

## Long wait on police claims

Policemen who lodged claims for compensation for loss or injury incurred during the Aboriginal "embassy" demonstrations 2½ years ago have received nothing yet.

Individual policemen who suffered injury or loss in the demonstrations, in July, 1972, were told that the Attorney-General's Department would pay their claims after the legislation under which police had acted was declared invalid in the ACT Supreme Court, and charges against those arrested were dismissed.

Normally, compensation would be paid in addition to fines by those convicted.

A spokesman for the department said yesterday that officers were still examining the claims, which had been submitted by solicitors acting for the police, but that a decision might be expected soon.

Some of the hold-up was caused by attempts to estimate the amount of compensation to be paid for injuries, he said. While it was comparatively easy to fix a value on a broken watch, or lost police cap, it was more difficult to assess the value of a black eye, or scratched face.

Mr John Oldroyd, from the ACT Police Association, said yesterday that people actually arrested in the demonstrations had been paid compensation long ago.

He had been informed late yesterday, after questions had been submitted by The Canberra Times to the department, that the matter had now been sent to the Treasury, he said.