

Did applicants get what they asked for?

Overall 'release rates' trending downwards

In 2021/22, the overall release rate was 70%, representing the combined access granted in full and in part outcomes (Figure 19). This is a decline from the 73% reported in 2020/21 and similar to the combined release rate of 69% in 2019/20 and 70% in 2018/19.

Consistent with 2020/21, release rates for 2021/22 were stable across all sectors except for a moderate decline in the Minister sector.

At the sector level (Figure 20), in 2021/22, the State-Owned Corporations sector had the highest overall release rate of 86%, similar to the 84% reported in 2020/21.

For the Council sector, 80% of outcomes granted access in full and in part in 2021/22. This is consistent with the 79% reported in 2020/21.

For the Government sector, 68% of outcomes resulted in access being granted in full and in part in 2021/22. Whilst this is similar to the 71% reported in 2020/21 the high volume in this sector has a material impact on overall release rates.

For the University sector 64% of outcomes resulted in access being granted in full and in part in 2021/22. This is consistent with the 65% reported in 2020/21.

For the Minister sector, 42% of outcomes resulted in access being granted in full and in part in 2021/22, a moderate decline from 52% in 2020/21.

Figure 19: Overall release rate across all sectors, 2017/18 to 2021/22

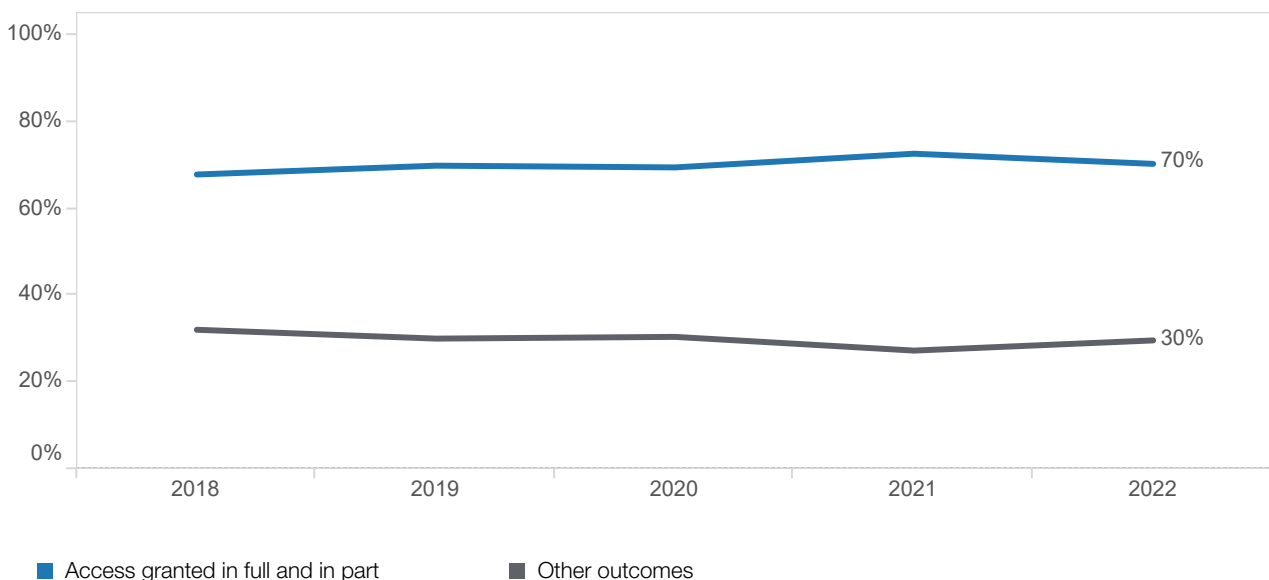


Figure 20: Overall release (access granted in full and in part) rate, by sector, 2017/18 to 2021/22

