

Ask, And You May Receive



Report from Monitoring of Access to
Information in West Africa



Ask, And You May Receive



Report from Monitoring of Access to Information in West Africa.

A publication of



*Media
Rights
Agenda*

Media Rights Agenda

© Media Rights Agenda 2010

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be photocopied, recorded or otherwise reproduced, store in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means without the prior permission of the copyright owner and publisher.

ISBN 978-978-915-878-2

Printed in Nigeria by Media Rights Agenda

Ask, And You May Receive

A publication of



© Media Rights Agenda
August 2010

ISBN 978-978-915-878-2

First Published in August 2010 by:

**Media Rights Agenda
31/33 Ladipo Kasumu Street
Off Adeleke Street
Off Allen Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos.
P. O. Box 52113, Ikoyi
Lagos, Nigeria.
Tel: 234-1-7616803
E-mail: pubs@mediarightsagenda.net
Website: <http://www.mediarightsagenda.net>**

ISBN 978-978-915-878-2

Copyright ©: August 2010 by Media Rights Agenda

**Cover Concept by:
Edetaen Ojo**

Acknowledgements

This report is published by Media Rights Agenda (MRA) as part of a project titled “Monitoring Access to Information in West Africa” conducted in most of Anglophone West Africa from 2008 to 2010.

The project was implemented in four countries in West Africa, namely Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone and was carried out in collaboration with the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) in Ghana; the Centre for Media Studies and Peace-Building (CEMESP) in Liberia; and the Society for Democratic Initiatives (SDI) in Sierra Leone.

Media Rights Agenda would like to acknowledge and thank the Ford Foundation for its generous support which made the project possible.

We would also like to thank all our partner organizations in the different countries - the Media Foundation for West Africa in Ghana; the Centre for Media Studies and Peace-Building in Liberia; and the Society for Democratic Initiatives in Sierra Leone as well as their staff and consultants who conducted, coordinated and supervised the research phase and the monitoring component of the project. In particular, we acknowledge the hard work of the country researchers: Ms Ugonna Duru (Ghana); Counsellor T. Negbalee Warner and Mr. P. Alphonsus Zeon (Liberia); Ms Ifeoma Vivian Ebo (Nigeria) and Mr. Emmanuel Saffa Abdullai (Sierra Leone).

Additionally, we would also like to thank various other individuals who contributed to the successful implementation of the project, particularly the dozens of citizens from the four countries, cutting across various sectors including the media professionals, civil society activists, women representatives, students, business persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, among others who submitted requests for information to public institutions across all branches and all levels of government.

Mr. Tive Denedo, Campaigns Director of Media Rights Agenda, and Mr. Ayode Longe, Senior Programme Officer, worked with partners in other countries to

design and formulate access to information requests based on the outcome of the country researches. They also trained requesters from Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria on all aspects of the monitoring exercise and coordinated the implementation in the different countries, including final editing of the report, while Mr. Edetaen Ojo, the Executive Director of Media Rights Agenda, had responsibility for the overall supervision of the project.

Media Rights Agenda is grateful to all of these individuals and organizations.

Table of Content

	Page
Aknowledgement	v
Preface	ix
Introduction	1
CHAPTER ONE	
1. 0 International Standards on Access to Information	2
1.1. Continental Status of Access to Information	3
1.2. The Access to Information Monitoring Tool.	4
1.3 Summary of Findings	8
1.4. The Classification of Outcomes Used in the Access to Information Monitoring	9
1.5 Compliant Outcomes	10
1.6 Noncompliant Outcomes	11
CHAPTER TWO	
2.0 Main Findings of the Monitoring.	13
2.1 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Nigeria	13
2.2 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Ghana.	15
2.3 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Liberia	17
2.4 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Sierra Leone	19
2.5 Inconsistency in Outcomes	23
CHAPTER THREE	
3.0 Finding by Type of Outcome	25
3.1 Mute Refusals	25
3.2 Unable to Submit/Refusal to Accept	27
3.3 Refusal to Accept Outcomes	28
3.4 Oral Refusals	29

	Page
3.5 Transfers and Referrals	32
3.6 Information Not Held	33
3.7 Information Received	34
3.8 Partial and Inadequate Information	36
 CHAPTER FOUR	
4.0 Findings by Monitoring Variables: Requesters and Requests	39
4.1 Discrimination in Provision of Information	39
4.2 The Requests	41
4.3 Conclusion	42
4.4 Recommendations:	44
 APPENDIX	
◆ Requests and Requestors by Country	
◆ Sierra Leone	45
◆ Ghana	62
◆ Nigeria	79
◆ Liberia	102

Preface

This report is based on a legal research conducted by Media Rights Agenda (MRA) to establish the scope of access to public information granted citizens and other members of the public under Nigerian Law.

The research was motivated by the need to explore possibilities for citizens and other members of the public in Nigeria to exercise their rights of access to information under the Law even in the absence of a comprehensive Freedom of Information Law as part of a wider project in selected countries in West Africa.

Media Rights Agenda began working on access to information issues in 1993. In 1994, it partnered with the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to launch a campaign for the adoption of a Freedom of Information Law in Nigeria.

Following from this process, it initiated a vigorous campaign in 1999 to get Nigeria's National Assembly to pass the draft Freedom of Information Bill into a Law which would be assented to by the President, as required by the Constitution.

After more than 10 years of a somewhat frustrating experience in trying to get the government to enact a Freedom of Information law, MRA is now reviewing its strategies for trying to bring about transparency in government and governance. A critical question in that review exercise is whether it is really necessary to wait for the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill before citizens can begin to push their governments to be more open and transparent.

Therefore, while MRA remains committed to the campaign for the enactment of a Freedom of Information Law in Nigeria and similar laws elsewhere on the continent, it has also decided to explore existing laws, regulations and policy documents which provide some opportunities for citizens to obtain information and services from governments and to begin pushing vigorously for their effective implementation.

In spite of the legal status of the right of access to information and the steps so far taken within the African Human Rights system to give effect to this right, Africa appears to be lagging behind other regions of the world in this global movement towards guaranteeing citizens' right of access to information, with West Africa being among the three worst off regions on the continent.

Very few countries on the continent have clear and specific guarantees of the right to information in their constitutions. Such countries include: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

However, most of these countries do not have comprehensive freedom of information laws to elaborate this right. Only three of them – South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia – have freedom of information laws to give effect to this right.

Although Uganda adopted its Access to Information Act since April 2005, full implementation is still being awaited more than five years after. The mandated Regulations which will bring the law into force are still not in place and so, despite having a constitutional guarantee and a freedom of information legislation, Ugandan citizens remain unable to enjoy the right of access to information.

Despite challenges of effective implementation, South Africa's Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) of 2000, the first access to information law on the continent, also appears to be the most credible effort on the continent to empower citizens through access to information as a matter of right although there are recent moves in its Parliament to roll back this gain.

Ethiopia adopted the Law on Mass Media and Freedom of Information in 2008. Although the Ethiopian Law is merged with media legislation, it contains significant features of a Freedom of Information law.

Besides South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia, the only other country on the continent with freedom of information law is Angola, which adopted its Access to Official Documents Law (Law 11/02) in 2005.

This means that only four countries out of the 54 in Africa have adopted freedom of information laws ó that is about 7.4 per cent. No single country in three (West Africa, Central Africa, and North Africa) out of Africa's five sub-regions has a freedom of information law.

Zimbabwe has a law which it pretentiously calls the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), adopted in 2002 and which it has adopted three times since then, in 2003, 2005 and 2008. But it is difficult to classify AIPPA as a freedom of information law in view of the scope of exemptions contained in the Law and several obnoxious provisions designed to control the media and repress media freedom in the country. It is geared more towards restricting the free flow of information than facilitating it.

Over the past 12 years, there have been vigorous efforts in four countries in West Africa to adopt Freedom of Information laws. These are in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. There are indications that the bill will soon become law in Liberia because there is no evidence of strong opposition to the bill. In Sierra Leone, the Freedom of Information bill has been in the legislative process now for over five years but is yet to become Law. The situation is even worse in Ghana where the Right to Information Bill has been awaiting legislative action for over seven years. But nowhere in the sub-region has the situation been more disheartening than in Nigeria, where a Freedom of Information Bill has been awaiting passage since 1999.

Many reasons have been advanced for the slow pace of adoption of Freedom of Information laws in Africa, including:

- Lack of political will on the part of leaders who ideally have the responsibility for putting such laws in place.
- A culture of secrecy in government which makes the notion of public scrutiny an alien concept.
- A òmessiah complexö among political leaders who believe that they have come to save the people and that they know what is best for them and have all the answers to the problems.

- The limited capacity within civil society to conduct effective advocacy for the adoption of freedom of information laws in the respective countries beyond mere sloganeering.
- Other competing priorities in many countries where the argument is frequently made that when placed against the need to provide other services and infrastructure such as health, education, water, roads, etc., the requisite institutional arrangements and resources necessary to adopt and implement freedom of information laws will be too costly.
- The low levels of awareness among members of the public which severely limits public demand for adoption of freedom of information laws.

Regardless of the absence of comprehensive freedom of information laws in most countries, the project which led to this report sought to explore ways in which citizens can use other existing laws, regulations and policy documents to advance their rights.

In many countries around the continent, there are scores of legislation with access to information clauses or provisions under which government bodies, including ministries, departments and agencies, are obliged to provide information to their citizens either proactively or upon a request being made.

This project sought to identify such laws in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone with the ultimate goal of testing how effectively they are implemented or respected by government officials with a view to empowering citizens in these countries to take advantage of such provisions to advance their human rights in a variety of sectors.

The report will be a valuable resource for citizens and other members of the public interested in exercising their rights of access to information or in testing the levels of transparency and compliance with laws among public institutions in Nigeria.

It helps to identify the provisions or sections of laws, regulations and policies which require some public institutions to grant citizens or members of the public access to information directly or through which citizens and other members of the public can have indirect access to information, records and documents held by relevant public institutions.

We hope citizens and members of the Nigerian public will take advantage of this report to push for information from public institutions while the advocacy for a comprehensive Freedom of Information Law continues.

Edetaen Ojo
Executive Director
Media Rights Agenda

Introduction

Media Rights Agenda (MRA) became involved in the campaign for access to information in Nigeria in 1994 when it partnered with the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to develop a draft Freedom of Information Bill.

Following from this process, it initiated a vigorous campaign in 1999 to get Nigeria's National Assembly to pass the draft Freedom of Information Bill into a Law which would be assented to by the President, as required by the Constitution.

After more than 10 years of a somewhat frustrating experience in trying to get the government to enact a Freedom of Information law, MRA is now reviewing its strategies for trying to bring about transparency in government and governance. A critical question is that review exercise is whether it is really necessary to wait for the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill before citizens can begin to push their governments to be more open and transparent.

Therefore, while MRA remains committed to the campaign for the enactment of a Freedom of Information in Nigeria and elsewhere on the continent, it has also decided to explore existing laws, regulations and policy documents which provide some opportunities for citizens to obtain information and services from governments and to begin pushing vigorously for their effective implementation.

In spite of the legal status of the right of access to information and the steps so far taken within the African Human Rights system to give effect to this right, Africa appears to be lagging behind other regions of the world in this global movement towards guaranteeing citizens' right of access to information, with West Africa being among the three worst off regions on the continent.

Very few countries on the continent have clear and specific guarantees of the right to information in their constitutions. Such countries include: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

However, most of these countries do not have comprehensive freedom of information laws to elaborate this right. Only three of them – South Africa,

Chapter One

1. International Standards on Access to Information

There is yet no fixed international standard governing the right of access to information held by public bodies. International treaty law, as it currently stands, established only a general right to freedom of information. However, ARTICLE 19, the London-based Global Campaign for Free Expression has developed a set of principles on freedom of information. These principles, "The Public's Right to Know: Principles on Freedom of Information Legislation," according to the group are based on international and regional laws and standards, evolving state practices (as reflected, inter alia, in national laws and judgments of national courts) and the general principles of law recognized by the community of nations. However, a number of countries enshrine the right of access to information to government-held information in their constitutions. Over 65 countries have passed access to information laws, and countless additional laws and regulations promote information access at the regional and local levels. The most authoritative international text is the Council of Europe's Recommendation 2002(2) on the Right of Access to Official Documents, which sets out clear minimum standards for government transparency.¹

The Justice Initiative has identified 10 broad principles tagged The Justice Initiative Principles on the Right to Know on what could serve as guide for civil society groups and legislators working to open the space and increase access to information in different countries. ARTICLE 19 has also developed a model freedom of information law based on its principles of freedom of information legislation.

¹Recommendation Rec(2002)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on access to official document (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 February 2002 at the 784th meeting of the ministers/deputies) <http://cm.coe.int/E/Public/2002/adopted.texts/recommendations/2002r.htm>

1.1. Continental Status of Access to Information.

Table 1: Constitutional and Legal Frameworks in Countries Monitored

Countries	Constitutional Provisions	Access to Information Status
Ghana	1992: Article 21 (1)(f) Right to Information, "subject to such qualifications and laws as are necessary in a democratic society," Article 21(1)(f)	No Freedom of Information law. Draft FOI Bill before parliament
Liberia	Article 15 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution guarantees "freedom of speech and of the press, academic freedom to receive and impart knowledge, and the right of Libraries to make such knowledge available	No Freedom of Information law. Draft FOI Bill before parliament
Nigeria	Section 39 (1) of the 1999 Constitution guarantees Freedom of Expression but not access to government held information.	No Freedom of Information law. Draft FOI Bill before parliament
Sierra Leone	Section 25(1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone allows for "the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.	No Freedom of Information law. Draft FOI Bill before parliament

1.2. The Access to Information Monitoring Tool.

The Access to Information Monitoring Tool designed for this survey comprises a set of instruments designed to capture information about a country's laws and practices regarding freedom of Information. First, a legal template provides a basis for assessing country laws and ascertaining where there are provisions of access to information in those countries laws. Second, a monitoring methodology developed by the Justice Initiative and expanded by Media Rights Agenda in this exercise based on tested information monitoring experience and expertise from polling and sociological surveys, facility standardization in the making of requests and the kind of information requested.

The Monitoring Process

Applying the Access to Information Monitoring Tool involved three phases. First, a review of national legislation to identify those with access to information provisions. This provides a standard to evaluate the level of openness in the country's public institution and the progress toward implementing its access to information laws. Next, participants in the study requested information from various institutions, track the responses, and key the results into a shared database. Finally, the data are analyzed and prepared for presentation.

Legal Analysis

Legal analysis in each country assesses national law against international standards by means of the legal template. The template is a checklist based on the Justice Initiative's principles on the right to know, which reflect international and national law and practice. The legal template provides a framework for comparative analysis of elements such as the scope of a given country's law, the time frames for delivering information, exemptions, costs, and appeals procedures. In countries with access to information legislation, the template allows for the identification of country specific variations for consideration when assessing the compliance of outcomes in those countries. For countries without any relevant legal provisions, the template provides a basic structure for assessment of their compliance with minimum international standards on the right of access to information.

There was no legal time frame in the laws with access to information provisions that compels a head of department to give information to requesters within any country in the survey. This is due largely to the legal environment in each country which operates on laws that are not structured according to international standards of when to give information to a requester. However, while most of the laws in the countries surveyed had exemption provisions to the general access to information, none had costs, and appeals procedures built into them.

Submission of Requests

The monitoring process began with the submission of requests for information and records. The type and number of requests filed were determined so as to test a number of variables across countries, allowing for measurement and comparison of the treatment of requests and information received. Requesters in each country were chosen to reflect different groups that may wish to access information, and a broadly similar range of national institutions were targeted for information. Likewise, requests were submitted both orally and in writing in each country.

The numbers of requests filed in each country varied substantially depending on the numbers of public institutions with access to information provisions in the law establishing it. In Nigeria and Liberia there were thirteen public institutions available for monitoring, while a total of one hundred and four requests were filed in each of the two countries. In Ghana ninety-seven requests were filed with twelve public institutions while in Sierra Leone there were eighty-eight requests filed with eleven public institutions. The laws used for this survey did not specify time frames for receipt of information so a time frame of two weeks which was the accepted standard was used in all four countries.

