

Part I - Access to Information

Statistical Report -- Interpretation/Explanation

During fiscal year 1994-95, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade received 288 requests pursuant to the Access to Information Act. 41 requests were carried over from the previous reporting year. Of these 329 requests, 268 were completed during the period under review and 61 were carried forward, many having been received in the closing weeks of the fiscal year. 137 requests were completed in 30 days or less and a further 62 were completed in less than 60 days. The remainder (69) required more than 60 days to complete. Although in percentage terms somewhat fewer requests were dealt with in less than 30 days than last year, there was also a decline in the number taking over 60 days.

The disposition of the completed requests is as follows:

All disclosed	78
Disclosed in part	101
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	14
Nothing disclosed (excluded)	-
Transferred	13
Unable to process	33
Abandoned	25
Treated informally	4
TOTAL COMPLETED	268

The statistical reports do not reflect consultations, of which the department received 182 from other departments. The size and complexity of many of these continue to increase, in particular bulky files from the National Archives.

In terms of percentages, the breakdown of requestors is not clearly indicative of end users since this must be inferred from information provided on the application. The breakdown is not significantly different from last year. The "Business" category has risen slightly. The "Public" category may contain any of the other four categories if no appropriate identification has been provided. The "Academic" category is probably artificially low because of the unique informal access program for scholars maintained by the department's historical section.

Media	79
Academic	18
Business	87
Organization	25
Public	79