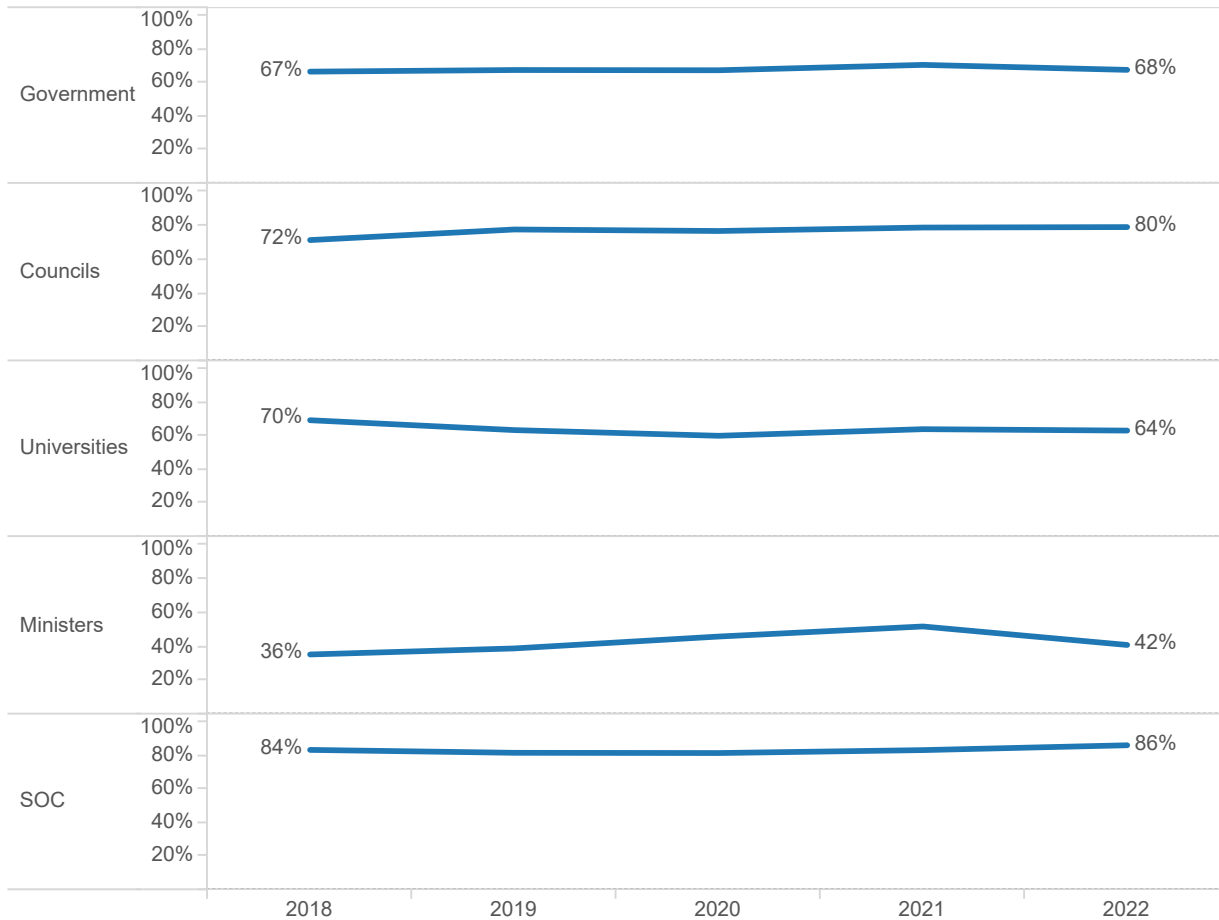
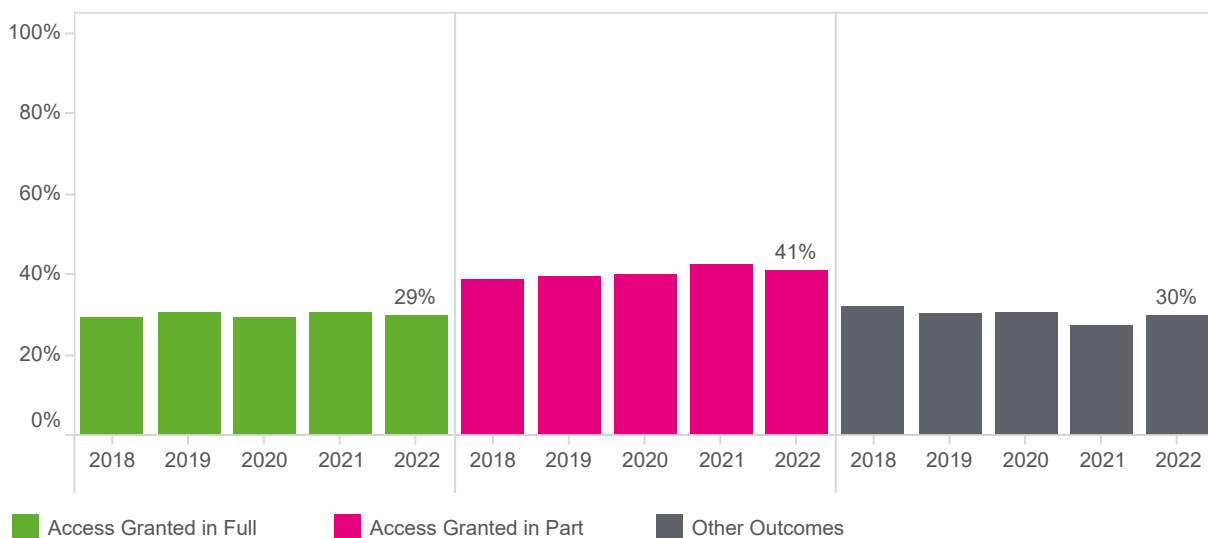