A total of 390 requests that comprised 196 requests were each filed twice by different requesters at one week interval of two waves. One request which was inadvertently filed thrice resulted in the total number of 393 instead of 392 requests. The requests were submitted to a varying number of different institutions in each country. There is a variation in the number of requests submitted in each country. Nigeria has a much higher number of laws with access to information provision than Sierra Leone so more requests were made in Nigeria. Sierra Leone like

Liberia has some laws and Ministries that were created after the civil war that destroyed most of the older institutions and materials. Institutions where request were filed included those of the executive (ministries), the judiciary administrative bodies, and parastatal companies. Requesters included NGO workers, journalists (in each country, two journalists were selected, one broadly pro-government, the other oppositional), business persons, non-affiliated persons, and members of excluded groups, such as illiterate or disabled persons or those from vulnerable minorities. Requests were made in both oral and written form, with written requests delivered by hand or sent by post, and on occasion submitted by fax or email depending on the system most widely used in the country in question.

The study was designed to limit requests to the kinds of work that public bodies do, or information they should hold. These are laws that were framed with provisions for transparency and accountability. The study took these laws from the statute books of each of the four countries to test how public officials were implementing these provisions. There was no information that was requested for in the monitoring that could have been exempted by law.

Although there were no standardized requests, there are a couple of Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) that render similar public services in the countries under survey. It therefore means that a little of comparisons between countries can still be carried out to see how each fared for information of use to their work. The methodology also set standards for the behaviour of requesters: in training sessions requesters were told to ensure that no one is aware that a survey is being conducted as that would impair the integrity of the process and distort the outcome. They were also instructed to make up to two attempts at follow-up and optional telephone call.

Data Collection and Analysis

Once data entry was complete, the data were reviewed and final outcomes assigned to all requests. Data verification queries were generated and sent to partners for review and correction. Partners went through at least three rounds of review to ensure that the basic details were adequately captured to reflect the true position of the survey carried out in their countries.

This was followed by another period of discussions of the results on a request by request basis. Every single request was reviewed, the comments and results read, and the outcomes evaluated and agreed upon by coordinators from the participating countries.

The final step in the verification process was an analysis of the outcomes for all requests. As noted above, each project request was submitted twice to the same institution by different requesters. The results of each pair of requests provide an additional test of whether or not institutions comply with requests for information.

Throughout the study, a "benefit of the doubt" rule was applied. Where institutions responded that they did not hold requested information and in the absence of a written explanation for the outcome it was considered that the institution actually may not hold the said information unless there is a clear evidence to believe otherwise.

Caveats and Disclaimers

A study of this kind involves unavoidable human factors - public employees may respond differently to different requesters regardless of the access to information provisions in the laws guiding the agency's operation. Public officials may not even be aware that such a law that requires them to give out government held information actually exists. The behaviour and persistence of requesters in turn will be affected by this treatment. Many of the laws relied upon in this survey did not include a "duty to assist" requesters. In the course of this study, some officials were kind and encouraging to requesters, others were unnecessarily mean, rude and obstructive trying to show ownership of the information more than the requester who also is a citizen like the public officer.

Overall there were a huge number of people that were engaged in this project and given the legal, social and cultural differences among countries the expectation is that there must be some contradictions and inconsistencies. In some of the countries public officers may display more empathy to requesters than others. The results should therefore be regarded as a test of the information waters and

the findings of the research by Media Rights Agenda. But it should be on record that much effort was invested to ensure that the principles in the methodology were faithfully applied. The result is the outcome of the survey carried out in these four West African countries and it also shows how they compared during the exercise. When the survey was carried out, no West African country had a comprehensive freedom of information law in place.

1.3 Summary of Findings

This report is the record and analysis of the result of an access to information monitoring exercise in which partners of Media Rights Agenda in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria filed a total of Three Hundred and Ninety-Three requests for information and records. In each of the country under the survey, twelve different requesters submitted the same request twice for about 90 requests to 12 public institutions. Requesters included NGO staff, journalists, students, non-affiliated persons, business persons, members of excluded groups such as an illiterate woman and a physically challenged person. The requests were generally on information and records that public institutions hold or should hold.

The requests were made to test public institutions' compliance to the provisions of access to information in existing legislation in those four countries. There were no requests made for classified documents and other information and records that were exempted from being given to the public and is based also on the guarantees of such provisions that could be found in the existing laws with transparency clauses.

Article 21 (1) (f) of the Ghanaian Constitution states: "All persons have the right to information subject to such qualifications and laws as are necessary in a democratic society." The other countries including Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone may not have spelt it out so clearly but there are provisions in some of their laws that allow for citizens to request for information.

International best practices and standards indicate that requesters are not obliged to disclose reasons for seeking access to information; but from the reports gathered during the four weeks of Access to Information monitoring, almost all the

institutions visited were asking for reasons why the information were being sought as well as some form of identification without which access was denied.

The findings in Ghana are the same for Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria and it is apparent that certain public institutions are unwilling to release information in the following circumstances:

1. Where the institution believes that it is not clear why the information is being requested and for what purpose.
2. Where access to information will require a lot of energy in the compilation of data required (Poor record keeping system)
3. Where there is no officer designated for the compilation of such data.
4. Where there are several similar requests on the same subject matter
5. Where the requester does not have any affiliation ó in other words requesters must of necessity have an affiliation to a particular organization before they can access information
6. Where the request is unrelated to the requester's job title/academic work as the case maybe.
7. Poor understanding of the provisions of the country's law on providing certain categories of information to members of the public.

1.4. The Classification of Outcomes Used in the Access to Information Monitoring

There are ten main categories of outcomes used in the study. The outcomes can be grouped into two broad categories of compliance and non-compliance with the international standards of access to information principles.

1.5 Compliant Outcomes

Information Received: The requested information is provided, in written or oral form. The information answers the question and is relatively complete.

Partial Access: Documents are delivered with sections blacked out or severed or the information is otherwise incomplete on grounds provided for by law. As long as the authority clearly states the grounds for withholding some information; partial access was considered a complaint response.

Written Refusal: Refusal to provide requested information ought to be written down; and should state the grounds for withholding information. Written refusals provide a basis for appealing decisions and so are useful even where noncompliant (for example, when the grounds for refusal are inadequate or unstated). For this study, we generally assumed written refusals to be complaint, except in cases where they clearly were not – such as, for example, when the paired request was treated differently.

Transferred/Referred: The institution either: (a) provides a written or oral response referring the requester to another institution; or (b) transfers the request to another institution. This is a complaint response, unless the institution that received the original request is clearly the correct location for the information.

Information Not Held: Where the approached authority is the correct location for the requested information, but does not have it, the compliant response is to tell the requester that the information is not held. The admission by government bodies of failures or inadequacies in information compilation is beneficial for the overall transparency of government in that it enables a dialogue with the public about data collection priorities. In the present study, this response was recorded as complaint unless there was good reason to believe that the information was in fact held by the institution in question.

1.6 Noncompliant Outcomes

Inadequate Answer: Information is provided that is largely incomplete, irrelevant, or in some other way unsatisfactory, demonstrating a disregard for the right of access to information. For example, “inadequate answer” was recorded if a large pile of documents was provided that did not contain the answer to a very specific request, or if a requester was directed to a website which did not contain the requested information.

Mute Refusal: This category indicates no response at all from the authorities, or at best, vague answers to follow up calls. There is no formal refusal, but no information is provided. This outcome was recorded after the time frames for answering requests expired without the information being given.

Oral Refusal: An official refuses to provide the requested information, whether or not grounds are given, without putting the refusal in writing. This category includes snap responses to oral or hand delivered requests, such as “that information is not public.” Oral refusals can also be received by telephone, either when a requester calls to verify if a written request has been received, or when a call is made at the initiative of the authority.

Unable to Submit: A request is marked “unable to submit” when a requester could not file a request. For example, some requesters could not enter relevant institutions because guards denied them admittance. Or, once inside, requesters could not speak to the relevant person, because they were, for instance, absent, always “at lunch,” or “coming in tomorrow.”

Refusal to Accept: Refusal to accept was recorded whenever a government body refused to process in any way an information request, whether oral or written. Typical responses include “We cannot accept oral requests” without any assistance offered to write up the request, or “We do not accept information requests.” Refusal to accept outcomes differ from unable to submit outcomes in that the public body actively declines to process the request. They differ from oral refusals in that the specific content of the information request is never at issue.

Late Answers: Responses made in this study were counted as mute refusals. A record was kept, however, of responses that came after the set time frame of two weeks after which is the predetermined "late" period. An analysis of these late answers is to be found in Chapter Four of this report. It is recognized that the late responses may be due to several factors other than lack of political will, such as high demand, inadequate resources, or inadequate systems of recordkeeping. Nonetheless, we decided to classify late responses as noncompliant because: (a) timely response is an important element of the right to receive information; and (b) we wanted to ensure consistency in recording results. In any event, very few late responses were received in this monitoring study.

Assessing Compliance

There is no way of assessing compliance since there is no law specifying what obligations the public official must fulfill apart from giving information to requesters. But compliance can be ascertained by comparing results for paired requests. When the same requests in Ghana got two very contrasting outcome as in the Birth and Death Registry. One requester got the answer while the other was told that the institution was not holding the information.

Also in Liberia one requester received information from an employee of LISGIS regarding a list of international institutions providing technical support to LISGIS, but another requester was denied the information by the Executive Director of the entity. A requester was also denied information from the Ministry of Education about the list of public and private schools in Liberia, while another requester was provided the information.

All these conflicting outcomes may be as a result of two different officials that responded to the requesters as there is no person specifically appointed to receive requests and provide information. In such circumstances it is impossible to tell whether a response is compliant or not.

Chapter Two

2.0 Main Findings of the Monitoring.

Each of the expected outcomes that were identified as possible responses were given to requesters by officials of the public institutions in the four countries under the survey. The sadness in the ranges of outcomes is that the requests were backed by laws establishing the public institutions which gave guarantees that the public can request for information. The public officials in most of the MDAs showed a great deal of arrogance or ignorance in handling the requests and the breakdown is given below to reflect the attitude of public officials to citizens in the exercise of their rights to access public information held by government.

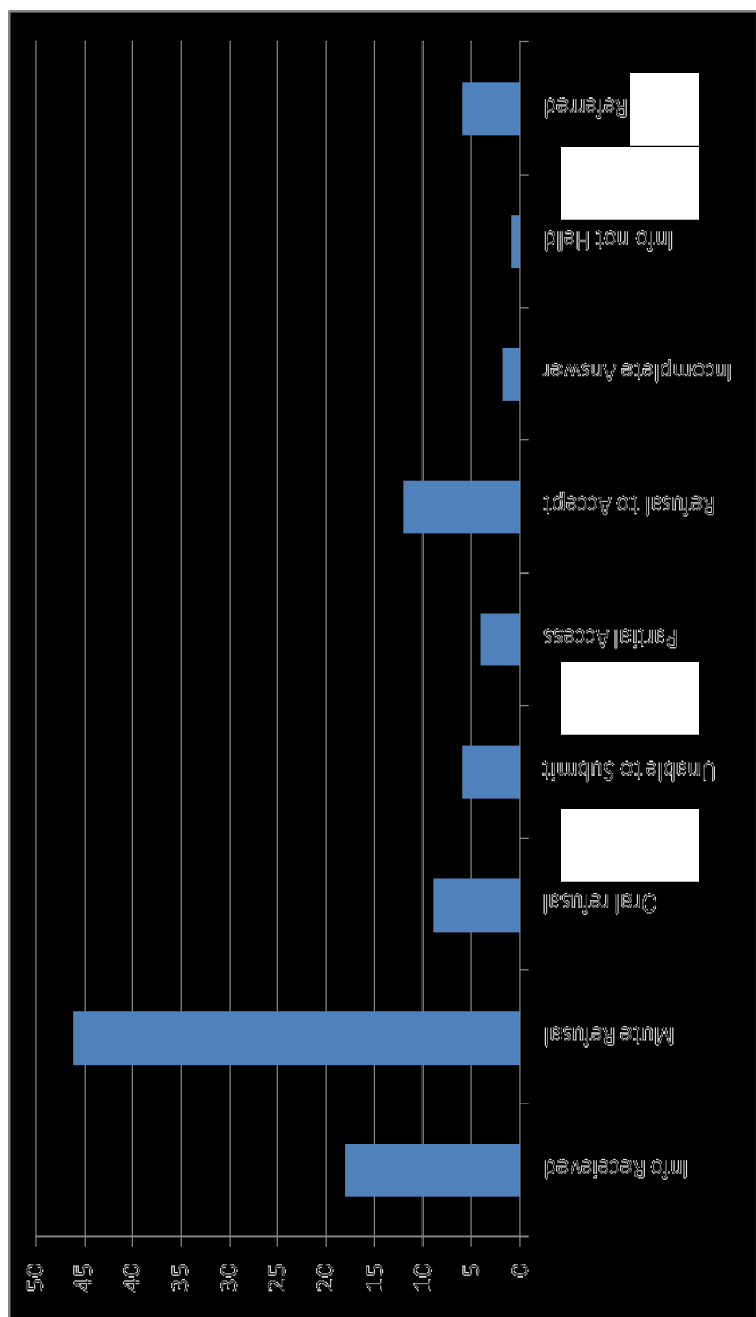
2.1 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Nigeria

In Nigeria nine categories of outcomes/responses generated a total of 104 outcomes from the exercise. The outcomes in Nigeria include Information received with eighteen outcomes (two oral and sixteen written), Mute Refusal, forty-six; Oral Refusal, nine; Unable to Submit, six; Partial Access, four; Refusal to Accept, twelve; Incomplete Answer, two; Information not Held, one; and Referred, six.

Table showing all the Outcomes of the Survey in Nigeria

Outcomes of Survey	Frequency
Information Received	18
Mute Refusal	46
Oral Refusal	9
Unable to Submit	6
Partial Access	4
Refusal to Accept	12
Incomplete Answer	2
Information not Held	1
Referred	6
Written Refusal	-
Total	104

Table 1: All Outcomes for Nigeria



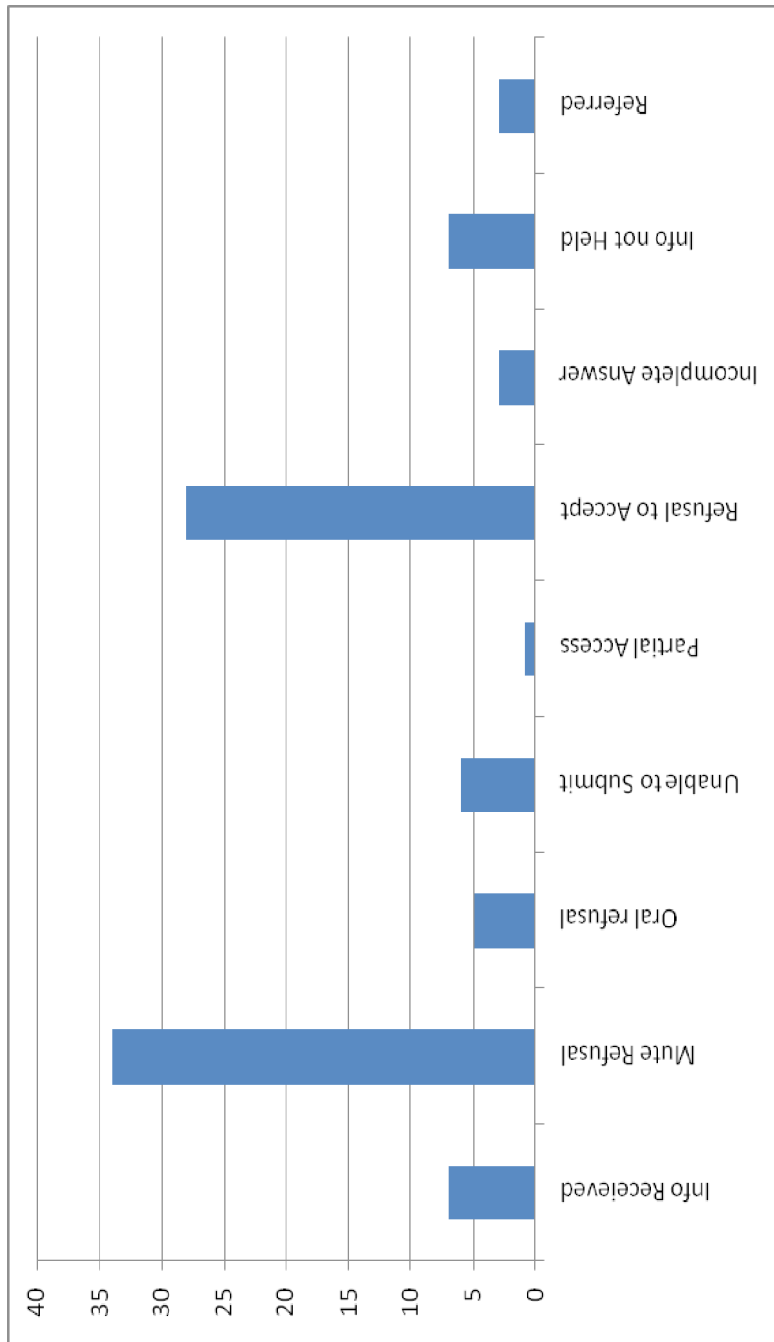
2.2 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Ghana.

