

Manual Of Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd (Private Body)

Prepared and compiled on 2022-02-15 in accordance with Section 51 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, No 2 of 2000 (as amended) in respect of Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd.

Registration number: 1997/020323/07

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1. INTRODUCTION

Bioss International (Southern Africa) (Pty) Limited trading as Bioss Southern Africa conducts business as a niche consultancy focused on improving organisational and people effectiveness. We are an industry expert, ready to assist any client in Psychometric and Capability Assessments, Talent Management, Change Management and Structural and Talent Analytics

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2. THE ACT

The Promotion of Access to Information Act, No 2 of 2000 ("The Act") was enacted on 3 February 2000, giving effect to the right of access to any information held by Government, as well as any information held by another person who is required for the exercising or protection of any rights. This right is entrenched in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of South Africa. Where a request is made in terms of The Act, the body to which the request is made is not obliged to release the information, except where The Act expressly provides that the information may or must be released. The Act sets out the requisite procedural issues attached to such request.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL

In order to promote effective governance of private bodies, it is necessary to ensure that everyone is empowered and educated to understand their rights in terms of The Act in order for them to exercise their rights in relation to public and private bodies.

Section 9 of The Act, however, recognizes that such right to access to information cannot be unlimited and should be subject to justifiable limitations, including, but not limited to:

- Limitations aimed at the reasonable protection of privacy;
- Commercial confidentiality; and
- Effective, efficient and good governance

And in a manner that balances that right with any other rights, including such rights contained in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution.

Wherever reference is made to "Private Body" in this manual, it will refer to Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd.

This PAIA Manual assist you to-

- 3.1 check the categories of records held by Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd which are available without a person having to submit a formal PAIA request;
- 3.2 have a sufficient understanding of how to make a request for access to a record of Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd, by providing a description of the subjects on which Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd holds records and the categories of records held on each subject;
- 3.3 know the description of the records of Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd which are available in accordance with any other legislation;
- 3.4 access all the relevant contact details of the Information Officer and Deputy Information Officer who will assist you with the records you intend to access;
- 3.5 know the description of the guide on how to use PAIA, as updated by the Regulator and how to obtain access to it;
- 3.6 know if Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd will process personal information, the purpose of processing of personal information and the description of the categories of data subjects and of the information or categories of information relating thereto;
- 3.7 know the description of the categories of data subjects and of the information or categories of information relating thereto;
- 3.8 know the recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal information may be supplied;
- 3.9 know if Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd has planned to transfer or process personal information outside the Republic of South Africa and the recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal information may be supplied; and
- 3.10 know whether Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd has appropriate security measures to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the personal information which is to be processed.

4. CONTACT DETAILS:

Information Officer:
Sonia Pereira Jardim

sonia@biooss.com

011 450 2434

Postal Address:
Postnet Suite 146
Private Bag X782

Physical Address:
24 Lucas Lane
Bedfordview
Johannesburg Bedfordview 2008

Telephone No:
011 450 2434

E-mail:
info@biooss.com

Deputy Information Officer:

Name Surname: Marlene Cuisick

Telephone number: 021 782 9977

Email address: marlene@biooss.com

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name of **Private Body:**

Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd

Registration No:
1997/020323/07

Postal Address:
Postnet Suite 146
Private Bag X782

Physical Address (or principal place of business):
24 Lucas Lane
Bedfordview
Johannesburg Bedfordview 2008

Telephone No:
011 450 2434

E-mail:
info@bioss.com

Website:
www.bioss.co.za

5. GUIDE ON HOW TO USE PAIA AND HOW TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE GUIDE

- 5.1. The Regulator has, in terms of section 10(1) of PAIA, as amended, updated and made available the revised Guide on how to use PAIA ("Guide"), in an easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by a person who wishes to exercise any right contemplated in PAIA and POPIA.
- 5.2. The Guide is available in each of the official languages and in braille.
- 5.3. The aforesaid Guide contains the description of-
 - 5.3.1. the objects of PAIA and POPIA;

