



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

**BUDGET ESTIMATES
2023-2024
Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier
and Finance

Treasurer

Hearing: Tuesday 31 October 2023

Answers due by: Monday 27 November
2023

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Treasurer

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

No tax increases	
Question	1. For the purpose of keeping your pre-election promise that the Government would not increase taxes: (a) Is a fee a tax? (b) Is a charge a tax? (c) Is a fine a tax? (d) Is an excise a tax? (e) Is a toll a tax? (f) Is a surcharge a tax? (g) Is a duty a tax? (h) Is a levy a tax?
Answer	Table 4.4 of the Budget Paper No. 1 provides a summary of taxation revenue.
Question	2. Will you rule out any increases in this term of Government to: (a) Fees (b) Charges (c) Fines (d) Excises (e) Tolls (f) Surcharges (g) Duties (h) Levies (i) Royalties
Answer	Refer to page 29 of the transcript.
Question	3. Will you rule out an increase to coal royalties in future budgets?
Answer	The Government will continue to deliver budgets that are responsible and deliver the best outcomes for the people of NSW.
Inflation	
Question	4. Has any modelling been undertaken by Treasury on the impact of the 2023-24 Budget on inflation in NSW? (a) Could you please provide any advice and/or modelling on the impact of the budget on inflation in NSW?
Answer	The impact of the NSW Budget on inflation is indirectly captured in the forecasts via the impact the Budget has on the broader economy. There are a variety of methodologies that can be used to forecast inflation. A number of models inform the final forecast figures.
Question	5. What impact are the public service wage increases provided for in the Budget expected to have on inflation in NSW?

Answer	The Budget, which included a 4.5 per cent increase in public sector wages in 2023-24, including superannuation and a two-year pay freeze for senior executives is deemed to be neutral to modestly disinflationary.
Privatisation	
Question	6. Does Treasury have a working definition of privatisation?
Answer	The sale of the publicly owned electricity network to private interests is an example of privatisation.
Question	7. Is the sale of publicly owned land to a private developer considered to be privatisation?
Answer	Refer to the answer to question 6.
First Home Buyers Scheme	
Question	8. How many first home buyers who chose a property tax rather than transfer duty during the operation of First Home Buyers Choice scheme: (a) chose property tax? i. Of these, how many related to a property valued between \$1 million and \$1.5 million? (b) chose transfer duty? i. Of these, how many related to a property valued between \$1 million and \$1.5 million?
Answer	This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance.
Sydney CPI	
Question	9. In relation to the predictions for the increases in the Sydney CPI in Table 2.1 of Budget Paper No.1, do these predictions take into account any increase in electricity prices as a result of the increase in coal royalties?
Answer	A range of sources and stakeholders were consulted in the preparation of NSW Treasury's CPI forecasts as part of the 2023-24 Budget, including the Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC).
Paramedics	
Question	10. Why did the government decide to take Australian Paramedics Association (NSW) to the Industrial Relations Commission?
Answer	This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Health.
Question	11. Does the Budget include provision for wage increases beyond 4.5% for 2023-24 for paramedics, and if so: (a) How much is provided? (b) Where in the Budget is this recorded?

