

Official Gazette

We, King Abdullah II Ben Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article (31) of the Constitution, and subsequent to what has been decided by both Houses of Parliament the Upper and Lower Houses, hereby sanction the following Law and order that it be promulgated and added to the Laws of the State.

Law No. (47) for the Year 2007 **The Law of Guaranteeing the Right to Obtain Information** **As amended by**

Law No. (3) of 2024 **Amending the Law on the Right of Access to Information**

Article 1 This Law shall be called as the (Law of Guaranteeing the Right to Obtain Information for the Year 2007) and shall become effective as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 1 (2024) This Law shall be cited as the "Amendment to the Law on the Right of Access to Information for the Year 2024" and shall be read in conjunction with Law No. (47) of 2007, hereinafter referred to as the "Original Law," as one consolidated law. This Law shall enter into force thirty (30) days following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 2 The following words and expressions, wherever they are stated in this Law, shall have the meanings assigned thereto hereunder unless the context indicates otherwise: -

Information: All written data, records, statistics, or materials that are documented, imaged, or electronically stored in any form, whether managed electronically or otherwise, and falling within the jurisdiction of the Official.

Classified Documents: Any written, printed, stenographic, or electronically stored materials, including but not limited to minutes, records, papers, photographs, films, maps, diagrams, drawings, or similar, which are classified as official documents pursuant to applicable legislation.

Ordinary Documents: Any non-classified information that fall under the management or jurisdiction of the responsible official.

Department: Any ministry, public department, public institution, official public body, trade unions, political party, or any entity managing a public facility, or receiving partial in whole or in part from the State's general budget or from any foreign entity.

Responsible Official: The Prime Minister, Ministers, Presidents, Director Generals of departments, or heads of relevant entities.

Council: The Information Council which is formed pursuant to the provisions of this Law.

Chairman of the Council / Minister of Culture.

Information Commissioner: Director General of the National Library Department in addition to his ex officio.

Article 3 A Council on Information shall be established, chaired by the Minister of Culture, and composed of the following members:

1. The Commissioner of Information – Deputy Chair.
2. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice.
3. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior.
4. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Government Communication.
5. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship.
6. The Director General of the Department of Statistics.
7. The Director General of the Military Intelligence within the Jordanian Armed Forces.
8. The Commissioner-General for Human Rights.
9. The President of the Jordanian Press Association.
10. The President of the Jordanian Bar Association.
11. Two representatives of specialized civil society organizations appointed by the Prime Minister for a term of two years.

Article 4 The Council shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

- a. Ensure the provision of information to those requesting it in accordance with the provisions of the Law.
- b. Develop the necessary plans and strategies to guarantee access to information and supervise the Council's operations.
- c. Promote awareness of the right to knowledge and access to information.
- d. Approve written or electronic forms for requesting access to information.
- e. Examine objections and complaints submitted by applicants for information and decide upon them.
- f. Approve the annual report on the Council's work.
- g. Submit the annual report to the Prime Minister and the Parliament, and publish it on the Council's website.
- h. Propose draft laws, regulations, and instructions pertaining to access to information.

Article 5

- a- The Council shall meet at least once every month or whenever needed by an invitation from the Chairman or his Deputy if the Chairman is absent or following a request made by at least six members of the Council to discuss the matters specified in this request.
- b- The meeting shall be legal by the attendance of at least seven members provided that they include the Chairman or his deputy. The decisions are taken unanimously or by majority of votes of members of the Council.
- c- The Council may invite any specialist or expert to attend its meetings without having the right to vote when the Council takes its decisions.

Article 6 The Commissioner of Information shall assume the following functions and powers:

1. Undertake administrative and technical procedures necessary for performing assigned tasks.
2. Prepare forms for requesting access to information, in written and electronic formats, and submit them to the Council.
3. Prepare reports on requests submitted to departments, the timelines for responding to them, and procedures for appeals and complaints.
4. Receive objections and complaints from applicants and refer them to the Council for decisions.
5. Receive reports from each department on the information requests.
6. Prepare an annual report on the Council's work, including the Council's recommendations and statistical data on the number of information requests, the entities from which such information is requested, the number of objections and complaints submitted by information seekers and decisions issued thereon, and submit it to the Council.

Article 7

- a- Every Jordanian natural or legal person shall have the right to obtain information upon request in accordance with the provisions of this Law, provided that a legitimate interest or purpose exists.
- b- A non-Jordanian natural or legal person residing in the Kingdom may obtain information upon request in accordance with the provisions of this Law, provided that a legitimate interest or purpose exists and subject to the principle of reciprocity.

Article 8

- a- The department shall periodically publish the following information:
 1. Its organizational structure, functions, operational mechanisms, and governing legislation.
 2. Its budget, expenditure allocations and items, audit reports concerning expenditure integrity, and any surpluses or deficits, along with justifications.
 3. Its programs, strategies, and operational plans.
 4. Services offered to the public, along with the conditions for obtaining them, if applicable.
 5. Annual and periodic reports issued by the department.

6. Agreements related to its functions.
 7. The name and contact details of the officer responsible for information access.
 8. Announced tenders.
 9. Any additional information the Council deems necessary to be published.
- b- The information that has been published, disclosed, or delivered to the requester by the competent authorities may be used or reused, provided that the date of acquisition and the source are cited, and that the content is not altered, in accordance with the provisions of the Document Indexing and Classification System issued pursuant to the provisions of this law.
- c- The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the Jordanian Armed Forces, the General Intelligence Department, and Public Security directorate.

