

# Information Statement

## Public Authority: Bermuda Psychologists Council

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### Introduction to Your Rights under Public Access to Information

This document is the Information statement for the Bermuda Psychologists Council (BPC) (the Council). In accordance with the Public Access To Information (PATI) Act 2010, every public authority has a legal duty to maintain an Information Statement.

The purpose of the PATI Act and this document is to make information readily available to the public without the need for specific written requests, to encourage authorities to proactively publish information and to develop a culture of openness. Every person who is a Bermudian, or resident of Bermuda, has a right to access any record held by a public authority, and a right to amend their personal information held by a public authority if it is incorrect or misleading. However, several classes of information are exempt, including: Personal information (unless it relates to the requestor); Sensitive commercial information received in confidence; Operations and deliberations of Public Authorities; Cabinet, Ministerial and Governor's documents; and Legal documents. All exemptions are subject to the public interest test, except those that would be in contempt of Court, infringe Parliamentary privilege or are prohibited by other legislation [for more information see sections 21 to 40, PATI Act].

#### How to make a request

Requests for information, or to amend your personal information, must be made using the application form, and submitted in person to the Bermuda Health Council Information Officer. See Section G for how to make a request including the documents needed, record specificity, contact information and process timelines.

#### Key, including definitions

- Health Council means the Bermuda Health Council
- Act means the Psychological Practitioners Act 2018
- Council means the Bermuda Psychologists Council
- Ministry means the Ministry of Health
- PATI means Public Access To Information

- [ ] Square brackets, refer to sections of the PATI Act, unless another Act is indicated

### Section A: Structure, Organization and Governing Legislation [s5(1)a]

The Council consists of five (5) members, four (4) of whom are psychologists representing the range of professional settings in Bermuda including hospitals, schools, prisons, private sector and other government agencies. The remaining member is a legal representative to assist with the functions of the Council. Members are appointed by the Minister for Health.

Please see the Government website for the list of current members at <https://www.gov.bm/government-boards-and-committees>; select 'current Boards and Committees' and then search for the 'Bermuda Psychologists Council'.

#### Legislation

- Psychological Practitioners Act 2018

### Section B1: Legislated Functions, Powers, duties of the Authority [s5(1)b]

#### Functions of Council under the Act

The functions of the Council are:

1. to safeguard the welfare of the public in relation to the services of psychologists;
2. to assess applications and decide if applicants qualify for registration;
3. to promote and maintain high standards of practice and monitor adherence to ethical guidelines; and
4. to exercise disciplinary control over registered psychologists.

### Section B2: Obligations under PATI Act [s5(1)b]

#### Obligations of the Authority under the PATI Act

1. To provide an **information statement** for the public and promulgate it [s5],
2. To provide **other information** to the public so that the public needs only to have minimum resort to the use of the Act to obtain information [s6]. This includes:
  - a. General information, e.g. activities of the Authority
  - b. Log of all information requests and their outcome
  - c. Quarterly expenditure (upon request) [s6(5)]
  - d. Contracts valued at \$50,000 or more.
3. To **respond to information requests** in a timely manner [s12-16]
4. To **track information requests**, and provide this data to the Info Commissioner [s5(8)3]
5. To respond to requests from the Information Commissioner [s9]
6. To **amend personal information** held by the Authority that it is wrong or misleading following a written request by the person to whom the information relates [s19]
7. To conduct an **internal review** if formally requested [part 5]
8. To give evidence for **review by the Information Commissioner** [part 6, 47(4)], or for **judicial review** [s49], if required
9. To provide an **annual written report** to the Information Commissioner of the status of information requests [s58(3)].
10. **To do anything else as prescribed** under the PATI Act and Regulations [s59, 60], including:
  - a. **Managing Fees** for Requests for information
  - b. Management and maintenance of **records**

- c. **Following procedures** for administering the Act
11. To **train staff and make arrangements** so as to facilitate compliance with the Act [s61]
  12. To **designate an officer** to be the person to whom requests are directed [s62]

**Section C: Services and Programs provided [s5(1)c]**

**Services**

1. The registration of psychological practitioners
2. Decide actions to be taken in cases of alleged professional misconduct which have been referred for action by the Psychological Practitioners Professional Conduct Committee.
3. **Programs.** Not applicable - the Council has no programs.

**Section D: Records held [s5(1)d]**

The following records in respect of this public authority are held:

**Registration and Re-registration Records**

1. *The Register of Psychological Practitioners.* (Published annually). Government of Bermuda. (Public Access). The Register is a list of practitioners authorized to practice in Bermuda. It is an electronic database, an official copy of which is published every year.
2. *Registration and Re-registration Applications.* (Exemption section 23 – Personal Information). Records application information such as qualifications, work experience, and continuing education.
3. *Complaints.* (Exemption section 23 – Personal Information). Complaints against practitioners and relevant correspondence and decision documents.

**Activities of the Council**

4. *Annual Report of the Council.* (2003 to current). The Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access, with personal identifiers redacted). Summarises the activities of the Council for the preceding year, includes business addressed, registration and complaints statistics, member attendance.
5. *Meeting minutes of the Council.* (2003 to current). The Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access, with personal identifiers redacted). Records the business addressed and attendance.

