

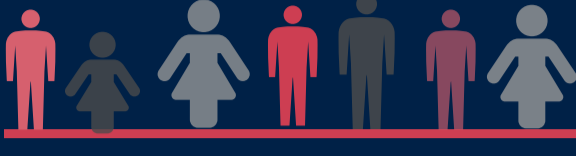
Access to Information Network

A network of civil society and media organisations which cooperate to achieve the common objective of advancing the right to access information in South Africa

Promotion of Access to Information Act

9th Shadow Report Statistics 2018

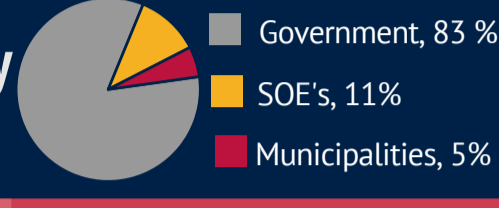
“ Within the reporting year of 2017 /2018 it is clear to see that public and private institutions are still not interested in transparency and openness. ”



191 total number of requests made to public and private bodies

12% Private Body
(22 Requests)

88% Public Body
(169 Requests)



45%

Requests to **private bodies** that were expressly denied

32%

Requests to **private bodies** where access granted (full or partial)

41%

Requests to **public bodies** where access granted (full or partial)

Requests to **public bodies** that were expressly denied

12%

Most frequent grounds of refusal: *section 42 of the Regulation of Interception of Communications Act (RICA) prohibiting disclosures of information.*

- Access granted in full, 41 %
- Access granted in part, 4%
- Pending requests, 23%

Most frequent grounds of refusal: *record does not exist, section 23 (1)(b) of PAIA.*

- Access granted in full, 27%
- Transferred, 14%
- Requests pending, 4%
- Access granted in part, 14%

PAIA requests to public and private bodies responded to within **statutory timeframes**