- 5.3.2. the postal and street address, phone and fax number and, if available, electronic mail address of-
 - 5.3.2.1 the Information Officer of every public body, and
 - 5.3.2.2 every Deputy Information Officer of every public and private body designated in terms of section 17(1) of PAIA and section 56 of POPIA;
- 5.3.3 the manner and form of a request for-
 - 5.3.3.1 access to a record of a public body contemplated in section 11 of PAIA; and
 - 5.3.3.2 access to a record of a private body contemplated in section 50 of PAIA;
- 5.3.4 the assistance available from the IO of a public body in terms of PAIA and POPIA;
- 5.3.5 the assistance available from the Regulator in terms of PAIA and POPIA;
- 5.3.6 all remedies in law available regarding an act or failure to act in respect of a right or duty conferred or imposed by PAIA and POPIA, including the manner of lodging-
 - 5.3.6.1 an internal appeal;
 - 5.3.6.2 a complaint to the Regulator; and
 - 5.3.6.3 an application with a court against a decision by the information officer of a public body, a decision on internal appeal or a decision by the Regulator or a decision of the head of a private body;
- 5.3.7 the provisions of sections 14 and 51 of PAIA requiring a public body and private body, respectively, to compile a manual, and how to obtain access to a manual;
- 5.3.8 the provisions of sections 15 and 52 of PAIA providing for the voluntary disclosure of categories of records by a public body and private body, respectively;

- 5.3.9 the notices issued in terms of sections 22 and 54 of PAIA regarding fees to be paid in relation to requests for access; and
- 5.3.10 the regulations made in terms of section 92 of PAIA.
- 5.4 Members of the public can inspect or make copies of the Guide from the offices of the public and private bodies, including the office of the Regulator, during normal working hours.
- 5.5 The Guide can also be obtained-
 - 5.5.1 upon request to the Information Officer;
 - 5.5.2 from the website of the Regulator (<https://www.justice.gov.za/infoereg/>).
- 5.6 A copy of the Guide is also available in two official languages, for public inspection during normal office hours.

6. RECORDS AUTOMATICALLY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

A section 52(2) notice regarding the categories of records, which are available without a person having to request access in terms of the Act, has to date not been published.

7. RECORDS OF THE PRIVATE BODY

This clause serves as a reference to the records that the **Private Body** holds in order to facilitate a request in terms of **The Act**.

The information is classified and grouped according to records relating to the following subject and categories: It is recorded that the accessibility of the documents listed herein below, may be subject to the grounds of refusal set out hereinafter.

Administration

- Correspondence
- Founding Documents
- Licences (categories)
- Minutes of Management Meetings
- Shareholder Register
- Statutory Returns

Human Resources

- Employee Records
- Employment Contracts
- Employment Equity Records
- General Correspondence
- Performance Appraisals
- Personnel Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

Remuneration Records and Policies
Statutory Records
Training Records

Operations

Brochures on Company Information
Client and Customer Registry
Contracts
General Correspondence

Finances

Annual Financial Statements
Asset Register
Banking Records
Contracts
Financial Transactions
General Correspondence
Insurance Information
Management Accounts
Tax Records (company and employee)

Information Technology

IT Policies and Procedures
User Manuals

8. RECORDS REQUIRED IN TERMS OF LEGISLATION

Records are kept in accordance with legislation applicable to Bioss International Southern Africa Pty Ltd, which includes but is not limited to, the following –

Statutory Records:

At present these include records (if any) held in terms of:
Basic Conditions of Employment 75 of 1997
Companies Act 71 of 2008
Currency and Exchanges Act 9 of 1933
Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998
Income Tax Act 95 of 1967
Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995
Skills Development Levies Act 9 of 1999
Skills Development Act 97 of 1998

Reference to the above-mentioned legislation shall include subsequent amendments and secondary legislation to such legislation.

9. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

9.1 Purpose of Processing Personal Information

We will use your personal information only for the purposes for which it was collected and agreed with you. In addition, your information may be retained for research, assessment storage, legal or user experience optimisation purposes, enabling us to provide you with an enhanced assessment experience.

