

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

Freedom of Information

According to media reports some months ago the Northern Territory Government is refusing one in four freedom-of-information requests – a rate seven times higher than Victoria's and eight times higher than Western Australia's.

An analysis of state and territory FOI data shows the Northern Territory is by far the most likely jurisdiction to block requests for government documents. Last financial year, the Northern Territory Government granted just 292 of the 900 FOI requests it finalised, and partially granted another 298.

Minister, specifically for your Department, and excluding requests for personal information, can you please advise:

1. The number of requests that were lodged in 2018/19

This information is currently being collated by all agencies for inclusion in the Information Commissioner's annual report.

The Information Commissioner's annual report is due to be finalised by 30 September 2019.

2. The number of requests where full documentation was provided

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3. The number of requests where the information was partially exempted

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4. The number of requests where all documentation was exempted or where the request was rejected

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5. The number of decisions that were appealed

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6. The number of complaints made to the Information Commissioner by applicants

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7. The total amount of processing fees paid by applicants for information received.

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