Answer	The Budget includes \$3.6 billion towards the Essential Services Fund.
Question	<p>12. Has the allocation of the Essential Services Fund (ESF) for pay rises to different public sector workforces already been decided by the government?</p> <p>(a) If so, what consultation has occurred in relation to this?</p> <p>(b) If not, on what assumptions was the \$3.6 billion calculated?</p>
Answer	The (a) consultation, and (b) assumptions that underpin the allowance are Cabinet in Confidence.
Question	13. For paramedics who have not secured a wage increase for 2023-24, will the ESF cover an eventual Pay Rise?
Answer	Once any award or enterprise agreement is agreed, the terms and conditions are publicly released.
Comprehensive Expenditure Review	
Question	<p>14. Noting that according to Budget paper No.1, “the Comprehensive Expenditure Review has identified \$13 billion in budget improvement and reprioritisation measures over the five years to 2026-27”, what contribution in budget improvement is being attributed to each of these “measures being implemented following this review”:</p> <p>(a) reducing labour hire expenditure;</p> <p>(b) reducing spending on consultants;</p> <p>(c) cutting spending on advertising;</p> <p>(d) reducing travel costs across government;</p> <p>(e) reducing legal expenses;</p> <p>(f) reducing the number of senior executives across the public sector;</p> <p>(g) freezing levels of pay for Members of Parliament and public sector senior executives;</p> <p>(h) agency operational, procurement and corporate efficiencies;</p> <p>(i) reprioritisation of unallocated funds from each of these grant programs:</p> <p>i. Restart;</p> <p>ii. Regional Growth Funds;</p> <p>iii. Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund;</p> <p>iv. WestInvest;</p> <p>v. Future Economy Fund;</p> <p>vi. Coal Innovation Fund;</p> <p>vii. other grant programs (please breakdown by program)?</p>
Answer	<p>The Comprehensive Expenditure Review methodically reviewed government spending to identify budget improvement and reprioritisation measures that assisted in providing capacity to support NSW families and rebuild essential services.</p> <p>This review was necessary to offset the significant fiscal pressures that the Government inherited and to return the State to a sustainable operating</p>

	<p>and debt position.</p> <p>The budget improvement and reprioritisation measures are presented within the 2023-24 Budget Statement (Appendix A5) and in-line with previous budget papers.</p>
Question	<p>15. Noting that this \$13 billion is, according to Budget Paper No. 1 “being directed to priority investments to support rebuilding essential services and the provision of further cost-of-living relief” how much of the \$13 billion is being directed to pay for:</p> <p>(a) Budgeted public sector wage rises?</p> <p>(b) The Essential Services Fund?</p> <p>(c) Infrastructure, including hospitals and schools?</p> <p>(d) cost-of-living measures (please breakdown by measure)?</p>
Answer	Budget measures are included in the budget papers.
IPART determination re Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Act 2022	
Question	<p>16. Given the tight and well-defined scope of IPART’s task, how has seeking submissions from any interested parties, including those non-related to the original 2014 transaction, been conducted?</p>
Answer	Please refer to IPART’s website. IPART was appointed in March 2023 and called for public submissions on 2 June 2023. The submission period closed on 30 June 2023.
Question	<p>17. Further, given both the straight-forward scope and the rudimentary nature of subsequent submissions made, why was an extension of time required by IPART?</p>
Answer	Information about the work undertaken by IPART can be found at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au .
Question	<p>18. Has Treasury had contact with IPART regarding this compensation determination? That contact being confined to the scope of the task, in particular, I refer to the following in particular: “In calculating the one-off compensation payment, IPART can only consider information that would or could have been known in May 2014.”</p>
Answer	<p>Treasury has been served notices to provide information to IPART and has had contact with IPART on procedural matters relating to the conduct of the determination.</p> <p>With reference to the matters that IPART must consider please refer to section 7 of the <i>Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Act 2022</i>.</p>
Question	<p>19. Has anyone in Treasury received directions on this matter from the Treasurer, his office, or from other Government Ministers?</p>
Answer	No.
Agency Invoices	

