

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

### **QUESTION NO. 509**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 6 - 2010**

**Dr A Lotriet (DA) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture:**

1. Whether her department has any policy according to which archival staff members are permitted to censor open records before making it available to the public for their perusal; if not,
2. whether archival staff have been informed that it is not permitted; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so what are the relevant details?

**NW622E**

**REPLY:**

### **NATIONAL ARCHIVES ACCESS POLICY**

1. No
2. The provision of access to archival information is guided by the constitutional right to freedom of information. It is regulated in terms of the National Archives and Records Service Act (Act 43 of 1996 as amended) and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (Act 2 of 2000). No incident of any record requested in terms of the National Archives Act being censored has

been officially reported or complained about. Access requests in terms of the PAIA may result in the provision of copies of records where certain information protected in terms of sections 33 – 46 of the act have been masked. Five members of the National Archives staff will be undergoing a distance-learning internet-based Information Access and Protection of Privacy (IAPP) certificate course offered by the University of Alberta, Canada as from April 2010. No similar course is available in South Africa.