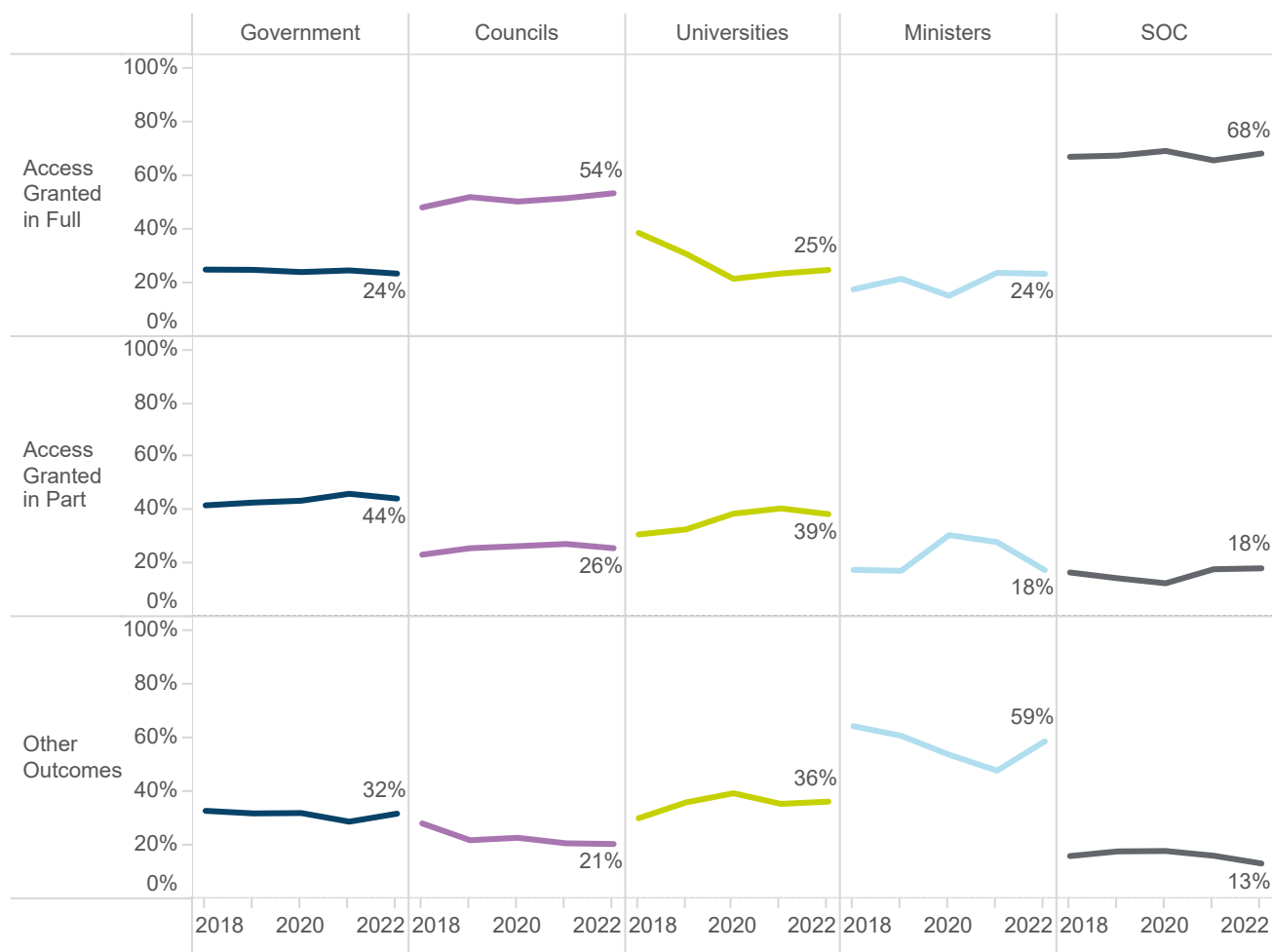


