

ACCESS TO FACILITY-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION



JAMAICA

Jamaica has enacted the [Access to Information Act \(Act 21 of 2002\)](#). The law follows the basic international framework.

“Under the Jamaican Access to Information Act, for example, an official document is defined as a document in the possession, custody or control of a public authority, which means a ministry, department, executive agency or other agency of the Government, a statutory body or authority, a government company or any other body or organization which provides public services essential to the welfare of the Jamaican society. The Act stipulates that a public authority must respond to an application as soon as practicable but not later than 30 days from the date of receipt. Access may be granted in different forms, including by enabling inspection of the document or providing copies, audiovisual reproduction or transcripts thereof.” Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, [“Ensuring environmental access rights in the Caribbean.”](#) (UN 2018), p.23.

Exemptions include if disclosure would “prejudice- (i) the conduct of an investigation of a breach or possible breach of the law; or (ii) the fair trial of any person or the impartial adjudication of a particular case.” Part III, sec. 16. Exemptions also cover confidential sources – Sec.16(c) - and confidential methods – Sec. 16(d).

These exemptions apparently have not been interpreted in court decisions but would likely follow the international cases that have allowed disclosure of closed cases or information already in the possession of the enforcement target.

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