

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATIONS

2596. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister representing the Minister for Heritage

For each Department and Agency within the Minister's portfolio, including the Ministerial office, will the Minister provide the following information relating to the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years -

- (a) how many freedom of information (FOI) applications were received for the financial years above;
- (b) what is the average time taken to process a FOI application;
- (c) what is the reason given for each FOI application exceeding the average time for processing;
- (d) how many FOI applications have been rejected by the departments or agencies within your portfolio;
- (e) how many of these rejections have been successfully appealed;
- (f) how many of these rejections are pending a decision of the FOI Commissioner;
- (g) what were the reasons given by the Departments and Agencies for rejecting each of the FOI applications; and
- (h) what were the reasons given by the FOI Commissioner for upholding each of the appeals?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a)-(h) The Annual Reports of the Office of the Information Commissioner contains extensive statistical information on Freedom of Information applications to individual government agencies. Additional information, including the Commissioners decisions, are available on the agency's website.

It should be noted:

- that an FOI application is only rejected when there is no fee accompanying the application.
- there are no 'pending decisions' from 2001/02 and 2002/03
- there is no requirement under the Act for a reason to be given for exceeding 'average' time for processing