Question	20. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
Answer	Portfolio agencies' performance in payment of accounts is detailed in their annual reports.
Question	21. 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?
Answer	Portfolio agencies' performance in payment of accounts is detailed in their annual reports.
Question	22. 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?
Answer	Portfolio agencies' performance in payment of accounts is detailed in their annual reports.
Car/Driver	
Question	23. 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?
Answer	Where a fine is incurred, the payment of the fine is the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle.
	24. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police? (a) If so, who was driving the car?
Answer	I am advised: The department does not record these types of events.
Complaints	
Question	25. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?
Answer	I am advised: The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff and is published on the Cabinet Office's Website.
Consultants	
Question	26. 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?
Answer	Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers, are available in agency annual reports.
Question	<p>27. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:</p> <p>(a) Social media? i. What were the cost of these services?</p> <p>(b) Photography? i. What were the cost of these services?</p> <p>(c) Videography? i. What were the cost of these services?</p> <p>(d) Acting training? i. What were the cost of these services?</p> <p>(e) Ergonomics? i. What were the cost of these services?</p>
Answer	Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers, are available in agency annual reports.
Question	<p>28. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?</p> <p>(a) What was the individual amount of each contract?</p> <p>(b) What is the purpose of each contract?</p> <p>(c) Who was the contract with?</p> <p>(d) Did the contract go to a competitive tender?</p>
Answer	Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers, are available in agency annual reports.
Departmental Credit Cards	
Question	<p>29. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:</p> <p>(a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.</p> <p>(b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?</p> <p>(c) What was each largest reported purchase for?</p> <p>(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?</p> <p>(e) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen? i. What was the cost to replace them?</p> <p>(f) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <p>(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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What amount was repaid, in full? ii. What amount was left unpaid? <p>(h) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? <p>(i) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?</p>
Answer	Cards are issued to staff according to business need and are managed in accordance with Treasury Policy TPP 21-02 Use and Management of NSW Government Purchasing Cards.
Department/Agency Staffing	
Question	30. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 28 March 2023? (b) 23 October 2023?
Answer	Public Service Senior Executive numbers and remuneration details are published in agency annual reports.
Question	31. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
Answer	Public Service Senior Executive numbers and remuneration details are published in agency annual reports.
Question	32. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 28 March 2023? (b) 23 October 2023?
Answer	Staff numbers are included in agency annual reports.
Question	33. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?
Answer	All employees under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013 within each agency are paid in accordance with the relevant Acts and Awards.

Question	34. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023? (a) Of these redundancies, how many were: i. Voluntary ii. Forced (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
Answer	All redundancies are managed in accordance with M2011-11 Changes to the Management of Excess Employees. Redundancy information is included in agency annual reports.
Question	35. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
Answer	I am advised: The employment of former Ministerial office staff is not tracked. Ministerial office staff must comply with their ethical obligations under the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including after the cessation of the employment.
Question	36. 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?
Answer	The termination of an employee is treated confidentially and is managed in accordance with then Government Sector Employment Act 2013 and relevant accompanying policies.
Question	37. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
Answer	Stationery purchases by the department and other portfolio agencies are made in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures on procurement.
Question	38. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?
Answer	The number of staff working in an acting capacity is commensurate with need and can go down or up as required. Staff numbers are published in agency annual reports.
Question	39. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
Answer	Flexible work arrangements are tailored on an individual basis and are

	discussed as part of ongoing conversations which are embedded in agencies' Performance Development Framework.
Question	40. 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?
Answer	Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations.
Question	41. 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?
Answer	No.
Question	42. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
Answer	Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations. Details on overseas travel is reported in the annual report.
Question	43. 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?
Answer	Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations. Details on overseas travel is reported in the annual report.
Question	44. 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?
Answer	Agency travel is conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Premier and Cabinet Circular C2022-08 and ATO determinations.

	Details on overseas travel is reported in the annual report.
Efficiency Dividends	
Question	<p>45. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?</p> <p>(a) If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?</p> <p>(b) What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?</p>
Answer	<p>All agencies are expected to operate efficiently, and within available resources.</p> <p>Budget efficiencies have been applied to the agency budgets as published in the NSW Budget Papers.</p>
Question	<p>46. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?</p> <p>(b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?</p> <p>(c) If so, what were the reasons provided?</p> <p>(d) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?</p> <p>(e) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?</p> <p>(f) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:</p> <p>i. Date received.</p> <p>ii. Date acknowledged.</p> <p>iii. Date responded.</p> <p>iv. The description provided for the information sought.</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The information concerning the obligations of a Minister's office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act.</p> <p>The information is included in agency annual reports in accordance with sections 125(3) and (5) of the Act.</p>
Question	<p>47. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?</p> <p>(b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?</p> <p>i. If so, what were the reasons provided?</p> <p>(c) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?</p> <p>(d) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?</p> <p>(e) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:</p> <p>i. Date received.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Date acknowledged. iii. Date responded. iv. The description provided for the information sought.
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The information concerning the obligations of a Minister's office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act.</p> <p>The information is included in agency annual reports in accordance with sections 125(3) and (5) of the Act.</p>
Hospitality	
Question	48. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget.</p> <p>As Members of Parliament, the Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes.</p>
Question	49. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
Answer	All departmental expenditure, including on hospitality, must be made in compliance with the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (GSF Act). The GSF Act sets out provisions for managing public finances and applies to a range of government decision makers, including Ministers, agency heads and government officers.
Question	50. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality? (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers are required to declare to the Secretary of TCO certain gifts and hospitality under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code.</p>
Question	51. 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?
Answer	All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

