In relation to ensuring that the public has effective access to information (article 13(1)(b)):
- Legislation, regulations, policies and procedures regarding public access to information through ICT, such as online platforms, including details regarding:
  - Means by which requests may be submitted (in writing, via Internet, by telephone);
  - The types of bodies required to publish information;
  - The scope of the information published;
  - Any information that must be submitted by the requester as part of the request for information;
  - Costs charged to submit a request;
  - Applicable time limits within which the Government must respond to the request;
  - Grounds on which a request by a member of the public for information may be denied;

The Freedom of Information Law facilitates public access to government documents (subject to certain limitations). Additionally, administrative and local annual working plans are regularly published online by local and state authorities, enabling greater transparency on both the local and national government authorities. The law enhances the public's ability to monitor and the management of public affairs.

In accordance with a government resolution 3573 of April 2005 and with an Accountant General directive, all government ministries must include the gov.il portal logo and URL (www.gov.il) in all official publications (documents, envelopes, payment vouchers, etc.). Additionally, Israel set up a website "shituf.gov.il" ("shituf" means "sharing" or "participation" in Hebrew), to facilitate public participation in decision making, and is part of the Israel E-Government project, aimed at strengthening connections between the citizens and the government by improving both the level of accessibility of public authorities and the transparency of their actions. The website features, for example, proposed legislation and reports published by government ministries. The gov.il website consolidates the online services and information provided by various Israeli government bodies.

The Freedom of Information Unit (subordinate to the Ministry of Justice) was established in 2011 in order to raise awareness, explain and promote the implementation of the Freedom of Information Law, as well as to increase the quantity and the quality of information that will be published for the public. The Freedom of Information Unit manages a comprehensive website (http://www.justice.gov.il/En/Units/FreedomInformation/Pages/AboutTheFreedomOfInformationUnit.aspx) that includes information regarding the Freedom of Information Law, the powers of the Freedom of Information Unit, laws and regulations and other widely accessible information to ensure the public is informed.

The public is able to lodge online requests for information to approximately 500 different public authorities. Some answers to requests for information (taking into consideration privacy interests), are published online. A request for information can be lodged by any
means, provided it is in writing. The person requesting information does not need to detail the purpose of the request. The request must include the applicant's contact details so that the public authority is able to respond. The request should also state whether the person filing it is an Israeli citizen or resident (only citizens or residents are able to request information, unless a non-citizen non-resident is requesting information about himself or herself). The application costs approximately 20 NIS (approximately 4.50 Euro) and there are several exemptions from payment. In circumstances where the request for information necessitates more extensive work by the government department in order to respond, the applicant may need to pay an additional cost to cover the relevant overhead expenses. The government must respond to the request within 30 days (an extension can be granted in special circumstances). There are 20 grounds upon which a request by a member of the public for information can be denied – the main grounds being a breach of privacy, a security threat, protection of commercial secrets, and an unreasonable expenditure of resources in order to fulfill the request. The Freedom of Information Law requires each public authority to appoint a focal point responsible for responding to requests for information. Failure to provide information as required by the Freedom of Information Law is grounds for an administrative petition.

The Freedom of Information Unit is empowered, among other things, to investigate complaints against government ministries and auxiliary units, on the following matters:

- Failure to publish annual reports in a timely manner
- Failure to publish information that the authority is required to publish under the Freedom of Information Law (administrative guidelines and environmental information) without duly giving reasons
- Failure to respond to request for information by the time set therefor in the Freedom of Information Law
- Denial of a request for information without providing an explanation
- Manner of calculation of fees

In addition, pursuant to Government Resolution 2950 (06/03/2011), the Freedom of Information Unit has the power to issue guidelines to government ministries and auxiliary units for correcting any failures to implement the provisions of the Freedom of Information Law. This can be done after the relevant authority has been afforded the opportunity to voice its position.

- **Description of steps taken to ensure that existing laws, regulations, policies and procedures regarding access to information are widely known and accessible to the public;**

Complementing the website, the Freedom of Information Unit manages an active Facebook page and runs radio and television campaigns. All of these mediums are used for the purpose of increasing awareness of the public to their right to information. The Israeli Police have a Cyber Unit that is also active in the prevention of and fight against corruption. The Cyber Unit investigates particularly sophisticated cyber crimes against national infrastructure and financial institutions, the dissemination of computerized viruses and cyber extortion.
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The Freedom of Information Law, 1998 facilitates public access to government documents (subject to certain limitations). The law enhances public power and ability to review and control the management of public affairs. Additionally, administrative and local annual working plans are regularly published online by local and state authorities, enabling greater transparency and control on both the local and national government authorities.

In addition to the public websites, a growing number of government and local authorities make use of online social media such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, to communicate with the public.

The Israel Freedom of Information Act, 1998, establishes the right of the public to seek and receive information from government authorities, including on matters related to corruption. The Act is made public online on various government web sites, including details on the procedures for filing a request for information pursuant to its provisions.