- Public Bodies **45%**
- Private Bodies **68%**

Requests to **public bodies** that were deemed refusals or simply ignored

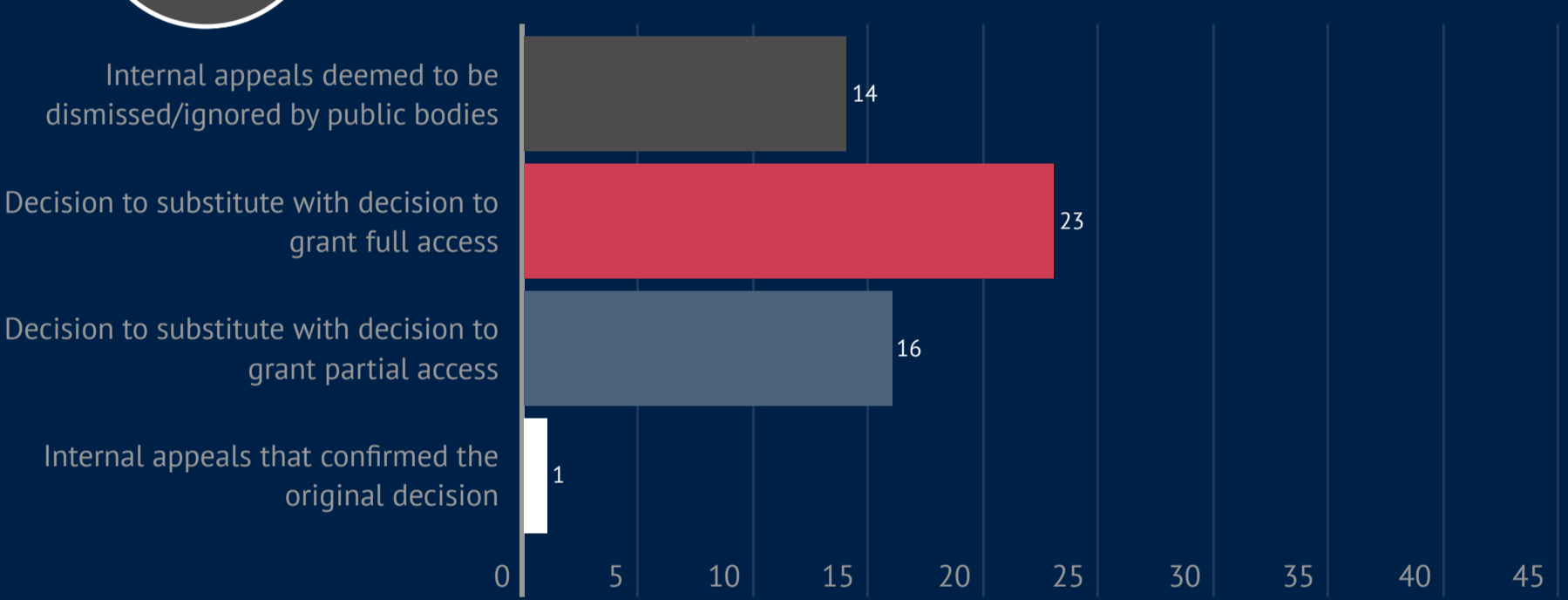
35%

0% private body requests were deemed refusals or ignored

47 new internal appeals submitted

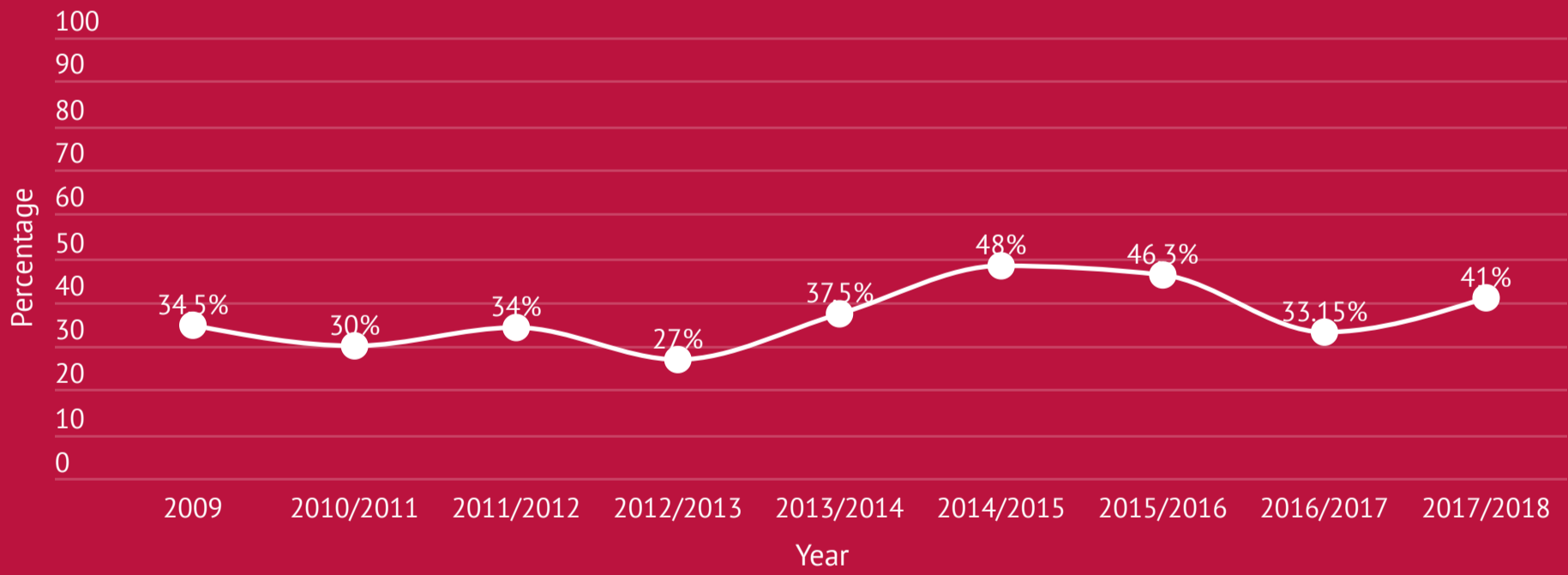
Internal Appeals to Public Bodies*

[PAIA does not provide an internal appeal mechanism for private bodies.]



*Statistics reflect outcomes of new appeals and decisions taken from appeals submitted in previous reporting period.

Previous Shadow Reports statistics at a glance (2009 - 2018)**



**Statistics reflect public body requests which were granted. Percentage combines full and partial disclosure.



Recommendations

- Urgently operationalise the Information Regulator to compel PAIA compliance.
- Build capability of Public Bodies to respond to PAIA requests.
- Private Bodies must familiarise themselves with PAIA.
- Strong penalties required for frustrating the PAIA process.
- Simplify the process for making PAIA requests.
- PAIA manuals should be easily accessible and Information Officers readily available.