

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF STOOL LANDS



Government of Ghana

Right to Information Manual

2023

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1. Overview

This Right to Information (RTI) Manual is pursuant to the provisions of the recently passed Act, (Act 989) by Parliament and assented to by the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo. The Act gives substance to the constitutional right to information provided under Article 21 (1) (f) of the Constitution, enabling citizens access to official information held by government institutions, and the qualifications and conditions under which the access may be obtained. In accordance with Section 80, the Act applies to information which came into existence before, or which will come into existence after the commencement of the Act.

1.1 Purpose of Manual – To inform/assist the public on the organizational structure, responsibilities and activities of the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) and provide the types of information and classes of information available at OASL, including the location and contact details of its Information Officers and units.

2. Directorates and Departments under OASL

This section describes the institution's vision and mission and lists the names of all Directorates and Departments under the institution, including the description of organizational structure, responsibilities, details of activities and classes and types of information accessible at a fee.

VISION

Excellent customary land administration for national development.

MISSION

We exist to maximize stool land revenue and facilitate sustainable administration and management of stools through modern technology for inter-generational equity.

Directorates and Departments under Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL)

1. Policy and Planning
2. Land Administration
3. Research and Statistics
4. General Administration and HR
5. Finance

Responsibilities of the Institution:

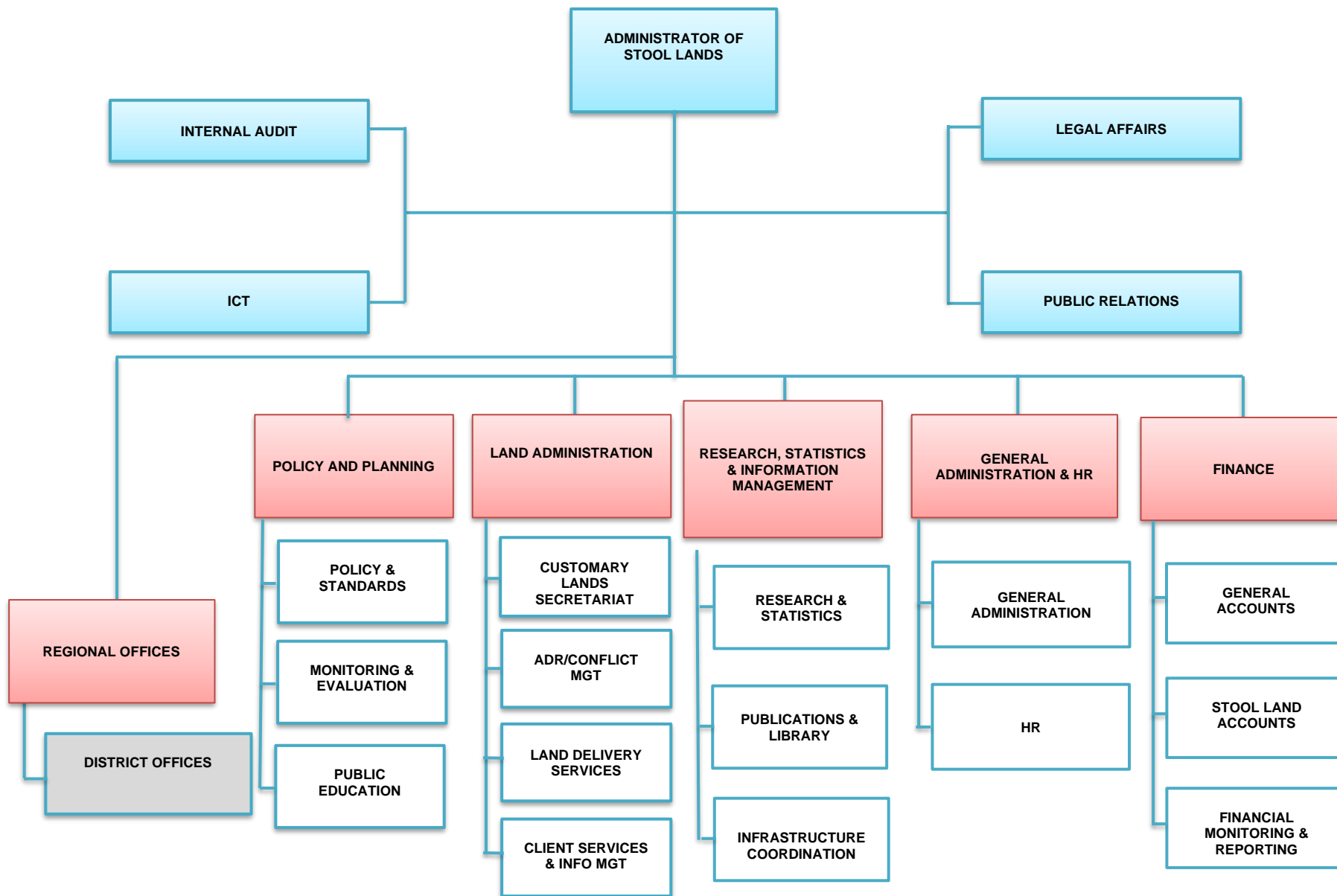
The office of the Administrator of Stool Lands was established to mobilize stool lands revenue and disburse same to stakeholders according to the formula enshrined in the Article 267 of the 1992 constitution, the Stool Lands Act, 1994 (Act 481) and OASL Regulations, 2019 (L.I 2377), Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036) and the Minerals and Mining (Ground Rent) Regulations, 2018 (L.I 2357).

