

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Acts give people a right of access to records held by many public bodies including Government Departments, the HSE and Local Authorities. It also allows for the Government to prescribe (or designate) other bodies receiving significant public funds, so that the FOI legislation applies to them also.

Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland (HDAI) provides certain information on our services and activities to the public through our annual reports, financial statements, website, information leaflets and through contact with stakeholders. This information will continue to be available without having to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Acts 2014. For further information on accessing information held by HDAI, please see <http://www.huntingtons.ie/content/about-us>

Access to Information held by HDAI

The Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2003 applies to HDAI, and is intended to facilitate public access to information held by public bodies which is not routinely available by other means.

On 14 October 2014, the [Freedom of Information Act 2014](#) came into effect and repealed the 1997 and 2003 Acts. The new Act introduced a number of changes to the Freedom of Information scheme and widened the range of bodies to which the FOI legislation applies. It also allows for the Government to prescribe (or designate) other bodies receiving significant public funds, so that the FOI legislation applies to them also.

Access to information under the terms of the Acts is subject to certain exemptions, procedures and time limits.

HDAI already makes available certain information on its activities to the public through its annual report and audited financial statements, information leaflets, newsletters and publications, information on our website and through discussions with staff members. This information will continue to be available without having to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Acts.

Information is also available outside the Acts through administrative access i.e. by writing to the appropriate staff member stating the information/record requested.

Information Routinely Available

Information relating to HDAI may be obtained by:

ROUTINE i.e. through discussion, in person, or by telephone with the appropriate staff member or Board member of HDAI.

Routine information is also available through information leaflets, newsletters, annual report and audited financial statements and other HDAI publications.

ADMINISTRATIVE i.e. by writing to the appropriate staff member or Board member of HDAI stating the information required.

Under routine and administrative access, all appropriate information will be made available to the requester having regard to privacy, confidentiality and the public interest.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2014

The Freedom of Information Act 2014 provides the following three rights:

1. The right of each person to access information held by public bodies;
2. The right of each person to have official information relating to him/herself amended where it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
3. The right of each person to obtain reasons for decisions affecting him/herself.