

How many applications were lodged?

The total number of valid applications received increased by 3%, a slight increase compared to the previous reporting period

Agencies advised the IPC that they received 24,476 valid applications during 2022/23. This compares with 23,789 valid applications in the previous financial year and represents a total increase of 687 or 3% in valid applications received. The trend in applications is shown in Figure 5.

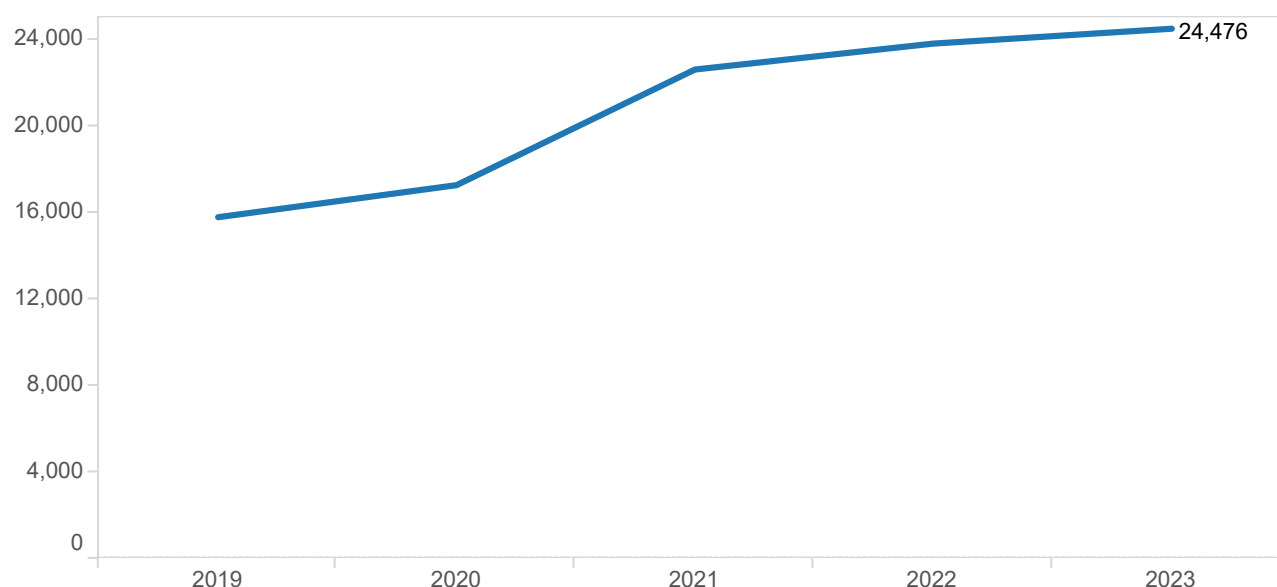
Most applications were made to the Government sector³

Consistent with previous years, the Government sector continued to account for most (19,752 or 81%) valid applications (Figure 7). The overall proportion of valid applications received by the Government sector remained stable, compared to 2021/22.

In 2022/23, the NSW Police Force received 38% of all valid applications, consistent with 37% in 2021/22 (Figure 6). While the NSW Police Force continued to receive the largest proportion of valid applications across all sectors, this proportion has declined over time from 42% of valid applications in 2014/15. The NSW Police Force has also experienced a moderate increase in the overall number of valid applications it has received, as set out below.

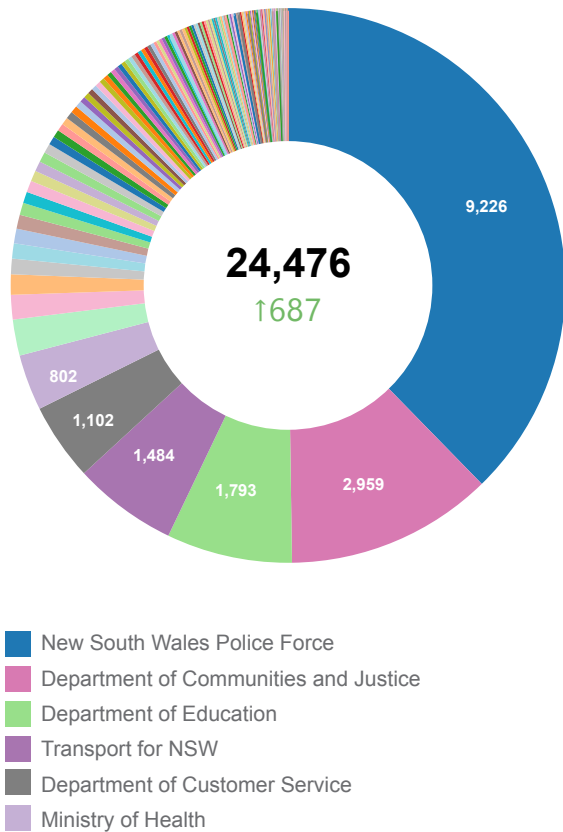
The top six government agencies by number of applications received is similar to last year (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Total number of valid applications received, 2018/19 to 2022/23



³ Since 2016/17, data has been reported across five sectors, including SOCs. This will affect comparisons with the published reports in earlier years.

