

Striking a balance: Disclosure and public interest

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Running order

- **Brief remarks**
- **Working groups**
- **Feedback**
- **Concluding remarks**
- **Q&A and suggestions**

Paragraph 4 of the Code of Conduct

You must not:

- a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where:

Paragraph 4 of the Code of Conduct

- i. you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
- ii. you are required by law to do so;
- iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
- iv. the disclosure is—
 - (aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - (bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or

Paragraph 4 of the Code of Conduct

- b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

Group work

- 30 minutes

Feedback

Scenario 1

Issues:

- is the information confidential?
- checking the story
- repeating the full story
- best advice is to pass information immediately on to Social Services
- potential breach

Scenario 2

Issues:

- does sensitive equal confidential?
- FOIA issues in favour of disclosure.
- FOIA issues against disclosure.
- decision making processes
- defamation

Scenario 3

Issues:

- is the information confidential?
- fears of corruption
- promise from the journalist
- should the journalist have been shown everything?

Concluding remarks

Any questions?

Suggestions

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