

## NEW BILL TO STRENGTHEN THE UK FOIA

*UK Freedom of Information Blog*  
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As a counter-move to a recent attempt to limit the UK FOIA, Liberal Democrat Local Government Spokesman Tom Brake MP is to press for tougher Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation through a bill scheduled for a second reading in Parliament on Friday 15 June.

The Freedom of Information (Amendment) (No 2) bill, which is also sponsored by key FOI campaigners Norman Baker MP and Simon Hughes MP, will seek to remove the veto which allows ministers to overrule the Information Commissioner and Information Tribunal. It will also introduce a time limit for responses to public interest FOI requests.

The Bill will also try to bring school academies and large private contractors working for public authorities within the scope of the FOI legislation.

Tom Brake said, "This Bill will give MPs an opportunity to prove that, after the debacle of just a few weeks ago over David Maclean's Bill, we are serious about strengthening FOI legislation."

"Members must show that they will take a firm stand against any attempts to water down existing legislation."

Source: <http://foia.blogspot.com/>