Figure 6: Distribution of valid applications received, by government agency, 2022/23



Notable changes in valid applications received across these agencies were⁴ a:

- 22% decline in applications received by the Department of Customer Service, from 1,409 in 2021/22 to 1,102 in 2022/23.
- 53% increase in applications received by the Department of Education, from 1,172 in 2021/22 to 1,793 in 2022/23.
- 22% increase in applications received by Transport for NSW, from 1,217 in 2021/22 to 1,484 in 2022/23.
- 4% increase in applications received by the NSW Police Force, from 8,862 in 2021/22 to 9,226 in 2022/23.
- 19% decline in applications to the Department of Communities and Justice, from 3,675 in 2021/22 to 2,959 in 2022/23.

Applications in the Government, University and Council sectors increased, with a decline noted in the State-Owned Corporations sector and a lack of data for the Minister sector

The number of applications received by the Council sector increased by 4% compared with results reported in 2021/22 (Figure 7).

The number of applications received by the Government sector increased by 3% compared with the 2021/22 results.

Applications received in the University sector increased by 14% in 2022/23 compared with the previous year.

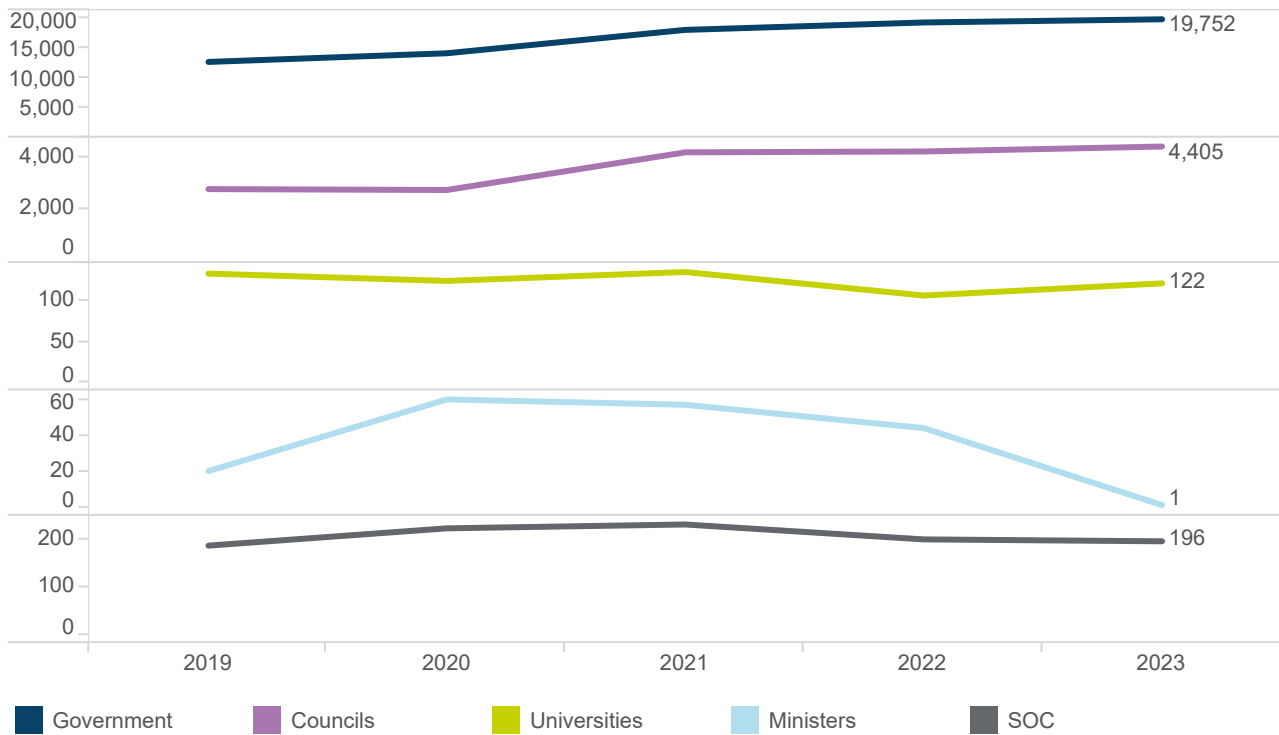
The State-Owned Corporations sector declined by 2% compared with the previous year.

Applications received by the Minister sector declined significantly by 98% in 2022/23. This decline in reported applications follows the State election on 25 March 2023. Only one such application to a Minister's office was reported in respect of the three month period following the State election.

As a result, this Report cannot analyse the performance of the Minister sector for 2022/23 as compared to previous years. While there are important conventions regarding access to records of former Ministries, it is a significant gap to have no data about most of the year in which a State general election is held.

⁴ These figures do not take into account any change in the functions of these agencies between reporting years, such as through Machinery of Government changes.

Figure 7: Number of applications received, by sector, 2018/19 to 2022/23



‘How many applications were lodged?’ is reported and measured by the requirement for agencies to report on the total number of formal applications received during the year and that were assessed as valid in clause 8(b) of the GIPA Regulation.