

Part I - Access to Information

Statistical Report -- Interpretation/Explanation

During fiscal year 1996-97, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade received 328 requests pursuant to the Access to Information Act. Forty requests were carried over from the previous reporting year. Of these 368 requests, 257 were completed during the period under review and 111 were carried forward. The number of requests received increased by 43% over last year. One hundred and thirty requests were completed in 30 days or less and a further 38 were completed in less than 60 days. The remainder (89) required more than 60 days to complete.

The disposition of the completed requests is as follows:

All disclosed	89
Disclosed in part	66
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	11
Nothing disclosed (excluded)	3
Transferred	11
Unable to process	55
Abandoned	21
Treated informally	1
TOTAL COMPLETED	257

The statistical reports do not reflect consultations, of which the Department received 246 from other departments and Governments, a 39% increase over last year.

In terms of percentages, the breakdown of requesters is not clearly indicative of end users since this must be inferred from information provided on the application. The breakdown is different from last year; there were significantly more requests from the media (up 83%) and academia (up 367%). The "Business" category rose by 23%. The number of requests from other categories was similar to that of last year.

Media	73
Academic	42
Business	119
Organization	27
Public	67