Labour Hire Firms	
Question	<p>52. 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:</p> <p>(a) The names of the firms utilised.</p> <p>(b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged.</p> <p>(c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company.</p> <p>(d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company.</p> <p>(e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company.</p> <p>(f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company.</p> <p>(g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.</p>
Answer	Agencies use labour hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies, to cover temporary vacancies, as required.
Media and Public Relations	
Question	<p>53. How much has your ministerial office spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:</p> <p>(a) Facebook</p> <p>(b) Instagram</p> <p>(c) LinkedIn</p> <p>(d) TikTok</p> <p>(e) YouTube</p> <p>(f) WhatsApp</p> <p>(g) X (formerly known as Twitter)</p>
Answer	No money has been spent from the Ministerial office on advertising or sponsored posts on the social media platforms.
Question	<p>54. 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:</p> <p>(a) Facebook</p> <p>(b) Instagram</p> <p>(c) LinkedIn</p> <p>(d) TikTok</p> <p>(e) YouTube</p> <p>(f) WhatsApp</p> <p>(g) X (formerly known as Twitter)</p>
Answer	Where appropriate, social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost-effective medium of communication.
Question	<p>55. Have you had media training or public speaking training?</p> <p>(a) If yes, who paid for it?</p>

	(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?
Answer	No.
Question	56. 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?
Answer	Staff numbers are included in the department's annual report each year. Staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go up or down as required.
Question	57. 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?
Answer	Staff numbers are included in the department's annual report each year. Staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go up or down as required.
Question	58. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
Answer	Media monitoring services for the department are managed as an all of government contract by Premier's Department.
Merchant fees	
Question	59. 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.
Answer	Agencies within my portfolio responsibilities operate in line with Treasury Circular TC18-18 Agency recouping of merchant interchange fees.
Question	60. 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.
Answer	Agencies within my portfolio responsibilities operate in line with Treasury Circular TC18-18 Agency recouping of merchant interchange fees.
Question	61. 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?
Answer	Agencies within my portfolio responsibilities operate in line with Treasury Circular TC18-18 Agency recouping of merchant interchange fees.
Ministerial disclosures	

Question	62. 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?
Answer	I am advised: Disclosure obligations for Ministers under Part 2 (Standing disclosure of interests), Part 3 (Conflict of Interest) and Part 4 (Gifts and Hospitality) of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code are continuous.
Office Administration	
Question	63. 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
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.
Question	64. 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
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.
Question	65. 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
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW

	Government Website.
Question	66. 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
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.
Question	67. 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
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.
Question	68. 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
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.
Question	69. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.

Question	70. 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
Answer	I am advised: Information relating to department liaison officers is available on the Disclosure Log: <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> , reference number PD_A5833715.
Question	71. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
Answer	I am advised: Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website.
Question	72. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
Answer	We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.
Question	73. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?
Answer	We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.
Question	74. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?
Answer	We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce across Ministerial offices that reflects the communities that we serve.
Question	75. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?
Answer	I am advised: All staff are employed to assist the Treasurer in accordance with the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i> .
Question	76. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?
Answer	I am advised:

	All staff are employed to assist the Treasurer in accordance with the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i> .
Question	<p>77. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?</p> <p>(a) What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?</p> <p>(b) Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?</p> <p>(c) Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>All staff are employed to assist the Treasurer in accordance with the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i> and staff are expected to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.</p>
Question	<p>78. How many staff members employed in your office under the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i> have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?</p> <p>(a) Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW Government sector employees may be seconded from agencies to Ministers' offices in accordance with clause 35 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.</p>
	<p>79. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?</p> <p>(a) How much of this budget is allocated to staff?</p>
Answer	Information relating to Ministers' Office Budgets is available in the Ministers Office Handbook.
Question	<p>80. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?</p> <p>(a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?</p> <p>(b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?</p> <p>i. what is the cost of replacing those phones?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.</p> <p>The costs for the period 28 March to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual report 2022-23.</p>
Question	<p>81. How many iPads or tablets are assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?</p> <p>(a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your ministerial office in 2022-23?</p>

