

In addition to the Coordinator, the ATIP Office has a complement of three officers and two support staff, all of whom are dedicated to Access/Privacy and related functions on a full-time basis. This represents a gain of one program position and the loss of one support staff position as compared to recent years. Four of these positions changed incumbents during a period of 15 months.

CASE LOAD

In FY 1992-93, the Department received 303 requests under the Access Act, and 84 Privacy requests, or a total case load of 387 formal requests for information. This was a statistical decrease of almost one third as compared to the past year, due primarily to the disappearance of requests for immigration records, which had constituted close to 50% of total requests. The Coordinator also processed 210 consultations from other government departments and 164 requests for personal information under Section 8(2)(e) of the Privacy Act.

COMPLAINTS

Thirty complaints were received during the year by the two Commissioner's Offices. Of the 21 investigations completed, 14 were judged to be without justification, 6 were "well-founded" and one was abandoned. Nine complaints are still under investigation.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the management of Access and Privacy requests, the Coordinator's Office provides advice and guidance to departmental units on compliance with the legislation. Briefings on Access to Information and Privacy were given, e.g. to new Heads of Mission and new directors at headquarters.

The Coordinator is represented on the Interdepartmental Committee for Management of Government Information Holdings (MGIH), the government-wide program to integrate information collection and use functions. The Coordinator is the departmental point of contact for the Registration of Information Collection and Public Opinion Research, (although the function is carried out in the Communications Branch).