



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tabling of the Public Access to Information Amendment Bill 2024

Presented by:

**The Hon. Crystal Caesar, JP, MP
Ministry of the Cabinet Office**

15th November 2024

Mr. Speaker,

Today, I am pleased to table for the consideration of this Honourable House the **Public Access to Information Amendment Bill 2024.**

Mr. Speaker, the Public Access to Information Act, PATI, provides important rights to access to records held by public authorities. PATI forms part of a robust “information rights” framework that creates transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, this bill includes the introduction of ‘reasonable charges’ which places limits on the time spent by public authorities in responding to requests, and provides for payment for requests where processing by the public authority exceeds this.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also provide necessary updates between the Act and the Regulations providing for greater clarity and alignment, for enhanced cohesion and implementation of processes, along with updates to provision of functions to Information Officers and some provisions of functions and procedures regarding the Information Commissioner.

Thank you, **Mr. Speaker.**