	<p>(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?</p> <p>i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.</p>
Question	<p>82. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?</p> <p>(a) What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?</p> <p>(b) How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?</p> <p>i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.</p>
Question	<p>83. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) What is the cost of this?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The purchase or lease of artwork for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.</p>
Question	<p>84. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The hire or lease of floral displays or indoor plants is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.</p>
Question	<p>85. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.</p>
Question	<p>86. What brand of paper is used in your office?</p> <p>(a) Is it recycled paper?</p> <p>(b) Is it Australian made paper?</p>
Answer	<p>I am advised:</p>

	Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.
Question	87. 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?
Answer	I am advised: The total cost of all subscriptions is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.
Question	88. 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?
Answer	I am advised: The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines the policy relating to gifts.
Question	89. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle? (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
Answer	I am advised: Non-standard accessories fitted to Ministerial vehicles are for business, security, and safety related reasons, in accordance with the NSW Government Motor Vehicle Operations guidelines.
Question	90. 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?
Answer	I am advised: The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines the policies relating to taxies or ride share services.
Question	91. 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?
Answer	I am advised: All domestic and international travel bookings for official business must be made through the NSW Government's approved travel management supplier.

Overseas Trips	
Question	92. 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?
Answer	I am advised: In line with the M2015-05-Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, Minister's overseas travel is published on the Premier's Department website.
Question	93. 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?
Answer	Refer to answer to question 92.
Parliamentary Secretary	
Question	94. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?
Answer	I am advised: Security passes for 52 Martin Place are required to be issued in accordance with the 52 Martin Place security procedures and the associated Privacy and Surveillance Statement.
Question	95. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?
Answer	No.
Question	96. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?
Answer	Please refer to the NSW Parliament Hansard.
Question	97. 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.
Answer	A Parliamentary Secretary shall have and may perform such functions as the Treasurer may, from time to time, determine in respect of him or her, pursuant to section 38C of the <i>Constitution Act 1902</i> . The general duties of a Parliamentary Secretary are outlined in the Ministers' Office Handbook available on the Premier's Department website.
Question	98. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer	I regularly meet with my Parliamentary Secretary.
Question	<p>99. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If so, when, and where?</p> <p>(b) If so, what was the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Airfares ii. Accommodation? iii. Food and beverage? iv. Transportation? v. Entertainment?
Answer	I am advised that all Parliamentary Secretaries are subject to the same travel rules as Ministers when travelling on official business as a Parliamentary Secretary. Further information is available in the NSW Minister's Office Handbook.
Question	<p>100. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If so, when, and where?</p> <p>(b) If so, what was the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Airfares ii. Accommodation? iii. Food and beverage? iv. Transportation? v. Entertainment?
Answer	I am advised that all Parliamentary Secretaries are subject to the same travel rules as Ministers when travelling on official business as a Parliamentary Secretary. Further information is available in the NSW Minister's Office Handbook.
Question	<p>101. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?</p> <p>(a) Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost?
Answer	Members of Parliament have a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.
Probity Auditor	
Question	<p>102. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.</p>
Answer	In accordance with the NSW Government Procurement Policy Framework, NSW Treasury has internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in its procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule.

Qantas	
Question	103. 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?
Answer	Refer to answer to Legislative Council question on notice 105.
Training	
Question	104. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister? (a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.
Answer	I am advised: All Cabinet Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.
Question	105. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training? (a) If so, what was the cost? (b) Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?
Answer	I am advised: Members of Parliament have a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.
Website Usage	
Question	106. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
Answer	I am advised: All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical. The Ministers' Staff Acceptance Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.
Question	107. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
Answer	I am advised: All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical. The Ministers' Staff Acceptance Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

