

GUARDIANSHIP BOARD, APPLICATIONS, NUMBER

697. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs
- (1) Over the last five years, how many applications have been made to the Guardianship Board by family members seeking guardianship of an adult family member?
 - (2) How many of these applications were successful?
 - (3) How many of these were recommended by the Public Advocate?
 - (4) How many applications were approved against the recommendation of the Public Advocate?
 - (5) How many unsuccessful applications were dismissed where the Public Advocate recommended dismissal?
 - (6) What qualifications are needed when appointing a Public Advocate?
 - (7) How many staff are employed within the Public Advocate's office?
 - (8) What qualifications are required for members of staff within the Public Advocate's office?
 - (9) How many complaints have been received over the last 5 years against the Public Advocate's office?
 - (10) How many times over the last 5 years have members of the public sought information under the Freedom of Information Act 1992?
 - (11) How many of these applications have been successful and the member of the public satisfied that they have received all the information requested?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1) Discrete data on applications to the Guardianship and Administration Board by family members seeking guardianship of an adult family member is not kept. However, to assist the Member, the following related information is provided.

The Guardianship and Administration Board received 884 applications for guardianship from July 1997 to June 2002. Relatives were appointed as guardians in 169 cases, the Public Advocate was appointed in 345 cases and a non-relative was appointed in 50 cases. In 320 cases no guardian was appointed.
- (2) As described in (1) no discrete data is kept. However, of the 884 applications for guardianship, in 320 cases the application was resolved by the non-appointment of a guardian. Applications are resolved in the least restrictive way and in 320 cases the non-appointment of a guardian was considered the most appropriate resolution.
- (3) No discrete data is kept; however, the Public Advocate does not make a recommendation on all applications for guardianship.
- (4) No discrete data is kept; however, in 2001/02 where the Public Advocate made a recommendation concerning applications for guardianship and/or administration, 97% of those applications resulted in the Guardianship and Administration Board accepting the recommendation.
- (5) As outlined in (1) no discrete data is kept. However, as can be seen from (4) in 3% of applications the Guardianship & Administration Board did not accept the recommendation made by the Public Advocate.
- (6) A person suitably qualified to carry out the functions of the Public Advocate as set out in s97 of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990. Members of staff are appointed under and subject to the Public Sector Management Act 1994.
- (7) 20.
- (8) A person suitably qualified to carry out the functions of the Public Advocate as set out in s97 of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990. Members of staff are appointed under and subject to the Public Sector Management Act 1994.
- (9) 31
- (10) 10
- (11) Nil applications have been successful. Two applications were transferred in full to another agency under s15 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 1992. Information requested from the remaining 8

applications were exempt information pursuant to clause 3 Schedule 1 (personal information concerning third parties)