



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

Hearing: Wednesday 8 November 2023

Answers due by: Tuesday 5 December 2023

Budget Estimates secretariat

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Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

Questions from the Hon. Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)

Local Small Commitments Allocation

1. Did you declare any conflicts of interest in relation to any of the projects nominated by you selection commitments to be funded from the Local Small Commitments Allocation?
2. What steps did you take to make sure that projects you nominated for this funding were accurately recorded as election commitments?
3. For each of those projects did you advise the relevant organisation of the nomination prior to the election?

Industrial Relations Taskforce

4. When is the Industrial Relations Taskforce due to report?
5. What is the anticipated total cost of the Taskforce?
6. How much is being paid to:
 - (a) Ms Anna Booth?
 - (b) Mr Roger Boland?

Essential Services Fund

7. Is the \$3.6 billion set aside in the Essential Services Fund an effective overall cap on public sector wage rises for the years 2023-24 to 2026-27?

Paramedics

8. Since 25 March 2023 how many times has the NSW Government made applications to the Industrial Relations Commission in relation to industrial action by paramedics?
9. Was the Minister consulted before each of those actions were taken?

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

Agency Invoices

10. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
11. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 30 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
12. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 60 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
 - (a) What was the penalty for paying suppliers or contactors late, broken down by agency?

Car/Driver

13. Has your Ministerial car been subject to any traffic or parking fines?

- (a) If so, please provide details of each fine?
 - (b) Who was driving the car at the time of each incident?
 - (c) Who paid any of the fines?
14. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?
- (a) If so, who was driving the car?

Complaints

15. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?

Consultants

16. How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
17. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:
- (a) Social media?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (b) Photography?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (c) Videography?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (d) Acting training?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (e) Ergonomics?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
18. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
 - (b) What is the purpose of each contract?
 - (c) Who was the contract with?
 - (d) Did the contract go to a competitive tender?

Departmental Credit Cards

19. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
 - i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.

- (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
- (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
- (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
- (e) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - i. What was the cost to replace them?
- (f) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. What was the total value of those purchases?
 - ii. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - iii. Were all those amounts repaid?
 - iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
- (g) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
 - i. What amount was repaid, in full?
 - ii. What amount was left unpaid?
- (h) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (i) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Department/Agency Staffing

- 20. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?
- 21. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- 22. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?
- 23. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?

24. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
25. Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - (a) Voluntary
 - (b) Forced
26. What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
27. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
28. How many staff were dismissed from each Department/agency under your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) Without identifying individuals, what were the reason(s) for each dismissal?
29. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
30. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?
31. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
32. What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) Taxi hire?
 - (b) Ridesharing services?
 - (c) Limousine/private car hire?
 - (d) Hire car rental?
33. Do any senior executive service employees in any of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities have a driver that is paid for by the Department/agency?
 - (a) If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver, and which senior executive service employees have a driver?
 - (b) How much was spent on these drivers since 28 March 2023?
34. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
35. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
 - (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

- (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?
36. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on overseas flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
- (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

Efficiency Dividends

37. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?
- (a) If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?
- (b) What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications

38. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
- (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
- (c) If so, what were the reasons provided?
- (d) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
- (e) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
- (f) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
- i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.
 - iii. Date responded.
 - iv. The description provided for the information sought.
39. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
- (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
- (c) If so, what were the reasons provided?
- (d) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
- (e) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
- (f) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
- i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.

- iii. Date responded.
- iv. The description provided for the information sought.

Hospitality

- 40. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
- 41. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
- 42. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?
 - (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
- 43. Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
 - (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
 - (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared publicly?
 - (c) Do staff declare their gifts publicly?

Labour Hire Firms

- 44. Have any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilised the services of Labour Hire Firms since 28 March 2023? If yes, please advise in table form:
 - (a) The names of the firms utilised.
 - (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged.
 - (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
 - (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
 - (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company.
 - (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company.
 - (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.

Media and Public Relations

- 45. How much has your ministerial office spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
 - (a) Facebook
 - (b) Instagram
 - (c) LinkedIn
 - (d) TikTok
 - (e) YouTube
 - (f) WhatsApp
 - (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

46. How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
- (a) Facebook
 - (b) Instagram
 - (c) LinkedIn
 - (d) TikTok
 - (e) YouTube
 - (f) WhatsApp
 - (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)
47. Have you had media training or public speaking training?
- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
 - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?
48. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?
49. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities and their total cost?
50. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Merchant fees

51. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.
52. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.
53. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments made by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial disclosures

54. Did you make any updates to your Ministerial disclosure on or after 2 August 2023?
- (a) If yes, what prompted this update to your disclosure?

Office Administration

55. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:
- (a) April

- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

56. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS5 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

57. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS4 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

58. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS3 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

59. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS2 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
 - (b) May
 - (c) June
 - (d) July
 - (e) August
 - (f) September
 - (g) October
60. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS1 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
 - (b) May
 - (c) June
 - (d) July
 - (e) August
 - (f) September
 - (g) October
61. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
62. How many DLOs were seconded to your ministerial office for the following months:
- (a) April
 - (b) May
 - (c) June
 - (d) July
 - (e) August
 - (f) September
 - (g) October
63. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
64. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
65. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?
66. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?

67. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?
68. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?
69. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?
 - (a) What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
 - (b) Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?
 - (c) Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?
70. How many staff members employed in your office under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?
 - (a) Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.
71. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?
72. How much of this budget is allocated to staff?
73. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?
 - (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
74. How many iPads or tablets are assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 - (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
75. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 - (a) What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
76. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) What is the cost of this?
77. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

78. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
79. What brand of paper is used in your office?
- (a) Is it recycled paper?
 - (b) Is it Australian made paper?
80. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
81. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - i. Who were they gifted to?
82. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
83. What is the total spend for your office since 28 March 2023 for:
- (a) Taxi hire?
 - (b) Ridesharing services?
 - (c) Hire car rental?
 - (d) Limousine/private car hire?
84. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, please provide details of the trip including the date of the trip, purpose of the trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Overseas Trips

85. Have you had any overseas trips paid for using public funds since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
86. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, what was the nature of these trips?
 - (b) Who paid for these trips?

Parliamentary Secretary

87. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?
88. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?
89. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?
90. What event/meetings has your Parliamentary Secretary attended on your behalf?
- (a) Please provide in table form the date and the purpose of the event/meeting.

91. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
92. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
 - (b) If so, what was the cost of:
 - i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?
93. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
 - (b) If so, what was the cost of:
 - i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?
94. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?
- (a) If so, was it speech, voice, or media training?
 - i. If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost?

Probity Auditor

95. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

Qantas

96. Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairmans Club?
- (a) Have you ever previously been a member? When did you cease to be a member?
 - (b) When did you initially become a member?
 - (c) When was this declared on the Ministerial gifts register?

Training

97. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?
- (a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.
98. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training?

- (a) If so, what was the cost?
- (b) Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?

Website Usage

- 99. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- 100. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?