

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

25 OCT 2022

See tabled paper.

Thursday, 1 September 2022

903. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

(1) I refer to Western Australia's eight trade and investment offices and I ask, for each office please identify for each of the following years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23:

- (a) the number of staff employed or engaged;
 - (b) the total cost of staff employed or engaged;
 - (c) the salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner;
 - (d) any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified in (c);
 - (e) the cost to lease or own commercial premises; and
 - (f) the total cost of each office per annum?
- (2) In relation to the residence of the United Kingdom Agent-General please provide:
- (a) the location (including address) of the primary and any secondary residence of the Agent-General;
 - (b) are each of the residences identified in (a) leased or owned;
 - (c) on what date and for what term was each lease entered into; and
 - (d) please table the lease agreement executed?
- (3) How is the salary and allowances for each Agent-General and Trade and Investment Commissioner determined and what explanation can be given for such significant disparity between them?

Answer

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation advises:

(1) (a – f) See tabled paper no. #

(2) (a) The Agent General's primary and only residence in the United Kingdom / Europe is in postcode WC2 London. For privacy and security, it is not appropriate to provide the Agent General's address.

(b) Leased.

(c) The lease was executed on 24 November 2021 for 36 months.

(d) See (2)(a).

(3) The Agent General is appointed by the Governor of Western Australia in accordance with the *Agent General Act 1895* (WA).

While the Agent General works to attract investment and grow trade opportunities for Western Australian businesses in the United Kingdom/Europe region, the position also performs an important state representational role in the United Kingdom. Mr John Langoulant AO has decades of experience across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, extensive knowledge of the Western Australian economy and industries, and considerable experience undertaking reviews to support government reform agendas.

The State's four Investment and Trade Commissioners (for ASEAN, China, India-Gulf and North East Asia) are classified in accordance with the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and relevant Commissioner's Instructions. The Public Sector Commissioner endorsed classification

at Level 9 and as part of Other Management Executive. The Investment and Trade Commissioners were appointed following merit-based recruitment processes which were open to existing Western Australian public servants.

The Agent General and the Investment and Trade Commissioners receive various allowances or supports to help offset the disruption and higher costs of living associated with the posting and vary depending on location and the number of dependants accompanying them. The use of third party global mobility provider data is included in the evaluation of allowances or supports.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'P' followed by a capital 'R' and a capital 'D'.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

London, United Kingdom	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	1	1	1	6	6	6	6	5
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	1,556,423	1,484,278	1,360,728	469,910	545,665	596,911	601,416	480,057
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	215,964	285,145	315,713	313,861	312,399	316,547	315,000	274,959
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	43,416	327,755	56,872	56,416	68,070	68,070	68,070	57,180
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	597,102	683,484	311,475	395,005	339,470	429,789	421,578	446,659
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	2,282,595	2,357,678	2,214,250	1,776,382	2,348,439	2,341,465	2,204,036	2,363,087

- Prior to 2017-18, the WA Investment and Trade Office in London was operated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).
- Prior to 2017-18, DPC only employed one staff member (the Agent General) and provided funding for the London Office to engage their own staff. The costs associated with engaging these staff are included under "Total cost of staff employed or engaged".
- "Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))" in 2015-16 includes a \$255,701 termination payment (including leave) to the Agent General.
- The Agent General role is based in London and is attached to the London office budget.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Dubai, United Arab Emirates	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	2
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	580,374	448,097	576,801	348,332	195,608	229,843	173,088	174,308
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	221,525	243,809	256,505	181,012	164,719	180,483	109,941	-
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	NR	NR	56,897	56,897	16,977	-
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	132,893	161,884	120,052	40,224	44,475	43,199	38,785	37,994
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	1,097,832	814,000	820,333	1,034,742	577,247	764,979	533,643	277,017

- Prior to 2017-18, the WA Investment and Trade Office in Dubai was operated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).
- Prior to 2017-18, DPC only employed one staff member (the Commissioner) and provided funding for the Dubai Office to engage their own staff. The costs associated with engaging these staff are included under "Total cost of staff employed or engaged".
- The Commissioner for Gulf finished in December 2020 and the position was abolished (the Gulf market is now covered by the subsequently created Investment and Trade Commissioner for India-Gulf).
- "NR" reflects nil or incomplete records.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Tokyo, Japan	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	1	1	1	7	6	4	5	7
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	1,018,187	1,089,464	1,057,694	719,762	668,453	515,687	499,133	579,939
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	215,922	263,246	280,635	140,769	220,149	-30,672	159,541	167,015
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	44,974
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	178,977	204,575	139,102	267,303	222,618	260,099	275,933	275,961
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	1,556,449	1,694,242	1,700,934	1,656,453	1,666,740	1,036,898	1,069,471	1,849,788

