

ONLINE WEBINAR

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

BIOGRAPHIES OF MODERATOR AND SPEAKERS

Helen Darbishire

Executive Director, Access Info



Helen Darbishire is a human rights activist specializing in the public's right of access to information. Helen is a founder and Executive Director of Access Info Europe (2006) based in Madrid, which works to advance transparency across Europe and globally. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership, is Chair of the Coalition for the UN Convention against Corruption, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Open Data Charter. Helen has provided expertise to various intergovernmental organisations, including the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

the Council of Europe, the European Union, and UNESCO, as well as academic institutions. Helen has a degree in the History and Philosophy of Science. She speaks English, French, and Spanish.

Peter Tyndall

Ombudsman and Information Commissioner of Ireland



Peter Tyndall was appointed Ombudsman and Information Commissioner for Ireland in December 2013. As Information Commissioner, his primary function is to conduct independent reviews of decisions taken by public bodies on requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by those bodies and to issue binding decisions following review. He can also carry out investigations into the practices and procedures adopted by public bodies for the purpose of compliance with the provisions of the Act, and can prepare and publish commentaries on the practical application and operation of the Act.

Peter, who is from Dublin, served as Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. He was Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Wales and Head of Education and Culture for the Welsh Local Government Association. Peter worked in a variety of senior positions in housing and social care. In particular, he developed housing and support services for people with intellectual disabilities. Peter is currently President of the International Ombudsman Institute, and formerly served as Chair of the Ombudsman Association.

Esperanza Zambrano Gómez**Deputy Director in charge of Complaints, Spanish Transparency Council**

She has a Law degree and a Master's in European Union Law and Public Management, and is a member of the Spanish Public Service since 2007.

She worked as adviser in the European Parliament Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee and in the Spanish Data Protection Authority.

Since January 2015, she is Deputy Director of Complaints in the Council of Transparency and Good Governance; a body created after the Spanish Law of Transparency and Good Governance entered into force in December 2014.

Before joining the Council of Transparency and Good Governance, she was national contact point in the framework of the Open Government Partnership and was responsible for the First Spanish Action Plan on Open Government.

Besa Tauzi**Advisor to the Information and Data Protection Commissioner of Albania**

Besa is a lawyer with a wide experience in both private and public sector. She started practicing the legal profession near Boga and Associates, the biggest law firm in Albania where she specialized in different areas of law, including corporate, energy, consumer protection, data protection, environment protection, labor law etc.

After a 10 years' experience at Boga & Associates she joined the team of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner as Advisor. In this position she has assisted the Commissioner in drafting and reasoning some headline decisions concerning the right to information. It is worth to mention the decisions addressed to the public authorities involved in the vetting process of the justice sector in connection with the access by civil society organizations to information concerning the progress of such process in Albania. Further she has assisted the Commissioner with the decisions made on the access to information concerning some major concession contracts as well.