2.1 Description of Activities of each Directorate and Department

Directorate/Department	Responsibilities/Activities
Policy and Planning Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for developing policies, procedures, guidelines and standards for the mobilization and disbursement of rents, dues, royalties, revenue and other payments whether in the nature of income or capital from stool lands. • Coordinates work from all regions. • Ensures the conduct of sensitization of stools, traditional authorities, the public and other relevant stakeholders on matters relating to stool land revenue administration, rational and productive development and management of stool lands.
Land Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing technical and advisory services to help deal issues that arise in the administration of stool lands. • Resolve issues that arise in the administration of stool lands.
Research and Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research for policies and projections on stool lands matters. • Responsible for coordinating the collection of information for publication. • Ensures the provisions of an effective mechanism for supervising, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policies, activities and operations of the Regional and Districts Offices.
General Administration and HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General administration and human resources management services for the Office. • Responsible for ensuring that services and facilities necessary to support the operations and other functions of the Office are available. • Ensures the design of plans and programs for the management and development of the human

	resource of the Office for institutional and staff performance.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This Directorate ensures that there is proper financial management and adherence to accounting principles.• Leads in accounts preparation and safeguards the interest of the Office in all financial transactions relating to revenue and expenditure.• Provides advice on all financial transactions relating to the office.

2.2 OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF STOOL LANDS'S ORGANOGRAM



2.4 Classes and Types of information

List of various classes of information in the custody of the institution:

POLICY AND PLANNING

- Policy and Standards
- Public Education
- Monitoring and Evaluation

LAND ADMINISTRATION

- Customary Lands Secretariats
- ADR/Conflict Managements
- Land Advisory Services
- Client Service and Information Management

RESEARCH, STATISTICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- Publications
- Technical Studies and Data Management Unit
- Infrastructure Coordination

FINANCE

- General Accounts
- Stool Land Accounts
- Financial Monitoring and Reporting

Types of Information Accessible at a fee:	
REVENUE ITEM	APPROVED FEES AND CHARGES (GHS)
For every photocopy of an A4 size page or part thereof	0.27
For every printed copy of an A4 size page or part thereof held on a computer or in electronic or machine-readable form	0.38
For a copy in a computer-readable form on external storage device	0.29
For a transcription of visual images, for an A4 size page or part thereof	1.28
For a copy of visual images	3.50
For a transcription of an audio record, for an A4 size page or part thereof	0.70
For a copy of audio record	1.00

3. Procedure in Applying and Processing Requests

Section 18 of the RTI Act provides specific guidelines for application for access to information kept by a public institution. It is thus important that request for information be made in accordance with provisions under this section. The Information Officer or a designated officer is responsible for dealing with applications made to the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands. To requests for information under the RTI Act from the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, applicants are to follow these basic procedures:

3.1 The Application Process

- a.** Application by any person or organization who seeks access to information in the custody of Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands must be made in writing, using the standard RTI Application Form. (See Appendix A for the Standard RTI Application Form). A copy of the form can be downloaded or completed and submitted electronically on the Office of the Administrator of Stool Land's official website or the Ministry of Information website.

