

STATISTICAL REPORT - INTERPRETATION/EXPLANATION

During fiscal year 1992-93, the Department of External Affairs received 303 requests pursuant to the Access to Information Act. Eighty-nine requests were carried over from the previous reporting year. Of these 392 requests, 357 were completed during the period under review for a completion rate of 90 percent and 35 were carried forward. 139 requests were completed in 30 days or less and a further 120 were completed in less than 60 days. The remainder (98) required more than 60 days to complete.

The disposition of the completed requests is as follows:

All disclosed	140
Disclosed in part	122
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	11
Nothing disclosed (excluded)	01
Transferred	24
Unable to process	34
Abandoned	18
Treated informally	06
TOTAL COMPLETED	356

The statistical reports do not reflect the time-consuming activities related to the processing of consultation requests, of which the Department received 354 from other departments. The reviewing of bulky documentation from other departments relating to the NAFTA negotiations has been especially burdensome.

In terms of percentages, the breakdown of requestors is not clearly indicative of end users. In percentage terms, the proportion of "Business" requestors, while still predominant, has fallen, perhaps in part reflecting the "disappearance" of lawyers acting on behalf of individuals seeking immigration records; the "Public" category may contain any of the other four categories if no appropriate identification has been provided.

Media	40
Academic	11
Business	161
Organization	21
Public	68