

STATISTICAL REPORT - INTERPRETATION/EXPLANATION

During fiscal year 1988-89, the Department of External Affairs received 257 requests pursuant to the Access to Information Act. Sixty requests were carried over from the previous reporting year. Of these 317 requests, 264 were completed during the period under review. (This represents an increase of over 30% in comparison with 1987-88.) The complexity of the requests and the voluminous records processed in response to these applications required time extensions on most.

The disposition of the completed requests is as follows:

All disclosed	74
Disclosed in part	108
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	3
Nothing disclosed (excluded)	1
Transferred	9
Unable to process	26
Abandoned	35
Treated informally	8
TOTAL	264

Requests in the "abandoned" category generally relate to no application or other fee being paid. While the statistical reports do not reflect the time-consuming activities related to the processing of consultation requests, the Department did receive 185 such requests from other departments involving the review of 15,000 pages of material.

In terms of percentages, the breakdown of requestors is as follows:

Media	27%
Academic	2%
Business	25%
Organization	8%
Public	38%

While it is extremely difficult to accurately track costs, the Treasury Board overall estimate of \$2,800 per request would seem to be quite accurate for External Affairs. Accordingly, costs for this department in completing 264 requests can be estimated at \$839,200.

Please refer to Annex A for the complete statistical report.