

The Public Interest Test

Communications & Media

The justification that can outweigh privacy or intrusion, and what it is not.

Usually in the public interest

- Exposing crime or serious wrongdoing
- Revealing a risk to public health
- Correcting a significant public deception
- Failures in public bodies and spending
- Conduct at odds with a public role

Merely interesting to the public

- Private lives of the famous
- Consensual private relationships
- Grief and distress for their own sake
- Curiosity about wealth or appearance
- Details a reader enjoys but need not know

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The test is whether publication serves a public purpose that could not be served with less intrusion.

Educational reference. Public interest is defined differently in each jurisdiction and by each regulator. Not legal advice.