

Part I - Access to Information

Statistical Report -- Interpretation/Explanation

During fiscal year 1993-94, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade received 258 requests pursuant to the Access to Information Act. 37 requests were carried over from the previous reporting year. Of these 295 requests, 254 were completed during the period under review for a completion rate of 86 percent and 41 were carried forward. 125 requests were completed in 30 days or less and a further 65 were completed in less than 60 days. The remainder (64) required more than 60 days to complete.

The disposition of the completed requests is as follows:

All disclosed	93
Disclosed in part	61
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	6
Nothing disclosed (excluded)	2
Transferred	9
Unable to process	38
Abandoned	42
Treated informally	3
TOTAL COMPLETED	254

The statistical reports do not reflect consultations, of which the department received 156 from other departments. These can be quite time-consuming; reviewing bulky documentation from other departments relating to the NAFTA negotiations as well as major historical events such as the 1970 October crisis have been especially challenging.

In terms of percentages, the breakdown of requestors is not clearly indicative of end users since it must be inferred from information provided on the application. The proportion of "Business" requestors continues to fall; 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 informal access program for scholars maintained by the department's historical section.

Media	70
Academic	7
Business	81
Organization	14
Public	86