



SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	2
MISSION AND VISION OR MANDATE OF THE ORGANISATION	3
ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS	3
CHALLENGES.....	7
RECOMMENDATIONS	7

INFORMATION COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

The Seychelles Qualifications Authority functions through the SQA Act 2021 and is mandated to establish and implement a National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The framework is a set of regulations and policies that would guide all public and private education and training providers in the country about the requirements and conditions to be fulfilled before they are pronounced fit and able to deliver programmes. These programmes would then be nationally recognized by the Authority and designed in a way that allows learners to have access to education and training without hindrances. For the SQA to carry out this mandate, a robust Quality Assurance System has been developed through consultation with relevant stakeholders. There are various pillars on which the qualifications framework stands, among which are Quality Assurance and Standards Setting. These should work together to safeguard the interest of learners and ensure providers offer training that is up to the required standard.

The main responsibility of the standards Setting Unit is to develop together with industries, unit standards for the qualifications being offered in the different professional centres. This will ensure harmonization and quality in the qualifications being offered and also easy access and mobility for learners.

The person designated as Information Officer at the Seychelles Qualifications Authority is Ms. Hilda Bertin and I have been in this post since July 2018 at the time the Access to Information Act was enacted.

MISSION AND VISION OR MANDATE OF THE ORGANISATION

Vision of the SQA

A credible, valued and efficient organization which, as custodian of a high quality national qualifications framework puts the needs of learners at the centre of an open, responsive and integrated qualifications system which recognizes their competencies and enables them to develop to their fullest potential.

Mission of the SQA

To develop and enhance a national qualifications framework that elevates and recognizes competencies whilst promoting quality education and training.

**Delete where applicable*

ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

SR No	ATI ACT REQUIREMENTS	No
1)	The total number of ATI requests for access received;	None
2)	<u>TYPE OF INFORMATION</u>	
	The number of requests for personal information	N/A
	The number of request for public domain information	Six
	The number of request for third party information	N/A
	The number of request for commercial and confidential Information	N/A
	The number of request for law enforcement information	N/A
	The number of request for privileged documents	N/A
	The number of request for protection of life and safety of an individual information	N/A

	The number of request for National Security and defence	N/A
	The number of request for International relations	N/A
	The number of request for Economic interest of the state	N/A
	The number of request for Academic or professional examination and recruitment process information	N/A
	The number of request for proposal submitted to Cabinet	N/A
3)	The number of requests for access granted in full;	Six
4)	The number of requests for access refuse in full;	N/A
	The number of requests for access refuse in part;	N/A
5)	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in full;	N/A
	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in part;	N/A
6)	The number of cases in which the periods stipulated in section 11 were extended in terms of section 12;	N/A
7)	The number of review applications lodged with the head of the information holder;	N/A
8)	The number of reviews lodged on the ground that a request for access was regarded as having been refused in terms of section 14;	N/A
9)	The number of cases in which, as a result of a review, access was given to information;	N/A
10)	The number of request transferred to another Public Body	N/A
11)	The number of request abandoned after request	N/A
12)	The number of request but no records exist	N/A

**Where is not applicable insert "0" or "N/A"*

- I. A description of the steps or efforts taken by the head of the body to encourage all officers of that body to comply with the provisions of this Act;

The head of the SQA continues to update its website with new information and inform all officers to provide updates from their respective units. All officers are encouraged to respond promptly to public request and copy the CEO at all times, whilst keeping electronic and physical records of all correspondences.

INFORMATION COMMISSION

	II. Any facts which indicate an effort by the body to administer and implement the spirit and intention of the Act according to its submitted plan; The head of the SQA continues to update its website with new information and inform all officers to provide updates from their respective units. A newsletter is released annually to inform the public of the activities of the authority. The SQA remains accessible to the public for information via its website, office and also its face book page. As part of its communication strategy the SQA launched a Client Satisfaction survey in 2023 to assess the level of service it is providing to the public. This will help the authority to identify the gaps and make the necessary adjustments to improve on our services.
	III. Particulars of any penalties imposed against any person under this Act; YES ☐ NO ☒ (If yes, list down)
	IV. Particulars of any disciplinary action taken against any person under this Act; YES ☐ NO ☒ (If yes, list down)

CHALLENGES

- *Particulars of any difficulties encountered in the implementation of this Act in terms of the operation of the body, including issues of staffing and cost. This also should include the challenges you encounter as an Information Officer.*

The main challenges while implementing this act come when we have to request for information from an external body regarding accreditation status of an educational institution. It is not always possible to remain within the designated time frame as it does not depend on our organisation alone. Therefore we can face unexpected delays while we wait for a response from the designated authority in another country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Recommendations for reform, or amendment of this Act, other legislation, or practice relevant to the optimal realisation of the objectives of this Act.*

Continued sensitization of the public on the importance of access to information.

Encouragement of the different bodies offering services to continually update the information on their respective website so as to facilitate dissemination of information and easy access to the public.

Encouragement of the different bodies to be proactive and to use the various electronic and media platforms to continually reach out to members of the public with information on their respective functions.

Closer networking among information officers to help deal with the new challenges facing our nation, that is availability of reliable and accurate information. Having the right information at the right time can help bring solutions and even save lives. More than ever it is essential that the correct information is made available to the public.

1) DECLARATION

I declare that in accordance to Section 54 of the Access to Information, Act 2018, the Annual Report are to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete as per the requirements.

HINDA BERTIN

Name of Information Officer

[Signature]

Signature

13 Feb 2024

Date

I confirm that this Annual Report is verified and true, accurate and complete to my knowledge as the Head of Information Holder of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority on the date stated below.

Fiona Ernesta

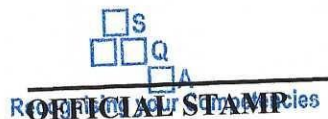
Name of Head of Information Holder

[Signature]

Signature

Dated this 13th day of February, 2024

SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS
AUTHORITY



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