## Freedom of Information Policy

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## 1. Introduction

The RVC supports and is committed to the principles of openness, transparency and accountability

• Information which is routinely published by the college is made available in accordance with the college's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme (see The Publication Scheme).

## 5. Relationship with existing policies and legislation

This policy has been developed and will be implemented within the context of other RVC policies and guidelines, national legislation and codes of practice, and sectoral/professional standards. For details of relevant internal and external documents, see the Appendix.

The RVC is committed to processing requests for information in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulations. To this end, the college will ensure that requests under the Freedom of Information Act are processed in accordance with the code of practice (known as the Access Code) issued by the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act (see the Appendix). Similarly, requests under the Environmental Information Regulations will be handled according to the code of practice issued by the Department for

## 11. Exemptions

Although the RVC upholds the principle that information should be accessible wherever possible, there are times when we have to withhold information to protect our legitimate interests and those of

- o Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
- o Records Management Policy
- ii. Legislation
  - o "<u>Data Protection Act 1998</u>
  - o "Environmental Information Regulations 2004
  - o "Freedom of Information Act 2000