



## Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

### Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert on 15 November 2023: Ms Rule took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard proof transcript 15 November 2023 [PAGE 60]

In relation to: Freedom of Information requests

**MRS KIKKERT:** Do you have a rough estimate of how many other FOI requests have taken one year or longer to complete?

**Ms Rule:** I would have to take that question on notice, Mrs Kikkert.

**Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Completed applications which took longer than one year to complete:

Financial Year	Number of applications
2019-20	0
2020-21	2
2021-22	4
2022-23	8
2023-24 YTD	5

It should be noted that all applications that took longer than one year to complete relate to child and youth protection and youth justice matters. These applications require collecting and assessing a significant volume of sensitive documents. The increase in processing times corresponds with increasing awareness and take up of the National Redress Scheme established in 2018.

In addition, as discussed during the hearing, requests involving a large or very large volume of documents are typically processed and released in stages.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

Date:

26/11/23

By the Minister for Families and Community Services, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA