

MINISTERIAL OFFICE SECONDEES

**251. Hon MARGARET ROWE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:**

For the 29 secondees assigned to ministerial offices, please state -

- (1) How many secondees have their salary paid by the ministerial office?
- (2) How many secondees have their salary paid by the department from which the seconded was seconded?
- (3) For (2) above, please provide the name of the seconded and the minister to whom the seconded is assigned.
- (4) With reference to question 3261 answered on 2 May, please explain what is meant by the term "all secondees are paid by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet either by the department's payroll system or by salary recoup" and how this statement relates to (1) and (2) above.

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Margaret Rowe for providing some notice of the question. I will give the answer that I have, although it may not satisfy her, particularly with respect to part (3) of the question. If not, we can discuss how we might refine the question.

- (1) Twenty-nine.
- (2)-(4) In the past, employees who were seconded to an agency were transferred to the payroll system of that agency. This practice is changing and in future all employees who are seconded will continue to be paid by their home agency and the home agency will invoice the agency to which the employee is seconded; this is referred to as salary recoup.

The change is being implemented for administrative efficiency and has no effect on agency funding, as the salary for the seconded person is ultimately paid by the agency to which the person is seconded. In the interim, some secondees are on the payroll of the agency to which they are seconded and some are on a salary recoup arrangement.

Although that is a pretty good answer, it actually misses a vital part of what Hon Margaret Rowe asked. We might therefore discuss how we can fix that.