

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I refer to your request for Access to Information on 23 February 2022. Having consulted relevant parties, the requested information is provided as follows –

Generally speaking, all non-refoulement claimants under the Unified Screening Mechanism will be provided with publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) at the beginning of the screening stage by the Immigration Department (ImmD) and they are free to choose whether to receive the service. As for the appeal stage, the provision of PFLA depends on the merits assessment by the lawyer providing PFLA to the claimant at the screening stage, taking into account the written decision by ImmD on the claim with detailed reasons.

(1) The number of appeals/ petitions received by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) and were legally represented by lawyers from PFLA in Q4 2021 is as below -

	No. of appeals/ petitions received by TCAB (a)	No. of appeals/ petitions legally represented by lawyers from PFLA (b)
Q4 2021	725	25

(2)-(4) The number of appeals/ petitions concluded by TCAB with legal representation under PFLA and of those against ImmD's decision substantiated by TCAB in Q4 2021 is as below -

	No. of appeals/ petitions concluded by TCAB (a)	Out of (a), no. of appeals/ petitions legally represented by lawyers from PFLA (b)	Out of (b), no. of appeals/ petitions substantiated by TCAB (c)	Out of (c), no. of appeals/ petitions against ImmD's decision of -	
				rejecting the claims (d)	rejecting to re-open the claims (e)
Q4 2021	337	34	2	2	0

(5)-(6) The number of people who were being declined for the provision of PFLA and requested a second opinion or review after not being provided with PFLA based on the assessment of the lawyer at the appeal stage in Q4 2021 is as below-

	No. of people who were being declined for the provision of PFLA (a)	No. of people requested a second opinion or review after not being provided with PFLA (b)
Q4 2021	765	23

(7) For those who requested a second opinion or review, the number of people who were subsequently provided with PFLA at the appeal stage based on the assessment of another lawyer in Q4 2021 is as below-

	No. of people requested a second opinion or review (a)	Out of (a), no. of people who were subsequently provided with PFLA (b)
Q4 2021	23	8

Security Bureau