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Freedom of the Press Act 1766 (สวีเดน)

Chapter 2 Art. 2 The right of access to official documents may be restricted only if restriction is necessary having regard to

- 1.the security of the Realm or its relations with another state or international organization;
- 2.the central fiscal, monetary or currency policy of the Realm;
- 3.the inspection, control or other supervisory activities of a public authority;
- 4.the interest of preventing or prosecuting crime;
- 5.the economic interest of the public institutions;
- 6.the protection of the personal or economic circumstances of private subjects;
- 7.the preservation of animal or plant species.

Any restriction of the right of access to official documents shall be scrupulously specified in the provisions of a special act of law, or, if this is deemed more appropriate in a particular case, in another act of law to which the special act refers. With authority in such provisions, the Government may however issue more precise provisions for its application in a statutory instrument.

The provisions of paragraph two notwithstanding, the Riksdag or the Government may be empowered, in a regulation under paragraph two, to permit the release of a particular document, having regard to the circumstances.

Chapter 2 Art. 3 Document shall be understood to mean any written or pictorial matter or recording which may be read, listened to, or otherwise comprehended only using technical aids. A document is official if it is held by a public authority, and if it can be deemed under Article 6 or 7 to have been received or drawn up by such an authority.

A recording under paragraph one shall be deemed to be held by a public authority, if it is available to the authority using technical aids, which the authority itself

employs, for communication in such form that it may be read, listened to, or otherwise comprehended. This does not however apply to a recording forming part of register of persons, if by law, or under a statutory instrument, or under a special decision taken by virtue of law, the public authority is not entitled to make the communication. Register of persons shall be understood to mean any register, list, or other record containing information concerning a private person which can be related back to that person.

Chapter 2 Art. 5 The Riksdag and any local government assembly vested with decision-making powers shall be equated with a public authority for the purposes of this Chapter.

Chapter 2 Art. 6 A document shall be deemed to have been received by a public authority when it has arrived at the authority or is in the hands of a competent official. A recording under Article 3, paragraph one, shall be deemed instead to have been received by the authority when it has been made available to the authority by another in the manner indicated in Article 3, paragraph two.

Competition documents, tenders and other such documents which it has been advertised shall be delivered under sealed cover shall be deemed not to have been received before the time appointed for their opening.

Measures taken solely as part of the technical processing or technical storage of a document which a public authority has made available shall not be construed to mean that the document has been received by the authority.

Chapter 2 Art. 7 A document shall be deemed to have been drawn up by a public authority when it has been dispatched. A document which has not been dispatched shall be deemed to have been drawn up when the matter or case to which it relates has been finally settled by the authority, or, if the document does not relate to a specific matter or case, when it has been finally checked and approved by the authority, or has otherwise received final form.

The provisions of paragraph one notwithstanding, a document of the nature referred to below shall be deemed to have been drawn up

1. in the case of a day-book, ledger, and such register or other list as is kept on an ongoing basis, when the document has been made ready for entry or registration;

2. in the case of a court ruling and other decision which shall be pronounced or dispatched under relevant provisions of law, and records and other documents insofar as they relate to such a decision, when the decision has been pronounced or dispatched;

3. in the case of other records and comparable memoranda held by a public authority, when the document has been finally checked and approved by the authority or has otherwise received final form, but not the records of Riksdag committees, the Parliamentary Auditor or auditors of local authorities, State commissions, or local authorities where they relate to a matter dealt with solely in order to prepare the matter for decision.

Chapter 2 Art. 12 An official document to which the public has access shall be made available on request forthwith, or as soon as possible, at the place where it is held, and free of charge, to any person wishing to examine it, in such form that it can be read, listened to, or otherwise comprehended. A document may also be copied, reproduced, or used for sound transmission. If a document cannot be made available without disclosure of such part of it as constitutes classified material, the rest of the document shall be made available to the applicant in the form of a transcript or copy.

A public authority is under no obligation to make a document available at the place where it is held, if this presents serious difficulty. Nor is there any such obligation in respect of a recording under Article 3, paragraph one, if the applicant can have access to the recording, without serious inconvenience, at a public authority in the vicinity.

Chapter 2 Art. 13 A person who wish to examine an official document shall also be entitled to obtain a transcript or copy of the document, or such part thereof as may be released, in return for a fixed fee. A public authority shall however be under no obligation to release a recording for automatic data processing in any form other than a printout. Nor shall there be any obligation to provide copies of maps, drawings, pictures, or any

recording under Article 3, paragraph one, other than in the manner indicated above, if this would present difficulty and the document can be made available at the place where it is held.

Requests for transcript or copies of official documents shall be dealt with promptly.

Chapter 2 Art. 14 A request to examine an official documents shall be made to the public authority which holds the document.

The request shall be examined and approval granted by the authority indicated in paragraph one. Where special grounds so warrant, it may however be provided in a regulation under Article 2, paragraph two, that in applying this regulation, examination and approval shall rest with another public authority. In the case of a document of central significance for the security of the Realm, it may also be laid down in a statutory instrument that only a particular authority shall be entitled to examine and approve questions relating to release. In the aforementioned cases, the request shall be referred forthwith to the competent authority.

No public authority shall be permitted to inquire into a person's identity on account of a request to examine an official document, or inquire into the purpose of his request, except insofar as such inquiry is necessary to enable the authority to judge whether there is any obstacle to the release of the document.

Chapter 2 Art. 15 Should anyone other than the Riksdag or the Government reject a request to examine an official document, or release such a document with a provision restricting the applicant's right to disclose its contents or otherwise dispose over it, the applicant may appeal against the decision. An appeal against a decision by a minister shall be lodged with the Government, and an appeal against a decision by another authority shall be lodged with a court of law.

The act referred to in Article 2 shall set out more precisely how an appeal against a decision under paragraph one shall be lodged. Such an appeal shall always be examined promptly.

Special provisions apply to the right to appeal against decisions by authorities under the Riksdag.

Chapter 2 Art. 17 In applying Articles 12 to 16, the Church of Sweden and any part of its organization shall be equated with a public authority in respect of documents so transferred.

Chapter 14 Art. 5 Except as otherwise provided in this Act or elsewhere in law, foreign nationals shall be equated with Swedish citizens.