

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet


Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC asked:

F1

- 1) Who made the decision to have SDC and SEC meet concurrently?

Answer: The decision for the State Disaster Council (SDC) and the Security and Emergency Committee of Cabinet (SECC) to meet concurrently was made by the Premier, as Chair of both the SDC and SECC, noting the role of the SDC was to liaise with, support and advise government, and that any decisions would be decisions of the SECC.

Minister's initials



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F2

- 1) First of all, with regard to page 46 of the annual report on FOIs, I was just wondering if I could get the total number of FOIs received by DPC in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 to date?

Answer: Total number of FOIs received by DPC in 2017-18 was 60, 2018-19 was 64, 2019-2020 was 34, and 2020-21 is 20 (as at 24/11/2020).

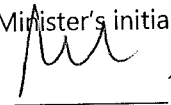
- 2) My second question is what was the total number of FOIs received by ministerial offices in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 to date?

Answer: Total number of FOIs received by ministerial offices in 2017-2018 was 96, 2018-19 was 56, 2019-20 was 50 and 2020-21 is 18 (as at 24/11/2020).

- 3) The third, for each answer to my first and second questions, how many of the applications were not finalised within 45 days after the access application was received?
- 4) And fourth, for each answer at 1 and 2, how many applications were extended more than twice?

Answer (3 and 4): This statistical information has not been requested by the Information Commissioner and has not been tracked. Answering this question would involve a manual search of every FOI application received by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Ministerial Offices for the specified years. The government is not prepared to divert such a substantial and unreasonable portion of agency resources away from core operations to undertake such an intensive search.

Minister's initials



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ON NOTICE RESPONSES**

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F3

- 1) Can you confirm the number of FTEs employed in DPC over the years 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21

Answer: FTE includes DPC and those engaged in Ministerial Offices based on HR/MOIR data:

- a) 2017-18
Answer: At 30 June 2018 - 457 FTE
- b) 2018-19
Answer: At 30 June 2019 – 494 FTE
- c) 2019-20
Answer: At 30 June 2020 – 553 FTE
- d) 2020-21
Answer: At 30 September 2020 – 547 FTE

- 2) How many for each year were employed on contract?

Answer: This data excludes those employed on s 68, 'term of government' contracts. Based on HR/MOIR data:

- a) 2017-18
Answer: At 30 June 2018 - 37 employees
- b) 2018-19
Answer: At 30 June 2019 – 76 employees
- c) 2019-20
Answer: At 30 June 2020 – 75 employees
- d) 2020-21
Answer: At 30 September 2020 – 63 employees

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F3 (continued)

- 3) a) How many FTE had been transferred from short-term contract to full-time staff from the department for each of those years:

Answer: Employees are only converted from fixed term to permanent under the provisions of Commissioner's Instructions No. 23 (CI23) which was introduced on 10 August 2018. Conversion numbers are as follows

- i) 2017/2018
Answer: Prior to the introduction of CI23

- ii) 2018/2019
Answer: 7 employees

- iii) 2019/2020
Answer: 8 employees

- iv) 2020/2021
Answer: 1 employee

- b) How many hours and days of sick leave have been taken from 1 January 2020?

Answer: includes periods of both paid and unpaid sick leave for DPC and ministerial offices from 1 January 2020 to 19 November 2020

- i) Hours
Answer: 33,535 hours

- ii) Days
Answer: 4,417 days

- c) How many claims for workers' compensation have been submitted since 1 January 2020?

Answer: 3 claims

- d) How many complaints have been submitted or received for bullying from the department in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21?

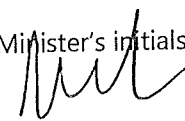
- i) 2017/2018
Answer: 1 complaint

- ii) 2018/2019
Answer: 0 complaints

- iii) 2019/2020
Answer: 0 complaints

- iv) 2020/2021
Answer: 1 complaint

Minister's initials



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier MLC asked:

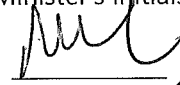
F5

With regard to the sewerage testing, on what date did sewerage testing commence across all of the metropolitan area?