To gather contact information;

To confirm your eligibility for the specific assessment process in question;

To conduct customer satisfaction research or for statistical analysis;

For audit and record keeping purposes;

For research purposes.

To enable our global users to provide information and feedback to participants, either as individuals, or in management development programmes run by trained and accredited Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Associates and company or organisation HR professionals.

Where you have expressly consented, to inform and support a selection process. When your personal information is used in this way, questionnaire data will always be interpreted by a trained Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Associate and never handed directly to those responsible for the selection process.

To understand the development of strategic decision making and leadership which forms part of a long-term research project, the results of which are constantly fed back to refine and develop our assessment instruments.

In terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), the justification grounds on which we base our processing on consists of the following:

- The data subject or a competent person where the data subject is a child consents to the processing. Kindly note that you have the right to withdraw your consent;
 - The processing is necessary to carry out actions for the conclusion or performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party;
 - The processing complies with an obligation imposed by law on the business;
 - The processing protects a legitimate interest of the data subject;
 - The processing is necessary for the proper performance of a public law duty by the business;
- Or
- The processing is necessary for pursuing the legitimate interests of the business or of a third party to whom the information is supplied.

9.2 Description of the categories of Data Subjects and of the information or categories of information relating thereto

Categories of Data Subjects	Personal Information that may be processed
Customers / Clients	name, address, registration numbers or identity numbers, employment status and bank details
Service Providers	names, registration number, vat numbers, address, trade secrets and bank details
Employees	address, qualifications, gender and race

Candidates	name, address, registration numbers or identity numbers, highest qualification, race, gender, current role
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9.3 The recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal information may be supplied

Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd will only disclose your personal information and results to trained and accredited Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Associates, all of whom are bound by contract to comply with the POPIA.

These Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Associates may in turn disclose your personal information and results to the organisation you work for or are applying for a position at under arrangements made between you, the Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Associate and the organisation concerned.

If you are completing your assessments in South Africa but are working for a company based outside South Africa or for an international organisation, your data may be transferred to that company or organisation under arrangements made between the Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Associate and the company/organisation concerned.

Please note that Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd does not use your personal information for marketing and will not release your personal information and/or results to any other person or entity without first obtaining your permission.

9.4 Planned transborder flows of personal information

The data from Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd assessments that are hosted on our online database are held in the UK and USA under secure arrangements. Further details of our server and network security can be provided on request.

Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd maintains secure data storage in the UK and the Republic of Cyprus. Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd and all Bioss Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd EDAC staff are registered with the Data Protection authorities as required.

9.5 General description of Information Security Measures to be implemented by the responsible party to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the information

Next generation anti-virus software (e-set) has been implemented on all desktops, laptops and office-based server and kept up to date as per the software providers' recommendations.

Security related patches and updates are applied on **Sensitive systems** within 3 (three) months of release by the provider.

Password controls have been implemented on company server. These controls include:

Password length of at least 10 (ten) characters.

User account passwords changed at least every 120 (one hundred and twenty) days

Passwords prevented from being reused for at least 5 password changes.

User accounts configured to lockout because of at most 10 (ten) failed authentication attempts.

User privileges for users with access to **Sensitive systems** and **Sensitive information** are revoked within thirty (30) days of termination of employment.

Resiliency controls including:

Documented disaster recovery and business continuity plans.

Generate off-site backups daily

Next generation firewalls with geo-location blocking configured to restrict access to digitally stored Sensitive information.

Generally accepted vulnerable network protocols are secured via disabling/blocking on the firewall or where required restricted based on IP address and/or to secured areas.

The system and/or activity logs for all Sensitive systems including firewalls and Active Directory as implemented in the server environment are stored for a minimum period of 6 (six) months.

10. REQUEST PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION

Access to records held by the PRIVATE BODY

Records held by the **Private Body** may be accessed by request only once the prerequisites for access have been met.

The requester must fulfil the prerequisites for access in terms of **The Act**, including the payment of a requested access fee.