Article 9

- a- Each department shall designate a competent person to receive and follow up on requests for information.
- b- Requests for access to information shall be submitted in writing or electronically using the approved form for this purpose, which must include the applicant's name, nationality, and place of residence for a natural person, or the registered address for a legal person, along with the subject of the requested information.
- c- The designated person must provide the applicant with an acknowledgment of receipt upon receiving the request.
- d- The designated person shall respond to the request, either by approval or denial, within fifteen (15) working days from the day following the date of submission. This period may be extended once only for an additional ten (10) days, provided there are justified reasons.
- e- Any decision rejecting the request shall be reasoned and deemed a formal rejection. Failure to respond within the prescribed period shall be deemed an implicit rejection.
- f- If the requested information is unavailable or has been destroyed due to the passage of time, this shall be communicated to the applicant.
- g- The specialized officer shall provide appropriate facilities for persons with disabilities, illiterate persons, and older persons to access the requested information.

Article 10 It is not permissible to request the information which prompts the imprinting of religious, racial, ethnic, or discrimination due to gender or colour.

Article 11 The applicant shall bear the cost appertaining to photocopying or copying the requested information through technical means. The applicant shall be shown the information if it is kept in a manner which is impossible to copy or photocopy.

Article 12

- a- The responsible official shall refrain from disclosing information related to the following:
1. Documents obtained from another State pursuant to an agreement providing for confidentiality.

2. Information whose disclosure would harm national security, foreign relations, or the State's foreign policy.
 3. Information containing analyses, recommendations, proposals, or consultations submitted to the official prior to a decision being made, including correspondence and information exchanged between different government departments.
 4. Personal and confidential files or records relating to education, medical conditions, employment, bank accounts, transfers, professional secrets, or any information prohibited from disclosure under the Personal Data Protection Law.
 5. Private and confidential correspondence, whether postal, telegraphic, telephonic, electronic, or through any other technological means, exchanged between government entities and their responses.
 6. Information whose disclosure would impact negotiations between the Kingdom and any other State or entity.
 7. Investigations conducted by the Public Prosecution, judicial authorities or security agencies regarding any crime or case within their jurisdiction, as well as investigations conducted by the competent authorities for the purpose of uncovering financial, customs, or banking violations, unless disclosure is authorized by the competent authority.
 8. Information of a commercial, industrial, financial, or economic nature, or relating to tenders, or scientific or technical research, the disclosure of which would infringe copyright and intellectual property rights, or fair and lawful competition, or would result in unlawful profit or loss to any person.
- b- The Council may decide that public interest requires the disclosure of information referred to in Paragraph (a) of this Article, except for items (1), (2), (6), and (7).
- c- The exceptions in Paragraph (a) of this Article shall not apply to information related to human rights violations, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

Article 13 Each department shall catalog and organize information and documents available to it in accordance with applicable professional standards, classifying what must be considered confidential or protected under applicable legislation, in accordance with a classification and cataloguing mechanism and retention periods to be determined by a regulation issued for this purpose.

Article 14 When the Director General of the National Library Department assumes the functions of the Information Commissioner in addition to his ex officio, his legal responsibility shall be confined to what is related to the information kept in his department.

Article 15 The responsible official may delegate any of his powers provided for in this Law to any senior official of the department provided that such delegation be in writing and specific.

Article 16

- a- The Administrative Court shall be competent to review the decision of rejecting the obtainment of information provided that the lawsuit be presented by the applicant against the responsible official within (30) days as of the day following the date of expiry of the

period granted in accordance with this Law to accept, reject the application or refrain from replying thereon.

- b- The applicant may file a complaint against the responsible official to the Council through the Information Commissioner in case his application has been rejected or if the responsible official refrains from giving the requested information within the period provided for legally.
- c- The Council should issue its decision on the complaint within thirty days from the date of its receipt. Otherwise the lawsuit will be regarded as rejected. The complaint shall sever the time of appeal against the responsible official provided for under paragraph (a) hereof. The effectiveness of the period of appeal shall begin as of the date of complainant's notification of the express rejection of his complaint or from the date of expiry of the period for the Council's issue of a decision with respect to the complaint.

Article 17 The amount of any consideration charged by the department in return for photocopying the requested information or copying of same shall be specified by a decision of the the Council upon recommendation of the President.

Article 18 The Council of Ministers shall issue the necessary by-laws required for carrying out the provisions of this Law including a regulation which defines the protected documents that may be revealed and on which a minimum period of thirty years of retaining them has elapsed.

Article 19 The Prime Minister and Ministers are charged with the execution of the provisions of this Law.

15/5/2007

Abdullah II Ben Al-Hussein

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Dr. Ma'rouf AL-Bakhit	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Ziyad Fariz	Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Khatib
Minister of State for Legal Affairs Dr. Khalid Al-Zu'bi	Minister of Development of Public Sector and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Dhunaibat	Minister of Municipal Affairs Nadir Al-Zhairat
Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Dr. Muhyi Al-Din Touq	Minister of Interior Eid Al-Fayez	Minister of Public Works and Housing, Engineer Husni Abu Ghaida
Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Khalid Touqan	Minister of Transport Su'ud Nsairat	Minister of Justice Shareef Al-Zu'bi
Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Suhair Al-Ali	Minister of Environment Engineer Khalid Irani	Minister of Labor Basim Al-Salim

Minister of Industry and Trade Salim Al-Khaza'leh		Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places Abdul Fattah Salah	Minister of Water and Irrigation Engineer Mohammad Thafir Al-'Alim
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Minister of Culture Dr. Adil Al-Tuwaisi		Minister of Social Development Dr. Suliman AL-Tarawneh	Minister of Health Dr. Sa'd Al-Kharabsheh
Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khalid AL-Shraideh		Minister of Political Development Dr. Mohammad Al-'Awran	Minister of Agriculture Dr. Mustafa Qrunfleh

Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Basim Al-Rousan		Minster of Tourism and Archeology Osama Al-Dabbas .	
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