

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, MINISTERIAL STAFF AND OFFICES - MANAGEMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES

1953. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel
- (1) What was the maximum number (head count) of employees who were engaged in communications, marketing, speechwriting or media (including public, corporate and media relations) for the Department and the Minister last month?
 - (a) what was the job title for each of these employees; and
 - (b) what is the salary band for each of these employees?
 - (2) How many people resigned (not retired) from each agency under the Minister's control last month (please list each agency)?
 - (3) How many consultants were engaged by agencies under the Minister's control last month and what was the task and cost of each?
 - (4) How many of the following were stolen, lost or went missing from agencies (including the Ministerial office) under the Minister's control last month (please list agencies) -
 - (a) laptops, notebooks, palm computers;
 - (b) mobile phones; and
 - (c) government-owned cars?
 - (5) How much money was spent last month on the following by agencies under the Minister's control -
 - (a) market research/polling;
 - (b) television advertising;
 - (c) print media advertising; and
 - (d) radio advertising?
 - (6) What requests made for additional resources or funding were rejected or only partially approved by the Minister last month and what were the reasons for those rejections?
 - (7) How much money did the Minister and Ministerial staff spend on travel last month and what was the nature of each trip undertaken?
 - (8) How much money did the Minister spend on the Ministerial Credit Card last month (please give reasons for each spend over \$200)?
 - (9) How much money did the Minister's Chief of Staff, media advisor and executive officer spend on their government credit cards last month (please give reasons for each spend over \$200)?
 - (10) How much money did the Minister spend on office furniture, ornaments, art and other items, excluding items of an operational nature, for the Ministerial office last month (please provide a breakdown of all items in excess of \$200)?
 - (11) Who did the Minister purchase food and/or alcohol for, using Government funds last month, and -
 - (a) how much was spent in each case;
 - (b) where was the purchase made; and
 - (c) why was Government money used in each case?
 - (12) How many appointment free week days did the Minister have last month?
 - (13) Can the Minister advise which policy change requests made by Departmental or Ministerial staff last month were -
 - (a) rejected;
 - (b) approved; and
 - (c) not yet dealt with?
 - (14) On how many occasions last month did the Minister visit -
 - (a) the departmental Head Office of each agency under the Minister's control; and
 - (b) any other departmental facility relevant to each agency under the Minister's control?
 - (15) On how many occasions last month did the Minister visit a regional area?

- (16) On how many occasions last month did the Minister meet with the Director General of the Department of each agency under his/her control?
- (17) Can the Minister outline the nature of all requests made by Government Members of Parliament for policy changes or funding increases within the department last month?
- (18) Did the Minister give any “off the record” briefings to any journalists about any matter relating to the Minister’s responsibilities last month and if so, what was the nature of those briefings?
- (19) Did the Minister give any comments to any journalists last month relating to the Minister's responsibilities with a caveat that the comments not be attributed directly to the Minister?
 - (a) If yes, can the Minister advise the nature of the comments in each case?
- (20) At any time last month, did the Minister or any Ministerial staff meet with or talk to the following, and if so what was the nature of that meeting or discussion -
 - (a) Julian Grill;
 - (b) Brian Burke;
 - (c) Megan Anwyl; and
 - (d) John Halden?
- (21) What was the total amount of money spent by the Minister’s office on -
 - (a) plant hire and purchases; and
 - (b) flower hire or purchases?
- (22) What was the total number, and the total value of insurance claims made through RiskCover by the Ministerial Office?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I am unable to provide answers to all the questions on notice due to the extraordinary wide scope of information being sought.

To develop a response would require a significant and unreasonable allocation of Government resources to source and collate all information requested.

The Government does endeavour to answer the majority of questions on notice - and if there are more specific inquiries by the Member I will seek to answer them.