Certainly the books comprehensiveness and erudition make it a must-have for any practitioner, or indeed any reader interested in this continually expanding, consistently complex and certainly topical area of law and its influence (or lack of it) within a relentlessly changing media environment." - Phillip and Elizabeth Taylor, Richmond Green Chambers
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