- b.** In making the request, the following information must be provided:
 - Date of the Application.
 - Name of the applicant or the person on whose behalf an application is being made.
 - Name of the organization represented by the applicant.
 - Available contact details of the applicant or address of the person/organization on whose behalf an application is being made (Telephone Number, Email, Postal Address, Fax).
 - Brief description of information being sought. (Applicant are to specify the class and type of information including cover dates).
 - Payment of relevant fee if applicable.
 - Signature/ thumbprint.

- c.** Provision of identification
The applicant must present at least one (1) of the following valid identification cards (IDs) to serve as proof of identity:
 - Driver's License.
 - Passport.
 - National ID.
 - Voter's ID.

- d.** The applicant should state the format of information being requested and the mode of transmission. Example (do you need certified true copy, normal photocopy or

electronic copies. Would you want to receive it through a postal address, e-mail, courier services, fax etc.?)

- e. Where an applicant cannot write due to illiteracy or a disability, he/she may make the request orally. However, oral request must conform to the following guidelines;
- The Information Officer must reduce the oral request into writing and give a copy of the written request as recorded for the applicant to authenticate. (s. 18) (3).
 - The Information Officer shall clearly and correctly read and explain the written request to the understanding of the applicant.
 - A witness must endorse the face of the request with the writing; *“the request was read to the applicant in the language the applicant understand and the applicant appeared to have understood the content of the request.”*
 - The applicant must then make a thumbprint or mark on the request.

3.2 Processing the Application

- Applications would be treated on a priority basis. The Information Officer is responsible for handling requests to ensure that statutory deadlines are met.
- He reviews and identify which part is exempt based on Section 5 to 16 of the RTI Act and determines which of the units in the institution have the records or is responsible for the subject matter of the request.
- Provision is made under section 20 for the transfer of an application within a period of not more than ten days of receipt where the public institution to which the application was initially made is unable to deal with the application. In such situations, applicants would be notified accordingly with the reasons and dates of transfer.
- For information readily available in official publications, the Information Officer shall direct the applicant to the institution having custody of that publication and notify the public institution of the request. (s.21).
- If a requested information is not readily accessible, the estimated time it will take to search for the information would be communicated to the applicant.

3.3 Response to Applicants

a. The Information Officer is required under section 23 of the RTI Act to notify applicants within fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt. Applicant should however note that the time limit does not apply to applications transferred to another public institution or which has been refused due to failure to pay prescribed deposit or fee. (s.23)

(6). The notice should state:

- Whether or not full access to the requested information will be granted or only a part can be given and the reason.
- The format and mode of the access.
- The expected publication or submission day of the information in the case of a deferred access.
- The prescribed fee (s.24).

b. The Information Officer can request an extension to the deadline if:

- Information requested is voluminous.
- It is necessary to search through a large number of records.
- The information has to be gathered from more than one source.
- Consultation with someone outside the institution is required.

c. The Information Officer would in such situations notify applicants of an extension as well as the period and reason for the extension. An extension should not be more than seven days.

d. In giving applicants access to information, the applicant would be given the opportunity to inspect the information or receive a copy physically or any other form required such as electronic, magnetic, optical or otherwise, including a computer print-out, various computer storage devices and web portals.

- Where access cannot be given in the form specified by the applicant, access can be given in some other form. In such cases, the applicant shall be provided with a reason why access cannot be given in the specified form.

4. Amendment of Personal Record

A person given access to information contained in records of a public institution may apply for an amendment of the information if the information represents the personal records of that person and in the person's opinion, the information is incorrect, misleading, incomplete or out of date.

