



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NATIONAL RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION* **November 2008**

1 This paper provides more detailed information on the work of Freedom of Information Advisory Panels since the July Advisory Council meeting.

2 Attached, as requested by the Council, are tables showing the total volume of Freedom of Information requests received by The National Archives during the period from July to September 2008 relating both to material subsequently released and to exempt material and the number of applications to which each of the exemptions was applied in the above period.

3 In line with its statutory role under the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 since July 2008 the Council has convened 9 Panels, which have advised on the strengths of the public interest test considerations applied by departments when they seek to close historical information held at The National Archives. The Panels advise on information, which is deemed sensitive under the Freedom of Information Act and requires a public interest test. The Freedom of Information Advisory Panels have advised on a total of 42 cases relating to 48 records in total.

Cases considered by Panels

2 The cases that the Panels advised on fell into 3 categories:

- i) 10 concerned the risk of damage to international relations (s27)
- ii) 8 cases considered sensitivities that would prejudice law enforcement such as unsolved crimes of a gruesome nature (s31).
- iii) 30 cases assessed the likely risk of mental or physical endangerment to living individuals (s38)

*This paper is a redacted version of a restricted paper that went before the Advisory Council in November 2008.