- Prior to 2017-18, the WA Investment and Trade Office in Tokyo was operated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).
- Prior to 2017-18, DPC only employed one staff member (the Commissioner) and provided funding for the Tokyo Office to engage their own staff. The costs associated with engaging these staff are included under "Total cost of staff employed or engaged".
- The Tokyo office includes costs associated with one locally engaged staff member who is based in Western Australia's sister-state of Hyogo Prefecture.
- No allowances, payments or support were provided in 2020-21, as the Commissioner role was undertaken from Perth.
- The Investment and Trade Commissioner for North East Asia was appointed in February 2021 and deployed to Tokyo in October 2021.
- The salary of the Trade Commissioner in 2019-20 relates to leave credits.
- "NR" reflects nil or incomplete records.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Mumbai, India	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	6	7	6	6	6	5	5	5
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	127,942	121,064	93,245	205,133	273,660	298,468	252,910	208,635
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	150,254	175,067	114,376	140,664	143,671	150,718	166,015	137,784
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	NR	NR	70,858	70,858	13,339	3,203
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	83,362	83,918	80,447	85,079	116,087	110,103	106,213	104,265
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	743,876	913,769	696,956	924,041	1,029,290	1,043,539	661,068	594,747

- The Commissioner for India finished in December 2020 and the position was abolished (the India market is now covered by the subsequently created Investment and Trade Commissioner for India-Gulf).
- “NR” reflects nil or incomplete records.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Chennai, India	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	-
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	-
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	-
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	-
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	-
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	6,674

- The Investment and Trade Commissioner for India-Gulf was deployed to Chennai in June 2022. From 2022-23, this position is attached to the Chennai office.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Singapore	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	4
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	150,107	178,105	152,252	186,408	394,465	395,572	329,537	398,915
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	134,977	161,249	159,499	149,726	147,805	163,693	166,015	167,015
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	NR	69,987	84,380	84,380	66,543	36,126
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	152,066	138,498	148,313	124,954	147,407	164,261	158,459	182,522
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	995,762	1,195,291	936,720	1,032,030	1,356,688	1,367,568	1,197,009	1,281,014

- The Commissioner for Singapore finished in April 2021 and the position was abolished (the Singapore market is now covered by the subsequently created Investment and Trade Commissioner for ASEAN).
- The Investment and Trade Commissioner for ASEAN was appointed in February 2021 and deployed to Singapore in October 2021.
- "NR" reflects nil or incomplete records.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Vietnam	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	2
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	13,959
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	-
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	-
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	5,854
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	47,283

- In 2021-22, \$5,854 was paid for shared office space in Hanoi (from 1 December 2021) and Ho Chi Minh City (from 1 February 2022).
- Prior to 2021-22, costs associated with Vietnam were attached to the Singapore office.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Jakarta, Indonesia	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	5	4	2	6	7	4	4	4
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	44,723	35,938	14,167	84,022	205,786	308,957	249,327	213,022
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	138,927	155,057	22,015	153,379	63,820	148,714	53,461	-
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	NR	58,879	58,879	58,879	58,879	-
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	34,114	31,846	39,952	64,267	48,721	55,665	57,543	53,320
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	763,996	769,046	249,087	679,715	747,843	947,653	601,200	369,442

- The Commissioner for Indonesia position was abolished in February 2021 (the Indonesia market is now covered by the subsequently created Investment and Trade Commissioner for ASEAN).
- "NR" reflects nil or incomplete records.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Shanghai, China	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2019-20	2018-19	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	5	4	6	7	6	6	4	5
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	387,040	410,205	328,916	349,786	273,426	280,322	244,949	310,245
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	164,842	143,429	126,988	308,127	156,480	150,246	166,015	167,015
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	NR	88,951	88,951	88,951	52,682	-
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	51,724	105,979	48,257	155,168	126,051	80,559	100,143	81,719
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	1,356,129	1,657,312	925,683	1,835,551	1,694,209	1,454,964	1,259,800	861,696

- The Commissioner for China finished in January 2021 and the position was abolished (leading to the creation of a new Investment and Trade Commissioner for China position). The Investment and Trade Commissioner for China was appointed in February 2021.
- “NR” reflects nil or incomplete records.

Legislative Council Question on Notice 903 – Tabled Paper

Seoul, Korea	2014-15	2015-16	2017-18	2016-17	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of staff employed or engaged	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
Total cost of staff employed or engaged	217,856	203,685	226,855	159,384	221,160	266,757	317,100	237,603
Salary of the relevant Agent-General or Trade and Investment Commissioner	209,020	209,788	217,953	179,234	245,929	242,968	166,015	-
Any additional allowances, payments or support provided to each identified (in c (above))	NR	NR	628	NR	53,227	53,227	1,292	-
The cost to lease or own commercial premises	98,009	98,563	99,373	93,909	103,820	100,324	91,170	89,134
The total cost of each office per annum (inclusive of b-e (above))	610,045	617,759	618,194	579,402	672,488	704,261	741,355	444,276

- The Commissioner for Korea finished in December 2020 and the position was abolished (the Korean market is now covered by the subsequently created Investment and Trade Commissioner for North East Asia).
- "NR" reflects nil or incomplete records.