

Extract from Hansard

[LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES A AND B SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION — Thursday,
26 May 2022]
p419b-419b
Ms Mia Davies

DIVISION 9: OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER —

[Supplementary Information No B15.]

Question: Ms M.J. Davies asked for the number of external review matters undertaken in relation to applications made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Answer: The following table shows the number of external review and other requests received and finalised in the past five years, and the current year to 30 April 2022.

‘Other’ requests consist of:

- external review applications – informal/invalid;
- section 66(6) applications – no internal review;
- section 66(4) applications – out of time;
- section 13(5) applications – extension of time;
- section 13(4) applications – reduction of time;
- section 35(1) – waiver of requirement to consult; and
- section 48(3) – request for destruction certificate.

These figures are available in greater detail in the ‘OIC Statistics’ section of the Information Commissioner’s annual reports.

In addition, we have included in the table below the OIC’s FTEs and the number of FTEs involved in the management of external review and other requests as at the end of each financial year, to address an earlier question during the hearing.

In response to the Member’s question during the hearing as to whether there has been a request from the OIC for additional resources, I clarify that I did not receive a request for additional funding related to the current budget year. Whilst additional funding had been raised during a previous year, in the course of the current Information Commissioner’s appointment, to date the increase in demand for external review has been managed through finding efficiencies in the OIC, and the issue is again under review. Any request for resourcing emanating from this review will be given due consideration.

	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22 at 30/4/22
External review requests received	124	165	176	166	161	153
External review requests finalised	127	143	152	148	180	111
Other requests received	57	53	55	43	51	38
Other requests finalised	57	53	51	47	49	31
External review FTEs	6.82	5.55	4.87	4.97	6.45	6.29
OIC total FTEs	11	10	12	10	11	13 ¹

¹ 1 FTE on parental leave until January 2023