Eight types of outcomes/responses generated a total of ninety four [94] outcomes from the Access to Information monitoring exercise in Ghana. They include Information received with seven outcomes (five oral and two written); Mute Refusal, thirty four; Oral Refusal, five; Unable to Submit, six; Partial Access, one; Refusal to Accept, twenty-eight; Incomplete Answer, three; Information not Held, seven; and Referred, Three. Three requests were not submitted so they did not generate any outcome/response

Table showing all the Outcomes for the Survey in Ghana

Outcomes of Survey	Frequency
Information Received	7
Mute Refusal	34
Oral Refusal	5
Unable to Submit	6
Partial Access	1
Refusal to Accept	28
Incomplete Answer	3
Information not Held	7
Referred	3
Written Refusal	-
Total	94

Table 2: All Outcomes for Ghana



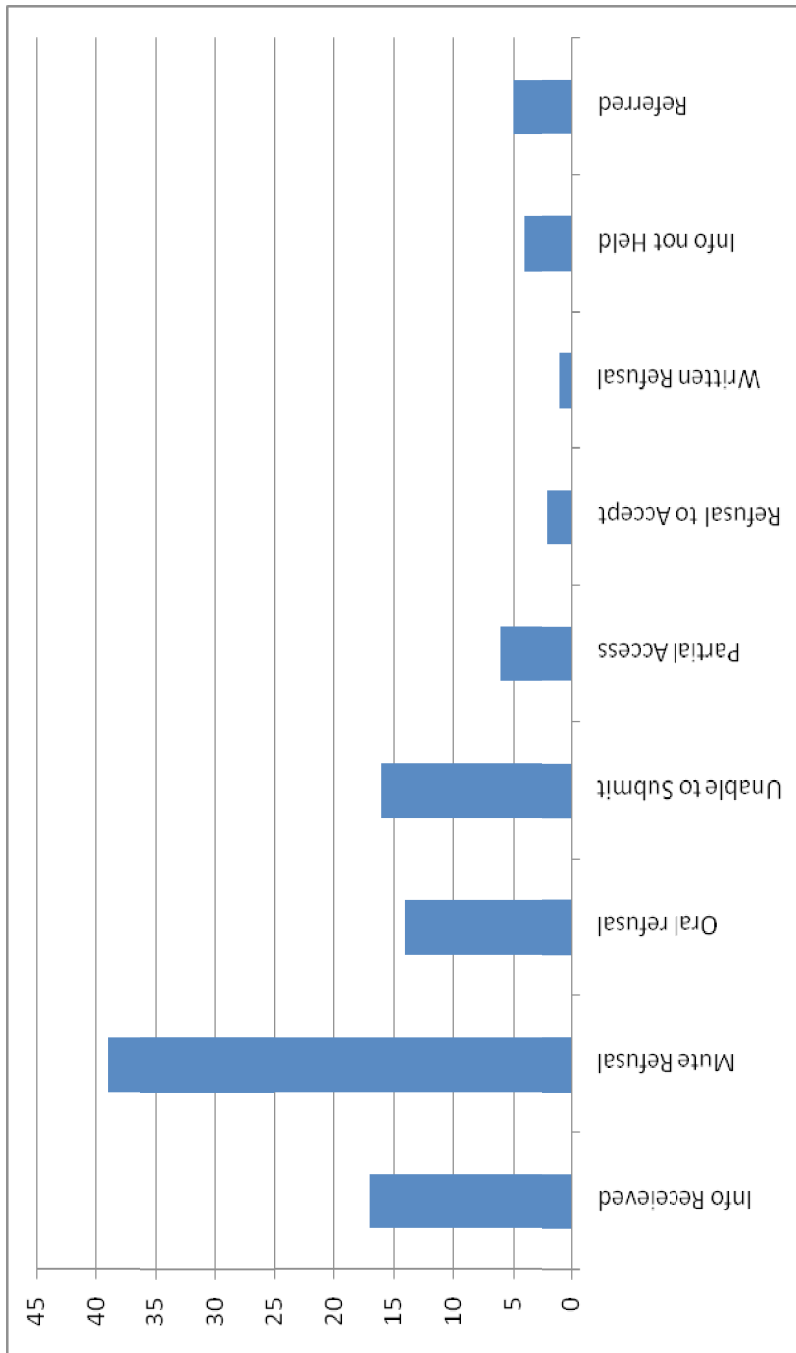
2.3 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Liberia

Liberia made One hundred and four requests just like Nigeria. Of the total, Information Received outcomes were seventeen; Oral Refusal, fourteen; Mute Refusal, thirty-nine; Partial Access, six; Information not Held, four; Referred, five; Unable to Submit, sixteen; Refusal to Accept, two and Written Refusal one.

Table showing all the Outcomes for the Survey in Liberia

Outcomes of Survey	Frequency
Information Received	17
Mute Refusal	39
Oral Refusal	14
Unable to Submit	16
Partial Access	6
Refusal to Accept	2
Incomplete Answer	-
Information not Held	4
Referred	5
Written Refusal	1
Total	104

Table 3: All Outcomes for Liberia



2.4 Analysis of Outcomes of the Access to Information Monitoring in Sierra Leone

Requesters in Sierra Leone submitted the least number of requests during the survey. It also had only four outcomes which is also the least numbers of responses from the public institutions. The outcomes from Sierra Leone are Information Received, Nine; Incomplete Answer, Two; Unable to Submit, One and Mute Refusal Seventy Six.

Table showing all the Outcomes for the Survey Sierra Leone

Outcome of Survey	Frequency
Information Received	9
Mute Refusal	76
Oral Refusal	-
Unable to Submit	1
Partial Access	-
Refusal to Accept	-
Incomplete Answer	2
Information not Held	-
Referred	-
Written Refusal	-
Total	88

Main Findings of the Monitoring

Table 4: All Outcomes for Sierra Leone

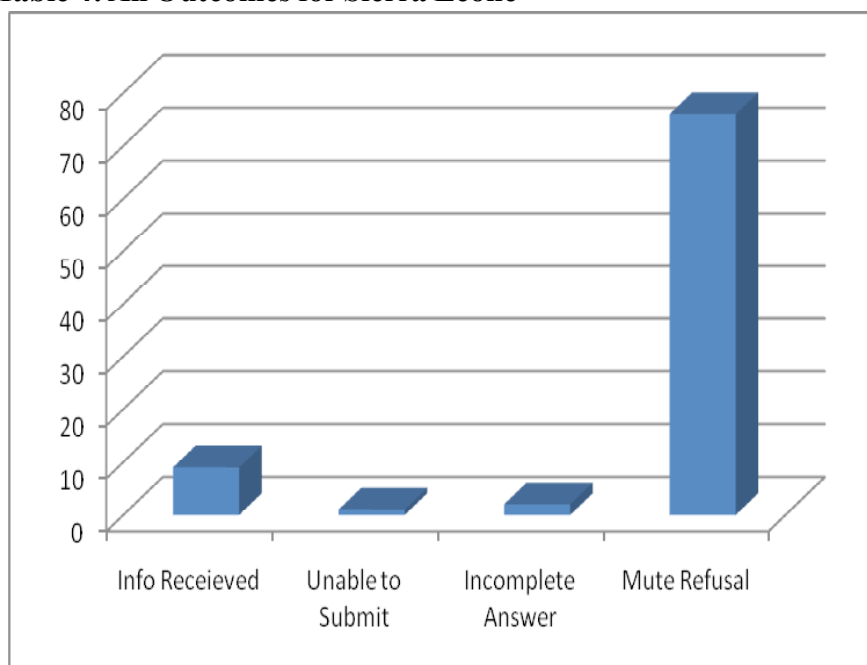


Table showing all the Outcomes for the four countries in the survey

	Nigeria	Ghana	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Total
Information Received	18	7	17	9	51
Mute Refusal	46	34	39	76	195
Oral Refusal	9	5	14	-	28
Unable to Submit	6	6	16	1	29
Partial Access	4	1	6	-	11
Refusal to Accept	12	28	2	-	42
Incomplete Answer	2	3	-	2	7
Information not Held	1	7	4	-	12
Referred	6	3	5	-	14
Written Refusal	-	-	1	-	1
Total	104	94	104	88	390

Table 5: Response to 390 Request in the four countries, by Type

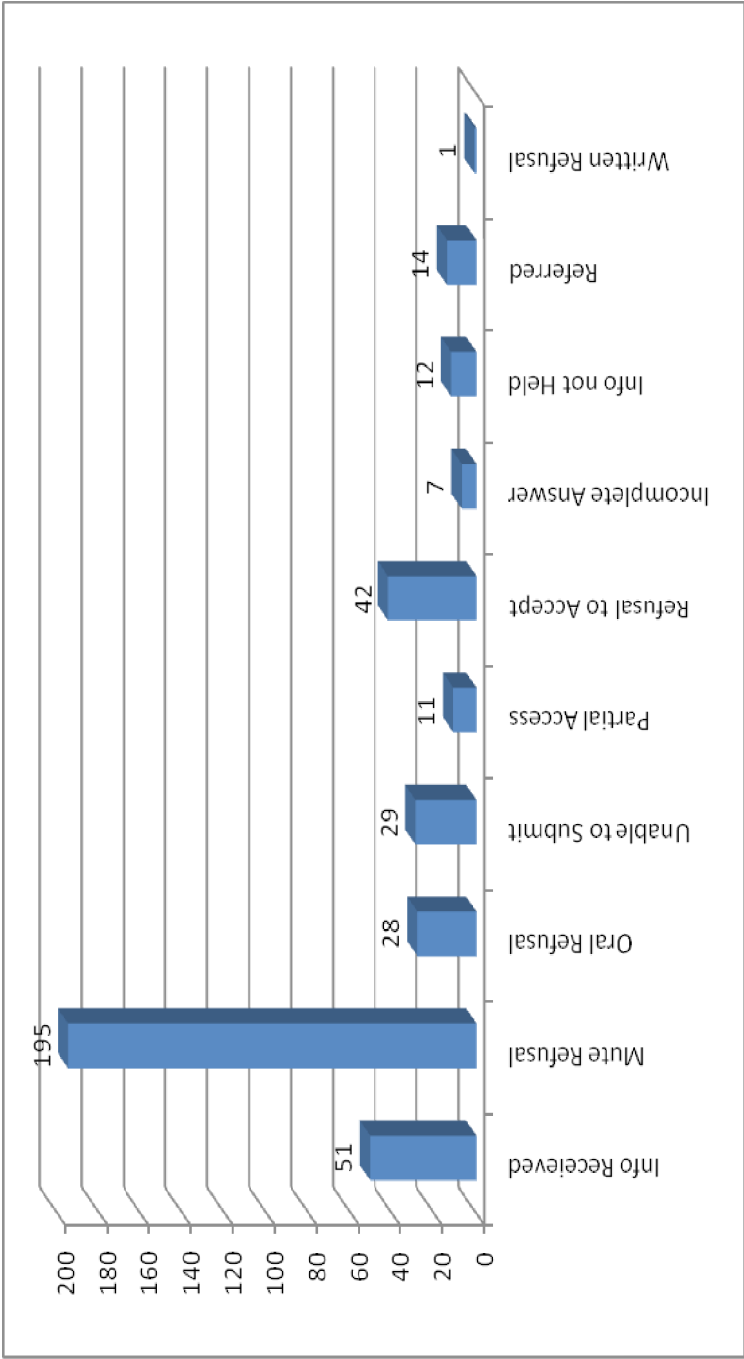
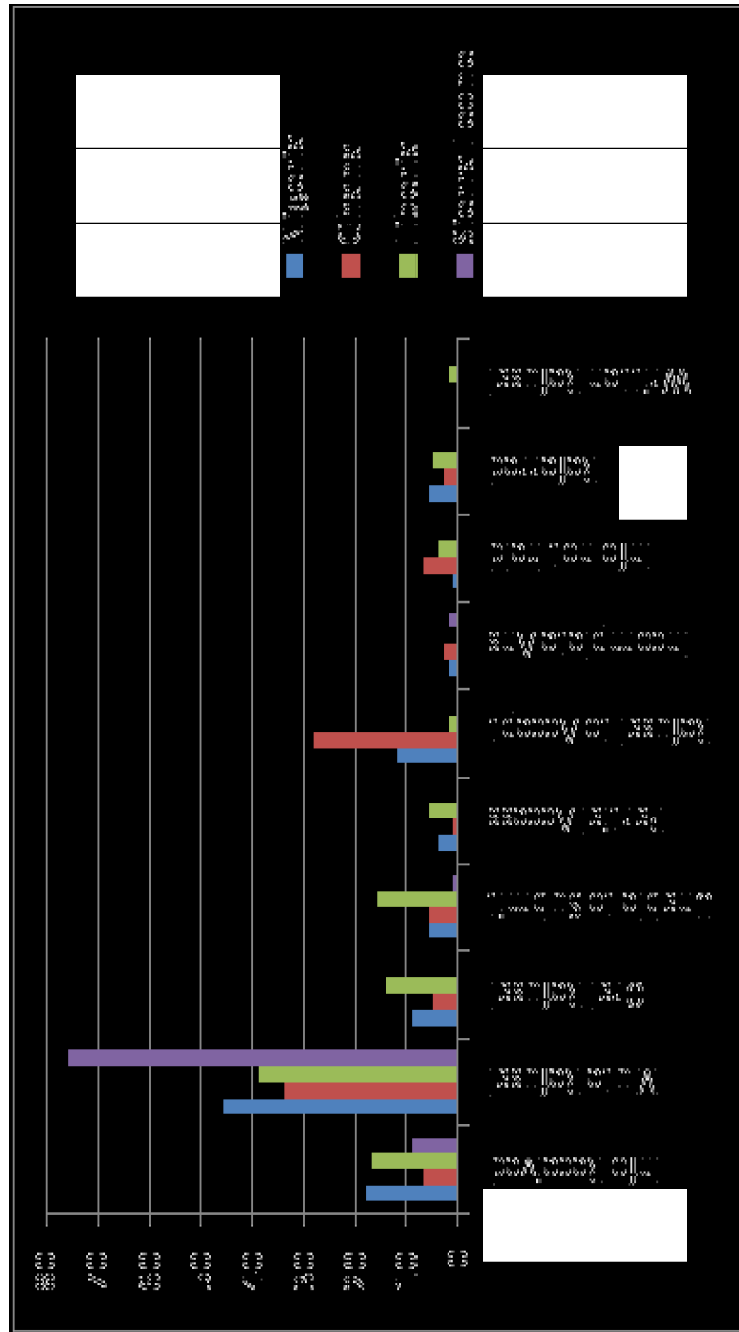


Table 6: Table Showing Outcomes to Request by Countries



2.5 Inconsistency in Outcomes

The high number of actors involved in the exercise must ordinarily produce different kind of results. A public officer may for reasons best known to him or her decide on how to relate to enquiries in the public institution where he or she works. The need to track consistency in outcomes was the consideration for filing one request twice to the same institution. But that could not happen as it arouses suspicion among officials that there is more to the same type of request arriving one on the heel of the other. The common response to paired request is that the public institution has seen the request before so it cannot be responded to again by the institution. Many of these paired requests filed the outcomes of Mute Refusals and Oral Refusals but there were a few exceptions where two requesters received responses that were dramatically different for the same requests and on different grounds.

For example in the requests sent to the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) in Nigeria where the requests was to determine how many Direct Capture Machines were delivered after the 2007 elections, the outcomes were the same but the answers contained different figures. The illiterate woman got the following response:

“I got to the Public Service Department where I was told that INEC had over 600,000 machines and after the elections some of the machines were stored while the bad ones which were almost half were disposed off.”

In the same institution, the student got the following response

“The lady who volunteered information to me on condition of anonymity said that my request seemed as if I want to audit or probe INEC than for academic purpose which I claimed it is going to be used for. Also that she is giving me information because we speak the same language She however gave me a detailed oral information for what I requested.”

