

Dimension 31.4 assesses the transparency of the scrutiny function in terms of public access. Opening committee hearings to the public facilitates public scrutiny of the proceedings and is also a good opportunity for a legislative committee to inform the public about its work. Hearings can be 'open' in a variety of ways, which range from allowing exceptional public access to the committee room to inviting members of the public to speak on a subject. Public scrutiny can also be achieved either by transmission of the proceedings by the mass media, i.e., radio or TV, which allows citizens to follow what is currently happening in committees. Dimension 31.4 is focused on the existence of some form of general public access and does not specifically assess whether members of the public are invited to speak at hearings.

If the legislature does not require an external audit of the annual financial reports that government submits, refer to PI-29, the legislature is not fulfilling its role of ensuring the accountability of the executive leading to score 'D' on every dimension of the present indicator.