

PUBLIC

24102/14



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET HELD ON
THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2014**

Hon Ken Travers MLC asked

Question 1

Noting that Committee questions are actually sent to the Premier, why did the Cabinet Secretary answer question on notice 26 in his own capacity?

Answer

The Cabinet Secretary advises Cabinet on the application of cabinet confidentiality. The answers submitted on 22 January 2014 were cleared through the Premier's Office.

Question 2

Why are the details of the number of occasions on which Ministers have made a declaration of a conflict of interest to Cabinet on matters where that Cabinet decision has been made public not able to be made public or provided to the committee?

Answer

The confidentiality of Cabinet documents, discussions and decisions is a long established principle and has been regarded as essential for the maintenance of Cabinet collective responsibility and frankness between Ministers and officials. As Cabinet Secretary, I am not in a position to reveal Cabinet deliberations. It is, however, open for any member to seek information from the Premier in regard to specific public policies as was the case in relation to Legislative Council question without notice 647 of 2013.

Question 3

Why are the details of the nature of the conflict of interest in each case not able to be made public or provided to the committee?

Answer

See answer to Question 2.

Question 4

Noting that the names of the officer involved was not requested, why does the number of employees who declared an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest need to be kept confidential?

Answer

The process for declarations of conflicts of interest and permission to engage in either paid or unpaid activities outside the Department is confidential and relies on this arrangement in part

to encourage declarations to be made. It provides a degree of confidence to staff members that their declarations will be handled in an appropriate manner. Identifying the number or any breakdown of those numbers or the nature of the declaration or permission sought may lead to the identification of individuals which would compromise the confidentiality of the system.

Question 5

Why is the nature of each actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest declared not able to be made public or provided to the committee?

Answer

See answer to Question 4.

Question 6

Noting that the names of the officer involved was not requested, why does the number of employees in the Department who sought permission to engage in either paid or unpaid activities outside of the Department need to be kept confidential?

Answer

See answer to Question 4.

Question 7

Why is the nature of the permission sought to engage in either paid or unpaid activities outside of the Department not able to be made public or provided to the committee?

Answer

See answer to Question 4.

Question 8

What was the notional budget allocation made for each Ministerial Office in 2012/13?

Answer

As indicated in the previously submitted answers to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, a global allocation across all ministerial offices, is made from a notional allocation for each office.

The following table indicates the global allocation for all ministerial offices, including the office of the Leader of the Opposition and the respective actual and year to date expenditure for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.

The budget figures for 2012-13 are a notional allocation made prior to the 2013 State General election and subject to change as a result of changes made to the Ministry immediately after the general election and subsequently. As a result of these changes the actual expenditure should not be compared to the notional allocation and any attempt to portray this comparison would not be considered accurate or appropriate.

Similarly the 2013-14 Budget figure is a national allocation made before subsequent changes to the Ministry and resulting changes in staffing arrangements, which in turn impact on actual expenditure. As a result of these changes the actual expenditure should not be compared to the notional allocation and any attempt to portray this comparison would not be considered accurate or appropriate.

| 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
|---------|--------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Budget | Actual | Budget | Year to Date 31 December 2013 |
| \$000 | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| 35.853 | 34.809 | 33.941 | 17.239 |

Question 9

What was the actual expenditure by each Ministerial office in 2012/13?

Answer

See answer to Question 8.

Question 10

What is the notional budget allocation made for each Ministerial Office in 2013/14?

Answer

See answer to Question 8.

Question 11

What savings have been identified in Ministerial offices for the 2013/14 financial year?

Answer

See answer to Question 8.

Question 12

What is the standard number of car parking bays that DPC assigns to a Member's Electorate Office?

Answer

The number of parking bays able to be assigned to a Member's electorate office will depend on the terms of the lease for that office. Where fees are charged for designated parking bays as included in the lease, the Department will pay for up to three bays, one for the member and one each for the Electorate and Research Officer.

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ATTACHMENT

Question 9

Member's Electorate Offices approved by the Premier to relocate post-election 2013

Hon. Frank Alban MLA
Hon. Jacqui Boydell MLC
Mr Vince Catania MLA
Ms Eleni Evangel MLA
Ms Josie Farrer MLA
Mrs Glenys Godfrey MLA
Hon. Nigel Hallett MLC
Mr Chris Hatton MLA
Hon. Colin Holt MLC
Hon. Peter Katsambanis MLC
Mr Sean L'Estrange MLA
Hon. Mark Lewis MLC
Mr Shane Love MLA
Ms Simone McGurk MLA
Hon. Robin McSweeney MLC
Mr Jan Norberger MLA
Hon. Terry Redman MLA
Hon. Samantha Rowe MLC
Hon. Sally Talbot MLC
Hon. Ken Travers MLC
Hon. Darren West MLC

Refurbishments to Member's Electorate Offices

Mr Dave Kelly MLA
Ms Janine Freeman MLA
Hon. Liza Harvey MLA

Additional Electorate Office

Hon Mia Davies MLA