Question	<p>108. How many full-time equivalent positions are employed by and contracted by the Forestry Corporation in the financial year 2022/2023?</p> <p>(a) How many of these positions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. directly involved in harvesting operations for the native hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per Local Government Area? b. By forest region? ii. directly involved in harvesting operations for the softwood plantation division of the Forestry Corporation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per Local Government Area? b. By forest region? iii. Administrative? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per Local Government Area? b. By forest region? iv. Research? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per Local Government Area? b. By forest region? v. Conservation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per Local Government Area? b. By forest region? vi. Infrastructure maintenance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per Local Government Area? b. By forest region?
Answer	This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Agriculture.
Question	<p>109. Has Treasury undertaken statewide assessments of the jobs, other than those employed by the Forestry Corporation, associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Hardwood forest logging? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many jobs per Local Government Area? (b) Softwood plantation logging? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many jobs per Local Government Area? (c) Nature based forest tourism? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many jobs per Local Government Area? (d) Land regeneration and conservation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many jobs per Local Government Area?
Answer	Treasury undertakes regular analysis to support Cabinet.
	<p>110. Has Treasury undertaken any assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the financial costs associated with ending native forest logging? (b) the financial benefits associated with the end of native forest logging? (c) the current carbon benefit of the public native forest estate? (d) the potential carbon value of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ending native forest logging?

	<p>ii. Regenerating native forests on public land?</p> <p>(e) land costs of expanding the plantation forest estate to replace the public native forest estate for logging?</p>
Answer	Treasury undertakes regular analysis to support Cabinet.

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Crown Sydney Common Terms Deed	
Question	<p>111. Is the NSW Government in discussions with the Crown Resorts or Crown Sydney to amend or add to the common terms deed agreed by the Government and the Crown on 8 July 2014?</p> <p>a. If not, is the NSW Government intending on entering discussions with the Crown Resorts or Crown Sydney?</p>
Answer	I refer to my public statements.
Question	<p>112. Is the NSW Government in discussions with the Crown Resorts or Crown Sydney to make changes to the Crown's agreed contribution of at least \$1 billion in gaming revenue over the first 15 years of the casino's operation?</p>
Answer	I refer to my public statements.
Question	<p>113. Please provide a list of 'trigger' events or 'force majeure' events under the common terms deed and clarify whether the list is exhaustive</p>
Answer	The deed, and associated trigger events, are commercial in confidence.
Business/Community Improvement Districts	
Question	<p>114. What funds have NSW Government agencies granted to the Western Sydney Harbour Precinct, since 2019, noting this precinct is also known as New Sydney Waterfront Co?</p>
Answer	This question is best directed to the Minister for Jobs and Tourism and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy.
Question	<p>115. Which agencies provided these funds?</p> <p>(a) What were the amounts?</p> <p>(b) What programs were these funds administered under?</p>
Answer	This question is best directed to the Minister for Jobs and Tourism and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy.
Question	<p>116. What is the role of the Star Casino in the Western Sydney Harbour Precinct?</p>
Answer	The Star Casino is a board member of NSW Co/WHA BID Co.

Question	117. What is the role of the Star Casino in New Sydney Waterfront Co?
Answer	The Star Casino is a board member of NSW Co/WHA BID Co.
Question	118. Are other organisations or businesses whose primary purpose is to promote gambling involved in Community Improvement Districts or Business Improvement Districts? (a) If yes, please provide details.
Answer	The Crown Resorts Limited is also a board member of the NSW Co/WHA BID Co.
Question	119. Noting the adverse findings against the Star Casino and the \$100 million fine imposed following the Independent Casino Commission Inquiry, what due diligence or other checks were conducted in relation to the Western Sydney Harbour Precinct prior to providing grant funding? (a) Please provide details in relation to each grant.
Answer	<p>CBD Revitalisation Program</p> <p>The NSW Co/WHA BID Co's seed funding proposal was considered by the CBD Revitalisation Program Steering Committee, before the funding allocation was approved by the then Treasurer.</p> <p>CBDs Revitalisation Program</p> <p>Round 3 funding was approved by the then-Minister Stuart Ayres on 16 June 2022. Each application underwent preassessment review within Investment NSW for eligibility and risk assessment, prior to consideration by the Assessment Panel, which assessed against the assessment criteria of Deliverability, Entity Type and GST, Purpose, Strategic Alignment and Location.</p> <p>The ABN details submitted by the applicant were checked to ensure it was valid and related to the Sydney Western Harbour Business Improvement District Limited (New Sydney Waterfront Company). The constitution submitted by the organisation was also reviewed to ensure that the organisation met the eligibility requirements for the grant. The application was assessed by the Assessment Panel in accordance with the published criteria.</p>
Question	120. What due diligence or other checks were conducted in relation to the New Sydney Waterfront Co, prior to providing grant funding? (a) Please provide details in relation to each grant.
Answer	As per answer to question 119.
Question	121. What is the role of the Star Casino in managing the grants provided to the Western Sydney Harbour Precinct/New Sydney Waterfront Co?
Answer	The Star Casino is a board member of the New Sydney Waterfront Co.
Question	122. For what activities or purposes were grants provided to the

