

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATIONS

633. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Treasurer

For each Department and Agency within the Treasurer's portfolio, including the Treasurer's office, will the Treasurer provide the following information for the period, 23 September 2008 to date, —

- (1) How many Freedom of Information (FOI) applications have been received?
- (2) What is the average time taken to process a FOI application?
- (3) What is the reason given for each FOI application exceeding the average time for processing?
- (4) How many FOI applications have been rejected by the Departments or Agencies within your portfolio?
- (5) How many of these rejections have been successfully appealed?
- (6) How many of these rejections are pending a decision of the FOI Commissioner?
- (7) What were the reasons given by the Departments and Agencies for rejecting each of the FOI applications?
- (8) What were the reasons given by the FOI Commissioner for upholding each of the appeals?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

Insurance Commission of Western Australia

- (1) 76
- (2) 32 days
- (3) The time taken to process an FOI application usually depends upon the number of documents involved and the number of third parties which need to be consulted. The main reasons for exceeding the average time for processing are: large numbers of documents and awaiting responses from third parties.
- (4) No FOI applications have been rejected by the Insurance Commission of Western Australia under Section 20 of the Act which allows an agency to refuse to deal with an application in certain cases.
- (5)-(8) N/A

GESB

- (1) 2
- (2) N/A. The FOI applications are still in progress.
- (3) A delay in processing an FOI claim is usually attributed to the level of historical research required to respond to the query.
- (4) Nil
- (5)-(8) N/A

Western Australian Treasury Corporation

- (1) None.
- (2)-(8) Not Applicable.

Department of Treasury and Finance

- (1) 39.
- (2) 34 days average processing time.
- (3) No reason is given for exceeding the average processing time when it is still within the 45 day limit. In three cases an extension of one week was sought and granted. This was due to applications being partially transferred to DTF after a significant amount of the 45 day processing time had elapsed.
- (4)-(6) Nil.
- (7)-(8) Not applicable.

Ministerial Office

- (1) 43
- (2) 43 days average processing time

- (3) An extension to complete an application is usually due to the number of documents involved, the number of third parties which need to be consulted and also dealing with a high volume of applications from other applicants.
- (4) No applications are rejected, although they are refused. This agency has refused to deal with two applications in a formal notice of decision.
- (5) Not applicable
- (6) One currently pending
- (7) Applicant refused to narrow the scope of the application sufficiently which resulted in a section 20 refusal decision of the FOI Act 1992.
- (8) Not applicable