



**SIVILOMBUDSMANNEN**

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### **Processing time in cases regarding access to information**

With reference to phone conversation on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 between Specialist Director Beate B. Ekeberg, Ministry of Climate and Environment, and Senior Adviser Ingeborg Skonnord, The Parliamentary Ombudsman, I hereby provide some comments on the Ombudsman's processing time in cases regarding access to information.

Cases regarding access to information are highly prioritized, and the deadlines for these cases are shorter compared to other cases. For reference, please find attached statistics showing the processing time for cases regarding access to information under the Environmental Information Act and the Freedom of Information Act. As shown by the statistics, the processing time is normally around 100-110 days, if it is necessary to investigate the matter further («forelagte saker»). In other cases, the processing time is considerably shorter («avviste saker» and «ikke-forelagte saker»).

The statistics show the processing time in the period from when the Ombudsman receives a complaint to the Ombudsman give a statement or the case is being decided upon in another way. Unfortunately, we do not have statistics that show the processing time after the Ombudsman's statement. However, according to our internal guidelines, it is stated that the public administration shall be given 3-4 weeks to follow up the Ombudsman's statements in cases regarding access to information. If the public administration does not respond according to this, the Ombudsman will send a reminder, if needed repeatedly.

The case brought before the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee is not in accordance with the usual practice of the Ombudsman.

Aage Thor Falkanger  
The Parliamentary Ombudsman

*This letter has been electronically approved and has no handwritten signature.*

Attachments: Processing time in cases regarding access to information 2010-2017