Answer: The Department of Health commenced testing from five metropolitan wastewater treatment plants on 9th November. The five wastewater treatment facilities are: Subiaco, Beenyup, Woodman Point, Alkimos, Gordon Road. These sites cover a large proportion of the Perth metro area, but not the entire metro area.

This testing will be ongoing weekly for four of the wastewater treatment plants and daily for the Subiaco treatment plant; it will continue for one month and be reviewed. In addition, collection and testing has been conducted from four of the quarantine hotels.

Minister's initials



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F6

Staffing profile of Ministerial Offices from 1 January 2019 and then as of today's date:

- a) January 2019
Answer: 226.13 FTE
- b) October 2020
Answer: 228.02 FTE

Minister's initials

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F7

- 1) The total amount spent on consultants in 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21

Answer: In accordance with Premier's Circular 2019-06, a summary of all consultants engaged by Government is prepared on a six monthly basis for tabling in Parliament. The Premier's Circular requires departments and agencies to prepare and submit details of consultants engaged to provide strategic advice for Government to act on.

Total for Department of Premier and Cabinet reported to Parliament:

Financial Year	Amount
2017 - 2018	\$1,383,002.09
2018 - 2019	\$1,218,234.72
2019 - 2020	\$702,058.95
2020 – 2021 (* Data collected at 31 Dec 2020 and 30 June 2021)	Not yet available

Minister's initials



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F8

- 1) Can I get the amount that was spent on radio and print advertising for the years 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21?

Answer: Advertising expenditure is not recorded in specific categories of 'radio' or 'print'. To quantify the expenditure in these categories would require an onerous undertaking and review of all invoices paid and possible further enquiries for some of the expenditure payments.

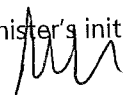
Advertising expenditure is disclosed in the Annual Report under section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907, with total advertising expenditure disclosed for the following years:

- a) 2017–18: \$111,503
 - b) 2018–19: \$261,250
 - c) 2019–20: \$2,760,226 (corrected amount)
 - d) 2020–21: expenditure not yet available for 2020–21
- 2) Can you also include within that the amount that is spent on radio and print advertising for the 7West Media group?

Answer:

- a) 2017–18: \$Nil
- b) 2018–19: \$Nil
- c) 2019–20: \$Nil
- d) 2020–21: \$Nil

Minister's initials



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Peter Collier asked:

F9

With regard to the employment of Aboriginal people in DPC, are you able to provide me the figures for Aboriginal people employed in DPC for 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21?

Answer: Based on HR/MOIR data for the Department:

a) 2017-2018

Answer: At 30 June 2018 – 9 employees

b) 2018-2019

Answer: At 30 June 2019 – 9 employees

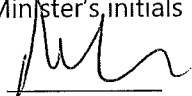
c) 2019-2020

Answer: At 30 June 2020 – 10 employees

d) 2020-2021

Answer: At 30 September 2020 – 11 employees.

Minister's initials

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC asked:

F10

Hon AARON STONEHOUSE: Are you saying it is in some part due to a ruling of the High Court?

Hon SUE ELLERY: No, no. I am saying in the recent case with Clive Palmer, if you go and look at the decision, it is around: did the state make a proportionate response to the circumstances it found itself in? I am paraphrasing the court, but, essentially, the court said, yes, the state was within its rights to make that response in the circumstances at the time. But I think, if it helps the honourable member, I am happy to take it as supplementary and get you a more finite response. I am not sure it will take things much beyond what I have said but I am happy to double-check because I am not the Premier; I am just representing him.

Hon AARON STONEHOUSE: Of course, yes. That would be helpful. There is the updated health advice that we are all well aware of, but there was, at least as far as the Premier was concerned, at some point some legal impediment. If part of the High Court ruling tested the idea that a case-by-case basis, a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis could be used or could not be used as a result of that ruling, now we have been able to change that, I would like to know. But I am happy to take, if it can be provided as supplementary information, the legal basis on which the Premier has changed his position or the government has changed its position, if it was indeed the government's view.