4.1 How to apply for an Amendment

- a. The application should be in writing indicating;
 - Name and proof of identity.
 - Particulars that will enable the records of the public institution identify the applicant.
 - The incorrect, misleading, incomplete or the out of date information in the record.
 - Signature of the applicant.
- b. For incomplete information claimed or out of date records, the application should be accompanied with the relevant information which the applicant considers necessary to complete the records.
- c. The address to which a notice shall be sent should be indicated.
- d. The application can then be submitted at the office of the public institution.

5. Appendix A: Standard RTI Request Form

[Reference No.:]

APPLICATION FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2019 (ACT 989)



1.	Name of Applicant:			
2.	Date:			
3.	Public Institution:			
4.	Date of Birth:	DD	MM	YYYY
5.	Type of Applicant:	Individual <input type="checkbox"/>	Organization/Institution <input type="checkbox"/>	
6.	Tax Identification Number			
7.	If Represented, Name of Person Being Represented:			
7 (a).	Capacity of Representative:			
8.	Type of Identification:	<input type="checkbox"/> National ID Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Passport	<input type="checkbox"/> Voter's ID
		<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License		
8 (a).	Id. No.:			
9.	Description of the Information being sought (specify the type and class of information including cover dates. Kindly fill multiple applications for multiple requests):			

10.	Manner of Access:	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspection of Information <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Information <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing / Listen <input type="checkbox"/> Written Transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Translated (specify language) <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
10 (a).	Form of Access:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard copy <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic copy <input type="checkbox"/> Braille
11.	Contact Details:	<input type="checkbox"/> Email Address _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Postal Address _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Tel: _____
12.	Applicant's signature/thumbprint:	
13.	Signature of Witness (where applicable) <i>"This request was read to the applicant in the language the applicant understands and the applicant appeared to have understood the content of the request."</i>	

6. Appendix B: Contact Details of OASL's Information Unit

Name of Information/Designated Officer:

CARISTER CLARA BAAH QUAINOO (ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICER)

Telephone/Mobile number of Information Unit:

0553718482 /0302674160

Postal Address of the institution:

P.O BOX CT 3076 CANTONMENTS, ACCRA

7. Appendix C: Acronyms

Table 1 Acronyms

Acronym	Literal Translation
<i>RTI</i>	<i>Right to Information</i>
<i>MDA</i>	<i>Ministries, Departments and Agencies</i>
<i>s.</i>	<i>section</i>
<i>MMDAs</i>	<i>Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies</i>
<i>OASL</i>	<i>The Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands</i>

8. Appendix D: Glossary

This Glossary presents clear and concise definitions for terms used in this manual that may be unfamiliar to readers listed in alphabetical order. Definitions for terms are based on section 84 of the RTI Act.

Table 2 Glossary

Term	Definition
Access	<i>Right to Information</i>
Access to information	<i>Right to obtain information from public institutions</i>
Contact details	<i>Information by which an applicant and an Information Officer may be contacted</i>
Court	<i>A court of competent jurisdiction</i>
Designated officer	<i>An officer designated for the purposes of the Act who perform similar role as the Information Officer</i>
Exempt information	<i>Information which falls within any of the exemptions specified in sections 5 to 16 of the Act</i>
Function	<i>Powers and duties</i>
Government	<i>Any authority by which the executive authority of the Republic of Ghana is duly exercised</i>
Information	<i>Information according to the Act includes recorded matter or material regardless of form or medium in the possession or under the control or custody of a public institution whether or not it was created by the public institution, and in the case of a private body, relates to the performance of a public function.</i>
Information officer	<i>The Information Officer of a public institution or the officer designated to whom an application is made</i>
Public	<i>Used throughout this document to refer to a person who requires and/or has acquired access to information.</i>
Public institution	<i>Includes a private institution or organization that receives public resources or provides a public function</i>
Right to information	<i>The right assigned to access information</i>
Section	<i>Different parts of the RTI Act</i>