

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

The Commission's hearings are generally open to the public. The Commission generally does not keep any appeal information private. This helps to ensure the Commission is accountable to the public. This is very important because the Commission is part of the justice system and the public must know the Commission is fulfilling its responsibilities.

The parties and interveners in an appeal must share between them whatever information they give the Commission. The only time this does not happen is where the Commission orders that some information can be kept from a party or intervener.

Also, anyone can request appeal documents from the Commission. The Commission will share the documents unless:

- the Commission has decided the information should not be available to the public,
- the Commission received the information as part of a settlement process, or
- the information cannot be shared based on the <u>Freedom of Information and Protection</u> <u>of Privacy Act</u>.

The Commission encourages all parties and interveners to keep in mind that none of the information and names they give to the Commission will likely be kept confidential.

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