

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

TRANSPARENCY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

This is the third of a series of free transparency-related Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Webinars organised by the School of Law of the Cyprus Campus of the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan Cyprus) in association with the British High Commission in Nicosia.

Date Thursday 4 November 2021 | **Time** 18:00-20:00 Cyprus time (i.e. 16:00-18:00 UK time)

Venue Online via Microsoft Teams (Details will follow after registration)

THE GENERAL AIMS OF THE SERIES

On 22 December 2020, the Law on the Right of Access to Public Sector Information 2017 (Ο περί του Δικαιώματος Πρόσβασης σε Πληροφορίες του Δημοσίου Τομέα Νόμος του 2017) came into force in the Republic of Cyprus. The Law, which is available in Greek on the Cylaw website of the Cyprus Bar Association www.cylaw.org/nomoi/index-es/2017_I_184.html has deep implications for the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, the wider public sector, the general public and the legal profession of the Republic of Cyprus. With this Law in mind, one general aim of the series is to promote greater public awareness of what is meant by transparency, open justice, access to public sector information and related principles. A second general aim is to reflect upon the British experience of applying these principles in practice.

THE SPECIFIC AIMS OF THE WEBINAR

This webinar rests on two inter-twined premises. One is that transparency is an essential element of good governance as well as effectiveness and efficiency in the executive branch of government and in the wider public sector of every state. The second is that, in common with other states, the Republic of Cyprus requires a profound change in culture so that much greater emphasis is placed on both the stamping out of corruption and the promotion of transparency (as well as accountability). Bearing in mind the membership of the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Cyprus in the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption, both of these premises reflect the emphasis placed on transparency by a number of texts. These include the UN Convention Against Corruption of 2003, the 12 Principles of Good Governance adopted by the Council of Europe in 2008, the Commonwealth Charter of 2013 and the UN Economic & Social Council's Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development of 2018. (These texts may be viewed at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/, www.coe.int/en/web/good-governance/12-principles, www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-commonwealth-charter and <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Intergovernmental-Support/CEPA/Principles-of-Effective-Governance> respectively.)

Against this backdrop, the Webinar will address a number of questions, notably the following:

- What is meant by ‘transparency’ and related concepts such as ‘freedom of information’, ‘open government’, ‘accountability’ and ‘good governance’?
- What was the historical background to the Law of the Republic of Cyprus on the Right of Access to Public Sector Information 2017 (‘the new Law’)?
- What are the main objectives and other features of the new Law?
- How does – and how should – the new Law work in practice?
- Is the new Law already ripe for reform?
- Can any lessons be drawn from the UK, such as those flowing from the corruption-related or transparency-related judgments of the courts of England & Wales and the Supreme Court of the UK?

CPD HOURS 2

PROGRAMME

18:00-18:15 Introduction by the Chair

Dr. Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, Deputy Head and Assistant Professor in Transitional Justice & Human Rights, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus (www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-hadjigeorgiou-nasia/)

18:15-18:30 Opening Remarks

Stephen Lillie CMG, British High Commissioner to Cyprus, (www.gov.uk/government/people/stephen-lillie)

18:30-19:00 Presentation by the Keynote Speaker

Andreas Pavlou, Senior Research Officer (Europe), Open Government Partnership, Washington DC (www.opengovpartnership.org/people/andreas-pavlou/)

19:00-19:30 Presentation by the Discussant

Dr. Klearchos A. Kyriakides, Senior Visiting Fellow, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus (www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-klearchos-kyriakides/)

19:30-20:00 Question-and-Answer session



TARGET AUDIENCE

This CPD Webinar is free and open to the general public, subject to prior registration. However, it is primarily aimed at ministers, civil servants, judges, other public servants, members of the legal profession, trainee lawyers, law students and journalists in the Republic of Cyprus, the UK and other parts of the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the wider world. The Webinar may also be of interest to others, including police officers, other law enforcement personnel and students from disciplines other than law, such as business studies and political science. The Webinar will be pitched at an intermediate level.

CERTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE FOR CPD PURPOSES

Participation may contribute to the CPD of members of the legal profession in England and Wales, the Republic of Cyprus and internationally. UCLan Cyprus, through its School of Law, is an accredited provider of CPD programmes under the relevant Cyprus Bar Association scheme. At the end of the Webinar, the participation of lawyers practising in the Republic of Cyprus will be certified in accordance with the CPD requirements of the Cyprus Bar Association. For the participation of any lawyer to be certified in this way, he or she must attend the whole of the Webinar. Within a few working days of the Webinar, other participants will receive, by email, an electronic Certificate of Participation.

LANGUAGE

English

ORGANISER

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REGISTRATION

Admission is free, but registration is essential. To register to attend the Webinar, please [click here](#). The running of the Webinar is subject to a satisfactory number of participants booking their place as soon as reasonably possible. Accordingly, participants who wish to attend are kindly requested to book their places promptly and, in any event, not later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time.

NOTICE

Each Webinar in this CPD Series will be recorded and disseminated publicly subject to the Policies of UCLan Cyprus, including its Privacy and GDPR Policy. Consent from participants will be sought. Recordings and any related materials will be published on the Rule of Law Monitoring Mechanism platform of the School of Law, UCLan Cyprus (which is hosted at <https://lawblog.uclancyprus.ac.cy/rolmm/>). In each Webinar, each speaker and other participant will take part for educational purposes in an educational setting. Accordingly, what each participant will provide verbally, electronically or otherwise must not be accepted or interpreted as either legal advice or any other form of advice. (<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/data-protection-policy/>)

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