According to her, INEC requested for 33,000 Direct Capture machines including laptops for 120,000 polling units in Nigeria. One Direct capture machine was

Main Findings of the Monitoring

given to 4 polling units. That after the elections, the Commission made up of the Chairman and the 12 federal electoral Commissioners that make up the 6 geopolitical zones met and decided that instead of keeping these machines to rot away, 3000 pieces should be kept as reserve, and the remaining be shared to some individuals for their private use. These includes ; INEC Staff at the headquarters on grade level 07 and above, some Staff at the state secretariats of INEC, some immigration Officials, secondary school teachers and some staff of federal ministry of Agriculture. And for the quantity that was supplied after the elections, she said she does not know because the machines were supplied before the election and not after the whole exercise.ö

According to a requester in Ghana, öofficials of the Ministry were suspicious as to why within two weeks they have received the same questions from different persons. I believed it aroused their suspicion and when I went back, she asked me to wait, and meanwhile she was busy doing her assignment. Later she told me that my company has nothing to do with imports/exports and also that they have been getting such letters from different quarters.ö There were no such incidents reported both in Sierra Leone and in Liberia. It is an indication that these two countries are more receptive to request for information by members of the public.

Chapter Three

3.0 Finding by Type of Outcome

3.1 Mute Refusals

Government Held Information is Government Owned Information

In the survey, what came out very strongly is the impression given by public officials that the information held by government is owned by government. With this belief the silent treatment identified as Mute Refusal was One Hundred and Ninety-five of the requests that were submitted in the four countries. By public officials' standard, this response from the survey is consistent with how to treat intruders from the public. Some of the requesters were harassed and intimidated by public officials as happened to the journalist in Ghana.

“When I delivered the letter, I was made to see the Director the same day. He said the question was not clear so I should explain verbally. I did and he still said it was not clear. He then told me that the question is not the type of question that the media should be interested in but in any case he would call me when the information is ready. I returned and he started to rant and yell that my paper was fond of finding trouble for people and that I should give him time to get me the right answers to my question. When I returned the second time, he said he would call me when the information is ready so I should relax and give him time.”

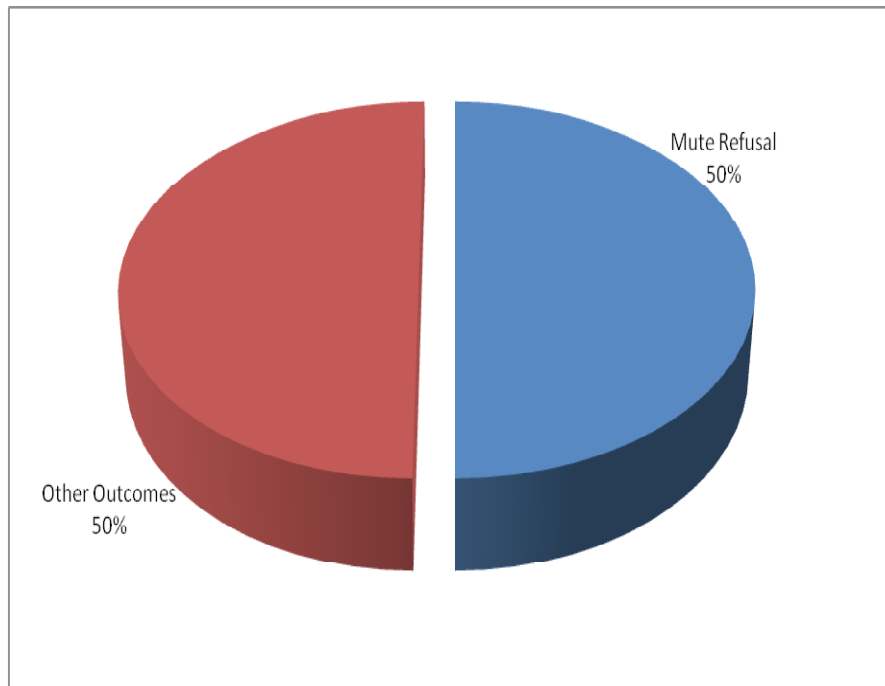
In Liberia a requester who was sent to the Legislature was not given the information he requested. The requester was informed that the President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate had mandated his Chief of Office Staff to liaise with the requisite department to provide the necessary information. The requester however did not get the information because the Chief of Office Staff was always busy. The requester relived the same experience at the Office of the Chief Justice. He was informed that the Chief Justice was always busy and that he should leave his phone number and will subsequently be contacted when the information is ready. The requestor however was never contacted up to the submission of his report. Also at the National Electoral Commission (NEC), he was told that the NEC Chairman was still out of the Country, and that they regretted that nothing could be done in his absence.

Finding by Type of Outcome

In Sierra Leone there was only one recorded incident of harassment when the Chief Administrator got enraged over a question by a requester on the process for receipt of letters when she is not on duty.

“She said she is going to travel outside the country for three weeks. And she will only attend to those letters when she returns from her trip. When I asked her if there is any body to minute those letters when she is away she shouted at me and said, ‘I will never risk my job. So go and come at the end of this month’.”

Table 3: Mute Refusals as a Percentage of All Outcomes



3.2 Unable to Submit/Refusal to Accept

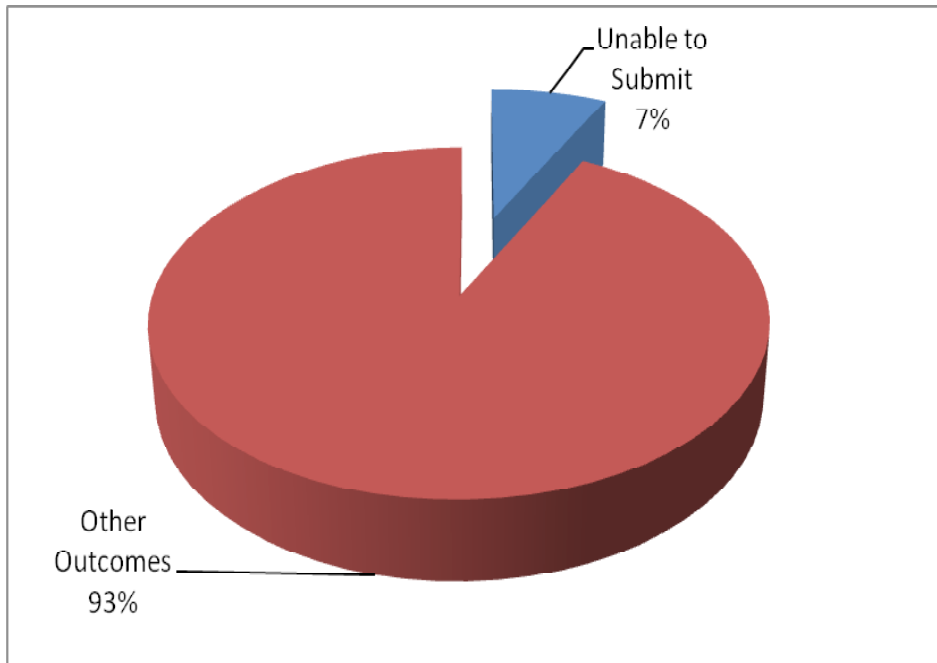
Unable to Submit Outcomes

The public institutions seem to provide more security for information than for physical assets in their possession. It seems information is so precious to the daily running of the Ministry so much so that all type of subterfuge is employed to frustrate every enquiry. There were Twenty-Nine outcomes of Unable to Submit. This outcome was recorded in most cases by the non literate requesters. The difficulty in getting a public officials who are willing to take down their oral requests in written form was a huge barrier to getting access into the offices where the request could be submitted.

A requester in Ghana had the following experience. *“My letter was delivered to the front desk officer who refused to acknowledge receipt. I was told the Auditor General was out of town. I requested to see the Chief Director and was told he was also out of town. I returned and the front desk officer insisted that there was no one I could speak with.”*

At the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) office in Nigeria, the non literate requester was stopped at the gate by security and asked who she would like to see. She told the security that she would like to see the Public Relations officer. She was further questioned on the purpose of her visit and she said she had an enquiry about the number of cases successfully prosecuted in court. The security told her that she would need to make her request on her letter head before she can be granted entrance

Table 5: Unable to Submit as a Percentage of All outcomes



3.3 Refusal to Accept Outcomes

The gate keepers in form of receptionists, security aides in the Ministries perceive themselves as judges over who should have access to information kept by government in trust for the people. Largely this position is informed by the ignorance that public information is totally government owned. There were Forty-Two incidents of Refusal to Accept.

In Nigeria the requester who wanted records on birth registrations was tossed to and fro and at the end did not get the information. She said “the Public Affairs Department of the National Population Commission refused to accept the request and referred me to the Birth Registration Office which also refused to accept it and referred me back to the Public Affairs Department. On going back to the Public Affairs Department, they again refused it and sent me back to Birth Registration Office. At the end I had no institution to give it to.

Finding by Type of Outcome

In Ghana a requester reported from the Bank of Ghana when he asked to be told the cost of redenomination of the Ghanaian currency in 2007 including the cost of printing new notes and minting new coins. He said *“the security men did not want to allow me in until I insisted I wanted to see the head of Public Relations. I finally delivered the letter but was told the PRO was not around. I returned and was told the PRO was still not around. I called her and she said she was on leave so I should address my letter to the Chairman of the Re-denomination Committee and send a copy to the Governor of the Central Bank. I returned with another letter addressed to the Chairman as I was instructed but I was stopped by security officials at the Bank of Ghana. They took the letters and went inside. They returned and said the Bank would get back to me. No one got back to me.”*

In Liberia the request at the Judiciary was not accepted by the Temple of Justice employee whom the requester spoke with. The employee who refused to be identified said he will not provide the information to the requestor and will also not permit the requester further entrance to request any information unless, he is told who are behind the request and why information about money that was spent to train defense counsel is wanted. He threatened imprisonment if the requestor refused to leave. Out of fright the requestor declined her pursuit for the information. She also got the same reception at the General Auditing Commission (GAC). She was denied entrance on the first attempt to make the request. On the following day the requestor met an official at the GAC who refused to be identified, and said the GAC will not release the information in the absence of a letter from an institution that wants it.

3.4 Oral Refusals

Oral Refusals was the second most frequent outcome after mute refusals. Oral refusals are ways by which public officials avoid taking responsibilities for denying requests without being placed on record. There were Twenty-Eight oral refusals in this survey. It usually happens on reading or hearing the oral requests and the official immediately gives a response of the non-availability of what is being requested.

Finding by Type of Outcome

Oral Refusal in Ghana: the requester was denied the information for reasons that were not related to the procedure for refusal. *“I was told that the response was ready. I was asked to see a particular officer who was supposed to give me the response. When I went to see the officer, he initially admitted it was ready and engaged me in a lengthy conversation about bad conditions of service and how some people come over to request for information without thinking of their poor conditions of service. He asked if I could buy him a Black Star Jersey; (I was wearing one that day), when I said no, he said there was something he needed to check about the information so I should come later because he was busy.”* The requester never got the response before the cut off date of the survey.

Oral Refusal in Liberia: An oral refusal to provide information was received from the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) in response to a request for information. An employee of LTA from the Public Affairs Department who refused to give his name told R4 that another person had earlier come for similar information, and he concluded that it was a policy of the LTA not to release classified information about customers to the public because of legal implications.

Oral Refusal in Nigeria: A requester got an oral refusal from the anti-corruption commission. The requester was asking for details and processes of how corruptly acquired wealth that were recovered by the commission are dealt with or disposed off. He said he was courteously attended to and was told that he could not get the information. He was later sent into the library to forage for the answer to his request

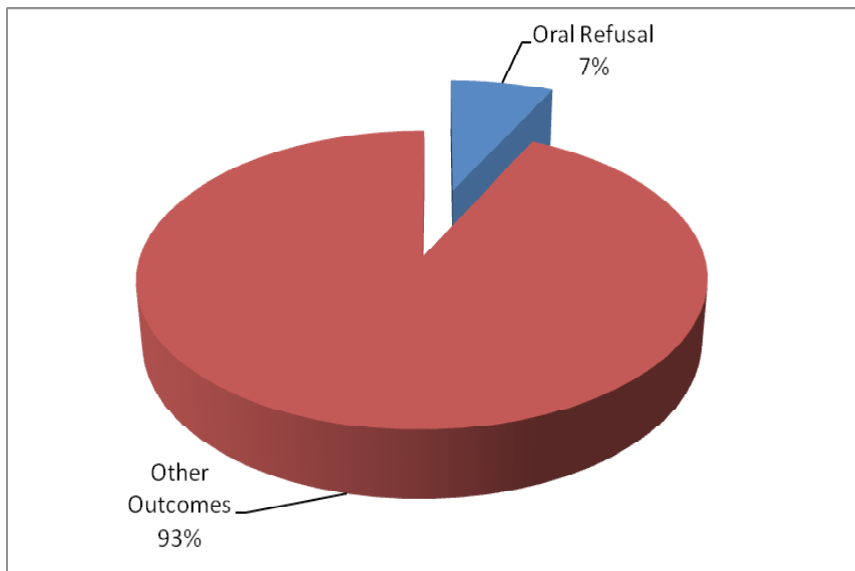
“When I got to the commission, an information officer called the secretary and gave him instruction to the librarian to give me materials pertaining to my request and allow me seating space to search for my information. After a while in the library I couldn’t see anything relevant, I personally went to the Librarian with my acknowledged letter but he told me that the information is confidential and would not be released.”

Oral Refusal in Sierra Leone

At what Ministry? The requester was told that “employees of the ministry were sworn to an oath of secrecy, and unless the permanent Secretary (who is the official head of the ministry) gave his/her explicit consent; the information demanded would not be given out. He further went on to say that should this permission be granted by the permanent Secretary, he would be glad to assist us with our demands. The official who is also a lecturer in the state University and strongly advocates for the dissemination of information, said his role as a sworn civil servant means he is restricted, by law, in the information he can provide to the public.ö

öHe said the information demanded is classified as sensitive and added that had it merely been academic work he would have gladly given it. If he were to give us the information we required, or to discuss the documents concerned, he would be acting in breach of the law and his professional contract. He concluded by informing us that the civil service has many official protocols and bureaucratic hurdles to be crossed before information is disseminated.ö

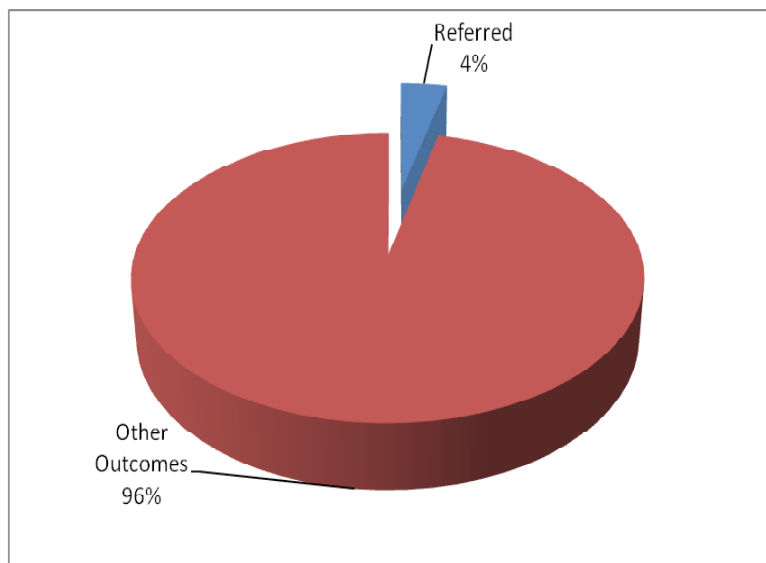
Table 6: Oral Refusals as a Percentage of All Outcomes



3.5 Transfers and Referrals

In the lax climate of record keeping including physical addresses of public institutions and even the specific ministry that holds a particular record or document, it becomes an escape route for public officials to respond to certain request by sending the requester elsewhere. There are no guarantees that the right response would be given at the other end. Where there is good faith in being sent elsewhere because the request would be better answered by the other institution, the next step should be a transfer (where the request is redirected through the internal process) or it is referred (where the requester is directed elsewhere). There were Fourteen of all requests filed that resulted in referrals and none was recorded as actually transferred.

