

**NOTICE OF MOTION - OPEN GOVERNMENT?** *(as referred by the Civic Mayor to the Transformation and Resources Policy and Performance Committee)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
**Seconded** by Councillor Chris Carubia

This Council recognises that the Information Commissioner's Office, as the independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest and to promote openness by public bodies, upheld 13 complaints against Wirral Council in the past year.

Of the 18 notices issued between 29 September 2014 and 24 August 2015, the majority (72%) of complaints were upheld.

Council believes that this is a matter for concern, requiring an explanation to its Members. Council requests that lessons should be learned and applied from these decisions and questions whether Officers have been excessively cautious or defensive in their interpretation of the legislation.

Council, therefore, requests that the legislation is approached with greater regard to the 'public interest test' so that the risk of further reputational damage to Wirral can be reduced.