Figure 21: Release outcomes across all sectors, 2017/18 to 2021/22



'Did applicants get what they asked for?' is reported and measured by the requirement for agencies to report on the outcomes of applications for information by the type of applications (listed in Table A of Schedule 2 to the GIPA Regulation) and the type of information that is applied for (listed in Table B of Schedule 2 to the GIPA Regulation). The term 'other outcomes' refers to the following outcomes – access refused in full, information not held, information already available, refuse to deal with application, refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held, and application withdrawn.

Figure 22: Release outcomes, by sector, 2017/18 to 2021/22



The overall release rate across all application types was stable

The overall release rates remained stable for all application types.

The overall release rate for 'other than personal information' was stable at 71% in 2021/22 consistent with results over the previous three years: 71% in 2020/21, 69% in 2019/20 and 71% in 2018/19. The overall release rate for applications for personal information remained consistent with previous years at 70% in 2021/22, compared with 74% in 2020/21, 71% in 2019/20 and 70% in 2018/19.

The overall release rate for applications that sought partly personal and partly other information was 70% in 2021/22, consistent with 71% in 2020/21 (Figure 23).

Release rates by applicant type remain stable

The lowest overall release rate (52%) was for applications made by members of Parliament which is consistent with 51% reported in 2020/21 (Figure 24). This is a change from 2020/21, where applications made by the media had the lowest release rate of 55%.