**Section E: Administration manuals [s5(1)e]**

1. *Education and Training Guide for Registering as a Psychologist.* (2018). Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access). Details education and training requirements to be registered as a psychologist in Bermuda.
2. *Continuing Professional Development Program Guidelines.* (2022). Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access). Details the professional development activities and ceiling hour limits accepted in each activity for counting as professional development activities for re-registration.

3. *Continuing Professional Development Companion Guide* (2022). Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access). Summarises the professional development activities and ceiling hour limits accepted in each activity for counting as professional development activities for re-registration.
4. *BPC Policy Manual* (2019 to current). Standards and Guidance to assist the council during decision-making activities.
5. *Registration Application Form - Psychological Practitioners*. (2003 to current). Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access). The application form used for the initial registration of psychologists.
6. *Re-Registration Application Form*. (2003 to current). Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access). The application form used for re-registration of psychologists, which is required every three (3) years.

## **Section F: Decision-making documents [s5(1)f]**

### ***Regulatory Criteria for Profession***

1. *Psychological Practitioners Act, 2018*. Government of Bermuda. (Public Access). The legislation that guides the functions of the Council.

### ***Guidelines***

2. *Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct* (2018). Bermuda Psychologists Council. (Public Access). The codes of ethics and conduct that guide the profession of psychology in Bermuda.
3. See Documents listed in Section E

## **Section G: How to Contact the Information officer and Make a Request [s5(1)g and (h)]**

### **How to make a request for information, or to amend your personal information**

Requests must be made using the application form and submitted to the Information Officer. You must also provide Government-issued identification to prove that you are a Bermudian or a resident of Bermuda, such as a passport or Bermuda driver's license. The process and application form are located at: <https://www.gov.bm/online-services/make-pati-request>

A request must identify the record, the subject and time period. Requests should specify the manner in which access is preferred, for example by inspection or by copy. There is a fee charged for reproducing materials (see list of fees on the PATI website at: <https://www.gov.bm/pati-service-fees>).

Your request will be acknowledged within 5 days. The Public Authority has 6 weeks to make a decision regarding the request. Access to the record may be provided in full, in part or denied. If you are not satisfied with the outcome you may appeal the decision via several mechanisms: an Internal Review by the head of the Authority, an External Review by the Information Commissioner, and a Judicial Review in the Supreme Court. These processes are described on the PATI website (<https://www.gov.bm/public-access-information-pati>).

Contact

Shunee Burt

	PATI Information Officer Bermuda Health Council
Hand Deliver To	Bermuda Health Council Sterling House, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor 16 Wesley Street Hamilton, HM11
Mail*	Bermuda Health Council PO Box HM 3381 Hamilton, HM PX
Email*	<a href="mailto:healthcouncil@bhec.bm">healthcouncil@bhec.bm</a>
Telephone	292-6420
Contact	Shunee Burt PATI Information Officer Bermuda Health Council
* Note requests for information will only be accepted for submissions made in-person so as to verify the requestor's identity.	

**Section H: Further Information [s5(1)h]**

1. **About us** is available on the Bermuda Government's website at: <https://www.gov.bm/psychology>  
This includes the list of registered practitioners.
2. Information regarding health professional registration and complaints handling can be found on the Health Council's website: <https://bhec.bm/>.
3. The **legislation** listed may be found at Bermuda Laws Online [www.bermudalaws.bm](http://www.bermudalaws.bm).
4. **Financial Information.** As with all statutory boards, the fees for services and the remuneration of board members for service is governed by the following legislation:
  - Government Fees Act, 1965; and the Government Fees Regulations, 1976. The Act governs the charging of fees to applicants for services. The Regulations lists the fees for the services.
  - Government Authorities (Fees) Act, 1971. The Act governs the remuneration of body members for services. In brief: the Chair receives \$100, and other members receive \$50, per meeting. Public Officers receive no monies.

**Section I: Other Information To be Provided [s5(1)i]**

1. **Log of PATI** information access requests: To be provided upon request and with personal identifiers deleted.
2. **Contracts:** Any contracts entered into, with a value greater than or equal to \$50,000 [s6(6)]. Note for this authority, there is no power to enter into any contracts.
3. **Expenditure:** Quarterly expenditure will be provided upon request. Other than remuneration to members for attending meetings, as described in section H (3) above, the Authority has no expenses

4. **Salaries:** The Minister responsible for PATI shall publish a list of title and salary range of every post of public officers [s6(6)].

**Section J: Information Statement: Copies and Updates [s5(2,3,4,5)]**

**Locations of Information Statement:**

- Bermuda Health Council Office: Sterling House, 16 Wesley Street, Hamilton
- The Bermuda National Library
- The Bermuda Archives
- Available electronically at:
  - PATI website <https://www.gov.bm/public-access-information-pati>
  - Authority's website – [PATI - Bermuda Health Council \(bhec.bm\)](http://PATI - Bermuda Health Council (bhec.bm))
  - Information Commissioner's website: <https://www.ico.bm/public-authorities-list>

**Date Information Statement was updated:**

*Date:* 30 March 2022

*Sign:*



*Name:* Dr. Laura Henagulph  
*Post:* Chairperson, Bermuda Psychologists Council

*Ends*