

**Question on Notice
No. 213
Asked on 1 March 2006**

MR ROWELL asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the John Tonge Centre and each forensic section, namely Forensic Pathology, Forensic Biology, Forensic Toxicology and Forensic Chemistry (reported separately)—

- (1) For the current financial year to date what was the number of (a) cases received and (b) the number of cases finalised?
- (2) For the current financial year to date what was the average turnaround time, by each section (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The activity information requested in (1) and (2) is attached.

Turnaround time is not a useful measure when dealing with backlogged cases. In such circumstances, as the oldest cases are finalised, the turnaround time will become a very large number and, in fact, the larger the number the more successful is the backlog reduction program up to the point where the oldest cases have been reported and then the measure would be expected to reduce.

At present, as part of the Ministerial Taskforce review and subsequent Forster recommendations, the laboratory is cleansing the forensic biology database to remove any anomalous entries that may have resulted in double counting. Consequently, there may be differences in data previously provided.

Attachment

	All Toxicology		All Chemistry		All Biology		All Pathology	
Date	Received	Reported	Received	Reported	Received	Reported	Bodies received	Cases reported
Jul 2005	1,732	1,639	277	285	1,389	1,314	140	99
Aug 2005	1,730	1,487	230	238	1,681	2,843	130	109
Sep 2005	1,472	1,780	224	225	1,665	2,104	113	125
Oct 2005	1,450	1,562	247	209	2,021	1,430	118	130
Nov 2005	1,688	1,215	246	235	2,282	2,337	120	85
Dec 2005	1,554	1,569	210	240	1,744	1,270	167	92
Jan 2006	1,438	1,490	229	244	1,920	1,464	137	105
Feb 2006	1,468	1,847	220	220	1,562	2,104	120	117

	All Toxicology	All Chemistry	All Biology	All Pathology
Date	Avg TAT	Avg TAT	Avg TAT	Avg TAT
Jul 2005	30	104	235	59
Aug 2005	37	124	234	69
Sep 2005	30	142	174	60
Oct 2005	33	134	196	73
Nov 2005	32	137	191	62
Dec 2005	34	157	148	59
Jan 2006	33	127	207	54
Feb 2006	38	121	206	71

Avg TAT – average turnaround time in days