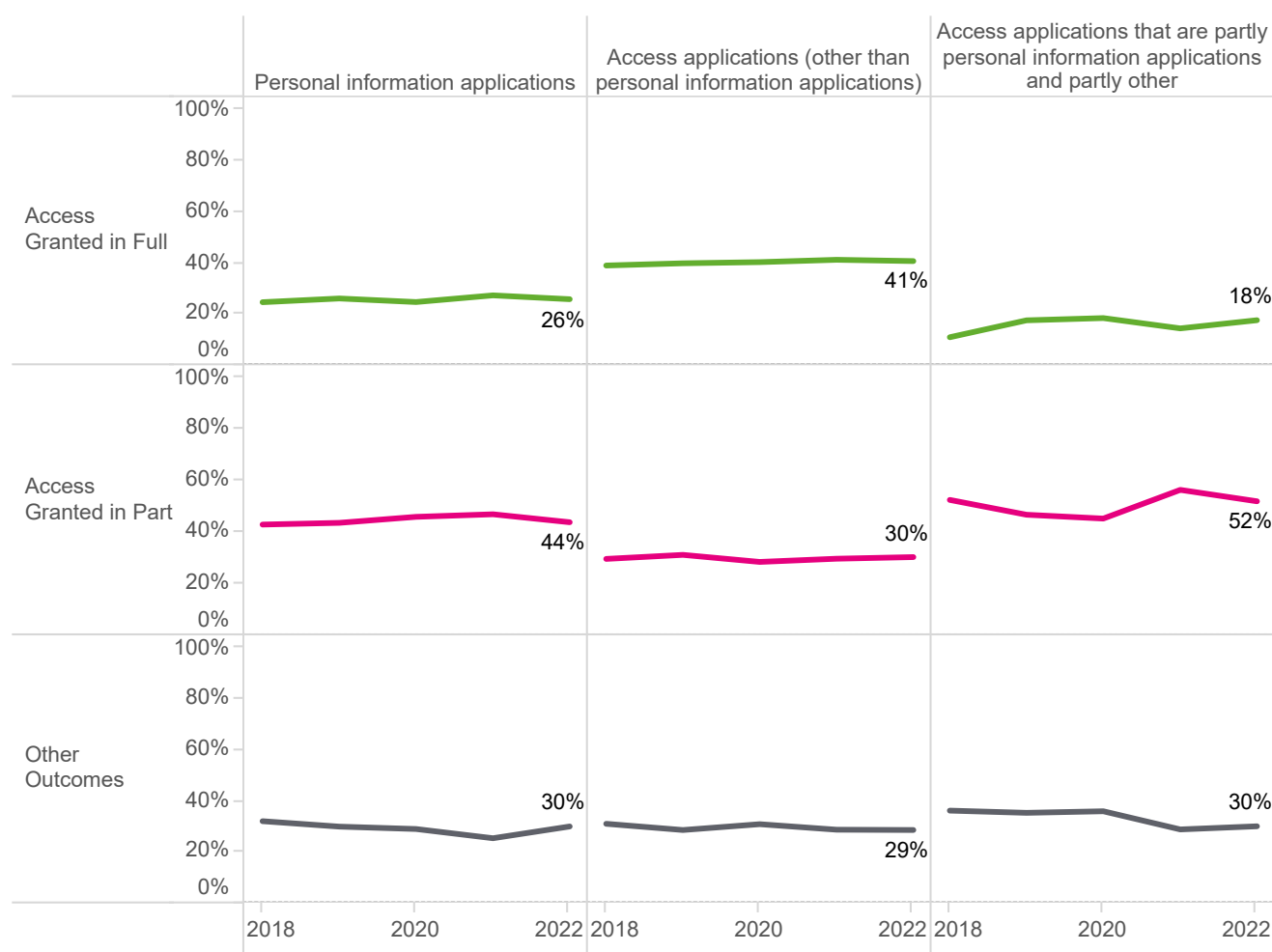
The highest release rate in 2021/22 was for applications made by private sector business (74%), consistent with results for 2020/21 (76%), 2019/20 (75%) and 2018/19 (76%).

The release rate for members of the public was 71%, consistent with 71% in 2020/21, 70% in 2019/20 and 2018/19 respectively.

Consistent with overall release rates, the composition of outcomes remained relatively stable in 2021/22:

- For members of the public, 29% of outcomes granted access in full and 42% granted access in part. This is consistent with outcomes reported in 2020/21, 2019/20 and 2018/19
- For private sector business, 35% of outcomes granted access in full, and 39% granted access in part. This is consistent with outcomes reported in 2020/21, 2019/20 and 2018/19
- For not-for-profit organisations or community groups, 31% of outcomes granted access in full, and 39% granted access in part, consistent with results for 2020/21 and 2019/20
- For members of Parliament, 24% of outcomes granted access in full, a moderate decline from 2020/21, while 28% of outcomes granted access in part, consistent with results for 2020/21 and 2019/20. 48% of outcomes in 2021/22 resulted in “other outcomes” a slight increase from 43% in 2020/21. The increase on this category was largely the result of an overall decline in the number of outcomes recorded for members of Parliament rather than a meaningful increase in the number of “other outcomes” recorded
- For media, 36% of outcomes granted access in full, a moderate increase from 30% in 2020/21, and 20% granted in part, consistent with outcomes reported in 2020/21 and 2019/20.

Figure 23: Release outcomes by application type, 2017/18 to 2021/22



What is an outcome?

The GIPA regime provides for a number of possible outcomes in relation to a formal access application. These are reported as:

- access granted in full – where the applicant receives all information applied for
- access granted in part – where the applicant receives some of the information applied for
- other outcomes - this refers to a range of possible outcomes: access refused in full; information not held; information already available; refuse to deal with application; refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held, or application withdrawn.

Figure 24: Outcomes by applicant type, 2017/18 to 2021/22

