

16 **Requests involving use of computers etc**

- (1) Where—
- (a) a request (including a request of the kind described in section 23 (1)) is made in accordance with the requirements of section 14 (2) to an agency or to a Minister; and
  - (b) it appears from the request that the desire of the applicant is for information that is not available in discrete form in documents of the agency or in official documents of the Minister, as the case may be; and
  - (c) the agency or the Minister, as the case may be, could produce a written document containing the information in discrete form by—
    - (i) the use of a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency or ordinarily available in an office of the Minister, as the case may be, for retrieving or collating stored information; or
    - (ii) the making of a transcript from a sound recording held in the agency or in an office of the Minister, as the case may be;

the agency or the Minister, as the case may be, shall deal with the request as if it were a request for access to a written document so produced and containing that information and, for that purpose, this Act applies as if the agency or the Minister, as the case may be, were in possession of such a document.

- (2) An agency or a Minister is not required to comply with subsection (1) if compliance would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency, or of an office of the Minister, as the case may be, from its other operations.