Table 7: Transfers and Referrals as a Percentage of All Outcomes



3.6 Information Not Held

Under this category a public institution will give this as an outcome if a requester asks for information that it does not have in its records or archives. But in this exercise where the requests were framed with the understanding that this information will be readily available and were not under any exemption, the outcomes of Information not Held would have only been made possible by the public official using his own discretion to deny the requester the right to have the information. For example in the Birth and Death Registry in Ghana while one requester was told that the Ministry does not hold the information the other received the same information.

There were twelve Responses that Information were not Held by the institutions to which the requests were made during the survey.

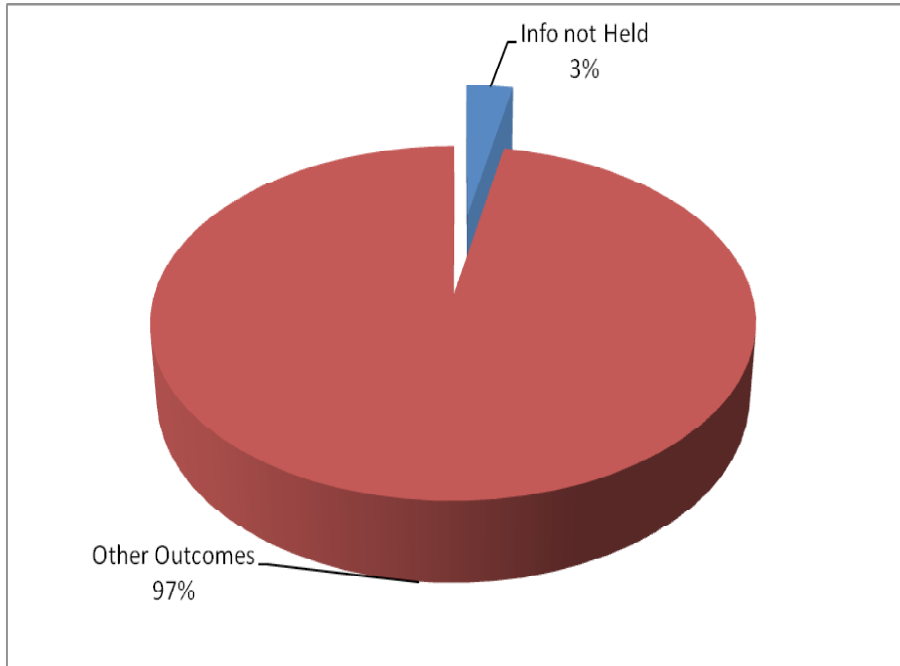
The requester who was told that the Ministry is not holding the information reported thus “I was asked to check through the major hospitals like Korle-Bu, Ridge and 37 other hospitals. The officer thinking that I had been sent by an institution also told me that they are lacking furniture in their office that I should talk to my boss to help them.”

The other requester reported “I delivered the letter and was told that the Chief Executive was busy so I should see the Public Relations Officer (PRO). The PRO read my request and gave me a document that answered my questions. She added a calendar and asked if I wanted something else.”

The contrasting nature of responses to the same request could only have occurred because of the disposition of the officer (if it is the same official), the person of the requester (the requester who got the information is a journalist while the one who received the Information not Held outcome is an illiterate woman) or different person handling responsibilities of responding to public enquiries.

A similar example was recorded in Nigeria where two requesters who filed paired requests to the Central Bank of Nigeria got two different responses of Information Received and Information not Held.

Table 8: Information not Held as a Percentage of All Outcomes



3.7 Information Received

This is self explanatory and some of the responses were from diverse institutions which ordinarily were expected to hide information. Where information was given, it was timely and some of the information that was received was being made public for the first time.

In Nigeria, eight of the twelve institutions to which request were sent, processed at least one request and gave some form of answer. Even the Central Bank and the usually reticent officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry responded.

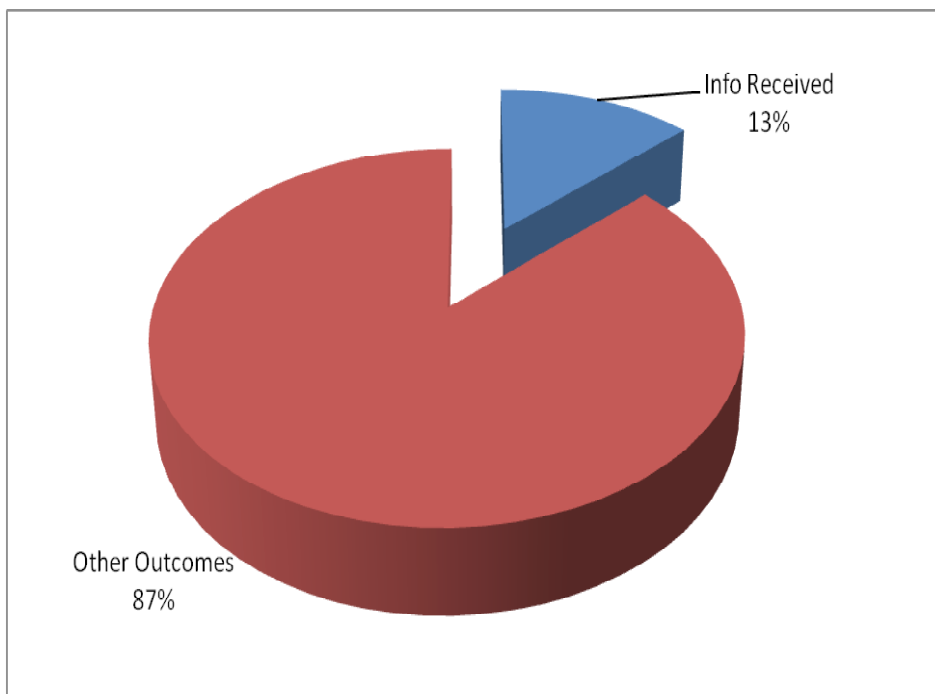
In Liberia the National Elections Commission provided the information on how much was given to the Commission for the last general elections and how much was left unspent?

Finding by Type of Outcome

A requester in Ghana not only got the Information he requested he also received a gift from the public official. He said *“when I delivered the letter and was told that the Chief Executive was busy, I was also told to see the Public Relations Officer (PRO). The PRO read my request and gave me a document that answered my questions. She added a calendar and asked if I wanted something else.”*

However the overall performance shows that there is a lot left to be done before public officials can readily give government held information to members of the public.

Table 8: Information Received as a Percentage of All Outcomes



3.8 Partial and Inadequate Information

This is another category of information that is processed but with intentions to conceal part of the information requested. In all there are eighteen requests that were partially processed in the four countries covered.

In Liberia the requests for the total reserve of virgin forests in Liberia according to counties got an answer that was not based on any data generated by the Ministry but by the calculation of one of the staff.

Responding to a request of how many contracts were awarded by the Sierra Leonean government in 2009, the requester was directed to a website that contained all other information about the Ministry but not the number of contracts

Best Performing Institutions

Although the 50 public institutions to which requesters filed requests in the four countries under the survey may not be identical in their style of administration, they are bound by the law that demands their accessibility to members of the public that are interested in having access to their files and records that are not under exemption. With this, the framework included being able to rank which of the institutions would be more open in line with the laws, to members of the public. In the ranking, the institution with more compliance and a higher rate of information provided including partial and inadequate answers would naturally be on top of the list.

- a. Institutions that processed all Requests
Forestry Development Authority, Liberia. This ministry processed all the requests that were submitted. Five of the requested resulted in Information Received while the other two were Partial Access. It is the only institution in the four countries that processed all requests sent to it.
- b. Institutions that processed fifty percent of all Requests
The Supreme Court, Liberia processed four of the eight requests sent to it.

Finding by Type of Outcome

The Legislature, Sierra Leone also process four of the seven requests sent to it.

- c. Institutions that processed about twenty five percent of all Requests. Both the National Population Commission, Nigeria and the General Auditing Commission, Liberia processed three of the eight requests that were sent to each of them during the survey.

Best Performing Country

All four countries involved in the survey operate a similar type of legal system and the best performing institutions may not be a reflection of what happens all over the public sector of that country. However in this survey, Nigeria which is the best performing country by getting more Information Received outcome did not produce the best performing institution and also does not have a more receptive public service system. The public service in Nigeria may have had a slight but not significant improvement over the last two surveys carried out in 2006 and 2007. In those two surveys Nigeria gave a very poor impression of the request to open up the government to members of the public.

Liberia earned the credit for overall best performance. The Liberian public service proved to be more receptive to request for information by members of the public. Although Liberia came short by one Information Received outcome, there were fewer unable to submit and refusal to accept outcomes when compared to those obtained in Nigeria. Although there were records of intimidations and rudeness they were equally fewer compared to other countries in the survey.

Sierra which demonstrated through some of the country's transparency clauses especially in the Local Government laws that it can enthrone accountability and public participation in the governance process recorded the most unimpressive outcome. It is the most bizarre scenario of how government officials can use their discretion to subvert good governance. Sierra Leone also showed that access to information is more than just being receptive. All but one of the request in Sierra Leone was not submitted.

Finding by Type of Outcome

Ghana trailed the three other countries in the survey. Ghana recorded the lowest Information Received outcomes, has the highest outcome of Refusal to Accept and also recorded a Not Submitted outcome which is not part of the original list of outcomes. It came about because some of the requesters could not locate the address of the ministries to which the requests were addressed.

Publicly Accessible Information and the Internet

The internet which is supposed to create more chances for open government is used to undermine access to government held information. In all four countries under the survey, the internet was used to ward off requesters. All requesters that were directed to use the internet did not find any useful information from the numerous websites to which they were referred. The websites either contained too much information that were irrelevant to the requester or were not regularly updated with information by the institutions.

Chapter Four

4.0 Findings by Monitoring Variables: Requesters and Requests

4.1 Discrimination in Provision of Information

Journalists, NGO Members and Ordinary People: Regular Clients

There are no clear indications whether there were deliberate attempts by public officials to discriminate in the release of information to the requesters. Although the journalists and the NGO staff got more of the information received outcomes they were also not immune from the general trend of the silent treatment and a little dose of harassment and intimidation by public officials. In Ghana two journalists received three information received outcomes out of the seven that were reported and in Liberia seven of the information received outcomes were recorded by journalists. The experience in Nigeria is similar to that of Ghana while in Sierra Leone the three journalists in the team got only one information received outcome. The NGO staff completed the other part of receiving information from the public institutions. It is an indication that even though journalists and civil society workers are identified and grudgingly accepted as possible outlets for the release of information to the public they can be discriminated against too when public officials are opposed to open government and are upholding the oath of secrecy.

Excluded Group Requesters: Improved Respect for their Right to Information
There were fears at the beginning of the survey that requesters in of the excluded group person's category would have very difficult experience with public officials. But that was not to be as the report showed that the excluded group person; illiterate and disabled performed beyond the expected mark of having nothing positive to record from the exercise. There were no recorded forms of hostilities or undue empathy directed at the physically challenged or the excluded members of the survey team.

Business Persons Dismissed on Flimsy Grounds

Discrimination against the business persons in the survey was made an issue only in Ghana. They were dismissed on very flimsy grounds by public officials who were apparently suspicious of the request for information from them. When a requester in Ghana asked about the numbers of companies listed by country of origin applied for land use in 2009 she was told that a business woman do not need such information for anything.

The other business person who asked to be provided with the number of complaints received from projects that have previously been cleared by the EPA, broken down by sectors was asked “why this kind of question which is not in line with your company background?”

In Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia there were no discrimination against business persons requesting for information. They were denied access to information in the same way that other members of the team were denied.

Public Officials Reject Research

Students should ordinarily be treated better and be offered easy access to information because they are seeking information for research. That should be the ideal situation but the reality provided by the survey, showed that students must go through other persons or institutions like their schools to enjoy their right to access information. In Ghana for example, the student requester reported that:

“After I submitted my request, the following day, my head of department called me to ask what question I had sent to the Ministry of Interior; that someone had called from the ministry to seek clarification. I returned for a follow up and was told by the PRO that the information would be sent to my office when it is ready or better still I should contact my head of department. The information never came.”

In Nigeria the issues were the same. A requester reported that *“While waiting at the reception, a young man emerged and told me that the Special Assistant (SA) to the DG would like to see me. The SA then told me that as a research student that I have no right to seek for any information on my own. Again that it is the responsibility of my school or my Dept to write on my behalf for the kind of information (the first and second) I am requesting their organization to give to me and that such must be written on the school letter head, stamped and signed by the appropriate authority before the information can be given to me.”*

Another requester who is a student said *“I was told that they can give out such information only if my letter of request came through the normal office channels. Again, because it is information that has to do with accounts, that my letter must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Library Nigeria. She also told me that my request must be written on my school letter- head and the request be made on my behalf by my school authority.”*

In response to the request of how much of the Liberian tax payers' money was used to pay for the president's foreign trips between 2008 and 2009, the student was told that what she needed was sensitive and could not be provided unless details of who is behind the request (apparently the school) are provided

In Liberia a student tried pushing his luck that he is a researcher working within a deadline and asked if he could get some materials in the absence of the official the requests were addressed to. He was told it was not possible to obtain information requested while the person the requests were addressed to was out of the country.

4.2 The Requests

The requests are mainly public interest requests framed within the provisions of the laws of each of the four countries where the survey took place. There were no requests for classified documents but that did not stop the public official from claiming in some institutions that requests were made for classified documents and therefore could not be released. Others had some strange reasons for refusing to process requests.

Findings by Monitoring Variables: Requesters and Requests

In Liberia a request sent to the Ministry of Finance and addressed to the Director-Division of Real Estate Tax got a response seven days after from an aide who told the requester that the information requested on the breakdown of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's annual real estate tax between 2006 and 2009 was regarded as President Sirleaf's private information and therefore could not be made public

In Nigeria a requester asking for details including costs, dates, and institutions of training received by junior staff of the Ministry of Communications between January and December 2009 said,

“I was referred to several offices and was finally told by one of the staff to come back with my purse loaded as my request was very cumbersome thus he needs to be taking light refreshments in-between when collating the data.”

In Sierra Leone the Independent Media Commission said a request on the how many complaints of professional misconduct were made against the media in 2009 and the outcome of those complaints was considered too confidential to be given out. While in Ghana, the requests on how many foreigners have applied to be registered as citizens of Ghana since 2000 was seen to be too delicate to be released for public consumption.

4.3 Conclusion

In the absence of a follow-up interview through which it would have been easier to determine why public officials released information to requesters in the pattern they did, it is still clear especially through the previous researches carried out by Media Rights Agenda, that the public official in the Continent has a mindset of holding back even the most routine information from members of the public.

This survey with its outcomes; threats to requesters life, intimidation abuses and harassment during the survey confirm the assumption that transparency has no place in the governance process in Africa as public officials are yet to find the linkages between the wholesale poverty and massive corruption and access to government held information.

4.4 Recommendations:

Apparently from the survey, transparency is in peril and accountability cannot be guaranteed. It also means that public participation in the governance process will be difficult if not impossible to sustain. To ensure that the right of access to information in these public institutions with access to information provisions in the law establishing are regularly used by the citizens we make the following recommendations:

- Governments should carry out institutional reforms and make clear to officials and all other relevant personnel in public institutions with access to information provisions that discrimination in treatment of information requests and in provision of information is unacceptable.
- Governments should clearly spell out the disciplinary and possible legal consequences of discrimination in treatment of information requests and in provision of information to members of the public in such institutions
- Government should provide regular training to strengthen the record keeping system of such institutions with access to information provisions in the laws that established them.
- Government should work on a review of the laws with access to information provisions to include regulations on referral or transfer from one public institution to another as well as appeal when information is denied to members of the public.
- Training of staff and personnel on information management, receipt and methods of responding to public enquiries in the institutions with access to information provisions in their laws.
- Generating public awareness about the access to information provisions in some of the laws in operation within the public services so that members of the public can formulate the right requests when asking for information.

Findings by Monitoring Variables: Requesters and Requests

- There must be an intensive education for public officers on the access to information provisions in existing laws that established the institutions.
- Civil society should monitor compliance with the access to information provisions in these public institutions to see if the practices conform to acceptable standards provided for in the laws.
- Public institutions with access to information provisions should adopt a common practice of responding to request for information by conducting training on procedures and methodologies for response.
- Public bodies should ensure that all their personnel, including security and reception staff, have a basic understanding of the content of the laws and the right of members of the public to request and access public information.
- Public officials in these selected institutions must designate personnel to receive requests for information in compliance with the law.

