



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS]

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
2 March 2022

Asked by Mr Andrew Braddock MLA on 2 March 2022: Ms Penny McKay took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 2 March 2022, page 7]

In relation to:

FOI requests, on page 26 it states, 'Timeframes may also be delayed where agencies are slow to provide copies of relevant documentation to enable a review to commence.' Did it happen over the course of the financial year? How many times and what was the extent of agencies being slow providing documentation?

ACT Ombudsman:

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

When we notify an agency of a review, we generally ask that they provide relevant material within 5 working days. Of the 36 freedom of information (FOI) reviews completed by my Office in 2020-21, 16 reviews were delayed because agencies took longer than 5 working days to provide copies of relevant documentation or the information provided required clarification. The delays were as follows:

- 76 working days
- 36 working days
- 22 working days
- 10 working days
- 8 working days
- 7 working days (in 2 reviews)
- 5 working days (in 3 reviews)
- 4 working days
- 3 working days
- 2 working days (in 4 reviews)

Common causes for an agency needing more time to provide information include available staffing, volume of material and complexity of FOI issues.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Date:

11/3/2022

By the Acting ACT Ombudsman Ms Penny McKay