

Question on Notice

No. 992

Asked on 7 August 2007

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (MS BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to Treasury's use of the Appligent Inc software, Redax, which 'completely removes text and image information from PDF files before making the documents public'—

How many times has this software been used by her department in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

ANSWER:

Redax software is a Treasury-led initiative which is currently used in most Government departments. It was introduced nearly five years ago to reduce processing time and to make it easier and less costly for the public to obtain information from Government. I can confirm that the software is able to remove individual words, paragraphs or parts of documents should they be of a confidential or proprietary nature which is considered exempt material under Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation.

Categories of exempt material under the FOI legislation are:

- Cabinet matter
- Executive Council Matter
- Matter affecting relations with other governments
- Matter relating to investigations by ombudsman, reviews by Service Delivery and Performance Commission or audits by Auditor-General, et cetera
- Matter concerning certain operations of agencies
- Matter relating to deliberative processes
- Matter relating to law enforcement or public safety
- Matter created for ensuring security or good order of corrective services facility
- Matter relating to National or State security
- Matter affecting legal proceedings
- Matter affecting personal affairs
- Matter relating to trade secrets, business affairs and research
- Matter communicated in confidence
- Matter affecting the economy of State
- Matter relating to investment incentive scheme
- Matter to which secrecy provisions of enactments apply
- Matter affecting financial or property interests
- Matter disclosure of which would be contempt of Parliament or contempt of court

The most common reasons for removal of exempt material in applications to Treasury are matters affecting personal affairs or matters relating to business affairs.

The number of FOI applications on which Treasury has used the software in the years requested is:

- 2004-05 83 applications
- 2005-06 60 applications
- 2006-07 58 applications