(Footnotes)

¹ Recommendation Rec(2002)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on access to official document (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 February 2002 at the 784

th

meeting of the ministers

ødeputies)

<http://cm.coe.int/E/Public/2002/adopted.texts/recommendations/2002r.htm>

Appendix

Requests and Requestors by Country

SIERRA LEONE

Mohamed Kallon, Requestor 1

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
IMC	Please provide the outcome of media monitoring carried out between 2007 & 2009	Refusal
Statistics Sierra Leone	<p>Question 1: Please provide us the list of contractors that produced I E C Materials, samples of work done and how much each contractor was paid?</p> <p>Question 2: Give us a breakdown of how much was paid each enumerator in the last Census?</p>	Refusal
MSWG & CA	Please provide the total number of women employed in position of authority in this Ministry?	Mute Refusal
C o m p a n i e s Commission	How many companies have been sanctioned between 2004 and 2009 for contravening the order to publish their financial statement?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
The Presidency	Please provide us details of the President's overseas trips from 2007 till date and the cost to the nation's tax payers?	Refusal
HIV/AIDS Secretariat	Please provide the records of your implementing partner between 2008 and 2009	Mute Refusal
NPPA	How many contracts were awarded by Government in 2009?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Samuel Oroma, Requestor 2

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
Environmental Protection Agency	How many Environmental Impact Assessments were carried out and submitted between 2006 and 2009	Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	Please provide EIA documents for the Bumbuna Hydro Electricity Project	Refusal
National HIV/AIDS	Please provide the names of international partners offering assistance HIV/AIDS programme in Sierra Leone and how much was donated by each partner.	Mute Refusal
The Legislature	Please provide reasons on the number of days that parliament did not sit in the past five years	Information Received
The Presidency	Please provide us details of the president's over seas trips from 2007 till date and the cost to the nation's tax payers.	Refusal
Independent Media Commission	Please provide details including names and addresses of application for electronic and print media license in 2009	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
Independent Media Commission	How many complaints of professional misconduct were made against the Media in 2009 and what the outcome of each investigation?	Mute Refusal
The Companies Commission	How many companies have published the abridge version of their financial statement in the past two years	Mute Refusal
G o v e r n m e n t Budgeting & Accountability Office	Please provide for us, what it costs to maintain the arm forces between 2005 and 2009	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Mohamed Norman, Requestor 3

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
National Public Procurement	How many contracts were awarded by government in 2009?	Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	How many environmental impact assessments were carried out and submitted between 2006 and 2009?	Refusal
Ministry of Social Welfare Gender & Children Affairs	Please provide the total number of women employed in positions of authority in this Ministry MSWG &CA office	Refusal
Statistics Sierra Leone	Please provide us the list of contractors that produced information education and economization materials, samples of work done and how much each contractor was paid?	Refusal
The Presidency	Please provide us details of the president overseas trips from 2007 till date and the cost to the nation's tax payers.	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
G o v e r n m e n t Budgeting and Accountability office	Please provide for us, what it cost to maintain the Armed forces between 2005 and 2009	Refusal
Local Government	We requests the minutes of the first council meeting of Freetown city council held in 2010	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

George Mustapha, Requestors 4

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
NPPA	Give us the name of Ministry with the highest number of approved bids including details of cost for each bid in 2009	Refusal
National HIV/AIDS Secretariat	Please provide the records of persons living with HIV/AIDS by gender in Sierra Leone and how many people have access to anti-retroviral drugs?	Information Received
Environment Protection Agency	We request the details of the impact report for the proposed Charlotte Hydro Electricity Project	Refusal
Ministry of Social Welfare Gender & Children affairs	How many children were rescued from being trafficked between 2008 and 2009?	Refusal
Statistics Sierra Leone	How many complaints by region were received by statistics Sierra Leone following the 2004 Census and what were the outcomes.	Refusal
The Legislature	Provide for us details of the number of preliminary vacancies between 2008 and 2009	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
C o m p a n i e s Commission	Please provide us documents of financial assistance given by World Bank ICF to the commission so far to facilitate ease of doing business?	Refusal
G o v e r n m e n t Budgetary and Accountability Office	What is the process that this office uses to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national budget?	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Solomon Wilson, Requestor 5

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
G o v e r n m e n t Budgeting & Accountability Office	Could you please give us breakdown of tax revenue collected by the regions in 2009?	Mute Refusal
IMC	How many licenses were reported in the past 5 years and for what reason?	Mute Refusal
MSWG & CA	How many cases of child abuse and gender base violence were handled by the Ministry in 2009 and what were the out come of these cases	Mute Refusal
Statistics Sierra Leone	How many women by region are in Sierra Leone according to 2004 Census?	Mute Refusal
C o m p a n i e s Commission	How many companies have published the abridge version of their financial statement in the past 2 years?	Mute Refusal
The Presidency	How many notices of declaration of emergency were issued by the president between 2007 and 2010?	Mute Refusal
Local Government	Please provide the list and addresses of contractors engaged by F C C in 2009.	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Abibatu Koroma, Requestor 6

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 6	Outcomes
National HIV/AIDS	Please provide the names of international partners offering assistance HIV/AIDS programme in Sierra Leone and how much was donated by each partner.	Information Received
Ministry of Social Welfare	Please provide the total number of women employed in position of authority in this ministry?	Mute Refusal
Independent Media Commission	How many cases of professional misconduct were reported against the Media in 2009 and what the outcome?	Mute Refusal
Parliament	How many women by party have served in parliament in the last 5 years?	Information Received
NPPA	What was the total cost of bids approved for procurement in 2009	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Finance	How many voted and what percentage was spent on both health and agriculture budget in 2009?	Mute Refusal
Office of the national security (ONS)	How many notices of declaration of emergency were issued by the president between 2005 and 2010?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ibrahim Kandeh, Requestor 7

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 7	Outcomes
N P P A	We request to know the total number of rejected bids for the year 2009 and reasons for rejection?	Mute Refusal
Local Government	We request the current inventory of assets of Freetown City Council?	Mute Refusal
E n v i r o n m e n t a l Protection Agency	We request the list of firms clearing the capital and the amount spent annually?	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Social Welfare Children & Gender Affairs	How many children were rescued from being trafficked between 2008 and 2009?	Mute Refusal
Government budgeting Accountability Office	How much was voted and what percentage was spent on both health and agriculture budget in 2009?	Mute Refusal
C o m p a n i e s Commission	How many members of public by region have paid to inspect the register of companies in the past two years?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Mohamed Dukulay, Requestor 8

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 8	Outcomes
Local Government	Please provide list and addresses of contractors engaged by the Freetown City Council in 2009	Mute Refusal
Local Government	We request minute of 1 st council meeting of Freetown City Council held in 2010	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Social Welfare Gender & Children's Affairs	How many cases of child abuse and gender base violence were handed by the ministry in 2009, and what were the outcomes of these cases?	Mute Refusal
IMC	Please provide the outcome of media monitoring carried out between 2007 and 2009?	Mute Refusal
Companies Commission	How many companies have been sanctioned between 2004 and 2009 for contravening the order to publish the financial statement?	Unable to Submit
Statistics Sierra Leone	How many women by region are in Sierra Leone according to 2004 Census?	Information Received
Legislature	How many women by parties have served in the parliament in the last 5 years?	Information Received
Government Budgeting & Accountability	What are the processes that this office used to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national budget?	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Abu Bakarr Joe Sesay, Requestor 9

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
NPPA	Give us the name of the ministry with the highest number of approved bids including details of cost for each bid.	Mute Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	We request the list of firms clearing the capital and the amount spent annually.	Refusal
National HIV/AIDS Secretariat	Please provide the records of person living with HIV/AIDS by gender and region in the country and how many people have access to anti retroviral drug?	Information Received
Statistics Sierra Leone	Please provide us list of contractors that produced IEC Materials, samples of work done and how much each contractor was paid?	Refusal
The presidency	Could you please provide us with a list of the benefits of the president's foreign trips to Sierra Leone?	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Massah Turay, Requestor 10

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 10	Outcomes
I M C	How many lines were revoked in the past 5 years and for what reason?	No reply
Ministry of Finance	How much voted and what percent was spent on health and agriculture ministries.	Put it in writing
C o m p a n i e s Commission	Please provide us financial assistance received from ICF and World Bank to facilitate case of doing business	No reply
The Presidency	Provide details of president overseas trip from 2007 to date and the cost to nation's tax payers.	No reply
E n v i r o n m e n t a l Protection Agency	Provide environmental input assessment for the Bumbuna Hydro electricity project	Put it in writing
National Public Procurement Authority	What was the total cost of bid for contract awarded for procurement in 2009?	No reply
HIV/AIDS Secretariat	Provide Details of anti retroviral drugs by nation of manufacturer that are available in the country.	No Reply

Requests and Requestors by Country

Sahr Kortequeue, Requestor 11

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 11	Outcomes
Local Government	We request the current inventory of assets of Freetown City Council	Mute Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	We request the details of the environmental impact assessments report for the proposed Charlotte hydro electricity project	Mute Refusal
HIV/AIDS Secretariat	Please provide the names of international partners offering assistance to the HIV/AIDS Programme in Sierra Leone and how much was donated by each partner.	Partial Access
Statistics Sierra Leone	Give us a breakdown of how much was paid each enumerator in the last Census	Mute Refusal
The Presidency	Give details of persons prosecuted for disclosing any declaration of emergency since 2005.	Mute Refusal
The Legislature	Could you please provide me with records of parliamentary truancy and punitive measures taken?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Solomon Rogers Requestor 12

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 12	Outcomes
NPPA	We request the total number of rejected bids for the year 2009 and reason for the rejection	Mute Refusal
Local Government	We request for the minutes of 1 st council meeting of Freetown City Council held in 2010	Mute Refusal
Local Government	We request the edited financial report of FCC for 2008/2009	Mute Refusal
HIV/AIDS Secretariat	Please provide the records of persons living with HIV/AIDS by gender in Sierra Leone and how many people have access to anti-retroviral drugs?	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Social Welfare Gender & Children affairs	Please provide the total number of women employed positions of authority in this ministry	Incomplete Answer
IMC	Please provide detail including names & addresses of application for electronic and print media licenses in 2009	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 12	Outcomes
C o m p a n i e s Commission	Please provide us documents of financial assistance given by World Bank ICF to the commission so far to facilitate ease of doing business?	Refusal
Statistics Sierra Leone	How many by region are in Sierra Leone according to the 2004 census?	Refusal
The Presidency	Please provide us with a list of the benefits of the President's foreign trips to Sierra Leone.	Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

GHANA

Print Media Journalist/P.M.J 1 – R1

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
Births And Deaths Registry:	Provide us with the total number of deaths in Ghana between 2004 and 2009 by regional breakdown.	Oral Refusal
Social Security And National Insurance Trust (SSNIT):	Please provide us with the number of employers that were sanctioned for defaulting in Payment of pension contributions between 1999 and 2009 and the outcome of the cases.	Information Received
Environmental Protection Agency	Please provide us with the number of complaints received from projects that have previously been cleared by the EPA, broken down by sectors.	Mute Refusal
Land Registry:	We would be glad if you could kindly provide us by region the total land mass approved for private housing development in 2008 for each region.	Referred
Ghana Ports And Harbours Authority	We would be glad if you could kindly provide us a list of the current dues and rates for port usage.	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
Bank Of Ghana	We would be glad if you could kindly provide us the cost of redenomination of the Ghanaian currency in 2007 including the cost of printing new notes and minting new coins.	Unable to Submit
Electoral Commission	We would be glad if you could kindly provide us with a breakdown of the total amount spent for the District Assembly elections in 2006.	P a r t i a l Access
Ministry Of Interior	We would be glad if you could kindly provide us the number of foreigners that have had their Ghanaian citizenship revoked since 2000.	Mute Refusal
Audit Service	We would be glad if you could kindly provide us the total numbers of audited report of public accounts that were distributed between 2008 and 2009.	Unable to Submit
Public Records And Archives	Please provide us with the list of persons punished between 1999 and 2009 for willful mutilation or destruction of public records.	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Print Media Journalist/P.M.J 2 – R2

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
National Petroleum Authority	How many licenses have been issued to oil companies since inception, (Both Local and Foreign)	Information Received
Public Records And Archives	Provide us with the number of agencies prosecuted for non submission of two copies of its official publication to the Director	Unable to Submit
Land Registry	Question 1: Please provide by region the total land mass approved for private housing development in 2008. Question 2: How many companies listed by country of origin applied for land use in 2009?	Refusal to accept
Ministry Of Interior	How many foreigners have been registered as citizens of Ghana since 2000?	Oral Refusal
Audit	Provide us with the list of public institutions that have been sanctioned after being indicted in audit report.	Refusal to Accept
Electoral Commission	Provide us with a breakdown of the total amount of money spent in the 2008 elections	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Broadcast Media Journalist/B.M.J – R3

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
Electoral Commission	How many complaints of corrupt practices were made against staff of the commission in the last general elections?	Unable to Submit
Ministry Of Interior	How many foreigners have applied to be registered as citizens of Ghana since 2000?	Refusal to Accept
Bank Of Ghana	How many pieces of the new two cedi notes were printed and at what cost?	Refusal to Accept
Social Security And National Insurance Trust (SSNIT)	Please provide the total pension paid to the armed forces between 2005 -2009.	Refusal to Accept
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	How many companies have been sanctioned for environmental devastation arising from their operations from 1999-2009?	Refusal to Accept
Public Records and Archives	Provide the number of agencies prosecuted for non submission of two copies of its official publication to the Director.	Refusal to Accept
Minerals and Mining Commission	Provide the number of mining leases that have been cancelled between 1999 and 2009.	Refusal to Accept
Audit Service	We require the statement of foreign exchange receipts and payments by the bank of Ghana for 2009	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

NGO 1 – R4

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
E l e c t o r a l Commission	<p>É How many registered political parties are there in Ghana?</p> <p>É How many complaints of corrupt practices were made against staff of the commission in the last general elections?</p> <p>É Provide us with a breakdown of the total amount of money spent in the 2008 elections</p> <p>É Provide us with a breakdown of the total amount spent for the District Assembly elections in 2006</p>	Refusal to Accept
Ghana Ports / Harbours Authority	<p>É Provide the amount of revenue generated from ports usage annually between 1999 ó 2009.</p> <p>É Please provide us with the current copy of dues and rates for port usage.</p> <p>É We request the number of firms that were prosecuted</p>	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
	<p>in the last two years for defaulting in payment of port dues and rates</p> <p>É The number of cars that were confiscated between 2004 ó 2009 and the reasons for confiscation</p>	
Ghana Audit Service	<p>É Please provide us with copies of the audited accounts of public institutions for the year 2008 - 2009.</p> <p>É We require the statement of foreign exchange receipts and payment by the Bank of Ghana for 2009</p> <p>É Please provide total numbers of audited report of public account that was distributed in 2008 to 2009</p> <p>É Provide us with the list of public institutions that have been sanctioned after being indicted in audit report</p>	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
Public Records/ Archives	<p>É Please provide the number of organisations that used the services of this institution between 2004 ó 2009</p> <p>É Which department or agency failed to deposit their publications for archiving in 2009?</p> <p>É Provide the number of agencies prosecuted for non submission of two copies of its official publication to the Director</p> <p>É Provide the list of persons punished between 1999 to 2009 for wilful mutilation or destruction of public records.</p>	Unable to Submit
Births/Deaths Registry	<p>É Provide by regional breakdown the total number of death between 2004 and 2009.</p> <p>É Provide total number of birth by naturalized Ghanaians in 2009.</p> <p>É We want details of fetal deaths recorded between 1999 and 2009.</p>	Information not Held.

