

## **CASE SUMMARY**

**Case reference: 700-0708017**

**Decision dated: 13 September 2007**

### **Ogilvie and Southern Midlands Council**

Case 0708017 required me to determine whether a Journalist was entitled, under the FOI Act, to information in the possession of Southern Midlands Council relating to residential renovations and building works at the home of the Premier. The Council released the majority of the information requested but deleted material from 6 documents under s 30 (the exemption for information affecting personal privacy) of the FOI Act. The information at issue consisted of the value of the building work, private telephone and email addresses, the amount of the insurance premium paid, and the name and address of third parties the Council consulted during the building process.

I was satisfied that the information at issue could be properly characterised as information falling within the meaning of the expression "*personal affairs*" in s 30 of the Act. It was contended during the external review process that "*there (was) clearly a strong public interest in this type of spending by members of parliament*", but the information deleted did not relate to the spending of taxpayers' money, which could be sufficient to justify disclosure on general public interest grounds. Rather the information concerned private matters about residential building improvements, which in the circumstances of this matter I was satisfied that it would be unreasonable to release.