The requester must comply with all the procedural requirements contained in **The Act** relating to the request for access to a record.

The requester must complete the prescribed Form and submit same as well as payment of a request fee and a deposit, if applicable, to the Information Officer at the postal or physical address, fax number or electronic mail address as stated herein.

The prescribed form must be filled in with enough particulars to at least enable the Information Officer to identify –

- The record or records requested;
- The identity of the requester,
- Which form of access is required, if the request is granted;
- The postal address or fax number or email address of the requester.

The requester must state that he/she requires the information in order to exercise or protect a right, and clearly state what the nature of the right to be exercised or protected is. In addition, the requester must clearly specify why the record is necessary to exercise or protect such a right.

The **Private Body** will process the request within 30 days, unless the requester has stated a special reason that would satisfy the Information Officer that circumstances dictate that the above time periods are not complied with.

The requester shall be informed whether access has been granted or denied. If, in addition, the requester requires the reason for the decision in any other manner, he / she must state the manner and the particulars so required.

If a request is made on behalf of another person, then the requester must submit proof of the capacity in which the requesters making the request, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Information Officer.

If an individual is unable to complete the prescribed form because of illiteracy or disability, such a person may make the request orally.

The requester must pay the prescribed fee before any further processing can take place.

11. FEES

When the Information Officer receives the request, such Officer shall by notice require the requester to pay the prescribed request fee (if any), before any further processing of the request.

If the search for the record has been made in the preparation of the record for disclosure, including arrangements to make it available in the requested form, and it requires more than the hours prescribed in the regulation for this purpose, the Information Officer shall notify the requester to pay as a deposit the prescribed portion of the access fee which would be payable if the request is granted.

The Information Officer shall withhold a record until the requester has paid the Fees as indicated.

A requester, whose request for access to a record has been granted, must pay an access fee for reproduction and for search and preparation, and for any time reasonably required in excess of the prescribed hours to search for and prepare the record for disclosure, including making arrangements to make it available in the requested form.

If a deposit has been paid in respect of a request for access, which is refused, then the Information Officer concerned must repay the deposit to the requester.

12. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The main grounds for the **Private Body** to refuse a request for information relates to the:

Mandatory protection of the privacy of a third party that is a natural person that would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information of that natural person;

Mandatory protection of the commercial information of a third party, if the record contains:

- Trade secrets of that third party;
- Financial, commercial, scientific or technical information, disclosure of which could likely cause harm to the financial or commercial interests of that third party;
- Information disclosed in confidence by a third party to the Private Body, if the disclosure could put that third party at a disadvantage in negotiations or commercial competition

Mandatory protection of confidential information of third parties if it is protected in terms of any agreement;

Mandatory protection of confidential information of the protection of property;

Mandatory protection of records that would be regarded as privileged in legal proceedings;

The commercial activities of the **Private Body**, which may include:

- Trade secrets of the **Private Body**;
- Financial, commercial, scientific or technical information, disclosure which could likely cause harm to the financial or commercial interest of the **Private Body**;
- Information which, if disclosed could put the **Private Body** at a disadvantage in negotiations or commercial competition;
- A computer program, owned by the **Private Body**, and protected by copyright.

The research information of the **Private Body** or a third party, if its disclosure would reveal the identity or the **Private Body**, the researcher or the subject matter of the research and would place the research at a serious disadvantage;

Requests for information that are clearly frivolous or vexatious, or which would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources shall be refused.

13. DECISION

The **Private Body** will within 30 days of receipt of the request, decide whether to grant or decline the request and give notice with reasons (if required) to that effect.

The 30 day period within which the **Private Body** has to decide whether to grant or refuse the request, may be extended for further period of not more than thirty days if the request is for a large amount of information, or the request requires a search for information held at another office of the **Private Body** and the information cannot reasonably be obtained within the original 30 day period. The **Private Body** will notify the requester in writing should an extension be sought.

AVAILABILITY OF THE MANUAL

The manual of the **Private Body** is available at the premises of the Private body as well as on the website of the **Private Body**.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____