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
	ÉHow much was made from the inspection of the registers of births and deaths between 1999 and 2009?	
Ministry of Interior	<p>ÉPlease provide us details of the number of foreigners resident in Ghana by nationality</p> <p>ÉHow many foreigners have applied to be registered as citizens of Ghana since 2000.</p> <p>ÉHow many foreigners have been registered as citizens of Ghana since 2000</p> <p>ÉHow many foreigners have had their Ghanaian citizenship revoked since 2000</p>	Referred
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<p>ÉProvide us with the number of complaints received from projects that have previously been cleared by the EPA broken down by regions</p> <p>ÉProvide us with the total number of environment protection inspectors broken down by regions</p>	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
	<p>ÉProvide us with the number of complaints received from projects that have previously been cleared by the EPA, broken down by sectors</p> <p>ÉHow many companies have been sanctioned for environmental devastation arising from their operations from 1999 - 2009</p>	
Social Security And National Insurance Trust (SSNIT)	<p>ÉWe request the list of all ventures that SNIIT has invested in since 2000</p> <p>ÉPlease provide the total pension paid to the Armed Forces between 2005 ó 2009</p> <p>ÉWe request the number of pensioners that have died in the past five years</p> <p>ÉWe request the number of employers that were tried for defaulting in Payment of pension contribution between 1999 - 2009 and the outcome of the trials</p>	Mute Refual

Requests and Requestors by Country

NGO 2 – R5

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
National Petroleum Authority	Provide the number of Ghanaian companies that have been denied registration by the NPA.	M u t e Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	Provide us with the total number of environment protection inspectors broken down by regions	M u t e Refusal
Public Records And Archive	Which departments / agencies failed to deposit their publications for the archiving in 2009?	M u t e Refusal
Lands Registry	Provide us with the names of firms & total land mass approved for industrial use between 2004 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
Ghana Ports and Harbour	How many cars were confiscated between 2004 and 2009? What were the reasons for confiscation?	M u t e Refusal
Bank of Ghana	Question 1: We request the copies of the Bank of Ghana's audited report annually between 1999 - 2009	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
	Question 2: Provide us with the cost of redenomination of the Cedi in 2007 including the cost of printing new notes and minting	
Audit	<p>Question 1: Please provide us with the total number audited report of public account that was distributed between 2008 ó 2009.</p> <p>Question 2: Provide us with the list of public institutions that have been sanctioned after being indicted in audit report.</p>	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Business Person 1/B.P1 – R6

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 6	Outcomes
Bank Of Ghana	How many banks have been licensed by the bank of Ghana between 1999 and 2009?	Information not Held
Minerals and Mining Commission	Provide the number of companies including country of origin given mining leases since 2000	Mute Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	Provide us with the number of complaints received from projects that have previously been cleared by the EPA, broken down by sectors	Mute Refusal
Ghana Ports And Harbour	Question 1: We request the number of firms that were prosecuted in the last two years for defaulting in payment of port dues and rates Question 2: How many cars were confiscated between 2004 and 2009? What were the reasons for confiscation?	Mute Refusal
Births And Deaths Registry	Provide us with the details of foetal deaths recorded between 1999 - 2009	Mute Refusal
National Petroleum Authority	Please provide the details of Directors of foreign firms engaged by the NPA	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Business Person 2/B.P2 – R7

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 7	Outcomes
Minerals And Mining Commission	Please provide the quantity of gold that was exported between 1999 ó 2009, and the value in US Dollars.	Mute Refusal
Environmental Protection Agency	Provide us with the number of complaints received from projects that have previously been cleared by the EPA broken down by sectors.	Mute Refusal
National Petroleum Authority	Please provide the number of days in 2009 that the NPA has increased oil prices	Mute Refusal
Electoral Commission	How many registered political parties are there in Ghana?	Refusal to Accept
Ghana Ports And Harbours Authority	Provide the amount of revenue generated from ports usage annually between 1999 ó 2009	Refusal to Accept
Land Registry	How many companies listed by country of origin applied for land use in 2009?	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

Student 1/S.D1 – R8

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 8	Outcomes
E l e c t o r a l Commission	How many complaints of corrupt practices were made against staff of the commission in the last general elections?	Refusal to Accept
Audit Service	We require the statement of foreign exchange receipts and payment by the Bank of Ghana for 2009	Refusal to Accept
Ministry of Interior	How many foreigners have applied to be registered as citizens of Ghana since 2000?	Refusal to Accept
National Petroleum Authority	Please provide the number of Ghanaian companies that have been denied registration by the National Petroleum Authority.	Refusal to Accept
E n v i r o n m e n t a l Protection Agency	Question 1: Provide us with the total number of environment protection inspectors broken down by regions Question 2: How many companies have been sanctioned for environmental devastation arising from their	Refusal to Accept
Land Registry	operations from 1999 - 2009 How many hectares of land by region were recovered from land encroachers between 2005 and 2009?	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

Student 2/S.D2 – R9

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
Ghana Ports And Harbours Authority (GPHA)	I would like to have records of dues and rates collected by your outfit in the last two years?	M u t e Refusal
Minerals And Mining Commission	Provide the quantity of gold exported between the periods 1999 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
Social Security And National Insurance Trust (SSNIT):	I would like to have a list of all ventures in which SNNIT has invested since the year 2000	Inadequate Answer
Bank Of Ghana (BOG)	I would specifically like to know the quantity of new Two Cedis notes that Bank of Ghana recently circulated in the economy and how much did it cost the Central Bank to print them	M u t e Refusal
Births And Deaths Registry	I want to know the number of foetal deaths recorded by the Registry since 2000 <i>Requestor was supposed to ask: ‘How much was made from the inspection of the registers of births and deaths between 1999 and 2009?’</i>	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
Public Records And Archives Department (PRAAD)	List of organizations that have been using the services of PRAAD between 2004 and 2009?	Information Received
The Electoral Commission (EC)	I would specifically like to know the total expenditure of the Commission in organizing the 2008 elections.	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

Excluded Group Person (Illiterate) E.G.P.I – R10

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 10	Outcomes
Registration of Births & Deaths	<p>Question 1: Please provide us with the total number of birth by naturalized Ghanaians in 2009.</p> <p>Question 2: Please provide us with the details of foetal deaths recorded between 1999 and 2009.</p>	Information not Held
Social Security And National Insurance Trust (SSNIT)	Please provide the total pension paid to the Armed Forces between 2005 and 2009.	Information not Held
Minerals and Mining Commission	Please provide the number of mining leases that have been cancelled between 1999 and 2009.	Refusal to Accept
Public Records and Archives	Which department or agency failed to deposit their publications for archiving in 2009?	Refusal to Accept
Land Registry	How many hectares of lands by region were recovered from land encroachers between 2005 and 2009?	Refusal to Accept
Ministry of Interior	How many foreigners have had their Ghanaian citizenship revoked since 2000?	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

NIGERIA

Raliat Ahmed (R1)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Please provide me with a list of all the Foreign Missions in Nigeria	Information Received
Ministry of Health	How much has Nigeria spent for the purchase of anti-retroviral drugs since 1999 and from which countries were they purchased?	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Information and Communications	Please provide me with details of the telecommunications service providers sanctioned for violation of any of their operating requirements since 2005	Referred
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	Please provide me with a breakdown of how much was spent by the commission for printing of election materials in the 2007 elections, including ballot papers, voters registers, voters cards, public enlightenment etc	Mute Refusal
National Library	Please provide the breakdown by State, of the number of people who used the library between 2004 and 2009	Referred

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Please provide me with the list of foreigners who applied for Nigerian Citizenship between 2005 and 2009	Mute Refusal
National Population Commission	Please provide me with a detailed description of the machinery in place, including modern technological tools, used for the continuous and universal registration of births and deaths throughout the country.	Information Received
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Please provide me with the number of companies registered in Nigeria between 1999 and 2009	Mute Refusal
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	How much did the Commission receive from foreign donors in support of its preparations for the 2007 elections broken down by donor?	Mute Refusal
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)	Request: Please give me details of corruptly acquired wealth that the commission has recovered since 2003 and the persons or institutions from whom they were recovered with details of how much was recovered from them	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ugo Sandra Doom (R2)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
Standard Organization of Nigeria	I humbly request to have the details of scientific publications compiled and published by the Organization in accordance with its functions under section 5(1) (K) of the Standard Organization of Nigeria Act.	P a r t i a l Access
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Please provide me with the names of all the companies prosecuted for failing to submit their Audited Annual Accounts between 2005 and 2009.	Refusal to Accept
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	Request: I humbly request to know the number of complaints of corrupt practices which were made against staff of the Commission in the 2007 general elections and how many of them were prosecuted	Refusal to Accept
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	I humbly request for copies of all the Oil Companies Financial Audit report for 2009.	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
Ministry of Information and Communication.	I humbly request for details including costs, dates, and institutions of training received by junior staff of the Ministry between January and December 2009.	Refusal to Accept
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	I humbly request for information regarding the list of Foreign Missions in Nigeria.	Refusal to Accept
National Library.	I humbly request to have the details of the volume of holding in the National Library broken down by publication type.	Refusal to Accept
Ministry of Environment	I humbly request for details regarding the numbers of communities by State that were ravaged by erosion in 2009.	Unable to Submit
Bureau of Public Procurement	I humbly request for the total cost of all the contracts awarded for procurement of goods, works and services in 2009.	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

Brown Andrew (R3)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	Please make available to me a list of all extractive companies that have been sanctioned by NEITI since 2007 for non-disclosure of information and the sanctions meted out to each of them.	Mute Refusal
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Please provide me with the list of companies registered in Nigeria by foreigners between 1999 and 2009.	Mute Refusal
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)	Please give me a list of the corruption cases that the Commission has charged to court since 2003.	Mute Refusal
Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON)	Provide me with details of how many companies or organizations have been sanctioned for importation of sub-standard electronic products between 2004 and 2009.	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Communication	Please provide me with details of the telecommunications service providers sanctioned for violation of any of their operating requirements since 2005	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
Ministry of Health	How much has Nigeria spent for the purchase of the anti-retroviral drugs since 1999 and from which countries were they purchased?	Referred
Ministry of Internal Affairs	How much has been generated from application fees from foreigners seeking Nigerian citizenship	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Environment	How many villages or communities were affected by oil spillages in the Niger Delta region from 1999 to 2003?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Mavis Ideba (R4)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
Ministry of Information and Communications	What technological advances have been made by the Ministry in information dissemination since 1999?	Mute Refusal
National Population Commission	Provide record, broken down by states, of the total number of births registered in Nigerian between 2004 and 2009.	Information Received
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Please provide me with the amount of income generated from the registration of companies and other incorporated bodies between 1999 and 2009	Information Received
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	I humbly request for copies of all the oil companies financial audit report.	Oral Refusal
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)	Please provide me with a list of the cases that the Commission has successfully prosecuted in court since 2003.	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	How many Direct Capture Machines were delivered after the 2007 elections and what has happened to these machines? How many of the machines were received in total.	Information Received
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Please give me details of how many Nigerian embassies abroad were closed between 1999 and 2009, in what countries and for what reasons?	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Seember Nyager (R5)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
Central Bank of Nigeria	Please provide me with a list of all companies, local and foreign, printing Nigerian currency notes or minting Nigerian coins.	Information Received
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	How much did the Commission receive from foreign donors in support of its preparations for the 2007 election, broken down by donor?	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Please give me details of how many Nigerian embassies abroad were closed between 1999 and 2009, in what countries and for what reasons?.	Mute Refusal
National Library	Please provide the breakdown by state, of the number of people who used the library between 2004 and 2009.	P a r t i a l Access
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	I humbly request for copies of all the oil companies financial audit report.	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
National Population Commission	In accordance with Section 41(1) of the Births, Deaths, etc (Compulsory Registration) Act 1991, how much was made from the inspection of the registers of births and deaths between 1999 and 2009?	M u t e Refusal
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Please provide me with the list of companies registered in Nigeria by foreigners between 1999 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
Ministry of Environment	How many villages were affected by desert encroachment between 2007 and 2009 and what was the outcome of the re-settlement of villagers?	P a r t i a l Access
Federal Ministry of Health	Please provide me with the latest figures, broken down, by states of people living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.	Information Received
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Please provide details, broken down by country, of the numbers of foreigners whose applications for Nigerian citizenship were rejected between 2005 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Rhema Ehiemere (R6)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 6	Outcomes
Central Bank of Nigeria	How much was spent by the CBN on the Naira re-denomination campaign between 2007 and 2008?	Information Received
Ministry of Environment	Provide numbers of communities by States that were ravaged by Erosion in 2009	Referred
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	List of foreign Missions to Nigeria	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Health	Details of the prevalence of major diseases in Nigeria, Including TB, malaria etc.	Mute Refusal
National Library	People prosecuted for failing to deposit their publications with the National Library in 2009	Oral Refusal
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	Which International donor Institutions supported the work of NEITI, and how much has NEITI received from each donor since its inception?	Mute Refusal
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Names of companies prosecuted for failing to submit their audited annual accounts between 2005 and 2009	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 6	Outcomes
Ministry of Environment	Total volume of gas flared and the revenue derived from each oil company as penalty for gas flared between 2004 and 2009	Referred
Ministry of Information and Communications	Names and addresses of contractors engaged by the ministry to work with Telecom services providers in the last 2 years	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Internal Affairs	List of foreigners who applied for Nigerian Citizenship between 2005 and 2009	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Nnaji Theophilus (R7)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 7	Outcomes
Bureau of Public Procurement	How many of the contracts awarded by BPP since 2007 have been successfully executed in all the MDAs?	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Details of the staff of the Ministry that were dismissed from diplomatic services between 2005 and 2009 and why they were dismissed?	Mute Refusal
Central Bank of Nigeria	A breakdown of how much was spent annually on the printing of new bank notes and minting of new coins between 2005 and 2009.	Mute Refusal
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	How many Direct Capture machines were delivered after the 2007 elections and what has happened to these machines? How many of the machines were received?	Information Received
Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)	Details of the procedure for the testing and certification of building materials coming from outside Nigeria.	Information Received
Bureau of Public Procurement	The number of Certificates of no objection withdrawn by BPP IN 2008 and the reasons for their withdrawal.	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 7	Outcomes
Ministry of Internal Affairs	How many Nigerians have been issued e- Passport to date?	M u t e Refusal
Ministry of Health	Details of the prevalence of major diseases in Nigeria e.g., Tb, Malaria, Hepatitis, Meningitis, Cholera, etc.	Information Received
Central Bank of Nigeria	To provide a copy of the latest CBN report on the state of health of Nigerian commercial banks.	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Oluwatosin Aiyenikanju (R8)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 8	Outcomes
Central Bank of Nigeria	Please provide me with a copy of the latest Central Bank report on the state of health of Nigerian commercial banks.	P a r t i a l Access
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Please provide details, broken down by country, of the numbers of foreigners whose applications for Nigerian citizenship were rejected between 2005 and 2009.	Oral Refusal
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)	Please give me details of corruptly acquired wealth that the commission has recovered since 2003 and the persons or institutions from whom they were recovered with details of how much was recovered from each of them.	Unable to Submit
National Population Commission	Provide record, broken down by states, of the total number of births registered in Nigeria between 2004 and 2009.	Refusal to Accept
Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)	Please provide me with the amount of income generated from the registration of companies and other incorporated bodies between 1999 and 2009.	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 8	Outcomes
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Please provide details of staff of the Ministry that were dismissed from diplomatic services between 2005 and 2009 and why they were dismissed.	Oral Refusal
National Library	How many people were prosecuted for failing to deposit their publications with the National Library in 2009?	Information Received
Ministry of Environment	What is the total volume of gas flared and the revenue derived from each oil company as penalty for gas flared between 2004 and 2009?	Information not Held
Bureau of Public Procurement	What is the total cost of all the contracts awarded for procurement of goods, works and services in 2009?	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Juliana Taiwo (R9)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	Please kindly furnish me with the list of international donor Institutions that have supported the work of Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). How much has NEITI received from each of the donors since its inception in 2007.	Unable to Submit
Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)	Please I request that you kindly provide me with details of how many companies or organizations have been sanctioned for importation of sub-standard electronic products between 2004 and 2009	Refusal to Accept
Ministry of Health	Please I request give a breakdown by states, the number of children that were vaccinated for polio between 2000 and 2005	Refusal to Accept
Bureau of Public Procurement	Please I request that you kindly make available to me the MDA with the highest number of approved contracts including details of cost for each contract since 2007.	Inadequate Answer

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)	Please I request that you kindly provide us with details and processes of how corruptly acquired wealth recovered from corrupt persons are dealt with or disposed of.	M u t e Refusal
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)	Please I request that you kindly make available to me a breakdown of how much was spent by the Commission for printing of election materials in the 2007 elections, including ballot papers, votersø registers, votersø cards, public enlightenment materials, etc.	Refusal to Accept
Ministry of Information and Communications	Please I request that you kindly make available me what technological advances have been made by the Ministry in information dissemination since 1999?	M u t e Refusal
S t a n d a r d s Organization of Nigeria (SON)	Please I request that you kindly make available to me a list of the laboratories and other such institutions established and maintained by the Organization across the federation.	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
Central Bank of Nigeria	Please I request that you kindly make available to me how much was spent by the Central Bank on the Naira re-denomination campaign between 2007 and 2008?	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Stephen Ameh (R10)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 10	Outcomes
Central Bank of Nigeria	Breakdown of how much was spent annually on printing of new bank notes and minting new coins between 2005 and 2009	Inadequate Answer
Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)	Details of procedure for testing and certification of exported building materials	Information Received
National Library	Details of the volume of holding in the national library broken down by publication	Mute Refusal
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)	Breakdown of how much was spent annually on printing of new bank notes and minting new coins between 2005 and 2009	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Internal Affairs	How much has been generated from application fees from foreigners seeking Nigerian citizenship.	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Information and Communications	Details including cost, dates and institutions of training received by junior staff of the Ministry between January and December 2009.	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 10	Outcomes
I n d e p e n d e n t National Electoral Commission (INEC)	Breakdown of how much was spent annually on printing of new bank notes and minting new coins between 2005 and 2009	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Details of how much Nigeria spends annually on servicing all its Missions abroad	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Austin Ahusimere (R11)