	Western Sydney Harbour Precinct/New Sydney Waterfront Co?
Answer	This question is best directed to the Minister for Jobs and Tourism and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Budget papers	
Question	123. To ensure transparency and accountability, will the NSW Treasury commit to clearly stated Budget line items in the 2024-25 Budget Papers to ensure spending on domestic and family violence prevention and response in NSW can be tracked? (a) If not, why not?
Answer	The financial aggregates in the Budget are prepared each year in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Uniform Presentation Framework (UPF) administered by the Council on Federal Financial Relations • Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting, which adopts a harmonised Government Finance Statistics (GFS)/Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) reporting basis.
Gambling revenue	
Question	124. Specifically, what are the formulas and assumptions used by Treasury when forecasting gambling tax revenue, given each category of gambling tax is forecast to rise by different percentages over the forward estimates?
Answer	There are separate forecasting revenue models for clubs and hotels gaming machine taxes, lotteries, point of consumption tax, betting tax, and keno. All gambling tax forecasts are informed by the latest available actual revenue data.
Question	125. Please list how much betting revenue the state government received from the greyhound racing industry for each of the last four financial years and for each of those years please advise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What were the total funds expended by the government (or other agencies/third parties on its behalf) during that period on gambling harm reduction and minimisation? (b) What were the total funds expended by the government in that period in support of the greyhound racing industry and please detail each major type of expenditure, e.g., track infrastructure, government inquiries into the industry, breeding incentives, prize money contributions, advertising, sponsorship, etc? (c) How much betting revenue did the state government receive from the greyhound racing industry if the total sums listed for a. and b. are subtracted? (d) If any of the above requested data is unavailable, please

	explain why.
Answer	This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Gaming and Racing.
Question	126. What is the Treasury's independent estimate of the economic value of the NSW greyhound racing industry? Please advise the method and data sources used to determine this value.
Answer	Treasury does not have a current independent estimate of the economic value of the NSW greyhound racing industry. This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Gaming and Racing.
Question	127. The 2022/23 budget indicated that the point of consumption tax would increase to 15% for online betting from 10%, has this been reversed?
Answer	No.
Question	128. Please explain the \$88 million dollar disparity between the racing revenue forecast in the previous budget and the actual revenue recorded for 2022-23.
Answer	Actual racing revenue for 2022-23 as at the 2023-24 Budget was \$371 million, which was \$81 million lower than the 2022-23 Budget forecast of \$452 million. The downgrade was mainly driven by lower-than-expected POC revenues. During the COVID-19 pandemic, gaming venues were temporarily closed, resulting in a surge in online gaming activity and PoC tax revenues. Online gambling activity has since moderated more than expected, resulting in PoC tax revenue for 2022-23 coming in lower than the 2022-23 Budget forecast.
Question	129. Please explain the increasing year on year disparity between the revenue forecast in the 2022-23 Budget and that recorded in the 2023-24 Budget.
Answer	As at the 2023-24 Budget, racing revenue was forecast to be \$1,623 million over the four years to 2025-26, which was \$489 million lower than the 2022--23 Budget forecast. This is mainly due to a revised outlook for the point of consumption tax. During the COVID-19 pandemic, gaming venues were temporarily closed, resulting in a surge in online gaming activity and PoC tax revenues. Online gambling activity has since moderated more than expected, resulting in a lower PoC tax revenue forecast across the forward estimates in the 2023-24 Budget.