Answer: It is convenient to deal with all of the requests for supplementary information under F10 together given that they pertain to the same subject matter.

The Controlled Border for Western Australia Directions were made by the State Emergency Coordinator under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (WA) on 14 November 2020. Those Directions, which are made for the purposes of emergency management under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (WA) are properly informed by a range of considerations, including legal and health advice.

There is a clear distinction between, on the one hand, an arrangement between the State and another State or Territory to allow its residents to enter Western Australia without restriction whilst other States remain subject to restrictions, and, on the other hand, an arrangement which imposes restrictions based on where a person has travelled during the past 14 days (being the incubation period for COVID-19) irrespective of where they live. The Premier's comments were referring to an arrangement of the first kind.

The Controlled Border for Western Australia Directions do not distinguish between residents of States or Territories but rather where a person seeking to enter Western Australia has been in the past 14 days. They impose different requirements based on where a person has travelled and those differential restrictions are based on expert public health advice. Those restrictions may vary over time depending upon the current public health situation. This is entirely consistent with the way in which the (now revoked) Quarantine (Closing the Border) Directions operated.

The High Court decision upholding the validity of the State's hard border (that was implemented through the now revoked Quarantine (Closing the Border) Directions) confirmed the validity of the State's approach which has been consistent since the hard border was introduced.

Minister's initials


LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Colin Tincknell asked:

F11

- 1) I refer to the annual report, page 58, outcome 1, "Executive Government and Members of Parliament receives appropriate support", which I know has not changed from last year. I note that there are no additional targets reflecting services for MPs in this year's annual report.
- a) Given the Premier's assurance last year that targets are in development, what progress, if any, had been made to date?

Answer: In July 2019, Treasury commenced a complete review of the Sector's OBM Framework, on the basis that this work would likely result in further changes to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's OBM structure and, in order to avoid duplication, Treasury agreed to the postponement of the review of the Department's OBM Structure pending the outcome of Treasury's OBM Framework Review. As a consequence of the State's emergency response to COVID-19, Treasury's review has been put on hold.

Notwithstanding this, the Department continues to implement a range of measures aimed at enhancing and ensuring Members of Parliament receive appropriate support including:

- A system of online leave bookings via the Department's Web Self-Service (WSS) was introduced for all electorate officers.
- Electronic Pay Certification reports were introduced via the WSS.
- In conjunction with the WA Fixated Threat Assessment Centre and Dignitary Protection Unit (DPU), the Department provided seminars for all electorate staff and Members educating on matters concerning fixated individuals.
- Installation of CCTV at electorate offices upon request.
- Provision of colour Multi-Function Devices and colour signage.
- Creation of an Emergency Actions Plan in consultation with DPU.
- Introduced a modernized and user friendly PEO Connect (previously EONet) to support Members and staff.
- The Department has visited every electorate office during current election cycle and conducted a Meet-the-Member program where Department staff met Members one-on-one.
- Introduction of a Leave Management Policy for electorate office staff.
- Updated travel provisions for eligible regional staff.
- Introduced bullying and harassment guidelines outlining obligations of Members, electorate staff and the Department.
- Creation of Fit-out Guidelines and Relocation Procedures incorporating disability access.
- Provision of human resource information sessions for all Members to assist them in the management of staff including how to choose the right people and manage their performance.

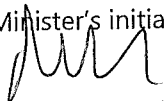
Hon Colin Tincknell asked:

F11 (continued)

b) What discussions have taken place with the Auditor General and Treasury?

Answer:

- No further discussions have taken place with Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General because of the response to the pandemic.
- Discussions will occur in early 2021.

Minister's initials


LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of the Premier and Cabinet


Hon Peter Collier asked:

F12

- 1) Access to Members email without knowledge or approval. I just want to make sure with the new system that DPC do not have access to our emails without our knowledge or approval.

Answer: The Department does not have access to Members' emails without approval.

Minister's initials

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