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 11	Outcomes
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)	The list of all extractive companies that have been sanctioned by NEITI since 2007 for non-disclosure of information and the sanctions meted out to each of them	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Health	Details of the latest figure, broken down by state of people living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria	Mute Refusal
National Library	How many people have been prosecuted for not depositing their publications with the national library in 2009?	Information Received
Ministry of Internal Affairs	The number of Nigerians who have been issued Nigeria e-passport till date	Referred
Ministry of Environment	How many villages were affected by desert encroachment between 2007 and 2009 and what was the outcome of the resettlement of the villagers?	Mute refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 10	Outcomes
S t a n d a r d s Organization of Nigeria (SON)	Details of scientific publication compiled and published by the organisation in accordance with its	M u t e Refusal
	function under section 5(1)(k) of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria?	
I n d e p e n d e n t Corrupt Practices and Other Related O f f e n c e s C o m m i s s i o n (ICPC)	Details and processes of how corruptly acquired wealth are recovered and how are they dealt with or disposed off	Oral Refusal
N a t i o n a l P o p u l a t i o n Commission	Details records, breakdown by state of the total number of death registered in Nigeria between 2004 and 2009	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

LIBERIA

Requester One (R1) Findings; Private Owned Newspaper Journalist

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance	How much was collected as total tax revenue by the Ministry of Finance in 2007	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Education	Please provide me a list of teachers sanction for misconduct in 2009	Mute Refusal
The Presidency	I would like to know the total cost by trip of how much of the Liberian people/ tax payers money was used to pay for the President foreign trips between 2006 and 2009	Mute Refusal
The Presidency	How much bills did the President sign and how many did she veto between 2006 and 2009?	Mute Refusal
L i b e r i a Telecommunication Authority (LTA)	Kindly provide me a list of companies denied telecommunication license between 2006 and 2009	Mute Refusal
General Auditing Commission (GAC)	Could you please provide me with audit reports conducted by the GAC tat were paid for by the audited institution (s)?	Information Received
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Please provide me a copy of the policy on Reforestation in Liberia	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 1	Outcomes
Supreme Court of Liberia	Kindly provide the total number of electoral cases decided by the Supreme Court from 2006-present.	Mute Refusal
Liberia Institution of Statistics and Geo Information Service (LISGIS)	Please provide a list of international institutions providing technical support to LISGIS.	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Two (R2) Findings; Government Owned Newspaper Journalist

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
Ministry of Education	Please provide the list of teachers sanctioned for misconduct in 2009?	Oral Refusal
Ministry of Education	Provide details by qualification, of the number of teachers in primary schools in Liberia	Oral Refusal
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	I request a copy of the last manpower audit carried out by LISGIS.	Mute Refusal
National Election Commission (NEC)	Please provide the number by gender of how many election law violators were prosecuted in the last general elections.	Mute Refusal
General Auditing Commission (GAC)	I request a breakdown of the funding received by the GAC from both the government of Liberia and Foreign donors between 2006 and 2009.	Oral Refusal
Supreme Court	Which county in Liberia has the highest number of Judges in the Supreme Court in the last ten years?	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 2	Outcomes
Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC)	What was the total cost of bids approved for procurement in 2009?	Oral Refusal
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Please provide me with the list of companies denied logging license between 2006 an 2009, and for what reason.	Information Received
The Judiciary	How many Women Judges are in the Judiciary?	Mute Refusal

Requester Three (R3) Findings; Broadcast Journalist

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance (MOF)	How many persons did the Ministry of Finance recommend for prosecution for tax evasion between 2006 and 2009?	Information Received
Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)	Please provide a list of application for broadcast licences and those denied between 2006 and 2009	M u t e Refusal
The Legislature	Please provide a list of bills that have been passed and those pending in the Senate.	M u t e Refusal
Supreme Court	Please provide a list of judges that have been sanctioned for corrupt practices between 2008 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
National Elections Commission (NEC)	Please provide details of funds spent by NEC on each electoral district in the last general election.	Unable to Submit
The Judiciary	Which international institutions supported justice system reforms projects and how much was spend last year?	Transferred/ Referred
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	I request a copy of the last manpower audit carried out by LISGIS.	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 3	Outcomes
Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC)	Please provide details of the Ministry with the highest number of approved bids including details of cost for each bid.	Oral Refusal
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	What is the total reserve of virgin forests in Liberia according to countries?	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Request Four (R4) Findings; NGO Representative 1

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance	Please provide us with a detailed list of amount paid in debt servicing as well as those dates on which they were paid in 2008 and 2009.	Mute Refusal
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	Please provide us with copies of updated spatial report on Liberia for 2009.	P a r t i a l Access
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	Please provide is with a list of the international institutions that provide technical assistance to your institution.	W r i t t e n Refusal÷
The Supreme Court	Please provide us the criteria for allocating cases to judges and in selecting judges to participate in panels.	Information Received
National Election Commission (NEC)	Please inform us of the quantity of NEC officials that were disciplined for violating electoral regulations in the last general elections.	Information Received
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Please inform us of the quantity of metric tons of timber that was harvest in 2009.	P a r t i a l Access
L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA)	Please inform us of the amount owed to your entity in outstanding debts by service providers.	Oral Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 4	Outcomes
The Legislature	Please provide us with a copy of the list of the total number of those nominees sent for contribution from the executives between 2006 and 2010, but were rejected by the honorable senate.	Information Received
The Presidency	Please inform us of which of the commission/committees constituted by the President from 2006-2009 have submitted their reports.	Information Not Held

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Five (R5) Findings; NGO Representative 2

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
Central Bank of Liberia	Please provide me with the figure of the total amount of EU funds received by Liberia between 2006 and 2009	Transferred/ Referred
Central Bank of Liberia	Provide us details of the United States funds received by Liberia to develop infrastructure between 2006 and 2009	M u t e Refusal
L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA	Please provide the locations and total number of mast and booster stations in Liberia.	M u t e Refusal
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	Please provide details of new geological findings in Liberia in 2009.	Transferred/ Referred
Ministry of Education	We request the number of female and male students in both primary and secondary schools in the nation's capital	Information Received
The Presidency	Please provide me with a list of the countries visited by the President between 2006 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
General Auditing Commission (GAC)	Please provide the financial audit of the Ministry of Defence between 2006 and 2009	Information Not Held

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 5	Outcomes
National Elections Commission (NEC)	How much was given to NEC for the last Ministry elections and how much was left unspent?	Information Received
The Judiciary	How many cases of rape were registered and how many were prosecuted in 2009?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Six (R6) Findings; Business Person 1

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 6	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance (MOF)	How much was collected as total tax revenue by the Ministry of Finance in 2009?	M u t e Refusal
Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)	What is the number of World Bank contracted persons working in the Central Bank of Liberia?	M u t e Refusal
Public Procurement & C o n c e s s i o n Commission (PPCC)	We request the total number of bios rejected in 2009 and the reasons for rejection.	Information Not Held
L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA)	Please provide a list of companies denied telecommunication licenses between 2006 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
The Legislature	Please provide a list of Public Hearing held by the Senate in 2009 specifying those that were not concluded.	M u t e Refusal
The Legislature	Please provide a list of bills that have been passed and those pending in the Senate	Unable to Submit
The General Auditing Commission (GAC)	How many cases did the GAC recommend for investigation/prosecution in 2009?	M u t e Refusal
The Judiciary	How many women judges are in the Judiciary?	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 6	Outcomes
National Electoral Commission (NEC)	Please provide the number by gender of how many election law violators were prosecuted in the last general elections.	M u t e Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Six (R6) Findings; Business Person 1

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 7	Outcomes
L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA)	Please provide the numbers and outstanding debt owed to the Commission by service providers.	M u t e Refusal
Ministry of Education (MOE)	Provide details by qualifications of the number of teachers in primary schools in Liberia.	M u t e Refusal
The Judiciary	Please provide the amount spent by the Judiciary to train defense counsels between 2008 and 2009.	M u t e Refusal
Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)	What was the amount spent on printing new bank notes by the Central Bank in 2008.	M u t e Refusal
Ministry of Finance	Please provide me with the breakdown of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's annual real estate tax between 2006 and 2009.	Oral Refusal
Public Procurement & C o n c e s s i o n Commission (PPCC)	How many bids did the Commission preside over in 2009?	M u t e Refusal
The Legislature	We request total number of executive nominees rejected by the Senate between 2006 and 2010.	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 7	Outcomes
Supreme Court	I request the criteria for allocating cases to judges and in selecting the judges to participate in panels	Mute Refusal
National Elections Commission	Please provide details of funds spent by NEC on each electoral district in the last general election.	Information Received

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Eight (R8) Findings; Student 1

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 8	Outcomes
Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)	Provide us details of the United States funds received by Liberia to develop infrastructure between 2006 and 2009	Unable to Submit
Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)	Please provide me with the figure of the total amount of EU funds received by Liberia between 2006 and 2009.	Unable to Submit
L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA)	Please provide the locations and total number of mast and booster stations in Liberia.	Mute Refusal
L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA)	Please provide a list applicants for broadcast licenses and those denied between 2006 and 2009.	Mute Refusal
Ministry of Education (MOE)	Please provide a list of public and private schools in Liberia.	Information Received
The Presidency	Please provide me with a list of the countries visited by the President between 2006 and 2009.	Unable to Submit
The Judiciary	Which international Institutions supported justice system reforms projects and how much was spent last year?	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 8	Outcomes
The Supreme Court	Please provide a list of judges that have been sanctioned for corrupt practices between 2006 and 2009.	Information Received
The National Elections Commission (NEC)	How many NEC officials were disciplined for violating electoral regulations in the general elections?	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Nine (R9) Findings; Student 2

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Provide a detailed list of amount paid and dates for debt servicing in 2008 and 2009.	Mute Refusal
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	How many metric tons of timber were harvested in 2009?	Information Received
Public Procurement & Concession Commission (PPCC)	How many bids did the Commission preside over in 2009?	Unable to Submit
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	I request copies of the updates spatial report on Liberia for 2009.	Unable to Submit
The Legislature	Please provide the names of senators that attended all the plenary sessions in 2009.	Unable to Submit
The Presidency	I would like to know the cost by trip of how much of the Liberia tax payers' money was used to pay for the president's foreign trips between 2008 and 2009.	Oral Refusal
The General Auditing Commission (GAC)	I request a breakdown of the funding received by the GAC from both the government of Liberia and foreign donors between 2006 and 2009.	Mute Refusal

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 9	Outcomes
The Supreme Court	Which country in Liberia has the highest number of judges in the Supreme Court in the last ten years?	Transferred/ Referred
The National Elections Commission (NEC)	How much was given to NEC for the last general elections and how much was left unspent?	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Ten (R10) Findings; Illerate Person

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 10	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance (MOF)	How many persons did the Ministry of Finance recommend for prosecution for tax evasion between 2006 and 2009?	Oral Refusal
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	What is the total reserve of virgin forests in Liberia according to counties?	P a r t i a l Access
Public Procurement & C o n c e s s i o n Commission (PPCC)	Pleased provide details of the Ministry with the highest number of approved bids including details of cost for each bid.	Oral Refusal
Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS)	Please provide details of new geological findings in Liberia in 2009.	Unable to Submit
Ministry of Education (MOE)	Please provide a list of public and private schools in Liberia.	Oral Refusal
The General Auditing	Could you please provide me with the audits conducted by the GAC that were paid for by the audited institution?	Refusal to Accept
Commission (GAC) The Judiciary	Please provide the amount spent by the Judiciary to train defense counsels between 2008 and 2009.	Refusal to Accept

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Eleven (R11) Findings; Physically Challenged Person

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 11	Outcomes
Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC)	What was the total cost of bids approved for procurement in 2009?	Oral Refusal
The Presidency (Ministry of State)	How many bills did the President sign and how many did she veto between 2006 and 2009?	Mute Refusal
General Auditing Commission (GAC)	How many cases did the GAC recommend for investigation/prosecution in 2009?	Unable to Submit
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Please provide me with list of companies denied logging license between 2006 and 2009 and for what reason?	P a r t i a l Access
The Supreme Court	Provide the total number of electoral cases decided by the Supreme Court from 2006 to the present.	Mute Resufal
Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)	What was the amount spent on printing new bank notes by the Central Bank in 2008?	Mute Resufal
The Legislature	Please provide the names of senators that attended all the plenary sessions in 2009.	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Requester Twelve (R12) Findings; Unaffiliated Person

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 12	Outcomes
Ministry of Finance	Please provide me with the breakdown of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's annual real estate tax between 2006 and 2009.	Oral Refusal
Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC)	I request the total number of bids rejected in 2009 and the reasons for rejection.	P a r t i a l Access
Ministry of Education	I rejected the number of female and male students in both primary and secondary schools in the nation/s capital.	Unable to Submit
The Presidency	Which Commission/Committees consulted by the President between 2006 and 2009 have submitted their reports	Mute Refusal
The General Auditing Commission (GAC)	Please provide the financial audit of the Ministry of Defense between 2006 and 2009.	Transferred/ Referred
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Please provide a copy of the policy on reforestation in Liberia.	Unable to Submit

Requests and Requestors by Country

Ministry, Department, Agency/Institution	Questions Submitted by Requestor 12	Outcomes
The Legislature	Please provide a list of Public Hearing held by the Senate in 2009 specifying those that were not concluded.	P a r t i a l Access
Central Bank of Liberia	What is the total number of World Bank contracted person working in the Central Bank of Liberia?	M u t e Refusal
The Judiciary	How many cases of rape were registered and how many were prosecuted in 2009?	Unable to Submit



Media Rights Agenda (MRA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in August 1993 for the purpose of promoting and protecting press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria. MRA is registered in Nigeria, has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia.

MRA's programmes fall into four broad categories, namely: Litigation, Training, Research and Publications, and Advocacy, although its projects in these areas often overlapped. Its specific project activities include monitoring of attacks on the press, publication of reports on media issues, legislative lobbying, organizing seminars, conferences and workshops, research and litigation, particularly class actions and legal assistance to journalists who are physically attacked, arrested or detained, unjustly dismissed from their work or are harassed in other manners.

The Aims and Objectives of Media Rights Agenda are:

- a. to promote respect and recognition for press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria;
- b. to provide protection and support for journalists and writers engaged in the lawful pursuit of their professional duties;
- c. to promote the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity, training and conduct in the journalism profession; and
- d. to bring about a conducive social and legal atmosphere for the practice of journalism, and ensure the protection of the journalist's right not to be compelled to work against his or her conviction or disclose confidential sources of information.

Media Rights Agenda has an administrative structure made up of Trustees, the Executive Committee, Advisory Council and the Secretariat.

Executive Committee

Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director

Tunde Fagbohunlu, Director of Legal Services

Morenike Ransome-Kuti, Director of Research

Austin Agbonsuremi, Director of Publications

Eze Anaba, Director of Projects

Tive Denedo, Director of Campaigns

Angela Agoawike, Member

Ibim Semenitari, Member

Secretariat

Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director

Ayode Longe, Senior Programme Officer

Joseph Izibili, Programme Officer

Ekemini Francis, Programme Officer

Kingsley Aisagbonhi, Accountant

Oluwabunmi Bamişelu, Admin. Manager

Ronke Akogun, Secretary

John Gbadamosi, Administrative Assistant

Rose Aikhuele, Office Assistant

Mark Dakmi, Security

Media Rights Agenda

31/33 Ladipo Kasumu Street

Off Adeleke St., off Allen Avenue, Ikeja

P. O. Box 52113, Ikoyi

Lagos, Nigeria

Tel: 234-1-7616803

E-mail: pubs@mediarightsagenda.net

Web site: <http://www.mediारightsagenda.net>

